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Awareness
and Migration
Weeks in Jan.**



The Catholic Advocate



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Sincerely
in the Lord
Page 2



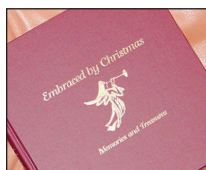
Iraq coverage
ethics explored
Page 3



Students reach
out to needy
Pages 18 & 20



Baseball legends
visit St. Benedict's
Page 30



Parish publishes
Christmas book
Page 32

learn more
about your faith
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*"Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken
to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." — Luke 1:45*

'So, this is Christmas...'



BY MOST REV. JOHN J. MYERS

Archbishop of Newark

Hardly a day has gone by in the past month or so without John Lennon's *Happy Christmas* playing on a local radio station as part of its "holiday favorites" promotion. I don't consider myself a fan of John Lennon, but I do appreciate things and thoughts that tie in so well with the meaning of Christmas.

Lennon's song echoes a perennial question: why hasn't the birth of our Savior been able to overcome the trials and sorrows of this world? "For weak and for strong, for rich and for poor ones, the road is so long," he sings. His question reaches back to one of the many misconceptions to which many people have clung over the ages. If the Redeemer has come, why the continued misery and pain that we as humans have endured?

In the Gospel of Luke, which we will hear both at midnight and dawn on Christmas Day, we find the answer: Jesus was born of a woman; He endured the trials of poverty; He lived as we live and He experienced humanity in its fullness. He came to bring life. He came to free us from sin and death.

Sincerely in the Lord

It was not to the great and powerful—the symbols of success and earthly comfort—to whom Jesus came, but to a poor carpenter and his wife. It was not to the great and powerful that the news of His birth was first revealed, but to "shepherds in that region living in the fields, and keeping the night watch over their flock." It was not the worldly and influential whom He would



Archbishop John J. Myers joins in the singing at last year's Candlelight Carol Sing at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark.

gather to Himself to accomplish his mission, but a group of fishermen, tax collectors, laborers and social outcasts.

Through Luke, we learn that the promise of redemption, of salvation, comes because Our Lord readily shared and accepted our humanity. His was a life not of leisure or privilege, but of hard work, persecution and want. It is a life that many of us have been fortunate enough not to know personally,

but which we so clearly know exists in other parts of the world, and right here in our midst, a challenge which as disciples we are charged to help meet.

In the Gospel of John, which we read during Mass on Christmas Day, we hear, "What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

Stewardship

Requirements and examples of sharing God's gifts

BY ANDREW KACZYNSKI

Coordinator of Stewardship for the Archdiocese

This is the final installment of my continuing look into the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' pastoral letter titled *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*. The focus of the last chapter of the letter deals with living the life of a Christian steward, using many references to Scripture as the foundation as well as realizing the difference between God's material gifts and His spiritual gifts to us.

This chapter, entitled "The Christian Steward," not only calls the faithful to follow Jesus as the model steward, but also the Blessed Virgin Mary, who by her example perfectly teaches what it means to be a disciple of Jesus and a steward of the Lord's gifts.

The bishops begin by writing, "While the New Testament does not provide a rounded portrait of the Christian steward all in one place, elements of such a portrait are present throughout its pages. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks of the 'faithful and prudent steward' as one whom a householder sets over other members of the household in order to 'distribute the food allowance at the proper time.' (Lk 12:42; cf. Mt 24:25)

"Evidently, good stewards understand that they are to share with others what they have received, that this must be done in a timely way, and that God will hold them accountable for how well or badly they do it."

In our journey as disciples of Christ something must happen before the practice of stewardship. We need an insight by which we view the world and our relationship

to it in a fresh, new light. Our realization of God's grandeur in the world and in all that is as well as His spiritual gifts to us may be the insight we need to set us on the path of Christian stewardship, for not only in material creation do people discern God present and active, but also, and especially, in the human heart.

Christian stewards are conscientious and faithful. After all, the first requirement of a steward is to be "found trustworthy." (1 Cor 4:2) Stewardship is a uniquely solemn trust, and stewards are fully conscious of their accountability.

Christian stewards are generous out of love as well as duty. The bishops address this statement by writing, "They (Christian stewards) dare not fail in charity and what it entails, and the New Testament is filled with warnings to those who might be tempted to substitute some counterfeit for authentic love. For example: 'If someone who has worldly means sees a brother in need and refuses him compassion, how can the love of God remain in him?' (1 Jn 3:17)

The bishops refer to the fact that the life of a Christian steward must be lived in imitation of Christ Himself, but also they write, "After Jesus, it is the Blessed Virgin Mary who by her example most perfectly teaches the meaning of discipleship and stewardship in the fullest sense. All of their essential elements are found in her

life: she was called and gifted by God; she responded generously, creatively, and prudently; she understood her divinely assigned role as 'handmaid' in terms of service and fidelity."

The final thought that the bishops share comes as a question: "Do we wish to be disciples of Jesus Christ and Christian stewards of our world and our Church?"

They conclude with a challenge: "Central to our human and Christians vocations, as well as to the unique vocation each one of us receives from God, is that we be good stewards of the gifts we possess. God gives us this divine-human workshop, this world and Church of ours. The Spirit shows us the way."

It is my sincere hope and prayer that this look into the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter over the last several issues of *The Catholic Advocate* has helped our readers to bet-

ter understand the theology behind the Stewardship Way of Life since living out this life of love and gratitude to the Lord is now a vital part of not only the Church of Newark but also

that of the universal Church.

It is also my prayer that as the holy season of Christmas approaches we, as good Christians stewards, give thanks to the Lord for the greatest of all gifts—the gift of Jesus Christ Himself as our savior and our salvation. A blessed and peaceful Christmas and New Year to all!

*Stewardship is
a uniquely solemn trust.*



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FREQUENCY FOR REMAINDER OF YEAR

The Catholic Advocate continues to be a bi-weekly publication. Publication dates for the Year 2004 are: January 7, 21; February 4, 18; March 10, 24; April 7, 21; May 5, 19; June 2, 16, 30; July 14, 28; August 11, 25; September 8, 22; October 6, 20; November 3, 17; and December 8, 22.



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Around the Archdiocese4
Editorials7
Commentary8
Faith & Spirituality9
Parish Profile10-11
Sports30-31
Rincón Hispano34
Entertainment35
Classified36
The Little Advocate37

Ethics of Iraq combat coverage debated by panel at Seton Hall

BY GREG TOBIN
Editor & Associate Publisher

A lively, sometimes passionate debate about journalistic coverage of the war in Iraq was held at Seton Hall University's Kozlowski Hall Auditorium last month, featuring some of the key players in the drama that unfolded before the world, often on live television. [At press time the capture of Saddam Hussein by U.S. troops was announced.]

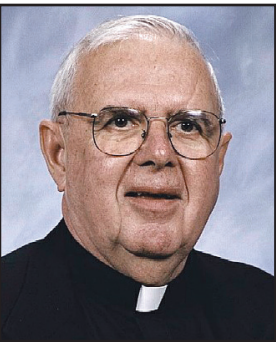
John Moody, Senior Vice President/News Editorial for Fox News Channel, moderated the panel discussion by prominent news reporters and producers, as well as representatives from the U.S. military.

Panelists included Victoria Clarke, former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs; Greg Kelly, a former U.S. Marine and Atlanta-based correspondent for Fox News embedded with the U.S. Army's third Infantry Division in Iraq; John Farmer,



Panelists and sponsors for the "War Coverage and Media Ethics" discussion were Robert B. Windrem, Seton Hall University class of '68, reporter and producer for NBC; Greg Kelly, Fox News correspondent; John Farmer, SHU '51, The Newark *Star-Ledger*; Peter Reader, M.F.A., Chair of the Department of Communication, SHU; Molly Easo Smith, Ph.D., Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, SHU; Victoria Clarke, former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs; Lt. Col. Scott Rutter (U.S.A., Ret.), and Don McKenna, Ph.D., Department of Communication, SHU. Front, John Moody, Senior VP/News and Editorial for Fox News Channel, moderator.

Queen of Peace pastor named



Msgr. Peter J. Zaccardo
Pastor of Holy Family Parish, Nutley, has been appointed Pastor of Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish, Maywood, effective Jan. 1.

A native of Orange, Msgr. Zaccardo was ordained on May 23, 1964, after studies at Immaculate Conception Seminary.

Following ordination, he served at Holy Trinity Parish, Westfield, for a year before being assigned to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Newark.

Msgr. Zaccardo served there for three years and then moved to St. John Parish, Bergenfield, where he served seven years. He served briefly at Our Lady of the Visitation Parish, Paramus, before joining the team ministry at Epiphany Parish, Cliffside Park.

In 1981, Msgr. Zaccardo was named pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Newark. He was also named pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Newark, in 1987.

Msgr. Zaccardo was appointed pastor of St. Bartholomew Parish, Scotch Plains, in 1988, where he served for nine years. In July 1997, he was named pastor of Holy Family Parish, Nutley.

He has served as dean of the Union Southwest Deanery, Deanery 27, chairperson of the Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission, moderator of the Bergen County CYO and on the Archdiocesan Coordinating Committee for Parish Review and the Priest's Senate.

a 1951 Seton Hall graduate and long-time national political correspondent for The *Star-Ledger*; Donald McKenna, an associate professor in the Department of Communications at SHU; Robert B. Windrem, a 1968 SHU graduate and investigative reporter and producer with NBC Nightly News, and Lt. Col. Scott Rutter (U.S. Army, retired), who commanded ground forces in the Iraq conflict.

Clarke emphasized the number of journalists—700—who participated in the "embed program," which made the Iraq operation one of the most intimately covered military efforts in history. She also cited the need for "transparency" in war coverage and public communications, speaking as the former "point person" with the press, representing the DOD and Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

A veteran of a half-century of political

reporting, Farmer stated that ethical codes apply in all journalism, but there are significant differences in the ethical obligations of reporters in time of war. He cited historical and current examples of the "touch choices" made by American journalists.

Kelly was himself an embedded correspondent, who came to have great respect for the troops, their officers and the fellow journalists who accepted the high risks involved in such an invasion. "I got to know the soldiers as people—and wanted them to win," he stated.

McKenna, who teaches journalism and communications at Seton Hall, pointed out the strong relationships that developed between the troops and correspondents as the reason for "a lack of objectivity" in war coverage in Iraq. He saw the embedded

Continued on page 33

Novarcensis: A Look Back at Our History

- 134 years ago...

December 23. St. Patrick Parish, Jersey City, founded.
- 126 years ago...

December 23. John J. O'Connor, the future fourth Bishop of Newark, was ordained a priest in Rome.
- 125 years ago...

December 15. Dedication of the old St. Leo's Church, Irvington.
- 102 years ago...

December 15. Dedication of St. Stanislaus Church, Newark.
- 81 years ago...

December 23. Thomas A. Boland, the future second Archbishop of Newark, was ordained a priest in Rome.
- 52 years ago...

December 30. The first issue of *The Advocate*, the newspaper of the Archdiocese of Newark, was published.

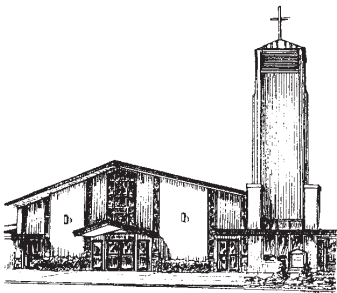
Novarcensis is compiled and edited by Rev. Msgr. Francis R. Seymour, Archivist of the Archdiocese of Newark.



This column will commemorate important dates in the history of the Archdiocese of Newark, which celebrates its 150th anniversary this year. We welcome suggestions and anecdotes.

December 21

Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, Washington Township, will holds its annual Christmas concert at 3 p.m. Featured will be several of the parish’s musical groups in addition to special invited professional guests. The concert is open to the public. Admission free, good will offerings accepted. The church is located at 668 Ridgewood Rd.



January 4

St. Margaret of Cortona Parish, Little Ferry, will present a festival of lessons and carols at 7 p.m. Call Eileen Ballone at (201) 843-1097 or the parish center at (201) 641-2988.

January 5

St. Teresa of Avila Parish, Summit, will hold Eucharistic Adoration following the 12:10 p.m. Mass. The day will conclude with Benediction at 7:30 p.m. Call (908) 273-3194.

January 9

Members of the Sodality of the Children of Mary of St. Teresa will meet at 3:15 p.m. in the Chapel of Saint Peter Hall on the campus of Saint Peter’s College, Jersey City. Members will meet at 3:30 p.m. for recitation of the Little Office followed by Mass.

January 10

The Teresians will meet in the Saint Peter Hall Chapel on the campus of Saint Peter’s College, Jersey City, for recitation of the Rosary at 8:40 a.m. followed by Mass at 9 a.m. The monthly breakfast will follow.



January 14

Family Life Ministries and the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Newark will sponsor an Annulment Information Evening at 7:30 p.m. in the parish center of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, 60 Byrd Ave., Bloomfield. A canon lawyer from the Tribunal will provide the most recent guidelines, theology and requisites for obtaining an annulment from the Church. Pre-registration not necessary. Call Family Life Ministries at (973) 497-4327.

January 18

Holy Cross Parish, Harrison, the Our Lady of Fatima Society will celebrate its 20th anniversary at 1 p.m. Call (973) 483-3792 for reservations or more information.

January 22

St. Teresa of Avila Parish, Summit, will host a day of prayer in support of the March for Life in Washington, D.C., with Eucharistic Adoration following the 12:10 p.m. Mass and Benediction at 7:30 p.m. Call (908) 273-3194.

Our Policy

To publicize an upcoming event at your parish, school or organization on the “Around the Archdiocese” page, please note:
• Submissions must include the name of the sponsoring organization, a phone number for the contact person and event specifics, including the date, place and time.
• Deadline for submission is 10 days prior to publication date.
The Catholic Advocate publishes submissions as space allows and cannot print an item more than once.
• Contact by **email**: mielejos@rcan.org, **fax**: 973-497-4192, or **mail**: The Catholic Advocate, Around the Archdiocese, 171 Clifton Ave., Newark, NJ 07104

Local Highlights

Spiritual

• The Sisters of Charity will celebrate a Mass in honor of Sister Elizabeth Ann Seton at Holy Family Chapel, Convent Station, on Jan. 3 at 11 a.m. Paterson Bishop Frank Rodimer will be the celebrant of the Mass. Call (973) 290-5345. Snow date will be Jan. 10.

Fund raisers

• The Center for Hope Hospice, Linden, will hold a drawing at the Father Hudson House, Elizabeth on January 6 at 6:30 p.m. for a trip to the Super Bowl in Houston. Trip includes two tickets to the Super Bowl, airfare, and four nights hotel accommodations. For tickets or more information call Mary or Elaine at (908) 486-0700.

• The Ray of Hope Foundation, a non-profit organization established to help children in need, is requesting donations of items for the annual Silent Auction. Monetary donations are also accepted. Call Lucille Buoncore at (732) 899-9429.

Natural Family Planning

• St. John the Evangelist Parish, Orange, will host a series of Natural Family Planning classes beginning Jan. 9 at 7:30 p.m. For additional information call (201) 833-3121 or e-mail nfp@rcan.org.

Retreats

• The Office of Family Life Ministries will offer Retrouvaille to married couples in difficult relationships. The first stage, a weekend retreat, will be offered March 12-14 at the Archdiocesan Youth Center, Kearny. For more information, call the Office of Family Life Ministries at (973) 497-4327.

• The Benedictine Center for Spirituality invites all women for a New Year’s Eve Retreat on Dec. 31 at 4

p.m. to Jan. 1 at 1 p.m. Cost is \$40. Call (908) 353-3028 or e-mail maritaosb@aol.com.

• The Benedictine Sisters, Elizabeth, will hold a Monastic Live-In, an opportunity to live, pray and work with a Benedictine community, January 16-23, for young adult Catholic women. Cost is \$150. Call (908) 353-3028 or e-mail maritaosb@aol.com.

• The Benedictine Sisters, Elizabeth, will hold a Vocation Discernment Weekend, January 16-18 for single Catholic women over the age of 18 who are interested in the Benedictine way of life. Call (908) 353-3028 or e-mail maritaosb@aol.com.

Marriage Encounter

• Marriage Encounter will offer a Marriage Enrichment Weekend Jan. 23-26 for married couples seeking to enrich their marriage. For more information and to register, call Sal and Sylvia Vassallo at (973) 857-8184.

Social events

• Travelin’ Catholics Cruise and Tour Club will hold a wine and cheese social for singles at the Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center, Kearny, Dec. 19 at 7:30 p.m. Donation is \$10. Call (973) 680-1557.

• Travelin’ Catholics Cruise and Tour Club will also host a Winter Weekend Getaway in February. All singles and friends of all ages and denominations are invited to participate. Call Betty or Leonora at (973) 680-1557.

Workshops

• The Career Resources Ministry of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Ridgewood, will hold a career workshop titled “Interviewing” Jan. 11 at noon. All who are interested are

invited to attend. Call Carol Shea at (201) 447-4215.

Chinese Apostolate

• The Chinese Catholic Apostolate has several events planned through the end of the year. The Chinese Catholic Spiritual Center will present a spiritual talk, “Christology,” by

Father Abraham Chiu, at 3 p.m. It will be followed Mass at 4:30 p.m. A Taize Prayer Meeting will be held Christmas Eve at 8 p.m. followed by Christmas Mass at 9 p.m. Both will be preceded by a 6 p.m. potluck dinner. The site for both events is St.

Ann Parish, 311 Carr Ave., Keansburg. The Apostolate will celebrate Christmas with a Children’s Music Talent Show on Dec. 28 at 3 p.m. at Holy Cross Parish, Harrison. Caroling begins at 1:30 p.m. Mass is at 2 p.m., dinner at 5 p.m. Cost \$10.

Official Appointments

Archbishop John J. Myers has announced the following appointments:

Archdiocesan Agency/Ministry

Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D., Regional Bishop of Essex County has been appointed a Consultor of the Archdiocese of Newark for a five year term. This appointment is effective Nov. 21, 2003 and ends Nov. 20, 2008.

Reverend Robert E. Templeton, Executive Director of the Office of Clergy Personnel has been appointed to the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese of Newark for a three year term. This appointment is effective Dec. 1, 2003 and ends Nov. 30, 2006.

Pastor/Bergen County

Reverend Monsignor Robert J. Fuhrman, Pastor of the Church of St. Gabriel the Archangel, Saddle River has been appointed to a second six-year term, ending on Dec. 1, 2009.

Reverend Nazareno Orlandi, Pastor of the Church Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Lyndhurst has been appointed to a second six-year term, ending on Nov. 29, 2009.

Reverend Monsignor Peter J. Zaccardo, Pastor of the Church of the Holy Family, Nutley has been appointed Pastor of the Church of Our Lady, Queen of Peace, Maywood, effective Jan. 1, 2004.

Administrator/Essex County

Reverend Monsignor Robert M. Chabak, V.F., Pastor of the Church of St. Valentine, Bloomfield has been appointed Administrator of the Church of the Holy Family, Nutley, effective Jan. 1, 2004 until a pastor is named.



Administrator/Bergen County

Very Reverend John R. O’Connell, V.F., Pastor of the Church of the Nativity, Midland Park has been appointed Administrator of the Church of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Franklin Lakes, effective Jan. 12, 2004 until a pastor is named.

Chaplain/Essex County

Reverend Robert M. Hoatson has been appointed Chaplain to Catholic Community Services, Newark, effective Jan. 1, 2004.

Chaplains/Bergen County

Reverend Joseph J. Astarita, Parochial Vicar of the Church of Our Lady of the Visitation, Paramus has been appointed Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus, Paramus Council, No. 5680, effective Dec. 2.

Reverend Dominic G. Fuccile has been appointed Chaplain of St. Michael’s Villa, Englewood Cliffs, effective Jan. 1, 2004.

Reverend John T. Michalczak, Chaplain at Palisades Medical Center, North Bergen has been appointed Chaplain at Bergen Regional Medical Center, Paramus, effective Jan. 1, 2004.

Nondiscrimination bill praised by USCCB

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The U.S. bishops’ pro-life spokeswoman praised a bill that would forbid discrimination against health care providers who do not want to be involved in abortion.

The Abortion Nondiscrimination Act was reintroduced in the House Dec. 8. A Senate version was introduced in July and assigned to the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee.

“No one should be forced into the practice of abortion,” said a statement from Cathy Cleaver Ruse, Director of Planning and Information for the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. She urged Congress to act quickly when it reconvenes in January “to pass this common-sense protection for the rights of conscience of all health care providers.”

Similar legislation was approved by the House in 2002 by a vote of 229-189, but never came up for a vote in the Senate before the 107th Congress adjourned.

The bill would expand upon current federal law that protects “health care entities” from having to perform or

provide for abortions. That law has been interpreted to apply only to individual doctors and training programs. Hospitals, health plans, nurses and other workers in the health care system are not included.

Ruse said the bill “simply clarifies what should be obvious... No one who provides health care should be forced to participate in abortion.”

She said the legislation is necessary because of coordinated efforts to force hospitals, insurance providers and outpatient clinics across the nation to provide, pay for and make referrals for abortions.

“Forced abortion participation has no place in a country that respects the right of conscience for all,” Ruse’s statement said.

She said it is ironic that “the same abortion advocates who promote a ‘right to choose’ deny the right of health care providers to choose not to perform abortion. They tell us, ‘If you don’t like abortion, don’t have one.’ Pro-life health providers must be able to say: ‘We don’t like abortion, so don’t force us to perform them.’”

Vigil supports homeless youth

NEW YORK (CNS) — The 13th annual Candlelight Vigil for Homeless Kids was held in Times Square Dec. 9 to tell New Yorkers during the holiday season that “the number of homeless young people is growing.”

In a city still clearing snow from a storm three days before, hundreds of young people marched to the vigil from Covenant House, the shelter for homeless and runaway youths.

Sister Patricia Ann Cruise, S.C., President of Covenant House, told the youths and the adult supporters who joined them that the gathering was held to renew the commitment “to improve the plight of homeless kids in this city and the 20 other cities where Covenant House is located.” Newark is one of those locations.

In a society that prides itself on its educational sys-

tem, Covenant House is called on to help young people who have “fallen through the cracks” catch up on their schooling, she said.


And in a society that prides itself on its employment rates, she continued, young people “come to Covenant House looking for training and jobs.”

As happened last year, participants in the vigil could see themselves and the agency logo projected on electronic advertising signs in Times Square. The space was donated to give the event broader visibility. It was also broadcast live on the Internet.

The vigil was initiated in 1991 by Sister Rose McGready, D.C., who had become Covenant House president the year before and retired this year.

At the vigil a message of support from President Bush, praising Covenant House, was read aloud.

Victor Hosh, a Palestinian Catholic, inflates a giant Santa Claus in front of his store in Bethlehem, West Bank. He sells Christmas music and decorations to the local Christian community.



Peace From Earth

CNS photo

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CAD

Private screening

ROME (CNS) — Just days after Mel Gibson refused to allow his film, *The Passion of Christ*, to be shown at a Vatican-sponsored film festival, several Vatican officials were invited to private screenings in Rome and a copy was sent to Pope John Paul II. It was not known if the pope had watched the film directed by Gibson. The film was shown Dec. 4 and 6 in a small screening room in Rome to invited guests, including U.S. Archbishop John P. Foley, President of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications; U.S. Dominican Father Augustine DiNoia, Undersecretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and Msgr. Kevin C. McCoy, rector of North American College. Gibson, whose film is set for a February U.S. release, turned down a request for a private screening of the movie at a Dec. 2 conference that was part of a film festival co-sponsored by the Vatican. Organizers of the festival said Gibson turned down the request because the film's final version had not been completed.

Teaching cited

LA CROSSE, WI (CNS)— In response to persistent questioning about letters he sent warning Catholic lawmakers of the spiritual dangers of their votes against human life, Archbishop Raymond L. Burke remained firm that he had done the right thing. "It is my duty as bishop to present the Church's teaching," said the prelate, who sent the letters as head of the La Crosse Diocese. On Dec. 2 he was named to head the St. Louis Archdiocese. He said the letters were written with the recipients' spiritual welfare in mind. "I would be less than faithful as their spiritual leader were I not to do as much. I know this has been construed as a form of electioneering, but I can tell you it was not that at all," he said at a news conference Dec. 5 at Holy Cross Diocesan Center. The newsconference was organized upon his return to La Crosse to discuss his appointment by Pope John Paul II as the eighth archbishop of St. Louis. He was in St. Louis when the appointment was announced. On Dec. 4, the Milwaukee *Journal Sentinel* broke the story that Archbishop Burke had sent the letters to three Catholic legislators: state Sen. Julie Lassa, another unnamed

Wisconsin state lawmaker and an unnamed U.S. congressman.

Overlapping holidays

BOSTON, KY. (CNS)— Interfaith couples might face particular challenges this December when Christmas and Hanukkah overlap, but the holidays do not have to strain the marriage, according to a nonprofit group that provides resources for interfaith couples and their families. "Whether couples celebrate both Christmas and Hanukkah or maintain only one religious practice as a household, interfaith families often need help deciding how to deal with the winter holidays," said Mary Helene Rosenbaum, Executive Director of the Kentucky-based DoveTail Institute for Interfaith Family Resources. "We recommend that families think about their choices, try to separate them from their emotional or nostalgic impulses, and try not to make the holidays a battleground," Rosenbaum added. This year, Hanukkah will be celebrated Dec. 19-27, and the Hebrew month of Tevet will begin on Christmas, Dec. 25. The organization's free pamphlet, "Don't Light the Menorah So Close to the Christmas Tree," is available by phone at (800) 530-1596, or on the Internet at: www.dove-tailinstitute.org.

their faith" and "united with the Church community" who would work against Europe's current "one-sided focus on life's material aspects." "As Europe unites, a spiritual struggle is unfolding," the bishops said. "Many of those who wield political and cultural influence seek to restrict the Christian faith to the private sphere, to ensure it has no impact at all on the life of society. Yet holy Scripture tells us a faith without consequences is a dead one," they said. Slovakia's Catholic bishops supported the country's accession to the European Union. Their pastoral letter reflected their desire to ensure that the Church's voice would continue to influence Slovakian society.

Promoting values

VATICAN CITY (CNS)— Welcoming Paraguay's new ambassador to the Vatican, Pope John Paul II encouraged the nation's new president to solidify democracy and improve education, including civic and moral values. "It is necessary to dedicate special care to education in true moral and spiritual values, promoting an authentic political culture that defends and consolidates them," the pope said Dec. 9 in his message to Marcos Martinez Mendieta, the new ambassador.

Aid rejected

ATAMBUA, Indonesia (CNS)— An Indonesian bishop rejected a local government's offer of aid that originally had been earmarked for East Timorese refugees. Bishop Anton Pain Ratu of Atambua told reporters Dec. 1 that he would not accept the gift of several donated motorcycles from the East Nusa Tenggara provincial government because the cash used to purchase the motor-

cycles had been intended to help refugees, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. The government informed the bishop by letter in late November that it would donate the motorcycles to five parishes. The motorcycles were purchased with money donated by the Japanese government. In early 2002, the Japanese government donated \$6.25 million in aid to help East Timorese refugees. About 250,000 East Timorese fled or were forced from their homeland into West Timor and other Indonesian territories in the violence that followed the August 1999 vote for independence.

Closer ties urged

WARSAW, Poland (CNS)— A European church council is calling on Christians to take the initiative in improving ties with Muslims. "If we consider Islam a religious and political system to fight against, we strongly risk putting ourselves in a church which stands for self-sufficiency and aggression," the inter-church Islam in Europe Committee said in a study paper released in late November. The Islam in Europe Committee, set up in 1998 by the Catholic Council of European Bishops' Conferences and the Christian Conference of European Churches, said in the 39-page document that recent history had brought "plenty of sorry examples of violent confrontations, conquests and discrimination between Christians and Muslims."

Obituary

Rev. John F. Doyle

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Dec. 3 for Father John F. Doyle, 71, who died on Nov. 27.

A native of Jersey City, Father Doyle graduated from Seton Hall University. He attended Immaculate Conception Seminary when it was in Darlington and was ordained in 1959. He celebrated his first Mass at St. Aloysius Parish, Jersey City.

His assignments in the Archdiocese of Newark included ministering as parochial vicar at St. Joseph Parish, Oradell, and Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, Franklin Lakes. He was also a chaplain at St. Joseph's Home for the Blind, Jersey City.

Father Doyle retired from active ministry in 1992.

The Monks of Newark Abbey
invite you to start the New Year
with Thanks and Praise.

Thursday, Dec. 25, 2003

Solemn Vespers of the Nativity

Join the Benedictine monks of Newark Abbey

In singing Christmas Vespers at 4:00 p.m.

Christmas afternoon in St. Mary's Church

Corner of King Boulevard & William Street, Newark NJ

.....

New Year's Eve, Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2003

All-Night Prayer Vigil

Welcome the New Year in an atmosphere
of praise, thanksgiving and petition with
the monks of Newark Abbey and the
parishioners of St. Mary's, Newark.

Each hour will be marked by prayer
for a special intention.

**Our church will be open all night.
Stop by any time!**

Wednesday Night, Dec. 31, 2003

8:30 p.m. Church is open for prayer
11:15 p.m. Annual Parish Vigil followed by
New Year's Mass

Thursday, January 1, 2004

Exposition of Blessed Sacrament after Mass till 7:00 a.m.
2:00 a.m.- 6:00 a.m. Quiet adoration and brief hourly services
7:00 a.m. Sung Lauds (Morning Prayer)
10:30 a.m. Mass

.....

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Inspiring words

Editor,
This is just to say thank you for re-printing (Dec. 3 issue) the homily given by Archbishop Emeritus Peter L. Gerety on the occasion of his 90th birthday in July of last year, which was titled “The Holy Spirit is Guiding His Church.”

His inspiring words were a wonderful reminder of the presence of the Holy Spirit and the wonderful changes set in motion through the Second Vatican Council.

Archbishop Gerety gave a message of hope and faith in the knowledge that the Holy Spirit will always continue to guide the Church. He also reminded us that we are all called by the Spirit to make the Gospel live!

We are fortunate to have the love, interest, support and words of our retired Archbishop Gerety. Thank you and God bless you.

Sister Agnes Fox, C.S.J.P.
Teaneck

God is good

Editor,
Have you been to a playoff game at Yankee stadium and been a part of a late-inning home team rally... “Let’s Go... Yankees!”? A group of seven teens, two adults and I experienced that same fevered pitch last weekend, except instead of New York sports fans, it was 23,000 teenagers from all 50 states. As we sat inside Houston’s Reliant Stadium, site of next year’s Super Bowl game, half of the group belted out, “God is Good!” as the other side erupted “All the time!”

From Nov. 13-16, the Archdiocese of Newark was represented by 12 parishes at the biennial National Catholic Youth Conference.

The format was much like our own Antioch retreat. It had an opening ceremony, keynote speakers, conversations with new friends, exploration of faith, celebration of liturgy, and a whole lot of singing.

Over the course of the weekend, we came to understand how our faith can be expressed in many ways. Twenty-year-old Craig Kielburger taught us that we each have our own gifts and unique issues to apply them to—like the charity “Kids Can” that he started at age 12. Matt Smith from MTV shared his story of chastity and impressed upon us that respecting our bodies is cool. We witnessed Brad the Magician struggle to get out of a medical straight jacket that visually represented the choices he had made in response to his dyslexia.

We were reminded that being Catholic does not exempt us from human suffering; it means that God is with us through it all. We were inspired to do small things with great love and to know the joy of Christ in our hearts.

You may notice a little more love com-

ing from the following individuals, who along with me, represented the Presentation Parish Youth Ministry during the weekend: teenagers Christina Cimmino, Kim Dowd, Liz Julian, Mell McGuire, Bethany Rightmyer, Jordan Throson and Lauren Yugas, young adult Tom Farley, and our Director of Youth Ministry, Peter Denio.

Each one of us made a personal commitment to bring something back to our community, schools and to Presentation.

Lisa Farely
Youth Ministry Volunteer
Upper Saddle River

Taking issue

Editor,
In his column “The Holy Spirit is Guiding the Church” (Dec. 3, 2003), Archbishop Emeritus Peter Leo Gerety asserts that “current of reform” in the Church since Vatican II is nothing less than “the work of the Spirit” and that “nothing will succeed in turning back the tide of reform.”

It is not any sudden “tide of reform” but rather the Church’s constant traditions, developed gradually over centuries, which have been guided by the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost does not suddenly change His mind and turn His back on what He has bequeathed the Church in her liturgical tradition. As even a Protestant, Professor Owen Chadwick, noted in his book *The Reformation*, “Liturgies are not made, they grow in the devotion of centuries.”

Talk of “tides of reform” that cannot be “turned back” is more appropriate to secular revolutionaries. The faithful never heard such talk in the Church until after Vatican II. Those who attribute a divine origin to the sudden appearance of the New Mass, even though its introduction was followed immediately by a catastrophic decline in Mass attendance, priestly vocations and belief in the Real Presence, should consider the grave implications of what they are saying. Are these the good fruits of divine inspiration, or rather the bad fruits of a failed human experiment without precedent in Church history? For anyone with eyes to see, the question answers itself.

Howard J. Walsh
(Mr. Walsh is publisher of *The Latin Mass* magazine in Ramsey.)

The Catholic Advocate welcomes letters from readers. Due to space and time limits, there is no guarantee that a letter will run. Readers’ opinions do not necessarily represent the opinion of the newspaper or the Archdiocese. All letters must be typed, and are subject to editing. Include name, address and daytime telephone number. Send to: The Catholic Advocate, 171 Clifton Ave., PO Box 9500, Newark, NJ 07104-0500 or email mielejos@rcan.org

This is the Christmas spirit...

Students in schools throughout the Archdiocese of Newark are learning a valuable lesson about Christmas that goes far beyond the classroom.

In projects that are both encompassing and needed, the Archdiocese’s young people are thinking of more than themselves at this holy and special time of the year.

A lot is going on in the schools to make sure that Christmas is a happy and fulfilling time for everyone.

The needy, sick and forgotten are the focus of a myriad of programs under way in the weeks before Christmas in scores of Archdiocesan schools at both the elementary and high school levels.

In efforts that more often than not mean giving up free time, something precious to any youngster, the students are collecting toys, clothing and food for those who otherwise would have nothing on Christmas Day.

Such programs promote an awareness of the harsh reality of life many families have to deal with on a daily basis. At Christmas, at least, their burden can be relieved through the heartfelt concern of hundreds of students. It also helps the students realize how lucky they are.

Reaching out to the unfortunate and forgotten provides a feeling of satisfaction no present can every provide.

Hoops fest is winning formula

“An absolute slam dunk.” We could not have said it better.

That vivid hoops metaphor was used by Coach Bob Farrell of Seton Hall Preparatory in describing the inaugural Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children (SFIC) sponsored the Scholarship Basketball Festival.

The triple-header tips off on Sunday, Jan. 4 at 1:30 p.m. at the Yanitelli Center on the campus of Saint Peter’s College, Jersey City.

The enthusiasm among students, coaches and players is building and with good reason. Fans will be able to see the some of the finest high school basketball players in the state and nation in a first-class facility.

Taking to the court to benefit the SFIC will be parochial powerhouses.

The opening game will have St. Anthony High School, Jersey City, against perennial Jersey Shore standout Christian Brothers Academy, Lincroft. That game will be followed by Seton Hall Prep, West Orange, clashing with St. Patrick’s High School, Elizabeth. The concluding contest pits Hudson Catholic Regional High School, Jersey City, against Newark’s St. Benedict’s Preparatory.

Festival proceeds are earmarked for the Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children. The Archdiocese of Newark program has for two decades now assisted low-income families with tuition programs at parochial schools throughout Essex, Union, Hudson and Bergen counties. The young people helped by the SFIC will be the real winners.

Tickets are on sale through the event’s website [www. Basketball Festival.com](http://www.BasketballFestival.com) and through the Fund’s office at (973) 497-4279.

Respect Life

No doubt about it—it’s a baby

BY MSGR. RICHARD MCGUINNESS
Director of the Respect Life Office

There is no doubt about the fact that when a father’s sperm fertilizes the mother’s egg, a new human life has begun.

Slowly in the mother’s womb, over the next nine months, the fertilized egg will grow and develop the bones and organs, blood and tissue, brain and heart until nine months later, a child is born. That child has a genetic make up different from the father and mother, a make up that is unique.

When a mother becomes pregnant, she says, “I’m going to have a baby.”

That is recognition that it is a child that she is bearing. How cruel it is for people to refer to the unborn child as “a blob of tissue”—or “the results of conception.” It’s a baby with a real human life and dignity—a baby who needs to be respected and loved, who needs to be protected and nourished and cherished.

Over 40 million unborn children have had their lives snuffed out in the United States over the last 30 years. Let’s call abortion what it really is—the killing of an unborn child. Let’s work together to protect these unborn children who cannot protect themselves!

The Christmas season—many things to many people

The Christmas season, or as the media now entitles this time leading up to December 25th, the “holiday season” is a schizophrenic period that proclaims peace and joy. Yet it is wrought with tension, frayed nerves and inner anxiety.

The advertisements are filled with happy faces that try to convince us that we will be supremely joyful if we will just purchase the right product—be it a Lexus or a bottle of lotion. We can’t escape the songs and sounds of a hectic world that is in overdrive as it attempts to produce a holiday mood of near euphoria.

However, observe, if you will, the faces of the people on the streets and in the stores during this pre-holiday time. They are mostly serious and intent, pressured by the need to participate in what can be a very artificial atmosphere. Sometimes many of us feel that we are trapped in an obligatory ritual, a social mandate that relentlessly drives us to conform to the customs of our age.

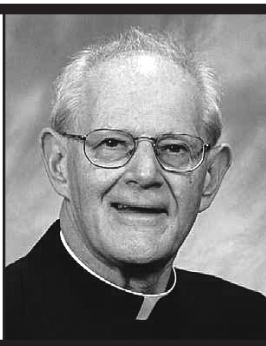
We want to shout, “Stop the world, I want to get off!” And then to beg, “Please, please no more WalMart, no more Macy’s, no more malls!”

This season, while it is unmistakably religious in origin, at the same time creates pressures on people, and as a result strange behaviors can occur. It is no accident that during the Christmas season the police are constantly busy with disputes, domestic and otherwise. The emergency rooms of hospitals are most active at Christmastime. Chaplains dread the nights around Christmas because they are called out so often to tragedies.

But none of this tension is new. Before the Second Vatican Council (1962-65) we priests heard literally hundreds of confessions on the Saturday before

Voices

By Msgr. John Gilchrist



Christmas. The lines went around the church. There were no “vigil” Masses so we heard confessions from 3 until 6 and from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m.

At 9 o’clock the sexton locked the doors. Invariably there was trouble. People came late. The sexton would unlock the door to let the newly shriven penitents out, and at that moment others would arrive to “go to confession.” When the sexton refused to let them in, the fun would start. Tempers flared.

One night, I heard a huge commotion. When I left the confessional there was the sexton at the front door of the church locked in a bear hug with a gentleman demanding entrance. They looked like two guys from today’s World Wrestling Federation. I broke it up and told the janitor to let the penitents out the side door of the church from then on. Then I heard the man’s confession.

I thought to myself, “What’s wrong with this scene? Two men are fighting in a sacred space over a sacrament. Does it make sense?”

Another year I was saying the midnight Christmas Mass in the basement of the church. The upstairs church and the basement were both packed. I turned around and

said, *Dominus vobiscum*. At that moment in the back I heard the sound of voices mumbling—then arguing. Then there came the sound of pushing, punches and chairs being overturned.

A few of the brothers had imbibed a little too much Christmas cheer. They had decided to come to Mass. The ushers decided to eject them.

By that time I was at the Gospel, mercifully facing east, my back to the congregation. *Sequentia sanctii evangelii secundum Lukan*, I read as I piously began the Gospel. Bang, grunt, crash! I heard from the rear of the hall. Blissfully I read on as if nothing was happening. Finally it became quiet. The boys had left.

I learned later, however, that the fight continued outside. One fellow was pushed through a plate glass window in a storefront. The choir in the church could be heard all the way out on the street singing *Silent Night*, while the police cars arrived with sirens blaring to break up a riot.

Christmas can be a schizophrenic feast. It can be joy and sorrow, peace and tension, religious and almost pagan—all at the same time.

But this is not God’s doing. The Holy Family chose a quiet cave as a birthplace for the newborn baby. They avoided the noise and din of the “khan”—the caravan place—the inn mentioned in the Gospel of Saint Luke.

It is up to each of us to try to find that quiet cave in our own heart where the Christ Child can make His presence felt. That’s the only way to escape the “holiday” season and return to the “holy” season of Our Lord’s birth.

Msgr. Gilchrist is pastor of Holy Cross Parish in Harrison.

The Bishops of Rome rescued the city and people

On numerous occasions in the long history of Rome, a pope proved able to do for the Romans what their government could not: i.e., save them! Acting in his primary capacity as the city’s bishop, it was a Supreme Pontiff of the Church who time and again was called on to protect his “flock” from ruthless invaders.

When Innocent I ascended the chair of St. Peter in 401, frightful storms of war were blowing through Italy. Alaric and his hordes of Goths had rampaged across the top of the peninsula and by 408 had their avaricious sights set on Rome. While the citizenry huddled in fright, the inept emperor Honorius was snug and safe in his impenetrable fortress at distant Ravenna, refusing to come to terms with Alaric.

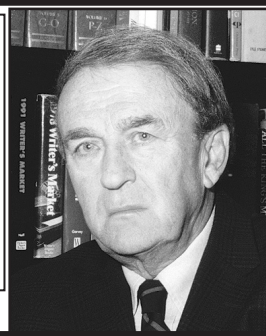
At great personal peril Pope Innocent journeyed on horseback to the imperial court at Ravenna to beseech Honorius to take whatever measures needed to save the capital. The feckless ruler would not budge. In the meantime the Gothic chieftain and his warriors poured through the Salarian Gate and for the next five days plundered and burned the helpless city. The pope returned, heartbroken, to his ravaged see. To his everlasting credit he had at least tried, something Honorius could not summon the courage and resolve to do.

The year 452 saw Attila and his terrifying Huns, having overrun Greece and Germany, slash and pillage their way through Aquileia and other settlements in northeast Italy. The “Scourge of God” encamped on the banks of the Mincio River near Mantua, and boasted that the conquest of the Eternal City would be his crowning glory. Once more the Roman masses huddled in hopeless dread to await another onslaught. Their bishop at this time was the fearless, charismatic Leo I.

Accompanied by a few of his cardinals, he set out at

A View from History

By Frank J. Korn



once for Mantua. There, in full papal vestments, Leo entered the electrically charged camp and sought out Attila. With blazing eyes and steady voice, the pope vowed divine retribution upon the hardened conqueror if he did not turn back and leave Italy and Rome unharmed. There then unfolded one of the most remarkable scenes in the history of humanity: A heartless barbaric general stands awed and nervous before a simple unarmed priest, turns and marches his troops away.

Attila’s closest aides, so the story is told, later asked why he so readily capitulated. He answered that all the while Leo was reprimanding him, there appeared in the air above the pope’s head, a vision of the apostles Peter and Paul with swords drawn, ready to use them if he did not acquiesce.

Little more than a century later Rome was being menaced by a far different kind of foe. Pestilence stalked the streets, the corpses of the victims piled up higher each day in the eerily quiet and abandoned thoroughfares to await common burial in vast pits outside the walls.

On a Sunday morning in 590 Pope Gregory I mounted the pulpit in St. Peter’s Basilica and preached a comforting,

reassuring sermon to the congregation. He pledged that the whole stricken populace would bombard Heaven with prayers so fervent that God would never ignore them. One evening soon after, in a great procession organized and led by their bishop, there walked the clergy of Rome, the monks, the nuns, the nobility, the common folk and the children. It must have been a moving sight as they all made their dolorous way throughout Eternal Rome to the Basilica of Saint Mary Major, carrying lighted tapers and chanting with feverish voices the *Kyrie eleison*, “Lord have mercy.”

Throughout the ages since a tale has been told that when this tidal wave of humanity rolled past the tomb of Hadrian, many, including Pope Gregory, experienced an apparition of Michael the Archangel standing on the parapet. The heavenly messenger was sheathing a flaming sword as if to suggest that he had slain the Plague. The following day the pestilence suddenly ended.

When another century and a half had passed, Lombard armies under King Aistulf were running amok through the north. Alarmed for his city’s survival, Pope Stephen III made the difficult trek, fraught with danger, to Pavia for a conference with Aistulf. When his pleas were scorned, Stephen continued north and crossed the foreboding Alps to render a personal appeal to Pepin, King of the Franks. Pepin’s vaunted legions soon swept down on Italy to vanquish the Lombards.

In 754 Pepin created the Papal States, an extensive swatch of Italian territory that included the regions of Latium, Umbria, the Marches, Emilia, and Romagna. This land would serve as an enormous buffer zone for the City on the Seven Hills and effectively make all the popes thenceforth sovereigns as well.

Frank J. Korn’s latest book is Hidden Rome (Paulist Press).

Education needed to stem world's violence

GENEVA (CNS) — In response to war and terrorism, people must pressure their governments to respect international humanitarian law, which is designed to protect human rights and lives, a Vatican official said.

Archbishop Silvano Tomasi, C.S., Apostolic Nuncio the Vatican's representative to U.N. and humanitarian organizations based in Geneva, addressed the Dec. 2-6 international conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement.

"In the effort to contain and overcome a wave of intolerable and unbearable violence, the temptation emerges to have recourse to methods of fighting not always respectful of the juridical rules adopted by the international community to ban war as a means to settle disputes," the archbishop said.

In addition, he said, modern warfare often has included violations of the pledge to protect human dignity.

The October attack on the Red Cross-Red Crescent headquarters in Iraq, killed 12 people, is "a sadly eloquent sign" of the loss of respect for humanitarian law, which guarantees the protection of aid workers, he said.

The Vatican, he said, "looks at international humanitarian

"Modern warfare often has included violations of the pledge to protect human dignity."

-Archbishop Silvano Tomasi

law as an important, invaluable, non-negotiable and still relevant instrument" for protecting civilians and those trying to help them, as well as for promoting human dignity even in inhuman situations.

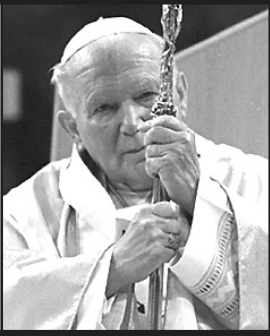
New laws and treaties will not reverse the trend, he said. Education is needed. Nations and organizations must help form consciences to recognize "the dignity of every human being, solidarity with victims and the primacy of law over force."

Too often, Archbishop Tomasi said, "public opinion seems to become accustomed to violations of humanitarian law as if the painful spectacle of so many victims were leading to resignation instead of prompting a reaction capable of influencing wrong political and military choices."

At the December conference, representatives placed response to the HIV-AIDS pandemic as one of the organization's top four priorities for the next four years.

Archbishop Tomasi told them the Catholic Church already was involved in AIDS education and assistance programs in 92 countries, offering patients "a sign of hope and a practical witness of their dignity."

The Pope Speaks



Pope John Paul II

God defends victims

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today's canticle, taken from the Book of Revelation, expresses the joy of the angels and saints in their heavenly liturgy of thanksgiving. God is praised because He intervenes to defeat the power of evildoers and to defend all victims of injustice.

The canticle also celebrates the marriage of Christ the lamb and the Church His bride. Some fathers of the Church, such as St. Ephrem, applied this nuptial imagery of Christ's union with His church to our individual souls.

I offer a warm welcome to all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors present at today's audience, especially those from England, Ireland and the United States. Upon all of you I cordially invoke joy and peace in Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Catholic - Lutheran study due out in April

WASHINGTON (CNS) — After five years of dialogue, a team of 20 Catholic and Lutheran scholars moved toward finalizing a study of "The Church as Koinonia of Salvation: Its Structures and Ministries" during a recent meeting in Washington.

The study—which will include 10 recommendations to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and to the Catholic Church—will be completed and made public next April in Milwaukee. "Five years of intensive and meticulous

research have produced a striking consensus within our dialogue group," said Auxiliary Bishop Richard J. Sklba of Milwaukee, Catholic co-chairman of the Lutheran-Catholic Dialogue in the United States.

"It has become very clear to me that the differences between our respective Lutheran and Catholic notions and practices of ministry are not church-dividing," he added. "We continue to pray for the gift of reconciliation for our churches."

Our role in making 'peace on earth' a reality

Readings: Mi 5:1-4; Ps 80; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45.

Many challenges preoccupy our attention in the course of daily life, but none should be as important as fostering peace, whether it be within our own communities or between nations. In a time of crisis, leaders sometimes see beyond self-interest to the common good. We are encouraged by cooperation between countries to avert conflict and hope that such collaboration will become part of the fabric of global politics, not only in the case of war.

As Christians, we have a special concern for peace in are traditionally Christian places. We also pray that God's gift of peace will be appreciated by Israel and her neighbors.

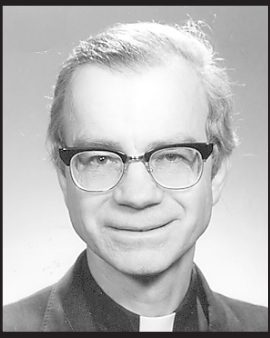
In ancient times, people also hoped for a universal peace that would bring prosperity to all. Israel's prophets and other teachers constantly emphasized that this was God's work. On occasion they described the prominent role of the Anointed One, a descendant of King David, in establishing God's reign. Sometimes he was depicted as a judge applying divine law to human disputes, sometimes as a conqueror of evil in the manner of a great warrior.

Indeed, David was both military strategist and judge, but his successor Solomon ("man of shalom") exemplified the peaceful ruler. He was the model for

Sunday Readings

4th Sunday of Advent
(December 21, 2003)

By Father Lawrence Frizzell



the Messiah as "prince of peace." (sar shalom, Is 9:5)

The prophet Micah was Isaiah's eighth century contemporary in Judah. In the passage chosen for this Sunday, Micah offers a reflection on God's surprising ways of providing for his people. Bethlehem was but a minor town of Judah and David was the younger son of Jesse, a mere lad tending sheep, when he was anointed by Samuel as the future king of Israel. (1 Sam 16:1-13)

Although Micah's promise of the coming Messiah (Anointed One) is less precise and elaborate than the message of Isaiah, he does point to this ruler's successful leadership. "His greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth; he shall be peace." (5:3-4)

What is his secret? "He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock by the strength of the LORD, in the

majestic name of the LORD, his God." (5:3) Micah here emphasizes that the Messiah will acknowledge that his authority and wisdom in governing come from God.

He acts in the name of God, which means that he manifests the divine presence and majesty through his person and work.

As people dream of world peace, the idealists among us often consider doing something significant to make their mark on society. Others excuse themselves as being too "little" or ordinary to make a difference.

Both the would-be hero and the humble plodder need to consider the example of the young woman named Mary. She came from a insignificant provincial town far from Jerusalem and its Temple, remote from the halls of power within the Empire. Yet God chose her to be the Mother of the long-awaited "Son of David" who was also "the Son of the Most High." (Lk 1:32)

While contemplating the marvel of the Incarnation, Mary made a long journey to the household of Zechariah and Elizabeth, where she volunteered her services. In doing so, she carried Christ to the poor and simple folk of Judea. The Visitation reminds Christians that we too bear Christ to the world—not in ostentatious efforts but in the very ordinary decisions of our seemingly mundane lives.

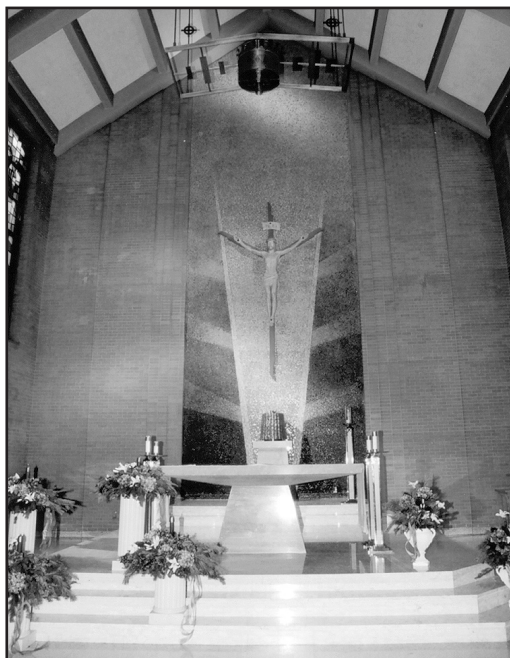
Then God is able to work the surprising miracles of transforming the world according to the rhythms of the divine plan.

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

The Visitation reminds Christians that we too bear Christ to the world.



Saint Theresa, Kenilworth



The altar at Saint Theresa's, before holiday decorations, and in full Christmas glory, attracting people throughout the area.

Involvement is hallmark of parish life

BY DAVID J. PROCH

Staff Reporter

Building toward the future by ministering to the youth is what Father Joseph S. Bejgrowicz hopes to accomplish at Saint Theresa Parish, Kenilworth.

"Youth ministry is so very important to make kids not feel like coming to church is an obligation, but that they want to come," noted Father Bejgrowicz, Pastor of Saint Theresa. "They want to come because they're involved, and they're taking ownership of the parish."

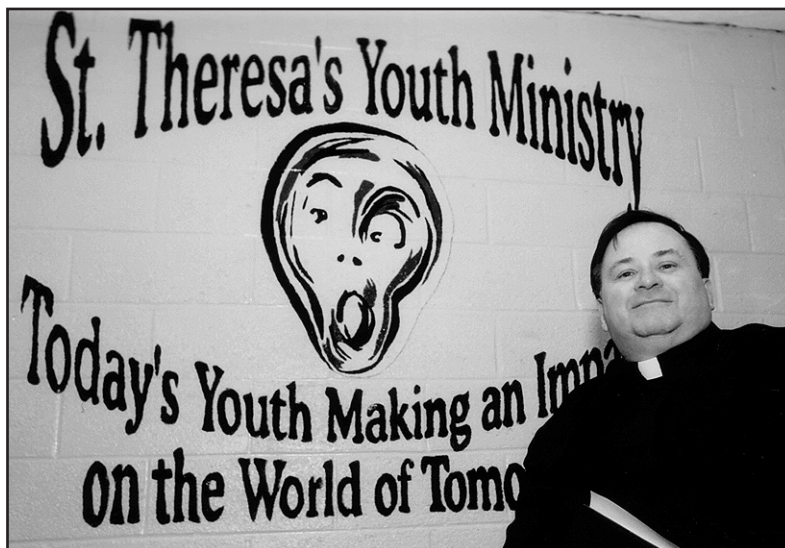
Father Bejgrowicz commented that the youth from the parish are deeply involved in the local church community and the larger world community.

"We just had some of our youth return from the national convention in Houston, Texas, and some of the parish youth spent Easter vacation working with Habitat for Humanity in Appalachia," he noted, adding that such highlights often bring in people from other communities who want to be involved with the youth ministry.

Two important events occur during the Christmas season. The parish hosts an annual Christmas pageant as well as a Living Nativity.

"Father Alphonse Stevenson, who conducts the pageant, has also conducted in 2,000 performances of 'A Chorus Line' in New York," Father Bejgrowicz noted, adding that the pageant attracts over 800 people to the church. "He has this gift. And we have Father Stevenson perform with the Orchestra of St. the Peter of the Sea."

Father Bejgrowicz explained that the Living Nativity, presented every Christmas Eve, uses



Father Bejgrowicz poses in front of a mural, painted by members of the high school youth ministry, of the group's mascot, who has been affectionately dubbed "Scream." According to Youth Minister Richard Donovan, what started out as a joke played on Father Bejgrowicz by a friend of his developed into the group adopting the image, based on the famous 1893 Edvard Munch painting, *The Scream*, as their own. The mural is in the "Upper Room," a recreation room in the school for youth group members that has a television set, pool table and other amusements.

live sheep and other farm animals brought in from a local farm, and has high school students playing the roles of shepherds, the three kings, and Joseph and Mary.

"Bishop Marconi blesses the Living Nativity every year and celebrates Christmas Day Mass with us," Father Bejgrowicz added.

The parish consists of 1,200 families from 24 communities, with 310 students at the parish school. Father Bejgrowicz credits the success of the parish during his time as pastor to an emphasis on ministry and stewardship.

"I would say that 90 percent of the town is Catholic, and we're the only Catholic church in Kenilworth," said Father Bejgrowicz. "So, it is a very close-knit community where everyone knows each other, and the community is centered around

the church, religious education, the school and youth ministry.

"Stewardship has been a very big help in the parish, because more and more people are using their time, talent and treasure to build up the ministries and the community here," he added.

Father Bejgrowicz noted that the altar servers help make the parish unique, as there are 105. "We have regular meetings with them, and every two months, the families meet as well. They'll have pizza and soda, and the adults will get involved with their kids in games. It's a 'feed-in' to family ministry, for the parents to recreate with their kids."

The parish also has very successful junior high and high school youth groups.

"To get an average of 100 high school people to come together on Sunday nights is mind-bog-

gling," said Father Bejgrowicz, adding that a lot of young people come to Mass, and young parents will bring their children to Mass as well.

Other ministries and programs at the parish include the Pre-Cana program, Baptism preparation, religious education, Family Life Ministry, the Rosary Society and the Knights of Columbus.

"The big ministries we have center on bringing families together," Father Bejgrowicz said. "We have two children's liturgies every Sunday... Twice a year we have a Mass for expectant mothers, and four times during the year we also have special anniversary Masses for married couples. So, all of this brings people together and builds community."

The Easter season is also a unique time for the parish, as they hold an outdoor Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, as well as a Living Stations of the Cross, which "fills the church," Father Bejgrowicz noted. After the 9 a.m. Mass on Easter Sunday, an Easter egg hunt is held for the children of the parish, with 3,000 Easter eggs all over the grounds of the school.

"Our theme as a parish is 'Let all be welcome as Christ,' and the idea that we are many parts, but one family and one body in Christ."

"What has really changed in my time at the parish is the ministries. When I arrived here, we didn't have a Pre-Cana program, a full-time youth minister, and many of the family life ministries and we have all these things now. People are just more willing to get more involved in the parish," he concluded.

Saint Theresa Parish is located at 541 Washington Ave. in Kenilworth.

Advocate photos - Frank Wood

Celebrating a community of Christ

In an effort to satisfy the spiritual needs and educational needs of their children, a small group of Catholics in the community banded together in 1919 and made an appeal to the Bishop of Newark for his assistance in providing Sunday Mass and religious instruction in the borough.

At the direction of the bishop, a census of the Catholic families of Kenilworth was taken.

However, due to the still comparatively few number of Catholics in the area, it was deemed impossible to start a parish.

Shortly after June 1935, Kenilworth was established as a mission of St. Michael Parish, Cranford. The first Mass in the borough was celebrated on Oct. 4, 1936 in the fire headquarters.

In June 1939, as the parish grew, Masses were switched to a local public school. Mass was celebrated at the school for the next two years.

Shortly after moving to the school, it was realized something would have to be done to accommodate the increasing number of people attending Mass.

The final Mass celebrated at the school was on Oct. 25, 1942. Masses were then moved to the newly renovated chapel building that had been converted from the old Columbus Club Hall.

On June 19, 1949 Saint Theresa's gained parish status. Father Sylvester McVeigh was named the parish's first pastor.

Plans to build an elementary school, combination church/auditorium and convent were announced by Father McVeigh in October 1953.

The construction of the

new buildings proceeded with few delays. The dream was realized on Oct. 5, 1954 when Thomas A. Boland, Archbishop of Newark, officiated at the blessing dedication, and laying of the cornerstone.

School attendance rose to over 700 pupils, and soon it was decided more room for the school was needed. Classes were held in the old borough

hall, which was leased by the parish.

Plans for an addition to the school were accelerated. On May 28, 1963 groundbreaking ceremonies were held.

The new addition, a two story building, was designed to hold eight additional classrooms and a library, eliminating the need for classes in other buildings.



"New church and rectory" for Saint Theresa Parish, declares the construction site sign.



The school, which also houses the youth ministry office and recreation room, is a busy place. The Pre-K through 8 institution instructs 310 students.

On April 16, 1964 classes were transferred from the old borough hall to the new addition. Blessing and dedication ceremonies were held.

By this time it was realized a new church was needed. Plans were announced for a church and rectory on Washington Avenue, between 22nd and 23rd Streets. On Sunday Feb. 28, 1965 the ground was blessed, and construction on the new \$1 million church and rectory began.

The final dream was realized when on March 18, 1967 Archbishop Boland presided at the dedication of the new church and rectory.

It was under Father Edward Hennessey, the second pastor, that the church building was completed.

Emphasis was placed on solidifying the family at Saint Theresa's. A family Sports Club was started to promote volleyball, tennis, golf and paddle ball. The Kenilworth Carnival, a week-long event held before Labor Day with a town wide-parade, also began. It was during Father Hennessey's years that the CYO's Coronation Ball debuted. Featured each year is the naming of a king and queen and awarding of college scholarships.

The third pastor was Father Andrew Jensen. Father Jensen was always a lover of music and had an organ in his room. It was for him that the Jensen Concert Series is named.

A decade ago, the current pastor,

Meet the Pastor



Father Joseph Bejgrowicz

Age: 59
Date of Birth: July 3, 1944
High School: St. Mary of the Assumption High School, Elizabeth
College/Seminary/Graduate School: Seton Hall University, Immaculate Conception Seminary
Hero: My father
Favorite Saint: St. Jude
Favorite Sport: Baseball
Favorite Food: Italian
Favorite Subject in School: History
Favorite Movie: "I haven't been to a movie in a long time!"
Proudest Moment: Ordination into the priesthood
Last Book Read: *Rediscovering Catholicism: Journeying toward Our Spiritual North Star* by Matthew Kelly
Occupation if I weren't a Priest: Teacher

Father Joseph Bejgrowicz, was assigned to Saint Theresa's.

He has been instrumental in many projects, including the refurbishing of the church's pipe organ, the shrines of St. Jude and St. Theresa, starting the parish golf tournament and parish picnic, having a new tabernacle placed in the church, decorating the church with the manger and seasonal displays, seeing the McVeigh Lecture Series and Jensen Concert Series established, and starting a youth ministry program.

In 1999 the parishioners celebrated the 50th anniversary of the parish. Featured was a block party, picnic, church tour and art auction.

Ever with an eye to the future, the parish is raising funds to install new windows in the school building, which should be completed this winter.



Today the church building remains an imposing structure within the community.

Advocate photos: Frank Wood

Bishops release Christmas schedules

Archbishop John J. Myers
Christmas Eve
Midnight Mass, Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark
Christmas Day
10 a.m., Mass at St. John the Baptist Parish, Jersey City; 11:30 a.m., visit to Hope House, a Catholic Community Services' facility, Jersey City

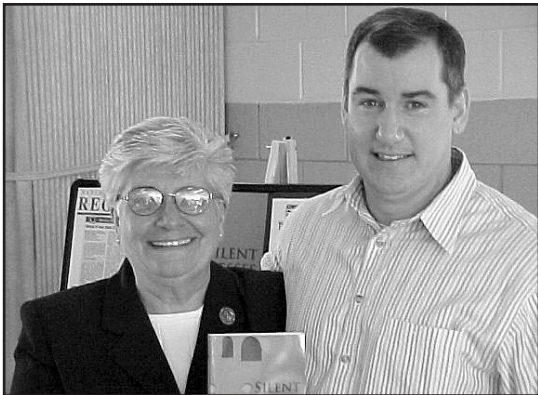
Most Rev. Arthur J. Serratelli,
Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia
Christmas Eve
8 p.m. Mass at Holy Family, 28 Brookline Ave., Nutley
Christmas Day
Noon Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, 259 Oliver St., Newark

Most Rev. Charles J. McDonnell, Regional Bishop for Bergen County
Christmas Eve
9:30 p.m. Mass at Holy Trinity, 34 Maple Ave., Hackensack
Christmas Day
11 a.m. Mass at Holy Trinity, 34 Maple Ave., Hackensack

Most Rev. Edgar da Cunha, S.D.V., Regional Bishop for Essex County
Christmas Eve
Midnight Mass at St. Catherine of Seina, 19 King St., Hillside
Christmas Day
7 p.m. Mass at St. Nicholas, 442 E. Brinkerhoff Ave., Palisades Park

Most Rev. David Arias, O.A.R., Regional Bishop for Hudson County
Christmas Eve
Midnight Mass (Bilingual) at St. Joseph of the Palisades, 6401 Palisade Ave., West New York
Christmas Day
10 a.m. Mass (English) at St. Joseph of the Palisades, 6401 Palisade Ave., West New York
1 p.m. Mass (Spanish) at St. Joseph of the Palisades, 6401 Palisade Ave., West New York

Most Rev. Dominic Marconi, Retired Auxiliary Bishop
Christmas Eve
6 p.m. Mass at St. Theresa, 131 East Edgar Rd., Linden
Christmas Day
9 a.m. Mass at St. Theresa, 541 Washington Ave., Kenilworth



Participants in the recent convocation of catechists from throughout the Archdiocese included, left to right, Sister Dominica Rocchio, S.C., Secretary for Education and Superintendent of Schools; Allan F. Wright, a teacher at Union Catholic High School, Scotch Plains, and author of *Silent Witnesses in the Gospels*; Father Kevin M. Hanbury, Associate Dean, College of Education and Human Services, Seton Hall University, and Timothy Mullner, a national consultant with the Benziger division of Macmillian McGraw-Hill.

Area catechists gather at UCHS ‘sowers’ of the Word and of peace

Calling those who instruct others in the Catholic faith “peacemakers and reconcilers,” Sister Dominica Rocchio, S.C., Ed. D., Superintendent of Schools of the Archdiocese of Newark, welcomed 368 religious educators to a convocation on Saturday, Nov. 15 at Union Catholic High School, Scotch Plains.

Gathered under the theme, “Sowers of God’s Peace”/

Sembradores de la Paz de Dios, the bilingual group attended morning prayer, during which Sister Dominica offered reflections on James 3:16-4:3. “We are called by the Holy Spirit to serve, to minister,” she said.

She encouraged catechists and all those involved in religious education to “work on our own spirituality and knowledge.” Sister Dominica thanked those gathered “for building

communities of welcoming love.”

The convocation was organized and carried out under the direction of Ronald L. Pihokker, Director of the Catechetical Office of the Archdiocese.

For the balance of the day, the catechists attended nearly 30 workshops and browsed displays of books and other learning resources in the school cafeteria.

Newark medical center makes history

Saint Michael’s Medical Center, Newark, made medical history last month when a new state-of-the-art cardiac resynchronization therapy defibrillator was implanted in a heart failure patient.

The surgery was performed by Dr. Constantinos A. Costeas, and marked the first time such a device had been implanted. The

implantation launched a national clinical trial. Data collected from this and other implants will be submitted to the Federal Drug Administration for possible release.

“What makes this cardiac resynchronization defibrillator so unique,” explained Dr. Donald Rubenstein, M.D., Director of Electrophysiology and a clinical investigator at Saint Michael’s Medical Center, “is that it provides complete control of the electrical rhythms in every part of the heart.”

“Current defibrillators allow us to control three things—they enable us to speed up the heart when it beats too slow, to treat rapid rhythms caused by the ventricle, or lower part of the heart, and to make the heart pump with greater strength for

those with congestive heart failure. The implant adds yet another capability—which is to treat rapid rhythms caused by the top, or ‘atrial,’ part of the heart. In other words, it is the ‘all-inclusive’ cardiac resynchronization defibrillators, and marks an important medical advance in the progress towards conquering heart disease—still the number one killer in the country.”

“Saint Michael’s Medical Center is proud to provide this cutting-edge technology to our heart failure patients,” remarked Barbara Loughney, Administrator. “This continues our six-decade long tradition of leadership in cardiac care, and we are enthusiastic about the long-range possibilities that this new technology offers.”



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IRELAND	April 18-28	Father Dan Gowen
ITALY: Rome plus Monti Casino Sicily, Sorrento, Rome Sicily plus Rome, Florence & Venice	February 14-21 July 7-17 October 11-29	Father Armand Mantia Father Robert Laferrera Father Bob Colaresi, O. Carm.
SPAIN	April 16-29	Father Bob Colaresi, O. Carm.

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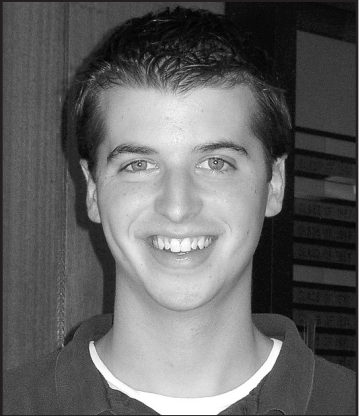
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His camp experience ‘gratifying’

Edward J. Thornton, a student at Union Catholic High School, volunteered recently at Sister Pat’s Kids Camp for Children with Cancer (and blood disorders) in New York State.

The camp, founded in 1985 by Sister Patricia Daly and Leo Forrest, provides children who are battling life threatening illnesses the chance to spend a week where they can just be kids, gain a renewed sense of hope and be far away from their normal hospital routine.

The program is sponsored by the church community of St. Helen Parish, Westfield, in conjunction with the medical team from the clinic at Children’s Hospital of New York Presbyterian, where the campers receive their treatments.



Edward J. Thornton

Everyone who works at the camp is a volunteer, and there is no cost for the camper to attend.

When Thornton wasn’t in the kitchen, he was assigned to help with a group of seven and eight-year-old boys as they participated in a variety of camp activities, such as swimming, hiking, arts and crafts, bicycling, wood-working, cooking, sports, fishing, drama and dance.

When asked how this experience affected him, the student said, “It was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. I felt that I really connected with the kids in my group. We told ghost stories before bed, we caught huge fish and hung around the pool. They were all so caring and worried more about each other than about themselves.

“Just being there for the kids made all the counselors connect with the kids right away. It was gratifying to be part of Sister Pat’s Kids Camp and to see the kids have the chance to just have a week of fun,” Thornton concluded.

Outreach programs: parish’s strength

BY BRIAN FORES
Staff Reporter

Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Jersey City, has been awarded the 2003 Communion and Mission Award by the National Pastoral Life Center.

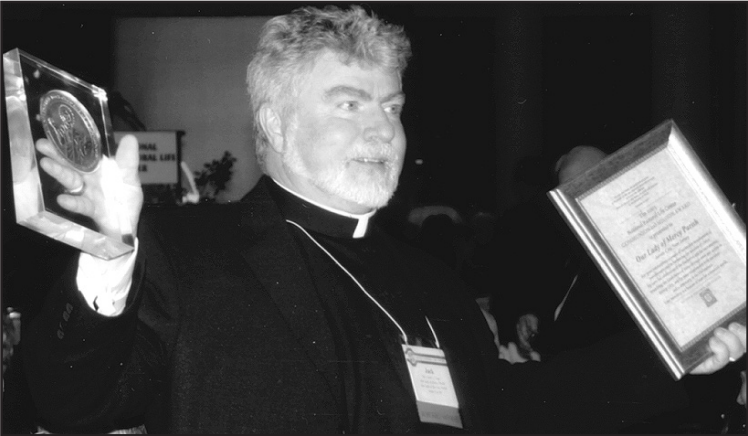
The parish was cited for its example of leadership, involvement of its parishioners, outreach to the local community and abroad, and its careful celebration of the Eucharist and Sacraments.

“We pride ourselves on the quality and excellence of our liturgies,” explained Father John Cryan, Pastor. “The Second Vatican Council asks us to develop a prayer experience that is full of active, conscious opportunities for people to interrelate with the Lord,” Father Cryan said.

“We also have one of the best Catholic schools in the Archdiocese, providing education to 525 children, and we continue to educate the local community through RCIA for adults and CCD for children,” he added.

According to Father Cryan, 80 to 90 percent of the congregation is made up of immigrants from the Philippines. “Offering hospitality to newcomers in this country is a cornerstone of our mission. Those working in the Young Adult Ministry in particular devote much time to this effort, which allows people to come to our parish and find an anchor during a very turbulent time in their lives, having moved from one culture to another,” Father Cryan said.

Our Lady of Mercy has also established two outreach programs in the Philippines, as an ongoing part of their stewardship initiative. “One pro-



Father John Cryan accepts the 2003 Communion and Mission Award at the recent National Pastoral Life Center conference in New York.

gram is helping to build a chapel at the diocesan seminary in Roxas City, Capiz,” Father Cryan noted. “For the second program, we’ve linked our children with a residence that ministers to mute and deaf children, also in Roxas. Last year, our students raised enough money to provide these children in the Philippines with transportation to their school for an entire year,” Father Cryan concluded.

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1:30 to 6:00 p.m. (in Parish Office)

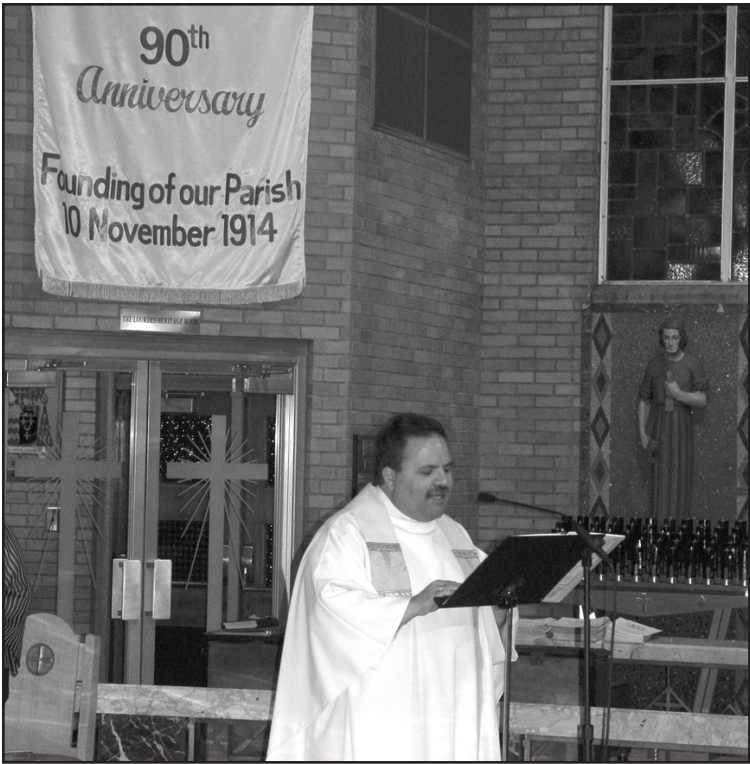
Saturday: 11:30 to 12:30 p.m. and 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.
(in Church)

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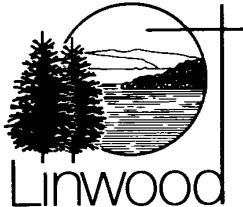
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Pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes, Father Joseph Petrillo, addresses the congregation.



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Jubilee year is under way

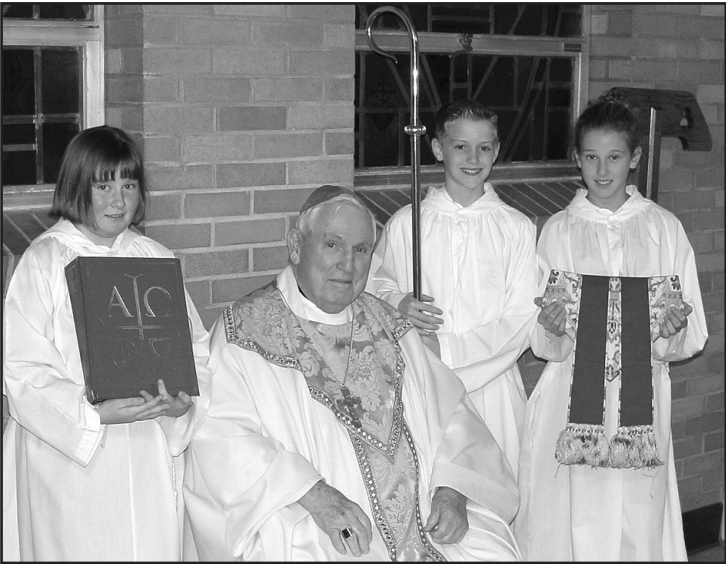
BY WARD MIELE
Managing Editor

“How can our hearts not be filled with joy?” Archbishop Emeritus Peter L. Gerety declared last month at a Mass marking two milestones for Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, West Orange.

Archbishop Gerety was the principle celebrant at an opening Mass for the parish’s jubilee year. It is the 90th anniversary of the parish’s founding and 40th anniversary of the dedication of the church building on Eagle Rock Avenue.

In his homily, Archbishop Gerety, who ordained the current pastor, Father Joseph Petrillo, cited the “enthusiasm and hard work” of the parish clergy and faithful that made their “dream come true.”

Both milestones, the Archbishop went on, are significant because they reflect the meaning of a parish church. A church is “more than mortar and stone,



Archbishop Gerety with, left to right, altar servers Colleen Cunningham, Casey Doyle and Brianne Cunningham.

[it is] a house of God, it is where we meet God Himself in a very special way,” he said.

Reflecting on the parish church, Archbishop Gerety said, “Holy graces are received in this holy place.”

Looking around at the church

building, the archbishop noted, “This awesome spot, our parish church, is truly a gateway of heaven where God embraces us in a special way with His tender love.”

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish was founded on Nov. 10, 1914. The present church building was dedicated on May 16, 1964.

Highlights of the jubilee year include a Feb. 8-10 parish mission followed on Feb. 11 by a special Mass celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. The dedication of the church will be marked with a special program on May 15, and the Jubilee Year will end Nov. 12 with a banquet. Additional information is available by visiting www.lourdeswestorange.com.

‘Spirit Week’ celebrated

During Seton Spirit Week at Mother Seton Regional High School, Clark, students participated in a food drive for the Emanuel Cancer Foundation, Scotch Plains.

A competition was held to see which class collected the most food items. The junior class, with 1,176 food items, won. The school-wide total collection amounted to 3,463 items. The drive was under the direction of Mrs. Geraldine Welsch and Mrs. Patricia Campos, members of the Social Studies Department.

The food donations will be given to families with a child suffering from pediatric cancer. The Emanuel Cancer Foundation supplies groceries to area families who have little time to shop and whose budgets are strained by the illness of their child.

Contact:
Fr. Brian Plate
Vocations Director

The Vocations Office
(973) 497-4365
171 Clifton Ave., P.O. Box 9500
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When **Jesus** turned around and noticed them following him,

He asked them,
“What are you looking for?”

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

“Come and see,”
He answered.

John 1:38-39

Have you considered following after Jesus as a Priest, Sister or Brother...?

Brother of 'Unabomber' opposes death penalty

BY BRIAN FORES

Staff Reporter

David Kaczynski, who led federal investigators to his brother, "Unabomber" Ted Kaczynski, in 1996, spoke out against the death penalty last month at the Xavier Center, St. Elizabeth College, Convent Station.

"The more you learn and think about the death penalty, the less likely you are to support it," Kaczynski stated. "There exists a serious inequity in the structure of the system. The worst lawyers are reserved for the poorest individuals."

On hand were members of New Jerseyans for a Death Penalty Moratorium (NJDPM), who believe that there should be a Senate vote in New Jersey to allow for a moratorium on capital punishment, as was done in Illinois by Gov. George Ryan.

"There needs to be a 'time-out,' to study the death penalty in this state, and hopefully realize that, ultimately, it is not effective. There has not been an execution in New Jersey in decades, yet the government continues to spend millions of dollars on it," he said.

Kaczynski, whose brother Ted was responsible for mail bombings that killed three people and injured 23 between the years of 1978 and 1995, saw his brother evade the death penalty.

Yet Kaczynski believes that his brother was afforded an unfair advantage, and that race and economics play a major role in capital punishment decisions: "The death penalty is a response lacking compassion, imagination or any developed spiritual dimension."

For Kaczynski, that story began in August 1995. It was his wife, Linda, who first began to suspect that her estranged brother-in-law might be the Unabomber. "I arrived home, and my wife asked me to sit down—she had something to tell me. She had a hard time starting. Finally, she managed, 'Do you think your brother is the Unabomber?'" he remembered.

Linda Kaczynski had never met Ted, who had become estranged from the family, but she had read some of his letters to David.

"The Unabomber had written a manifesto about how technology was ruining humanity, and there was a similar theme running through Ted's letters. He had said he wouldn't kill again if it were published. I couldn't believe what my wife was sug-



Advocate photo-Brian Fores

David Kaczynski, brother of "Unabomber" Ted Kaczynski, speaks at the Xavier Center, St. Elizabeth College, Convent Station, about his brother and the death penalty.

gesting, but if the manifesto were published, I would read it," he recalled.

Shortly thereafter, the document was published in the *Washington Post*. "Linda and I went to the local library; it had been posted on the Web. After a few minutes of reading, I realized Linda wasn't looking at the screen—she didn't need to. She was looking at my face," he said.

Kaczynski recounted his horror and the onset of depression as he began to truly consider that his brother might be the source of one of the most expensive manhunts in U.S. history. "Our main concern then became, if Ted was responsible for these acts, what if he struck again?"

At this point, David and Linda Kaczynski went to the FBI with their suspicions. Perhaps most difficult for Kaczynski would be having to tell his elderly mother, Wanda, that he believed Ted was the Unabomber.

According to Kaczynski, government officials had promised that the family's involvement would remain confidential. He did not want Ted to hear from anyone else that his brother had turned him in.

However, in the ensuing days, a news frenzy engulfed the Kaczynski home. "The media's appetite was ferocious, and everywhere, the story was that Ted had been turned in by his brother," he explained.

"Ted was arrested in his cabin in Montana in April 1996. Investigators found another bomb under the bed ready to be delivered. There was no doubt of his guilt—we knew that now it was a matter of death or life in prison. But we asked ourselves whether his behavior was a prod-

uct of mental illness?

"The prosecution hired a well-known psychiatrist [Dr. Sally Johnson] who went around the country, testifying always on behalf of the prosecution. They were not interested in finding the truth, but in demonizing my brother, destroying evidence and seeking the death penalty.

"I remember the sense of betrayal," Kaczynski noted. "Our family came forward because, for us, there were no sides, just the human side. We came forward out of principle. But here was the U.S. government interested only in winning, and putting the 'Unabomber' to death," he emphasized.

After two years of lost privacy for the Kaczynski family, a plea bargain was struck. Ted Kaczynski was spared the death penalty. "He was given life in prison with no parole—it was not a joy, but it was a relief," Kaczynski stated.

Some time after the sentencing, David Kaczynski received a telephone call from Bill Babbitt, a Californian who had turned his brother in to the Sacramento police after finding strong evidence that tied him to a recent break-in robbery, where an elder-

ly woman had been beaten, suffered a heart attack and died.

Unlike Ted Kaczynski, Manny Babbitt was African-American—a sixth-grade drop out who had joined the U.S. Marine Corps at 17, completed three tours of Vietnam, and returned suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. Later he was diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia and spent three years in a mental institution. He had committed the crime only a few months after his release.

"Manny's court-appointed lawyer had never even tried a criminal case. There was eyewitness testimony that he drank heavily during the trial. He also selected an all-white jury, despite Bill Babbitt's objections," Kaczynski explained. "The jury never heard about the Purple Heart or other medals Manny received for his courageous service in Vietnam," he added.

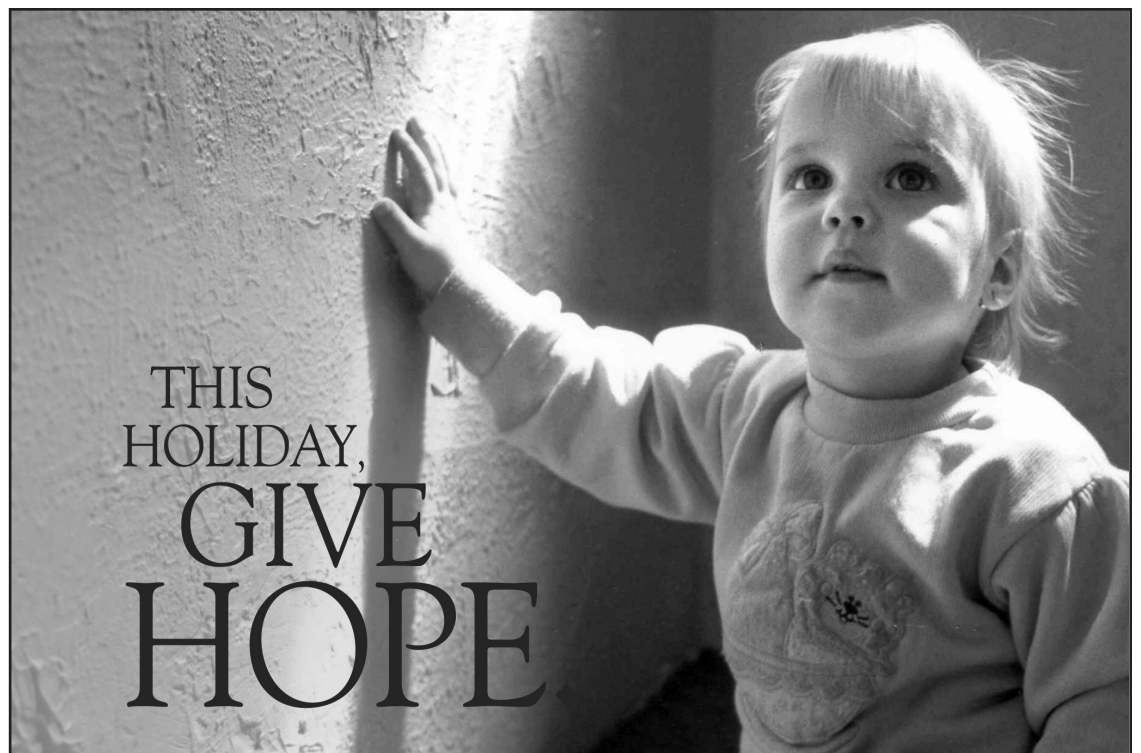
Kaczynski and his wife Linda resolved to help the Babbitt family in any way they could. They held press conferences with Bill Babbitt, and even appeared on "Good Morning America."

Babbitt was later convicted for the crime and sentenced to death by lethal injection.

Kaczynski recalled that Bill Babbitt went to San Quinton to see his brother's execution, because "he did not want his brother to see only angry faces."

At the funeral, Kaczynski recalled the most emotional point of the day. "His mother just buckled and began to weep. I began to cry, and I cried during the entire trip home that day. My tears were not just tears of grief, but tears of shame. I realized that without the access to the media, the money and privileges we were afforded, this could have been us," Kaczynski said. "That day was a turning point. Before, I had just wanted to return to my previous life, but now I realized that would be impossible. There was something larger here—these stories had to be told."

In their 1980 statement on capital punishment, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) stated that abolition of the death penalty would: reaffirm the unique worth of dignity of each person from the moment of conception; remove any ambiguity as to the Church's affirmation of the sanctity of human life and be in accordance with the example of Jesus.



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Finding peace in Mideast need not be difficult

BY DR. ANTHONY WANIS-ST. JOHN
Catholic News Service

Thousands of Palestinians and Israelis have lost their lives in this most recent phase of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, many of them Bethlehemites (ethnically Palestinian Arabs of various Christian denominations). Is new hope justified? It is, if only to defy those who claim that political differences must be resolved by violence.

The conflict engulfing the Palestinians and Israelis is not really very difficult to resolve, nor is it very old. (Less than 80 years. Europe, in contrast, was continuously at war for centuries.) Bethlehem is sacred ground and battleground. Bethlehem always will be—even in times of war—a symbol of war's futility and of the wisdom of peace and coexistence.

The Gospels of Matthew and Luke teach that the Prince of Peace was born in Bethlehem. More than 700 years before Jesus, the Prophet Micah fore-

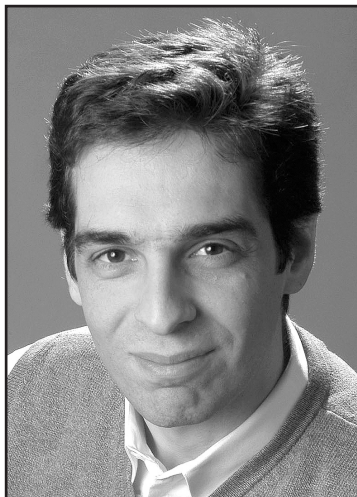
told that from Bethlehem would come a ruler to end oppression and conquest (4:3).

When the current Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation began, Palestinian youths began throwing stones against Israeli tanks in Bethlehem; militiamen from other towns approached Bethlehem to launch attacks on nearby Jewish settlements.

In Bethlehem in October 2001, Israeli soldiers killed a young altar boy, Johnny Thalbieh, after he attended vespers and played with his cousins on the steps of the Basilica of the Nativity, built over the cave that marks Jesus' birthplace. Thalbieh would not be the last civilian to die in Bethlehem.

Nevertheless, in Bethlehem you can still find Palestinians dedicated to nonviolent resistance, ecumenism among different Christian churches and Christian-Islamic coexistence and dialogue.

From the June 1967 war



Anthony Wanis-St. John, Ph.D.

until December 1995, Bethlehem endured a brutal Israeli military occupation, as did all Palestinian towns and villages. From 1995 until early 2001 Bethlehem returned to its status as a place of pilgrimage, learning and peace as the Israeli army withdrew. In the past three years Bethlehem's population again fell victim to violence.

The Palestinian-Israeli nego-

tiations that began after the Madrid Peace Conference of 1991 were to reverse the military occupation, which Israelis themselves had realized was the very cause of Israeli insecurity. Yet, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat moved too slowly to persuade people that the peace process was the only way toward statehood. And two of Israel's conservative leaders during the peace process years, Benjamin Netanyahu and current Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, openly declared their intention to violate the various peace accords—and made good on that pledge.

The few solid gains of the peace process all have been seriously reversed. Much hope has faded in the combined blaze of tank fire, sharpshooters and suicide bombers as Israeli Prime Minister Sharon and Palestinian extremist groups like HAMAS strengthen each other's resistance to a

peaceful settlement. Yet hope refuses to die.

On Dec. 1 ex-negotiators from both sides signed an ingenious peace agreement to settle the Palestinian-Israeli conflict (the Geneva Accord). Unfortunately, the negotiators are not currently in power. They did this to show their own people, the international community and, most important, their leaders that there is a way to escape war. These negotiators believe—and I agree—that symbols can shape reality.

The futility of bloodshed, the injustice of military occupation—these can end when we imagine the just peace foretold by Micah. Human violence cannot erase Bethlehem's spiritual mandate to nurture the Peacemaker.

Dr. Wanis-St. John is Assistant Professor of International Negotiation at the Whitehead School of Diplomacy, Seton Hall University.

International Nativity display at Pope John II Paul Cultural Center

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Christmas creches—some looking like lively theatrical tableaux, some baroque and mannerist, and some naive in style—are on display at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington through Jan. 25.

The creches in the exhibition, called "Joy to the World: The Third Annual International Nativity Exhibit," all define the spirit of Christmas, the birth of Christ, through the eyes and experience of the cultures where they were made, whether it is Nigeria, Poland or Alaska.

The center is showing 177 creches from 58 countries, said Penelope Fletcher, Deputy Director, as she walked through the exhibition located this year in a spacious, upper gallery of the center.

The Nativity scenes were selected from the collections of Msgr. Adam McCloskey, Father James Profota and James and the late Emilia Govan. It is the third year that creches from the Govan collection are being shown.

The president and co-founder of the national Friends of the Creche Society, Govan now commissions artists around the world to create creches that reflect their local cultures. The

Govan amassed a collection of more than 300 Nativity scenes from nearly 80 countries.

One of the most beautiful is a tall terra cotta sculpture tableau that reflects the influence of the mannerist period and the sophisticated techniques of Italian artists.

The creches collected by Msgr. McCloskey, Pastor of All Saints Church, Houston, TX, reflect the Southwest and Hispanic cultures. The one with which he began his collection in 1965 was a delicate wooden creche from Germany, and it is on display along with the Costa Rican "Nativity in a Walnut," with the Holy Family nestled in a hollowed-out walnut shell. Another is a minute one resting inside a small bird's eggshell.

Father Profota, Pastor of St. Basil Parish, Eastpointe, MI, has donated almost 300 creches to the John Paul II center. One from Alaska shows Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus in Inuit clothing in front of an igloo accompanied by a wolf and moose.

Other Nativity scenes on display include a Brazilian one which features Joseph holding the infant Jesus in the air while Mary watches, a Botswanan creche showing a shepherd graciously bowing and offering

a lamb to the Christ child, and an Asian creche in terra cotta with a pagoda-roofed shelter. One of the most inventive is a Peruvian scene with doors to the front which, when opened, reveal a boisterous scene with strong figures painted in reds and blues. Another creche from Croatia reveals a psychedelic-colored scene of sacred repose. The background is formed by multistory buildings.

The tradition of displaying

a creche scene at Christmas began with St. Francis of Assisi, the 13th-century saint who wanted to revive the excitement of Christmas. He wanted it to be a reverent expression though, so he sought and gained the permission of the pontiff. The tradition of displaying a creche has continued since.

The Vatican displays an enormous, larger-than-life-size Nativity scene in the square in

front of St. Peter's Basilica until late January.

At the cultural center, Fletcher said, "We're growing our own collection of creches now. People are beginning to give us creche collections."

The creches of Father Profota, including one of all Teddy bear figures, lead to the children's gallery at the end of the exhibition where there will be a hands-on display and projects for children.



Part of the folkloric creche from Portugal features the Virgin Mary in prayer near a slumbering infant Jesus. It is one of 177 Nativity scenes from around the world on display at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington, through Jan. 25.

CCS photos



Catholic Community Services (CCS) held an open house last month at its new corporate headquarters, 37 Evergreen Pl., East Orange. Archbishop John J. Myers, who made it official by cutting the ribbon, blessed the building and presided at the dedication of the building's new chapel. With the Archbishop at the ribbon cutting was Philip Frese, Ph.D., CPA, Executive Director of CCS. With Archbishop Myers at the chapel blessing were, left to right, Donald Daniels, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Cathedral Healthcare System; Mayor Robert L. Bowser; Henry J. Amoroso, Esq., Chairman of the CCS Board of Trustees, and Dr. Frese.



Spanish Mass is scheduled

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Montclair, will celebrate its first Spanish-language Mass on Sunday, Dec. 21 at 1:30 p.m.

The Mass is in response to a growing number of Hispanics in the parish from the Caribbean, Central and South America and Mexico. They recently approached the pastor, Father Thomas Petrillo, and told him that their employment situations prevented attendance at the 6 p.m. Spanish Mass at nearby St. Peter Claver Parish.

Initially the Mass will be celebrated monthly pending an assessment of any greater need.

School closing notification

WNBC NewsChannel 4 has asked schools in the Archdiocese of Newark to participate in its School Closing Notification System.

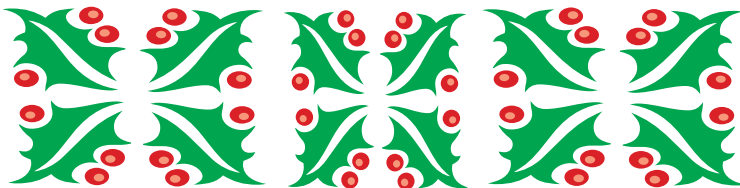
To do so a school representative must contact Executive Editor Eugenia Woody for information on how to access the system. When operational the system will announce all closings and delayed openings on a crawl across the bottom of the screen during morning news broadcasts.

To contact Woody call (212) 664-7086 or email her at Eugenia.Woody@nbc.com.

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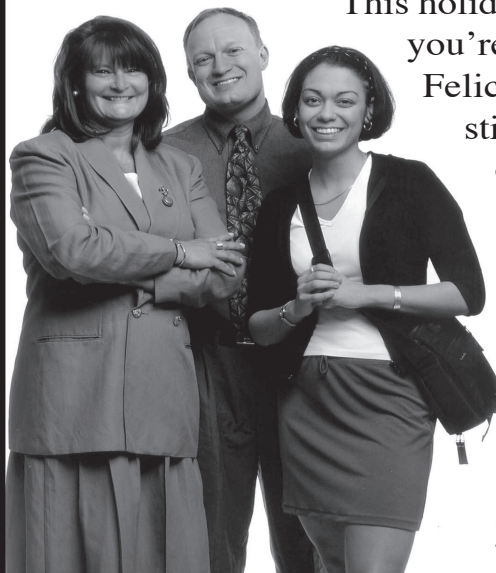
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Archdiocesan students reach out to needy

Students in schools throughout the Archdiocese of Newark are doing much more than just thinking of themselves this Christmas.

Reaching out to those less fortunate is the guiding force of programs in scores of Archdiocesan schools at both the elementary and high school levels.

St. Leo School, Elmwood Park, is working in conjunction with the parish on a Giving Tree. Recipients range from the children of Brazil, Newark Babylands and the Several Sources Foundation which serves unwed mothers.

The first grade is collecting food in a Feed the Hungry drive. The teachers are buying gifts for families who receive the baskets.

The fifth grade is collecting for a Shelter the Homeless program. The student council, meanwhile, is spearheading a Bear Hugs for the Holidays effort for donation of bears to hospitalized children.

A Giving Tree is also standing at **St. Dominic Academy**, Jersey City. Those in need at Sacred Heart Parish in the city will benefit. On the international front, Dominican Youth in Action, a school club, is writing letters to those unjustly imprisoned in other countries. They are also collecting vitamins to send to a school in the Dominican Republic.

Two programs dealing with urban communities have been the focus at **Saint Joseph School**, Maplewood. The food

pantry has already expressed its appreciation to the students. A second collection was taken up for an Essex County organization that helps the mentally challenged.

The student council of **St. Francis Xavier School**, Newark, is asking students and parishioners to donate toys for the children at the city's Saint Michael Medical Center and Columbus Hospital. The students are also sending Christmas cards to the Veterans Hospital in nearby East Orange.

Queen of Peace High School, North Arlington, through its Campus Ministry, is active on several fronts. They are working with the U.S. Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program.



Students at St. Joseph School, East Rutherford, with a collection for the Bear Hugs for Children program. The bears will be distributed to hospitalized children and adults. The students are also collecting food to replenish the parish food bank. Several of the students include, left to right, front row, Hailey Werdann, Alyssa Martinez and Diego Sciancalepore. Back row, Brittany Porro, Vanessa Mostcatello and Alfred Krause.

Christmas-related items are being sold to benefit the March of Dimes and homeless programs. The students also plan to go caroling at two hospitals and the Kessler Institute for

Rehabilitation, West Orange.

The Archdiocese's own Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children is the recipient of Christmas cards made by the

Continued on page 20

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Familiar scene at Christmas

One need only travel around a neighborhood or city in the weeks preceding Christmas to notice that decorations abound, some religious, most secular.

One of the most prominent images of the season is the Christmas manger or nativity scene.

Popularized by St. Francis of Assisi, it was intended to make the mystery of the Incarnation more tangible for Christian people.

In all likelihood, a nativity scene is found in the homes of most Christian families, even those with little connection with their parish. While the crèche depicts the birth of Christ in history, the prayer of blessing reminds its hearers that our focus at Christmas is on the Incarnation—“God with us.”

The *Book of Blessings* also indicates that the

blessing of the nativity scene, according to pastoral circumstances, may take place on the vigil of Christmas or at another more suitable time. (BB 1542) While another time is an option, clearly the first preference is the evening before Christmas. This reminds those who consider using this blessing that there is a need to respect the integrity of the weeks of Advent and not rush to celebrate Christmas too quickly. Once again, this blessing can take place in the home where “...it is appropriate that it (the manger scene) be blessed by a parent or another family member.”

The preceding was provided by the Worship Office of the Archdiocese of Newark.



The crèche at Saint Teresa of Avila, Summit, is a seasonal delight.

Christmas Table Prayer

After a few moments of silence, the candles on the table are lighted.

Leader:

Christ is born for us!

And all respond:

Come, let us adore!

The leader continues:

Lord Jesus, in the peace

of the season our spirits rejoice: with the animals and the angels, with the shepherds and the stars, with Mary and Joseph we sing God's praise.

By your coming may the hungry be filled with good things, and may our table and home be blessed.

Then the leader says:

Glory to God in the highest!

And all conclude together:

And peace to God's people on earth!

And sing:

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing” (or another Christmas song).

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Christmas aid programs stress others over self

Continued from page 18

kindergarten at **St. Teresa's Early Childhood Center**, Summit.

Children in each grade of **Saint Therese of Lisieux Elementary School**, Cresskill, have selected a child to make a donation to all out of their own savings. Kindergarten and first graders are collecting for a food pantry.

In Caldwell, the **Trinity Academy Builders' Club**, an elementary school Kiwanis Club, is sponsoring a toy drive. Other classes are making Christmas cards and place mats for shelters and soup kitchens.

St. Mary High School, Rutherford, as part of a senior organized project encompassing the entire school, uses a list of needs families supplied from area organizations to make a Christmastime donation. Items given to each family include clothing and a toy for the youngsters.

Children Helping Children is the focus at **Immaculate Heart**

Academy, Fairview. Students take part in a pageant depicting the Nativity and go out caroling. The proceeds are used to buy gifts for children in the Critical Care Unit of St. Barnabas Hospital, Livingston.

The hospital provides a wish list. Volunteers wrap packages which include afghans knitted by the **Pallottine Sisters**.

Students at **Immaculate Conception High School**, Lodi are involved, through Catholic Community Services, with Help a Family at Christmas. The program is run through the Emergency Food and Nutrition Network. The faculty, staff and students have adopted three families. They are providing clothing, food, toys and gift certificates.

Sharon Reilly-Tobin, Director of the food and nutrition network, explains, "We work with 75 food pantries in all four counties of the Archdiocese. For the Help a Family at Christmas program, we ask the food pantries to identify 10 critically needy fami-



Two clubs at Our Lady of the Lake School, Verona, Student Leadership and Junior Girl Scout Troop #582, organized a collection of blankets, candy and men's coats which were donated to St. John Parish, Newark.

lies. All families are needy, but these are the most severe."

In addition to **Immaculate Conception**, other participating schools in the Archdiocese include **Oratory Preparatory School**, Summit; **Immaculate Heart of Mary**, Maplewood; **Elizabethport High School**, Elizabeth; **St. Peter's Preparatory School**, Jersey City; **Seton Hall Preparatory School**, West Orange, and **Benedictine Academy**, Elizabeth.

At Benedictine Academy,

during Spirit Week (Dec. 15-19), a school-wide toy drive is held to benefit the Food and Nutrition Network. Two families are adopted by the student clubs as part of the Help a Family at Christmas project.

The school council of **Saint Joseph School**, Jersey City, is holding its annual Mitten Tree for the Homeless project. Students take mitten-shaped tags from a Christmas tree. They then bring in the item on the tag gift wrapped for distribution to those in the community in need.

To help teach the gift of giving, students at **St. Mary Elementary School**, Rutherford, are participating in Bear Hugs for the Holidays. The bears will be sent to needy children in area day care centers.

At **Resurrection School**, Jersey City, students sent stamped envelopes to First Friends at the Elizabeth Detention Center Visitors Project. Along with the envelopes went writing paper and pens. All were paid for by donations made by the children during Advent. The students also sent Mite Boxes during Advent. It is being suggested that the money be sent to a mission for the poor in Africa.

The leadership club at **Holy Rosary Academy**, Union City, will visit a local health care center to sing Christmas carols and distribute student-made Christmas cards. Canned goods collected during a pre-Thanksgiving drive will be donated to a homeless shelter.

For the second consecutive year, the lower grades at St. Joseph School, Oradell, will collect Beanie Babies for a local orphanage. This year over 600 were collected in comparison to last year's 200 Beanie Babies.

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OL Academy quiz team sets academic record

The seventh and eighth grade quiz team from Academy of Our Lady, Glen Rock, has made academic history. Students won all three area scholastic challenges over participating public, private and parochial schools, marking the first time any school has done so.

The first win was at St. Joseph Regional High School, Montvale, in their fifth Scholastic Olympics; the second, at Bergen Catholic High School, Oradell, in their third annual John Brady Memorial Academic Challenge, and the final, at Seton Hall Preparatory, West Orange, in their eighth Pirates' Open.

The St. Joe's competition presents subject trophies in science, history, math, art, computer science, English and spelling, based on individual test results for boys and girls and then tallies the scores for the overall trophy.

Matthew Russo and Madeline McGohey placed first in

science, Jack Reilly won first in history and Meghan Garry placed third in history. Paul Sori took a first in computer science, and Joshua Malone won third place in English. Rounding out the team were Joseph Amoresano, Richard Duggan, Elizabeth Hemmer, Susan O'Rourke, Allie Rocchio, Hannah Conn and Mark Wagner. The 24 participating schools came from Bergen, Essex, Passaic and Rockland (NY) counties.

Critical thinking is challenged at Bergen Catholic's competition with specific problems presented to the teams in math, science, history and a final general knowledge quiz round. Russo, Reilly, and Tim Steinmetz placed first in the quiz round and second in history. Their scores in history, math science and the quiz round gave them the overall first place trophy with a total score of 465 points. Six public schools and



The Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Assemblies from North Arlington and Lyndhurst provided the honor guard and escort at the Nov. 23 Mass at the blessing of the Holy Rosary Garden of Holy Cross Chapel Mausoleum, North Arlington. Here the Knights are shown with Archbishop John J. Myers and Father James J. Reilly, administrator of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Kearny.

18 private and parochial elementary schools participated.

At Seton Hall Prep, the same four team-members were challenged in match play facing 16 teams until the quarter-

finals. The final eight teams were seeded according to the points earned in the match play. They faced off until one team remained victorious. The questions, based on science,

math, history, literature, and general knowledge, were given to the captain of the team, who in consultation with the others gave the answer. Russo served as team captain.



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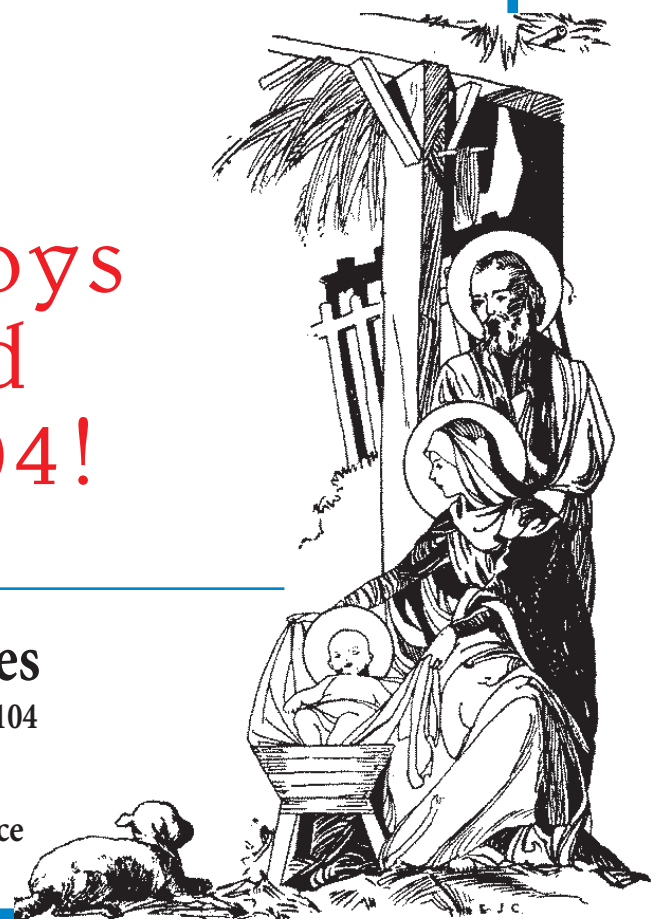
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Christmas events abound throughout Archdiocese

Highlighted by Midnight Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, parishes throughout the Archdiocese have programs planned to celebrate the birth of Christ.

- The Parents' Guild of Academy of the Holy Angels, Demarest, will hold the school's annual Christmas Gala on Thursday, Dec. 18 at 7:30 p.m. Featured will be a vocal ensemble, hand bell choir and orchestra. The gala is free and open to the public.
- A Christmas concert will take place on Sunday, Dec. 21 at 7 p.m. at St. Luke's Parish, Ho-Ho-Kus. The combined choir will sing traditional and contemporary songs. Open to the public, call (201) 444-0272.
- "Peace and Joy, A Christmas Celebration," an Irish Christmas concert, will take place on Sunday, Dec. 21, 2 p.m. at St. Patrick Parish, Jersey City. Tickets are \$20. Call (201) 433-1258 or (201) 332-8600. Featured will be Irish tenor Ciaran Sheehan, who has performed on Broadway. There will also be a special appearance by the parish's Haitian Choir.

- Queen of Peace Parish, North Arlington, has scheduled its annual Christmas concert for Sunday, Dec. 21 at 4:45 p.m. Included will be sacred musical selections and seasonal favorites performed by the parish choir. There will also be an organ solo by the parish's Father Brian Muzas. Appearing too will be vocal recording artist Julian Hernandez and sopranos Deborah Baseil and Angeli Intili. Free will offering. An Advent Evening Prayer will precede the concert at 4 p.m.
- "Himig Pasko," an afternoon of Advent and Christmas carols, presented by the Filipino Apostolate of Hudson County, will take place on Sunday, Dec. 21 at St. Aedan Parish, Jersey City, from 2 to 5 p.m. Filipino choirs from several parishes are scheduled to participate. Donations are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. For tickets call Genevieve at (201) 435-2840 or the church at (201) 433-6800.
- Mary Help of Christians Academy, North Haledon, will present its annual Christmas program on Friday, Dec. 19 at 7:30 p.m. Open to the public,

the program will take place in St. Joseph's Chapel on campus. Included will be songs of the season, Scripture readings and a dramatic presentation of the Christmas story. Free will offering. For additional information and/or directions call (973) 790-6200.

- The Ministry of Spiritual

Direction of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Bloomfield, will present "Advent Women: Mary and Elizabeth Waiting in Hope, Remembering the Promise," on Saturday, Dec. 20 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the parish center. Registration helpful. Call Anna at (973) 338-9538. Coffee, tea and

bagels, bring a bag lunch.

- Immaculate Conception Single Adults (Montclair) will hold its annual Christmas Party Potluck Dinner on Sunday, Dec. 21 at 6 p.m. in the parish center. Cost is a covered dish to share. Beverages and dessert provided. Call (973) 783-7863 or go to <http://icsa.tripod.com>.



Msgr. Michael E. Kelly, Headmaster of Seton Hall Preparatory School, West Orange, commissioned six new Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist at the annual Thanksgiving Liturgy. Newly commissioned were, left to right, Reginald Rogan, Daniel Istok, Timothy Treffinger, Brian Boyle, Mark Tallmedge, and Peter Landi. The commission confers on the students, who received training under the direction of Father Kevin Murphy, Director of the Eucharistic Ministry program, to assist in distribution of Holy Communion at school and their local parishes. Offering congratulations to the students in the school's chapel are Msgr. Kelly (center, left) and Father Murphy.



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Guest accordionist Sal Torino recently entertained seniors at the Allendale Community for Mature Living during a Poland Day celebration at the retirement community. Among those enjoying the music were, left to right, Nell Mastropalo, Atrium aide Lucy Thezan and Hilda Rothman. Many Polish favorites were among the musical selections enjoyed by residents.

Principal celebrates 50 years of service

Assumption Academy, Emerson, recently helped Sister Ann Therese Trinidad celebrate her 50th jubilee as a Sister of St. Dominic of Blauvelt. Sister Ann was honored with a variety of presentations from clergy, teachers, parents and students. She was cited at the ceremony for her “dedicated, loving and caring service.”

The children made a special presentation which included several songs they sang in honor of Sister Ann.

Among those attending were Father Eugene J. Hazewski, Pastor of Church of the Assumption; Denise Kelly, President of the Assumption Home School Association; and Sister Ann’s brother.

Sister Ann was born in Ohio. When she was six her family moved to Sydney, Australia.

She returned to the United States in time to attend her junior year in high school and went on to New Rochelle College.

Sister Ann taught for a year



Helping Sister Ann celebrate a half century were, left to right, Karen Camporeale, Vice President of Assumption Home School Association; Denise Kelly, HSA President; Al Trinidad, Sister Ann’s brother, and Father Gene Hazewski, Pastor.

in a public school in the Bronx before entering the Sisters of St. Dominic in Blauvelt, New York.

As a sister she taught in the Bronx at Holy Spirit School and Our Savior School.

Sister Ann was principal for 15 years at Holy Rosary in Yonkers, New York.

In 1987 she became principal of Assumption Academy.

Sister has introduced many educational programs and firsts throughout the years.

Under her direction Assumption Academy became the first parochial school in the Archdiocese of Newark to be accredited by the Middle States Association. Assumption Academy was also the first school certified as a Homeland Security site for the tri-state area.

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Living wills are often misunderstood by Catholics

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In the case of Terri Schindler Schiavo, there is very little on which the Florida Catholic bishops and “right-to-die” attorney George J. Felos would agree.

But both have said the case of the brain-damaged Florida woman, who has been at the center of a major legal battle over whether she should remain on the feeding tube that keeps her alive, points to the need for every person—young and old, healthy or ill—to talk to relatives and health care providers about the kind of care he or she would want at the end of their lives.

“A clear message to all of us is the responsibility to convey to our families and loved ones our wishes for treatment at the end of our lives,” the bishops said in a recent statement.

Appearing on “Larry King Live” on CNN with Michael Schiavo, Terri’s husband and Felos’ client, the attorney made a similar call: “This case should be a message to everyone to write a living will, discuss what your wishes are. So for your family, the tragedy that has befallen the Schindler and Schiavo family doesn’t happen to yours.”

Among Catholics, there is a common perception that living wills are frowned upon or prohibited by the Church, said Father Michael Gutsell, Moderator of the Curia for the Archdiocese of Omaha, NE, and pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Fort Calhoun.

“That is not true,” he told *The Catholic Voice*, Omaha archdiocesan newspaper.

“There are two critical considerations. We are obliged ... to take those necessary steps to preserve life or to protect life. We are not obliged to take heroic steps ... [and] care and pain management may never be ceased.”

A living will addresses treatment options a person wants omitted or performed on his or her behalf. But because unexpected circumstances may arise that are not specifically addressed in the living will, Catholics can also designate someone to exercise durable power of attorney for health care decisions.

“The person holding the durable power of attorney for health knows you,” said Father Gutsell. “He or she has had a conversation with you and knows your moral position and understands the values that guide you.”

Pamela Imperato, coordinator of ethics services and ethics officer for Alegent Health in Omaha, said the durable power of attorney for health care is really an extension of another person’s voice.

The major ethical guidance offered by the Catholic Church on end-of-life decisions is contained in the *Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services*, updated in 2001 by the U.S. bishops.


“We have a duty to preserve our life and to use it for the glory of God, but the duty to preserve life is not absolute, for we may reject life-prolonging procedures that are insufficiently beneficial or excessively burdensome,” the directives state.

“The free and informed judgment made by a competent adult patient concerning the use or withdrawal of life-sustaining procedures should always be respected and normally complied with, unless it is contrary to Catholic moral teaching,” they add.

A number of state agencies and nonprofit organizations offer guidance on what information should be contained in a living will and durable power of attorney for health care.

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During their annual performance at the Allendale Community for Mature Living, the Dance 'Til You Drop Performing Arts Group impressed senior residents with their stamina and youthful energy. The Mahwah-based dance troupe presented highlights from the hit musical "Chicago." Resident Mildred Turpan, second from right, looks forward to the dance troupe's visit every year. As a child, she benefited from dancing lessons, and today she enjoys dancing at the retirement community's many social events. The dancers range in age from 12 to 15. In the second row, fifth and sixth from left are Alessandra Conti and Cristina Conti, troupe leaders and daughters of Joan Scerbo, the retirement community's Italian teacher.



As her husband Patrick looks on, Veronica Brunnock is presented flowers and a plaque by Archbishop John J. Myers, marking her retirement after 14 years as secretary in the Office of Retired Clergy. Offering congratulations are, far left and right, Father Edward G. Bradley, Director of the Ministry to Retired Priests, and Msgr. Edward Kavin, his predecessor.

Advocate photo - Ward Miele

Making the most of grandparenting

According to the American Association of Retired People (AARP), approximately 60 million Americans are grandparents. To help their children, many of these grandparents are taking on full or part-time child-rearing responsibilities. While this new responsibility can be great fun, taking care of grandchildren also can be physically draining—and may even become a health concern to grandparents who are not prepared.

See a doctor regularly—Seniors may want to get a phys-

ical from their doctor before taking on the responsibilities of caring for a child. Seeing a doctor regularly may help older adults keep up with their active grandchildren.

Start with a stretch—Caring for grandchildren can be a real workout. Approach it like any other form of exercise. Stretch to loosen muscles before starting and throughout the day.

Know your limits—While it is exciting to be a part of grandchildren's daily activities, it is important for seniors to listen to

their bodies and know their limits. If pain or soreness develops, grandparents should be careful not to overexert themselves.

Change your positions often—Whether reading a book, collecting leaves, or putting a scrapbook together, try not to stay in one position for too long. When joints are not moving they may become stiff and cause pain.

Pick up properly—When picking up a child—or a toy—always bend at the knees. Remember to lift a child with the knees, not the back.

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Four decades of faith and service worldwide

The Catholic Network of Volunteer Services (CNVS) celebrated its 40th anniversary at a national conference last month. The theme of the conference, held in Santa Monica, CA, was "A Tapestry of Faith, A Tapestry of Service."

Established in 1963, CNVS is a national association of faith-based volunteer programs that provides marketing, training, networking and technical assistance in order to help member programs accomplish their missions. The agency also offers opportunities for domestic and international volunteer service for men and women of all backgrounds and skills, commitments ranging from a week's time to several years.

The conference and anniversary celebration included keynote speakers, workshops and a banquet. Father George Mader and Patricia Mader Stalker, CNVS founders from the Archdiocese of Newark, were present, along with over 100 volunteer organizations.

CNVS began with the inclination of one woman to "do more" and one priest to organize efforts of anyone who wished the same.

When Father Mader, an assis-



Father George Mader and Patricia Mader Stalker, founders of the Catholic Network of Volunteer Services, said a few words at the organization's 40th anniversary banquet, during its national conference in California last month.

tant pastor at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Cedar Grove, helped his sister, Pat, choose a place to do mission work in the early 1960s, it was the beginning of the international organization that today coordinates thousands of volunteer opportunities in the U.S. and 100 other countries within 200 programs.

While Pat was ministering in a remote area of North Carolina to African-American communities in

Ku Klux Klan territory, Father Mader considered that very few people knew where his sister (and probably the other volunteers there) were—everything had been arranged independently.

This revelation evolved into the idea for a central office in the Archdiocese whose primary function would be to provide information and coordinate placements for lay people who wanted to do mission work.

Upon Pat's return after a year, she and Father Mader set about obtaining office space and funding, with the help of Archbishop Thomas Boland, Auxiliary Bishop John J. Dougherty and many others, and opened the Newark Liaison Foreign and Domestic Lay Apostolate. The pair researched every mission group they could get information on, advertised with posters and flyers, recruited for lay personnel and collaborated

with Extension Volunteers and the Papal Volunteers to Latin America (PAVLA) in Chicago.

Working at the agency (which was named the Catholic Network of Volunteer Services in 1993) as well maintaining his pastoral duties for some time, Father Mader was finally released to run CNVS full-time, along with his sister, who started to receive a modest salary after more than a year of volunteering her services full-time. He remained in the position for 14 years.

The Father George Mader Award was created in 1987 to honor organizations and individuals that encourage lay men and women to serve others in the United States and abroad. This year's recipient is John Geiger, Americorps training and technical assistance consultant, founder of Catholic Volunteers (Florida) and former CNVS board member, in recognition of his "outstanding leadership in promoting the value of lay volunteer and mission service." He was honored at a ceremony during the annual conference.

For more information on the Catholic Network of Volunteer Services visit www.cnvs.org.

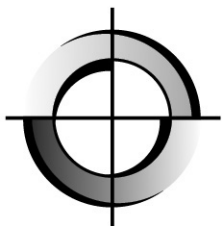
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HCA participants at Our Lady of Sorrows School, South Orange, are, front row, left to right: Jack Carson and Katherine Corwin. Second row, left to right: Devon Delphin, Jasmine Igwegbe, Timothy Corwin and Randy Doerr. Third row: Erica Atkinson, Matthew Corwin, Jonathan Kovacks, Moriah Bauman and Christopher Bertrand. (Missing from photo is Erin Froelich.) Principal Victoria Quinn is at far left, Sister Regina Bernard, S.C. and Sister Arline Zurich, O.S.B., are at far right.

'Helping children'

Sister Arline Zurich, O.S.B., is the mission coordinator for the Holy Childhood Association (HCA) for the Archdiocese of Newark, which keeps her busy visiting grammar schools and religious education programs and encouraging the children of the Archdiocese to participate in the HCA program of giving.

HCA is one of the Pontifical Mission Societies active in 120 countries throughout the world, with the "distinct focus of 'children helping children,'" says Sister Arline.

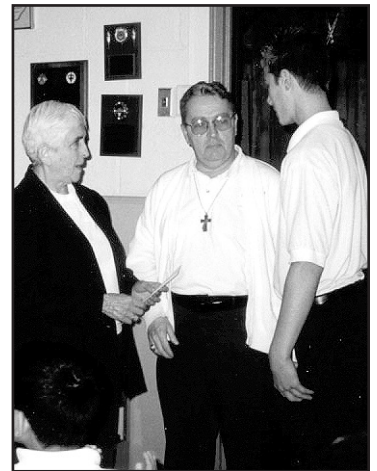
Recently she returned to Our Lady of Sorrows (OLS) School, South Orange, to recognize children who had raised "extraordinary amounts" of money over the summer to contribute to HCA.

Sister Regina Bernard, S.C., a long-time music and religion teacher at OLS, emphasized that the money represented true

Christian sacrifice on the part of the children. They performed chores, did odd jobs and held garage sales, earning the money, she noted.

Personally related to two martyred Catholic missionaries, Bishop Francis X. Ford, M.M., and Sister Ita Ford, M.M., Sister Regina said of her involvement with HCA, "I want to do this in memory of them, to carry on mission work in a different way."

Sister Arline added that children who are enrolled in the "It's Our World" program, sponsored by HCA, receive a membership card and newsletter three times a year.



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With Brother Brendon and Brother Christian are seventh graders, left to right, Michael Esposito, Chyna Pena, John Hederman and Paige Wilhelm.

Friars explain mission

Friars of the Renewal recently visited St. Rose of Lima School, Short Hills.

A special assembly was followed by classroom visits.

The friars entertained students with music and audience participation, singing and dancing.

In the classroom the friars spoke on a personal level about the vocation to the Religious life and their apostolic work.

In the evening, EWTN host Father Benedict Groeschel, one of the order's founders, spoke before an audience that filled the church. Father Groeschel was a personal friend of Mother Teresa and is a nationally known author and speaker.

The friars are part of a Religious community of priests and brothers who live in accordance with St. Francis of Assisi's

original idea of Religious life. They observe strict poverty and own nothing except two habits and a pair of sandals. The friars sleep on the floor. Their primary apostolate is service to the poor.

CCS launches new tradition

Catholic Community Services (CCS) staff and students enrolled in the agency's Food Services Training Program kicked off a new tradition this past Thanksgiving holiday.

It came in the form of 53 donated turkeys that were prepared using a special Cajun-style recipe and deep-fried at the agency's new institutional kitchen at 321 Central Ave., Newark.

The freshly cooked turkeys were delivered by CCS' plant services department to each of the agency's homeless shelters and residential.

The project is the brainchild of Phillip Frese, Ph.D., Executive Director of CCS.

"This project would not have been possible without the teamwork and positive spirit demonstrated by our staff and Food Services Training Program clients," said Dr. Frese. "We hope this will continue to be an ongoing tradition at CCS," he added.



The Polish Clergymen's Society held its annual Mass and meeting at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Irvington, last month. As is the Society's long-standing tradition, the liturgy was offered for deceased priests of the Archdiocese, especially those who have passed away this year. The main celebrant was special guest Msgr. Stefan Wylezek, Administrator of the John Paul II Foundation at the Vatican. During the ensuing meeting, Msgr. Wylezek thanked all those who have supported the Foundation, which was established by the pope in 1981. He was particularly grateful for the generous donation from the New Jersey chapter, the highest contributor of all the chapters, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the pontificate of the Holy Father.

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Diamond legends shine at St. Benedict's

BY MARLIN WAYNE

Special to The Catholic Advocate

Baseball superstars Hank Aaron, Reggie Jackson, Rafael Palmiero, Harold Reynolds and Cal Ripkin, Jr. hit a home run last month in Newark.

The legends of the game visited St. Benedict's Preparatory to address students on what influenced their success in life.

The players were the first presenters of the MBNA Speaker Series at the school, made possible by grants from MBNA chairman Charles Cawley, a graduate of St. Benedict's.

Aaron and Jackson spoke of the racial hostility they encountered and how they overcame it.

Aaron recalled that as he was

closing in on Babe Ruth's home run record, he was subjected to threats and hatred. Matters reached the point to where he had to have special security. "I hated it. I couldn't receive mail for a year and a half."

His inspiration during that troubled time, which included death threats, Aaron explained, was that "nothing could have made me stop; I felt I owed it to every black person in America.... And those who went before me, like Jackie Robinson." Aaron said he hoped to leave the students with a message that would help prepare them for life, because "when you get out there, it's a different story."



Photo: Marc Riley

Father Edwin D. Leahy, O.S.B., Headmaster of St. Benedict's Prep, with, left to right, Harold Reynolds, Cal Ripkin, Jr., Hank Aaron, Reggie Jackson and Rafael Palmiero. The players spoke about how to achieve success in life.

Palmiero, who came to the United States from Cuba at the age of five, spoke of watching Aaron on television. When he was eight, Palmiero explained, he had convinced himself he wanted to be a major league baseball player. He encouraged the students to "welcome every new venture in life" and not to "let anyone tell you that you can't do anything." He called dedication the key to success, adding, "In Cuba baseball is a way of life."

Baltimore Oriole great Ripkin said the most influential person in his life was his father, who was also in the major leagues.

Ripkin told of a time when he was in school and had "bully

trouble." Ripkin said he told his father, who asked him several questions about the bully's playing style. He told his father the boy had no real skills. His father told him, "Wait until the soccer ball is between the both of you and put your foot on it... He'll go flying over the ball." The next day he did just that and "sure enough the guy went flying."

The bully wanted to fight, so Ripkin did exactly what his father advised: "Put your head down and swing until somebody breaks it up." The moral of the story, Ripkin explained to the students, is not to condone violence, but be willing to show "there is a point when you must stand up for yourself

and take control of your own success."

Jackson, "Mr. October" during his days in pinstripes, spoke about morals and the important part they play in success.

He recalled a time when he was small and brought home a candy bar from the corner store. His father asked him where he had gotten it, and he said he had found the candy.

Realizing the situation, Jackson's father took him back to the store and told the owner. They insisted on calling the police and offered to be witnesses, fill in the paperwork and pick him up from jail a few days later. "That taught me a lesson," Jackson declared.

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All-American Candidate Andre Barrett

Success is highlight of season

The Caldwell College men's soccer team turned in an outstanding effort in the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC) post-season tournament, earning a bid to the championship game before losing to Goldey Beacom College, 3-0.

The Cougars began the post-season with an exciting 4-3 win over Felician College at Caldwell. In front of a spirited Caldwell crowd, the teams battled to a scoreless tie through regulation and two overtime sessions in a steady rain, setting up the exciting penalty kick phase, which is used to decide tournament games.

After Caldwell gained a 3-1 advantage in the penalty kick round, to goals by Bard Skjelstad, Miguel Walker and Jorge Ibarcena, Felician rallied back to tie the game at three. Chris Moynihan put Caldwell ahead 4-3 and goaltender E.J. Rooney wrapped it up for the Cougars with a tremendous save.

Two days later, Caldwell traveled to Teikyo Post University to play top seeded Nyack College in the CACC semi finals. Caldwell scored first and Nyack tied it early in the second half. The game went into a second overtime where Kevin Libbos converted the game winner on a header in the 107th minute, propelling Caldwell to the league championship game for the first time in 10 years.

"It seemed like it was in slow motion," Libbos said of his game-winning goal, which came off a direct kick by Michael Stempinksi. "I saw the opportunity, and once I hit (actually headed) it, I was pretty sure it was going in."

The goal climaxed a big week for Libbos, a sophomore who also earned first team, All-CACC honors. Caldwell's Walker was named to the CACC's second team.

The Cougars lost in the championship game to Goldey Beacom College, 3-0.

"The kids played hard," Caldwell coach Jamie Nash said. "I told them this was just the beginning. We have a lot to be proud of."

Walker, Moynihan and Bard Skjelstad were all named to the CACC All-Tournament team. All three players will return next season, along with a host of other talented players for Caldwell.



In the championship ranks for Hoboken Catholic Academy were, left to right, top row, Ariella Mastroianni, Kristalie Medina, Melba Mednia, Raquel Roder, Carsen Mata and Michael Massone, coach and principal. In the center row are Samantha Perkins, Alexis Zamboagna, and Monica Dempsey, and in the bottom row, Raven Wise and Marilyn Baer.

Two volleyball titles captured

It was a volleyball season to remember at Hoboken Catholic Academy.

The Lady Cardinals ended a magical season with two championships—the Hudson County CYO crown and Union County title.

They opened the playoff round with a three game sweep of Links School, Newark. That was followed with victory in the finals over St. John's by tallies of 25-10, 25-9, 25-4. Those wins boosted the Academy record to a lofty and impressive 11-0.

Outside hitters Raquel Rodner and Monica Dempsey led the attack. Setters Carsen Mata and Kristalie Medina anchored the offense.

The following day the Cardinals took on the Union County champs. The seasoned Cards wore down a determined St. Mary's 21-16, 21-8 and 21-8 for the second title. Leading the way for Hoboken Catholic Academy were Marilyn Baer, Melba Medina, Alexis Zamboagna, Samantha Perkins and Raven Wise.

Felician Falcons fly high

The fall sports season at Felician College, Lodi, saw the Golden Falcons capture a number of post-season honors.

The men's and women's cross-country teams ran in the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC) championship meet in Philadelphia. In a very close men's race, the Golden Falcons finished an impressive second to champion Goldey-Beacom College, Wilmington, DE, by a mere four points.

The men's soccer team finished the season in fifth place overall and earned the right to meet Caldwell College, in the first round of the CACC Men's Soccer Tournament.

The Golden Falcons lost the shootout to Caldwell by a score of 4-3.

The women's soccer team was seeded third in the CACC Women's Soccer Tournament and earned the right to host sixth seeded Dominican College tour.

The game was scoreless until the second minute of the second overtime period when freshman forward Cortney Gavin took a pass from senior midfielder Dana Giaimo and placed the ball in the back of the net to give Felician a 1-0 double overtime

victory. The Lady Golden Falcons were back in action just two days later against the Lighting of Goldey-Beacom College in the semi-final round of the tournament. The game saw four goals scored in the first 26 minutes of the match culminating with Golden Falcons freshman midfielder Jennifer Ramos of Belleville scoring with just over two minutes remaining in the match to give Felician a 5-4 victory.

The final of the tournament pitted Felician against top-seed Holy Family University, Philadelphia, PA. The Golden Falcons received a goal from senior forward Cassie Carpenter ten minutes into the match giving them a 1-0 lead. The Tigers of Holy Family stormed back with three unanswered goals in a 13-minute span giving them a 3-1 halftime lead.

Carpenter once again rallied for the Golden Falcons with 28 minutes remaining to cut the deficit to 3-2. It was not to be for Felician, as senior forward Michelle Jones scored for Holy Family with just under thirteen minutes remaining in the game as the Tigers held on to a 4-2 victory.

SH Prep lacrosse coach is bound for Hall of Fame

Seton Hall Preparatory lacrosse coach Andrew DeCicco, has been selected for induction to the New Jersey Lacrosse Foundation Hall of Fame.

The Garden State chapter is the largest in the U.S. Lacrosse Foundation, which has some 9,800 members.

DeCicco played for Rutgers University, where he was a second team All-America selection with the Scarlet Knights. He served as team captain in his senior season, helping the squad to a No. 3 national ranking and a trip to the NCAA Final 8 in 1990. During his four-year career, the Scarlet Knights went 36-22.

After graduation, Coach DeCicco was a 1991 first-round draft pick of the Philadelphia Wings professional team. He played with the Wings and later the New York Saints from 1991-1994. He also began competing with the New Jersey Toyota team in 1991, and continues to play with the squad.

DeCicco has served as an assistant coach at Drew University, Rutgers University,



ANDREW DECICCO

Sacred Heart College and Lafayette University (1997-2002). Now a teacher in the Physical Education Department at Seton Hall Prep, DeCicco also serves as head coach of the lacrosse program.

In his first year, he returned the Pirate team to the state playoffs. In addition, he coached in the 2003 North-South All-Star game as well as the 2003 Garden State Games.

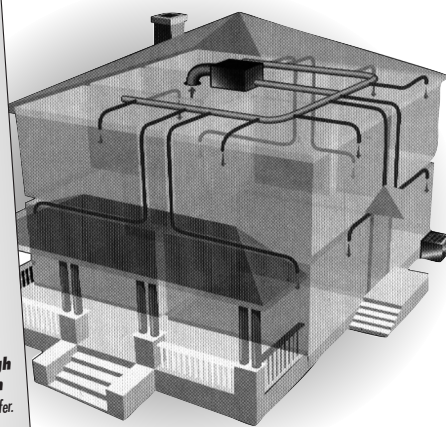
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Advocate photo-Ward Miele

Responding to Archbishop John J. Myers' call to teach the Catechism, Catholic Cemeteries recently presented 40,000 Holy Rosary brochures to the Schools Office of the Archdiocese of Newark. The brochures will be used as a resource material in the schools and CCD programs. On hand for the presentation were, left to right, Celine Kerwin, Principal of St. Catherine of Siena School, Cedar Grove; Sister Patricia Butler, Associate Superintendent of Elementary School Administration; Robert Sladowski, Assistant Sales Manager, Catholic Cemeteries; Andrew P. Schafer, Executive Director, Catholic Cemeteries; Brother Ralph Damento, F.S.C, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, and Philip Meehan, Principal of St. Cassian's School, Upper Montclair.

Consecrated life to be celebrated

Archbishop John J. Myers will officiate at a candlelight prayer service at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, on Monday, Feb. 2 at 7 p.m. in honor of the 2004 World Day for Consecrated Life.

"They Left Everything and Followed Jesus" is the theme this year.

The annual celebration, initiated by Pope John Paul II in 1997, is an opportunity for the Catholic Church to educate parishioners about people who serve God in countless and sometimes unexpected ways while maintaining their commitment to a consecrated life.

Postcards launching the commemoration have been sent to parishes nationwide, encouraging them to begin planning for this special event.

Materials to facilitate celebra-

tions are available at www.consecratedlife.org. Information is offered in English and Spanish and includes suggestions for parishes and youth coordinators, frequently asked questions, a downloadable, printable brochure, photos and other information.

The event is sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Consecrated Life, the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and the U.S. Conference of Secular Institutes.

For further information contact Sister Mary Ann Walsh, Deputy Director of Media Relations, USCCB, (202) 541-3200 or email: mwalsh@usccb.org.

Parish puts Christmas thoughts on paper in new book

BY BRIAN FORES
Staff Reporter

For parishioners and volunteers at St. Anne Parish, Fair Lawn, preparation for Christmas began nearly a year ago. Hundreds of hours of writing, editing and organizing have been devoted to *Embraced by Christmas: Memories and Treasures*. The hardbound, illustrated volume features roughly 129 Christmas vignettes written by parishioners of all ages.

The stories tell of Christmas memories filled with joy, pain and growth: a woman recalls a

miscarriage just before Christmas and how it brought her family together; another reminisces about how her parents hand made gifts for her during a particularly tough Depression-era Christmas; a baby-girl with cancer comes home from the hospital for Christmas Eve, and a little boy gives his presents away to a friend in need.

Father Ronald Pecci, Pastor of St. Anne's, came up with the idea last December after receiving a story from parishioner Grace Seitzer. Seitzer often reads poetry to Alzheimer patients at the

Christian Healthcare Unit, Wyckoff, where her husband is a patient.

In her story, Grace tells of the patients' Christmas pageant—how they gleefully sang Christmas carols, listened to Scripture readings and arranged figurines in a manger. "The sense of reverence with which each of these dementia victims—several of them quite feeble—conducted themselves in this simple activity was truly awesome... It made my Christmas," she wrote.

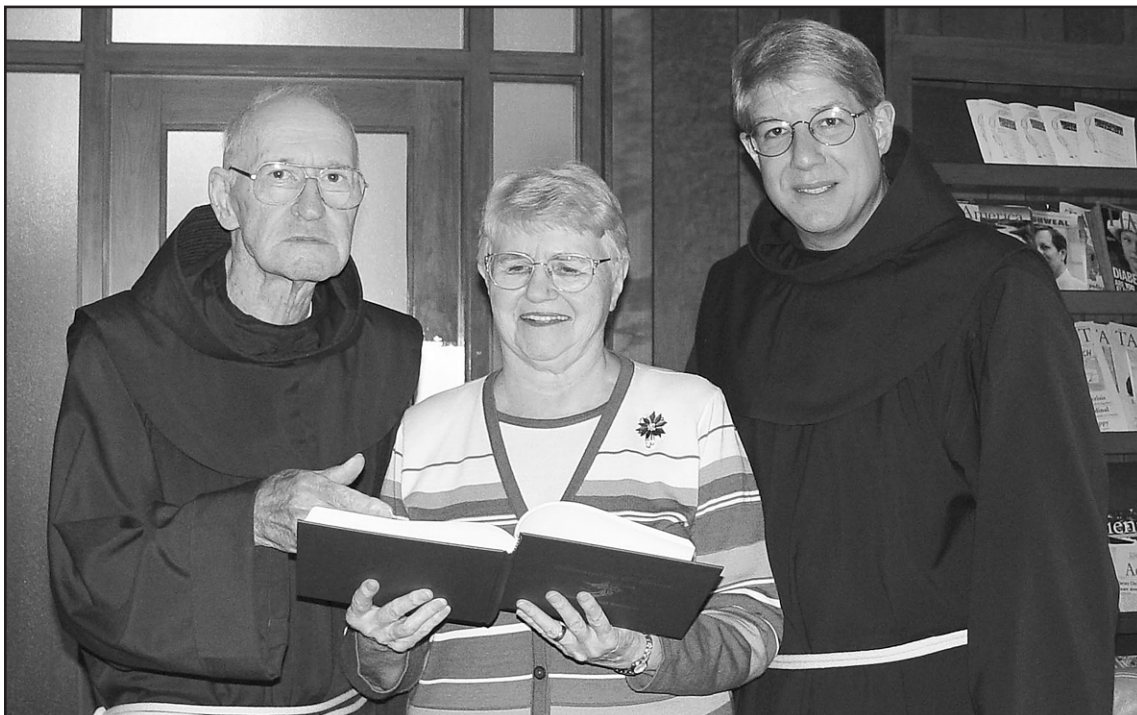
"Reading her story reminded me of my own stories," Father Pecci said. "I bet

everyone has these great stories," I thought. I asked Grace, who's a former English teacher, if she thought we could collect enough stories to make a book. She said yes, and we were on our way," Father Pecci recalled.

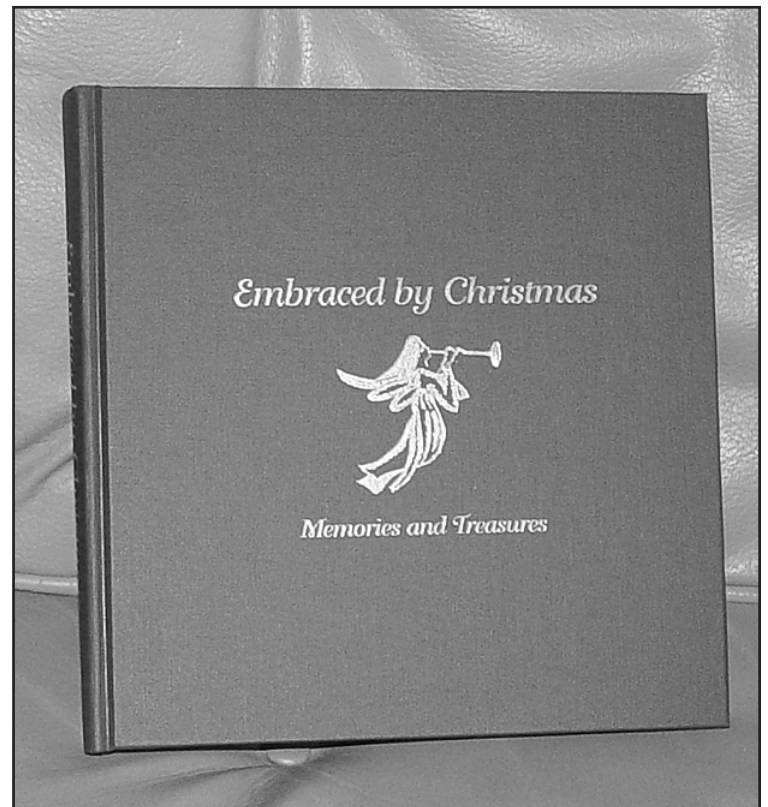
After making requests for volunteers after Mass, Father Pecci assembled several parishioners and formed a committee. Among them was Cathy Pagano, who had worked as an editor of a weekly newspaper. Her husband, Tom, did all the illustrations for the book. "This has been a labor of love," Pagano said.

"We really wanted this to be a keepsake that people can take out every year during the Christmas season. The book itself is quite beautiful, but it's what is on the inside that is just so powerful. What it brings to the fore is exactly how important family is during the Christmas season," she added.

"This book has every person's story," Father Pecci said. "Everyone has those moments of grace. These stories are here to evoke your story, to tell you about the mystery of God in your life, to provoke awareness of the presence of God working around you."



Work on the book began a year ago. Left to right, Father Evan Banks, O.F.M., who has a story in the book; Grace Seitzer, and Father Ron Pecci, O.F.M.





Advocate photo-Ward Miele

Clergy from the Archdiocese of Newark and the Diocese of Paterson filled the Archdiocesan Center, Newark, last month for general instruction training on the new Roman Missal. Among those attending was Father Michael Andreano, a parochial vicar at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Ridgewood. The afternoon session drew some 300 clergy and an evening session saw some 150 attend. Instruction has also been given at separate sessions to parish staff and deacons.

National Immigration Week Mass for Jan. 10 at Cathedral Basilica

The Refugee Resettlement and Immigration Assistance Program of Catholic Community Services (CCS) will celebrate National Migration Week 2004 with a Mass on Saturday, Jan. 10 at 10 a.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark. Archbishop John J. Myers will be the main celebrant. “Together on the Journey” is the theme for National Migration Week 2004, drawn from a recent pastoral letter issued jointly by the Catholic bishops of Mexico and the United States. The letter

specifically addresses the circumstances of migration within the Americas, underlying reflections on Scripture, and the principles of Catholic social teaching and their direct relevancy to the global issues of border security, refugee resettlement and economic migration that have an impact on all people. For more information call Meaghan Tuohey-Kay, Esq., Managing Attorney, Refugee Resettlement and Immigration Assistance Programs at 973-733-3516.

Coverage ethics

Continued from page 3

spondent as a virtual “agent for the American government” during the combat operations.

Reflecting the other side of the issue, Colonel Rutter highlighted “acts of uncommon valor” that he witnessed and noted that the two reporters who were embedded with his unit saw “first-hand, the horrors of war.” Collaboration between reporters and military ended after the major combat ceased, then “reporters showed up when something bad happened.”

Windrem emphasized the differences between “Gulf War I” and current efforts by news agencies to maintain editorial independence, as well as the enhanced live capability from the battlefield seen in the current conflict. He suggested that a similar “embed program” would not happen again in future wars, for example, in Syria or Korea.

The audience of over 200 included university students and faculty, administration and staff, townspeople and press. Questions from the audience were fielded by Moody and the panelists, which provoked some of the sharpest moments during the debate.

Biases in American and foreign (especially British) war coverage were noted by audience members, but panelists noted that the reporting was not “monolithic,” citing the multitude of news outlets as providing balance and variety in coverage.

Were “oil issues” or “imperialism” causes for the war? one questioner asked. What was the reception of U.S. troops by Iraqis? another queried. Secrecy versus openness was another topic discussed: for example, were reports monitored or censored before being broadcast?

Although there were political and tactical disagreements among the panelists, all were

concerned about lessons learned in this most recent conflict and the need always for journalists to police themselves regarding ethical issues.

The panel presentation was hosted by the Honors Program of Seton Hall University as one of the Voices of Our Time lecture series and was free of charge and open to the public, as well as to the university community.

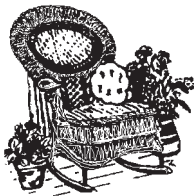
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Holy Christmas
and peaceful 2004*



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POR EL ARZOBISPO JOHN J. MYERS

Mientras ustedes leían en el último número del Catholic Advocate mis comentarios sobre la reunión de la Conferencia de los Obispos Norteamericanos que se celebró el mes anterior, yo estaba leyendo las muy agradables noticias de los auditores de la Conferencia con relación a la auditoría de los esfuerzos de la Arquidiócesis de Newark para implementar las disposiciones del Documento para la Protección de los Niños y los Jóvenes.

Yo me complazco en informarles que los auditores han determinado, basados en la cuidadosa revisión que hicieron de nuestros procedimientos, y de nuestros esfuerzos para su implementación, que nosotros estamos trabajando efectivamente para crear y mantener un ambiente de seguridad para los niños y los jóvenes en nuestra Arquidiócesis. Igualmente, los auditores revisaron nuestros procedimientos para la investigación de las reclamaciones por abusos sexuales de menores tal como lo dispone el Documento básico, y también los encontraron satisfactorios.

Una parte importante del éxito de nuestra auditoría fue el reconocimiento por los auditores de que miles de ustedes en la Arquidiócesis –tanto empleados como voluntarios– están asistiendo a los talleres de trabajo “Protegiendo a los Niños de Dios”, cumpliendo con el chequeo de antecedentes personales, y demostrando el compromiso de toda la gente de la Iglesia de Newark para cumplir con las disposiciones del Documento básico y con los requerimientos de las leyes del Estado de New Jersey.

En estos días, el número de empleados y voluntarios que están asistiendo a sesiones de entrenamiento continúa aumentando aun más allá de lo que yo había reportado en mi última columna, pues quienes asistieron al entrenamiento inicial están ahora organizando talleres de trabajo en sus respectivas parroquias y escuelas para entrenar a más personas. Y tan importante e igualmente alentador, es el saber que en esta temprana etapa de nuestros esfuerzos para implementar el chequeo de sus

antecedentes personales, más de 5,000 empleados y voluntarios han cumplido ese procedimiento y ni uno solo ha sido limitado o restringido en el servicio a nuestros niños y jóvenes. Como he dicho desde el principio, yo no creo que nuestros esfuerzos van a resultar en el descubrimiento de ninguna persona agresiva o abusadora, pero sí creo que son una demostración efectiva para que cualquier persona que pudiera ser un abusador en potencia se convenza de que estamos vigilantes y comprometidos a mantener la seguridad de nuestros niños.

La forma y la rapidez con que se implementaron las sesiones de entrenamiento y la distribución de información relativa al programa de “ambiente seguro” resultaron en muchas inconveniencias y ten-

sión para muchos de ustedes. Pero como saben quienes asistieron a las grandes sesiones del programa “Protegiendo a los Niños de Dios” en Octubre, los auditores habían rechazado nuestra idea original para desarrollar el programa poco a poco a los niveles de las parroquias y las escuelas. No tuvimos otra alternativa que aceptar los plazos de corto tiempo que nos habían impuesto.

Pero a pesar de todo ustedes respondieron a nuestra urgente apelación graciosa y entusiásticamente.

Yo les estoy muy agradecido a ustedes por ayudar a nuestra Arquidiócesis a cumplir esta crítica obligación y por vuestra firme intención de que esta gran Arquidiócesis sea líder en los esfuerzos de la Iglesia Católica para restablecer la confianza pública en ella..

La paz interior es la señal de un verdadero Cristiano

POR EL MONSEÑOR JOHN GILCHRIST

El significado de la palabra Adviento es “llegar”. Pero para la Iglesia es la de la “venida”, el período de tiempo litúrgico antes de la Navidad.

De cualquier manera, todos sabemos lo que significa esperar, es estar con la expectación de lo que va a venir.

Cuando niños anhelamos los cumpleaños o los días de fiesta o la llegada del fin del año escolar. Los atletas se entrenan y esperan ansiosamente hasta que entran en el campo de juego para comenzar a jugar.

Nosotros en el viejo Seminario de la Inmaculada Concepción en Darlington sabíamos lo que era esperar. En realidad, el seminario tenía mucho en común con el monasterio, o con una prisión estatal o federal.

Teníamos tiempo fijo o programado. Sabíamos, por ejemplo, en el 1951 con exactitud lo que íbamos a hacer en el 1956 y exactamente a la hora que se haría. Usábamos un “uniforme,”—o sotana. Podíamos predecir lo que se iba a comer. Vivíamos a toque de campana. No en balde algunos de los muchachos le llamaban a Darlington “la roca”.

La diferencia era que estábamos allí voluntaria-

mente mientras que los muchachos en la prisión estatal de Trenton no podían escoger. Estaban buscando ser puestos en libertad.

Pero de cualquier forma, teníamos que cumplir estando allí un tiempo. Iba pasando, pero a veces parecía que estábamos allí para siempre.

Todas las personas saben lo que es esperar. Todos estamos conscientes del tiempo. Una persona esperando para ser operada del corazón vive minuto a minuto. No tienes que decirle a un condenado a muerte que día es.

Así que para todos nosotros, la vida es una serie de épocas, algunas veces miramos al futuro con alegría, otras veces esperamos con miedo. El gran balance entre los dos es fe.

Jesús dijo: “Mi paz os dejo. Mi paz os doy.”

He mencionado seminario y monasterio. Una vez pasé un tiempo en un monasterio Benedictino. Había un sacerdote allí que me permitió que lo acompañara mientras él llevaba a cabo su rutina diaria de trabajo y oración. Un sentido de tranquilidad emanaba de él.

Al final del día estábamos parados en el granero. Un caballo grande y dócil que había estado halando un carretón lleno de heno estaba parado al lado del monje. Ya se había terminado el día de trabajo. Miré al precioso animal. Miré al silencioso monje. Cada uno irradiaba a Dios. Estaban en el aquí y ahora.

Yo me movía hacia una vida ocupada, hacia el futuro. Yo los envidiaba porque el tiempo no era de importancia a ninguno de los dos. Estaban en paz. En el monasterio era como si el tiempo se hubiera parado. Sí, había días y estaciones. Pero un monje era capaz de estar presente a cada momento.

Si tú alguna vez has encontrado a una persona verdaderamente santa, tú también vas a sentir ese gran atributo que te va a impresionar inmediatamente. Es un sentimiento interno de absoluta paz y tranquilidad que parece rodear a esa persona.

Algunos lo llaman la presencia del Espíritu Santo. Otros lo pueden llamar “vivir en la presencia de Dios”. La persona santa vive para el momento—cada momento es un momento lleno de Dios.

No importa como lo llamemos, la paz interna es la señal de un verdadero cristiano. Cuando San Pablo dijo: “No dejes que tu corazón te angustie”, él le estaba hablando a todos los cristianos. No te preocupes del mañana. Dios está cerca. Necesitamos aprender a estar suficientemente tranquilos internamente para sentir Su presencia. Por eso, para nosotros, el tiempo es irrelevante.

Por lo menos, esto es un ideal al que todos podemos aspirar.

El Monseñor Gilchrist es el párroco de la Iglesia “Holy cross” en Harrison, NJ.

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12-17-03

Nuns’ garb, philosophy, Holy Rosary are topics



BY LIESL FORES
Staff Reporter

The Habit
A History of the Clothing of Catholic Nuns
Elizabeth Kuhns
(Doubleday, 228 pages, \$23.95)
ISBN 0-385-50588-4

Elizabeth Kuhns delves into the controversial history of attire worn throughout the centuries by women Religious. Based on ascetic ideals, religious symbolism, ritual and a deliberate effort to set apart members as persons who had “consecrated their lives to God,” the evolving design of the habit also took into consideration practical issues, such as the type of work a community of sisters was carrying out and the population it was serving, in certain cases the women opting for “peasant garb” in order to identify more with those they were ministering to.

Habits were also modeled after a foundress’ dress, for example, that of the American Sisters of Charity, who donned the “widow’s weeds” worn by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.


Changes and concerns
By the 1950s and 60s, concern arose that an elaborate or austere habit hindered the sisters who wore it, depicting them as obsolete and displacing them from the very society—inevitably modern—that they were serving. Also, issues of sexism and suppression of individualism as well as other social and political matters surfaced with the question of what was appropriate clothing for women Religious.

When the Second Vatican Council called for a modified habit, certain Religious communities rejected the idea while others, particularly American ones, made speedy transformations. Some began to disregard the habit altogether. Gradual change toward more practical and secular apparel was the more common result.

Kuhns concludes with a discussion of current views on the topic, including the opinions of Pope John Paul II as well as philosophies of women Religious of conservative and progressive schools of thought.

The author does a fine job of interweaving the importance of the symbolism of the habit with the changing roles and min-

istries of women Religious and their place in the Church as well as larger society. An original, informative and engaging work, *The Habit* at times reads like a sociological study and includes 23 pages of photos that portray the many styles worn throughout the years.

 **Book Briefs**
BY GREG TOBIN
Editor & Associate Publisher

Reflections on Death, Dying and Bereavement
A Manual for Clergy, Clergy Counselors and Speakers
William A. Smith
(Baywood Publishing Co., 112 pages)
ISBN 0-89503-270-8

While acknowledging that “belief in a life after death, be it from religious faith or logical deduction, has been a source of consolation to the dying and the bereaved since the early days of Christianity” and longer, Dr. William A. Smith focuses in this comprehensive manual on what we can learn from believers and non-believers about this age-old concern.

The book is rife with useful and inspirational quotations from Scripture, St. Thomas Aquinas, Elizabeth Kübler-Ross, Epictetus and St. Augustine, as well as literary figures such as D.H. Lawrence, Leo Tolstoy and John Donne. From the latter, who as an Anglican priest and Dean of St. Paul’s Church, London, Smith presents one of the most well-known poems in the English language, which reads, in part:

“Death, be not proud, though some have called thee/ Mighty and dreadful, for thou are not so;/ For those whom you think’st thou dost overthrow/ Die not, poor Death; nor yet canst thou kill me.”

The Joy of Praying the Rosary
James M.McNamara
(Catholic Book Publishing Co., 96 pages, \$5.95 paperback)
ISBN 1-878718-8

Msgr. James McNamara, Pastor of Holy Cross Parish, Nesconset, Diocese of Rockville Centre, NY, has written a lively series of reflections on the Holy Rosary.

What more can be said on this subject, that has been exhaustively covered over the previous year, the Year of the Rosary, and the previous centuries? Well, a sincere heart and informed intellect can, as Msgr. McNamara does, bring a fresh, personal perspective to this evergreen subject.

Frankly, perhaps like many Catholics, I need continual reeducation and reacquaintance with the Rosary and the mysteries that are an integral part of this prayer experience. And, given the newness of Pope John Paul II’s offer to the Church of a new set of mysteries, the Mysteries of Light, it behooves us to read more and reflect more on this gift from the Holy Father.

Prayer and meditation go hand in hand, along with reception of the sacraments and adoration of the Holy Eucharist. So, let’s be about it. Thank you, Msgr. McNamara.



Architectural treasures of Vatican go on display

Art, faith, history and genius come together in “Creating St. Peter’s — Architectural Treasures of the Vatican,” a new exhibit at the Knights of Columbus Museum in New Haven, CT.

The centerpiece of the exhibition, Michelangelo’s hand-crafted 1560 study model for the dome of St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome, unites the show’s powerful themes. The 16-foot model provides a rare glimpse at the process and people behind one of the masterpieces of Renaissance architecture.

The model is among more than 100 artifacts—most rarely, if ever, seen by the public—that tell a rich and captivating story.

“A miracle of engineering and artistry, the dome of St. Peter’s has dominated the skyline of The Eternal City for more than four and a half centuries,” noted the Museum’s president Carl A. Anderson, the Supreme Knight. “It has been a beacon of devotion and symbol of human achievement to people of all faiths. ‘Creating St. Peter’s’ celebrates the individuals and the inspiration that gave the world this treasure—and brings the story of St. Peter’s up to the present day.

“We are honored to be able to premiere this magnificent show,” Anderson added. “Each of these remarkable works of art and architecture must be seen to be appreciated. They document the 175 years of design and construction of St. Peter’s, the largest and most magnificent church in Christendom.”

Many of the architectural treasures in the show have

recently undergone restoration in Rome. The specially arranged collection is the first time all of the pieces will be shown. Because of its great age and fragile wood construction, this New Haven showing of Michelangelo’s splendid dome is the only location where it will be shown in the United States. Its frail condition precludes it from ever returning to our country.

Less than three years old, the state-of-the-art museum is known for the high quality of its unique and diverse shows. The museum has recently completed structural modifications to accommodate many of the larger architectural pieces. “Creating St. Peter’s” will remain in New Haven for nine months, enabling teachers to plan class field trips to see the great and historic art treasures throughout the school year.

“Because we expect to attract record crowds, we are revising our entire exhibit schedule to accommodate this large and important show,” noted Larry Sowinski, the museum’s director. “The exhibition contains many unique works, such as study models, sculptures, paintings, drawings and tools that were used to build St. Peter’s.”

Easily accessible, the Knights of Columbus Museum is located at the head of State Street opposite the Coliseum in downtown New Haven.

Courtesy of the Knights, admission and parking in the museum garage are free as a public service. For additional details and schedules call (203) 865-0400.

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The Sunday Morning Mass
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12:30 a.m.(Mon.) - WOR 710 AM

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NOVENAS

PRAYER TO ST. RITA

O powerful Saint Rita, rightly called Saint of the Impossible, I come to you with confidence in my great need. You know well my trails, for you yourself were many times burdened in this life. Come to my help, speak for me, pray with me, intercede on my behalf before the father. I know that God has a most generous heart and that he is a most loving Father. Join your prayers to mine and obtain for me the grace I desire (here mention your request). You who were so very pleasing to God on earth and are so much so now in heaven, I promise to use this favor, when granted, to better my life, proclaim God's mercy, and to make you more widely known and loved. Amen.

Thanks

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit, You who solve all problems, who light all roads so that I can attain my goals. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me, and that in all instances of my life, You are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things and to confirm once again, that I never want to be separated from You, even and in spite of all material illusion. I wish to be with You in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. Amen. Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. Published in gratitude of grace attained and for many requests granted.

F.S.

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me that you are my mother. O Holy Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to secure me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 times). I place this cause in your hands (3 times). Amen. Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. Novena is published in gratitude. Thank you.

M.F.

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me that you are my mother. O Holy Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to secure me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 times). I place this cause in your hands (3 times). Amen. Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. Novena is published in gratitude. Thank you.

L.G.

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me that you are my mother. O Holy Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to secure me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 times). I place this cause in your hands (3 times). Amen. Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. Novena is published in gratitude. Thank you.

S.M.J.

NOVENA TO ST. JUDE

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude helper of the hopeless, pray for us. Amen. Say this prayer nine times a day for nine days. Published in gratitude. Thank you St. Jude.

M.F.

John prepares the way for Jesus' coming

BY JOE SARNICOLA
CNS Reporter

When Pontius Pilate was the governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, a man named John, son of Zechariah and Elizabeth, was in the desert. The Word of God spoke to John there. After that, John returned to the cities and towns along the Jordan River and preached to the people.

It seemed that the words of Isaiah the prophet had come true, for now there was “a voice of one crying out in the desert: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths.’”

John was not gentle with his words. He knew his message was too important. When people came to be baptized by him, he would say, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee the coming wrath? Produce good fruits as evidence of your repentance. Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

Even brave, strong men would tremble at the conviction of John’s words. He spoke with a courage and a faith that could not be ignored. People would ask, “What should we do?”

With a warning of His wrath, God often would give a message of hope. John pointed one hand to a man who was wearing fine robes, and the other hand to a man in tattered garments. “Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none.” The rich man immediately gave his outer robe to the poor man. Then John added, “Whoever has food should do likewise.”

When one of the tax collectors, a man who was not well liked by the people because of his profession, asked, “What should we do?” John replied, “Stop collecting more than what is prescribed.” Many people cheered when they heard John’s answer. The tax collector pulled what coins he had in his pockets and began to throw them to the people who were watching. He was very eager to



do what John had asked of him.

Then John addressed everyone present. “Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages. I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

READ MORE ABOUT IT [Luke 3](#)

Q&A

1. How did the prophet Isaiah describe John?
2. What did John tell the rich man to do?

BIBLE ACCENT:

As Catholics, we believe that there is one God who has revealed Himself to us as three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We call the union of the three persons of God the Holy Trinity.

God is all-knowing and everywhere present. The Bible tells us God created the heavens and the earth. The Son of God is Jesus, who came to redeem us from our sins.

The miracle of Jesus becoming like us is called the Incarnation. The most important lesson He taught was that God loves us, and we should love one another. Jesus died and was raised after three days. The day on which we celebrate His resurrection is the holiest of all Church days, Easter.

Jesus promised He would send the Holy Spirit to help the early Christians. The first demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit is told in the Bible’s Acts of the Apostles. We celebrate this coming of the Holy Spirit, who is still with us today, on Pentecost.

SPOTLIGHT ON SAINTS:

St. Francis Anthony

St. Francis Anthony was born in 1681 to a family of farm laborers. He grew up at Lucera, in Apulia, now part of Italy. He became a Franciscan priest in 1705. He was known for his service and kindness to the poor, especially prisoners. He was also known for preaching so that anyone could understand his message. He began a custom of making a novena of the Immaculate Conception. The novena, which people still do today, consists of nine days of prayers starting Nov. 29 and leading up to the Feast of the Immaculate Conception Dec. 8. St. Francis Anthony died Nov. 29, the first day of this novena, in 1742.

PUZZLE:

Answer the questions below based on Luke’s account of the Christmas story:

1. _____ was king when Jesus was born.

2. _____ was the wife of Zechariah.

3. _____ was the name of the angel.

4. _____ was the city where Joseph lived.

5. _____ was the name given to Mary’s baby.

6. _____ was the name given to Elizabeth’s baby.

7. _____ was the handmaid of the Lord.

a. Mary

b. Gabriel

c. Jesus

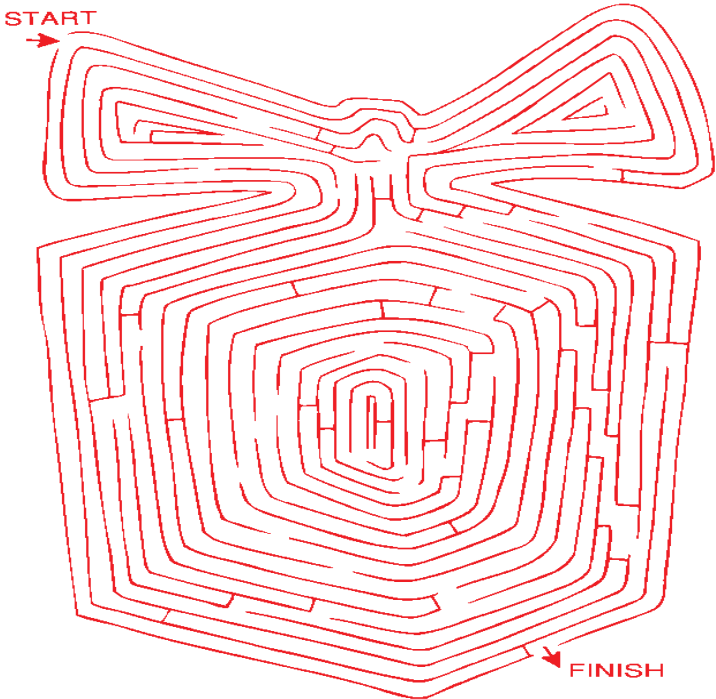
d. Elizabeth

e. John

f. Nazareth

g. Herod

Answers: 1. g. 2. d. 3. b. 4. f. 5. c. 6. e. 7. a.





Archbishop John J. Myers celebrated Mass and shared a luncheon with faculty, administration, staff and seminarians on Dec. 8, the memorial of the patroness of Immaculate Conception Seminary, on the campus of Seton Hall University, South Orange. In his homily the Archbishop preached on the sinlessness of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the history of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, promulgated by Pope Pius IX in 1854.

Bergen Catholic 9/11 victims memorialized

Michael Maron will never forget the day as long as he lives. The Oradell resident, who at the time was beginning his sophomore year at Bergen Catholic High School in Oradell, had heard a rumor on Sept. 11, 2001 that an airliner had struck the World Trade Center.

"I didn't believe it at the time," he remembers. He got the shock of his young life moments later, however, when a television in his classroom was turned on to reveal that the Twin Towers had been attacked by not one, but two hijacked airliners. Mike and his equally stunned classmates watched in shock and horror as the towers eventually imploded and collapsed, sending up a cloud of debris and thick smoke that enveloped the entire southern section of Manhattan.

At the time, he was looking for an idea for a community service project that he had to develop as a requirement of advancing from a Life Scout to an Eagle Scout in Troop 36 of Oradell. He had thought about doing something special for Oradell.

"Then, I found out that eight Bergen Catholic alumni had perished in the world Trade Center tragedy, so I thought it would be more appropriate to do something for the school," remembers the current senior student.

He did not have to look far for further inspiration.

"Since I was very young, I heard my father, uncles and neighbors, all of whom were alumni of the school, often speak about Bergen Catholic, and I could always tell that it had a strong impact on their lives,"

Maron remarked during the recent dedication ceremony at the school. "In my time here, I've come to realize that Bergen is more than just academics and athletics. It's about relationships, leadership and commitment to values in our lives. While I never met or knew the eight alumni lost in this tragedy, I could still feel a relationship and a great loss of my brothers."

Working together with the Alumni Association and Development Office at the school, Maron was able to raise an incredible total of \$18,000 within a short period of time.

The monument, and the patio and garden that surround it, honors the memory of the following Bergen Catholic alumni for perished in the World Trade Center disaster: Martin P. Wohlforth '72, Steven F. Schlag '78, Domenick N. Mircovich '79, John P. Bocchi '81, James "Andy" O'Grady '87, Christopher J. Vialonga '89, Robert A. Zampieri '89, and Marc A. Murolo '91.

The dedication ceremony was recently held at the school and was attended by the families of the honorees, members of the school's administration and board of Trustees, Troop 36, and several alumni, including Bergen County Executive Dennis McNerney.

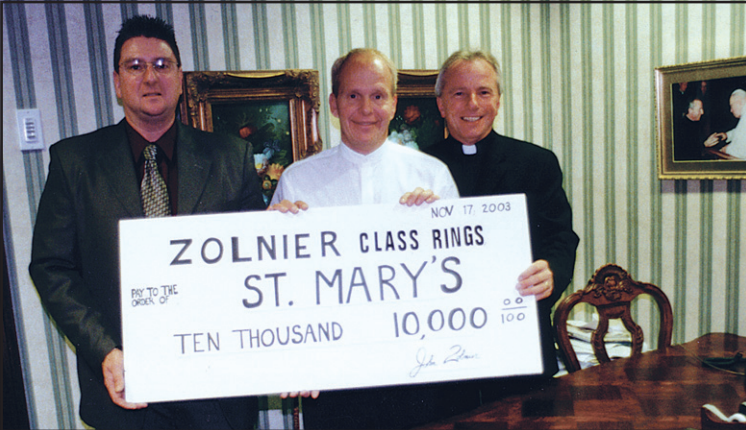
Brother Lawrence T. Murphy, President of Bergen Catholic, commended Maron on continuing the B.C. tradition of outstanding senior leadership, and was quick to note the significance of the location of the monument—between the American flag and the large cross that adorns the entrance to the school.

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We wish you a blessed Advent,
a joyous Christmas,
and a happy
and prosperous
New Year 2004.*

*Thank you for your
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"Blessed are you who believed that what is spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."
— Luke 1:45



John Zolnier, left, President of Zolnier Class Rings, Union City, presents a \$10,000 check to Robert Berckes, Principal of St. Mary's High School, Rutherford, and Father Michael Kreder, Pastor of St. Michael Parish. The funds are earmarked for the St. Mary's scholarship and development fund.



The sacred blessing and dedication of the new altar of St. Anthony Parish, Belleville, took place on Sunday, Nov. 23. Most Rev. Arthur J. Serratelli, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia of the Archdiocese of Newark, presided at the Mass of dedication. Shown here, Bishop Serratelli pours the holy chrism oil and anoints the altar. The pastor, Father Joseph Ferraro, and parishioners of St. Anthony's participated in the liturgical celebration. The new altar was part of the parish's 100th anniversary celebration.



Advocate photos- Frank Wood



To the delight of pre-kindergarteners at St. Mary's School, Dumont, St. Nicholas recently paid a visit. He spoke with many of the youngsters.



The Friends of Caldwell College presented President Sister Patrice Werner, O.P., Ph.D., with a \$15,000 check in support of the college at the Christmas Liturgy and Banquet Dec. 7. The proceeds, which will be used to fund scholarships, were raised through the committee's 29th Annual Craft Show in November and the annual Tony Kenny concert. From left, Ginny Bayne of Denville; Marguerite Kenney of Caldwell, vice president of the Friends of Caldwell College; Barbara Waas of West Orange, secretary of the Friends of Caldwell College; Jane Bestys of Caldwell, chairwoman of the craft fair; Sister Patrice; Delores Delaney of Sea Girt, and Rita Hayes of Pompton Plains. Back row from left, Mary Jane Lennox of Caldwell; Linda Havel of West Orange, treasurer of the Friends of Caldwell College; Lorraine O'Connell of Sayreville; Andrew Bayne of Denville; George Waas of West Orange; Daniel O'Connell of Sayreville; Stan Bestys of Caldwell, president of the Friends of Caldwell College, and Frank Hayes of Pompton Plains.



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