

**In Oct. 22
issue: coverage
of Blue Mass
and All Saints'**



The Catholic Advocate



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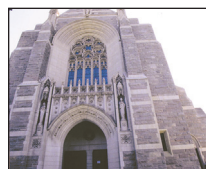
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The 'calling' to vocations is universal

BY LIESL FORES

Staff Reporter

"We all have a vocation to be holy," said Father Brian Plate, Director of the Archdiocesan Vocations Office. "The next question is, how do we accomplish that?"

In answering this question, Father Plate points to Archbishop John J. Myers' refrain, "Lord help me to want to be what you want me to be."

"We're happiest when we're doing what God wants us to do, and unhappiest when we're not. It is important for every Christian to discern what his or her vocation is," Father Plate believes, adding that one's vocation could involve any one of myriad ministries and paths in life and has to do with what one's "charism" or gifts and talents are.

"This is an especially important message for youth," he emphasized.

Acknowledging the universal call for vocations, the Vocations Office focuses in particular on fostering, nurturing and processing vocations to the priesthood or Consecrated life (brotherhood and sisterhood.)

Continued on page 24

A commemorative, collectible edition of *The Catholic Advocate* on Oct. 15 will be devoted entirely to the 150-year history of the Archdiocese of Newark, which is celebrated this year. Through articles, timelines and photographs, we will follow the dynamic story of the Catholic Church in New Jersey, from colonial times to the present.



In commemoration of the worldwide celebration this month of the 25th anniversary of the pontificate of Pope John Paul II, this edition of *The Catholic Advocate* includes a special souvenir eight-page supplement.

The law deemed a 'noble task'

BY WARD MIELE

Managing Editor

The legal profession is "blessed by God with a noble task" Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli declared during the 19th annual Red Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark.

The Sunday, Sept. 21 Mass, co-sponsored by Seton Hall Law School and its Saint Thomas More Association, honored attorney Bernard

M. Hartnett, Jr., Class of 1955, with the Saint Thomas More Medal. Bishop Serratelli, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia, was the principal celebrant.

Sacred tradition, Bishop Serratelli noted during welcoming remarks, "speaks often of the law," which is "a gift of God."

The charge of those in the legal profession, he went on, is to "bring justice, peace and harmony" to society.

Homilist Father Frank J. McNulty, reiterated a point made by the bishop when he called the law "a noble calling."

The Saint Thomas More Medal, Father McNulty stressed, is an "inspiration."

Noting the importance of reflection on one's spirituality, Father McNulty described Saint Thomas More as a "thoughtful, prayerful and reflective" man.

Addressing the congregation, Msgr. Robert Sheeran, President of Seton Hall University, said, "Welcome ladies and gentleman of the legal profession, good friends all." Msgr. Sheeran celebrated the Mass along with Father Nicholas S. Gengaro, Chaplain of Seton Hall Law School and the Seton Hall University Priest Community.

Hartnett taught labor law at Seton Hall as an adjunct professor from 1963-75. He is president of the law school's Alumni Council.



Bernard M. Hartnett, Jr., second from left, winner of this year's Saint Thomas More Medal, congratulated by Msgr. Sheeran, Bishop Serratelli and Patrick Hobbs, Dean of the Seton Hall Law School.

Advocate photo-Ward Miele

‘Protecting God’s Children’ is our highest priority



When the bishops gathered in Dallas a little over a year ago to create the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, we wanted to demonstrate clearly that the Church does not tolerate sexual abuse of minors and is not a place for predators.

In this Archdiocese, we have taken the necessary steps to remove anyone—clergy, religious or lay—who perpetrates crimes against our children. I again pledge to you that we will continue to do so as are all other Catholic dioceses in the United States.

The bishops agreed in Dallas that all who serve in ministry to children and youth must learn the warning signs of sexual abuse by adults, because only when we know something can we have the power to stop it.

We also agreed in Dallas that the Church must demonstrate that she is vigilant about who comes into contact with our children. For by publicly calling attention to our vigilance, we can dissuade predators from choosing a child from our parishes, our schools, or our youth programs, as a potential victim.

In recent years, other youth-serving organizations have taken such stands, often after suffering the same kinds of trials through which we Catholics are living. However, those vigilant stands are taking root as perpetrators reconsider their evil actions.

Sincerely
in the
Lord

By Archbishop John J. Myers

The Church willingly accepts this responsibility. It is a matter of restoring trust, and moving forward.

For such reasons we are aggressively implementing in the Archdiocese of Newark two programs—the Protecting God’s Children sexual abuse awareness program, and a new policy of requiring background checks—for all current and future staff and volunteers.

Sexual abuse of minors is not just a Church problem. It is not just a clergy problem. It is a societal problem. In implementing the Protecting God’s Children program, we are giving staff and volunteers knowledge not only to

benefit the Church but the general community as well.

Similarly, by requiring background checks, the Church is publicly telling the overall community that child safety is our first priority. Just think about our schools. Teachers have been required to undergo background checks for years for this very reason.

While it might have been viewed as an intrusion at first, it is now regarded as an integral part of the

education system and a benefit to children.

It is sad, but true, that the Church has received mountains of media exposure. However, we have begun to see an increasing awareness in the media as well toward the wider societal problem.

In the past month or so alone, newspapers and television reports have included a number of instances of arrests, ongoing investigations and current court actions for sexual abuse involving members of our society—most of them recognized and respected, often married, and all in positions involving trust.

We should be grateful for the increased attention. If anything, such reports should spur us all to recommit ourselves to take all actions necessary to secure safe environments for children in the Church and elsewhere.

In requiring that all who serve children and youth attend sexual awareness training and undertake a form of background check, the Church is not saying, nor am I saying, “We do not trust you.”

In fact, I continually tell my brother bishops that I am blessed in Newark by the talents, dedication and depth of faith that thousands of you who serve our children in schools and parishes demonstrate every day.

What we are, and what I am, saying through these programs is that we, the Church, are following through on our commitments in Dallas.

In early 2004, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Office of Child and Youth Protection will report to the entire country just how seriously the dioceses take the Dallas charter, and how willingly they accept the responsibility to be a safe haven for our children. Building the safe haven wall requires us all—myself included—to be trained in new skills and to accept new rules.

I know that all of you who take your service to children seriously will join me in creating this new safe haven.

*We are blessed in Newark
with talents and faith
of thousands who serve.*

Stewardship

‘A disciple’s response’—powerful inspiration



BY ANDREW KACZYNSKI
Coordinator of Stewardship for the Archdiocese

In 1992, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops produced a pastoral letter titled “Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response.” It is a document filled with inspired and inspiring reflections about the theology and biblical roots of stewardship.

The topics for reflection include, but are not limited to the call to stewardship, redemption and stewardship, creation and stewardship, the steward’s reward, and the image of the steward, as well as thoughts on how stewardship relates to the community, evangelization, solidarity and the Eucharist.

Since its release, there has been considerable activity throughout the United States to put the theological principles outlined in the pastoral into practice.

From the moment of its publication, the pastoral has helped to create a climate conducive to generating a much-needed conversion to a stewardship way of life for individuals as well as entire parishes and dioceses.

Bishop Sylvester D. Ryan of Monterey, CA, Chairman of the bishops’ Ad Hoc Committee on Stewardship, wrote, “The stewardship pastoral letter strongly reflects the core of the Easter message of the earliest Christian community: ‘We have seen the Lord!’ (Jn 20:25) Stewardship always starts with the personal experience of the Risen Christ in our midst

and in our hearts. It is a vocation to discipleship. Following Christ as a disciple entails a personal response, and this call can result in a positive impact on our faith communities.”

The pastoral letter also describes and fosters the gospel spirituality of sharing.

At the beginning of the letter we read, “This pastoral letter recognizes the importance of church support, including the sharing of time, talent and treasure. But it situates church support in its broader context—what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.”

Bishop Ryan also noted that everyone who has studied and acted on this letter knows that it will continue to attract and guide countless new co-workers to the Church’s mission.

Here in the Archdiocese of Newark, I have been encouraging clergy, parishioners and members of stewardship committees to study the pastoral letter as a means to fully understand and grasp the scriptural basis and theological basis of it.

In fact, what I tell them is to do this before any stewardship activities are introduced into the parish.

For as I have said many times, while promoting

stewardship involves many programs and activities, the heart of the stewardship way of life is based in Scripture and tradition and involves a total conversion, or change of heart, for Christians to fully accept it.

As part of this effort, all those in attendance at our upcoming Stewardship Day on Saturday, Oct. 11 will receive a document titled “The Disciple as Steward,” a six-part, small-group study of the pastoral letter on stewardship.

In addition, over the course of the next several articles in this column, it is my intention to highlight the pastoral letter and hopefully offer an in-depth

look into this important document, since education, formation and prayer are key to living and spreading the stewardship message and way of life.

As we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Archdiocese of Newark we honor our great history, which includes generations of outstanding stewards of the Church.

It is my hope that as we look to the future we may, in part, use “Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response” in our spiritual journey to carry out Christ’s mission.

*The heart of the stewardship
way of life is based in
Scripture and tradition.*

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Environmental concerns cited

BY WARD MIELE
Managing Editor

Stewardship of the environment was explored at a recent workshop held in the Archdiocesan Center in Newark.

Kay Furlani, Director of the Department of Human Concerns, coordinated the workshop attended by pastors, facility managers of churches and schools and several parishioners.

The focus, Furlani explained, was on “raising the level of awareness of the environment and the choices we make in our lives that impact the environment.”

With emphasis on energy conservation, practical ways to protect and preserve the environment were discussed.

Addressing the group was Rev. Fletcher Harper, Director of Partners for Environmental Quality, a statewide inter-faith group started a dozen years ago.

Rev. Harper cited the spiritual and theological aspects of caring for

the environment.

The natural world, he said, is a “powerful revelation of God.” Because of that, he continued, man is charged with the responsibility for stewardship of all of God’s gifts.”

That means, Rev. Fletcher noted, keeping the environment “healthy” now and for future generations.

Discussion also turned to Pope John

Paul II’s writings on the ecological crisis facing the world and the moral responsibility to preserve the environment.

The challenge of caring for the environment in day-to-day operations of churches and schools was another area of discussion.

Regarding that aspect of the workshop, how to combat greenhouse gases problems facing the Garden State was also examined.

Msgr. Donald E. Guenther

Father Michael G. Ward

Feast of St. Gerard at St. Lucy, Newark

St. Lucy Parish in Newark will hold its 104th annual Feast of St. Gerard Oct. 16-19. Processions will be that Thursday and Saturday at 1:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

Novenas begin Oct. 7 and continue each weekday evening at 7 p.m., ending Oct. 15. Confessions will be heard each evening.

The relic of St. Gerard will be venerated after each Novena.

Anointing of the Sick will be Oct. 10, the Blessing of Women Praying to Conceive Oct. 13, the Blessing of Expectant Mothers Oct. 14 and the Blessing of Newborn Babies Oct. 15.

The Mass schedule for Oct. 16 is 7, 7:30, 8, 9, 10 and 11 in the morning, noon and 6 p.m. On Saturday, Masses are 7, 7:30, 8, 8:30, 9, 9:30, 10, and 11:30 in the morning and 6 p.m. Sunday Masses are scheduled for 8, 9, 10 (in Italian) and 11:30 in the morning and 12:30 p.m. in the Upper Church (10 a.m. in the Lower Church). Confessions will be heard before each Mass.

“Our National Shrine welcomes you. We urge you to make this year’s feast a truly spiritual exercise by attendance at Mass, reception of the Sacraments of Penance and the Holy Eucharist and participation in the processions and, of course, your own private devotions. God will be pleased with your prayers,” said Pastor Msgr. Joseph J. Granato.

St. Florian Mass celebrated Sunday

The annual St. Florian Mass honoring New Jersey active and retired firefighters and their families will be celebrated on Sunday, Oct. 12 at 3 p.m. in the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark.

Archbishop John J. Myers will preside.

During Mass there will be a remembrance and prayer for firefighters who

have died in the line of duty.

St. Florian, who was an officer in the Roman Army of the third century, is said to have prevented a town from being destroyed by fire by throwing a single bucket of water on the flames.

Included in the Mass at the Cathedral Basilica will be color guards, honor guards and pipe and drum bands.

Two pastors are named

Archbishop John J. Myers has appointed two new pastors. Msgr. Donald E. Guenther, Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Secaucus, has been appointed pastor of the Church of St. Elizabeth Parish, Wyckoff, effective Oct. 21. Father Michael G. Ward, V.F., Administrator of St. Cecilia Parish, Kearny, has been appointed pastor there, effective Sept. 12.

Born in Long Branch and raised in East Orange and Newark, Father Guenther was ordained on May 26, 1962, after completing his studies at Immaculate Conception Seminary.

His first assignment was as parochial vicar at Sacred Heart Parish, Newark, where he remained for six years. In 1968, he began a year as a missionary to the Diocese of Ipameri in Brazil, returning as parochial vicar of St. James Parish, Newark. After that, he served at St. Francis de Sales Parish, Lodi, for three years.

Father Guenther was named chaplain of St. Barnabas Hospital, Livingston, in 1972 and at St. Michael’s Hospital, Newark, in 1975. He later was chaplain at St. Elizabeth Hospital, Elizabeth.

Father Guenther served at Immaculate Conception Parish, Montclair, before returning to St. Francis as parochial vicar in 1976.

In 1981, Father Guenther was appointed pastor of St. Margaret of Cortona Parish,

Little Ferry, where he served for six years before being named director of the Vocations Office in 1987.

In 1990, Pope John Paul II elevated Father Guenther to Prelate of Honor with the title of monsignor. Two years later, he became pastor of St. Joseph Parish, West Orange.

In 1996, Father Guenther was named Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Secaucus. He has also served on the Board of Trustees of Felician College since 1995.

Father Ward had served as temporary administrator of St. Cecilia since last January.

Born in Elizabeth, he is the son of the late Dorothy and William Ward. His home parish is Holy Trinity, Westfield.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from Drew University, Madison in 1986. Prior to entering the seminary, he worked for Merrill Lynch in New York. He studied for the priesthood at Immaculate Conception Seminary and was ordained in May of 1997.

Father Ward was first assigned as a parochial vicar of St. Cecilia’s. In September of 2000, he was appointed chaplain of the Kearny Fire Department.

In September of 2002, Father Ward was named Dean of the West Hudson Deanery 14, and in November of the same year he was appointed chaplain of the Knights of Columbus at St. Cecilia’s.

Blue Mass Oct. 17

The annual Archbishop’s Blue Mass for Law Enforcement will be celebrated at the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newark on Friday, Oct. 17 at 10 a.m.

The Mass is for active and retired members of law enforcement and their families.

Bringing families together for over a century

BY LIESL FORES

Staff Reporter

For 100 years Catholic Community Services (CCS, formerly known as Catholic Charities) Family and Adoption Services "has provided support and assistance for women experiencing unexpected pregnancies, to couples hoping to build their families and to children awaiting adoption placement," according to the organization. More than 300 people are served annually.

Over the course of a century, needs have changed and evolved, and so have the agency's services. However, the heart of CCS Family and Adoption Services' mission is to unite families and keep them together.

To celebrate this milestone and to raise funds, a benefit gala with the theme, "A Centennial Celebration: One Hundred Years of Building Families Through Adoption," will take place Saturday, Oct. 25 at The Mezzanine at the Historical Newark Building.

Actor Ray Liotta, an adoption advocate, will be the special guest of the evening. Raised in Union County, Liotta was adopted through CCS.

When asked if infant adoption was the agency's most common service, Patricia Chiarello, Program Manager replied, "Not anymore—it used to be."

She explained that not as many children are being placed as years past due to varying factors, including better support and services for single parents and single-parent status no longer being taboo, among others things.

"This is why we became involved internationally," she said, referring to the adoption of infants and children (mostly up until the age of eight) from countries such as Russia, China, Slavakia, Guatemala, Ecuador, Colombia, Peru and India.

Crisis pregnancy counseling is another crucial service provided by the agency. This often involves "cases where the woman was not planning to become pregnant. It's usually a young girl, maybe considering abortion. We try to let her know what others options are available," said Chiarello. Parents or schools may also call.

Infant foster care is provided when a mother, after giving birth, is not ready to make an adoption decision. "Foster families take them in—it's a safe, nurturing environment for the baby," Chiarello noted, adding that the average stay is one month, though it can be shorter or longer depending on the situation.

If the father is named, both biological parents must consent to placement for adoption. "We encourage mothers to name the father," she said, citing the importance of equal rights for fathers as well as mothers.

Search and reunion for adult adoptees and their birth families is also a "very active program," assures Chiarello. "If a birth parent or an adopted child contacts us, wanting to receive information or initiate a reunion, we have to find the other party and see if they are open to contact. If both sides are willing, we're the go-between."

"A minimum number of people don't want contact; the majority of the times both parties are amenable. Most of the time, there's 'some' contact, and often they develop an ongoing relationship from there," she emphasized.

Medical history is an important aspect of this program as well. "Years ago, the significance of this kind of information was not known," stressed Chiarello, and so records are not always complete, especially in older cases. Today, full medical backgrounds of birth parents are required.

CCS Family and Adoption Services provides such data upon request whenever possible. And non-identifying information may be given without prior permission from a party.

Through post-placement services, the agency is often able to remain touch with families. A monthly support group for adoptive parents as well as some birth parents is facilitated by the organization, and one for adopted ado-

lescents that was conducted last year was "well received," noted Chiarello, adding that the group will resume in the new year. "Kids seemed to like this support."

"Adoptive parents say that we've helped them realize their dreams. Just as important, there's a sense of peace for birth parents, of where their child is and that he or she is doing well—is cared for. For the child, we're a link between the past, present and future," Chiarello asserted.

The Oct. 25 event will include a raffle and silent auction. Individual tickets (\$125) as well as various group packages are available. For more information contact Michele Pignatello, CCS Director of Fund Development, at (973) 266-7988 or via email, michele_pignatello@ccsnewark.org.



Pictured are members of the planning committee for CCS Family and Adoption Services' "Centennial Celebration: One Hundred Years of Building Families Through Adoption," to be held on Oct. 25. The event will begin at 6 p.m. with a cocktail reception, followed by dinner and dancing. Front row, from left to right: Joan McCusker, Event Co-Chair; Suzanne Sanger; and Kathleen M. Grant. Back row: Peter W. Kruimer; Silvana Raso; Renee Bettinger, Event Chair; Micki Prokup; and James F. O'Rourke.

Archdiocese of Newark, Office of Planned Giving *presents...*

A Little Quiz About Stock

Here's a little true/false quiz to test your knowledge about using publicly traded stock to make a charitable gift to the Archdiocese of Newark. Good luck.

True or False

- ___ 1. Only stocks traded on the New York Stock Exchange can be used to make charitable gifts.
- ___ 2. For tax purposes, it is normally better to sell long-term appreciated stock and give the cash to the Archdiocese of Newark.
- ___ 3. The value of a stock gift is determined on the date when the Archdiocese of Newark receives a letter from the donor indicating his or her decision to make the gift.
- ___ 4. If you buy stock in January and in three months it doubles in value, you can give the stock to the Archdiocese of Newark in June and avoid paying capital gains tax on the appreciation of the stock.
- ___ 5. It is normally better to give stock that has depreciated in value rather than stock that has appreciated.
- ___ 6. For tax purposes, the value of a stock gift equals the amount of cash received by the Archdiocese of Newark after it sells the stock.
- ___ 7. Most stock gifts require legal assistance to complete.

If you answered all of these questions "false" you may move to the head of the class. On the other hand, if you used the "T" word, or were unsure of any of your answers, use the coupon below to request a free brochure on making gifts with stock, or call for your copy at (973) 497-4125.

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Vatican says liturgical norms document will be revised soon

ROME (CNS)—Rewriting a proposed Vatican document on liturgical norms, Vatican officials have dropped all references to “altar girls” and are substantially revising other points in the document, a Vatican official said.

A ban against allowing ministers of other mainline Christian faiths to bless the congregation at the end of a Catholic liturgy also has been removed, an official familiar with the document told Catholic News Service Sept. 29.

The official said the document, which the Vatican hopes to release by December, will be less detailed than the draft circulated in June to members of the congregations for the Doctrine of the Faith and for Divine Worship and the Sacraments.

The proposed document

was sent back to its drafting committee in June after cardinals and bishops raised some objections and encouraged some changes.

Among other things, the earlier draft reportedly discouraged the distribution of Communion under the forms of both bread and wine and said altar girls were permissible only for a good reason.

The Rome-based magazine *Jesus*, a publication of the Pauline Fathers, reported Sept. 22 that it had obtained a copy of the June draft. Doctrine of the Faith and former prefect of the Congregation for Eastern Churches, told Catholic News Service Sept. 24, “Many observations were made, both negative and positive” about the draft.

Pope John Paul II, in his April encyclical on the Eucharist, said he had asked the congregations to prepare a document, “including prescriptions of a juridical nature,” on the obligation to follow Church rules for the celebration of Mass and adoration of the Eucharist.

According to *Jesus Magazine*, the draft released in June emphasized the importance of maintaining the distinctions among the roles of the priest, deacon and laity at Mass, reaffirming the Vatican’s ban on anyone but the priest or deacon giving the homily.

The magazine said the document also:

- Specifically discouraged lay “pastoral assistants” in a parish from assuming liturgical roles during the Mass.
- Recognized a bishop’s authority to permit girls and women to serve at the altar, “but never without a just pastoral reason, and priests must never be obliged to call girls to this role.”

- Reminded Catholics that “the minister of the Eucharist” and the only celebrant of the Mass is the priest. Lay people who help distribute Communion when necessary are to be called “extraordinary ministers of Communion.”
- The Mass is not a “celebration” of the presiding priest and the congregation.

The magazine said the draft document stated that:

- “Applause and dance inside a sacred building, even

outside of the eucharistic celebration” are not allowed.

- Every Catholic has a right to report liturgical abuses or raise questions about liturgical practice with his or her bishop.
- Under most circumstances non-Catholics are not allowed to receive the Eucharist at a Catholic liturgy Mass.
- Where the central gates in an altar railing have been removed, they should be restored, and their inclusion should be considered for churches under construction.

Pope to beatify Mother Teresa

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Just over six years and six weeks after her death, Mother Teresa of Calcutta will be beatified by Pope John Paul II Oct. 19 in St. Peter’s Square.

The founder of the Missionaries of Charity died of cardiac arrest Sept. 5, 1997, in Calcutta, India. A mere 15 months later,

Pope John Paul gave permission for her beatification process to begin, even though Church rules require a waiting period of five years.

She won the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize and, just three months before her death, was awarded the U.S. Congressional Gold Medal.

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‘Blasphemy police’

Editor,

I read Archbishop John J. Myers’ column in the Sept. 24 edition of *The Catholic Advocate* entitled “You can’t judge a book by its cover-up.”

In his column the Archbishop complained about the book *The DaVinci Code* which claims that Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene.

Thank God we have Archbishop Myers to speak out against these lies against the Church.

I belong to the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights.

Every time there are insults against the Church we bombard those who issued the insults with letters and press releases. When Bill Donohue, League President, challenges them to a debate, they all back down. One news media outlet called us the “blasphemy police.”

They were right, even though they meant it as a wisecrack.

John DeMaio
Hoboken

Food for thought

Editor,

I was surprised to read John J. Bishoff’s letter, which supports Msgr. Gilchrist’s displeasure with the “sloppy” attire of some Catholics at Mass.

Certainly, with the major problems facing us as a Church and as a nation, judging the clothing of another person at worship with us is a seemingly incongruous act.

Do we know the “heart condition” and the motivation of the people being judged? Are we truly grateful to have their presence with us as part of the community at worship, or are we quick to judge them on the very material basis of their clothing?

I regularly attend a Sunday evening youth liturgy in one of the most progres-

sive parishes in Union County. One would be hard pressed to compete with the social conscience and outreach of these young people (and their leaders and parents). These teenagers are devout and respectful, but they are definitely not concerned with being in “party attire.” Should they be?

Worship certainly comes from within, and giving anyone, especially the young person, the impression that they must somehow adhere to a “dress code” to worship God is the height of both folly and inhospitality. It seems that God frowns a lot on such inhospitality!

Emphasizing the appropriateness of another’s clothing makes one wonder where other members of the People of God place their emphasis at liturgy. Just how welcome would the beggar be in their midst? Think about it!

R.J. Randy Kowalik
Dunellen

Column appreciated

Editor,

Thank you for presenting to your readers the columns of Father Ron Rolheiser. What he has to say in the last two issues gives us the wisdom we so need in these difficult times for our beloved Church.

I particularly liked the advice he gives on how to embrace the width and strength of our Church in respecting all its members regardless of where they are coming from spiritually. He makes us understand that we need to think like Jesus and learn from the differing viewpoints of the evangelists.

This can help us to adjust our attitudes towards our fellow Catholics, and of course, to all those God has created.

Father Rolheiser does us a favor when he quotes from Father Raymond Brown, the eminent Scripture scholar.

Jeanne B. Dillon
Summit

Rules, regulations and reactions...

As Catholics we sometimes like to jump the gun, immediately see the worst-case scenario, automatically resist change and, more often than not, react without reflection.

A recent case in point: the publication in *Jesus*, a Pauline Fathers magazine, of a story in their Sept 22 issue about a draft document that, according to some, seemed to call for a “roll-back” of liturgical practices that have been common throughout the world since the Second Vatican Council.

Trouble is, it was a draft, not a final document. It was very apparently a work-in-progress that was not ready for wider scrutiny than the committee and members of two congregations: Doctrine of the Faith and Divine Worship and Sacraments.

The reaction to the early leak, based on partial information, was a mistake. Not a sin (who are we to judge...?) but a common error.

This bit of self-criticism (because we don’t exempt the writer of this editorial) is perhaps a difficult pill. Especially since there seems to be so much within the Church to criticize and bemoan these days.

There is also an “American” element involved—inevitably—with this nascent non-controversy, as well. We are by now so accustomed to young women serving on the altar along with young men, to lay assistants, proclaimers and extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist.

We take these gifts of the Church as “rights” rather than privileges (appropriate, hard-earned and supported by Vatican II norms). Instead of expecting the worst and jumping to conclusions, let’s be prayerfully grateful and continue to keep our eyes on the prize. For it is the greatest Prize of all.

Stewardship Day: Don’t miss it

It is not too often that a second chance comes around.

But that is exactly what awaits those throughout the Archdiocese of Newark who were unable to attend this year’s annual International Catholic Stewardship Conference.

Convinced that the “experience” is too valuable a resource to miss, Deacon John McKenna, Director of Stewardship and Planned Giving, is spearheading a condensed version this Saturday at Seton Hall University.

Stewardship Day—A Day of Discipleship will take place from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Kozlowski Hall on the University’s South Orange campus.

The program, which will be opened by Archbishop John J. Myers, is formatted for pastors, clergy, Religious, lay leaders and those active in Stewardship.

Featured will be nationally recognized speakers, inter-parish networking and workshops. There will be something for everyone. Be there!

A special Respect Life message: ‘A report from earth!’

BY MSGR. RICHARD MCGUINESS
Director of the Respect Life Office

I have just visited the planet called Earth. We Martians pride ourselves on our intelligence and our respect for life and for the God who gave us both.

Since Earth resembles our planet Mars in its proximity to the sun, we wondered if we might be received with hospitality there, in case we ever had to flee our planet. The following is a report of my findings after an extended visit to Earth.

The inhabitants of Earth—called “humans” or “earthlings”—have bodies like ours. They also have intelligence, the ability to make choices and to act responsibly.

Males and female earthlings are equal in intelligence but are gifted with different sexual organs which enable them to unite and produce children.

Their children do not become fully mature until they are about 18 years of age. Therefore the youngsters need nur-

turing and guidance from their parents for many years.

This would indicate that the male and female who have produced these children have a very lengthy commitment in order to provide for their offspring, who are incapable of taking care of themselves for many years.

In our survey of the earthlings in North America—an especially fertile and beautiful region of the planet—we discovered that earthlings do not act intelligently and, unlike us, seem to have almost no respect for their own life or the lives of others.

For example, we learned that one-third of humans conceived are deliberately killed in the womb before their birth, some even in the act of being born.

Some of the earthling children who are allowed to be born are abused and even thrown away as if they were garbage.

It would seem that many earthling pairs, deliberately and for their own convenience, avoid conception so that they not be encumbered by offspring. We won-

der who would take care of these non-parents in the event they become weak and elderly? And even those earthling pairs who conceived and bore offspring seem not to regard their union with each other as permanent.

We estimate that perhaps 50 percent of these pairs simply break their relationship with each other, even though this puts their offspring at a distinct disadvantage.

This seems strange, for we Martians mate for life and keep the promises we make. Yet very many humans seem to have no respect for promises they make.

They are not people of their word.

We also found among these inhabitants of Earth much self-destructive behavior. They inject harmful drugs into their bodies; they make use of certain beverages or substances to deprive themselves of the ability to reason or be reasonable.

The attitudes of very many earthlings toward those who suffer accidents or illness is rather strange to us. Although

they obviously have more wealth than they need, they refuse to share it with others who are in need. Many humans are so unreasonable that they propose to kill others in order to demonstrate that killing is wrong!

Finally, we found a movement among some of them to encourage the killing of elderly earthlings as a form of “mercy,” instead of providing medicines for pain and depression.

I am sorry to report, that in the light of these humans’ lack of respect for their own lives and the lives of others, and their own unreasoned way of life and lack of hospitality, that my recommendation to my Martian superiors is that we should never consider Earth as a colony or place of refuge.

The self-destructiveness we witnessed and the lack of *respect for life* would seem to indicate that, short of a miracle, earthling civilization, as it currently exists, is doomed to destroy itself.

End of my report from Earth!

Profiles in sanctity, lessons in Christian living

Msgr. Robert Sheeran is the President of Seton Hall University. This is the first of what The Catholic Advocate hopes will be a series of guest commentaries on various subjects of interest to our Archdiocesan faithful.

On October 19 the Church will beatify, or publicly declare as “blessed,” one of the most remarkable women of our time. There are few today who do not acknowledge the goodness of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who died in 1997 after a life of service to those she called “the unwanted, the unloved, the uncared for.”

Unfortunately, the picture many have of her is somewhat incomplete, for we tend to like our saints only insofar as they conform to our particular notion of sanctity. Whatever there is about them that does not conform runs the risk of being rejected outright or simply ignored.

History provides numerous examples of this. Writing about St. Francis of Assisi, the always insightful G.K. Chesterton once observed that people are more than willing to praise him for his spirit of compassion but decidedly less enthusiastic about his spirit of penance, if, indeed, they are even aware of it.


Chesterton took to task 19th-century sages Ernest Renan and Matthew Arnold, who, attempting to explain away the supernatural, were unwilling or unable to see the whole of the saint’s personality. “They were content to follow Francis with their praises until they were stopped by their prejudices,” Chesterton wrote.

“The moment Francis began to do something they did not understand, or did not like, they did not try to understand it, still less to like it; they simply turned their backs on the whole business and ‘walked no more with him,’” the author concluded.

Our own age prefers the Hollywood construct of a laid-

Professing the Faith

By Msgr. Robert Sheeran



back Francis, that counter-cultural troubadour who roamed the Umbrian countryside, feeding the hungry and caring for the homeless, while taking time out now and again to talk sweetly with the birds.

But there was another side to Francis: When it came to following what he saw as God’s will, he was a veritable freight train of determination, uncompromisingly hard on himself and demanding on his followers. Although unconventional, he was also unerringly loyal to a Church that often misunderstood and sometimes mistreated him.

Not unlike Francis, Mother Teresa is known and admired the world over for her great works of compassion. Her Missionaries of Charity, who now number in the thousands, currently serve the “poorest of the poor” wherever there exists the greatest need, whether among those dying friendless on the streets of Calcutta or those wasting away with AIDS in San Francisco.

Closer to home, her sisters at St. Augustine Parish have labored faithfully for the past twenty years amid the bleak conditions of Newark’s Central Ward. In addition, the

contemplative community of sisters here is a font of prayer for the Church, local and universal.

The popular image of Mother Teresa is that of a gentle, self-sacrificing and effective social activist, a champion of the poor and downtrodden whose life stands as an eloquent challenge to the selfish abuses of wealth, privilege and power.

The themes she sounded most frequently had to do with caring for the poor and destitute, simply because they were our sisters and brothers made in the image and likeness of God. “When we touch the sick and the needy,” she often repeated, “we touch the suffering body of Christ.” The dying and the diseased, the unwanted and the unloved were for her none other than “Jesus in disguise.”

She spoke passionately about the dignity of all people and pleaded that no one be overlooked or excluded. “There is only one God, and He is God to all; therefore it is important that everyone is seen as equal before God.”

To which the majority of men and women of good will, whatever their religious faith, gladly respond: Amen.

But as with Francis there is another dimension to Mother Teresa. Many who put her on the side of the angels for her great compassion would soon deny her halo if they realized just how completely she embraced the Church’s more unpopular teachings.

Accepting the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize, she wasted little time in broaching one of our most controversial topics: “We are talking about peace,” she told the Stockholm audience, “but I feel the greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion, because it is a direct war, a direct killing, a direct murder by the mother herself.”

I suspect there were sympathizers who afterwards counseled her on how impolitic it was, given the occasion, to have raised the topic, especially in so blunt a manner. Such counsel had little or no effect, for at the National

Continued on page 9

The lost cardinal: A story of the future pope on skis

From earliest boyhood, Karol Wojtyla (known today as Pope John Paul II) was blessed with an engagingly friendly disposition. One just had to like him, love him, even. Affectionately called “Lolek” (the Polish diminutive for Karol) by family and friends, the tousle-haired lad could with his smile disarm a cranky teacher bent on keeping the class after school, or short-circuit a hot-tempered soccer opponent’s desire for some fisticuffs.

This winning way was to stay with Lolek all through school days, through his seminary years, and throughout his priesthood, episcopate and pontificate. A little-known incident in the late 1960’s, soon after his elevation to the Cardinalate, affords a close-up look at how this natural amiable personality so often came in handy for Wojtyla.

The scene: the ski slopes of the Tatras Mountains that extend along the Polish-Czechoslovak border, on a blustery winter afternoon.

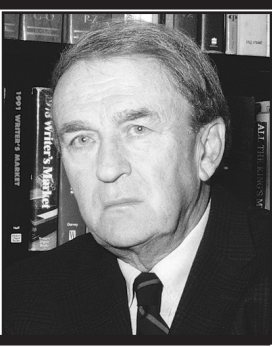
The day had started out cold but sunny. As the afternoon wore on, however, the clouds thickened, and then with fearful suddenness a ferocious snowstorm was unleashed, quickly upholstering the evergreens in fluffy white, blurring the outlines of the slope, driving the temperature precipitously downward.

Just a few hundred yards away, two Czech frontier policemen kept in the crosshairs of their powerful binoculars a lone skier wandering in search of the lost slope. They stood there outside their little clapboard guardhouse for several minutes, observing his every move.

When the disoriented skier crossed over the border from his country into theirs, they nodded to each other, pulled down their goggles, and with a few energetic pushes on their skis quickly caught up to their prey.

A View from History

By Frank J. Korn



“Documents, please,” one of the young no-nonsense, grim-faced guards said while catching his breath. The skier, visibly relieved to encounter other humans in the whitened wilderness, struggled to extract his passport from the pocket of his windbreaker. The guard read the first page aloud: “Karol Wojtyla, Archbishop of Krakow, Cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church.”

“Where did you steal this?” the other inquired tersely. For the man in their custody hardly looked the part, what with his clumsy well-worn workboots, his unstylish, battered baggy rain pants, his oversized, hand-me-down jacket, and the ice-encrusted woolen cap drawn over his ears.

“I didn’t steal it. It’s really mine,” His bone-chilled Eminence calmly answered.

Totally unconvinced, the guards brusquely ushered

him back to their unheated cabin for further adjudication. There one of them picked up the phone, hoping to contact headquarters for advice. Thanks to the raging blizzard, however, all lines of communication were down.

So there the three men sat, wordlessly, on crude wooden backless benches as the two Czechs pondered their next move.

Their middle-aged prisoner, with that life-long disarming smile of his, soon broke the silence. “Listen,” he proposed, “it’s dreadfully cold. Why don’t we share a little glass of vodka in the meantime?”

Again the guards sized him up skeptically. But when they watched this husky, gentle, soft spoken character take out a thermos and fill the cap that served as a shot-glass, his ruddy, weathered, clean-shaven face under a mane of disheveled wispy white hair, his large worker’s hands and broad shoulders, and his benign expression all combined to reassure them that here was a good-hearted, naïve country bumpkin from whom they had nothing to fear.

“And so we sat there, for hours, and drank and swapped stories and forged a friendship,” Cardinal Wojtyla would later tell his worried staff back at the episcopal residence in Krakow. “Finally, they let me go. But I think — from the looks on their faces — that they will remain forever convinced that I stole that passport.”

Frank Korn is an assistant professor of classical studies at Seton Hall University. His latest book is Hidden Rome (Paulist Press).

Here was a good-hearted, naïve country bumpkin from whom they had nothing to fear.

Mother Teresa taught us time meaning of ‘blessed’

Continued from page 8

Prayer Breakfast in Washington, DC, some fifteen years later, she was no less blunt: “Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use any violence to get what they want.”

Time and again, in speeches, letters and interviews, Mother Teresa consistently defended Church teaching on issues ranging from chastity and contraception to euthanasia and papal authority—issues that even those who share her beliefs, some in positions of leadership, frequently side-step or shun.

How do we reconcile Mother’s Teresa’s hard-nosed views—what some would dismiss as uncritical “dogmatism”—with her popular image as the very soul of sweetness and light?

Might this apparent contradiction have something important to teach us about the very nature of the saints, for it seems we never consider them without some curious admixture of love, respect, uneasiness and occasional terror: love and respect because of their obvious and undeniable goodness; uneasiness and terror, either because we are unwilling to fully follow their teachings or because we fear the personal cost involved in doing so.

When what they say affirms our beliefs or justifies our lives, we are quick to praise and honor them; when what they say disturbs or challenges us, we just as quickly refuse to “walk” with them any longer.

Mother Teresa’s beatification affords a unique opportunity to reflect on the life of a remarkable human being in its entirety. What made her life remarkable? What do we find praiseworthy about it? What do we find disturbing and challenging?

This last question is the most difficult and the most important, if only we have the wisdom to ask it—and the courage to answer.

Prayers requested

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—German Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger has asked Catholics to pray for Pope John Paul II, not out of any new sense of alarm but because the pontiff continues to struggle with infirmity, the cardinal’s personal secretary said.

The secretary, Msgr. Georg Ganswein, downplayed a report by the German magazine *Bunte*, which quoted Cardinal Ratzinger as saying in an interview, “(The pope) is in a bad way,” and “We should pray for the pope.”

Cardinal Ratzinger, head of the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, did not give an interview to *Bunte*, Msgr. Ganswein told Catholic News Service Sept. 30.

What happened, he said, was that Cardinal Ratzinger met Sept. 22 with representatives of two German beer companies and was explaining to them why the pope could not grant them a private audience. Apparently journalists in the group picked up some of the cardinal’s comments.

“The cardinal said, certainly, we all have to pray for the pope. The pope himself asked us to do this. But that is something that can be said at any time,” Msgr. Ganswein said.

As for the pope’s health, Msgr. Ganswein said, Cardinal Ratzinger was “more or less expressing what anyone can see with their eyes and hear with their ears, that the pope is not well and speaks only with difficulty.”

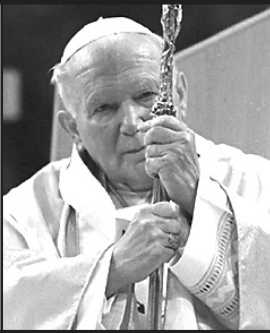
“All this was not said in any manner that could give a sense of alarm. Not at all,” the cardinal’s secretary said.

“To present this as a piece of news is a complete exaggeration,” Msgr. Ganswein said.

The pope was forced to skip his final Wednesday general audience in September because of an intestinal ailment, but spoke to those attending via an audio connection. He was back at work the next day with a full slate of appointments.

The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II



A ‘prophetic’ canticle

Dear brothers and sisters,

Our commentary on the psalms and canticles from morning prayer concludes today with the Cantic of Zechariah, commonly known as the “Benedictus.”

It is a prophetic cantic in which the father of John the Baptist indicates three events in God’s liberation of Israel: the covenant with Abraham, the covenant with David and the new covenant in Christ. Like the “dawn from on high,” Christ gives light and guides us into the way of peace. As the Venerable Bede notes: Christ shows us “the sure way to reach our heavenly homeland.”

I offer greetings to the English-speaking visitors present today, especially those from England, Scotland, Ireland, Australia, Canada and the United States. I am pleased to offer a warm welcome and express my appreciation to the members of the Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums, accompanied by His Eminence Cardinal (Edmund C.) Szoka. Upon all of you I invoke the grace and peace of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Is education for success, or for happiness?

Readings: Wis 7:7-11; Ps 90:12-16; Heb 4:12-13; Mk 10:17-30.

The words of the young man some years ago still resonate in my ears. “My old man hasn’t done badly, considering his education, but I’m going to be a millionaire by the time I’m 25!” He was talking with someone else, outside my range of vision, so there was no opportunity to ask if he considered whether this would bring happiness.

I can only pray that he learned the easy way that accumulation of wealth is no great sign of success in life, nor in itself the way to personal fulfillment.

Of course this is a perennial problem for parents and other educators. Let me quote a writer in Alexandria, Egypt from the second century B.C. The query was, “What is the highest good in life?” The Jewish sage replied, “To know that God is Lord over all, and that we do not ourselves direct our plans in the finest of actions, but God brings to completion the affairs of all people and guides them with his sovereign power.”

The next question was how to transmit this insight to one’s children. “By continual prayer to God to receive good impulses for future actions, and by exhorting one’s children not to be dazzled by fame or riches—the bestower of these gifts is God himself, and people do not have an excess of anything through their own merits.” (Letter of Aristeas to Philocrates 195-196)

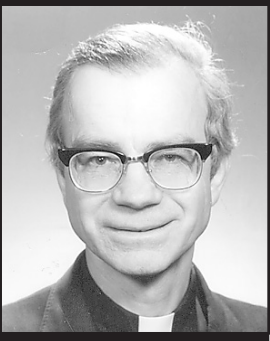
Note that prayer is required for the parental task of teaching!

In Alexandria about a century later, another Greek-speaking Jew presented his teaching on the divine gift of wisdom as the prayer of young King Solomon. Recall that

Sunday Readings

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
(October 12, 2003)

By Father Lawrence Frizzell



God had invited Solomon to ask for anything he wanted. (1 Kgs 3:5) His prayer showed a maturity beyond his years. “Give your servant an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil...” (3:9)

The first reading is part of a meditation on wisdom (personified as a bride) as the most precious of God’s many gifts to His children. Wisdom is more important than power, riches, good looks or even health in leading a person to the true purpose of life. (Wis 7:8-9)

Of course, the individual could hope to have wisdom and abundance of other good things as well! But what would we do if we had to choose one or the other?

The Gospel presents us with the poignant picture of a good young man who was eager to share in life eternal. Jesus tells him to keep the commandments, to which he replied, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my childhood.” (Mk 10:20)

Jesus read his purity of intention and called him to give

his possessions to the poor—then he would be truly free to follow Jesus and collaborate in building the Kingdom of God. Both Jesus and the young man were sad because the latter wanted both perfection of life and the goods which his family had accumulated.

In the early Church many, like Anthony of Egypt, heard this Gospel text proclaimed in the liturgy and answered Christ’s call in a dramatic way.

Are the young people today less idealistic than those of past ages? Undoubtedly God’s grace is as active as in earlier times. Are the temptations more persuasive? Probably not, just more pervasive!

Do parents today acknowledge the mystery of divine providence in their family’s life and choices? Or do your children see only a relentless pursuit of wealth and status on the part of their elders? Do your goals and ambitions obscure the Gospel from your children?

Peter seemed to be enthusiastic in his response to Jesus, but perhaps he also wanted reassurance. Jesus guaranteed His followers three realities. First, a profound experience of the deepest benefits of human life in the community He was founding. Secondly, persecution on the part of those unable to tolerate the “folly” of faith. Third, the gift of eternal life, since communion with Jesus in His passion and death enriches His followers beyond measure.

Does this make sense? Not to the person who considers that the world is his to conquer. Only through faith can we know that “with God all things are possible.” (10:26; see Gn 18:14)

The corollary is also true: Without God in one’s life, all achievements are ephemeral.

Father Lawrence Frizzell is Director of the Institute of Judaean-Christian Studies at Seton Hall University.

Accumulation of wealth is no great sign of success in life.



Saint Stephen Parish, Kearny

Centennial celebration is under way

BY LIESL FORES

Staff Reporter

Believe it or not, a parish celebrating a 100th anniversary is not that uncommon in the Archdiocese of Newark. However, each one has a unique history and an important role in the making of the Church of Newark.

St. Stephen Parish in Kearny is no exception. Over a century it has evolved to become what it is today: a worshipping community that embraces its past and makes it relevant in the present.

The 100th anniversary is the perfect opportunity to incorporate this theme. The yearlong celebration kicked off with a Mass on Sept. 21 with main celebrant Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia.

Pastor Msgr. Michael J. Desmond addressed a full church of about 900 during the homily, speaking of the "seeds planted by forebears" as well as the "ancient, contemporary and eternal" community of faith always present within St. Stephen's. He added, "A parish is basic to the life of the Church."

After the Mass, parishioners gathered for a picnic on the church lawn. Unable to choose just one distinctive moment during the event, Msgr. Desmond remarked that the "entire celebration—the Mass and the picnic" was extraordinary.

An extensive calendar of events is planned for the year, including an international dinner in October, a concert given by the Orchestra of St. Peter's by the Sea in November, special Epiphany Masses on Jan. 4 to commemorate the actual founding of the parish, a recognition of all

couples married at St. Stephen's on World Marriage Day in February, a church tour and open house for people of all faiths in the community in June and the centennial closing Mass and banquet in September. (For a complete schedule, visit www.ststephenchurch.com.)

A parish museum located in the old church baptistery has been opened for the year as well, displaying meaningful photos and artifacts.

However, the parish upholds certain traditions every year and gives acknowledgment where it's due, practices that define St. Stephen's.

For the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (Octave) in January, the people of the town's First United Methodist Church have been invited to pray with parishioners at the church. Besides being an interfaith celebration, there's historical significance: St. Stephen's first church building, purchased in 1904, was originally the Methodists' house of worship.

An annual custom that is very dear to parishioners as well as veterans is the Father Washington Mass, celebrated in February, honoring the parish's third pastor and one of the "Four Chaplains" who all died giving away their life jackets on the *USAT Dorchester*, which was torpedoed by Nazi forces in 1943 during World War II. The Mass also honors all veterans, particularly those from the North Jersey area.

A stained glass window depicting Father Washington and the *Dorchester* graces the church building.

Another memorial of a much



Msgr. Desmond stands beside a cross made from a steel beam from the World Trade Center that rests in a memorial garden on church premises. Two St. Stephen's parishioners were killed on Sept. 11, 2001.

more recent tragedy is a 15-foot steel beam from the World Trade Center that was given to the parish. Fashioned into a cross and placed in special garden near the rectory, with seven paving stones leading up to it, the monument pays tribute to the seven people from Kearny who were killed on Sept. 11, 2001, two of which were parishioners at St. Stephen's. The memorial makes them part of the parish forever and will keep them alive for generations to come.

Good will and stewardship, like monuments, also leave a mark. Looking to do their part, many parishioners participate in a number of ministries, especially those involving social concerns, explained the pastor. "They do a great job yearlong; they have a strong social justice outreach, an AIDS committee, Christmas in July, a Giving Tree—last year we had over 800 gifts. They're always working to help the poor and the needy, as we should," he asserted.

An essential element of St. Stephen's is the pre-kindergarten through eighth grade school, an institution as old as the church community. "The parish and school started both in 1904. ...The school is an integral part of the parish," Msgr. Desmond stressed, adding that the Sisters of Charity are an important part of that history, having served at the school for 96 years.

Today the school has 325 students, most of whom are parishioners, as well as a first through eighth grade CCD program, with 400 students enrolled.

One more source of pride for the parish is the current church building, which opened in 1939.

"It is a magnificent church building, one of the most beautiful churches in the U.S. It's stunning," said Msgr. Desmond, describing it as cathedral-like. "The people are very loyal to the parish and want the parish to be the best. They're very proud of the church building and take very good care of it," he explained.

He emphasized however that it's not just the beauty of the actual building that they want to share, but what goes on inside as well. "People who come here remark about the friendliness and sense of hospitality. And the divine liturgy—the readers, music—we work at doing it well, and hopefully we can always do better," the Monsignor pointed out.

Of the congregation of nearly 2000 families, the pastor commented, "They're all good people. It's a very nice community, very solid."

"The parish is an active group of lay ministers really fulfilling their baptism rites, preparing for the future in ministering to each other," he continued, indicating that they also "fully recognize the significance of the ordained priesthood...so there's a balance there."

St. Stephen Parish fosters an appreciation and respect for its past, inspiring parishioners to carry out the work of God and spirit of the Church in the present. Hopefully this tradition will continue for another 100 years.

St. Stephen Parish is located at 141 Washington Ave. in Kearny.



The Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Color Guard process into the immense and ornate church building of St. Stephen's for the 100th anniversary Mass.

Advocate photos-Frank Wood

A parish founded on humble beginnings, has seen wars, depression, spiritual rebirth

Until 1871, the few Catholics living in West Hudson had to travel to Newark for Mass. Holy Cross Parish in Harrison was established that year to meet their needs.

The area continued to develop so that by 1888 the number of Catholic adults living in the Arlington section of Kearny (now St. Stephen Parish) had grown to 50.

That number continued to increase, leading to the formation of St. Cecilia Parish in Kearny in 1893.

As the turn of the century approached the number of Catholics in the Arlington section had doubled. St. Cecilia's pastor at the time realized the need for a mission chapel and purchased a Methodist church on Chestnut Street.

There was no lull in the growth of St. Cecilia's. A century ago its pastor recommended that the Arlington mission be made a parish. On Jan. 4, 1904, the Mission of St. Stephen's officially became a parish. Father Samuel Hedges became the first resident pastor there. He had been an Episcopal minister before converting to Catholicism. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1880.

Father Hedges bought a permanent rectory in April of 1904. Later that same year he purchased an additional house which was converted into a school and convent. The school opened for the academic year in the fall of 1904 with 65 students taught by four nuns from the Sisters of Charity, Convent Station.

The parish ranks continued an upward spiral so that in 1907 some 250 adults attended Mass regularly. Only five years later that number had jumped to 450. In 1912 Father Hedges was transferred, and Father John A. Westman became the second pastor.



A fond look back at the past with a keen eye on a vibrant future was a keystone of the centennial Mass last month celebrated by Bishop Arthur Serratelli.

He was faced with two immediate problems: a huge parish debt and the need to expand parish facilities. The debt was retired in four years. It was also decided to build a combination church and school.

The old church, school and rectory were demolished in June 1915. The new structure was dedicated on Jan. 30, 1916.

Growth of the Catholic population continued unabated. A new mission was established in North Arlington. St. Stephen's serviced the mission until 1922 when Queen of Peace Parish was established. It was at that point that the permanent boundary lines of St. Stephen Parish were formalized.

Father Westman left in 1925 and was succeeded by Father William Donnelly

who served a year as administrator.

A year later Father George N. Murphy became pastor. He served at St. Stephen's for a quarter century. Soon after arriving he conducted a parish census that showed there were now 800 families in the congregation.

Because of the influx of more and more faithful, construction on a new church got under way in 1935. The church was dedicated on Sept. 17, 1939.

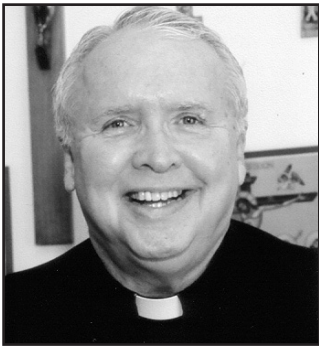
In January of 1953 the pastor, Father Adrian A. Maine, concluded negotiations for property on Midland Avenue for an addition to the school and new convent. Both structures were completed for the golden jubilee year of 1954. Five years later the original section of the school building was renovated and the new church completed.

Then came Vatican II and liturgical changes to the church were needed.

Father Mark J. Dooley became pastor in 1973. His immediate concern was the need to enlarge and remodel the rectory. The most famous parochial vicar was Father John P. Washington. He was among four military chaplains on the *USAT Dorchester* when it was torpedoed by the Nazis during World War II. Father Washington and other clergy sacrificed their lives by giving up their life jackets as the ship sunk. The rose window above the main entrance is a memorial to Father Washington.

Another major renovation took place in 1988. Both the interior and exterior were improved. Preserving the original carved wood was a focus of the interior work. The baptismal font was moved to the middle of the church, using marble from the Communion rail. .

Meet the Pastor



Msgr. Michael J. Desmond

Age: 58
Date of Birth: February 23, 1945
High School: Seton Hall Preparatory
College/Seminary/Graduate School: Seton Hall University, Immaculate Conception Seminary
Favorite Saint: St. Patrick, St. Frances Xavier Cabrini
Favorite Sport: Baseball
Favorite Food: Steak
Favorite Subject in School: History
Favorite Movie: *Chariots of Fire*
Proudest Moment: Concelebrating Mass with Pope John Paul II at Giants Stadium, 1995
Last Book Read: *The Da Vinci Code*
Occupation if I weren't a Priest: Not a factor—I never think of this.

A tradition ended three years ago when the Sisters of Charity ended 96 years in the classrooms of St. Stephen's. In 1988 as a tribute to the Sisters, a hand-carved full-size statue of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was commissioned for the church.

Pastors over the last two decades include Father Michael O'Grady, 1984-86; Msgr. William Hatcher, 1986-94; and Msgr. Michael Desmond, 1994 to the present.



Parishioners past and present flocked to the church grounds last month for a centennial picnic.

Advocate photos- Frank Wood



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Spiritual

• The Pastoral Team for the Charismatic Renewal of the Archdiocese of Newark will hold Fanning the Flame of Faith—Enlivening Our Lives in the Holy Spirit, on Oct. 25 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. at St. Mary's High School in Rutherford. There will be a keynote speaker and workshops. For additional information call (201) 390-0262, email fanningtheflame@comcast.net or visit fanningtheflame/registration-form.html.

• The Community of God's Love, a public association of Christian faithful within the Archdiocese of Newark, has scheduled a Healing Mass on Oct. 11 at 6 p.m. at the Rutherford United Methodist Church.

• The Diocese of Paterson will hold its annual Liturgical Conference Oct. 16-18 at the Holiday Inn, Parsippany. For additional information call Dr. Patricia Bartle at (973) 777-8818.

• Magnificat, a ministry to Catholic women, will hold a Women's Prayer Dinner on Oct. 20, 7 p.m. at the Chandelier in Belleville. Dr. Yolanda Cleffi, who converted to the Protestant faith and then returned to Catholicism, is the guest speaker. Tickets are available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope with a \$40 check made out to Magnificat, Handmaid of the Lord Chapter, to Mrs. A. Uzzalino, 553 Lynn Street, Ridgewood, N.J. 07450. For additional information call (201) 444-4064.

Retreats

• The Newark Cursillo Movement is accepting applications for its 165th, 166th men's and 150th

women's weekends Oct. 9-13; March 4-7 and April 29-May 2 of next year respectively. Visit mycursillo.com or write John Tronolone, 155 Krone Place, Hackensack, NJ 07601, or email johngodislove.johnt@verizon.net or call (201) 488-0145.

• Courageous Virtues—a retreat for college students will be held the weekend of Oct. 24-26, Friday 7 p.m. to Sunday noon, at the Sisters of Christian Charity Retreat House, Mendham. The retreat will be hosted by the Catholic Campus Ministry and is open to all students at Bloomfield College, Fairleigh Dickinson University/Teaneck, New Jersey City University, Kean University, Montclair State University, Ramapo College, Rutgers University/Newark, NJIT, Stevens Institute of Technology, and Union County College. For additional information or to register contact the Newman Center (973) 642-1613. Register by Oct. 10.

Lectures

• Paul Elie, author of *The Life You Save May Be Your Own*, will lecture on the topic, "The American Pilgrimage of Thomas Merton, Dorothy Day, Flannery O'Connor and Walker Percy," Oct. 21 at 7 p.m. in the Art Gallery of Walsh Library at Seton Hall University, South Orange.

• Michael Green, a National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) approved speaker, will address the topic's "The Four Stages of Drinking," on Oct. 20 at 7:30 p.m. in Alumni Theater of Caldwell College.

• St. Elizabeth Parish, Wyckoff, a presentation Oct. 19 at 7:30 p.m. to teenagers about love and relationships entitled "What If We Really Love Each Other?" The presentation is open all youth groups in the Archdiocese. For additional information call the rectory at (201) 891-1122 or Pat Khanjian at (201) 848-0248.

• The Natural Family Planning Program of the Archdiocese of Newark, in cooperation with the Catholic Studies Department of Seton Hall University, will host a presentation "God, Sex and the Meaning of Life: An Introduction to the Theology of the Body" by speaker and author Christopher West, Oct. 17 at 8 p.m. in Kozlowski Hall on the Seton Hall campus in South Orange. Cost \$5, childcare available. Call (201) 833-3121 or contact nfp@rcan.org.

Miscellaneous

• Xavier Center, Convent Station, Wednesday for Women, Oct. 15, 9:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Advanced registration required. Oct. 20, an evening program, "Look Up at the Sky, Count the Stars If You Can." Begins a half-hour after sunset. Call the day of the program to find out if the sky will be clear enough. To register for both events call (973) 290-5100 or email xaviercnt@aol.com.

• To remember a parish, school, or ministry in your will call Deacon John McKenna at (973) 497-4125.

• The Archdiocese has recently become aware that a private group is soliciting donations for a Spanish charismatic renewal center in New Jersey. Part of the solicitations involve placement of unauthorized flyers in

churches. This group has not sought or obtained Archdiocesan approval.

• Father Aidan Troy, a Passionist priest who is pastor of a parish in Belfast, Ireland, will celebrate a Mass for Peace on Oct. 20 at 7:30 p.m. in St. Luke's Church in Ho-Ho-Kus. For additional information call (201) 444-4786.

Annulments

• An Annulment Information Evening will be held Oct. 8 in the parish center of St. John the Baptist Parish in Hillsdale at 7:30 p.m. A canon lawyer will speak and take questions. For additional information call the Office of Family Life Ministries at (973) 497-4327.

Social

• The Catholic Alumni Club of New Jersey of North Jersey will hold its annual dinner-dance Oct. 18 at the Rutherford House in East Rutherford beginning at 7 p.m. Cost is \$38 if paid by Oct. 10 and \$40 after that date. For additional information call Christine at (201) 384-9748.

• The Bergen-Passaic District of the National Council of Catholic Women will meet Oct. 9 in the cafeteria of St. Joseph's in Oradell at 7:30 p.m. Father Dennis Reiff will speak followed by a brief meeting and a shower for Right to Life.

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Mrs. Helen Okeowo's kindergarten class listens to a story during reading time while the pastor, Father J. James McConnell, looks on.

Advocate photo-Liesl Fores

School a mainstay in community

BY LIESL FORES

Staff Reporter

"We've been here for 40 years, and we're growing," declared Evelyn Hay, Principal of Queen of Angels School in Newark.

The grammar school, which opened in 1963—also the year Queen of Angels Parish had a visit from Martin Luther King, Jr.—has been a mainstay and positive presence in the Central Ward of Newark, an area devastated by the riots of 1967, for four decades.

Today it educates 262 students, from the pre-kindergarten level to the eighth grade. Many are the children and grandchildren of alumni, several of whom Hay (who has been there for 27 years) taught herself.

"It's a community-based school, steeped in Catholic ideology," said the fifth-year principal, pointing out that many teachers, teacher assistants and administrative staff members are graduates

of the school, parishioners of the church and lifelong members of the Queen of Angels family. "We're very spiritual, and this is what our parents look for," she explained.

All students, including those in Pre-K, have religion class every day. Lessons include "Saint of the Week," "Scripture of the Week," (based on the previous Sunday's readings), regular prayer services at the church and monthly Mass, the latter two celebrated by the pastor, Father J. James McConnell, S.M.A., who has been in that position for 20 years. This spiritual aspect "keeps students grounded," Hay believes.

The technology program is another focal point. Sharon Massey, Vice Principal, who has been at the school for 30 years, working there in one facet or another since she was a teenager, runs this department. She explained that much of the money

for purchasing the computers and corresponding software is provided through federal funding.

Students have 64 computers at their disposal, 30 of which are in the main lab and equipped with a number of progressive educational programs. Each classroom has two computers with internet access. All students have lessons in the technology room once a week.

Hay emphasized that the school's goal is to integrate this technology into all subjects in every grade level. "Students will also be using it in their research for the 40th anniversary," she added, referring to projects that will culminate in an end-of-year celebration.

Eighth graders have the assignment of interviewing alumni, while seventh graders are preparing a quilt on which quotations from and photos of alumni, students and faculty will be placed.

Sixth graders are communicating with the Oblate Sisters of Providence in Baltimore, MD, the order that founded the school, to get some of the history of the institution's early years firsthand. And fifth graders are conducting research on the school's inaugural year of what was going on in the country and the world.

"We're still going strong," Hay assured of the school. "We're not going anywhere."

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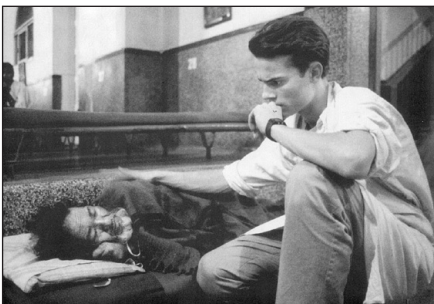
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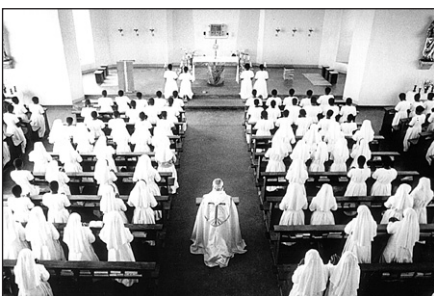
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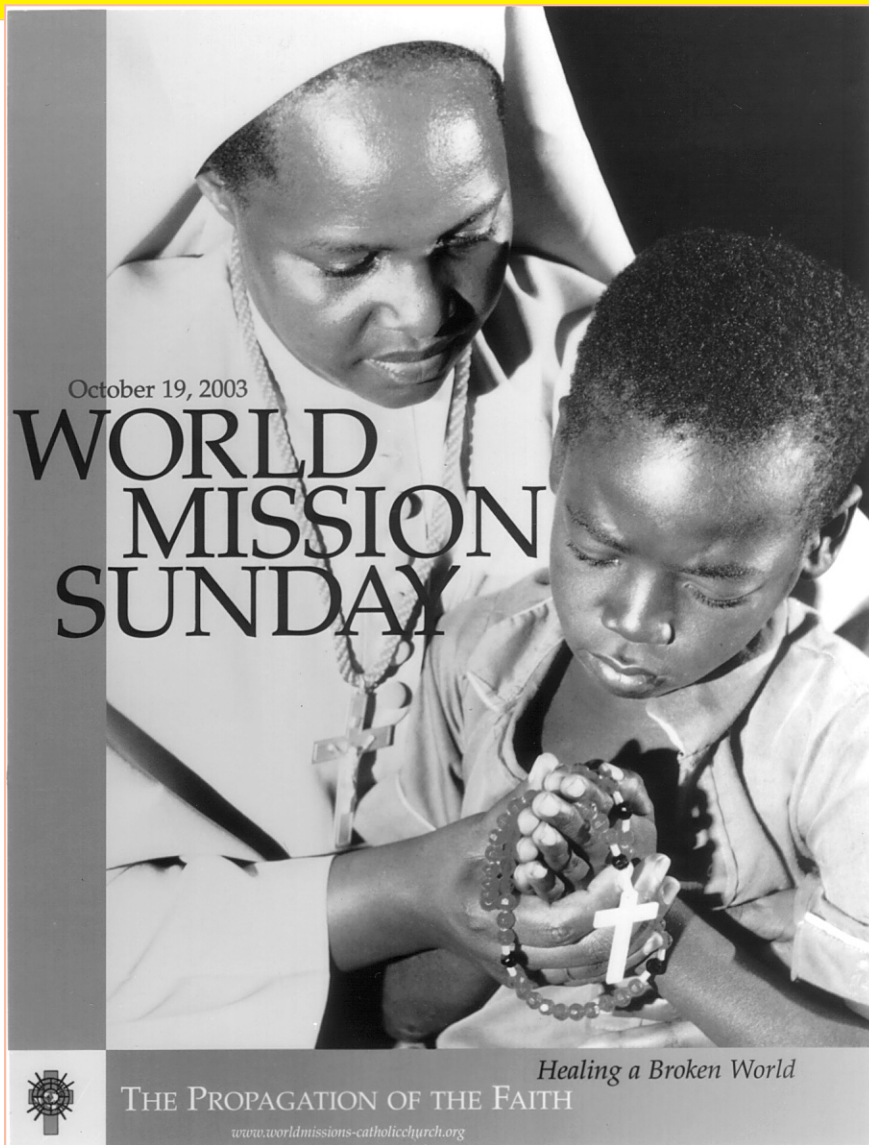
Sr. Ingrid of the Missionary Sisters of the Heart of Jesus visits a slum-dwelling family in the city of Windhoek, the capital of Namibia. The mother, sick and desperate, told of the family going three days without food. The 60-year old nun arranged for food and clothing to be brought from the St. Vincent de Paul Centre. The mother said in her native language, "Karunga ne mu yambeke," - "Thanks be to God."



This British lay volunteer left a promising career in banking and has worked for over a year with the Missionaries of Charity in India. With the Sisters he dedicates himself to a life of prayer and active love of the poorest of the poor; a true representative for them of Christ's love and care.



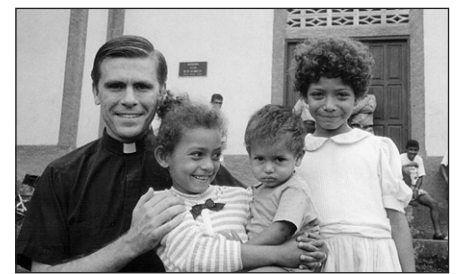
During their prayer time, a special period of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the Franciscan Sisters of St. Bernadette, a local Religious Community in Tanzania, worship Jesus with the Bishop. This Order of nuns has many dozens of vocations, young women preparing to witness to the risen Christ with their lives.



Franciscan novices and a small child make music for the Lord in Bolivia. In the Archdiocese of Sucre there are 530,000 Catholics and less than 100 priests. In order to reach the indigenous population these future priests will travel on roads of which only 3% are paved. The life expectancy of the native people is merely 54 years. The Bolivian seminarians will carry out Pope John Paul's mandate of "accepting the new challenges of evangelization."



As a child, Father Leo Joosten of Holland dreamed of adventure in far-off lands. He has lived as a missionary priest in Indonesia for over 30 years. He respects and understands the local Batak culture, and has built a Church in the Batak style, prompting one 18-year-old to remark, "For me this is a house where I can feel God's presence. Here I feel close to heaven."



In a dirt courtyard outside a simple mission Church in rural El Salvador, Central America, children smile with Msgr. Robert Fuhrman, director of the Mission Office of the Archdiocese of Newark. Latin American Catholics often struggle with poverty and the threats of fundamentalist, evangelical sects.



One of the most important Mission developments in recent years has been the greatly increasing number of native vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Much of their financial support comes from the generous donors to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. This Sister is at a parish in the Philippines.

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Catholic school achieves special NCEA honor

BY BRIAN FORES

Staff Reporter

Elizabethport Catholic Academy was honored at this year's Selected Programs for Improving Catholic Education conference for excellence in providing Catholic education in an impoverished community.

The three-day conference,

hosted by Boston College, was part of an effort co-organized by the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) and the Boston College Lynch School of Education to honor and disseminate information on successful K-12 Catholic school programs.

Elizabethport Catholic won

an Award in Excellence in 1999 for its technology program. The seven year old school is a merger of three struggling parish schools located in the poorest section of Elizabeth. It is operated by the Archdiocese under the direction of a board of trustees made up of pastors, Archdiocesan personnel and local businessmen.

"We offer individualized pro-

grams," noted Dr. Theodore Kadela, Principal. "With technology, we use software that works with each student at his or her own level. In the classroom, we employ a method known as differentiated learning, whereby students learn at their own level and entry point," he added.

"Any classroom has students at a multitude of different levels. Here, we have multi-tiered

instruction, so a teacher can give a lesson at more than one level within the same classroom. We employ what's known as flexible grouping, so that students at different levels can interact.

"The classroom is absolutely flexible," Kadela stated. "Students have input into their own learning, and their input is essential."

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Dr. Eugene J. Cornacchia, who has served Saint Peter's College for 22 years in several different positions, has been promoted to Provost by College President James N. Loughran, S.J.

Dr. Cornacchia, who will retain his title of Vice President for Academic Affairs, becomes the first provost in school history.

He adds overall management responsibilities of the college's student affairs, financial management and planning, operations and facilities, human resource management, and information systems to his previous role of overseeing all

academic programs at the college.

"I am certain that establishing the provost post and Gene's willingness to fill it augurs well for the college's future," Father Loughran said. I have great confidence in his leadership and believe that this is the right move at the right time."

Dr. Cornacchia joined the college as an adjunct lecturer in 1981 and earned full professor status in 1997.

He served 14 years as the Chair of the Political Science Department and also served two terms as Faculty Senate President. He also spent five years heading the col-



Dr. Eugene J. Cornacchia

lege's Guarini Center for International and Public Affairs.

He moved to his first administrative position at the college in 2000 as Academic Dean and was named Vice President for Academic Affairs in 2002.

Silver Jubilee is celebrated

Sister Marie Alexander Siegel, a Felician Sister of the Immaculate Conception Province in Lodi, recently celebrated her silver jubilee of Religious life during a solemn liturgy.

Father Charles Theobald, retired Pastor of Saint Francis de Sales Parish, Lodi, was presider and homilist.

Provincial minister, Sister Mary Aquinas Szott, presented Sister Alexander with a special papal blessing given by Pope John Paul II.

Sister Marie Alexander is an eighth grade teacher at Saint Hedwig School in Wilmington, DE. She is also a youth minister at Saint Hedwig Parish. As



Sister Marie Alexander Siegel and Sister Mary Aquinas Szott

youth minister, she traveled to the World Youth Day gatherings in Rome (2000) and Toronto (2002).

Sister Marie Alexander resides at Our Lady of Grace Home in Newark. During her

Religious life, she has served in parish schools located in the Archdiocese of Newark and the Dioceses of Trenton and Paterson. Sister Alexander served a term as principal of Saint Francis de Sales School, Lodi.

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12:45 p.m. Registration

1 p.m. Presentation

1:30 - 3:00 "Meet the Faculty" & Tours

Saturday, November 15, 2003

9:30 a.m. Registration

9:45 a.m. Presentation

10:15 - 11:45 "Meet the Faculty" & Tours



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School honors Eagle Scout, Colin McNulty

Colin Redmond McNulty, a student at Don Bosco Prep High School in Ramsey, has earned Scouting's highest the rank of Eagle Scout.

McNulty, a member of Troop 34 chartered to the United Methodist Church in Franklin Lakes, coordinated a book drive for the library of Sacred Heart School in Jersey City. In all 20,000 new and

used books and \$4,000 in donations were raised for his Eagle Scout project that took some 190 hours to complete.

The new Eagle is a member of St. Elizabeth Parish in Wyckoff. He has been a scout since 1992.

During his time with Troop 34, McNulty has been an assistant scoutmaster, troop guide, instructor and librarian.

To earn the rank of Eagle Scout, a Boy Scout must fulfill requirements in the areas of leadership, community service and outdoor skills.

Of the more than 150 merit badges available, 21 must be earned to qualify for Eagle Scout.

Only about 2.5 percent of boys in Scouting earn the rank of Eagle. Over one million boys have earned the rank since 1911.

Father W. Gerard Sogliuzzo

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Oct. 7 at Church of Our Lady of Grace, Hoboken, for Father W. Gerard Sogliuzzo, 57, who died Oct. 3.

Born in Hoboken, Father Sogliuzzo attended Fairleigh Dickinson University, Teaneck, and graduated in 1975 from Seton Hall University with a B.A. Degree in Philosophy.

He attended Immaculate Conception Seminary, Darlington-Mahwah, for three years and earned Master of Divinity Degree and was ordained in 1979.

While at the seminary he worked for two semesters at the Mount Carmel Guild's Division of the Blind, one semester at the Bergen County Jail, two semesters at the St. Elizabeth Religious Education Office, Linden and three years of campus ministry at Sacred Heart Academy, Hoboken.

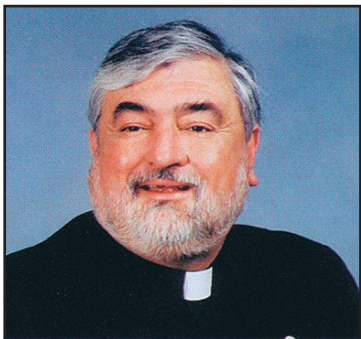
Father Sogliuzzo's first assignment was parochial vicar at St. Aloysius Parish, Caldwell.

He moved on to the neighboring community of Verona as a parochial vicar at Our Lady of the Lake parish in the '80s.

From Our Lady of the Lake Father Sogliuzzo was appointed a parochial vicar at St. Andrew's

Pray for her...

Judy Kelly, sister of Msgr. Philip Morris, Pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish, Hillsdale, died Sept. 19.



Father W. Gerard Sogliuzzo

Parish, Cranford. Six years ago he was parochial vicar at the Church of St. Mary, Nutley, then he was appointed parochial vicar at the Church of St. Michael, Union.

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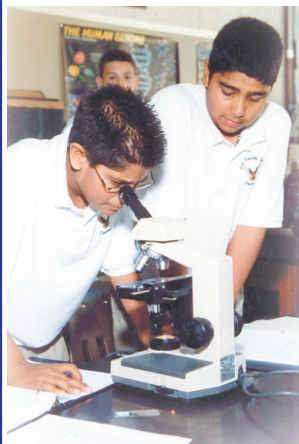
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A summer of leadership in DC

Three students from St. Leo School, Elmwood Park, Tara Martorano, Ryan Mati and Peter Trawinski, were selected to attend the Junior National Young Leadership Conference (JrNYLC) this summer in Washington DC.

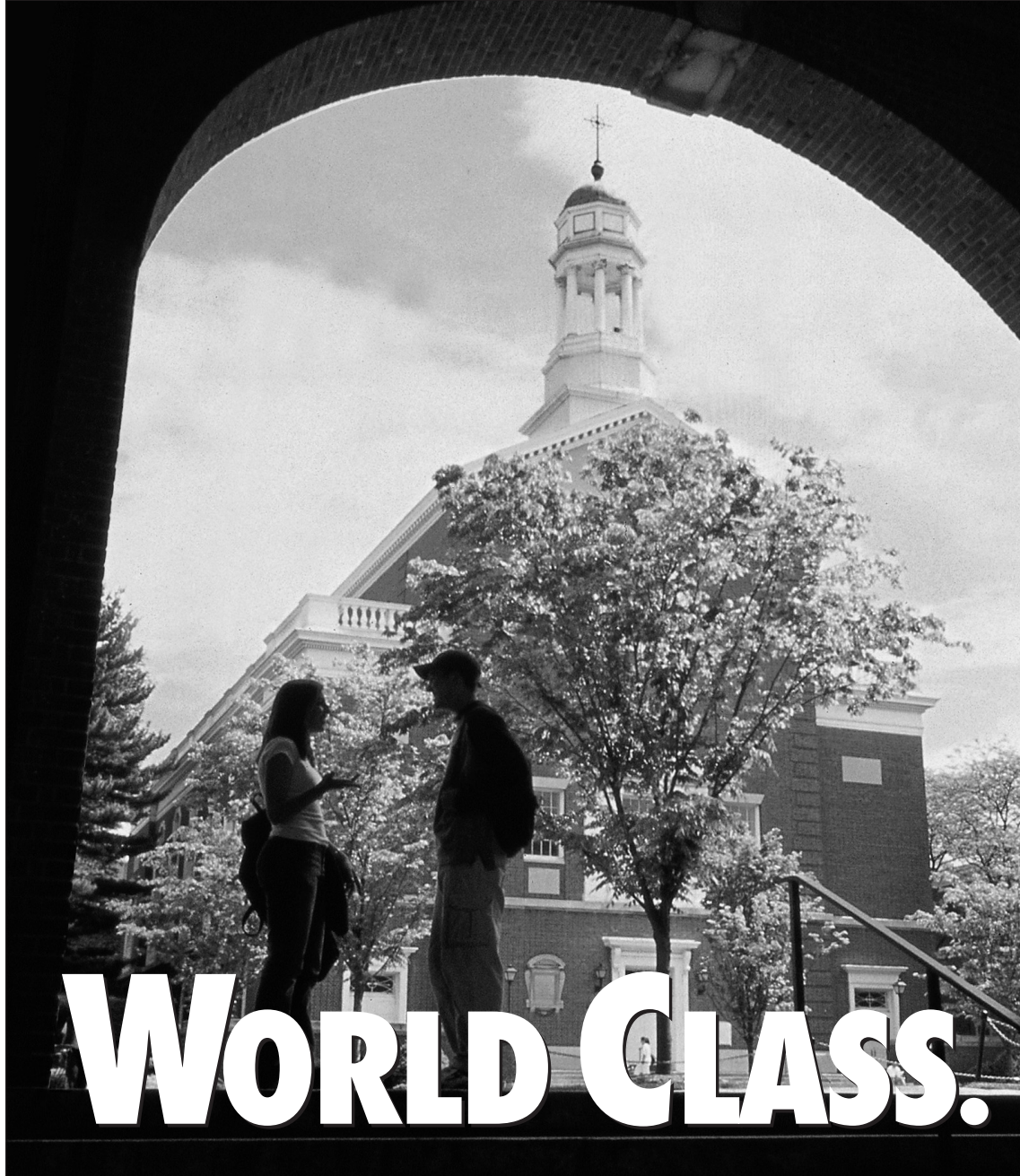
"The Legacy of American Leadership" introduced students to the tradition of lead-

ership throughout American history, while helping them develop their own leadership skills.

Students had the opportunity to meet with U.S. House of Representatives members. They also visited historical landmarks, including Colonial Williamsburg, the Smithsonian and Maryland Science Center.

NYLC is a non-profit educational organization committed to inspiring young people to achieve their full leadership potential.

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Headmaster Msgr. Michael E. Kelly; Nicholas Martini Foundation Executive Director George Homcy; Thomas A. Griffin Bridges Director David Ramsay; Hector Rivera. Seated, Aaren McLucas, Kyle Miller.

Foundation builds 'bridges'

The Nicholas Martini Foundation recently presented a grant of \$2500 to Seton Hall Preparatory's Thomas A. Griffin Bridges Program.

Executive Director George Homcy visited the West Orange School in preparation for the start of the school year to present the check to Seton Hall Prep Headmaster Msgr. Michael E. Kelly and Program Director David Ramsay.

The Nicholas Martini Foundation was established in the early 1990's by the late Nicholas Martini, attorney and former mayor of Passaic. Over the last decade the foundation has made grants to several hundred schools, non-profits and charitable groups.

The Thomas A. Griffin Bridges Program provides financial and social support to academically deserving, economically disadvantaged, inner city young men so that they may attend and graduate from the Prep.

In addition to substantial tuition assistance, support is provided to the students and their families by a network of sponsors, mentors, big brothers, school administrators, faculty and parents, coordinated by the full-time program director. The network provides a welcome and necessary infrastructure to ensure that the students receive the kind and amount of support they need to succeed. There are 28 students in the program.

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- 105 courses including 10 AP and 25 Honors level
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Archbishop helps launch 'Profiles in Excellence'

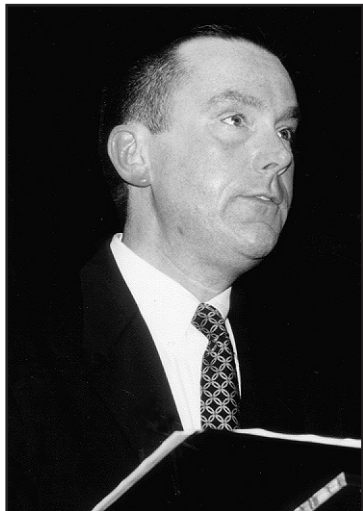
Archbishop John J. Myers was on hand last month as St. Joseph Regional High School in Montvale launched a \$2.75 million fund raising campaign.

Profiles in Excellence, with the Archbishop as its honorary chairman, will finance an endowment for academic scholarship, enhancement of science facilities and computer technology, renovation of the auditorium, and a new athletic field, track and fieldhouse. Early gifts totalling \$1,475,000 have already been received.

More than 250 guests at the kick-off ceremony heard from Principal Joseph R. Job; Dennis Miller, CEO of Somerset Medical Center and campaign chairman; School Theater Director John Asselta; Assistant Principal Barry Donnelly; and Athletic Director Anthony Karcich.

"This is a momentous day in the history of St. Joseph Regional High School," said

Miller, whose son Doug is a junior. "We are delighted and grateful for the extraordinary



Principal Joseph Job,
St. Joseph Regional High School

generosity of so many who have participated so far in Profiles in Excellence. There is much left to do, however, and we will need everyone in the school's extended family

to join with us to bring these critical academic, athletic and endowment enhancements to fruition."

Profiles in Excellence contains several critical components.

A formalized scholarship endowment will be a dedicated source of support. The chemistry lab will be renovated, modified and refitted to create a multi-purpose computer-assisted science learning laboratory for all the scientific disciplines.

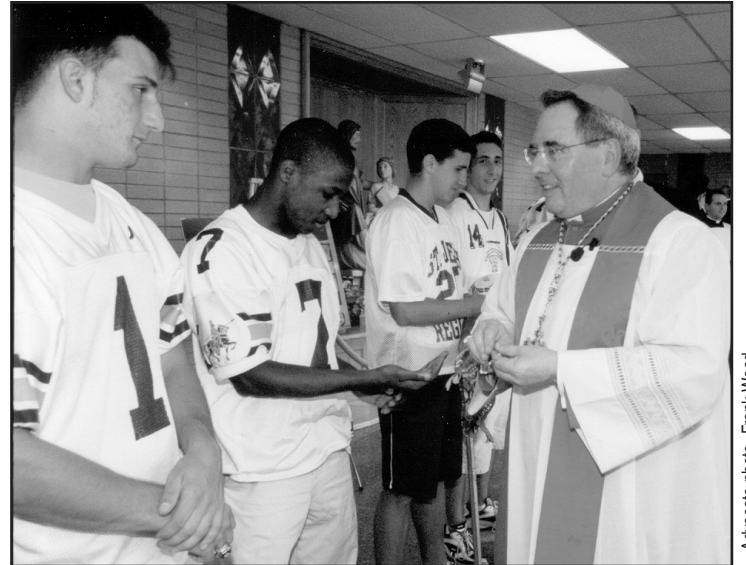
In addition, computer technology throughout the school will be updated and upgraded. Renovation of the auditorium has already been completed.

The new athletic field will feature an artificial surface, while the fieldhouse will contain a weight room, whirlpool and showers.

"It is always our intention and responsibility to provide today's students and future

students with the best environment for the most complete education possible. Profiles in

Excellence gives us the best opportunity to accomplish that goal," said the principal.



Archbishop John J. Myers speaks with several athletes from St. Joe's.

Advocate photo - Frank Wood

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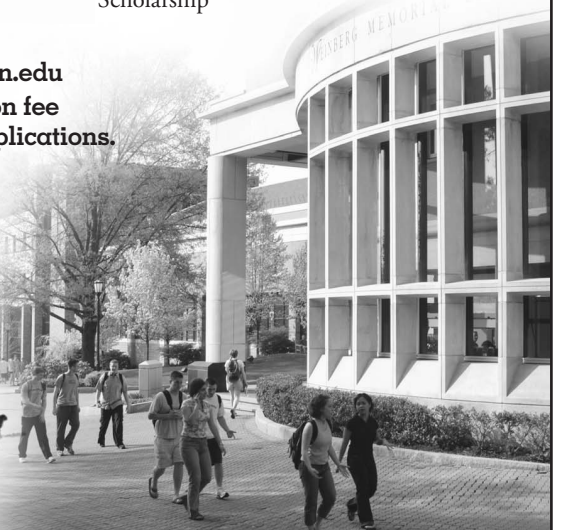
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High school project helps healing process

As the one-year anniversary of their son's death approached last year, the family of a young man lost Sept. 11, 2001 again struggled with an overwhelming sense of emptiness.

"When our son, Robbie, was killed, we were beside ourselves with grief. The first anniversary was more than we could bear—we finally realized he wasn't coming back. We needed a project, a plan, something—anything—to help us mend," said Mrs. Patricia Zampieri.

That's when Mrs. Zampieri read an article about a small school in Jersey City that was struggling to survive.

"One morning my wife had an epiphany," said Dr. Robert Zampieri, a dentist who lives in Saddle River. "She came rushing into the bedroom, pointing to a small article in the sports section of the newspaper, saying, 'This is it; this is what we can do. This will be our project.'"

The article was about St.

Anthony High School in Jersey City. Best known for its nationally-ranked basketball team, the school was facing a declining enrollment and a significant post-9/11 drop in fundraising.

"I had never heard of St. Anthony High School before," said Mrs. Zampieri, "but I was impressed with what I read about the school and the students. When I saw that it was located in Jersey City, I knew this was the perfect project for us to undertake."

"Robbie had lived in Jersey City. I can still remember when he first told us he was moving there. He said, 'Ma, I'm in the most beautiful spot.' And he was right; he had a view of the World Trade Center and the Statue of Liberty. He simply loved living there."

"When we first heard about what the Zampieri's were planning, we were overwhelmed,"

said Sister Mary Felicia, Principal. "No doubt we needed the money and were extremely grateful, but we were touched that our little school could help this family deal with their grief and



Sister Mary Felicia, C.S.S.F., Principal of St. Anthony High School; Patricia Zampieri, Robbie's mother; and Sister Mary Alan, C.S.S.F., Assistant Principal for Development.

create something positive from an otherwise tragic situation."

"Robbie was the kind of person who loved life, loved to help and was always giving back. I know he would have approved of us helping

St. Anthony's," Mrs. Zampieri said.

"So we set the plan into motion. My husband had organized golf outings before, and Robbie loved to golf, so it seemed like a perfect way to help raise money for St. Anthony's and honor the memory of our son," she said.

The first annual Robbie Zampieri Golf Classic and Scholarship Fund benefiting St. Anthony High School was held Sept. 8.

"It was such a surreal series of events that led us to one another. I think we can all agree it was nothing short of a miracle," said Sister Felicia, who has yet to meet the Zampieri's.

"To be honest, we were all a bit taken aback by the response," said Dr. Zampieri. "This is a true testament to my son, the people whose lives he touched and the kind of life he led. My son and I used to golf every Friday. It was our 'special thing,'

and I know he would have been thrilled to have this golf outing."

Robert Alan "Robbie" Zampieri, 30, worked as an Asian markets commodities trader for Carr Futures on the 92nd floor of the north tower.

"We are so thrilled and impressed with the students at St. Anthony's. 100 percent of its students are accepted to college—that's very impressive," added Dr. Zampieri.

"This has been a wonderful healing process for all of us, and we're dedicated to helping St. Anthony High School," Mrs. Zampieri said.

"We will be holding this golf outing every year and hope to become more involved with both the school and its students," Dr. Zampieri stated.

Although the Robbie Zampieri Golf Classic was sold out, contributions are welcome and tickets are still available for dinner. Call (201) 944-1027 for additional information.

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In the Principal's Office

Catholic education is a family affair

BY TRISH FITZPATRICK

Special to The Catholic Advocate

This is part of a series of articles on principals at the elementary and high school levels in the Archdiocese of Newark. Trish Fitzpatrick serves on the Leadership Committee of the Archdiocesan School Advisory Board.

Colette Vail lives a double life. By day, she is the nationally recognized principal of St. Joseph's School, Oradell, in Bergen County. By night, she's the "first lady of Paramus Catholic," where she resides with her husband, Jim Vail, president/principal of the high school.

This past year has perhaps been the most exciting of Mrs. Vail's career. Last April, she received the Distinguished Principal Award from the National Catholic Education Association. She was cited for her innovative approach to after-school clubs and activities and for her emphasis on civic responsibility.

This fall she travels to Washington, DC to receive the National Distinguished Principal Award from the National Association of Elementary School Principals.

Vail, a self-described "air force brat" moved frequently with her four siblings, mother, and her father, who served in three wars. Born in California, she lived in Texas and attended Catholic school through grade seven.

She entered eighth grade in Massachusetts and credits this experience with her keen interest in helping children transition to a new school. She started an innovative program for transferees to St. Joseph's because she remembers the difficulties of entering as the "new kid."

Her first stop after college was in industry, but she soon gravitated to teaching science at St. Mary's High School in Westfield, MA. After that she taught at Holyoke Catholic and then started her Master's Degree in Catholic School Leadership at Boston College.

She returned to Holyoke Catholic and was quickly promoted to associate principal.

In 1991 she became engaged to her husband, whom she met as a fellow student in the Boston College program. During their engagement, Mr. Vail was offered a position as the principal of a Catholic school in Wisconsin.

In 1996 the Vails relocated to New Jersey to be closer to Mr. Vail's family. He became President

of Paramus Catholic, and she accepted the job at St. Joseph's of Oradell as their first lay principal.

Her initial goal was that all children know the principal. An "open door policy" is in effect, and children are invited to come in and share accomplishments and also their struggles with her.

St. Joseph's School has a campus feel. There's a lower school building for pre-kindergarten through grade 4, and then students "graduate" to the upper school which houses grades 5-8.

With an enrollment of 535 from more than 23 communities, and a faculty/staff of 50, most grades have two sections, and there are waiting lists for many of the grades.

Vail is grateful to the priests at St. Joseph Parish for their strong and collaborative support.

All students participate in service projects; upper level students may also join HOPE, which stands for "Helping Other People Everywhere."

Technology is a priority for Vail, and this is apparent when one views the state-of-the-art website, (www.sjsoradell.com). Homework, test schedules, snow information, the lunch menu, a weekly newsletter—you name it, it's on the web. Children learn PowerPoint as early as third grade, and the Webmaster includes online courses for teacher development and faculty training.

St. Joseph's offers many sports, aftercare and a variety of clubs such as Yearbook, Multicultural Club and Spanish. Spirituality is encouraged by traditional Catholic school paraliturgical celebrations.

Vail mentions the crucial role of parents and views this as a team effort with the shared goal being the intellectual and spiritual well-being of every child.

She talks about fund raisers at St. Joseph's and says, "I prefer to think of them as 'fun-raisers.'"

Brother Ralph Darmento, F.S.C., Archdiocesan Deputy

Superintendent of Schools, said, "Colette possesses the gift of allowing all to shape the vision of the school and then encouraging everyone to take initiative for crafting the practicalities of the teaching/learning process. Her giftedness can be seen in the community of faith and learning made real at St. Joseph's School."



Colette Vail

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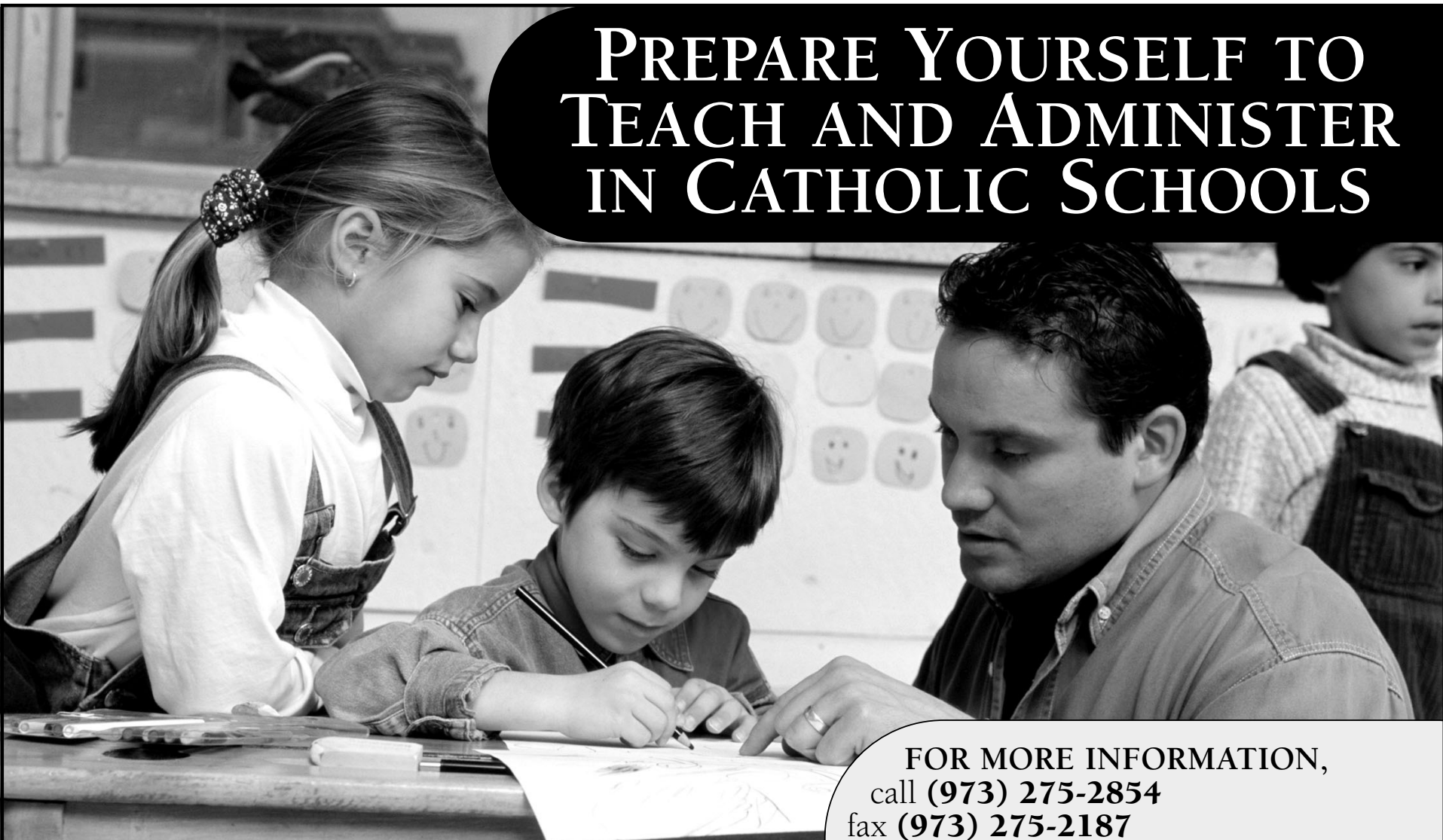
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When **Jesus** turned around
and noticed them following him,

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“What are you looking for?”

They said to him, Rabbi,
where do you stay?”

“Come and see,”
He answered.
John 1:38-39

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after Jesus
as a Priest,
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Experience

Continued from page 24

the sisterhood are referred to Sister Mary Crucifix.

A man calling the office for information or guidance will be put in contact with Father Plate, and he will help ascertain what kind of vocation the individual is gravitating towards if he is not certain himself.

Men thinking about the diaconate are put in touch with the archdiocesan director of that program, Deacon Edward Porter.

Someone seriously considering a vocation as an archdiocesan priest would begin a thorough process of interviews and background checks, which eventually leads to a recommendation from a Vocations board to Archbishop John J. Myers. The Archbishop makes the final determination as to whether the candidate will enter the seminary.

It is important during this stage of discernment that a possible calling be nurtured, insisted Father Plate.

Citing challenges, Father Vicari pointed out that it can be difficult to get responses for vocations for the brotherhood. Generally speaking, he commented, the looming question in the minds of young men considering a vocation might often be,

why become a brother when I can become a priest?

"But that's without knowing the difference in theology and charism between priests and brothers," he explained.

As for sisters, Father Vicari assured that there are certain orders that are flourishing, calling attention to the Salesian Sisters, Sisters of Christian Charity and the Missionaries of Charity, to name a few, all with members working in the Archdiocese.

"The Vocations Office just wants to be in contact with every Catholic kid in the Archdiocese. In the same way they'd consider being a doctor or a lawyer or a plumber, we want them to think about a church vocation," asserted Father Vicari.

He gives credit to the efforts of the archbishops of Newark. "The awareness has to be there

from the Archbishop down," he emphasized.

Sean Gavarny, a young man who just entered the Neo-Catechumenal Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary in Kearny, recalls that he felt a calling at the age of 14 during a retreat with his family. Curious about where this would lead, he began to attend weekly gatherings of an Archdiocesan vocational program of the Redemptoris Mater Seminary.

During the meetings, Gavarny and piers would talk about life experiences, discuss the Bible, celebrate the Eucharist and speak individually with program vocation advisers, in order to help determine whether they had a calling for Religious life.

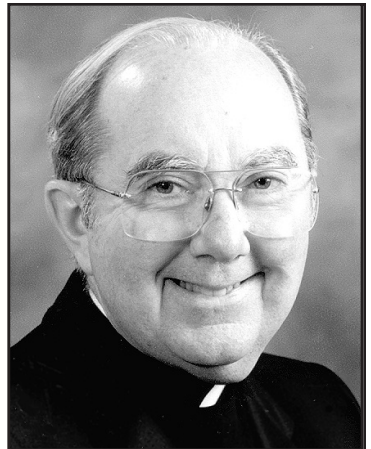
After more than five years of discernment, Gavarny decided to enter the seminary after recommendation and a trip to Italy for an

international retreat upon prospective Neo-Catechumenal seminarians.

His advice to other young people considering a vocation: "Bring your life to the light. Don't be afraid of anything that's happened in the past. In order to discern whether you have a vocation, you need to be free; if you're hiding in the darkness, you can't be free.

"This will help you see yourself better and where God is calling you. And pray!"

While all vocations, Religious or lay, are crucial to the Catholic mission, those to the priesthood and Consecrated life are special in that herein lies the future of the Church. Accordingly, the Archdiocese of Newark makes an exceptional effort to help all those who may have such a calling realize their God-given potential.



Msgr. Thomas M. O'Leary will retire as pastor of St. Elizabeth Parish, Wyckoff, on Oct. 21 after 46 years of ministry in the Archdiocese of Newark. Parishioners and friends will honor him at a farewell Mass and reception Sunday, Oct. 19 at 12:45 p.m.

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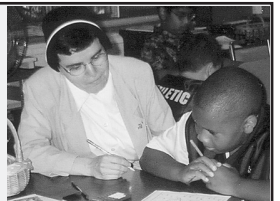
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Parish mission Oct. 20-23

St. Peter Parish in Belleville will hold a parish mission Oct. 20-23 with the theme, "Walking with the Word."


The mission will have two sessions: at 9 a.m. with the Eucharist and 7:30 p.m.

For additional information call the rectory at (973) 751-2002.

Psalms to be lecture topic

One of the country's foremost Scripture scholars, Father Lawrence Boadt, C.S.P., will lecture on "Praying with the Psalms," on Oct. 22 at 7:30 p.m. at St. John the Evangelist Parish, Leonia.

Admission is free, pre-registration is requested, but not necessary. To pre-register or for more information, call Sister Pat McDermott at (201) 944-4947 or email her at sjpastoral@aol.com. St. John the Evangelist is located at Harrison Street and Broad Avenue in Leonia.



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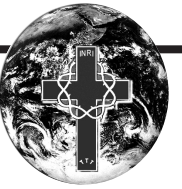
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No podemos juzgar un libro por lo que oculta

POR EL ARZOBISPO JOHN J. MYERS
Arzobispo de Newark

A mi me gusta mucho leer. Es uno de mis placeres en la vida. Aunque lo que más me gusta son las biografías, también me gusta leer libros históricos, aunque sean novelescos, de misterio y de ciencia imaginativa, porque es muy fácil caer atrapado en las intrigas del argumento y de los personajes. Autores como le Carré, Clancy, Chistie, Shaara o Bradbury, escriben novelas que me invitan a creer que lo ficticio existe realmente.

Pero es un género basado en la ficción. Aun cuando algunos autores y editores pretenden a veces hacernos creer que algo de lo que nos cuentan existió realmente (recordemos la publicidad que se le dio a la novela “The Hunt for Red October” cuando apareció por primera vez), nosotros siempre terminamos sabiendo cual es la verdad.

Nosotros sabemos que lo que leemos es solamente un entretenimiento y aceptamos la ficción que nos presentan porque su único propósito es el distraernos.

Por eso es que me preocupan los comentarios que he leído y oído sobre un nuevo libro titulado “The DaVinci Code”. No solo porque el tema que desarrolla es que Jesús estuvo casado (y con María Magdalena!) sino también por la premisa que presenta para hacer más emocionante el contenido del libro.

Según el autor, ciertas “sociedades secretas” han

estado ocultando estas “verdades” y otras similares (como la de la “diosa madre”) por casi dos siglos para poder apoyar y defender una agenda falsa.

Casi las únicas cosas que no aparecen en el libro son los invasores que vienen de otros mundos y “el cómplice” de Lee Harvey Oswald. Quizás el autor los ha reservado para una futura continuación del libro.

Si el autor hubiera dicho sencillamente “Esto es una novela; toda la trama es producto de mi imaginación”, tendríamos una cosa distinta. Pero él y los patrocinadores de su libro han querido enlazar su tema con las “verdades” de una investigación especulativa de textos antiguos que los eruditos han considerado por mucho tiempo desprovistos de mérito y representando equivocadamente a la Iglesia y lo que nosotros creemos.

Siempre es atrayente el oír sobre “tesoros ocultos” y “razones desenterradas” de tiempos pasados.

Las ideas sobre lo oculto y lo misterioso son siempre cautivantes –veamos la popularidad alcanzada por las películas sobre Indiana Jones. Y algunos trabajos de ficción, como los de Morris West, han entrelazado con éxito las cosas buenas en que creemos con la maldad a la que tememos.

En diversas formas esas novelas nos reafirman, porque muestran cómo gente como nosotros mismos pueden enfrentarse y en definitiva vencer a los

demonios que quieren desviarnos del camino de nuestra fe y de la confianza en Dios.

Aunque las falsas aseveraciones que aparecen en The DaVinci Code disfrazadas como verdades me han preocupado por varias semanas, creo que las pude enfocar mejor durante mi reciente visita al colegio para niños y niñas “Visitation School” en Jersey City.

Yo les hice varias preguntas a los alumnos sobre ellos mismos, y a su vez ellos me preguntaron sobre mí. Juntos, también dedicamos algún tiempo a las cosas que ellos habían aprendido sobre nuestra fe. Esa oportunidad que tuve de hablar con niños excitados e interesados, me permitió cristalizar, de una manera muy personal, la principal misión de nuestras escuelas católicas, que es el proporcionar una educación de calidad, basada en la formación católica y en nuestra tradición.

Con tal comienzo, los alumnos estarán en una gran posición para escoger entre el bien y el mal, entre los hechos verdaderos y las invenciones, según vayan creciendo en nuestra fe y en la vida.

Si ustedes quieren leer The DaVinci Code , recuerden que es solo un producto de la imaginación. Pero si ustedes están buscando la verdad de nuestra fe, entonces les recomiendo leer la Sagrada Biblia, el Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica, las Confesiones de San Agustín, el Credo de Nicea....

El robo y el amor se mezclan en el corazón humano

POR MONSEÑOR JOHN GILCHRIST
Columnista para The Catholic Advocate

Los principios de moral parecen venir en paquetes grandes y chicos. Los temas relacionados con la defensa de la vida –incluyendo el aborto, el infanticidio, la pena de muerte y la eutanasia- son grandes. Los temas que claman justicia, tales como jornales adecuados, evitar peligros en el trabajo, protección de salud y atención a los pobres, son también importantes. El tema de la guerra es importante.

Pero hay otros temas que son demasiado oscuros para que la mayoría de nosotros los podemos entender, pero que también presentan problemas de moralidad. Las utilidades de las empresas, los monopolios y fideicomisos, las prácticas bancarias y mercantiles están frecuentemente en esa área gris.

Pero la totalidad de la fibra de la sociedad puede resultar afectada cuando crímenes que pueden parecer de menor importancia se hacen frecuentes. Recordemos cómo la situación en Iraq se convirtió en saqueos, robos y anarquía cuando la ley y el orden desaparecieron. Gente de negocios me han dicho que en Asia y el Cercano Oriente el soborno es simplemente un medio de vida cotidiano. Como alguien dijo “Usted no consigue nada si no da algo”. O en otras palabras, el soborno es el aceite que engrasa todas las ruedas.

En nuestro propio medio, estamos entristecidos ante la realidad de que muchos de nuestros católicos en el mundo de los negocios se han visto envueltos en la corrupción de ciertas compañías. Algunos han sido procesados y otros han sido encarcelados. ¿Cómo es posible que Católicos buenos y decentes se hayan dejado envolver en el engaño y la codicia?

Ante todo, si hay un ambiente en el mundo de las empresas donde el dinero fluye como el agua, se pierde el sentido de la proporción. Ninguno de esos individuos hubiera cogido un revólver y asaltado un

banco. Ni ellos ni ellas hubieran robado en las tiendas o se hubieran apoderado de un automóvil ajeno.

Pero todo parece tan fácil y tan inofensivo cuando simplemente estamos cambiando números en una computadora que no tiene cara humana, o transfiriendo bienes de una compañía . Parece como un crimen que no deja víctimas.

Pero el problema es que sí hay víctimas. Es la gente humilde la que resulta dañada, mientras la gente adinerada se compra mansiones y barcos de recreo. Recordemos que no existe nada como “un almuerzo gratis”. Alguien siempre tendrá que pagar los gastos.

Lo mismo ocurre en la política. Yo he vivido en el Condado de Hudson por 45 años.

Cuando algunos de mis amigos fueron procesados en ese Condado, hubo quienes me preguntaron sobre lo que había pasado, yo simplemente respondí, repitiendo algunas líneas de Casablanca: “Yo estoy sorprendido, muy sorprendido, imagínense, de oír que dinero ha cambiado de manos en el Condado de Hudson para pagar favores políticos!”

Hace años, cuando yo era un joven sacerdote, me senté al lado de la cama de un político muy enfermo. Él me dijo lo siguiente: “Óigame, Padre, piénselo de esta manera. Si yo le compro a usted un camión para la ciudad, lo menos que usted puede hacer es darme a mí una rueda.”

Yo debo decirles, sin embargo, que mientras el robo todavía descansa en el corazón de los hombres, en el mundo de hoy los hombres de negocios, los políticos y los líderes laborales se comportan con más cuidado. Ellos son más cuidadosos porque el “Gran Hermano” vigila. Comparado con el mundo de hace 50 años, nuestros líderes son prácticamente puritanos. Al menos por ahora se están portando muy bien!

Confiemos en que se sigan portando así!

• • •

Johnny Cash falleció hace pocos días.

John, con su voz grave y su cara marcada, influyó a millones de personas. Él era especialmente efectivo con los hombres, especialmente los que no la estaban pasando tan bien. Y si uno prestaba atención a la letra de las canciones que él escribió, John era como un predicador, porque Dios, la moral y el dolor de la gente estaban siempre en su música y en sus versos, explícitamente o por inferencia. John tocaba las almas. Su dolor y su pecado podían reflejar mucho de nuestros también.

John siempre se vestía de negro y en una de sus canciones de 1971 él decía: “Ustedes se preguntarán por qué siempre me visto de negro...”

La letra de una de las canciones clásicas de Cash, “El Hombre de Negro”, explica por qué el cantante adoptó el aspecto sombrío del color negro: por los pobres y desvalidos, por los presos y las víctimas, por los enfermos y los viejos.

Y hasta que la humanidad decida empezar a cambiar, en la forma que Jesús nos enseñó, John proclamó: “Ustedes nunca me verán vestir un traje blanco”.

Y ¿Por qué yo recuerdo ese pronunciamiento aquí? Porque como ustedes saben hay muchos hombres como yo. Nosotros vestimos de negro para indicar que hemos dedicado nuestras vidas a Dios. Pero en mi opinión sería bueno que todos lleváramos la letra de la canción de John en nuestros corazones. Y podríamos usar nuestro color negro para indicar que no todo en el mundo está bien. Y entonces nos pareceríamos más a Jesús porque nuestro color negro representaría el dolor del mundo. Y cada día, cuando nos vistamos de negro, le recordáramos al mundo quien era Jesús y su amor por los pobres que Él tanto amó.

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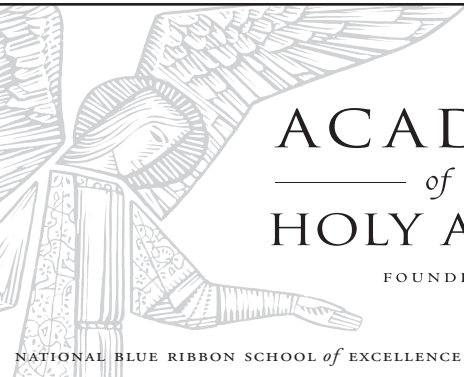
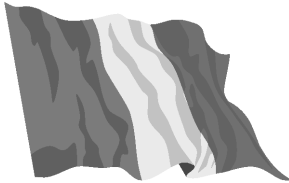
The Program

Sat. Oct. 18th-Masses at 7,8,8:30,9, 9:30,10 (*Italian*), 11:30am & 6pm
•Procession will leave the church at 1:30pm
Sun. Oct. 19th- in Upper Church at 8,9,10,11:30 and 12:30 10am in *Italian*.
•Solemn High Mass at 11:30am by the CIR-COLO P. CAPOSELESE
Procession will leave church at 2:30pm

The Program

Thurs., Oct. 16-Masses at 7,8,9,9:30,10,11am, 12noon * 5:30pm.
•Solemn High Mass at 11am in Honor of St. Gerard, Patron of Mothers by ST. GERARD LADIES GUILD AND ST. GERARD'S MEN'S SOCEITY
•Procession will leave church at 1:30pm
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Potential abounds in Pirate ranks

Seton Hall head basketball coach Louis Orr has always equated the Pirates' program to a family. And like a family, the Pirates have gone through stages of growth under Orr. That progression was certainly evident last season as the Pirates went from a struggling team to one of the nation's hottest down the stretch.

Orr sees the potential for even more growth in 2003-04 as the squad hopes to take another step and reach the NCAA Tournament.

"I thought we gained an identity as a team and that our confidence and courage grew. Once we won a few games, we started to put full games together and play 40 minutes of basketball. And that's where we grew a lot—in our focus for 40 minutes," said Orr, named the 2003 BIG EAST Coach of the Year after guiding the Pirates to a 17-13 record, a 10-6 conference mark, and an National Invitational Tournament (NIT) appearance.

Orr will be looking to continue that momentum into 2003-04, and with four starters returning. He's already noticed the winning approach taken by the returning Pirates.

"Just seeing how we've responded with our work ethic and commitment in the post-season is a good sign. If you're going to prepare to be successful you have to start in April, May and June. It's how hard you work individually and collectively, and our guys have responded from top to bottom," said Orr.

One of the key performers in the Pirates' 2002-03 run was clearly point guard Andre Barrett.

Barrett led by example, scoring double figures in all 30 games and topping the team in points (16.7 avg.), assists (5.3 avg.), free throw percentage (.836) and three-point percentage (.368). The 5'10" senior ran the team confidently and was the catalyst in Orr's up-tempo offense.

Barrett, who earned All-BIG EAST 2nd Team honors for the first time in his career, should continue to establish himself as one of the nation's best point guards. He enters his senior season with great focus.

John Allen returns to the lineup after averaging a solid 13.9 points per game and 5.1 rebounds despite

being targeted defensively by opponents after his standout freshman season.

The 6'5" junior made the adjustment to shooting guard and couples with Barrett to give the Pirates a high-scoring backcourt, and potentially one of the best in the BIG EAST.

Marcus Toney-El was an important part of the Pirates' success, doing the things which don't necessarily show up in the boxscore. Toney-El averaged 6.7 points and 4.4 rebounds per game but proved that he didn't have to be one of the team's top scorers to be a key contributor.

Orr considers Toney-El one of the team's top defenders and looks for the senior to add leadership and the intangibles to the Pirates this year.

One of the biggest additions to the Pirates last year was 6'8" center Kelly Whitney. The freshman had a standout year, earning BIG EAST All-Rookie honors while averaging 11.0 points per game and leading the team in rebounding (6.1 avg.) and total blocked shots (30).

Another newcomer who made a tremendous impact was transfer Andre Sweet. Back on the court after sitting out 2001-02 because of the transfer rule, Sweet relished his role as the team's "sixth man" and became one of the most dependable Pirates.

The first-year player with the best chance to move into a starting role this season is 6'10", 246-pound center Grant Billmeier, from St. Patrick's High School.

Sophomore J.R. Morris showed glimpses of his outstanding talent last year and can be considered another scoring threat.

Senior Damion Fray is by far the most athletically gifted Pirate, and Orr feels he can contribute in many ways—rebounding, on the break, and inside scoring.

The Pirates will be tested again early, opening the season in the Cars/Safeway Great Alaska Shootout, with a field headlined by 2003 NCAA teams Duke and Purdue. Seton Hall's non-conference schedule also includes dates with Louisville, DePaul and Ohio State before heading into the tough BIG EAST slate.



New mascot takes flight

A new Peacock (Peahen) landed last month at Saint Peter's College in Jersey City. The newly designed mascot was unveiled at outdoor ceremonies.

Sportscaster Ian Eagle, television voice of the New Jersey Nets and a play-by-play voice on NFL national telecasts, was the Master of Ceremonies.

The new Peacock, along with several accompanying marks and word types, will provide an updated signature look and feel, replacing a variety of depictions that have circulated in the past. The new logo, which will be used immediately by the college's 14 NCAA Division I athletic teams, will also appear on souvenir merchandise sold in the Saint Peter's College Store.

Saint Peter's College is the only school in NCAA Division I whose teams bear the Peacock (or Peahen) nickname.

The new design was created during a nine-month process by nationally recognized Phoenix Design Works of New York City to apply to all forms of media and apparel.

Several aspects of the final design make reference to the college's history. The colors include the royal blue that has become synonymous with Saint Peter's. Green was included as an accent color to represent the previous use of teal as "Peacock blue" by the college community, even though it never caught on as an "official" color.

A second accent color—black—was added due, to its continued popularity with students. The shield in the mascot symbol is taken directly from the college's official seal.

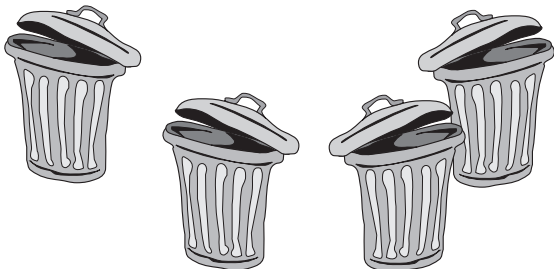
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