

**Next issue:
January 21,
special focus
on Catholic
Schools Week**



The Catholic Advocate

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Audit results show Newark is in compliance

BY JAMES GOODNESS

Director of Communications

As this edition of *The Catholic Advocate* went to press, the Office of Child and Youth Protection of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops released the summary results of its audit of compliance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People by the 194 dioceses and eparchies of the Catholic Church in the United States.

While the results for all dioceses were unavailable at press time, the Archdiocese of Newark did receive word from the audit company, Gavin Group, Inc., that it had indeed met criteria for compliance, and was implementing the Charter in the local Church of Newark.

The Gavin Group, an outside auditing firm composed primarily of former FBI agents and headed by former FBI official William A. Gavin, is charged with reviewing nationwide diocesan compliance with the Charter. Auditors from the organization visited the Archdiocese Sept. 15-19.

The audit dealt with, among other areas, how the Archdiocese addresses allegations, implements education on safe environment issues and conducts screening and background checks for clergy, Religious and lay staff and volunteers.

In all areas, the Gavin Group stated that the Archdiocese was fulfilling its obligations successfully. In implementing the Charter, Archbishop Myers was able to build extensively on a strong foundation of policies and procedures operating in the Archdiocese since the 1980's and 1990's.

In the executive summary of the report of the audit issued to the Archdiocese, Gavin Group stated: "Archbishop Myers has a zero tolerance policy... he demonstrated his no tolerance policy on the abuse of children and his longstanding support for the charter for the Protection of Children and Young Adults by removing several priests under his care. Archbishop Myers also distributed a video to be shown at all parishes, which provided information about the Charter and expressed his firm commitment to its implementation."

With regard to the prior history of the Archdiocese and its active pursuit of allegations of sexual abuse, the summary stated: "The Archdiocese has had a policy in place since 1993 which has been revised to adopt the articles of the Charter. That policy has included a review board composed largely of competent lay people. This board functions effectively and as promptly as possible in evaluating allegations in order to determine if there is sufficient evidence to support the allegation."

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Statement of the Most Reverend John J. Myers, Archbishop of Newark, on the Audit of the Archdiocese for Compliance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People

The people of this local Church of Newark welcome the news that the Office of Child and Youth Protection has determined that we are meeting effectively the letter and spirit of the Charter.

Our effort to investigate allegations of abuse by clergy or lay people in this Archdiocese has a strong history, and we are committed to maintaining and promoting a safe environment for children, healing for victims and justice under the laws of both the state of New Jersey and the Church. The sad truth is that, through the years, and despite the efforts we as a diocese

have made, some people have misused the Church to hurt children.

As the people of God, we can never accept that. The true test of our sorrow and our love must be a constant commitment to zero tolerance of abuse—both within the Church and in society.

The positive results of this audit are a snapshot in time. I know I speak for all in the Archdiocese of Newark when I say that this audit shows our continued commitment to meeting the challenge of assuring the safety of all those entrusted to the care of our parishes, schools and other institutions.



The Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, was filled with the faithful on Christmas Eve 2003 at Midnight Mass celebrated by Archbishop John J. Myers.

Answering God's 'call' to service

BY WARD MIELE

Managing Editor

They know the pure joy of answering God's call to the priesthood while being acutely aware of the challenges facing their ministries at the dawn of a new century.

A look into the lives of three seminarians at various levels of study at Immaculate Conception Seminary on the campus of Seton Hall University, South Orange, provides vivid evidence of total commitment to serving God and His people.

First-year seminarian Oscar Fonseca, 38, is a native of Puerto Rico. In his second year of study, James Ferry, 38, is homegrown, from Glen Rock. Transitional Deacon Eric Fuchs, 25, of Pennsylvania, will be ordained in May.

Each man heard the "calling" to be a priest early and discerned it long and hard before turning over his life to God.

Fonseca sees it as a process that began when he was 10 years old. "I firmly believe that God was talking directly to my heart."

At first, he remembers, the call was "clear," very much like a voice inside of him that at first he did not understand. "It was," said Fonseca, "almost embarrassing."

He initially embarked on what he described as a "normal" life. At the age of 25 he entered an Augustinian order but left after six months. Fonseca cites the maturity factor and saw the situation as one in which God was telling him to "experience life."

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Dedicating special Year for Safety of Children



I have already talked to you in this column about the successful audit of this Archdiocese's efforts to comply with the Charter for the Protection of children and Young People.

You know full well that I am pleased that we did meet the expectations of the Office of Child and Youth Protection, and that I am most thankful that you all so willingly helped us achieve this goal.

In this edition of *The Catholic Advocate*, we have reported some of the words that the auditors used to discuss our compliance, because we wanted you to know what they thought about our procedures and the steps we have taken so far to meet the challenge of assuring a safe environment, and eliminating child sexual abuse from this Archdiocese.

The key words here are "the steps we have taken so far." This audit is not the end of the journey. There still is much work for us to do to build on this successful start. Today, as you read this, our lay review board continues its work reviewing some few allegations remaining, and we are working with local and state authorities on all information that has come to our attention. I again urge anyone who has been a victim of abuse, or who knows of a case of abuse by someone associ-

ated with this Archdiocese, to call our Chancellor, Sheri Rickert, at (973) 497-4009 so that we can begin to take action and start the healing.

Today, we are training more facilitators to conduct Protecting God's Children in parishes and schools for the future, so that everyone who deals with children and young people will know the warning signs of sexual abuse.

Today, we continue to conduct background checks on clergy, Religious, staff and volunteers so that we can both assure parents, and deter potential predators.

Every new habit takes time to become part of a regular regimen, and implementing the terms of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People is no different. It will take more time before all of the steps now underway are fully implemented. Even then, as we learn more about how to combat this societal program more effectively, I can assure you that we will take all steps necessary. Yet I know that we have made a good, faithful, and just start.

Let us begin this New Year by dedicating this great Archdiocese to a special Year of Safety for Children. In doing so, we ask our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph to guide us in our efforts to protect all children.

Sincerely
in the
Lord

By Archbishop John J. Myers



Three new pastors are named at year's end

Three new pastors have been appointed by Archbishop John J. Myers.

Father Thomas A. Crangle, O.F.M. Cap., a parochial vicar of St. Ann Parish, Hoboken, has been appointed pastor effective Dec. 15. Father Crangle was appointed parochial vicar of Mt. Carmel Parish, Orange, in 1991. Eight years later, he was named administrator of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Hackensack. He became parochial vicar of St. Ann Parish last September.

Father Manuel D. Rios, administrator of the parishes of St. Rocco, Union City, and St. Brigid, North Bergen, has been appointed pastor of both parishes, effective Dec. 12. Although two distinct parishes, both are run by the same staff.

Father Rios was ordained in November 1986. In December of that year, he was appointed parochial vicar of St. John the Apostle Parish, Bergenfield. In June 1993, he was appointed parochial vicar of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Elizabeth. In June of 1999, he was named parochial vicar of St. Aloysius Parish, Jersey City. In September 2001, he was named administrator of Saint Rocco Parish, Union City, and Saint Brigid Parish, North Bergen.

Father Rios has served on the Presbyteral Council for the Archdiocese of Newark, 1993-1996; the Vocations Board for the Archdiocese, 1993-1996; as chaplain for the Caballeros de Colon, Elizabeth, 1994-1999; and the chaplain for the Boy Scouts, Watchung Council, 1996-1999. Since 2001, he has served on the board of Casa de Caridad, Union City.

Father John M. McCrone, administrator of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Mountainside, has been appointed pastor effective Dec. 12.

Father McCrone was ordained in Our Lady of Lourdes in May 1982. In June, he was assigned to be parochial vicar of Ascension Parish, New Milford.

In 1983, he was named parochial vicar of St. John

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Stewardship

Important resolutions for 2004: a way of life...

BY ANDREW KACZYNSKI

Coordinator of Stewardship for the Archdiocese

Every year at this time people decide upon and try to live out resolutions they desire for the new year. Losing weight, exercising more, and ceasing to smoke are probably the top three that many people try to uphold. Many times, because these types of resolutions take a lot of effort, they are abandoned.

Why not try something a little different this year and make a concerted effort to become a better Christian through the practice of good stewardship? I offer to you a list of stewardship-rooted resolutions, based upon a publication entitled *The Steward's Way* by C. Justin Clements, that are easy to follow and be committed to throughout the year.

- * Sincerely believe that God is the source of all your blessings.
- * Feel a need to give back a portion of the many gifts you have received from God.
- * Return a portion of your blessings to God out of gratitude, not from a sense of duty or because someone asked you to.
- * Since you believe that everything you have and

everything in the world around you is not yours but is "on loan" from God, care for them accordingly.

- * Understand that stewardship is not an option but an obligation for you as a disciple of Jesus.
- * Do not be afraid to model good stewardship to others.
- * Be able to "let go and let God" in your life.
- * Joyfully return a portion of your gifts to God without expecting anything in return.
- * Try to attend Mass more than once a week.
- * Make the Scriptural tithe of giving ten percent of your time, talent and treasure back to God a goal for your life, and begin to move toward that goal.
- * View good stewardship as a responsibility which flows from your Christian vocation, not as a nuisance or inconvenience.
- * Make your generosity proportional—make it increase as your resources increase.
- * Feel a responsibility to take care of all of God's creation.
- * Give proportionately of your time, talent and treasure to God's work in your parish and in your community.

* Accept your Christian call to be hospitable and welcoming to all you meet, especially in your parish.

- * Actively seek opportunities to share your time, talent and treasure—don't wait to be asked to help or volunteer.
 - * Look forward to celebrating and spending time with your fellow parishioners.
 - * Don't worry about "what you are to eat and what to wear"; try to "set your heart on God's kingdom first." (Mt. 6:31-33)
 - * Truly believe it is "more blessed to give than to receive."
 - * Teach your children and others how to be good stewards by your word and example.
 - * Be convinced that God cannot be outdone in generosity.
 - * Sincerely try to make stewardship your way of life as defined by the U.S. bishops in their 1992 pastoral letter entitled, "Stewardship—A Disciple's Response."
- I wish all of you a happy, blessed and peaceful new year!



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Church ministry ‘taps’ into key demographic group

BY LIESL FORES
Staff Reporter

People in certain age groups behave in particular ways, from “the terrible twos” through rebellious teen years.

What about the person in his or her 20s and 30s? For the Mother Church, this age is a challenge, as such individuals today—especially in American society—are searching for their own identities as adults, with all the changes and responsibilities that come along with that.

Oftentimes, while careers, love interests and making one’s place in the world become the focus for young adults, God, the Church and spirituality take a back seat. That’s where Theology on Tap comes in.

Geared toward this demographic, the program, which was started in Chicago by Father John Cusick in 1981, has active sectors all over the country. It’s a gathering in a bar or restaurant for some food, libations and talk about God.

In this informal setting, a guest speaker—clergy, Religious or layperson—addresses a topic that has to do with God, the Church and spirituality in general, and how it relates to young adults.

The idea of “the Church going to young adults where they are” is “very effective,” emphasized Father Richard R. Corbett, Archdiocesan Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries.

“The pub has always been a place for people to gather to talk,” he noted, observing that the Church using such an opportunity “to communicate the Gospel truth—it’s a great idea.”

“People start to talk,” explained Joette Rosato, Assistant Director of Alumni Relations at Seton Hall University, of the common dynamic at these events. “They start to feel more comfortable.”

Rosato, with assistance from Msgr. Richard Liddy, the university’s Director for the Center of Catholic Studies and chaplain for the men’s basketball team, and the college’s Young Alumni Association, organized the school’s first Theology on Tap endeavor in November.

According to Rosato, Msgr. Liddy,

who was the speaker for the evening, approached her department about the program, suggesting it would be a great opportunity for young alumni “to think about our callings in life and how to hear ‘the whisper of the Lord’ through our jobs, our friends, our relationships and our contemporary world.”

Taking place at Mulligan’s Pub in Hoboken, about 35 alumni attended the get-together, to which friends alike were invited. Though the initial meeting was an introduction to Theology on Tap, future topics will concentrate on “spirituality in everyday life,” Rosato asserted.

Winter dates scheduled

Proposing that this type of forum allows people to talk about things that they might not bring up in other settings, Rosato says there are two more events scheduled in 2004: Jan. 20 and March 1. She has been meeting with members of the Young Alumni Association to develop “relevant topics” for the future dates.

St. Teresa of Avila Parish, Summit, has hosted several Theology on Tap evenings. Though their first event last winter drew close to 115 people from areas as far away as Somerville, Upper Saddle River and New Brunswick, the subsequent get-togethers enjoy an average of about 50 people in their 20s and 30s from Summit and neighboring towns.

Msgr. Robert E. Harahan, S.T.D., Pastor at St. Teresa’s, attributes the success of the program to the topics discussed and the format of the gatherings.

“We are planning with young adults themselves. They give us feedback and direction on what they would like to hear about regarding faith and the Church—they surface the topics,” he said, adding that David O’Brien, the parish’s Pastoral Associate for Youth Ministry, has been working with a core group on this as well as other projects.

“And the format is very appealing,” he continued. “It’s a natural environment for young adults—a bar or restaurant, a pizzeria, somewhere where they can socialize together and get to know each other. And

there are always new faces. It’s non-threatening...It draws people that may not be normally drawn to a Church event.”

O’Brien agrees. Explaining that Theology on Tap provides an opportunity for a social experience, but with “some content to it,” he describes two broad groups that are inclined to attend. One is comprised of young adults already committed to the Church who “want to deepen their faith and spirituality and meet other people similar to them.”

The other is made up of Catholics who are “disconnected,” a very common trend in general among this age group, according to O’Brien.

“The transition from college back to a home parish is one of the most difficult,” he asserts. “Committing to a parish community needs to be easy and meet immediate needs.

“And it should be relatively non-committal. That works for people that are disconnected,” he suggests.

Discussions at St. Teresa’s Theology on Tap events have centered around “finding your place in life,” says O’Brien. This fitting topic has encompassed such issues as relationships, community service and social justice, feelings and a special evening of talks given by three young adult parishioners who spoke of how they have committed to a faith community, and how this has enriched their lives.

“We want to extend ourselves into the young adult community and provide a way to relate to young adults,” Msgr. Harahan stressed. “We want to make the parish more receptive to them and see what we can do to keep them here, to welcome them and make it their home...”

“It doesn’t matter too much what the goal is but that everyone is here...We can be a point of contact [for young adults]. The parish becomes a place of stability in a society that doesn’t always provide that.”

Other parishes in the Archdiocese of Newark that hold Theology on Tap gatherings include Holy Trinity, Westfield, Our Lady of Lourdes, West Orange, and Immaculate Conception, Montclair.

Archdiocese prepares for annual March for Life

BY LIESL FORES
Staff Reporter

“I’m hoping there’s a greater turnout of young people, as has been happening the past few years,” stressed Msgr. Richard M. McGuinness, Director of the Archdiocesan Respect Life Office.

He was referring the 31st annual March for Life, which will take place on Thursday, Jan. 22 in Washington, DC. “We want to put the idea across that life is sacred from the moment of conception until natural death,” he asserted.

According to Msgr. McGuinness, who is also pastor at St. John the Apostle Parish, Linden, while abortions have gone down, “a sign that people are waking up,” the pro-life message needs to continue to be spread and heard. “We pray for this every day at Mass,” he assured.

Rachel’s Vineyard and Project Rachel, post-abortion healing retreats and counseling, help. “More and more people who have had abortions are coming forward to say what a terrible thing it’s done to their lives. This makes other peo-

ple think twice before having one,” says Msgr. McGuinness, who runs several of these weekend retreats every year through the Respect Life Office.

“More and more young people are realizing what [abortion] is all about,” he affirmed.

Pre-March events at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC include a Vigil Mass on Jan. 21 at 8 p.m., a concelebrated Eucharistic Liturgy, with main celebrant Edward Cardinal Egan, on Jan. 22 at 7:30 a.m., and breakfast from 6:30 to 8 a.m. in the lower level. A Rally for Life and Youth Mass will be held at the capital’s MCI Sports Arena at 10 a.m., and a rally for all pilgrims and marchers will take place on the grounds of the Washington Monument at noon.

After the march to Capitol Hill and the Supreme Court, individual visits may be made to Senators and Representatives.

For more information call the March for Life national office at 202-LIFE-377, or visit www.marchforlife.org or www.usccb.org.prolife.

Pope had no comment after viewing part of Gibson film

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Although Pope John Paul II watched at least part of Mel Gibson’s film, *The Passion of the Christ*, he made no comment about the film, said a senior Vatican official close to the pope.

“The Holy Father saw it, but he made no comment. He watched in silence,” the official told Catholic News Service Dec. 24.

“The Holy Father does not comment, does not give judgments on art,” the official said. “I repeat: There was no declaration, no judgment from the pope.”

The official was replying to a request for clarification after numerous newspapers

reported that the pope had watched the film and said, “It is as it was.”

The purported quote was interpreted as papal praise for the movie.

The official, who insisted that his name not be used, said the pope made no such comment.

He also said that he, too, had seen the film and felt charges that the movie was anti-Semitic were “an exaggeration.”

Another well-informed Vatican official, responding Dec. 24 to an e-mailed request for information, said, “The Holy Father saw this film, but did not express any opinion about it.”

The pope’s spokesman,

Joaquin Navarro-Valls, has refused to confirm the supposed papal quote, which was relayed to reporters by the film’s co-producer, Steve McEveety.

After sending a copy of the film to the papal apartments in early December, McEveety met with Archbishop Stanislaw Dziwisz, the pope’s personal secretary.

The Vatican made no comment about the meeting.

The Passion of the Christ, directed by Gibson, is scheduled to be released in the

United States Feb. 25, which will be Ash Wednesday.

Even before the editing of the film began, it became the object of controversy because of alleged anti-Semitism in the script.

In a Dec. 17 statement, Abraham H. Foxman, U.S. director of the Anti-Defamation League, said, “If in fact Pope John Paul II has screened Mel Gibson’s *The Passion of the Christ* and if in fact his reaction to the film was positive, as has been reported, then we respect his statement.

“The pope has a record

and history of sensitivity to the Jewish community and has a clear moral voice and understanding when it comes to anti-Semitism,” Foxman said.

While he said he would reserve judgement until he has had an opportunity to see the film, Foxman said, “We hope that Mel Gibson has heard our concerns and those of Christian and Jewish scholars and religious leaders, who expressed unease about the earlier version of the film and its potential to fuel, rationalize and legitimize anti-Semitism.”

Holy Father’s jubilee year ends

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — For Pope John Paul II, 2003 was a year of four foreign trips, five major documents, 30 new cardinals, 48 general audiences, seemingly endless 25th anniversary celebrations, an intense diplomatic campaign to head off war in Iraq and 28 new saints and blessed—including Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

And most people thought the pope was slowing down.

It was a typical 12 months for the 83-year-old pontiff: While the media speculated on his declining health and his eventual successor, he kept up a schedule that would tire many people half his age.

Pope John Paul met with some 20 foreign leaders or government ministers during the year. He spoke privately with nearly 300 bishops from around the world. And he greeted a steady stream of pilgrims, Catholic associations, ambassadors, interreligious groups and conference participants.

Much of this papal activity is taken for granted, and rarely makes headlines. But in the month of November alone, the pope held more than 110 audiences with individuals and groups in the papal library.

The jubilee anniversary celebrations in mid-October focused global attention on a pontificate that has set new records in practically every category. The pope decided to share the spotlight installing 30 new cardinals and beatifying Mother Teresa before a massive, multicultural crowd.

For many who have followed the pope’s ups and downs, a poignant turning point came dur-

ing the Mass for Mother Teresa’s beatification, when a cardinal and an archbishop had to read the pope’s sermon in its entirety. The pope’s illness has made speaking difficult, and his slurred words often do not register with his audience.

In fact, there was a bittersweet quality to many of the pope’s activities in 2003. He looked and sounded better at the beginning of the year, but the strain of his neurological disorder—believed to be Parkinson’s disease—has been painfully evident over the last several months.

He has given up walking and standing, and spends almost his entire public life on a custom-made mobile throne. He routinely skips over large sections of his talks.

And he has cut back on some annual events; in January he will finally give up two demanding liturgies, in which he personally ordained priests and baptized babies.

The pope’s four foreign trips in 2003 took him past a milestone, trip No. 100.

The pope also showed that, whatever his infirmities, he was still capable of turning the wheels of Vatican diplomacy. A procession of international figures came to hear the pope’s arguments for heading off the war, and he sent personal envoys to Saddam Hussein and President George Bush.

Despite his disabilities, the pope managed to put the finishing touches on documents on the Eucharist, the role of bishops, the Church in Europe, the recent history of liturgical reform and the place of music in the Church.



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Apostolic Nuncio to Burundi is assassinated

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Saying he was saddened by the “violent death” of Irish Archbishop Michael A. Courtney, the Apostolic Nuncio to Burundi, Pope John Paul II prayed for him and for a peaceful future for Burundi.

The 58-year-old archbishop, whom the Vatican said was about to be named the papal nuncio to Cuba, died Dec. 29 after being struck by numerous bullets shot at the car he was riding in while returning to Bujumbura, Burundi’s capital, from a priest’s funeral.

In a Dec. 30 telegram to Burundi’s Catholic bishops, Pope John Paul prayed that God would welcome Archbishop Courtney “into his kingdom of light and peace.”

“I ask everyone to commit

themselves day after day to following Christ by refusing violence, which is a path without a future, and by building a lasting peace founded on justice, respect for persons and security for all,” the pope wrote.

The funeral Mass was celebrated Dec. 31 in Bujumbura, with the body then flown home to Ireland for burial.

Pope John Paul asked Archbishop Pierre Christophe, the nuncio in Uganda, to preside at the funeral in the pope’s name.

The Rome-based MISNA missionary news agency, citing religious working at Prince Rwagasore Hospital in Bujumbura, said the archbishop arrived unconscious at the hospital Dec. 29 with multiple bullet wounds—more than the three originally reported. One of the

bullets, the agency said, hit him in the head, near his right ear, and proved to be fatal.

Archbishop Courtney died in the hospital’s operating room where doctors were trying to stop a hemorrhage.

Fides, the news agency of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, said Archbishop Courtney’s death was “the first time a papal nuncio was assassinated.”

MISNA reported that Archbishop Courtney had traveled to Bururi Dec. 28 for the funeral of a priest and that he spent the night in the town because of reports of gun battles between opposing rebel factions

along the road back to the capital.

On the way back to Bujumbura the next day, the archbishop’s car was either caught in a crossfire or was ambushed near Minago, MISNA reported.

Burundi President Domitien Ndayzeze has ordered an investigation into the killing.

A priest traveling with the archbishop was wounded in the arm, but not seriously, while the driver and another passenger were unharmed, MISNA said.

When Archbishop Courtney arrived in Burundi in December 2000 he had told CNS he received a reception that was “hotter than one would expect.”

The Sabena airline flight he was traveling on to his new assignment was hit by machine-gun fire as it landed at an airport about 10 miles west of the capital.

The plane was hit by six bullets. The archbishop was not injured, but one passenger and a crew member were slightly injured.

Born Feb. 5, 1945, in Nenagh, Ireland, he was ordained to the priesthood in 1968.

He was named an archbishop in August 2000 and ordained three months later; Bujumbura was his first posting as a nuncio.

Before being sent to Africa, he had served as the Vatican’s representative to the Council of Europe.

CRS helps earthquake victims

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Catholic Relief Services has allocated \$100,000 for emergency assistance to help victims of the earthquake in Iran. More than 25,000 people were reported killed in the Dec. 26 quake in the ancient city of Bam. Iranian officials believed the death toll may rise above 40,000. CRS said the aid will be used to provide emergency food, medical care and other life-saving assistance, according to an agency statement. CRS staff will assist agency partners in distributing

the aid. “In addition to unimaginable sorrow, right now the people in Bam and the surrounding areas are struggling to provide for even their most basic needs, as food, water, medicines, shelter and warmth are all in short supply,” said Ken Hackett, CRS president. CRS’ efforts will concentrate in Bam, where approximately 70 percent of the ancient city’s mud structures were destroyed when the earthquake struck, leaving tens of thousands homeless, the statement said.

Vatican reports 29 workers killed last year in the mission territories

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Caught in situations of civil conflict, surprised during robberies or specifically targeted for death because of their work, at least 29 Catholic Church workers were killed in mission territories in 2003, the Vatican said.

Fides, the news agency of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, published its annual “martyrology” Dec. 30, listing Catholic clergy, religious and lay people who were killed as they tried to serve the Church

and their neighbors.

The most recent victim listed was Irish Archbishop Michael A. Courtney, the Vatican ambassador to Burundi.

The day after his death it was still unclear whether he was a specific target or simply got caught in the crossfire.

A 68-year-old German Claretian missionary in Cameroon, Father Anton Probst, was killed Dec. 25; returning to his room at the Akono novitiate after midnight Mass, he appar-

ently surprised a group of thieves. He was bound, gagged and beaten to death.

Six of the 29 Church workers who were killed died in Colombia.

Three of the Colombians died during robberies; another priest and a laywoman—a health care worker—were believed to be victims of rebels trying to gain control of an oil-rich part of the country.

The sixth Colombian victim, Father Jose Rubin Rodriguez, a parish priest, was kidnapped Nov. 14 and his body was found a week later.

Fides also listed six victims among Church workers in Uganda, including three boys who were among a group of 41 students from a minor seminary kidnapped by rebels in May. Some of the boys still are believed to be in the hands of the rebels.

Fides also listed five victims in the Democratic Republic of Congo, two in El Salvador and one each in Kenya, South Africa, Equatorial Guinea, Pakistan, Brazil, Somalia, India and Guatemala.

Most of the Church workers killed in mission territories were natives of the land where they died. However, Fides reported, three were Italian. In addition, Archbishop Courtney and another missionary were Irish, Father Probst was German, and the lay missionary killed in Equatorial Guinea during a police raid was a 22-year-old Spanish woman.

According to Fides, 25 Church workers were killed in 2002 and 33 in 2001.

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Parish priest was an ‘inspiration’

Editor,

Father John Rock was a very young priest when I graduated from grammar school in St. John’s, Orange, in 1955.

He was and still is a wonderful priest and makes me proud to be a Catholic. He also had a magnificent singing voice.

He is now semi-retired after surgery and being a pastor, but is still active regularly at Our Lady of Peace Parish, New Providence.

His down-to-earth sermons are a treat to listen to, and his common sense is a rare commodity these days. Everyone who has the good fortune to know him is better for it.

He is an inspiration and should be commended for a life devoted to his Church and to God.

Carol Memminger
Berkeley Heights

Faith’s dilution is of deep concern

Editor,

Brooklyn Bishop Nicholas A. DiMarzio made history Nov. 6 by attending a Muslim celebration of Ramadan. The continual journey to “make people like us,” has diluted our faith.

What happened to our belief that the Roman Catholic Church is the one, true, holy and apostolic Church of Jesus Christ? When was the last time any parishioner heard the four marks of the Church mentioned?

In our eagerness to be “ecumenical,” we have put other beliefs

Policy for publishing letters to the editor

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.

We ask that each letter be no more than 300 words in length.

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

(heretical?) on a par with Roman Catholicism.

You have heard the constant refrain, “We are all children of God.” I thought we were all children of Adam, and became children of God by our baptism.

Ironically, when we openly taught the uniqueness of our Church, we saw numerous converts, as well as flourishing vocations.

But now, having blended into a spiritual mosaic, the uniqueness and clarity of our religious posture has been abandoned.

Instead of urging society to join us, we have joined a society that is not Christ-like.

The sad truth is that while we have been “ecumenical” in downplaying our tenets, other faiths have ceded nothing—it has been a one-way street of surrender.

Joseph Irving
Fair Lawn

Controversial film needs closer look

Editor,

Having read about the controversy over the Mel Gibson film *The Passion of Christ*, I feel that more is being made out of it then should be.

Not having seen the movie, I think people are trying to make it controversial.

Without placing blame, I do think we have to agree Jesus was Jewish and the populace at the time, on the whole, was Jewish.

It was their homeland. We cannot say the Egyptians or any other nationalities were involved except the Romans.

When it comes down to it, some of His own people turned him in.

Even the Romans would not have bothered Him and were willing to let Him go after He was betrayed.

We should also remember the prophecies. Jesus Himself reminded the people that His birth and death had long before been foretold.

The people of the time were there then because it was to be.

We cannot blame an entire race for the few who were responsible. We can blame the individuals involved and let it go at that.

What certain Catholic and Jewish people of today are doing is not the way to go.

If you want to see the movie, fine. If you don’t, that is fine too.

I think those who do will feel the pain of Christ as they watch and won’t want to get even.

Good people of any religion will find the good in things. Those who cannot or refuse to do so will have our prayers.

Donald Meier
Union

New Jersey’s state bishops react

Human stem cell research bill ‘morally unacceptable’

(Following is a statement from the Catholic Bishops of New Jersey on the signing into law on Sunday by Gov. James McGreevey of S1909/A2840, legislation known as the Human Stem Cell Research Bill. With the governor’s signature, New Jersey becomes the second state in the nation to allow such research.)

We are deeply distressed that a bare majority of the Legislature has passed and Governor McGreevey has signed the human embryonic stem cell research bill into law.

We believe it is more important than ever to stand for the principle that government must not treat any living human being as research material, as a mere means for benefit to others. Research that relies on the destruction of some defenseless human being for the possible benefit to others is morally unacceptable.

We do not want a world where life is a commodity, manufactured and destroyed at will to serve others.

Promise to Protect. Pledge to Heal.

“We can’t give the victims of abuse back their innocence, but we can assure them that we will do all in our power to see to it that no child is so harmed again.”

Bishop Wilton D. Gregory, President, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

On January 6, 2004, the Office of Child and Youth Protection of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops issued its first report on the compliance of Catholic dioceses and eparchies (dioceses of the Eastern Catholic Churches) in implementing the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

Adopted in June 2002, the Charter established the framework for preventing abuse of minors by clergy and protecting all children and young people in the Church’s care.

Protecting young people.

The Charter provides for creating “safe environments” in which young people are secure. It also provides for strict enforcement of codes of conduct for all those, including clergy, who come in contact with children and youth, whether they are full time employees or volunteers.

Healing and reconciliation with victims of abuse.

The Charter calls for dioceses to reach out to victims of sexual abuse, offering healing counsel and services and appointing victims’ assistance coordinators.

Effective response to allegations of sexual abuse.

The Charter states that dioceses are to report allegations of abuse of minors, cooperate with civil authorities’ investigations, and support the right of every victim to make a report to the authorities. The Catholic Church is fully committed to removing abusers from ministry.

Ensuring bishops’ and dioceses’ accountability.

The Bishops’ Office of Child and Youth Protection has made it possible for the first time to audit the performance of Catholic dioceses to ensure the safety of minors. The Bishops created a National Review Board of prominent lay Catholics to assist and monitor the Office to guarantee that the promise of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People is realized.

There is no place in the priesthood or religious life for those who would harm the young.

Pope John Paul II

Please see the “Report on the Implementation of the ‘Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People’” at www.usccb.org



Need for peace ever more urgent

Following is a summary of Pope John Paul II's message in celebration of the World Day of Peace.

Hear my plea, at the beginning of the New Year 2004, peace remains possible. And if peace is possible, it is also a duty!

I speak out before the Church and the world, inviting believers and all persons of good will to take up the cause of peace and to help bring about this fundamental good, thereby assuring the world a better future, one marked by peaceful coexistence and mutual respect.... Humanity needs now more than ever to rediscover the path of concord, overwhelmed as it is by selfishness and hatred, by the thirst for power and the lust for vengeance.

Christians see the commitment to educate ourselves and others to peace as something at the very heart of our religion. For Christians to proclaim peace is to announce Christ who is "our peace" (Eph 2:14); it is to announce His Gospel, which is a "Gospel of peace" (Eph 6:15); it is to call all people to the beatitude of being "peacemakers" (cf. Mt 5:9).

In my Message for the World Day of Peace in January 1979 I made this appeal: To Reach Peace, Teach Peace. Today that appeal is more urgent than ever, because men and women, in the face of the tragedies which continue to afflict humanity, are tempted to yield to fatalism, as if peace were an unattainable ideal.

The Church has always taught and continues today to teach a very simple axiom: peace is possible. The Church does not tire of repeating that peace is a duty. It must be built on the four pillars indicated by Blessed John XXIII in his Encyclical *Pacem in terris*: [Italic] truth, justice, love and freedom. A duty is thus imposed upon all those who love peace: that of teaching these ideals to new generations, in order to prepare a better future for all.

There is a particularly urgent need to lead individuals and peoples to respect the international order and to respect the commitments assumed by the Authorities, which legitimately represent them. Peace and international law are closely linked to each other.

From the very dawn of civilization, developing human communities sought to establish agreements and pacts, which would avoid the arbitrary use of force and enable them to seek a peaceful solution of any controversies which might arise. Alongside the legal systems of the individual peoples there grew up

The unity of the human race is a more powerful reality than any contingent divisions separating individuals and people.

another set of norms known as the law of the nations.

Since the 16th century jurists, philosophers and theologians engaged in developing the formulation of universal principles which are prior to and superior to the internal law of States, and which take into account the unity and the common vocation of the human family...Central among all these is the principle that accords freely signed must be honored. The violation of this principle leads to a situation of illegality and consequently to friction and disputes. It is appropriate to recall this fundamental rule, especially at times when there is a temptation to appeal to the law of force rather than to the force of law.

The task of watching over global peace and security and with encouraging the efforts of States to pre-

serve and guarantee these fundamental goods of humanity was entrusted by Governments to an organization established for this purpose—the United Nations. Pivotal to the system was the prohibition of the use of force. This prohibition makes provision for two exceptions... the natural right to legitimate defense, within the traditional limits of necessity and proportionality ...and the system of collective security, which gives the Security Council competence and responsibility for the preservation of peace, with power of decision and ample discretion.

It must be acknowledged that the United Nations Organization, even with limitations and delays due in great part to the failures of its members, has made a notable contribution to the promotion of respect for human dignity, the freedom of peoples and the requirements of development, thus preparing the cultural and institutional soil for the building of peace.

"Humanity today is in a new and more difficult phase of its genuine development. It needs a greater degree of international ordering." States must consider this objective as a clear moral and political obligation, which calls for prudence and determination.

A legal system made up of norms established down the centuries as a means of disciplining relations between sovereign states finds it difficult to deal with conflicts, which also involve entities incapable of being considered States in the traditional sense. This is particularly the case with terrorist groups...

The fight against terrorism cannot be limited solely to repressive and punitive operations. It is essential that the use of force, even when necessary, be accompanied by a courageous and lucid analysis of the reasons behind terrorist attacks. The fight against terrorism must be conducted also on the political and educational levels: by eliminating the underlying causes of situations of injustice which

Continued on page 9

Jesus as servant and teacher, exemplar for us all

Readings: Is 42:1-7; Ps 29; Acts 10:34-38; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22.

As the liturgy moves from the festive season to "ordinary time," the Church commemorates the Baptism of Jesus as the sign that His public ministry begins as an act of solidarity with human beings in their need for repentance and divine forgiveness.

Amid the hum-drum of life, ordinary people may be so concerned about themselves and their families that they forget about their obligations to society at large. "My vote won't make any difference," they say and thus they disenfranchise themselves from the right and responsibility of citizenship. "Yes, someone must speak for the unborn child, the handicapped and the disoriented," they acknowledge but allow occasions for compassion to pass by unnoticed. Even the faithful need to be reminded that their baptism challenges them to reach out in Christ's name to a world in need.

At various points in the collection of instructions from the Babylonian Exile known as "Second Isaiah" (chapters 40-55), the prophet presented God's call to a teacher addressed as his "Servant." Moses and other prophets had been given this title in earlier centuries, showing that guiding the people into obedience was a mission analogous to the service of God constituted by public worship.

The promised servant would be chosen, as Moses was, and endowed with the Spirit of God so that he could bring justice in accord with divine judgment to the nations. Is this to be achieved through authoritarian measures and terrifying decrees? No, rather by calm and persistent instruction, with a special care for the limitations of those needing guidance.

Sunday Readings

Baptism of the Lord
(January 11, 2004)

By Father Lawrence Frizzell



Thus will they be cured of their blindness and led from the dungeon of their enslavement to sin into the light of God's truth. Indeed, the call "to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement..." (Is 42:7) may be taken literally, as an aspect of God's transformation of the situation endured by those in exile. (See Is 29:18; 35:1-6; 61:1)

Yet those marvels would be ordered to the greater gift of divine illumination of all who acknowledge their need of God's guidance.

St. Luke's description of John the Baptist points clearly to the understanding that Isaiah's consoling message is being fulfilled. (Lk 3:4-6 quotes Is 40:3-5; Lk 4:18-19 quotes Is 61:1-2) No doubt in the account of Jesus' baptism he intended his report of the Father's approving words, "You are my beloved Son; on you my favor rests" (Lk 3:22) to refer back to Isaiah 42:1.

In our baptism, we become recipients of the call to become children of God.

While each Gospel emphasizes the importance of prayer in the life of Jesus, Luke makes a special point of stating that Jesus prayed on several occasions of great significance. Of course prayer would prepare for and accompany the manifestation of the Holy Spirit and the approbation of the heavenly Father. At precisely the time when John's baptism of repentance linked Jesus with humanity in this desperate need, the presence of God is manifested to Jesus in a new way.

Although Luke hints at Jesus' intimacy with the Father's will when he is found in the Temple (2:49), the Master is now called to embark on the teaching and healing mission of the Servant of God. "This is the message that God has sent to the children of Israel, the good news of peace proclaimed through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all." (Acts 10:36)

In His Baptism Jesus identified himself with those seeking forgiveness and reconciliation with His Father.

He humbled himself to share in our humanity with its frailties so that His baptism or plunge into death would be the foundation for a life of peace.

In our baptism, we become recipients of the call to become children of God. This elevates us above the hopeless, alienated situation of humankind—but precisely to enable us to exercise a role of service in union with the healing, peace-making ministry of Jesus.

To what extent have we begun?

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

Majority of the faithful appreciate their priests

The priesthood today is under much public scrutiny. The press seems to have an uncanny fascination with priests, although, they tend to focus almost solely on priest scandals. I guess that a lot of this has to do with the fact that priests, like police officers and politicians, are in the public eye. There is also the fact that there are higher standards expected from priests, to practice what they preach.

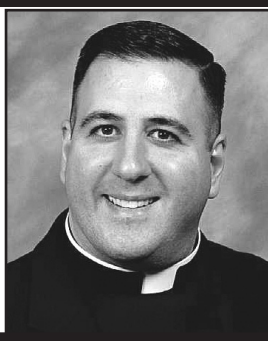
The life of a priest is still a mystery to many. They find it difficult to reconcile the fact that priests, who are called to holiness and who call others to holiness, are at the same time men who are sinners. Perhaps this sense of mystery, this mingling of the human and divine elements in the priesthood, is how it is supposed to be anyway. It's part of the very nature of the priesthood.

Since the time I was an altar boy, I have always held priests in great esteem. I realized that they were special in that they represented something much greater than themselves. While I understood their human side and the vast differences among them, I also witnessed how they truly were "other Christs" for so many people in so many sacramental and other ways. I loved priests when I was growing up and I love them now, and, while humbled, I am honored to be one of them.

I have also observed, over the last year or so, that while the priesthood has come under attack, the priests themselves did not have the luxury of retreating from their ministry. They continued to baptize, to hear confessions and forgive sins in the name of Christ, to visit

Perspective on Clergy

By Father Robert E. Templeton



and anoint the sick and dying, to celebrate the sacrament of matrimony, to offer prayers at funeral homes, say the Funeral Mass, accompany families to the cemetery for the prayers of final commendation, to teach and to preach, and at the center of it all, to celebrate the Holy Eucharist.

Of course, the cameras of the media are not there as the priest attends to his sacred duties day in and day out. The glare of the spotlight is missing, losing sight of the incredible fidelity of the priest to the Church and all God's people.

It has also been very heart-warming to see just how much the People of God continue to love and support their priests. Oh, there are always the small minority of people that complain, those who would find fault even with Jesus Christ, the High Priest himself. However,

the vast majority of the faithful have been extraordinarily affirming and appreciative of their priests.

When Archbishop Myers asked me to work in the Office of Clergy Personnel, I was surprised and even a bit reluctant at first. However, out of respect and obedience to him, I agreed to take on this responsibility. Since then, having seen priests through background checks, Protecting God's Children workshops, Codes of Clerical Conduct agreements, and all kinds of transfers and appointments, I stand in awe before the resilience and faithfulness of the priests to their sacred calling.

Priests are instruments of God in the world, who bring God to us and who bring us to God. They also bring us all together to be one, as the family of God. Priests often come and go in and out of our lives. They touch our hearts and change our lives. Priests are no different from the rest of people, and yet they are so different from the rest of people, in terms of their ordination. This is all part of the mystery of the priesthood.

Priests are there for us in times of sorrow and need, as well as for many, joyous celebrations in our lives too. They continue to make the world a better place, may we all support them to build up the kingdom of God. We need our priests and our priests need us too.

Father Templeton is Executive Director of the Office of Clergy Personnel of the Archdiocese of Newark.

The 'Book of Life' is full of many pages to be read

Time is, according to the philosophers, a measure of motion according to a before and an after. An ancient named Zeno defined time as an infinite series of points or instants in a line. However, we want to define time we live in the "here" and "now." Yesterday was. Tomorrow is not yet. And since God is the only eternal "now" for whom all things are present, we are stuck on this conveyor belt called time.

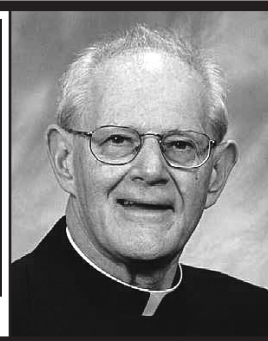
I can remember very clearly a day in January 1947. We had just returned to high school after Christmas break. I was training my mind to write 1947 instead of 1946 on my assignment papers. As I wrote the sun was shining into the room. Where, I pondered, would I be in years to come? Where will this mystery called life lead me?

Now as we enter 2004 I can gaze back over all of those years. The mystery up until now has been resolved.

The Book of Revelations speaks seven times about the Book of Life. In Chapter 20 it reads, "And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Also another book was opened which was the Book of Life. And the dead

Voices

By Msgr. John Gilchrist



were judged by what was written in the books."

Those books are written by each of us. Day by day we create a history that is uniquely our own. For evil people, like Marley's ghost in *A Christmas Carol*, the chains that bind them have been forged—link by link, act by act, minute by minute—as their lives are lived.

For most people the record in the books are mixed. There is good, and there is bad. Most of us are a mixture. Hopefully, the good outweighs the bad.

The Book of Life is actually already written. It contains the names of all those whom God foreknew

would be saved. In Chapter 3 of Revelations it states, "He who conquers shall be clad in white vestments, and I will not blot his name out of the Book of Life."

So up until this moment I have written the story of my life. I cannot change it.

But the joy is this. As long as breath lasts, the game is not over. Like Scrooge, it is never too late to change. In the words of another great philosopher, "It isn't over till it's over."

The tapestry of life is large. My single thread is not much. But it is important. Without my strand of life the history of the world itself would not be complete. I am an essential part of God's eternal plan. So are you, my friend.

So, I rejoiced on Jan. 1, 2004. I will look ahead. Whatever went on before, I have another page to write. Hopefully, you do too.

So let's wish each other "Happy New Year" and pray that when this year is over our pages will sparkle with good deeds, good friends, and a large increase in the love of God. Happy New Year!

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

Pope's peace message

Continued from page 8

frequently drive people to more desperate and violent acts; and, by insisting on an education inspired by respect for human life in every situation: the unity of the human race is a more powerful reality than any contingent divisions separating individuals and people.

In the necessary fight against terrorism, international law is now called to develop legal instruments provided with effective means for the prevention, monitoring and suppression of crime.

In the message of salvation, which the Church

proclaims, there are doctrinal elements of fundamental importance for the development of the principles needed for peaceful coexistence between nations.

International law must ensure that the law of the more powerful does not prevail. Its essential purpose is to replace "the material force of arms with the moral force of law," providing appropriate sanctions for transgressors and adequate reparation for victims. This must also be applicable to those government leaders who violate with impunity human dignity and rights while hiding behind the unacceptable pretext that it is a matter of questions internal to their State.

For the establishment of true peace in the world, justice must find its fulfillment in charity. Law is the

first road leading to peace, and people need to be taught to respect that law. Yet one does not arrive at the end of this road unless justice is complemented by love. Justice and love sometimes appear to be opposing forces.

Forgiveness is needed for solving the problems of individuals and peoples. There is no peace without forgiveness! I say it again, as my thoughts turn in particular to the continuing crisis in the Middle East: a solution to the grave problems which for too long have caused suffering for the peoples of those regions will not be found until a decision is made to transcend the logic of simple justice and to be open also to the logic of forgiveness.

Seminarians prepare for 21st century priesthood

Continued from page 1

He did so as a physical therapist in the U.S. Air Force. Stationed in Turkey, Fonseca explained, he had a "spiritual experience" that provided what he needed to embrace God's call. "God never stopped calling me," he declared.

Deacon Fuchs had been hearing the call since the age of nine. It had been "off and on" for years after that, he noted.

Initially he thought of following in his father's footsteps as a civil servant in the State Department.

Fuchs did not share his discernment experience, which he described as "an inner calling and desire in my heart."

A pivotal point in his life came after living in Switzerland and Mexico. He saw both wealthy and poor living conditions but was struck by the fact everyone had a "longing for God." That, he said, was "formational" for him.

Another important factor, said Fuchs, was and is his parents who he described as "devout Catholics." His priestly ministry, he said, will be an "extension" of what his parents "implanted" in him.

His final decision came dur-



Advocat photo- Ward Miele

Left to right: Seminarians Oscar Fonseca, Eric Fuchs and James Ferry.

ing his sophomore year in college. It was at that time that the calling became more intense.

He "embraced" the call to a relationship with God, which Fuchs stressed is "reciprocal."

His deaconal experience has been, said Fuchs, "fantastic... beautiful." He is assigned to

Mount Carmel Parish, Bayonne, and pointed out that the pastor, Father Anthony Kulig, has been a "wonderful" mentor and teacher. He is especially appreciative of being able to "be a part of the spiritual journey" of the parishioners.

In his early 30s, playing the guitar at SS. Peter and Paul Parish, Hoboken, and Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish, Jersey

City, Ferry recalled, he obtained a "greater understanding" of the Church and a parish community.

Using the "spiritual and intellectual gifts and values" given him by his parents, Ferry began to "think about the future." His parents' commitment to each other, he noted, had a profound influence on him. Ferry found himself "growing closer to the Lord."

But he went out into the work world living in Japan two years as an English teacher and returning to New York as a project manager for Deutsche Bank. He was, Ferry explained, affected by the teamwork aspect of corporate life.

It is "wonderful" say Fonseca to give oneself "totally" to the ministry of the priesthood. The seminary, he explained, provides "step-by-step" instruction on how to be a "good priest." The spiritual experience of seminary life, he went on, is "heaven on earth."

"I went in a boy and will leave a man" Fuchs declared. In the seminary, he said, he has "grown in many ways." His education and formation, says the deacon, have also encompassed areas that Pope John Paul II wants taught. The faculty, Fuchs noted, is "sup-

portive," provide "great guidance, are solid role models and great friends."

Ferry has been struck by the diversity of "talents and backgrounds" he has found in the seminary. He used one word to describe the faculty... "talented."

As they look ahead to their lives as priests, all three share

common goals and commitment.

Deacon Fuchs said he is "aware of the diverse challenges"

the Church faces. He sees priests of today needing commitment that relies on "the power of the Holy Spirit" and is coupled with an "awareness of the power of God."

Fonseca said a priest must be "compassionate, forgiving, and really be a good shepherd, he has to let people know he loves them." A priest, he added, is "God's ambassador on earth."

The priest of today, Ferry commented, must understand for himself and as a means of communicating with the faithful "how abundant is the grace of God." A priest must also understand the commitments of his flock in terms of such things as marriage and the work world. He too stressed the need to be "sensitive and compassionate."

***"I went in a boy
and will leave a man."***

—Rev. Mr. Eric Fuchs

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Saint Andrew's Hall

Continued from page S2

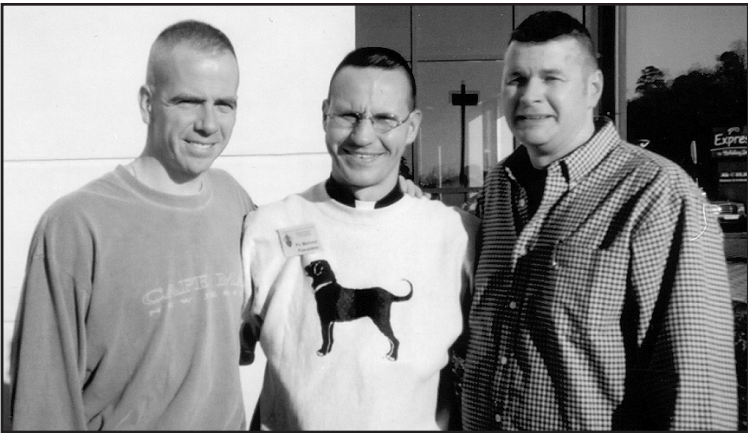
While all of this is essential, emphasizes Father Reilly, the most important part of the college seminarians' day, he assures, is prayer. "We begin the day together with prayer, and we end the day together with prayer. This is what gives focus."

Besides his administrative duties as rector, Father Reilly, along with Father Spera and Father Gomes, strives to "set an example of living a Christian life" and tries to provide "a positive experience of the priesthood," he explains. "We set an example for the young men and hold them accountable, in academics and spiritually."

This is not always easy, he admits, especially in a culture that can be unaccepting of Christianity and its values. Getting young men—in the new

class, most of them just out of high school—to appreciate living in community, nurturing their sense of vocation and helping them discern, and getting them to behave consistently with this calling, he says, is a challenge, adding, "It's a challenge to be a good example to them. It makes me want to be a better priest."

However, the rewards for Father Reilly, who has been rector since January 2002, are sweet. "I was a student for four years at Saint Andrew's. I knew since I was a kid that I wanted to be a priest. At Saint Andrew's I fell in love with the priesthood." Describing this as the place where he realized he could live his life as a priest "and find happiness," he stresses, "It's a blessing to be back, and to provide that same opportunity for others."



The Archdiocese of Newark was represented at a recent convocation of priests serving in the military held in Frankfurt, Germany. Attending were, left to right, Father James Hamel, a chaplain at Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany; Father Matthew Pawlikowski, serving in the Army and stationed in the Sinai Peninsula, and Father Ken Beale, also in the Air Force, serving at Lakenheath Air Force Base, England.

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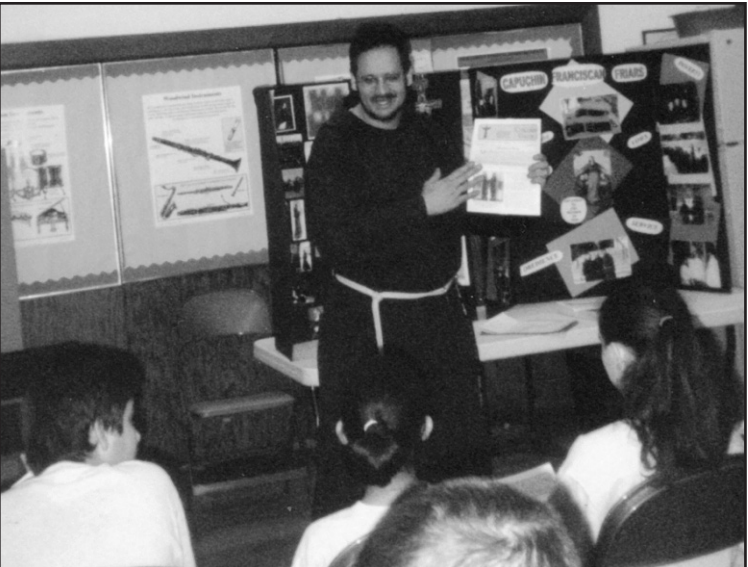
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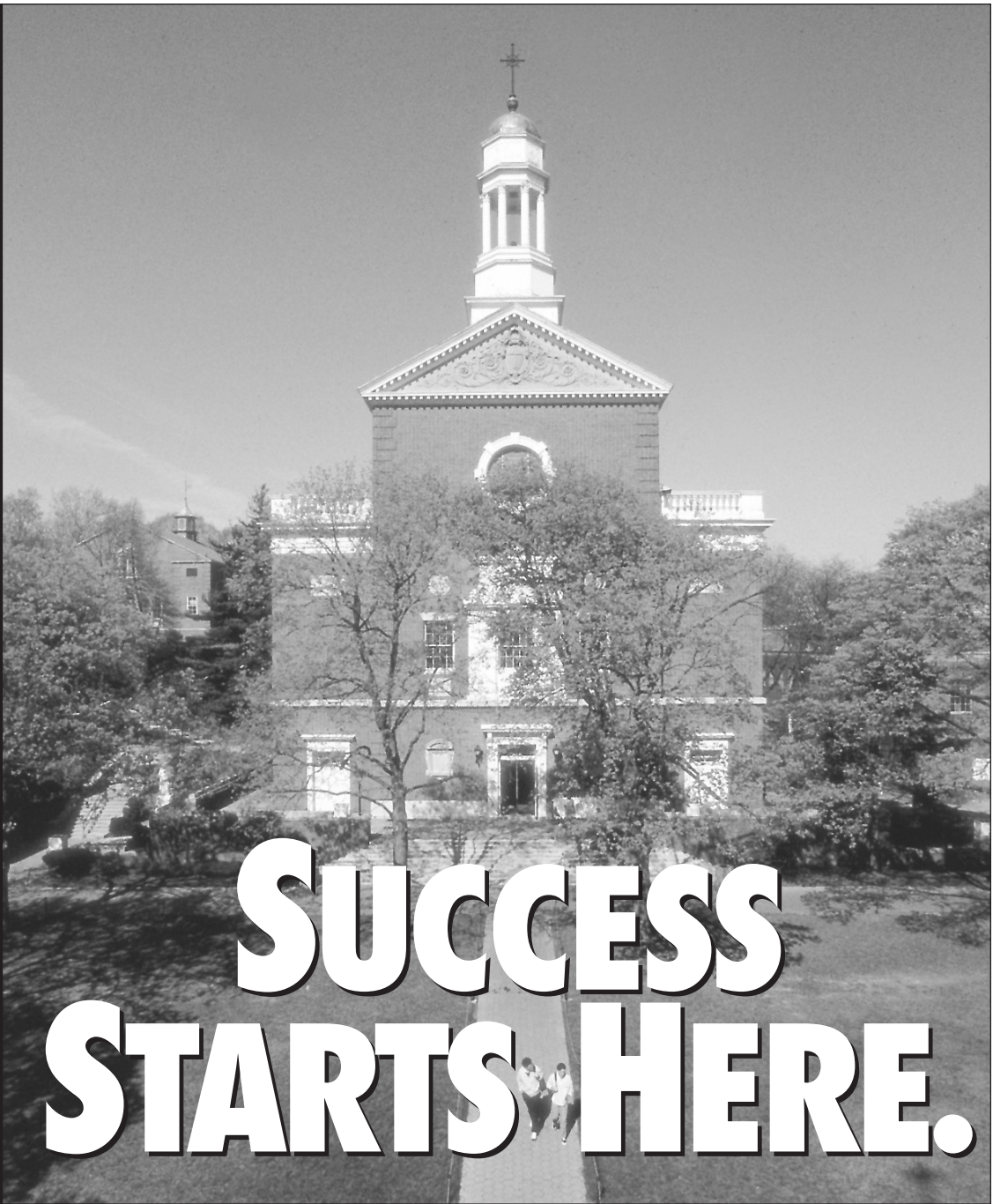
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Brother Miguel Ramirez, a Capuchin Friar, speaks to students at Holy Family Interparochial School, Norwood, about vocations.



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Sadness and hope in pastoral change

BY DAVID PROCH

Special to The Catholic Advocate

Holy Family Parish in Nutley is saying goodbye to its spiritual leader for the past six years.

Msgr. Peter J. Zaccardo, the former pastor of the parish, was named pastor of Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish in Maywood, effective Jan. 1. Msgr. Robert M. Chabak, Pastor of St. Valentine Parish, Bloomfield, will take over as temporary administrator.

When asked about his favorite memories of the parish, Msgr. Zaccardo noted the parish festivals were a particular highlight, in addition to being able to see the children at the school, Good Shepherd Academy, which is located on parish grounds.

"I've enjoyed my six years here at Holy Family, but there's still a lot more to be done. Things just don't happen overnight, and it takes time for people to develop a spirit of trust with a new pastor and new staff, working together with the pastoral council, finance council... The people have always been most generous with their time and efforts for the parish.

"We have a large parish, and sometimes we have over 200 funerals a year," Msgr. Zaccardo said of Holy Family. "To be with people in their time of bereavement is a special experience. Sometimes we'll have 10 or 12 baptisms at a time, and many weddings through the year, so what I'll really remember is being able to be with people at different moments in their lives."

Msgr. Zaccardo also noted that he will miss the people of the parish, which he has seen grow in the way of stewardship in the contributing of time, talent and treasure to Holy Family.

"The people, of course, are the most important ingredient, and many people are willing to work, to help, to share their time, talent and treasure. As people come to the parish, they tell me that they feel very much at home... It's a rather large church, but it's a church they feel most comfortable in, and they enjoy being here. They enjoy the good liturgies and the good music by our choir," Msgr. Zaccardo said, adding that members of the parish have donated money towards new choir robes and the formation of a new bell choir for the parish.

"The people are very generous, when they know something has to be done, and they'll make their contributions accordingly. I'd say they're beginning to accept more and more the stewardship way of doing things."

Msgr. Zaccardo noted that

while the parish is sad to see him leave, some members of the community understand the changing times, but others "want to go back to the days where a pastor stays at one parish forever."

Comprised of 4,300 families, Holy Family is a largely Italian-American parish, with "an ever-growing Filipino community," according to Msgr. Zaccardo.

In such a large parish, Msgr. Zaccardo notes, it is difficult to maintain a close-knit community. However, he feels that can be accomplished by keeping mem-

nity, meets to offer the principal "their time and talent."

Msgr. Zaccardo, who also served as school administrator for Good Shepherd, noted that the school is not looked upon "as a typical parish school, but has the responsibility of three pastors... Everyone tries their best to make the three parish communities feel a part of Good Shepherd."

Some of the other programs that Msgr. Zaccardo lauded include marriage preparation and Pre-Cana, baptism preparation, and the Filipino Apostolate.



Advocate photo-Frank Wood

The imposing church building of Holy Family Parish has been a local landmark since it was built and dedicated in 1965.

bers informed of what is happening within the parish. "The staff, Pastoral Council, and the Stewardship Council all work very hard to keep everyone informed, through the bulletin and our monthly parish letter."

He also mentioned the challenge of maintaining Good Shepherd Academy, formerly Holy Family Academy, that is co-sponsored by the three Roman Catholic parishes in Nutley (Holy Family, St. Mary, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel).

"Part of the heartbeat of the parish is the school, and our religious education program, which has 700 children," noted Msgr. Zaccardo, acknowledging the hard work of Sister Lois Zampese, the principal, vice principal Sr. Antoinette Pagano, and Sr. Angelina DelVecchio, M.P.F., the religious education director.

"As a co-sponsored school, it belongs to all three parishes. It's no longer just a parish school," Msgr. Zaccardo noted, adding that every month, the three pastors meet with the principal, vice principal and accountants so that "the line of communication is clear, and that each parish knows that this is their school."

Also each month, the School Advisory Board, made up of members of each parish commu-

"You try to incorporate all these family situations in the community to bring them together, because they're all satellites out there," Msgr. Zaccardo said. "The unity really comes into a great celebration of the Liturgy on Sunday, with all the ministries, the cantors, lectors, altar servers, and everyone knowing their role. It's an all-encompassing thing."

Marriage preparation in the parish centers on helping the couples not just prepare for the ceremony, but also building the foundation for a successful marriage. Couples meet with a priest or deacon to go over the guidelines of marriage set down by the Church, attend Pre-Cana meetings, and plan the wedding liturgy. The process takes a year, and "you really get to know the couples, and get to really celebrate a wonderful day in their life," asserted the monsignor.

Baptisms also provide an opportunity for couples to grow closer to the Church, he noted. "We instruct them on their responsibilities, on not just being members of the parish but instituting a sense of belonging in the family—to walk on the faith journey with their children."

In discussing the growing Filipino community within Holy Family, Msgr. Zaccardo recognized the efforts of the Filipino Apostolate. The parish holds monthly Filipino

Mass, and also participates in the Advent celebration of Simbang-Gabi, a traditional Filipino nine-day novena in preparation for Christmas.

"They've been a very vital part of the community over the past 20 years," Msgr. Zaccardo noted. "They are very much interested in the parish, the school and their ministries."

"We have a number of professionals in the Filipino community here—doctors, nurses. Two times a year they organize a health fair, with blood pressure screenings and the opportunity to sit down and receive health advice from a doctor or nurse. That's really rare nowadays... and it's a big part of their apostolate," Msgr. Zaccardo said.

He also noted that members of the Filipino community are well represented on the parish and finance councils, but pointed out that "everyone is involved in the parish."

Every year, a festival is held in honor of Our Lady of Sorrows, with a traditional Italian Mass and procession through the streets with the statue of Our Lady. "During the four days of the festival, we have about 400 volunteers that help us out... [with] homemade Italian food, and even homemade Filipino food, and that brings the community together," Msgr. Zaccardo noted, adding that the festival will regularly bring in between \$65,000 and \$75,000 for the parish.

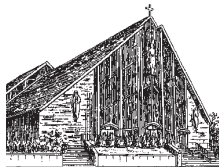
Holy Family is also conducting renovations on an older church building, which will be converted into a parish center, serving to increase the amount of meeting space for community-building events.

During his six years as pastor, Msgr. Zaccardo has seen the parish staff increase significantly, replacement of the boiler for the church as well as the air conditioning, installment of an improved sound system in the church, exploration of options for the lighting systems, carpeting and painting of the weekday chapel, updating of the confessionals, and strengthening of the ministries. "There's been so many things done... We're current right now, and the people have been generous, especially with the Archbishop's Annual Appeal."

When asked what he would say to the parish community as a whole as he departs, Msgr. Zaccardo said, "I would encourage them to work together with their new pastor and pastoral team, to be patient and understanding, and try to work together in an ever-changing situation."

Holy Family Parish is located at 28 Brookline Ave. in Nutley.

Holy Family, Nutley



Immigrants parish's spirit and strength

From an insignificant beginning among poor people of Italian immigrant stock, Holy Family Parish has grown to a position of prominence in the Belleville-Nutley area.

Its scattered handful of adherents of 1909 have become the active, enterprising church community today of some 4,300 families.

The parish has gone through three churches in its 94 years: the old frame church that cost \$2,000; the \$160,000 yellow-face brick building accommodating 500; and the current building that seats 1120 persons and costing approximately a million dollars.

The parish began in 1909, when Father Alfonso De Santola, who had worked in Paterson and Lyndhurst, started parochial work among the Italian neighborhood families. Masses were celebrated at first in private homes. For several months Father De Santola offered Mass in the homes of Michael Stefanelli at Passaic Avenue and Mitchell Street in Belleville and of Ciriaco Jannarone at 14 Harrison St. Nutley.

The first permanent church structure, still standing and now a residence after its being remodeled, was built on a 30 by 100-foot plot at 115 Harrison St., Nutley. A frame building, it measured 20 by 50 feet and seated some 140 persons.

Father James P. Smith of St. Peter's Parish, Belleville laid its cornerstone in 1911. The late Dominick Ciccone assisted Father De Santola in raising funds. A rectory adjoining was built about 1915.

Other pastors who led the parish



One of Holy Family Parish's traditions is the annual Our Lady of Sorrows Festival, which features a street procession of the statue of Our Lady through the Nutley neighborhood.

during its early years were Father Michael Leggieri, 1916 to 1919, Father Joseph Monastero, 1919 to 1929, Father Salvatore Midaglia, 1929 to 1933, and Msgr. Anthony Di Luca, the pastor, who began his administration in 1933.

After five years of labor and census-taking in house-to-house canvassing, the then Father Di Luca, who had come from a parish in West New York, received permission from the late Bishop Thomas J. Walsh to build a new church and rectory on nearby Brookline Avenue.

The church on Brookline Avenue was dedicated on July 4, 1938, with Bishop Walsh presiding. Of yellow-face brick, and with a large auditorium

and stage in its basement, it was designed by architect Anthony J. De Pace.

The old church and rectory were converted at the same time to a convent and chapel for the use of four Sisters of the Religious Teachers Filippini, who came to Nutley the same year to work among the children and to run a day nursery.

In 1947 a brick veneer building known as the Italian Community House, at 147 Franklin Avenue, was bought from the Italian Community House Association. It was converted into a youth center and served the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) of the growing parish for several years.

Within the last few years the building was donated to the Franciscan Sisters of St. Elizabeth, renovated and remodeled, and put into service as the Holy Family Day Nursery. Headed by Mother Justina, its first superior, the nursery has grown and has become quite successful.

About the same time, land was purchased adjoining the church property on Brookline Avenue and extending on Harrison Street for the erection of a parochial school. Ground was broken for the parish's school in 1949. It was completed a year later.

Msgr. Monsignor William F. Lawlor, acting for Archbishop Walsh, solemnly blessed it on September 10. At the same time, a shrine in honor of the Blessed Virgin was also constructed adjacent to the rectory.

In 1951 a convent to house the Sisters of the Filippini Order was built, and was dedicated by Archbishop Boland, who praised the work of the Sisters and Msgr. Di Luca.

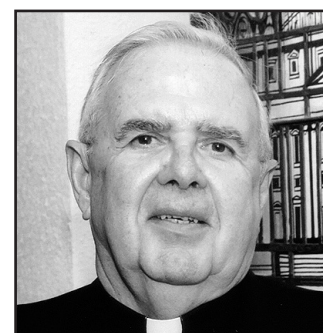
In 1955, the parish constructed a second school building to accommodate the growing student population. It had been determined that the original school building could not support a second floor.

The new structure, which is the third church, is built on higher ground than its predecessors and towers over all the family of buildings that make up the physical assets of Holy Family Parish. It is the largest church in this area. On August 28, 1965, Archbishop Thomas A. Boland blessed the new church.

The parish school, formerly known as Holy Family Academy, was re-opened in 1992 as Good Shepherd Academy. The three parishes of Nutley (Holy Family, St. Mary's and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel) co-sponsor the school. The pastor of Holy Family normally is named the school administrator.

The parish is presently in the process of renovating the old church on Brookline Avenue to a Parish Center. A

Meet the Pastor



Msgr. Peter J. Zaccardo

Age: 66

Date of Birth: Jan. 23, 1937

High School: Our Lady of the Valley, Orange

College/Seminary/Graduate School: Seton Hall University and Immaculate Conception Seminary

Heroes: "I loved Pope John XXIII."

Favorite Saint: St. Gerard

Favorite Sport: Ice hockey

Favorite Food: "A good plate of pasta and veal parmigiana," and golombkis (stuffed cabbage)

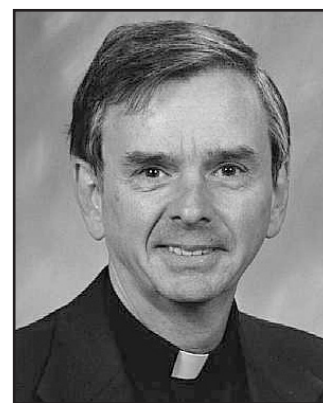
Favorite Subject in School: Latin

Favorite Movie: *The Thorn Birds*

Proudest Moment: Ordination

Last Book Read: *Council* by Greg Tobin

Occupation if I Weren't a Priest: Teacher




Msgr. Robert M. Chabak, Pastor of St. Valentine Parish in Bloomfield, will take over as temporary administrator at Holy Family Parish. "I'm looking forward to working with the parish priests, Father Alex Barbieto and Father Anthony R. Lipari," he said, adding that serving as temporary administrator is part of his duties as Dean of Deanery 16. "Msgr. Zaccardo is a very good administrator, and he will do well in his new parish. He is very well-liked by his brother priests, and we're sorry to lose him."

local theatre group had used the old church shortly after the construction of the new church in 1965.

No longer strictly an Italian parish, Holy Family also has a growing Filipino community, which is very active.



The parish has always been an active member of the Nutley community since its inception in 1909. The parish held a balloon-raising in commemoration of the renewal of the church in 1980, an example of the many events in the life of the parish throughout the years.



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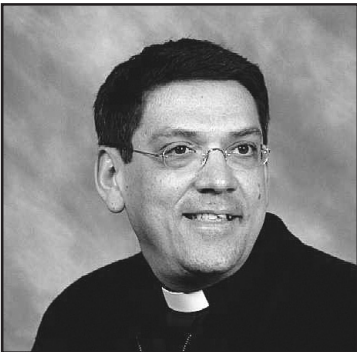
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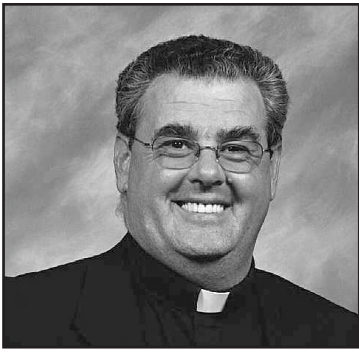
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Father Manuel D. Rios



Father John M. McCrone

Pastors are appointed

Continued from page 2

the Apostle Parish, Linden. He was appointed parochial vicar of St. Joseph's Parish, East Orange, in January 1988.

In June 1990, Father McCrone was appointed parochial vicar of Christ the King Parish, Hillside. In January 1992, he was appointed to service as chaplain at Bergen Pines Hospital, Paramus. In August of that year, he was appointed to serve the AIDS ministry, where he stayed until 1996.

In August 1995, Father McCrone was appointed coordinator of the Pastoral Services of the Catholic Chaplains at Bergen Pines Hospital, Paramus, and the Bergen County Jail, Hackensack.

In April of 1997, Father McCrone, was appointed chaplain of the Police Department of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. In June 1998, he was named parochial vicar of Annunciation Parish, Paramus. In October of the same year, he was named chaplain to the Bergen County Office of Highway Safety. For the last six years, he has served as state chaplain for the New Jersey State Police Benevolent Association. He has also served as coordinator for the Annual Blue Mass for Law Enforcement at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, since its inception.

CCS employee recognized

Sister Rose Philip, O.P., a Caldwell resident, was recognized for 15 years of service to the mission of Catholic Community Services (CCS) at the agency's Employee Service Awards.

The awards were presented by Phillip Frese, Ph.D., CPA, Executive Director of Catholic Community Services.

A member of the Dominican Sisters of Caldwell, Sister Rose Philip serves as a caseworker for the Pastoral and Social Ministry Division at Catholic Community Services.

CCS is the nonprofit, nonsectarian social service and behavioral healthcare organization of the Archdiocese of Newark. As one of New Jersey's largest and oldest community service agencies, it operates 95 programs throughout Bergen, Essex, Hudson and Union Counties and srving more than 100,000 people of all faiths each year.

Corrections

Due to an editing error in our story about student service activities at Christmastime, the Children Helping Children program at Our Lady of Grace Elementary School, Fairview, was not accurately credited to that school.

Students of Our Lady of Grace take part in a pageant depicting the Nativity, at which each class performs a different Christmas carol. All tickets proceeds go toward purchasing a gift for children in the Critical Care Unit of St. Barnabas Hospital, Livingston. Patients include children in the burn unit, children with cancer and children undergoing dialysis.

The hospital provides a wish-list of gifts, and several mothers and grandmothers come to the school to help wrap gifts.

The retired Pallottine Sisters of St. Patrick Villa, Harriman, NY, also knit and crochet afghans to go with each gift package. The school principal is Sister Alice Marie D'Onofrio, C.S.A.C., and the pastor of Our Lady of Grace Parish is Father Peter T. Sticco, S.A.C. Both are members of their respective Pallottine communities.

There are 351 students in the school, so all gifts requested by the hospital were provided. The gifts were delivered by the pastor and the principal. In addition, 20 families made private donations to purchase gifts. Any leftover monies are applied toward Easter gifts for the children.

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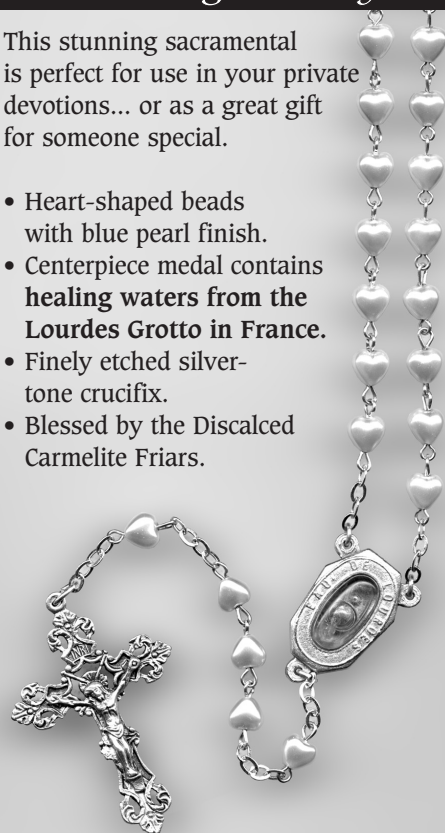
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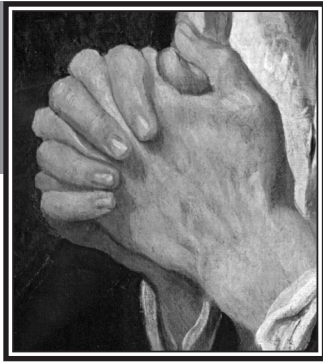
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Milestones 2003

Inevitable transition, ongoing challenges and major milestones marked the year in which the Archdiocese of Newark inaugurated a celebration of the 150th anniversary of its founding.

January

Parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Newark prepare for the 30th annual March for Life in Washington, DC to protest the U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion... Archbishop Myers throws his full support behind Healing the Body of Christ, a new program of RENEW International designed

to help dioceses and parishes with healing and spiritual renewal in confronting the clergy sexual abuse crisis facing the Church in the United States... Treating it as a bias crime, authorities launch an intense investigation into the vandalism of statues at several churches and a hospital of the Archdiocese... Daniel J. O'Hern, a retired Associate of the New Jersey Supreme Court, is appointed by the Archbishop as his special adviser with respect to cases before the Archdiocesan Response Team, a panel charged with investigating allegations of sexual misconduct.

February

The Archdiocese of Newark is again well represented at the annual March for Life in the nation's capital... In strong and unequivocal terms, the Catholic bishops of New Jersey issue a stern statement opposing State Senate and Assembly bills that would allow human stem cell research... Two weeks later the controversial legislation is tabled... The annual Catholic Scout Awards Sunday Prayer Service is held in the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart... Msgr. Walter G. Jarvais, 99, the oldest priest in the Archdiocese, passes away, the Mass of Christian Burial is celebrated in Saint Mary of the Assumption Parish, Elizabeth.

March

Assumption Academy, Emerson, becomes the first school in the tri-state area to be certified as a Homeland Security site... The Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart is the site of two joyous celebrations, 825 candidates and their sponsors attend a Call to Continuing Conversion, while 382 catechumens

are called to election... The Archdiocese celebrates Girl Scout Sunday.

April

A two-count indictment is handed down against a Newark man charged in January in connection with a series of statue-smashing incidents affecting the Archdiocese and several other sites

Continued on page 18

Audit summary

Continued from page 1

"Archbishop Myers has taken particular care in ensuring that the allegations concerning children are thoroughly evaluated. Archbishop Myers appointed a retired New Jersey State Supreme Court Justice to assist the Archbishop in evaluating matters of law and evidence with respect to the review board's conclusions and recommendations. Archbishop Myers has advised that he and/or his delegate have met with victims and/or their families."

The archdiocesan lay review board has been in place since 1993, and was among the first such independent group in a dioceses. Similarly, the 1993 policies, implemented to conform to the provisions of New Jersey state law concerning child sexual abuse, were built on an earlier policy that had been in place from the mid 1980's.

The summary highlighted the fact that the Archdiocese "has gone beyond requirements in its cooperation with county prosecutors pursuant to a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Archdiocese and the respective prosecutors. The MOU provides, among other things, for the prompt reporting of certain crimes including sexual abuse of a minor when such crimes come to the knowledge of Archdiocesan personnel. The personnel report to an Archdiocesan liaison who in turn immediately contacts the county prosecutor liaison."

The summary also noted that the Archdiocese had

added a Victim's Assistance Coordinator to its policies and procedures to provide the critical aspects of a victim outreach program, as called for in the Charter. This Victim's Assistance Coordinator, independent of the Archdiocese, makes available counseling and other support services to those who have brought allegations to the Archdiocese.

Although the audit was concerned only with the addition of the Victim's Assistance Coordinator, the Archdiocese has since the inception of the review board in 1993 regularly provided counseling and other support services to individuals who requested such services.

In the areas of safe environment programs, background checks and codes of conduct for clergy, Religious and lay staff and volunteers, the auditors noted that the Archdiocese had made significant progress in implementation. In September, the auditors asked the Archdiocese to accelerate full implementation of these specific provisions of the Charter.

It is the goal of this local Church of Newark that everyone who works with children and young adults receive training in sexual abuse awareness and appropriate background screening, and acknowledge the Archdiocesan policies and procedures for complying with both the Charter and New Jersey state law.

These efforts are still under way, as they are in most dioceses across the country. In addition, the Archdiocese has gone beyond the requirements of the Charter with the addition of a Compliance Officer it is to monitor how parishes, schools and institutions adhere to the Charter.

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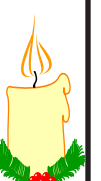
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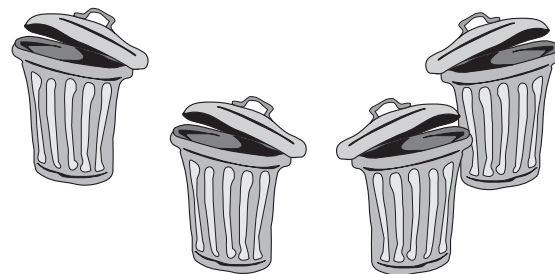
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2003 review

Continued from page 15
in Newark ...With the nation on alert against possible acts of terrorism, schools throughout the Archdiocese are doing their part to ensure the safety of students and reinforce faith-based values ... Archbishop Myers expresses confidence in the “goodness and generosity” of the people and priests of the Archdiocese despite the “challenging time facing the Annual Archbishop’s Appeal ... In his annual Easter message, Archbishop Myers says “as we continue in hope to pray for peace in our world, may we come to know more deeply the Lord present to us.”

May

It is announced that Bishop Francis Essex Catholic Regional High School, East Orange, an all-male facility, will cease operations at the end of the school year ... Louis P. Amato, who had managed and overseen some of the largest and best known medical centers in New Jersey, is named the new president of the Cathedral Healthcare System...Members of the emergency medical services throughout the Archdiocese fill the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, on Divine Mercy Sunday for an inaugural Mass honoring their profession... Fourteen men are ordained to the Diaconate during Mass at the Cathedral Basilica...Catholic Community Services marks a century of service throughout the Archdiocese...The educational excel-

lence provided by Archdiocesan schools is recognized at the first annual Staff, Teachers, Administrators Recognition (STAR) awards ceremony at the Cathedral Basilica... A dozen new priests are ordained by Archbishop Myers.

June

Emotions runs high as 18 men are ordained to the permanent diaconate...Greg Tobin, a writer, editor and publishing company executive, becomes the new editor and associate publisher of *The Catholic Advocate*...Acting Essex County Prosecutor Donald C. Campolo announces the arrest of two men for allegedly starting the Boland Hall fire at Seton Hall University in January 2000 that killed three students and injured 53 others...With the closing of Bishop Francis Essex Catholic High School, the Archdiocese provides affected students with the opportunity to continue their Catholic education.

July

His Holiness Pope John Paul II appoints Father Edgar M. daCunha, S.D.V. as an Auxiliary Bishop of Newark becoming the first Brazilian-born and first Vocationist named a bishop for service in this country ... The Archdiocese issued a revised policy regarding allegations of sexual misconduct by Archdiocesan personnel. It replaces a policy that had been in effect since 1993.

August

Although details need to be completed, the Archdiocese agrees in principle to a state and city plan to utilize the former Bishop Francis

Essex Catholic High School campus in East Orange in the fall ... A strongly worded Vatican document, opposing proposed legislation to recognize homosexual unions, “reaffirms Church teaching that the sacrament of marriage is a life-long commitment between a man and a woman” Archbishop Myers declares.

September

“All I had to say was yes,” declares Bishop Edgar da Cunha, S.D.V. as he is ordained an Auxiliary Bishop of Newark before a full Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart... Archbishop Myers visits Visitation School, Jersey City, and meets with and answers questions from students...It was the first of several visits made by the Archbishop to mark the beginning of the new school year...Poles from throughout the Archdiocese fill the Cathedral Basilica for a Mass of Thanksgiving marking the 25th anniversary of the Pope John Paul II’s pontificate.

October

The “calling to vocations is universal” declares Father Brian Plate, director of the Archdiocesan Vocations Office, explaining his ministry ... The legal profession is “blessed by God with a noble task,” Bishop J. Serratelli declares at the 19th annual Red Mass at the Cathedral Basilica ... The Archdiocese of Newark officially begins its anniversary celebration of 150 years of serving the faithful of New Jersey with a special Mass celebrated by Archbishop Myers.

... Carla Costa of St. Vincent Academy is awarded the prestigious Nonpublic Teacher of the Year award at ceremonies in Trenton...The Archdioceses honors firefighters and those in law enforcement at separate Masses at the Cathedral Basilica... Stewardship Day—A Day of Discipleship is held at Seton Hall University.

November

The Archdiocese institutes a program for a safe environment that includes training for all Archdiocesan and parish personnel who have regular contact with minors....The Youth Ministry honors its young people and adult volunteers during Mass at the Cathedral Basilica ... The religious evolution in New Jersey during the half-century since the founding of the Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies at Seton Hall University is the subject of a

display on the South Orange campus ... William J. Corrigan, a law enforcement professional, is appointed the Safe Environment Officer for the Archdiocese of Newark.

December

The controversy over Mel Gibson’s film, *The Passion of Christ*, is explored at an inter-religious forum co-sponsored by the Archdiocese of Newark and American Jewish Committee... Through special programs and activities, students in school throughout the Archdiocese reach out to the less fortunate for the Christmas season ... Catholic Community Services opens new headquarters in East Orange ... Baseball legends Cal Ripkin, Jr., Hank Aaron and Reggie Jackson speak to students at St. Benedict’s Preparatory School, Newark ... The annual Midnight Mass is celebrated at the Cathedral Basilica.

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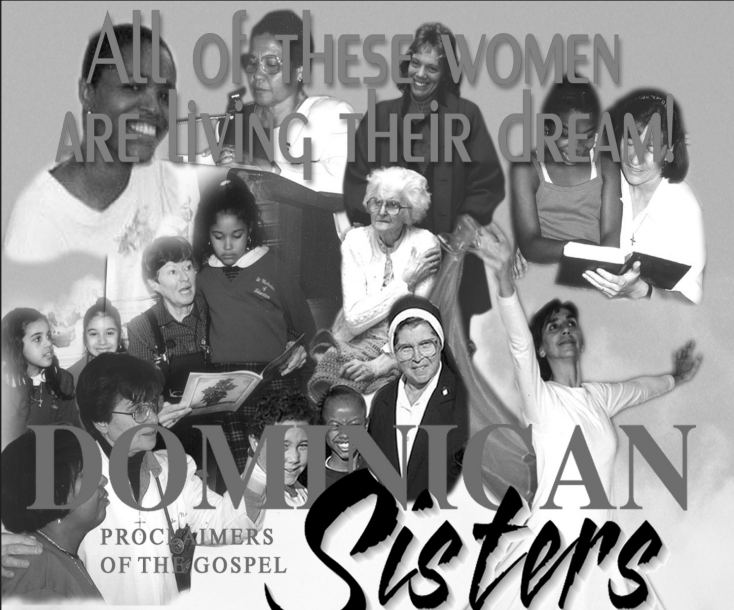
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Torch run illuminates hard plight of Latino immigrants

BY LIESL FORES
Staff Reporter

For the second year in a row, Hispanics in the Archdiocese of Newark showed their devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe while standing in solidarity with undocumented immigrants and families separated by borders.

Over 1000 people gathered outside and inside the church of St. Augustine in Union City to welcome runners from the Archdiocese of Newark participating in the Guadalupan Torch Run.

The run is an annual pilgrimage organized by the Tepeyac Association of New York, a non-profit group that seeks social welfare and human rights for Latino immigrants, and coordinated for the past two years with Catholic dioceses and churches on both sides of the U.S.-Mexican border.

The event is meant to bring awareness to the plight of undoc-

umented workers in the United States (in particular to Mexicans, who have a strong devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe) who often live and work under extremely poor and exploitative conditions. The message of the runners is a request for dignity, respect and human and civil rights.

Originating in New York City six years ago, Mexican youths would run a course on the streets through the five boroughs, carrying blessed lit torches to area churches. The torches symbolize "the faith of the Mexican people, which is alive wherever they live," states the Tepeyac Association of New York.

Last year, at the urging of Edward Cardinal Egan, Archdiocese of New York, the run began in the Basilica of Guadalupe in Mexico City, traversing 45 cities, including 10 in Mexico and 35 in the United States.

This year after being received

by Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V. at the entrance of the church, where he lit a holy candle with the blessed torch, the runners and the rest of the congregation proceeded inside for a special liturgy.

Observing that in receiving the torch "we remember the light in each of us," Bishop da Cunha, in his homily, expressed the notion that Our Lady of Guadalupe "is present in our difficult times. We aren't alone... We have a mother who helps us, guides us...who lights our path, though it seems we are walking in the dark."

Referring to the plight of families that are divided because of immigration issues, he said those should pray to her "for our families—families that are separated and broken, that are suffering.

"She is a part of our lives, our history, our Church and our faith," he continued, adding that she is always present for all people.



Advocate photo-Liesl Fores

Thirty-eight youths and young adults from the Archdiocese of Newark, with Bishop da Cunha, after a Mass to celebrate their arrival at St. Augustine Parish, Union City, from Philadelphia, completing their leg of the Guadalupan Torch Run, which started in Mexico City in October. Many of them were invited to continue on to St. Patrick's Cathedral the following day, where the pilgrimage ended.

Maricela Quintana, Director of the Archdiocesan Hispanic Apostolate, coordinated the event at St. Augustine's, along with the parish's Association of United Guadalupans (Asociación de Guadalupanos Unidos).

Explaining that this is an important event for the Archdiocese of Newark, Quintana asserts that the partici-

pants are "running for the dignity of people divided by a frontier. As a Church, we should stand in solidarity with the undocumented."

Father Pedro Navarro, Pastor of St. Augustine's, noted that Our Lady of Guadalupe joins people together. "It goes beyond regions," he emphasized. "It is a devotion that unites."

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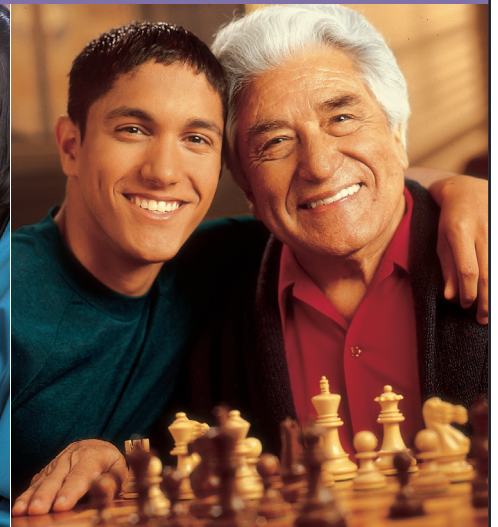
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Vocations Awareness Week, Jan. 11-16

'You are my beloved' is theme for national, local Church focus



From upper left, clockwise: Father Brian G. Plate, Director of the Office of Vocations for the Archdiocese of Newark; David Thomas Sison, seminarian, Immaculate Conception Seminary; the Vocations Office staff, Nancy Yarish, Sister Mary Crucifix Pandullo, C.S.J.B., and Barbara Kelly; at a concert for vocations (left to right) Most Rev. Arthur J. Serratelli, Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, pianist David Maiullo, soprano Valerie Sue Muller and Father Plate; Religious sisters worshipping at a Mass on Nov. 23 in North Arlington.

Prayer for Vocations



Gracious God,
You show your favor to us
through the many gifts you give us.

You sent Jesus, your beloved son,
as your servant of justice in our world.
Open our minds and hearts
to hear your call to us today.
Guide women and men
to use their gifts to serve the Church
and continue the mission of Jesus.

We offer this prayer
through Christ and the Holy Spirit,
now and forever. Amen.

2003 NCCV

Full plate for Vocations Office

BY SISTER MARY CRUCIFIX PANDULLO, C.S.J.B.
Associate Director, Vocations Office

At our Baptism, we are charged with a mission. We are called, as Jesus was in His time, to bring the good news to all people.

When Jesus was baptized by John, the voice of God was heard saying, "This is my beloved Son..." We too are the "beloved" of God. How will we follow Christ in witnessing and bringing the "good news"? By hearing and responding to our vocation.

Here at the Archdiocesan Vocations Office we try to create awareness activities so our young people in elementary and high school may begin to respond to a possible invitation to the priesthood and Religious life.

In preparation for National Vocations Awareness Week we have sent, from the National Coalition for Church Vocations (the national vocations office), to all Archdiocesan schools, age appropriate resources that include lesson plans and student activities, as well as liturgy planning guides, homily notes and general intercessions to be used in parishes.

Schools visits of clergy and Religious coordinated by our office continue. During this special week, we have scheduled visits to the following schools: St. Theresa of the Child, Linden; St. John Nepomucene, North Bergen; Our Lady of Mercy Interparochial, Park Ridge, and St. Mary of the Assumption, Elizabeth.



The chapel at Saint Andrew's is a place of spiritual solitude for many.

College seminary community

BY LIESL FORES
Staff Reporter

Since 1856, the College Seminary of the Immaculate Conception at Saint Andrew's Hall, Seton Hall University, South Orange, has been educating young men and forming new priests. Formerly known as the Minor Ecclesiastical Preparatory Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, originally located in Madison, it is an institution that emphasizes academic excellence and intellectual activity. But more, importantly, it is a place that fosters community, the basis of Christian living and way of life of the priesthood.

"Community is part of what Christianity is about. Jesus didn't live alone...Community, or fraternity—whatever you call it—is integral to someone discerning for the priesthood or in formation," asserted Father Joseph J.

Reilly, Rector at Saint Andrew's.

With eight seniors graduating this spring, there are 20 "college seminarians" altogether, living in a residence on campus, under the guidance and supervision of Father Reilly, Father James F. Spera, Vice Rector, and Father Stanley J. Gomes, Spiritual Director. The majority is from the Archdiocese of Newark, though some are from other dioceses in New Jersey, and one is from Nashville, TN, another from Grand Rapids, MI.

Raising awareness of vocations is a primary task of the Archdiocesan Vocations Office. Through school visits, youth retreats and other venues for educating and promoting, the office "plants the seeds" regarding vocations and the Consecrated life, says Father Brian G. Plate, Director.

Potential seminarians in the

Archdiocese of Newark go through the Vocations Office, where they are interviewed and their applications further processed. The office and Vocations board then makes a recommendation to Archbishop John J. Myers, which he accepts or rejects. Upon acceptance, the board recommends what seminary or institution the individual should be placed in.

Father Plate explains that they usually send to Saint Andrew's men who are relatively young and who do not already have an undergraduate degree.

"There's a great spirit of cooperation between our office and Saint Andrew's. We're all working together for the future of these young men's hopes and dreams," Father Plate pointed out.

Students at the college seminary major in philosophy but may minor in any subject within the university's College of Arts and Sciences.

They also participate in an apostolic service program, working with Seton Hall's Division of Volunteer Efforts (DOVE) and other parochial and archdiocesan entities. Campus and residence activities, some social and some spiritual, are a part of their daily and weekly routines as well.

Continued on page 11



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Discernment, awareness focus of Vocations Office

The Archdiocesan Vocations Office believes that every person has a vocation. For some people it may be participating in a parish ministry; for others it is a call to the priesthood or Consecrated life.

Helping individuals discern whether they have a vocation for the latter, and promoting and raising awareness of vocations in general, is the focus of the Vocations Office.

Busy at this throughout the year, following are events—already past, ongoing and for the near future—sponsored, organized and carried out by the office for the 2003-2004 school year.

All Catholic grammar schools throughout the Archdiocese of Newark have been invited to participate in the Vocation Awareness Program. Priests, brothers and sisters travel to schools and give 40-minute talks to both fourth and the seventh grade students. So far, this has been a very successful program, with 70 schools participating. In the spring, the program will be offered in the Catholic high schools to junior classes.

Archbishop John J. Myers hosted a Vocation Awareness Dinner at the Residence of the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, sponsored by the Vocations Office on Nov. 19. Parish priests and young men ranging from junior year in high school to college age interested in the priesthood were invited. This was a very successful event, with 80 people in attendance. Another dinner will be held in the spring.

Three benefit concerts to raise awareness of vocations were held on Oct. 26 at St. Aloysius Parish, Caldwell; Nov. 22 at St. Therese of Lisieux Parish, Cresskill, and Dec. 13 at Immaculate Conception Parish, Secaucus. Featured was soprano Valerie Sue Muller, accompanied by pianist David Maiullo. Proceeds from the concerts benefited the Vocations Office. A spring schedule is currently being planned.

A Co-Ed High School Discernment Retreat will be held Jan. 30-31, at Kearny Archdiocesan Youth Center.

The Vocations Fair will be held on March 10, at the Kearny Archdiocesan Youth Center. Representatives from and information on various orders and communities will be available. An average of 400 youth attend this annual event.

The Annual Emmaus Discernment Retreat for Men, April 23-24, will be held at the Carmel Retreat House, Mahwah.

For more information on any of these events call the Vocations Office at (973) 497-4365.

Vocation Awareness Week, Jan. 11-16

National Vocations Awareness Week will be celebrated this year on Jan. 11-16. The theme is “You are my beloved.” To help parishes and schools prepare, the National Coalition for Church Vocations (NCCV) has put together a planning kit. The Archdiocesan Vocations Office has sent materials to all parishes and schools. For further information call (800) 671-6228 or visit www.nccv-vocations.org.




Advocate photo- Frank Wood

Joseph Pagano, President of the re-established Hudson County Chapter of Serra International, is congratulated by Bishop Arthur Serratelli, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia, and Father Paul A. Cannariato, Chaplain to the Hudson County Serrans, at last month's Charter Night. The program was held at St. Henry Parish, Bayonne, where Father Cannariato is a parochial vicar.

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Rev. Jack Welch, O. Carm.
White Friars Hall

1600 Webster St., N.E.
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Order of Preachers
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Franciscan Friars (O.F.M.)
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(212) 967-6300

Salesians of Don Bosco (S.D.B.)

Province of St. Philip the Apostle
Don Bosco Residence
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Orange, NJ 07050
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(Congregation of Christian Brothers)
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Oradell, NJ 07649
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Marist Brothers (F.M.S.)
Esopus Province
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Bayonne, NJ 07002
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Holy Father's guidelines give Religious clear path

VATICAN CITY – Pope John Paul II offered guidelines for the Church to overcome the crisis of Consecrated life that is reflected in statistics compiled by the Holy See.

The pope requested that every possible effort be made to support this “gift of God for the Church,” when he met today with a group of French bishops and with the Archbishop of Monaco.

This crisis of the Consecrated life, he told the bishops, causes the aging of religious communities, “with inevitable consequences for

the life of the institutes, for their witness, for their governance, and also for the options connected to their mission.”

In his address to the bishops, the Holy Father offered guidelines to enable the Church to surmount this crisis of Consecrated life.

First, he emphasized “permanent formation” of the Religious, “in particular at the theological and spiritual level.”

John Paul II then stressed the need for Religious to understand their charisms more profoundly in order to “renew their works, paying particular attention to listening with great willingness to the new calls of the Spirit” and responding “to the spiritual and missionary urgencies of the moment.”

The pontiff also asked the bishops and all Catholics to “promote the vocation and mission of Consecrated life.”

Integration sought

He further advocated “institutional dialogue” between Religious congregations, bishops’ conferences and the conferences of Religious superiors to attain a “genuine consensus and fruitful exchanges.” The objective is that each institute of consecrated life integrate itself better in the life of the diocesan Church, the Holy Father said.

He said that Religious today are protagonists of “imaginative charity,” especially with persons “wounded by life,” and that their witness to youths continues.

For this reason, John Paul II requested the bishops and Religious to give “renewed attention to young people who wish to commit themselves to the Religious life,” ensuring that they receive a solid “human, intellectual, moral, spiritual, communal and pastoral” formation.

The pope noted that, even amid the crisis of Consecrated vocations, new communities of Consecrated life are springing up.

“The new Religious communities are an opportunity for the Church,” the Holy Father said. “Helped by the bishops, whose task it is to be vigilant, they still have need to mature, to establish themselves, and on occasions to organize themselves according to the canonical rules in force, with prudence.

“May all remember that the spirit of dialogue, of fraternal coexistence at the service of Christ, and of the mission must prevail without cease!” he exhorted, stressing that all “competition and antagonism” must be avoided.

Information source: ZENIT.org.



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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

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

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Maybe Your Place
in God's Plan is
at Our Place

For the Benedictine
monks of
St. Mary's Abbey
at Delbarton, life
comprises a balance
between prayer and
work — according to
the Rule set down
by St. Benedict
himself in the
6th century.



We live the monastic life in a variety of ways: by serving as teachers and administrators at Delbarton School, ministering to several area parishes, and deepening our individual faith through personal and communal prayer.

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Maybe it's your place, too.

ST. MARY'S ABBEY
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