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2005
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Wednesday, December 22, 2004



CNS photo

On that day, a shoot shall sprout from the stump
of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom.

—Isaiah 11:1

A Real Savior, A Real Presence

*When the angels went away from them to heaven,
the shepherds said to one another,
“Let us go, then, to Bethlehem
to see this thing that has taken place,
which the Lord has made known to us.”*

Being a Catholic is never easy. Nor should we expect it to be.

When the shepherds learned of the birth of Our Savior, they did not say “Hey, that’s cool!” or “Gee, that’s nice,” or even “Big deal! Will that make me any warmer out here in the hills?”

They knew that something special had been given to them—the privilege of being the first to learn of the birth of the Messiah, the Promised One.

As difficult as it was to be a shepherd, it would have been very easy for them to stay there in the hills and tend to the sheep, rather than make the trip down into Bethlehem. Just imagine the excuses: “It’s your turn!” “I’m not leaving the fire to go walking in the cold!” “It’s too far!” “I can’t leave the sheep here alone!” “Nothing ever really happens in Bethlehem!”

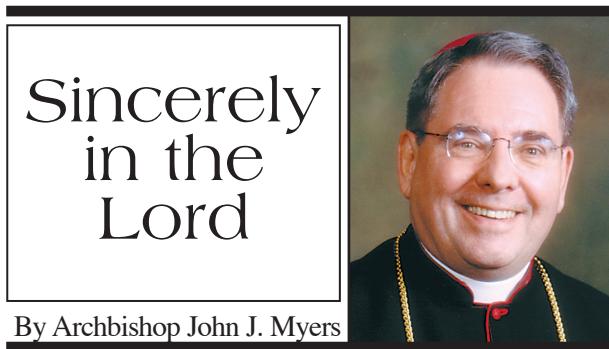
Who would have known if they had chosen to stay?

But they did not make excuses. They rose and made the journey into the town and beheld the new-born King.

And then, Luke tells us the most important part of the story of the shepherds, which takes place after they have made the trip and found the Holy Family.

*When they saw this,
they made known the message
that had been told them about this child.
All who heard it were amazed by
what had been told them by the shepherds.*

They began to spread the Good news of the birth to all who would hear, so that they, too, would make their own journey to see, and to believe. By listening to the angel’s news of great joy, they were granted a privilege. And in acting on the invitation, they accepted the obli-



gation that came with the privilege. The obligation to witness to faith, to witness to the truth. And just as the angel gave them a gift, the shepherds quickly and willingly shared the gift with others.

Being Catholic in today’s world means more than celebrating a day with presents and best wishes and coming to church to see the decorations and singing the carols. It means exactly what it meant 2,000 years ago when the First Noel was given. It means being a witness to the truth. It means sharing the gift that God the Father, through the angels and through the shepherds, has given to all of us.

And the truth, as it has been revealed to us, is this: that Jesus Christ, born of the Virgin, is our hope. He is the Savior, and we are His people. In Him is the fulfillment of the promise of eternal life.

Certainly, the gifts we give and receive are important, for they remind us of the love that we share, and the ties that we create among our families, friends, co-workers and acquaintances. However, what seems to be missing from the gift-giving and the celebration is the reminder of the very real presence of Jesus in our lives each day, a presence that is available to each of us through the most important gift He himself gave us: the Eucharist.

In declaring the year October 2004 through October 2005 a “Year of the Eucharist,” the Holy Father in his wisdom is seeking for all Catholics once again to focus on this most perfect gift, to share the goodness and grace which

flows from it, and to proclaim Christ as Savior and Lord. The Year of the Eucharist clearly is a gift as well, but it is a gift with responsibility. That responsibility is to accept and promote the Eucharist as the “living bread which came down from heaven.”

The baby in the manger in Bethlehem is only the beginning of our journey as Catholics. We ultimately must travel to Jerusalem and to Calvary to witness the fulfillment of the promise. And we must continue on in our journey, through our lifetime, being the witness to faith and truth to which we are called.

Being Catholic is not easy. But it is a present to be opened, admired and shared with all whom we meet. As you celebrate Christmas this year, be like the shepherds. Glorify and praise God for all you have heard and seen, just as it has been told to you..

Chaplain is assigned to St. Anthony Latin Chapel, West Orange

Recently Very Rev. Robert E. Emery, Vicar General, Moderator of the Curia and Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Newark, wrote to the archdiocesan clergy to advise that Father John Perricone had been assigned as chaplain of St. Anthony of Padua Chapel, West Orange. Until recently, this chapel, which celebrates the pre-Vatican II Latin Mass, was not part of the archdiocese. Upon the death this past summer of the chapel’s founder, Father Paul Wickens, trustees sought to establish ties to the Archdiocese of Newark. The text of Father Emery’s letter to priests follows:

This has been a complex and complicated situation for some time, and many of us have felt the emotions of Father Paul Wickens’ separation from the presbyterate with whom he had long been associated. Similarly, the archdiocese has long hoped that the group of people who gathered at this chapel would one day become part of the archdiocesan community.

Shortly after Father Wickens passed away this summer, several members of the trustees of the private corporation that owns the chapel approached the archdiocese. They advised us that it was Father Wickens’ wish that they seek an eventual reconciliation while maintaining its distinctive practice of celebrating the traditional Latin Mass. He also urged them to ask Archbishop Myers to assign Father Perricone, a priest of the archdiocese, because of Father’s own devotion to this tradition.

The archbishop agreed to the request to assign Father Perricone as chaplain in order to address sacramental and pastoral needs of the community. Because Father Perricone is a priest in good standing, all sacraments and liturgies at the chapel are now deemed valid.

The archbishop also wished that the St. Anthony of Padua Chapel come into full communion with the archdiocese and the universal Church. I am sure you will understand that such a process will take time. We have already begun the necessary steps, after consulting with Rome. The participation of Father Perricone and the trustees will, we hope, help to move this process forward in the weeks and months to come.

For now, however, the chapel will remain a separate corporation apart from the archdiocese, under the direction of its trustees. By mutual agreement with the trustees, there are no plans to establish this community as a parish of the archdiocese at this time.

I think we can all agree that our joy at this step in the relationship with the St. Anthony Chapel is bittersweet: we all would have preferred for Father Wickens to be alive to see his community within the archdiocesan family. Yet we are thankful that, at last, the wish of Father Wickens and all of the priests and former archbishops of Newark has been realized.

Stewardship

Always take the time for prayer



BY ANDREW KACZYNSKI

Associate Director of Stewardship for the Archdiocese

A steward, of course, is like a manager—one who oversees the use of things that belong to someone else. We are stewards of God’s world. How we use or manage the things God has given us is extremely important to our spiritual lives.

In our Church, we see our stewardship as having a three-pronged focus: the use of our time, the use of our talent, and the use of our treasure. They define our life as a church. As the Christmas season approaches, I want to focus on our stewardship of time, particularly how we use our time in prayer.

Three of the main people in the story of the nativity are the Magi. You may ask yourself...where do we find a relationship between the story of the Magi following the star in search of Christ and our call, as Christians and as stewards of God’s gifts, to make prayer a central part of our lives? The connection lies in the idea of seeking the light.

The Gospel of John talks a great deal about Jesus Christ as “the light.” John wrote, “The true light which enlightens everyone was coming into the world.” (John 1:9) He also reports that Jesus said to the people, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12)

The Magi sought and followed a great light—the star—that led them to Christ; we, too, are called to seek and follow a great light—the light that is Christ. The magi found their light in the sky; we will find ours in Jesus and His teachings. Prayer is the road and the way that will lead us to that light.

Prayer can change our lives, enhance our lives, uplift our lives, bring greater meaning to our lives. It doesn’t usually happen immediately, but—in the long term—I am sure that those who practice a regular, committed use of prayer in their lives will tell you that they have been changed for the better.

We all need to make prayer a greater priority in our lives—not just for what it will do for us personally but also for what it will do for us as a Church. If all the faithful would commit to spending time with God in prayer every day, we would change our part of the world in absolutely amazing ways because we are not just called to see the light of Christ, but we, as a Church, are called to be the light of Christ for others.

The more we pray, the more we will be filled with Christ’s light, and the more we will become a beacon for others who are seeking the light for themselves.

We have nothing to lose and everything to gain by being good stewards of our time with a more prayer-filled life.

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The Catholic Advocate continues to be a bi-weekly publication. Publication dates for the first half of 2005 are: January 5, 19; February 2, 16; March 2, 9, 23; April 6, 20; May 4, 18; June 1, 15, 29.

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Realities, challenges of ethnic groups explored among community leaders

The external consultants for the New Energies Parish Transition Project met last month with more than 50 leaders from ethnic and cultural communities within the Archdiocese of Newark.

The purpose of the two hour meeting, conducted by the Reid Group, a Washington State based national consulting firm hired by Archbishop John J. Myers to help facilitate the New Energies Parish Transition Project, was to learn more about their realities, challenges and hopes for the future.

"Leaders from many ethnic groups participated in a rich dialogue that helped surface community needs and continued the process of developing more effective ways of responding to the reality and challenges of ethnic communities today," explained a Reid Group spokesman.

The Nov. 10 meeting was the latest in a series designed to explore the special needs of the Archdiocese's ethnic communities.

A key element of the discussions was that it is very important to pay close attention to and respond to fears of identity loss, assimilation, and potential loss of children to the dominant U.S. culture. Other insights included concerns regarding the loss of community members to other faiths and fears that the established community is being "taken over" or "swallowed up" by other ethnic groups.

"The pervasive presence of ethnic communities in the Church of Newark contributes to a rich diversity of Catholics. The Archdiocesan Office of Research and Planning has identified 28 Italian parishes and 19 Polish parishes, Korean parishes plus 65 parishes with a significant Hispanic presence and 54 parishes with an African-American presence. Nineteen parishes reported the presence of other ethnicities, including African, Brazilian, Chinese, Croatian, Filipino, Haitian, Indian,

Lithuanian, Portuguese, Slovak, and Vietnamese communities.

"Given these numbers, it is essential that the rich ethnic heritages in parishes would be included in the work of the New Energies Task Force on Parishes," the spokesman added.

New Energies Update

The selection criteria utilized by the task force included:

- The 28 parish principles for determining the viability of a parish;
- Proximity of parishes to each other;
- Weekend liturgies with attendance of 500 or less parishioners;
- Poor fiscal condition of the parish;
- Aging facilities requiring capital improvements;
- Total population of parish community decreasing;
- Stewardship of Archdiocesan resources (personnel, property, finances).

"The reality of ethnic churches in close proximity in Newark, Jersey City, Elizabeth and other urban areas, coupled with the demographics of smaller, aging ethnic populations must be addressed. This fact does not lessen the special pain and unique sense of loss resulting from all the changes

being considered. The Archdiocese of Newark recognizes the reality of pain and loss, and is committed to responding effectively to the special needs of the ethnic communities in this process," the spokesman stressed.

To date, 21 of the 48 parishes involved in the restructuring process have responded to the recommendations of the New Energies Task Force. The Executive Committee reviews and discusses each response and either approves or amends it as a recommendation for final decision by Archbishop Myers, or returns it to the parishes with a request for additional work and an additional response.

The goals of the Archdiocese in this on-going process remain as stated back in May by Archbishop Myers.

1. To enhance quality parish life, both territorial and national, throughout the Archdiocese;
2. To support increased understanding of and action on the 28 principles related to quality parish life;
3. To strengthen the presence and ministry of the Church in urban and suburban areas;
4. To increase collaboration between and among leaders, parishes and the whole Archdiocese of Newark;
5. To act as good stewards of all human, financial and facility resources;
6. To build a greater sense of unity within the rich ethnic, cultural and age diversity present within the local Church.

Official Appointments

Archbishop John J. Myers has announced the following appointments:

Archdiocesan Agency/Ministry

Rev. Jose Montes De Oca, Parochial Vicar of St. Aloysius Parish, Jersey City, has been appointed Coordinator of Ministry to the Hispanic Apostolate in the Archdiocese of Newark, effective Jan. 1, while continuing as part-time parochial vicar at St. Aloysius Parish.

Rev. John J. Galeano, Parochial Vicar of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Jersey City, has been appointed Spiritual Director for the Spanish Cursillo Movement in the Archdiocese of Newark, effective Dec. 10.

Pastor

Rev. Victor P. Kennedy, Pastor of St. Anne Parish, Jersey City, has been appointed pastor of Resurrection Parish, Jersey City, effective Jan. 19.

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Kevin J. Schott, Parochial Vicar of St. Bernard of Clairvaux Parish, Plainfield, has been appointed parochial vicar of Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Maywood, effective Dec. 15.



Chaplaincy

Rev. Michael C. Santoro, Pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Jersey City, has also been appointed Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus Council 137, Jersey City, effective Dec. 3.

Residence

Rev. Dennis J. Kaelin, Chaplain at St. Patrick High School, Elizabeth, has been appointed to residence at St. Michael the Archangel Rectory, Lyndhurst, effective Dec. 15.

Rev. Thomas R. McLaughlin, Hospital Chaplain of Pope John Paul II Pavilion, Orange, has been appointed to residence at Blessed Sacrament Rectory, Elizabeth, effective immediately.

Rev. James M. Moran, Hospital Chaplain at Pascack Valley Hospital, Westwood and Valley Hospital, Ridgewood, has been appointed to residence at St. Mary Rectory, Closter, effective Dec. 15.



Patricia Muller Swartzberg is the new chair of the Women's Commission of the Archdiocese of Newark. A corporate lawyer and mother, she and her family are parishioners of Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, Franklin Lakes, where she has led the Respect Life ministry.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Local Highlights6
Editorials7
Commentary8
Faith & Spirituality9
Parish Profile10-11
Obituaries22
Classified28
Sports29

Those Year-End Appeals



With roughly one million charities operating in the United States –and most of them seeking year-end donations– it’s no wonder your mailbox bulges with appeal letters as the calendar winds down. Seems like everybody wants your attention!

Sorting through the mail, you find familiar organizations and some you don’t recognize. You wonder, “How did these people get my name?”

And to add to all that mail, your telephone rings more often. “Please help us meet our financial needs.” “We’ll have to close the doors if we don’t pay our bills.” “Children will starve unless you give.” “The sky is falling! The sky is falling!”

It’s downright confusing...and irritating at times.

As you consider the variety and intensity of the financial appeals you receive, we hope you will remember at least five things about your parish and the Archdiocese of Newark:

1. We count you as part of our family:

We are the only charity that has the responsibility of helping you and your family join the family of God and attain eternal life. Therefore, please remember your parish and

the Archdiocese first when giving annual, year-end, and planned gifts.

Whether you are a recent parishioner or a longtime supporter, we value your interest and involvement.

We consider you a partner with us in this great commission to bring Jesus to people and people to Jesus. You are part of our family and together we share a common commitment, hope, and mission.

2. We remain true to our mission:

As you know, our mission is to help bring Jesus to people and people to Jesus. We want you to know that we have not veered from this and never will. We lay our plans, build our budgets and monitor our results to better achieve this mission. You can have confidence that we are “staying the course.”



3. We depend on your faithful giving:

Whether a small annual gift or a larger estate gift, we rely on your financial support to help accomplish our important mission. The more you give, the more we can do. It’s that simple. On the other hand, without you and other supporters, we could not continue.

4. We pledge financial fidelity:

We wince when we hear of scandals involving nonprofit organizations because this casts a shadow over all charities. And so we want to affirm to you that financial integrity is extremely important to us. We maintain strict accounting and reporting rules. Our books are scrutinized to the limit; therefore, please know that your contribution to your parish or the Archdiocese of Newark is treated carefully and with a keen sense of stewardship.

5. We offer personalized service:

Do you have appreciated stock or real estate that would make a tax-wise gift? Do you need to receive lifetime income as part of your gift to your parish or the Archdiocese of Newark? For these and similar questions, we employ a charitable gift planner to assist you, David Osborne.

Mr. Osborne will meet with you personally to talk about your giving goals and to show you various options. He will guard your confidences and respect your freedom. He is also available to consult with your professional advisors.

As the year-end appeals come and your thoughts turn more toward charitable giving, remember your parish and the Archdiocese of Newark. And please call Mr. Osborne at (973) 497-4584 to learn more about year-end gift planning. Or you can use the form below.



Dear Mr. Osborne, I have an interest in learning more about planned giving.

- Contact me to arrange a private meeting. A good time to reach me is after _____.
- Send me information about creative and tax-efficient ways to give to my parish or the Archdiocese.
- I do not have a will, but would like to meet with you to learn about wills.
- I want to learn more about gifts of appreciated property like real estate and securities like stocks or bonds.
- I want to learn more about lifetime income gifts. My birth date is _____. My spouse’s birth date is _____ (if applicable).

Name(s) _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____ Phone _____

Please return this form to:

The Office of Planned Giving • Archdiocese of Newark • P.O. Box 9577 • 171 Clifton Ave., Newark, NJ 07104

Paid Advertisement



New direction, coordinator planned for Hispanic ministry

The following announcement regarding the Hispanic ministry in the Archdiocese of Newark was issued by Most Rev. John J. Myers, Archbishop of Newark, Dec. 10.

As part of the ongoing evaluation and restructuring of our archdiocesan services, I write to advise you of a particular change of direction in regard to ministry to our Spanish-speaking brothers and sisters.

Previously, the primary agent in overseeing such ministry was the Office of the Hispanic Apostolate. Aply served by dedicated directors and staff through the years, the office effectively responded to the challenges of a growing Catholic minority in our midst. Through its Board for Hispanic Ministry, it also engaged a number of offices and agencies in developing and providing specific services to our Hispanic community.

The Spanish-speaking population continues to grow by leaps and bounds in our archdiocese. It has become increasingly clear to me that all our offices and agencies

which directly deal with our Catholic people need to assume a greater responsibility for assuring that our Hispanic brothers and sisters are included in the programs which are offered.

As the U.S. Catholic bishops noted in our 2002 statement, "Encuentro and Mission": "Our response to the Hispanic presence, coupled with prophetic voices and actions of Hispanic Catholics throughout the country, has brought Hispanic ministry to a crossroads at the beginning of a new century. (7)"

"Hispanic ministry is the Church's response to the Hispanic presence. This ministry must be seen as an integral part of the life and mission of the Church in this country. We must be relentless in seeking ways to promote and facilitate the full incorporation of Hispanic Catholics into the life of the Church and its mission. It entails a collaborative effort with the entire community and honors their history, their faith traditions, and the contributions Hispanic Catholics have

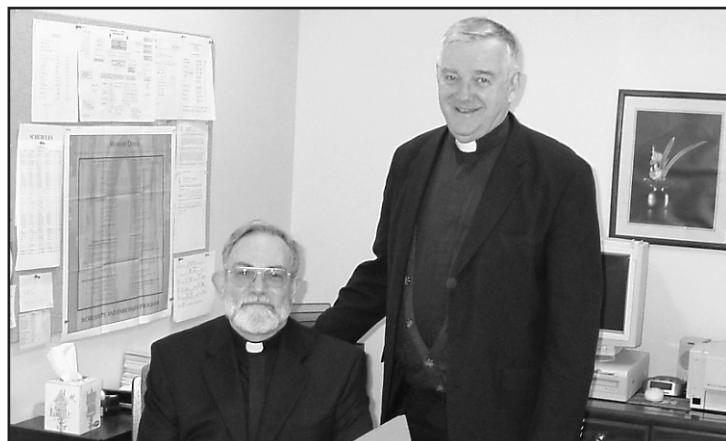
made in service to the Church and society. (60)"

At the suggestion of a special task force, I am announcing our new approach to Hispanic ministry. I am appointing Father Jose Montes de Oca as part-time Coordinator, effective Jan. 4, 2005 who will deal directly with the priests, deacons, and religious engaged in ministry to the Spanish-speaking. He will be able to learn more fully of the needs of our Hispanic brothers and sisters from those who minister to them daily, and offer concrete suggestions for what our offices and agencies may more fittingly provide.

At the same time, I am reconstituting and expanding the Board for Hispanic Ministry, under the direction of Msgr. Richard J. Arnhols, Vicar for Pastoral Life, and Msgr. William J. Reilly, Coordinator for Multi-Cultural Affairs. Under their direction, I anticipate that all of our Archdiocesan agencies and departments, which deal directly with our people, may more comprehensively respond to the pas-



Father Jose de Jesus Montes de Oca Galvan is the new coordinator of the Hispanic Ministry. He has ministered worldwide and locally in Union City, Elizabeth and Paramus in the Church of Newark.



Advocate photos Ward Miele

Msgr. Richard J. Arnhols, Vicar for Pastoral Life, seated, and Msgr. William J. Reilly, Coordinator for Multi-Cultural Affairs, will oversee a reconstituted and expanded Board for Hispanic Ministry for the Archdiocese.

toral needs of the members of our Hispanic community.

It is my hope and prayer that, with this new model, the Archdiocese of Newark may

more effectively respond to the pastoral and social needs of our Hispanic community as we rejoice in their presence among us.

An awesome prelude to the story of salvation

During Advent in our parish we have been sharing in a small group of very fervent Catholic believers. This year, together, we are attempting to stand back and to view all of God's creation—the awesome omnipotent result of our Creator's handiwork.

The result is a humbling almost fearful experience. The universe is so immense. Time and space are beyond human ability to comprehend. Yet it all happened so that you and I, dear friend, might exist—that we might have "our time" on this planet and be able to hope for an eternal life stretching before us.

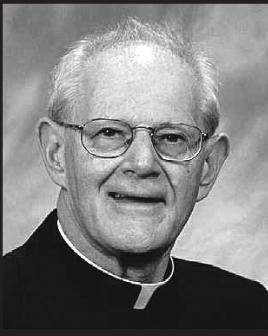
We learned, for example, that the universe began as an "infinitely small energy field of subatomic particles." That insight comes from a scientist named Alan Guth. He says that "in the first trillionth of a trillionth of a trillionth of a second ... the budding universe smaller than the width of a proton, doubled a hundred times over."

Everything that exists today—from the stars and planets to every rock, tree, and human being—can trace its ancestry to less than an ounce of original matter." (Star Ledger article, Dec. 4, 2002)

Here we are 14 billion years later, and all we can do is clap our hands to our mouths as we sing with the psalmist, "O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is Your Name over all the earth." (Psalm 8:10)

Voices

By Msgr. John Gilchrist



We learned that scientists have used genetic studies to track our human race backward in time. In an amazing way they have utilized the DNA of females to trace something called "mitochondria" that is transmitted by mothers. By tracing this human element the scientists claim that they have been able to climb the ladder of history to a single female who lived in Africa.

So—in secular scientific terms—"Eve" has been found. "All human mitochondrial DNA now extant derived from a single mitochondrial molecule from that time and place." (The New York Times, Nov. 13, 1995) Hello, Eve!

Scientists have also traced the "Y" chromosome that only passes from father to son in order to find the com-

mon ancestor of every man on earth. They believe that this gentleman lived "about" 180,000 years ago. Hello, Adam!

Now we can place all the "begats" in the Bible in context. Yes, there was an original man and a woman. And, yes, the human race waited for a Redeemer. All of history came down to that moment "when the Word became flesh and dwelt among us."

All of heaven and all of the whole creation waited breathlessly for one young girl who said, "Let it be done to me according to Your word."

Is it any wonder that all of the angels in heaven—and the principalities and powers of creation sang, "Alleluia!"

They had witnessed the power of the Creator and had seen all of his marvelous works come to that great moment—"when peaceful stillness compassed everything and the night in its swift course was half spent Your all powerful Word from heaven bounded." (Wisdom 18:15)

Praise God, Who before the heavens were made, knew us, and cared for us enough to send His only Son as our brother and Savior.

Yes, for us who believe, all that has gone on before has been a gigantic, mind-blowing, gorgeous pageant. It was all a prelude to the saga of salvation. And we, infinitesimal as we are, have been the direct object of all the mighty works of God.

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

"When the Word became flesh and dwelt among us."



Spiritual

• A Mass to honor St. Elizabeth Ann Seton will be celebrated by Abbot Thomas Confroy, O.S.B., Jan. 8, at 11 a.m. in Holy Family Chapel, Convent Station. A reception will follow in the study hall of the Academy of Saint Elizabeth and is open to the public. Call (973) 290-5345. In case of inclement weather, call (973) 290-5478.

• The Xavier Center, Convent Station, will offer the opportunity to use the labyrinth on Dec. 28-31. Open to the public, call for available times. Call (937) 290-5100 or email XavierCenter@scnj.org.

• Members of the Sodality of the Children of Mary of St. Teresa will meet Jan. 7 at 3:15 p.m. in the Chapel of St. Peter Hall, 2652 Kennedy Blvd., Jersey City, for recitation of the "Little Office," followed by Mass at 3:30 p.m. The Teresians will gather again on Jan. 8 at St. Peter Hall Chapel for the recitation of the Rosary at 8:40 a.m., Mass at 9 a.m., followed by monthly breakfast meeting in the Degnan Room of St. Peter Hall.

• St. Joseph Parish, Lodi, will hold nine-day novena, "Misa de Gallo" ending on Dec. 24, 5:30 a.m. Call (201) 291-1953.

• Holy Spirit Parish, Union, will hold a Holy Hour for Life in presence of the Blessed Sacrament, Jan. 5, 7:30 p.m. Sponsored by Holy Spirit Respect Life Ministry.

Announcements

• Family Life Ministries and the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Newark will sponsor an annulment information evening on Jan. 12 at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, 60 Byrd Ave., Bloomfield, at 7:30 p.m. Call Family Life Ministries at (973) 497-4327.

Health

• St. Mary's Hospital, Passaic, is offering two free classes for women planning to be pregnant in the future, on Jan. 4 and 11, 9-11:30 a.m. in Spanish, or Jan. 5 and 12, 5:30-8 p.m., in English. By appointment only. Call (973) 470-3525.

• There will be a blood drive on Dec. 26 from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Holy Name Hospital, 718 Teaneck Rd., Teaneck. Donors must be at least 18, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be in good health; those under 18 must have written permission from a parent or guardian. All donors benefit from a free mini medical exam, and will need a photo or signature I.D. and knowledge of social security number. Call (201) 833-3030.

Christmas services planned throughout the archdiocese

Parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Newark have scheduled services to commemorate the birth of Christ:



St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Bloomfield, has scheduled Christmas Eve Mass at 4 p.m. in Herron Hall for the school; Masses in the main church, 4 p.m., 6 p.m., and 9:45 p.m. Traditional Christmas carols and music will be performed before the Masses. There is no midnight Mass. Mass will be celebrated on Christmas day at 8 and 10 a.m. and noon.



Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, West Orange, Christmas schedule includes the sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturdays at 4:30 p.m., a service at St. Joseph Parish, West Orange, Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m., and Christmas Eve, 5 p.m., lessons and carols followed by Mass at 5:30 p.m., and 11:30 p.m. lessons and carols followed by midnight Mass. Masses will be celebrated Christmas day at 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. and Dec. 26 at 7:30, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.



St. Aloysius Parish, Jersey City, will celebrate Christmas Eve Masses at 4 p.m. (family Mass), 5:30 p.m., 9 p.m. (Spanish Mass) and midnight Mass. Christmas day Masses will be held at 8:45, 10:30 (Boyd), 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. (No 5 p.m. (Boyd) and 7:30 p.m. Masses.)



Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Orange, will have a midnight Mass on Christmas Eve.

Immaculate Conception Seminary funded for major pastoral initiative

A \$2 million grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc., to Immaculate Conception Seminary, Seton Hall University, South Orange, will ensure local input into a national initiative to expand and energize collaborations that will foster excellent clergy and engaged congregations.

All of the theological school programs selected for the "Making Connections" initiative include highly collaborative components to nourish what organizers call a new "ecology of ministry" developing among those responsible for the quality and care of congregations, i.e., ministers, parishioners, theological schools, colleges and universities, parents, denominational officials and other agencies that serve churches.

Making Connections is the latest Lilly Endowment initiative to address issues facing many Christian denominations in recent decades. These include declining numbers of young people entering the ministry, the dropout rate among young ministers and the often-felt "isolation" of pastors.

The Immaculate Conception Seminary program includes the creation of an Institute for Christian Spirituality, comprised of four distinct, yet inter-related Making Connections initiatives.

These initiatives include the Great Spiritual Books program; Christian Employment Outreach; a Parish Partnership program and the seminary's Theological Education for Parish Services (STEPS). Each one is designed to "stir into flame" excellent pastoral ministry by making a series of vital connections that will call, train and sustain pastoral leaders.

Dianne Traflet, S.T.D., J.D., associate dean of the seminary who spearheaded the grant process, stressed "There was such great collaboration this year in writing the Making Connections grant. So many people with so many diverse talents; and each person worked so hard, but always with tremendous enthusiasm. I am confident that such enthusiasm will have a wonderful contagious effect, allowing for even more participation, particularly among young adults."

The basic purpose of the new institute at Immaculate Conception Seminary is to provide those involved in Church ministry, and those considering such ministry, with effective skills in pastoral ministry and leadership, a solid foundation for their faith,

and confidence. This new initiative aims to keep the momentum going and help those institutions take the next steps to continue improving the quality of ministry.

"We anticipate that the partnerships established or enhanced through Making Connections will strengthen the ecology of institutions necessary to call and equip a new generation of church leaders, just as it seeks to sustain excellent ministry going on today," Dykstra added.

"In the past few years, many of these institutions have begun to real-

ize the necessity of strengthening congregations and the pastors who lead them. The endowment has been delighted to observe a whole new set of dynamics across the country. Theological schools in this program have reached out and found eager partners, sometimes in surprising places. We are pleased to offer resources to help forge the partnerships needed to strengthen ministry in congregations in this country. It is an exciting journey," Dykstra concluded.

The institute's coat-of-arms, Dr. Traflet noted, is the Sacred Heart. "Our motto is 'Stir into Flame the Gift of God' from Timothy 1. Accompanying both is our overall theme: 'The Joy of the Christian Journey,' a theme that certainly seemed to come alive as we planned the creation of the institute. Now, as we plan to implement each program of the Institute for Christian Spirituality, we do so in the same spirit of joyful anticipation and also with much gratitude to the Lilly Endowment and the seminary administration, who have given such support to these endeavors."

"There was such great collaboration this year in writing the Making Connections grant..."

—Dianne Traflet, S.T.D., J.D.

and practical tools for discernment and spiritual growth. The four Making Connections initiatives will be enhanced by scholarly reflections in the Institute's bi-monthly newsletter and its annual *Spiritual Directions* journal.

Despite the issues facing Christian denominations that Making Connections is addressing, there are encouraging signs of change on the horizon. The number of young people under the age of 30 entering the seminary is rising sharply. In addition, many theological school leaders are reporting that their new classes are the largest and brightest in the past two to three decades.

"Many institutions that are responsible for the calling, training and sustaining for pastoral leaders report that they no longer feel disconnected from one another or immobilized," said Craig Dykstra, endowment vice president for religion. "These institutions are realizing that they can turn the situation around. As young people have responded to their programs and initiatives, they realize they can actually make a difference. That gives them new hope, energy

How to Report Abuse

The Archdiocese of Newark takes very seriously any and all credible complaints of sexual misconduct by members of the clergy, Religious and lay staff of the archdiocese. We encourage anyone with knowledge of an act of sexual misconduct to inform the archdiocese immediately so that we may take appropriate action to protect others and provide support to victims of sexual abuse.

Individuals who wish to report an allegation of sexual misconduct may do so by calling the Office of the Chancellor of the Archdiocese at (973) 497-4009.



Christmas Table Prayer

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

The leader says:

Christ is born!

And all respond:

Come, let us adore!

The leader continues:

Lord Jesus,

In the peace of the season,

Our Spirits rejoice:

With the animals and the angels,

With the shepherds and the stars,

With Mary and Joseph,

We sing God's praise.

By your coming may the hungry be filled with good things,

And may our table and home be blessed.

Then the leaders say:

Glory to God in the highest!

And all conclude together:

And peace to God's people on earth!

And sing:

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

Supplied by the Archdiocesan Worship Office

Prayer: Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers

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Time of greatest longing: from Advent to Christmas

The season of prophecy is to be fulfilled once and for all time with the birth of the Savior, Jesus Christ on the day appointed by His Father—who is Our Father, as well. Advent ends in the glorious “Alleluia!” of Christmas Day.

In a gratuitous act of love, a divine intervention in human history, by the power of the Holy Spirit, the Son was made flesh to dwell among us—and to die for our sins.

Decades before the passion, death and resurrection—documented in Christian Scripture and so long hoped for by His chosen people of Israel—a birth, simple but not uncomplicated, occurred in the line of David in the city of Bethlehem.

Attended by shepherds and angels, the most earthy and the highest forms of God's creation, the son of Mary came into the world as the answer to our greatest longing: to be with God, to be worthy of His presence.

The birth of the Christ also served God's own great purpose: to call us back to Him in the act of salvation.

As the Catechism of the Catholic Church states so beautifully, “The whole history of salvation is identical with the history of the way and means by which the one true God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, reveals Himself to men.” (CCC 234)

Why, when the evidence of His love for us is so abundantly demonstrated in this and every season of our lives, do we turn away from Him?

Hurricane help is accepted in Turks

Editor,

Please allow me to make use of this means of communication by which you have graciously been able to reach your readers throughout the Archdiocese of Newark and beyond to make present to them the needs of the Mission in Turks and Caicos Islands as we were hit by Hurricane Frances last September.

We are grateful to God for the gen-

erous support we received from your readers, to Archbishop John J. Myers, Ecclesiastical Superior of the Mission for the appeal that you have made on our behalf and especially to all people of goodwill who have come to our aid in time of need.

We promise to continue to keep you in our prayers as friends of the mission.

Father Peter Baldacchino
Pastor and Chancellor
Missio Sui Iuris
Turks and Caicos Islands

Today's Question: We thought we had to attend Mass on holy days of obligation, but we were recently told it was not necessary on November 1 (All Saints) and it won't be on January 1 (Mary, Mother of God). What's going on? – Mr. and Mrs. J. Stellabotte

While Sunday is the primary holy day of obligation, also to be observed in the universal Church calendar are: Christmas, Epiphany, Ascension, Corpus Christi, Holy Mary Mother of God, Immaculate Conception, Assumption, St. Joseph, SS. Peter and Paul and All Saints. However, the conference of bishops can abolish certain holy days of obligation or transfer them to a Sunday with prior approval of the Apostolic See.

In 1983, the U.S. bishops removed the obligation from both the St. Joseph and SS. Peter and Paul observances. In addition, they agreed to transfer the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) and the Epiphany to the nearest Sunday each year.

Holydays of obligation are difficult to observe in the United States as they are often workdays, unlike in some countries where they are also national holidays. Furthermore, with the now common practice of vigil Masses for both Sundays and holy days, some Catholics were seeking to fulfill both obligations when the holy days fell on Saturdays or Mondays, by considering a Saturday or Sunday

evening Mass satisfactory for both, even though this is incorrect.

To discourage this type of thinking, in 1991 the U.S. bishops requested and received permission from the Vatican to remove the obligation to attend Mass from three of the remaining holy days observed in our country when they fall on a Saturday or Monday, namely, Mary Mother of God (Jan. 1), Assumption (Aug. 15) and All Saints, (Nov. 1).

What's
the
Matter?

By Msgr. Richard J. Arnholz



Inasmuch as Christmas Day is a national holiday as well as one commonly celebrated by most Catholics, it is always observed as a day of obligation, no matter on what day of the week it occurs. Similarly, because Mary under the title of the Immaculate Conception is the patroness of our country, we Latin rite Catholics always are to observe this solemnity on December 8. The Ascension, celebrated 40 days after Easter, is always on a Thursday, and has been preserved, although some U.S. dioceses also observe this on a Sunday.

The Catholic Advocate welcomes questions from its readers about our Catholic faith and how it is practiced. Email your questions or comments to us at advnews@rcan.org.

Editor's Note

The sixth grade CCD class referred in the Dec. 8 issue of *The Catholic Advocate* is from St. John the Evangelist Parish, Bergenfield.

Respect Life

Called to be stewards of God's gifts

BY MSGR. RICHARD MCGUINNESS
Director of the Respect Life Office

Lies are a way of concealing the truth. Misinformation is a form of lie that can cause serious problems.

“The world suffers from over population.” The truth is, that the birth rate is less than is necessary to maintain the present population in every country in Europe and in many other parts of the world as well.

The total population for Italy, for example, is estimated to be down to 30,000,000 by 2050 and that population will consist primarily of older people. Russia has already experienced a loss of over 10,000,000. China and India, which are exacting a one child limit for families, by forced abortions, are finding out that the result has been to create an imbalance of the number of males to females. This will prevent a large number of men from being able to find wives. China is now trying to offer monetary compensation for any family that has a girl.

Population density does not necessarily produce problems. Belgium, Holland and Singapore are densely populated but

wealthy countries. What is needed is to provide underdeveloped countries with the means of transportation, and infrastructure so that food and other necessities can become available for their people and thus create more jobs.

If rich countries were to help in this way, they would help their own economic status, as well, by creating more customers for themselves. India, for example, which used to have to import rice, is now able, through newer and better means of farming, to be able to export rice to other countries. We who have much are asked to share what God has given us with others, as we would like to be helped by others if we were in their condition.

We are all called on to be good stewards of God's gifts to us, including the gift of life. When countries begin to play “God” by deciding how many children and which sex our children should be, we open ourselves up to create the kinds of problems we will be seeing in many countries in the near future.

Msgr. McGuinness is director of the Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of Newark.

Why celebrate the anniversary of a dogma?

Mary conceived without sin

BY SISTER SANDRA DEMASI, S.S.J.

Special to The Catholic Advocate

Following is the continuation of the article begun in the Dec. 8 edition of The Catholic Advocate.

In the Apostolic Letter, *Novo MillennioIneunte*, we are reminded that marking such great events / anniversaries of the Church like this Marian sesquicentennial, is not only a remembrance of the past, but also a prophecy of the future. It was in the soil of history that God chose to establish a covenant with Israel and so prepare the birth of the Son from the womb of Mary "in the fullness of time" (Gal 4:4).

The Dogma of the Immaculate Conception points out not only an event in salvation history but a turning point proclaiming a new creation, a new heaven and a new earth, salvation in Christ. The "fullness of time" is an ongoing reality and through the power of the Holy Spirit our becoming is the ongoing dynamic of holiness—the living reflection of the face of Christ. In reflecting on Mary we come to know that this holiness is inconceivable without a renewed active listening to the Word of God.

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary celebrates the "splendor of an entirely unique holiness," Mary is "full of grace." The Father blessed Mary more than any other created person "in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places" and chose her "in Christ before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless before Him in love" (Eph 1:3-4). It is a spiritual blessing which is meant for all people and which bears in itself fullness and universality ("every blessing"). It flows

from that love which, in the Holy Spirit, unites the Son to the Father. At the same time, it is a blessing poured out through Jesus Christ upon human history until the end: upon all people. The baptized people of God, the people who were once no people but who are now God's people, (1 Pt 2:10), the Church, are the people "full of grace."

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary celebrates Mary as Handmaid of the Lord, Servant of the Word made flesh who made His dwelling among us (Jn 1:14). This Marian anniversary reminds us that God's invitation to the table of the Word is a summons to be active listeners of the Word.

We nourish ourselves with the Word in order to be servants of the Word. Remaining firmly anchored in Scripture, we open ourselves to the action of the Spirit, "to the mysterious bonds of the Spirit which develop from hearing and keeping God's word."

The Holy Father reminds us that marking a jubilee event is a time of contemplation. The experiences of contemplating the image of Mary should inspire in us new energy, which is borne out of being called "blessed," for Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it (Lk 11:28).

In this celebration of the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of the dogma of the Immaculate

Conception, the Church is invited to listen to the exhortation of Christ on Calvary, Behold your Mother (Jn 19:25), with new ears, with new enthusiasm.

The image of Mary docile, quiet, lenient has been a dominant image in the Church. Behold your Mother! She is not reticent, passive and docile; a figure, insulated from human struggle and pain. The Church proclaims a "new motherhood of Mary," generated by faith, as the fruit of the "new" love which came to definitive maturity in her at the foot of the Cross, through her sharing in the redemptive love of her Son.

This celebration is an opportunity for a new image of Mary to emerge and become dominant. This image of Mary is a young woman whose lips proclaimed the greatness of the Lord after journeying from the Annunciation to the Garden to Calvary to Pentecost and is based on the fullness of her life.

Perhaps the encounter with the commissioned statue of the young maiden at the Archdiocesan Center did exactly what an artistic rendering of Mary should do! It shouted, Behold Your Mother!

On Dec. 8, the one hundred and fifty year anniversary of *Ineffabilis Deus*, the Church continued to proclaim, Behold your Mother, she is a living witness of God's unchanging love. She inspires us by her heroic life, and she helps us by her constant prayers to be the living sign of God's saving power.

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you!

Sister Sandy DeMasi is the director of the archdiocesan Worship Office.



The commissioned statue of Mary in the chapel of the Archdiocesan Center.

Advocate Photo: Greg Tobin

Holy Father is most modern of Church leaders

Here is John Cornwell in his new book, *The Pontiff in Winter* (Doubleday), on John Paul II's Marian piety and his devotion to the icon known as the "Black Madonna."

"The greatest of Poland's shrines was the monastery at Jasna Gora, 'Bright Mountain,' housing the miraculous icon of 'The Black Madonna' in the city of Czestochowa...On a visit to Jasna Gora, June 6, 1979, [Karol] Wojtyla, as Pope, would inform his listeners that as a schoolboy he had been granted 'special interviews' with Our Lady at the shrine."

Get the picture? John Paul II is...well, he's strange. No wonder he turns out to be a mystical authoritarian who has "muted the voices of the Church's many saints, theologians, bishops and laymen and women who constitute the Church's wisdom of the present and of the ages."

What else would you expect from someone who claims to have had "special interviews" with the Blessed Virgin Mary when he was barely out of short pants?

There's a problem here, though – the pope didn't say what John Cornwell says he said. Period.

What did John Paul actually say that evening? Here's the text, a kind of valedictory prayer, as published in the English edition of *L'Osservatore Romano*: "Our Lady of Jasna Gora! There is a custom – a beautiful custom – for pilgrims whom you have welcomed at Jasna Gora to make a farewell visit to you before leaving here. I remember very many of these farewell visits, these special audiences that you, Mother of Jasna Gora, have granted me, when I was still a high-school student and came here with my

The Catholic Difference

by George Weigel



father and the pilgrimage from the whole of my native parish of Wadowice. I remember the audience that you granted to me and to my companions when we came here clandestinely, as representatives of the university students of Cracow, during the terrible Occupation..."

An icon, as every educated person knows, is not a work of representational art, like Holbein's "Sir Thomas More." Rather, an icon intends to "make present" the person or event depicted by the iconographer.

By changing "audiences" to "interviews" and omitting the crucial, iconographic context, Mr. Cornwell tries to create the impression that the pope is a little crazy. Yet neither the text nor the context here suggests anything other than a deep piety, expressed in terms that anyone with ears to hear can hear, easily and appreciatively.

The Pontiff in Winter is a vile book, and one comes to the end of it wondering why it was written. Cornwell adds

nothing to our knowledge of John Paul II's pre-papal biography, his actions as pope, or his teaching.

Nor does *The Pontiff in Winter* suggest a fresh interpretive line that illuminates hitherto hidden aspects of Karol Wojtyla's complex personality. Rather, throughout his book, Mr. Cornwell indulges in an exceptionally crude form of the good guys/bad guys, cowboys-and-Indians interpretation of modern Catholic life, much as he did in his previous work, *Breaking Faith*. To this, he adds the skill in sly innuendo that characterized his portrait of Pius XII in Hitler's Pope, beginning with the dust jacket photo adorning that nasty piece of work.

The result is not biography, but pathography.

The pathologies in question involve the author, however, not his subject. For *The Pontiff in Winter* tells us far, far more about the personal crotchets and ecclesiastical dyspepsia of John Cornwell than it does about Karol Wojtyla, his life's story, and his impact on the Church and the world. Clinicians may find it of some interest; readers wanting to learn more about John Paul II will not.

Mr. Cornwell's otherwise unnecessary book may serve one modest purpose, however. Let it stand, preferably on the remainder tables of the bookstores, as a valedictory: not to the pope, but to a style of Catholic journalism that has missed the meaning of this pontificate from the outset.

Why? Because it could never grasp the elementary fact that John Paul II has not been a reactionary pope against modernity, but rather a modern pope with a very different reading of modernity than that typically found among western intellectual and journalistic elites.

George Weigel is a senior fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, DC.

George Weigel is a senior fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, DC.

The pope didn't say what John Cornwell says he said.

The truth about our human life can be found in Christ's love

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Young adults can discover the truth about themselves and the meaning of their lives by contemplating the depths of Christ's love for them, Pope John Paul II said.

"It is possible to discover the whole truth about human life, about us, only thanks to the loving gaze of Christ," the pope said in his homily at a Dec. 14 Mass with university students in preparation for Christmas.

An estimated 10,000 university students, and not just those studying in Rome, attended the Mass.

The pre-Christmas meeting with Pope John Paul also marked the end of a four-day convention of Catholic university students from across Europe. In addition to hundreds of Rome students, 150 university delegates from 20 other countries participated in the convention.

Pope John Paul presided over the Mass in St. Peter's Basilica, while the main celebrant was Cardinal Camillo Ruini, papal vicar of Rome.

In his homily, the pope told the students that the hope and expectation that marks the Advent season should mark their whole lives as well, so that they would "be ready to meet the Lord who comes."

During the Year of the Eucharist, he said, Catholic university students have been meditating on the connection between the sacrament and the truth about human life.

"Before the eucharistic mystery, we are called to verify the truth of our faith, our hope and our love," he told them.

A focus on the Eucharist also must lead to a reflection

on the meaning of true love, revealed by Christ when he gave his life out of love to save all creation, he said.

The pope told the students that recognizing the extent of Christ's love leads to the questions: "And my 'flesh' — that is, my humanity, my existence — is it given for another? Is it filled with love for God and charity for my neighbors? Or does it remain imprisoned in an oppressing circle of selfishness?"

"The Lord comes to meet us in the mystery of the Eucharist," the pope said. "Therefore, never stop seeking Him, and you will discover in His eyes an attractive reflection of the goodness and beauty He Himself has sown in your hearts with the gift of His Spirit.

"May this mysterious reflection of His love be the light that always guides your path," the pope said.

At the end of the Mass, delegates from Great Britain handed their peers from Poland an icon of Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom. The icon, painted by Jesuit Father Marko Rupnik, was first given to university students by Pope John Paul in 2000. Since then, it has traveled throughout Europe, becoming the focus of special prayer services in university chapels.

Close to 60 university chaplains from Italy, England, Spain, Ukraine, Poland, Romania, Croatia, Albania and Germany, who also participated in the students' convention, concelebrated the Mass.

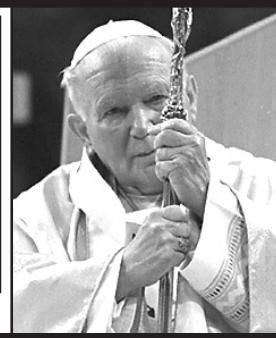
The convention focused on the theme, "Intelligence as a Gift and a Task."

"The Lord comes to meet us in the mystery of the Eucharist."

— Pope John Paul II

The
Pope
Speaks

Pope John Paul II



The birth of Christ, the fulfillment of a promise

Dear brothers and sisters,

Psalm 72, sung at the beginning of this audience, invites us to consider more fully the meaning of this liturgical season of Advent. It is a royal psalm, which portrays a just and devout king who defends the poor and the oppressed (cf. Ps 72:12-13).

The Christian tradition has seen in this image of the Messiah and king a foreshadowing of Jesus Christ, son of the Virgin Mary, the long-awaited savior.

Jesus' birth at Nazareth is thus the fulfillment of the great promise which the Lord made to Abraham: "in him shall every tribe of the earth be blessed" (v. 17; cf. Gn 12:3).

I offer a warm welcome to all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors present at today's audience, particularly the two groups from the United States of America. In the joy of this Advent season I cordially invoke upon you and your families the abundant blessings of Jesus Christ, Our Lord and king.

Special graces for ordinary families

Readings: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Psalm 128; Colossians 3:12-21; Matthew 2:13-23

This feast entered the calendar of the universal Church in 1921 and has been kept on the Sunday between Christmas and New Year's Day since 1969. Obviously the nativity itself is a celebration of the Holy Family but the mystery of the incarnation is the center of our attention.

The model for marriage and family life described in the Gospel deserves a special reflection, not only by married couples but also by all of us. Gratitude for the dedication and love of our own parents should be the basis for prayers on their behalf, whether they are living or deceased.

Few parents have been perfect models for the next generation, so we look to the example of Mary and Joseph as all couples face the daily burdens and challenges of their sublime vocation.

Quite naturally people of faith would imagine that the service of God's plan in the coming of Jesus was an experience of great joy for Mary and Joseph. We need only think of the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary. We recall, however, that even the harmony of that home was won by a triumph of divine grace over Joseph's justified doubt.

Then, the careful preparation of the little home in Nazareth for the birth of Jesus was thwarted by a capricious decree of Caesar Augustus. How many parents struggle to provide stability for their growing children only to find that political decisions or bureaucratic blunders sweep away their hope! We trust that most of these intrusions into people's lives are without deliberate malice.

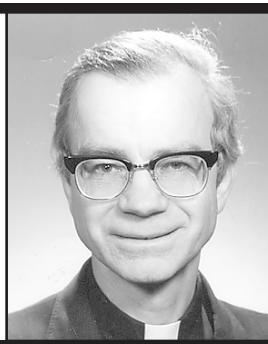
However, fear of the newborn "King of the Jews" led Herod to pursue viciously this seeming threat to his security.

How many families in the past century have taken flight by night to avoid the horrors of war or the savagery of per-

Sunday Readings

Feast of the Holy Family
(December 26, 2004)

By Father Lawrence Frizzell



secution! Unfortunately these tragically wrenching experiences plague the lives of ordinary people in many parts of the world today.

As we consider the quick decision by Joseph and the compliance of Mary to this new twist in God's plan, we may ask two questions: What would I sacrifice to save the life of an unborn or a newborn child? How ready am I to offer assistance to young parents?

In order to be ready for special moments of challenge in extraordinary situations, we must live the ordinary, plodding responsibilities of each day with conscious commitment to God and our vocation. If only we had more time for quiet prayer, without the frenzy of daily duties! But this may be God's will for you at this time. Remember the words of Msgr. Ronald Knox: "The most humdrum task is precious as gold, sweet as incense, sacrificial as myrrh, if only it is earmarked for God."

To alert us about the way in which the divine gift of self-giving love must permeate our daily lives, the liturgy

We look to the example of Mary and Joseph to face daily burdens.

presents St. Paul's exhortation to Colossian Christians. If we wish to face the great and difficult decisions of life successfully, we must exercise the various facets of charity: heartfelt mercy, kindness, humility, meekness and patience (see 1 Cor 13:4-7).

When such virtues are reflected within the home the family radiates a quiet witness to the community at large. The patience needed to "bear with one another" should show itself in forgiveness and forbearance. Then Christ's gift of peace, which links the nativity to the resurrection, will reign in the hearts of the people forming the family.

This peace should be the foundation for the security that the family seeks. Indeed, we acknowledge the utility of locks on our doors, a competent police force, comprehensive health and life insurance policies. But none of these forms of protection is sufficient to confront major disruptions in society.

Both prophets Isaiah and Micah proclaimed a vision of Jerusalem as the city of peace, to which the nations would come in pilgrimage to learn God's instruction and law. Then

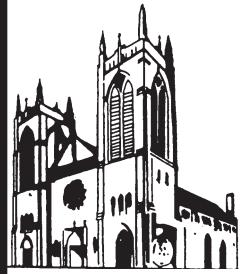
would peoples set aside war in favor of obedience to the divine Judge (Is 2:1-5, proclaimed on the first Sunday of Advent). Until this sublime day arrives, Isaiah exhorted people of faith: "O house of

Jacob, come! Let us walk in the light of the Lord!" (2:5).

Christian families share this light of divine instruction, so they should become mediators of those principles that must underlie a realistic hope for the peace that transcends borders because it permeates hearts.

"Father in heaven... teach us the sanctity of human love, show us the value of family life, and help us to live in peace with all people, so that we may share in your life forever" (alternative Opening Prayer for this feast).

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



Saint Leo Parish, Irvington

Creating unity through presence of the Eucharist

BY BRIAN FORES
Staff Writer

Father Beau brun Ardouin has a difficult task.

As pastor of St. Leo Parish, Irvington, he seeks to establish inclusiveness and harmony between three major language-groups, who speak English, Spanish and Creole. Within the English and Spanish-speaking communities, a number of different ethnic groups exist as well.

With roughly 600 registered families, "Father Beau," as he is affectionately referred to by his parishioners, said that St. Leo's is also home to parishioners from Nigeria, Ghana, Trinidad and Granada, among others.

"Everybody needs conversion, and that's what I'm trying to do. If people seek out the spiritual, and put the Kingdom of God first, then all else is provided," he said with assurance.

Father Ardouin has taken a number of shrewd and practical steps to foster an atmosphere of "one parish-family comprised of several unique groups, whose similarities outweigh their differences."

Having been appointed pastor only last February, and administrator in March 2003, he learned quickly that the parish's diverse communities needed to have a voice within the life of St. Leo's.

Father Ardouin's first step was to appoint a new pastoral council from the ground up, with two vice-presidents, one representing the Hispanic and Haitian community each.

Secondly, trilingual Masses have become a regular occurrence, not only on major feast days such as Christmas and Easter, but as frequently as possible. "If I'm going to have a united parish, I've got to have people all together as often as possible," the pastor insists.

He explained that other events, too, could be held in a trilingual format. Last year provided many good opportunities, when the parish celebrated its 125th anniversary.

A Lenten retreat attended by some 300 parishioners with representatives from all three of the parish's language-groups was held. Father Ardouin explained that at certain points, "we would break into our individual communities, with priests giving talks for each. But we ate together, and had trilingual Mass and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament together."

And that last step, frequent Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, has perhaps, more than any other effort, put St. Leo's on the path toward spiritual unification.

"As I told people when I first came here, and as I tell every person

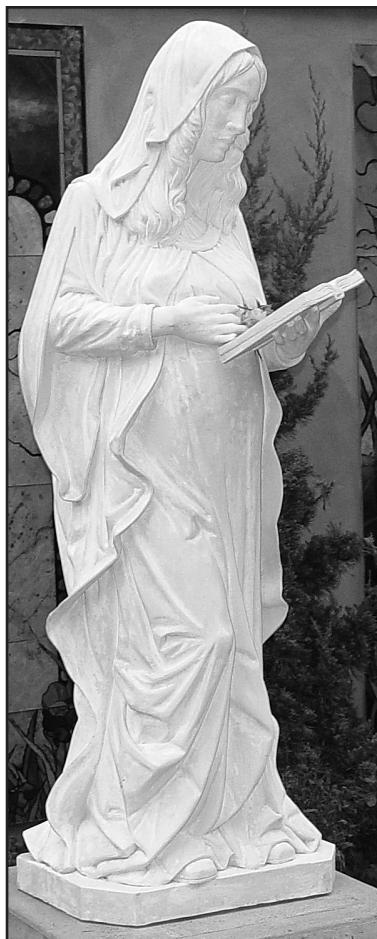
who comes here today, Jesus Christ is real in the Eucharist," he emphasized. He also mentioned the importance of devotion to Our Lady, "if these two things happen, conversion will take place, and it becomes evident how the Lord showers His graces." Currently, Father Ardouin is working to establish Perpetual Adoration at St. Leo's.

As director of the youth group, he takes special interest in conveying to the parish's youth and young adults the importance of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. "It's an awesome experience for them, to experience Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. On the last Sunday of the month, we do adoration, confession, meditation, pray the Rosary, we do a small procession, benediction, and finally, fellowship, i.e., chips and soda, they really like that part," he said with a grin.

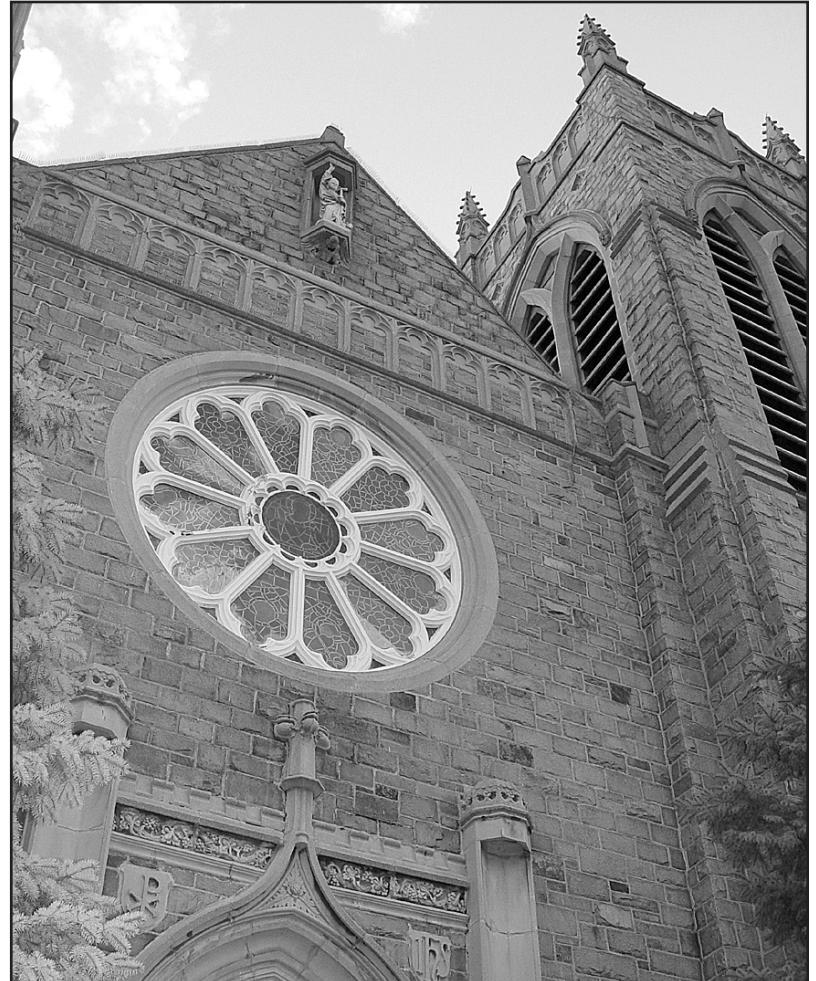
The parish also has a religious education program for the parish's youth, which, according to Elsie Herbello, director of religious education, has about 100 students in grades one through eight.

St. Leo has an interparochial grammar school, which was merged with Sacred Heart, Irvington, in 2001. The school has 370 students in pre-K through grade eight. "Our curriculum is very advanced," declared Paulo V. Sociedade, principal.

Sociedade said that one of the aspects of St. Leo's school that



The parish's Marian Prayer Garden features the statue, "The Six-month Pregnant Mary," and various murals.



St. Leo's prominent rose window and majestic spires give the façade the air of a cathedral.

makes it special is that "we offer two foreign languages. The three-year-olds in Pre-K through fourth grade learn Spanish. In grades four through eight, the students study French."

Sociedade said the school offers a special program for students who score high on standardized tests such as the Terranova, where they are "academically challenged, taught critical thinking and move at a faster pace." He added that St. Leo's scored first among urban schools in the archdiocese on high school entrance exams.

In addition, the St. Leo Gospel Choir, led by Tyron Williams, a Pentecostal minister, has won first and third place in the McDonalds Gospel Festival, competing with choirs from throughout the entire tri-state area. "They have performed on Broadway and recorded a CD," Sociedade declared proudly.

These achievements are notable, considering the formidable challenges faced by the school. Sociedade said that though the school is associated with two parishes, it is entirely self-sustaining. "One-third of our students are in need of supplemental instruction in the areas of math and reading," he noted.

"Their socialization and behavior is of major concern to us. Some of these children come from homes where one parent has been in jail," he noted, adding that others come from troubled homes. Fortunately,

St. Leo's provides counseling for these children, seeking to endow them with the support and coping mechanisms to deal with their challenging circumstances.

Sociedade noted, "Our students are extremely bright, talented and gifted. We provide them with as much love and attention as we possibly can."

The parish strives to have a positive impact on the local community in other ways too. Joan Nisch, a parishioner since 1936, who has held virtually every volunteer position in the parish, noted that the St. Leo food pantry accomplishes a great deal simply on the good will of its parishioners.

She noted, "On the last Saturday of every month, we distribute food to people in this very neighborhood—specifically, a number of seniors, as well as people from the nearby low-income housing project, and lately, more and more young people."

St. Leo's is blessed with devoted parishioners, many of whom have been volunteering for years. George Conrad, a retired chemist who began the Maltine Company, a pharmaceutical company in Morris Plains, has been a parishioner at St. Leo's for over 80 years.

"I was the original runner for the parish, doing whatever errands needed to be done. Mr. Reinbold [the

Continued on Page 11

A people forged by trial, still standing strong

Before 1878, the few scattered Catholics of Irvington, then known as Camptown (from 1739 to 1852), with no place of worship, traveled by foot or rode by horse and buggy to the Collegiate Chapel of Seton Hall, South Orange, where Father John F. Salaun, professor at Seton Hall, assigned as temporary shepherd, would celebrate Mass for them.

On June 23, 1878, Father Walter Fleming was appointed as the first pastor of a new parish in the Village of Irvington, then comprising the Clinton Hill section of Newark. He bought property on the corner of Myrtle Avenue and built the first small wooden church, dedicated under the title of St. Leo by Bishop Michael A. Corrigan, the second bishop of Newark and later Archbishop of New York, on Dec. 15, 1878. On Nov. 4, 1880, the parish was legally incorporated as St. Leo's Parish, Irvington.

The original convent on the east side of Myrtle Avenue was erected by Father J. E. McEvoy in 1992 as a combination school and convent. The ground floor was used as a school, the upper floor as a convent. The school was run by the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

Father McEvoy retired in 1892, before the building was completed, because of ill health, and left the unfinished building with its debt to his successor, Father John J. Boylan. This was St. Leo's School from 1892 to 1910, when Father Thomas Monaghan, pastor 1906-1915, built the red

brick school on the west side of Myrtle Avenue. After 1910, the frame combination building became St. Leo's convent. In 1913, Father Monaghan also built the parish's first small rectory.

When Father Charles Tichler, administrator 1923-1928, came to Irvington in 1923, he immediately saw the need for a larger church for the congregation of St. Leo, which had grown enormously since World War I.

of the Miraculous Medal began. St. Leo's holds the rare distinction of being the first parish church on the continent to keep the Perpetual Novena in honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal.

In 1947, the Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal was placed on the church grounds to honor Father Melville E. Thornton, a young priest from the parish, and 62 other young men of the parish who perished in World War II.

In 1951, construction of Archbishop Walsh High School began. That September, the first group of high school freshmen, a class of 83 students, was admitted. However, because the school was not completed, classes were held in the grade school building.

Sept. 14, 1953 marked the date of completion and official opening of Archbishop Walsh High School, which was dedicated on Sept. 26.

The 1960's saw a growth in its African American population. In 1973, the entire church was renovated. In addition, the first parish council was elected in 1975.

On Sept. 19, 1976, the first Spanish Mass was celebrated by Father Jeremy deCruz. This sparked the growth in the parish's Hispanic community, which would eventually become a major segment of St. Leo's congregation.

In June 1980, the last graduation ceremony for students of Archbishop Walsh High School was held. In September 1980, Essex Catholic Girls High School moved into the building.

In 1996, St. Leo's began celebrating Masses in Creole. As a result, the parish's Haitian community grew significantly, injecting the parish with its vibrant culture and new life.

In September 2001, St. Leo's Grammar School was merged with Sacred Heart School to become the St. Leo/Sacred Heart Interparrochial School.

The dedication of the Marian Prayer sPregnant Mary," took place on Oct. 14, 2001.

Two years ago, the parish welcomed Bukas Loob Sa Diyos, a Filipino Covenant community. Also, in October 2002, there was a blessing of the Marian garden plaques, and dedication of the Tree of Remembrance and the Weeping Cherry Tree in memory of "those who are not given a chance to live," and the victims of Sept. 11.

Today, St. Leo Parish stands as a vibrant spiritual family, comprised of three distinct communities, American, Hispanic and Haitian, united in their desire to worship together, and be a force of outreach and support to the local community.



Bishop Joseph Francis greets parishioners when St. Leo's celebrated a century in the community, in the fall of 1978.

The original frame church was removed to the present school grounds in 1925, to serve temporarily as a place of divine worship, while the present church was under construction. The new but incomplete church was dedicated by the Most Rev. John J. O'Connor, fourth Bishop of Newark and an early pastor of St. Leo's, on Sept. 12, 1926.

When the red brick schoolhouse was built by Father Monaghan in 1910, the school enrollment had increased to 250 pupils. By 1928, the school enrollment had grown to 500, so that temporary classrooms were provided on the auditorium stage, in the balcony and in the basement of the church.

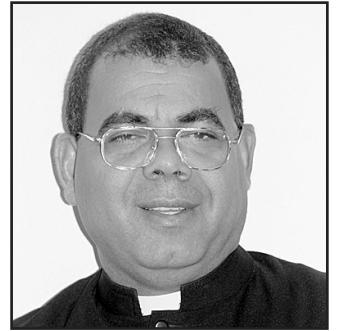
As the population of Irvington continued to grow, the building of a school became imperative. In 1928, the planning and construction of a new school and convent took place, reaching completion in 1931. The sisters moved into the new convent on the feast of St. Ignatius, July 31, 1931.

In November 1932, the Novena to Our Lady



Students from the grammar school pose next to the very much cherished St. Leo's Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal.

Meet the Pastor



Fr. Beaubrun Ardouin

- Age:** 45
- Date of Birth:** December 21, 1958
- High School:** Petit Seminaire College St. Martial, Port-Au-Prince, Haiti
- College/Seminary/Graduate School:** Rockland Community College, Suffren, NY; Columbia University (Pre-Med), Holy Apostles Seminary, Cromwell, CT, M.Div.
- Date of Ordination:** May 29, 1993
- Hero:** Pope John Paul II
- Favorite Saints:** John Vianney, John Bosco
- Favorite Sport:** Fishing
- Favorite Food:** Rice and beans
- Favorite Subject in School:** Biology
- Favorite Movie:** *The Passion of the Christ*
- Last Book Read:** *The Life and Revelations of Ann Catherine Emmerich* by Carl E. Schmoeger
- Proudest Moment:** Ordination
- Occupation if I weren't a Priest:** Doctor

Unity is key

Continued from Page 1
parish's maintenance man] said I could ring the bells if became an altar boy. All the neighborhood was complaining because I was ringing them too loud," he said laughingly. Though he now lives in Pompton Plains, Conrad still volunteers at St. Leo's every Monday, counting the collections.

Marcelo Rosas, a parishioner of 19 years and past president of the Hispanic committee, noted, "We're concerned with uniting as one single parish of different languages, and advancing towards God together, that is our goal. The Hispanic community is very interested in religious and social activities that bring us together."

Claudette Lamothe, an active parishioner of seven years, since the parish "opened its doors to the Haitian community" by offering Masses in Creole, and director of the parish's charismatic prayer group, summarized, "I think it's great for our three communities to be here together. There is a language barrier, but Father Beaubrun is trying to put us together. We learn from them, and sometimes, they learn from us, but the most important thing is that we're here as a family."

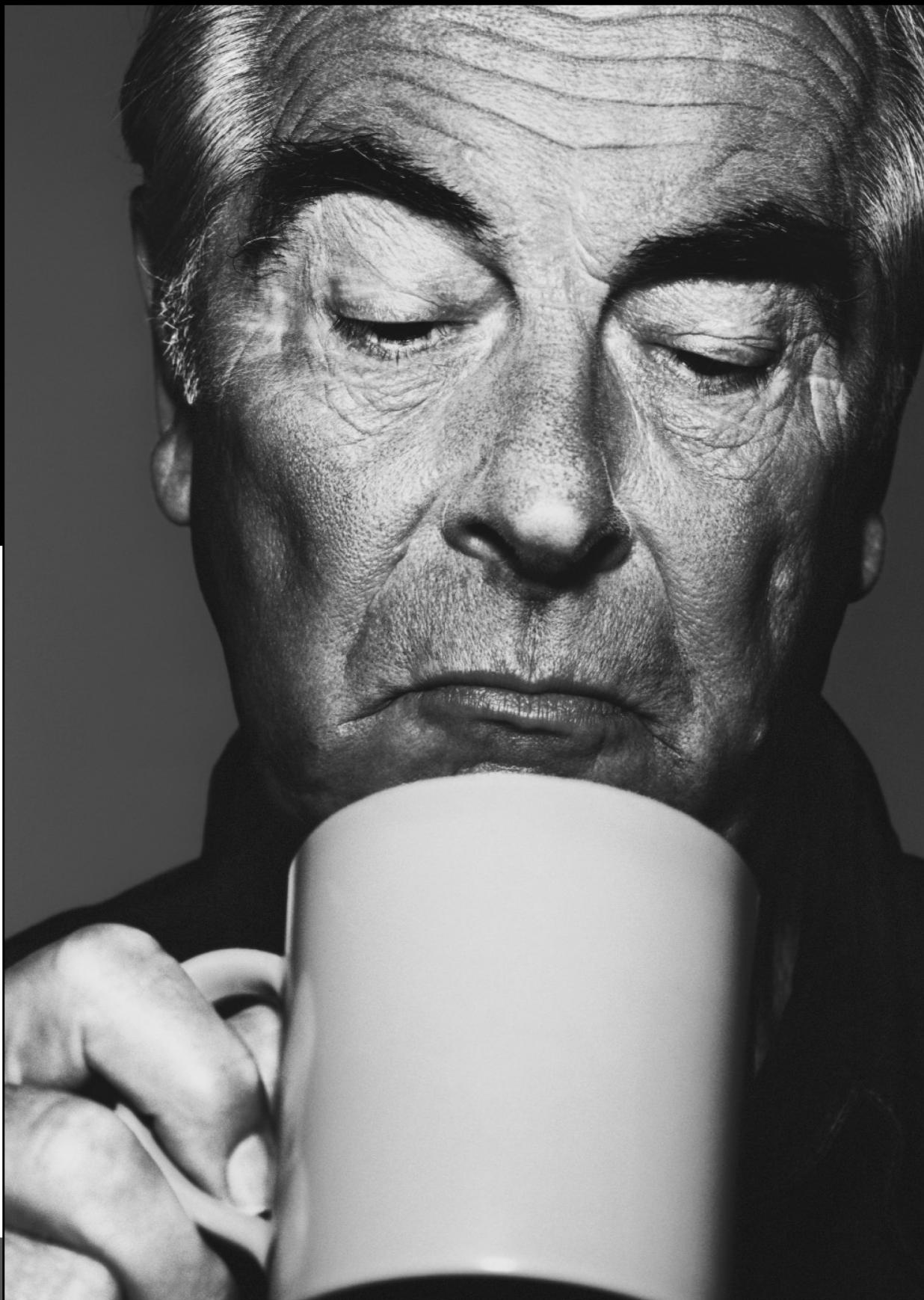
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UPCOMING SEMINARS

Bergen - Paramus

December 28, 9:00 AM
The Forum Diner
211 Route 4 West
Cross St./Forest Ave.

Bergen - Westwood

January 12, 9:00 AM
Seville Diner
289 Broadway Ave.
Cross St./Jefferson St.

Bergen - Hackensack

January 19, 9:00 AM
Arena Diner
250 Essex St.
Cross St./Polifly Rd.

Bergen - Hackensack

January 31, 9:00 AM
The Coach House Diner
55 Route 4 East
Cross St./Hackensack Ave.

Union - Linden

January 7, 9:00 AM
The Grill
706 W. Elizabeth Ave.
Cross St./Stiles St.

Union - Elizabeth

January 20, 9:00 AM
Tropicana Diner
545 Morris Ave.
Cross St./North Ave.

Essex - Bloomfield

December 29, 9:00 AM
IHOP
1129 Broad St.
Cross St./Watchung Ave.

Essex - Maplewood

January 12, 9:00 AM
Sage Diner
1958 Springfield Ave.
Cross St./South Pierson Rd.

Essex - Bloomfield

January 25, 9:00 AM
IHOP
1129 Broad St.
Cross St./Watchung Ave.



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A Poland pilgrimage May 28-June 8

Archbishop John J. Myers will lead an 11-day spiritual journey to Poland, "In the Footsteps of John Paul II," May 29-June 8.

The trip includes round-trip flights from New York to Warsaw and Krakow to Newark, accommodations in four and five star hotels, two nights in Warsaw, one in Czestochowa, four in Krakow and two in Zakopane.

Included in the \$2,695 price are daily breakfast and dinner, all transfers, luggage handling, sightseeing, tour escort and guided tours. Mass will be celebrated daily.

Among the trip's highlights are Mass at the Church of St. Stanislaw Kostka, a visit to St. John's Cathedral and the Polish parliament all in Warsaw.

Stops will be made at the icon of the Black Madonna in



Our Lady of Czestochowa

Czestochowa where Mass will be celebrated, the tomb of St. Faustina Kowalska and Mass at the Shrine of the Divine Mercy and a tour of the Basilica of the Divine Mercy, all in Krakow.

A stop will also be made at Wadowice, the birthplace and hometown of Pope John Paul II. There will be a tour of his house, now a museum, as well as the basilica where he was baptized.

The village of Stawisza, hometown of Father Miroslaw Krol, parochial vicar of Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish, Harrison, is also scheduled. Father Krol will celebrate and English/Polish Mass in the village church.

Back in Krakow, Mass will be celebrated in Wawel Cathedral where the pope was ordained and celebrated his first Mass.

Any questions or for additional information contact Teresa Frankiewicz at Doma Travel, (908) 862-7660 or email her at teresa@domatravel.webmail.com. Father Krol can be reached at (973) 483-2255.



Family Fun Night at Holy Trinity Parish, Westfield, brought smiles to the faces of the youngsters in attendance including, left to right, top photo, Kaeley Hazard and Maggie McDonald and, bottom photo, Catherine Massa and Lindsey Penders.

Adoption privacy legislation is concern

The Alliance in Defense of Privacy in Adoption, which includes the New Jersey Catholic Conference (NJCC) among its members, is calling upon the State Assembly to vote against legislation which would give adopted persons access to original birth records that are now sealed to protect the privacy rights of the birth parents and those who are adopted.

S1093 was adopted Dec. 9 by

the State Senate. It is now before the State Assembly which must act on the pending bill before it can be forward to Acting Gov. Richard Cody.

As Marlene Lao-Collins of the NJCC sees it, "we hope to convince the State Assembly that it is not the way to go because this legislation unfairly changes the rules in midstream for thousands of parent who placed their babies for adoption

in New Jersey over 50 plus years ago." Birth parents are guaranteed the right to privacy under the statute. Many birth parents were influenced by this guarantee of confidentiality in deciding to surrender their children, according to Lao-Collins.

Bishops' Christmas Schedule

Archbishop John J. Myers

Christmas Eve

Visit to St. John's Soup Kitchen, St. John Parish, 22 Mulberry St., Newark, 11:30 a.m.

Midnight Mass, Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, 89 Ridge St., Newark

Christmas Day

10 a.m. Mass, St. Cecilia Parish, 120 Kearny Ave., Kearny

Archbishop Emeritus

Peter L. Gerety

Christmas Eve

8:30 p.m. Mass, Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish, 40 Ludlow St., Newark

Most Rev.

Bishop Edgar da Cunha, S.D.V.,

Regional Bishop for Essex County

Christmas Eve

Midnight Mass, St. Nicholas Parish, 442 E. Brinkerhoff Ave., Palisades Park

Christmas Day

11 a.m. Mass,

Immaculate Conception Parish, 30 North Fullerton Ave., Montclair

Most Rev. Thomas Donato,

Regional Bishop for

Hudson County

Christmas Eve

10 p.m. Mass, St. Henry Parish,

82 West 29 St., Bayonne

Christmas Day

8:45 a.m. Mass, at St. Henry Parish,

Bayonne

Most Rev. John Flesey,

Regional Bishop for

Bergen County

Christmas Eve

Midnight Mass,

Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, 787 Franklin Lake Rd., Franklin Lakes

Christmas Day

Noon Mass, Most Blessed Sacrament

Parish, Franklin Lakes

Most Rev. Dominic Marconi,

Retired Auxiliary Bishop

Christmas Eve

5 p.m. Mass, St. Elizabeth Parish,

East Blanke St., Linden

Christmas Day

9 a.m. Mass, St. Theresa Parish,

541 Washington Ave., Kenilworth

Most Rev. Charles J. McDonnell,

Retired Auxiliary Bishop

Christmas Eve

9:30 p.m. Mass, Holy Trinity Parish,

34 Maple Ave., Hackensack

Christmas Day

9:45 a.m. Mass, Holy Trinity Parish,

Hackensack

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3:30 - St. Anthony vs. CBA

at St. Peter's College in Jersey City

Girls Tripleheader

Saturday, January 22, 2005

3:00 - Academy of the Holy Angels vs.

St. Dominic Academy

4:45 - Immaculate Heart Academy vs. St. Rose

6:30 - St. Anthony vs. Paramus Catholic

at Paramus Catholic High School

TICKETS

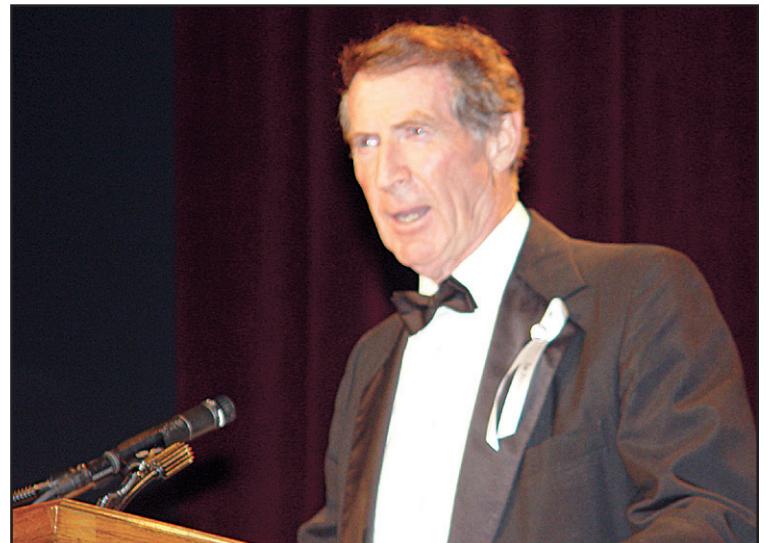
call (973) 497-4279 to purchase tickets or order online at www.basketballfestival.com

General Admission Tickets (purchased prior to game day) are \$9 for adults, \$5 for students Reserved Section Seats are \$25

Seton Hall University announces 'Ever Forward' capital campaign



Archbishop John J. Myers and Msgr. Robert Sheeran, president of Seton Hall University, before the dedication of the sports and recreation complex in memory of the late Richie Regan (known as "Mr. Seton Hall"). Attending the gala to launch the university's sesquicentennial capital campaign, "Ever Forward," were donors, clergy, faculty, staff and alumni. Thomas Sharkey, chairman of the campaign committee, gave details of the campaign's goals and progress.



Cardinal Dulles celebrates student Mass at Pro-Cathedral



Cardinal Avery Dulles, S.J., came to Newark Dec. 12 for the weekly Sunday evening Mass sponsored by the Newman Center at University Heights. The cardinal was principal celebrant and homilist at the Mass and met with college students afterward (photo at right). Concelebrating with Cardinal Dulles (photo at left) were, left to right, Father Marc Vicari; Father Luke Edelen, O.S.B., and Father Philip Waters, O.S.B., assisted by Rex Mauriello.

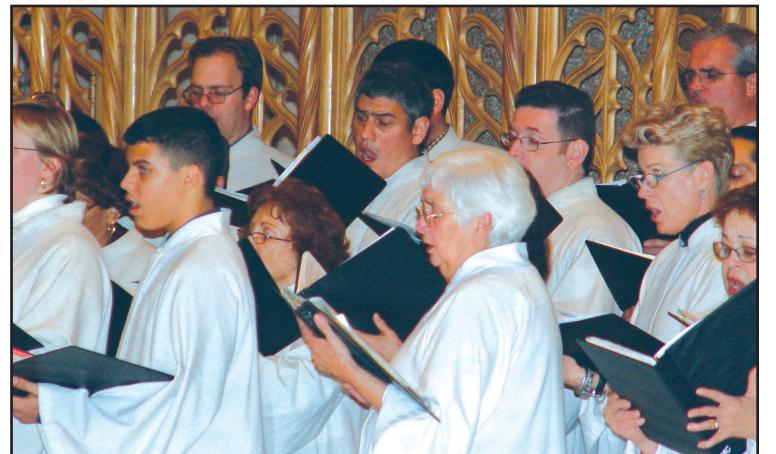


Advocate photos - Greg Tobin

Dogma of Immaculate Conception celebrated



Advocate photos- Ward Miele



Archbishop John J. Myers was the principal celebrant of a Mass in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the definition of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, on the Dec. 8 feast day. Among those bringing up the gifts were, left to right, Victoria Nworu and Victoria Egwuonwu of the Nigerian Rosary Women's Crusade at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish, Newark. To mark the occasion, center photo, the Lady Chapel, a place of devotion dedicated to Mary behind the main altar, was specially decorated. At the conclusion of Mass, Archbishop Myers presented Immaculate Conception Sesquicentennial Commemorative Medallions to the faithful from parishes throughout the Church of Newark. Mary, as the Immaculate Conception, is the patroness of the United States, Archdiocese of Newark, Seton Hall University and the major seminary there. The Cathedral Basilica was filled for the joyous occasion.



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Nativity scene a sign of faith, says pontiff

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Nativity scene is a cultural and artistic trademark of Christmas, reflecting faith in a God who came to live among His people, said Pope John Paul II.

“The Christmas crib is a familiar and particularly expressive representation of Christmas,” he said Dec. 12 before

reciting the *Angelus* at midday.

“It is an element of our culture and art, but above all it is a sign of faith in God who, in Bethlehem, came ‘to dwell among us,’” he said from his apartment window to the people gathered in the square below.

The crowd included hundreds of children who held aloft

Nativity scene figures of Jesus for a papal blessing.

Every year, the pope blesses the figurines, which are then placed in their cribs on Christmas Eve, joining Joseph and Mary, who are “silent witnesses of a sublime mystery,” he said.

“With their look of love, they invite us to keep vigil and pray to welcome the divine Savior who comes to bring the joy of Christmas to the world,” he said.



Pope John Paul II smiles as a group of faithful wearing Christmas hats surround him during his weekly general audience at the Vatican Dec. 15. The pope continued his series of audience talks on psalms and canticles used in the Church's evening prayer.

Photo-CNS



The Abbot must so accommodate himself to each one's character and intelligence that he will rejoice in the increase of a good flock.

Rule of Saint Benedict, Ch. 2

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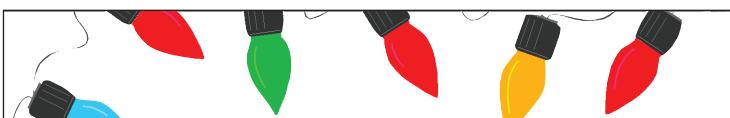
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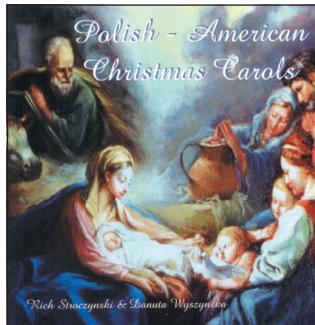
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Pope, politics voted top news stories of year

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic editors voted the controversy surrounding Catholics and politics as the top religious news story of 2004, with the related story of the presidential election coming in second and the continuing fallout from the clergy sex abuse scandal third.

In voting for top religious newsmaker of the year, Pope John Paul II, who has won the poll most often in recent years, again took the top spot.

Catholic voters were the No. 2 newsmaker for 2004, while Sen. John F. Kerry edged out President George W. Bush for third.

The poll was the 43rd annual survey of Catholic News Service client newspapers.

This year's ballots were distributed Dec. 7 and the deadline for returns was Dec. 14.

When the editors' poll was first conducted in 1962, the overwhelming choice for top story was the opening of the Second Vatican Council.

Last year, editors chose the war in Iraq and its aftermath as the top religious story of the year and Pope John Paul as the top newsmaker.



Extends it's Holiday Greetings to all the Parishes & Schools in the Archdiocese of Newark

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Fr. Chas. McTague, Director



Putting the finishing touches on the quilts are, left to right, Rosemary Dignam, Peggy Devine and Helen Clark. A total of 14 quilts were made.

Quilts cover a need

This Christmas, several teenagers sheltered at Covenant House, New York City, will be sleeping under 14 "crazy quilts" stitched by parishioners of St. Peter the Apostle Parish, River Edge.

Project Quilts, the brainchild of Marge Haggerty, attracted the talents of some 36 women.

The 14 quilts, two beyond their original goal, were completed over a course of ten weeks. While the skill of the women ranged from first-timers to the very experienced, all shared an enthusiasm for the project.

Noted Haggerty, "There are many groups that made lap robes for patients in nursing homes and blankets for AIDS babies, but not many seem to focus on the poor teens that are runaways or abused. We just wanted to do something special for them."

The quilts were displayed at a Tea on Nov. 18 and again Thanksgiving Day when they were blessed by Msgr. Robert Slipe, pastor, before being taken to Covenant House.

A season for giving

Students and staff at Caldwell College and the public are helping make the Christmas season a little brighter for children, pregnant mothers, the homeless at area shelters, senior citizens and those living with HIV/AIDS and their families through the college's annual Giving Trees Project.

"I am very excited about the many people these gifts will reach," said Father Tom Orians, S.A., the college's director of campus ministry. "There are many individuals such as learning disabled adults and children, the homeless in area shelters and senior citizens who have no family to remember them.

In previous years the program has benefited BabyLand Family Services Inc., St. Brigid's HIV/AIDS Residence and Catholic Community Services Outreach Services to the Homeless and Broadway House.

In addition, the Campus Ministry scholarship students held a clothing drive in preparation for a Midnight Run for the Homeless.



The nativity portrayed at St. Patrick's Pro-Cathedral, Newark.

Advocate photo- Greg Tobin

A Blessed Christmas to All— *Come, let us adore Him...*



St. Mary, Star of the Sea
Church
Bayonne

St. Vincent de Paul
Church
Bayonne

- | | |
|---|---|
| St. Aloysius Church
Caldwell | Resurrection Church
Jersey City |
| St. Michael Church
Cranford | St. Ann Church
Jersey City |
| St. Therese of Lisieux
Church
Cresskill | St. Anthony of Padua
Church
Jersey City |
| St. Anthony Church
East Newark | Bower & Company
Kearny |
| Holy Spirit and Our Lady
Help of the Christians
Church
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Kearny |
| Holy Trinity Church
Fort Lee | St. Margaret of Cortona
Church
Little Ferry |
| Most Blessed Sacrament
Church
Franklin Lakes | Our Lady of Mount
Carmel Church
Orange |
| Our Lady of Mount Virgin
Church
Garfield | Community of God's Love
Rutherford |
| Our Lady of Sorrows Church
Garfield | St. Gabriel the Archangel
Church
Saddle River |

The Christmas spirit abounds in schools

Schools throughout the Archdiocese of Newark have been busy this Christmas season in projects to bring the joy of Christ's birth to the less fortunate.

Our Lady of Peace School, New Providence, is holding a used coat drive for NJ PAL. In addition, the school is participating for the sixth year in the "Christmas Box" program with Horizon School, Livingston, a school for children with special needs, many of whom have cerebral palsy.

Students from **St. Joseph School, Jersey City,** are conducting a number of events. They are bringing in new hats, scarves, gloves and blankets for the schools "mitten tree." The items will be given to the homeless men, women and children who visit

Saint Joseph's free lunch program.

Students are also donating food and cash to purchase turkeys in preparing Christmas food baskets for needy families. The grammar school performed a Christmas concert for senior citizens, the students of Saint Joseph School for the Blind and the residents of Saint Joseph Home for the Blind.

The school community of **Garfield Catholic Academy** decorated their hallway evergreen with warm winter wear for infants and young children. The school donates these clothes to the homeless



Students in Tanya Ollis' fourth grade class at St. Michael School, Newark, sent letters to soldiers fighting in Iraq as part of the school's Christmas activities.

women's shelter in Somerset.

The Beta Club of Our Lady of Grace School, Fairview, purchased, wrapped and mailed 12 cartons of needed items to a project called Men on the River, a ministry to crew members of ships on the Mississippi River. Other projects involving pastor, faculty, staff, parents

and students include Christmas gifts to the children's critical care unit of St. Barnabas Hospital. Over 100 gifts are donated to the hospital youngsters. The school also donated over 800 pounds of food to the homeless shelters for Thanksgiving.

Students at **Mother Seton Regional High School, Clark,**

donated more than 60 coats, as well as hats, scarves, sweaters, gloves and blankets for infants and adults during the first week of December. Coats were distributed to area homeless shelters throughout Perth Amboy. A collection of stamped envelopes, pens and paper was collected and distributed to asylum seekers confined at Elizabeth Detention Center so that they could write to relatives and friends during the holidays. In addition, holiday cards are being sold and filled out for Veterans at New Jersey veterans Memorial Home, Menlo Park. Proceeds from the sale of the cards will be used to provide veterans with games for their entertainment room. More than 75 food baskets and turkeys were prepared for distribution to needy families in the area.

Immaculate Conception High School, Lodi, raised funds for the county food bank by supporting a local Buy-A-Ribbon program. The entire school community participated in the Help a Family At Christmas program, sponsored by the emergency Food and Nutrition Network of Catholic Charities. The members of the service club, Poverelle, volunteered at a soup kitchen in Jersey City, and chorus members sang at a local nursing home.

At **St. Cassian School, Upper Montclair,** the student council held a collection to help the needy families of St. Michael Parish, Newark. There was also an Advent Mass on Dec. 13, and a parish church pageant on Dec. 19.

Students of **St. Joseph School, Maplewood,** held a collection of small, personal items for handicapped adults, collected for N.A.M.I. of Essex County, and help a coat drive for NJ Cares, delivered to Jersey Gardens Mall.

Ascension School, New Milford, is conducting a Send Love—Give a Bear program. Students are bringing in stuffed bears for distribution at Christmas to needy and sick children. Students, in

Continued on Page 19



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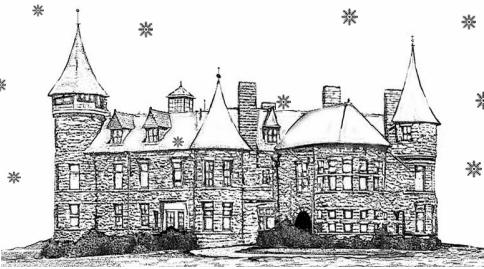
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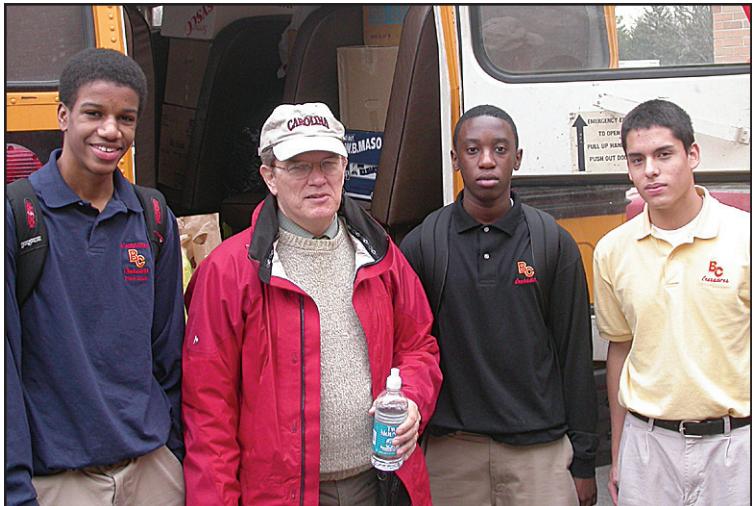
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Getting ready to head off to Jersey City are CCA moderator James Horner, second from left and, left to right, Daniel Nurse, Leroy Mtengwa and Paul Caceres.

A quarter century of sharing

Once again, the Bergen Catholic High School community came through for the residents of St. Boniface Parish, Jersey City, continuing a quarter century tradition.

The "Crusaders for Christian Action" (CCA), a student service organization whose members provide community outreach through food, clothing, and blood drives, coordinated the drive that involved the entire student body.

CCA oversaw the annual Thanksgiving drive collection of food items and clothes. Its offi-

cers delivered a busload of those goods to the Jersey City parish.

The delivery crew, led by CCA moderator James Horner and seniors Leroy Mtengwa, president; Daniel Nurse, vice president, and Paul Caceres, treasurer, made an additional stop at St. John's Soup Kitchen, Newark, to deliver items that had been contributed during the school's clothes and hat drives.

The CCA sponsors other drives and fund-raising events during the school year, and is closely affiliated with St. Agatha's Home in Nanuet, NY.

Schools

Continued from Page 18

association with the Ascension Service ministry and Giving Tree, are donating school supplies for distribution to children who would otherwise go without.

During the Advent season, **Marist High School** has two major projects. Students are going to nursing homes and singing Christmas carols for the patients. In their service projects, individuals will be helping younger students in Christmas activities. The major school project is focused on a Christmas Giving Tree.

St. Anne School, Summit, held a canned goods drive for the parish's food pantry. In addition, students are participating in the Bear Hugs for the Holidays stuffed animal collection sponsored by the Bergen Record. New stuffed animals will be donated to area hospitals for distribution to patients over the holidays.

The students at **St. Joseph School, Oradell/New Milford**, have collected 461 Beanie Babies, which will be sent to an orphan's home in Odessa, Ukraine. The school's National Junior Beta Club students have also sponsored a drive for soldiers in Iraq. Hundreds of pounds of donated items have been shipped to Iraq.

Paramus Catholic High School, Paramus, has been collecting food, clothing, blankets, coats, toiletries and other essentials for the

homeless in various locations of New York City, as part of the Bridges-Midnight Run program, in its seventh year at the school.

Additional information on school activities will appear in the Jan. 5 issue of *The Catholic Advocate*.

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CD of the sisters, with over eight other albums under their Pauline recording label.

The sisters operate three book centers in the New York and New Jersey area, including the Pauline

Book and Media Center, at Wick Plaza in Edison. They have over 15 centers throughout the country.

Go to www.pauline.org for a sample of music from the *JOY* Christmas album, which may be ordered online or through any Pauline Book and Media Center.

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Participating in a Giving Tree program at St. Anthony High School, Jersey City, students, left to right, Tyrell Thomas, Evan Hart, Jennifer Garcia, Miracle Akanno and Christina Freeman, prepare to deliver toys to underprivileged children.



As part of their Christmas preparations, students at St. John the Apostle School, Clark/Linden, among them the third grade class, gave gifts to a Giving Tree program.

Peace on Earth



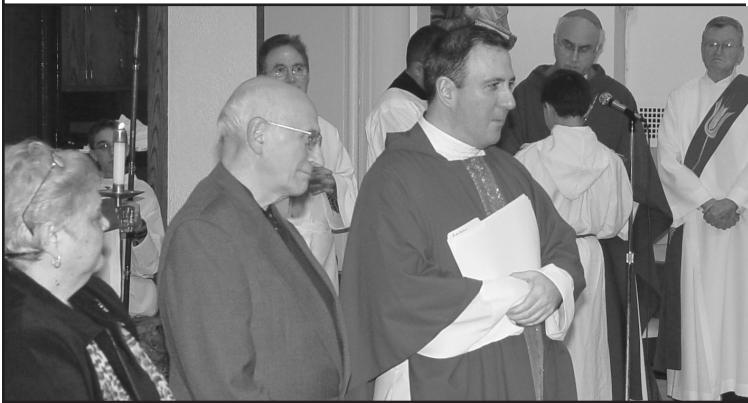
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New pastor for St. Anthony's



Father Robert E. Templeton was installed as pastor of St. Anthony Parish, East Newark, by Most Rev. Thomas A. Donato, Regional Bishop for Hudson County. Shown here are members of the pastoral council with Father Templeton, and the assembly at Mass during his homily.



The annual school contest to promote life is under way

The 17th annual essay and poster contest, co-sponsored by the Archdiocese of Newark and its Respect Life Office, is under way.

"Made in His Image" is the theme of this year's contest.

The poster portion of the contest has two categories: grades 1-4 and grades 5-8. The essay/poetry segment has three categories: grades 5-6, grades 7-8 and high school. First, second, third and fourth place monetary prizes will be awarded. Each participating school will judge its own entries and forward the top three to the Respect Life Office for final judging. Judging at the school level must be done by Feb. 1 with all winning entries at the Respect Life Office by Feb. 16. The Respect Life Office can be reached at (732) 388-8211.



Photo- John Cicchine

Archbishop John J. Myers celebrated Mass at Holy Rosary Parish, Jersey City, as part of an observance of the Feast of the Holy Rosary. Following Mass, the archbishop greeted parishioners, young and old alike.

Workshops offer insight into catechesis, morality



Dr. Gelasia Marques conducts a workshop in Spanish on the tensions and conflicts that can influence an immigrant family. Some 21 workshops were offered.



Bishop Donato leads a prayer service opening the Catechist Convocation.

Valuable information on how to better promote faith formation was provided in over 30 workshops at this year's Catechist Convocation.

Held at Marist High School, Bayonne, the annual gathering was attended by over 450 catechists from throughout the Archdiocese of Newark.

Most Rev. Thomas A. Donato, Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, opened the daylong convocation with a prayer service.

Bishop Donato spoke of using the gifts each person possesses to further the kingdom of God.

Participants were able to select three workshops from among 21 offered in English and nine in the Spanish language.

Topics were comprehensive and included the faith-filled classroom, conversion, prayer, the saints, adolescence, and moral choices, along with several sessions focusing on young people and adults.

A common feeling among those who attended, said Elizabeth Foer of the Catechetical Office, was of "happiness and satisfaction." She said she was told that the convocation provided valuable lessons and ideas that will be used at the parish level.

'Building bridges' between faiths

BY LIESL FORES
Staff Writer

Father Philip F. Latronico, executive secretary for the archdiocesan Commission for Inter-religious Affairs, was honored with the Ambassador of Peace Award recently by the American Muslim Union.

The award, bestowed at an annual dinner sponsored by the American Muslim Union at the Islamic Center of Passaic County in Paterson, is given to individuals who "work hard to build bridges," between different faiths, said Imam Mohamed Qatanani, religious leader of the Islamic Center.

As part of the North Jersey Christian-Muslim Project, explained Imam Qatanani, Father Latronico has worked with Muslim organizations in the area, coordinating activities, such as meetings and public dialogues, in churches as well as mosques in an effort to foster understanding between Muslims and Christians.

He added that they have collaborated for many years.

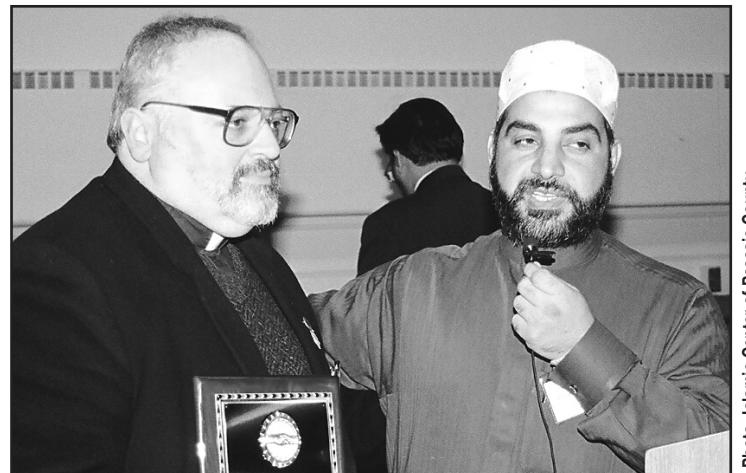


Photo- Islamic Center of Passaic County

Sheikh Mohamed Qatanani presents the Ambassador of Peace Award to Father Philip Latronico, who is active with the Muslim community.

Promoting "more understanding for friendship and brotherhood between people of faith" is an important objective of the North Jersey Christian-Muslim Project, he asserted.

"I was really honored by the fact that they recognized me as a close friend and appreciate the work that the archdiocese does to build bridges between the Christian and Muslim worlds," commented Father Latronico.

The honoree is also secretary of the Faith in the World Commission of the National Association of Diocesan Eucumenical Officers (NAEDO), and is part of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' standing dialogue with Muslims in the Mid-Atlantic region as chairperson of the writing committee which is developing guidelines for Christians and Muslims who come together in marriage.

The Christophers' call on archdiocesan woman

Mary Ellen Robinson, executive assistant to the president of the Christophers and a resident of the Archdiocese of Newark, has been given added duties as the new director of the Christopher Leadership Course (CLC).

Her appointment, approved by The Christophers' board of directors and announced by Dennis Heaney, president, is effective immediately.

Robinson, who joined the Christophers in 1994, is a graduate of the leadership course. She takes on her new assignment in addition to her current responsibilities which include serving as the organization's United Nations representative. She also coordinates Christopher presentations at national and regional conventions; is responsible for special donor relations, and supervises the handling of bequests.

The CLC, begun more than 50 years ago by the organization's founder, Maryknoll Father



Mary Ellen Robinson

James Keller, is designed to develop confidence, leadership skills and public-speaking abilities. Thousands of graduates have enjoyed the benefits of the course, which typically meets one night a week over an eight-week period.

Heaney said plans are under way to expand the CLC, now offered in New York, Chicago, Detroit and Houston.

"Mary Ellen has done so much to reenergize our leadership courses in recent years, and now as we look to new opportunities for the courses we feel that no one is better qualified to lead this effort than Mary Ellen," Heaney said. "I am pleased and grateful that she would add these new responsibilities to her work."

In addition to introducing new locations, the organization is developing leadership courses targeted for special audiences, including teen-agers.

Pamela Hammond, a veteran CLC instructor, will work as part-time coordinator for the course, concentrating on development of new programs. She will report to Robinson.

New pastor at Resurrection Parish

Father Victor P. Kennedy of the Church of St. Anne Parish, Jersey City, has been appointed pastor of Resurrection Parish, Jersey City, effective Jan. 19.

Father Kennedy is a Seton Hall University and Immaculate Conception Seminary graduate.

Before being ordained, Father Kennedy was Chaplain-in-training to the Bergen County Juvenile Detention Center and

second lieutenant-chaplain candidate in the Air Force.

Upon ordination, the Newark native was assigned to Queen of Peace Parish, North Arlington. He also served at St. Joseph's Parish, West Orange, and as priest administrator of CYO/Youth Ministries in Essex County before being appointed director of the Archdiocesan Youth Center in 1992.

Two years later, Father Kennedy was named pastor of St. Anne Parish, Jersey City. At the same time, he was named chaplain to the Boy Scouts in the Archdiocese of Newark.

Father Kennedy served as chaplain for the West Orange Police, the Essex County Conference of the PBA and chaplain and teacher at Essex Catholic Girls' High School, Irvington.

One generation helps another

Felician College's Office of Community Cultural Affairs recently coordinated a collaborative effort among students, faculty, staff, and the Older is Better group, to create hand-

made items for the Tomorrow's Children's Fund at Hackensack University Medical Center.

Thanks to this "knitting for charity" project, in its third year, blankets and infant caps were

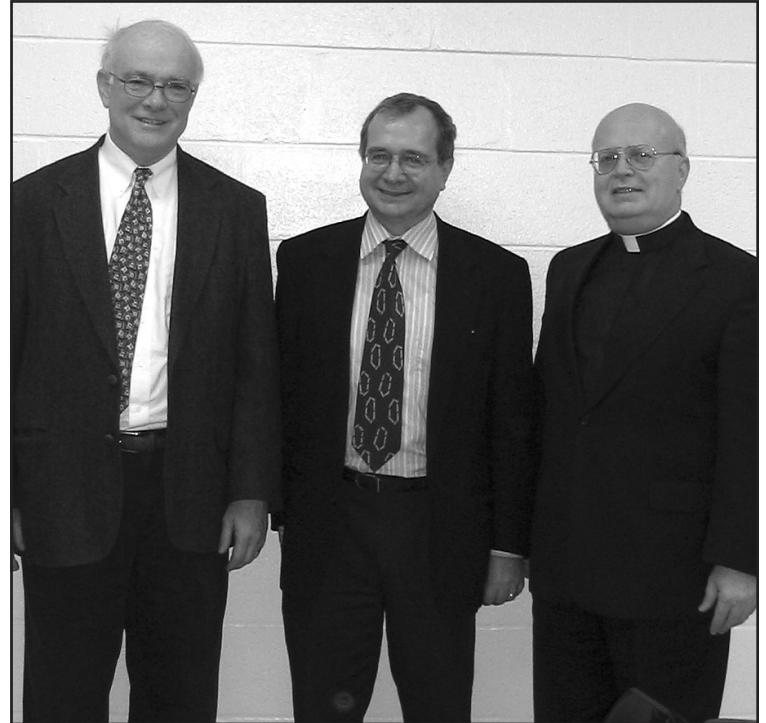
hand-knit to comfort those in need.

Tomorrow's Children's Fund is a privately funded, non-profit organization that eases the pain and suffering of children fighting cancer or a serious blood disorder. Kathy Ambrose, administrative director at Tomorrow's Children's Fund, visited Felician College to accept the brightly colored hand-knitted blankets and caps, saying that they will provide comfort and warmth to children at the hospital receiving medical treatment. "These items go a long way to keeping the children warm, but also remind us that you keep these children in your hearts," she said.

Lena Marrafioti, a member of Felician's "Older is Better" group, was a new volunteer to the knitting project. "I really enjoyed knitting a square for one of the blankets. Next year, I'd like to make an entire blanket myself," she said.



From left to right, Sister Hiltrude Koba, program coordinator of Older is Better; Lena Marrafioti and Rita DeSantis, members of Felician College's Older is Better; Kathy Ambrose, administrative director of Tomorrow's Children's Fund, and Anna Frederickson, member of the Felician group, admire the assortment of colorful hand-knit blankets and caps with Mary Mallia, director of community cultural affairs at Felician College. The blankets were for children with a serious illness.



Dr. Howard McGinn, left, dean of the Walsh Library at Seton Hall University; Massimo Ceresa, reference librarian from the Apostolic Library in Vatican City, and Father Lawrence Porter, director of ceresa was at Seton Hall University recently to give a lecture on the history of the Vatican Library. After the lecture, Father Porter consulted with Ceresa regarding an illuminated manuscript which is part of the seminary's rare book collection.

Obituaries

Sister Eileen Joseph, 81

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Dec. 3 for Sister Eileen Joseph O'Donoghue, C.S.J.P., 81, who died Nov. 30.

Born in Tralee, County Kerry, Ireland, Sister Eileen entered the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace in Englewood Cliffs in 1938 and made her final vows in 1945.

Her assignments in the

Archdiocese of Newark included ministering as an X-ray technician and in the dietary department at Holy Name Hospital, Teaneck; teaching at St. Luke School, Hohokus, and serving as a teacher and administrator at St. Anne School, Fair Lawn.

She retired to Villa Marie Claire, Saddle River, in 2002.

Sister Mary, lifelong teacher

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Dec. 3 for Sister Mary Strazzire, M.P.F., 62, who died Nov. 30.

Sister Mary entered the Religious Teachers Filippini in 1957. She received a B.S. degree in education from Seton Hall University.

Her assignments in the Archdiocese of Newark included teaching in the primary grades at the following schools:

Holy Family, Nutley; St. Joseph, East Orange; Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Jersey City; St. Francis Xavier, Newark; Our Lady of the Assumption, Bayonne; St. Francis, Hackensack; Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Orange, and Our Lady of Mount Virgin, Garfield.

In 1986, Sister Mary was admitted to the infirmary at Villa Walsh, Morristown, where she resided at the time of her death.

Pray for her

Miss Edna McLaughlin, aunt of Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, died on Monday, Dec. 6 at age 96. She was a long-time resident of St. Joseph Home, Totowa, operated by the Little Sisters of the Poor.

Cardinal McCarrick frequently shared stories about his beloved Aunt Edna and wrote about her in his weekly columns

in *The Catholic Advocate* and *The Catholic Standard* (the Archdiocese of Washington's newspaper.) She was the last surviving member of his parents' generation.

Cardinal McCarrick celebrated a Mass of Christian Burial on Friday, Dec. 10 at the Little Sisters of the Poor House, Totowa.

Fellowship conference next month

The Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) has scheduled its seventh annual National Student Leadership Conference with the theme "One for All," (from Hebrews 10:10), Jan. 14-16, 2005 at the Adams Mark Hotel, Denver.

Featured will be the Most Rev. Charles J. Chaput, Archbishop of Denver, and other speakers. Their participation is aimed helping college students strengthen their faith and grow in leadership.

Students will hear talks from prominent Catholic speakers, enjoy live entertainment and meet others who share the same faith from around the country.

Saturday features workshops and breakout sessions led by FOCUS staff members and special guests. Saturday evening will bring the participants together for a banquet with a keynote address by nationally known author and professor Dr. Scott Hahn.

Curtis Martin, FOCUS founder and president, will be the closing speaker at a Sunday morning brunch. Archbishop Chaput will be joined by bishops and priests from across the country to celebrate Mass and deliver breakout sessions throughout the weekend.

For additional information on attending the FOCUS National Student Leadership Conference call (970) 336-9881 or visit the FOCUS website www.focusonline.org.

For information on becoming a vendor at the conference, contact Tonya Turner at tturner@focusonline.org.

Aquinas Academy sessions scheduled

Aquinas Academy, at St. Philomena Parish, Livingston, has scheduled several awareness sessions for the early part of next year.

To be held at St. Joseph Hall, the sessions will take place Jan. 6, 7:30 p.m.; Jan. 11, 9 a.m.; Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m.; Feb. 15, 9 a.m.; March 8, 9 a.m., and March 16, 7:30 p.m.

Topics will include school philosophy, curriculum, a Q&A session, a tour and registration for the 2004-05 school year.

For additional information call (973) 992-1587.



Father Sticco, right, joins with Mexican children and Tommy Martic to put a new coat of paint on a church/school building in the Yucatan Peninsula.

Building a better future

Five members of the Young Adult Club at Our Lady of Grace Parish, Fairview, recently traveled to the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico—but they were not on vacation.

Instead, under the guidance of Father Peter Sticco, pastor, the young people helped rebuild a church, renovate an orphanage and construct new homes.

The young adults met both adults and other youths from a culturally diverse group, younger members of the Union of Catholic Apostolate.

The apostolate carries through the charism of St. Vincent Pallotti to help the less fortunate and those in need.

Celebrate a Catholic Christmas in Connecticut

THERE IS SO MUCH TO SEE, PLAN ON SEVERAL VISITS

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2. Jerusalem and the Holy Land Rediscovered

Showing from Nov. 1, 2004 through Jan. 9, 2005. Includes 90 beautiful lithographs of renowned artist David Roberts' 1838-39 epic travels across the Holy Land. On loan from Duke University. The below image was drawn in the holy Shrine of the Nativity at Bethlehem.



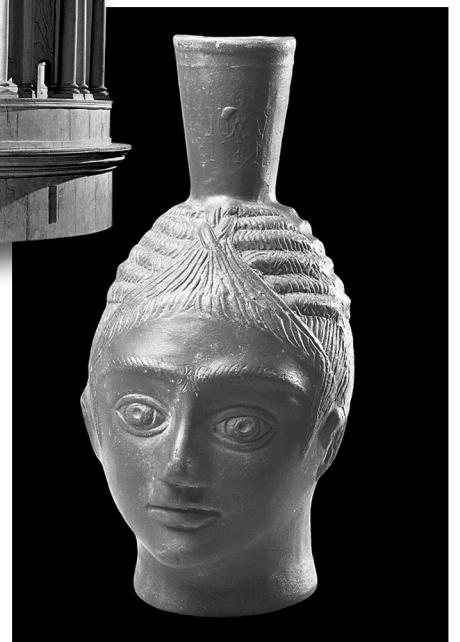
3. "Christmas in the Holy Land" Annual Tree Festival, showing Dec. 4 to Jan. 9, 2005.

Exhibition of hand-made ornaments created by 25 regional Catholic schools (grades K to 5).



4. Light from the Age of Augustine, showing through April 16, 2005.

On loan from Harvard University, the exhibition includes 104 red clay ceramics produced in 5th century North Africa.



Courtesy of the Knights of Columbus, admissions to all exhibitions and parking in the museum garage are free as a public service.

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Vigilance key element of protection workshops

BY LIESL FORES
Staff Writer

For more than two years, the Archdiocese of Newark has been implementing a program that helps ensure a safe environment for children.

Protecting God's Children© is a workshop that brings awareness to the societal scourge of sexual abuse of minors, continuing to educate archdiocesan staff and volunteers who work with children and youth, as well as parents and any other interested parties.

The mandatory seminar is a component of the three-part program that also includes a code of conduct and background checks. All archdiocesan personnel or volunteers who are in regular contact, directly or indirectly, with young people are subject to these requirements.

The workshop itself consists of two videos with interviews of victims and perpetrators of child sexual abuse. The grim material serves to alert viewers to warning signs of suspicious or threatening behavior on the part of adults as well as to indications of victimization on the part of children. There is also guided discussion by a facilitator, group discussions and question and answer sections.

To date, almost 15,000 people in the archdiocese have participated in the course, and there are about 200 trained facilitators.

In a recent Protecting God's Children© seminar, James Goodness, the archdiocesan director of communications, addressed 45 staff and volunteers, many of whom are new in their roles.

When people know more



Jim Goodness, the archdiocesan director of communications, speaks to a group of participants in the Protecting God's Children© workshop. To date, about 15,000 people in the archdiocese have taken the course.

about the warning signs of abuse, Goodness assured, "it gives each of us a better chance of being able to identify it." They will also be more informed on when and how to report suspicions to appropriate authorities, he added.

"We're here [tonight] because we need your help," he continued, calling employees and volunteers the "eyes and ears" of parishes and schools. He pointed out that they are not expected to be "predator catchers or cops," but to "help be the wall" that protects kids.

Goodness stressed that the problem of child sexual abuse is "not a priest problem," noting cases in numerous sectors of society in which this crime has taken place.

He made note of the archdiocese's policy of reporting all allegations of sexual abuse or misconduct among its clergy, Religious and lay staff and volunteers, including those

between adult parties, to appropriate county prosecutors and emphasized its commitment to helping victims heal as well as preventing cases of further abuse.

Counseling is provided to anyone who comes forward with a complaint of sexual abuse against any clergy or employee of the archdiocese. And a full time director has been appointed to the recently formed Office of Child and Youth Protection to ensure the compliance and efficiency of the safe environment program.

"Predators should know the Church is being vigilant," Goodness warned.

While the Protecting God's Children© workshops may have been received with some resentment last year, the common attitude seems to be changing to one of acceptance of the program as a "necessary evil."

Margarita Inacay, 23, a youth minister for Couples for Christ

at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Garfield, noted that sexual abuse is not a topic that is commonly discussed in youth ministry. "We talk about how we're a creation of God and that God is everywhere," she said.

She stressed, however, that everyone should know the "tell-tale signs" of abuse and conceded that the archdiocese implementing this program and making the seminar obligatory has been done as a safety precaution. "We should be aware. ... I'm not opposed to it," she said.

Boy Scout committee member James Barszcz of St. Joseph Parish, Maplewood, said he had not heard about the workshop previously but sees a need for it. "I see it's necessary. It's unfortunate, but it's the way things are."

When asked if he thought the workshops would help the problem, Barszcz remarked, "If the goal is to make everyone aware of the dangers, then it's a good idea. Everyone should be watching out."

Saying that listening to the perpetrators being interviewed validated fears that all parents have, Carol Patulot, a CCD substitute at St. Anthony Parish, Belleville, commented, "Everyone should be involved," in taking the course. She even suggested that teenagers could benefit from the material presented. "It does help," she asserted.

Goodness concluded the session by telling participants, "You have now been empowered with information," which, he said, can be used not only in their capacity in the school or parish, but with their own children, family members, friends, neighbors—society as a whole. He added, "We know the amount of effort you put into the work you do. We thank you for it."

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Physician has the right medicine

Dr. Leon G. Smith, Sr., of Saint Michael Medical Center, Newark, is the recipient of this year's Henry H. Kessler Human Dignity Award. Dr. Smith received his award recently at the Henry H. Kessler Foundation's annual Dinner in New York City.

Dr. Smith is a graduate of Georgetown Medical School (Magna Cum Laude), Yale Medical School—Internal Medicine, and national Institutes of Health—Infectious Disease fellowship and Infectious Disease research. He is chairman of medicine of Saint Michael's Medical Center and Seton Hall Postgraduate School of Medicine, and was chief of infectious disease at Saint Michael's Medical Center for 40 years. He

trained over 250 fellows. His academic titles also include professor of medicine and preventa-



Dr. Leon G. Smith, Sr.

tive medicine at UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School.

Along with several other doctors, Dr. Smith co-founded and still participates in, the successful Inter-City Infectious Disease Rounds group that meets weekly at various hospi-

tals in the New York/New Jersey area. Dr. Smith has over 250 publications in infectious disease, and has written many chapters in infectious disease books. As past president of the National Foundation for Infectious Disease, he developed many unique programs, including its yearly press conference, its vaccine conference, and the education of members on Capitol Hill about infectious disease issues.

Over the years, he has served on many committees for the Infectious Disease Society of America (IDSA), and has given the annual lecture and pep talk to graduating fellows on the history of leaders in infectious disease. More recently, he founded and funded the infectious disease Hall of Fame at Saint

Michael's Medical Center.

Dr. Smith developed the first viral diagnostic lab in New Jersey, as well as one of the largest H.I.V. and Hepatitis C Clinics in the country. He chairs the bioterrorism task force in New Jersey.

Among Dr. Smith's honors and awards are the Clara Barton Award, the Best Doctors Award,

and the IDSA Mentor Award for training more infectious disease fellows than anyone in history. He has also served as a consultant to the Vatican. He is one of a handful of doctors in the country who is a Master of the American College of Physicians (Master A.C.P.), which is the highest rank achievable in medicine that is given by one's peers.

Hospital paper records on critical list

An innovative new clinical information system at Trinitas Hospital, Elizabeth, is improving patient safety by reducing hard-to-read paper records.

Trinitas Hospital is the first in New Jersey to successfully convert its entire institution to the Sunrise Clinical Manager from Eclipsys Corporation. This first phase of the project provides a visual, computerized snapshot of each patient's tests, reports and condition.

"We are well on our way to a complete electronic medical record (EMR), which we plan to implement within a year," stated Judy Comitto, vice president of information technology at Trinitas Hospital.

When completed, the new system will allow physicians to enter orders directly into the system, and will provide full computerized clinical documentation. The entire clinical staff at the hospital and most of the private practice physicians have been trained in its use.

Eclipsys' Sunrise Clinical Manager reduces errors and improves patient care delivery by eliminating often-illegible and time-consuming paper-based healthcare delivery processes such as order entry, documentation and retrieval of results. It aids clinical decision-making and communications by providing all appropriate members of the healthcare delivery team with immediate, secure access to patient records at the point of care or virtually anywhere.

According to Comitto, "This clinical information system provides extensive patient lists which gives clinicians a visual, automated tool for monitoring patients and patient results. Furthermore, it allows us to improve communications and information sharing as well as address patient safety concerns." She added that the selection of the Sunrise Clinical Manager from Eclipsys Corp was accomplished by a multidisciplinary team of physicians, nurses and clinicians together with senior management.

"Sunrise has made patient care easier and more efficient by providing tools to trend and graph patient results from both current and prior visits," explained William Farrer, M.D., academic chief of infectious disease at Trinitas Hospital. "This provides an invaluable snapshot of the patient's ongoing condition. The system is more intuitive and allows for faster and easier access to data and reports required by physicians. Ultimately, patients benefit by receiving more timely

and better quality patient care."

"This system brings us closer in our quest to create a comprehensive electronic medical record (EMR)," explained Ann Baran, senior vice president. Implementing an electronic medical record such as Sunrise Clinical Manager is supported by the federal government, which recently announced plans to establish a national EMR for most Americans within the decade. Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson has named the next 10 years the "Decade of Health Information Technology." By implementing Sunrise Clinical Manager, Trinitas Hospital is playing a leading role in fulfilling the government's goal of "paperless hospitals."

In addition, patient safety advocates such as the Leapfrog Group and the Institute of Medicine recommend computerized physician order entry (CPOE) and automation to reduce the thousands of medical errors estimated to occur annually.



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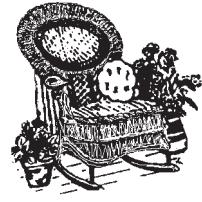
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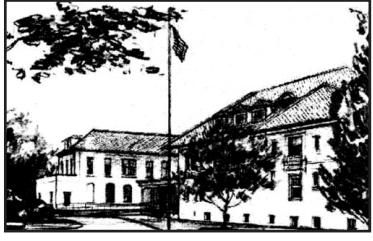
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Father Stephen Ernst, S.T., director of retreats at the Shrine of St. Joseph, Stirling, welcomed a group of seniors from Holy Family Parish, Nutley, for a Day of Renewal. The group spent a good portion of the day at the shrine.

Healthcare access and medicine topic of forum

Local healthcare leaders, meeting recently at a special forum at Saint Michael's Medical Center, Newark, called for better access to their services.

Leading the presentation were Dr. Leon Smith from Catholic Health and Human Services Corporation, Schering-Plough Corp. chairman and CEO Fred Hassan and Dr. Jihad Slim from Saint Michael's.

"We are very pleased to have a long standing commitment to Saint Michael's, and to improve healthcare for some of the most needy populations," said Hassan. "We know the importance of this support, and we are proud that we play a part in the fine work of Saint Michael's."

The discussion focused on improving access to healthcare, reducing costs and closing the health disparity gap.

Hassan made special mention of the need to improve access to important and innovative medicines and commented on Preferred Drug Lists (PDL's).

Schering-Plough supports several hepatitis C screenings and health fairs in the greater Newark area in collaboration with Cathedral Healthcare System.

New president, CEO for Bon Secours

Following an in-depth national search, Richard J. Statuto, who has 17 years in Catholic healthcare, has been named president and chief executive of Bon Secours Health System (BSHSI).

BSHSI is the corporate sponsor of the Bon Secours New Jersey

Health System, which operates St. Mary Hospital, the Center for Family Health and F.A.I.T.H. Services in Hoboken and the St. Francis Rehabilitation Hospital and Franciscan Home and Rehabilitation Center, Jersey City. Effective Feb. 1, Statuto will

assume the helm of the health system upon the retirement of Christopher M. Carney.

Statuto's career includes three years with BSHSI during the late 1980's. Most recently he led St. Joseph Health System, Orange, CA as president and CEO, where he and his team quadrupled the annual net revenue to \$3 billion of this multi-state healthcare provider.

Statuto serves as the immediate past chair and is a member of the executive committee of the board of trustees of the Catholic Health Association and is vice chair of the board of Christus Health System, headquartered in Dallas, TX.

"Rich brings enormous energy and leadership experience within the Catholic health ministry. He has proven strategic skills and success as a healthcare executive as well as the ability to balance ministry and business decision making. We are delighted that he will be rejoining the BSHSI family," said Sister Patricia A. Eck, C.B.S., chair of the BSHSI board of directors.



Fred Hassan, right, chairman and CEO of Schering-Plough Corp. was presented an award from Saint Michael's Medical Center. Making the presentation were Dr. Leon G. Smith, executive vice president for healthcare policy, Catholic Health and Human Services Corporation, and Saint Michael's administrator, Amie Thornton.

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Taking a vacation for the holidays

While there's no place like home for the holidays, Christmas is also a popular time to visit out-of-town family or to take a vacation.

But even if money is no object, an aging parent, grandparent or homebound spouse may make overnight travel impossible for a full-time caregiver.

A special vacation program offered by the Allendale Community for Mature Living, a retirement community in Bergen County, offers a solution.

The Allendale Community's vacation program provides respite care for seniors living alone or with extended family. The program offers short stays – ranging from several days to several weeks – at the retirement community with complete access to its amenities and programs.

Caregivers can schedule a loved one's stay to coincide with travel plans and may want to add a few extra days so the senior can enjoy special holiday events.

Located directly off Route 17 South, the Allendale Community for Mature Living features three fully licensed residences. Independent living is available at the Atrium, which offers apartment-style housing supplemented by housekeeping, dining services and full social calendar. Assisted living is offered at Carlton Court, which features its own dining room, activities center, library, and sunroom with adjoining courtyard.

The Allendale Nursing Home provides skilled nursing care with rehabilitation as needed. Along with newly upgraded facilities, the nursing home offers an array of social and recreational activities geared to residents' interests.

According to Michael Giancarlo, administrator of the Allendale Community, taking advantage of respite care during the holidays can be beneficial for both the senior and the caregiver. "When we provide quality coverage for seniors, their caregivers can enjoy a relaxing vacation or spend the holidays with relatives they rarely see. Plus, the seniors benefit from the change of pace and venue. Freeing up their loved ones to enjoy a vacation gives them immense satisfaction as well," explained Giancarlo.

The Allendale Nursing Home offers complete care in a secure

environment with a high level of medical attention. Due to the additional paperwork required for admission in the nursing home, a two-week minimum stay is required.

More mobile vacationing seniors will be encouraged to participate in the Senior Social Club, an adult day program for area seniors. The club operates weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Atrium and offers diverse, interactive programs. Some of the special events planned for this winter include luncheon shows and movie outings.

The Allendale Community is located at 85 Harreton Rd.

For more information about the Vacation Program or the Senior Social Club, call (201) 818-7978, ext. 7982 and ask for Mary Stampleman, or visit www.allendalecommunity.com.



Sister Arline Zurich, O.S.B., Holy Childhood Association coordinator in the archdiocesan Propagation of the Faith Office, marked 50 years of faith and service at her golden jubilee celebration this fall. Family and friends gathered for a Mass at St. Walburga Monastery, Elizabeth, followed by a reception at the Benedictine Center. Bishop John W. Flesey was the principal celebrant, and Msgr. Robert Fuhrman, director of Propagation of the Faith, was the homilist. Sister Sharon McHugh, O.S.B., prioress of St. Walburga Monastery, presided at the Renewal of Monastic Profession. Pictured, Sister Arline reads the Renewal of Monastic Profession.

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E.D.

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Coach Bob Farrell, center, congratulates, left to right, Andrew Pugar, Chris Andrews and Brandon Costner. All three have signed with major universities.

Three Pirate seniors sign with universities

Looking forward to the upcoming season, Seton Hall Preparatory School basketball coach Bob Farrell met with three of his returning starters to celebrate their signing with major universities during the recent NCAA signing period.

The Pirates, who have won 14 consecutive Iron Hills Conference championships, and are the returning Essex County Champions, entered the season picked in the Top 25 in USA

Today's pre-season forecast.

Guard Andrew Pugar has signed with Harvard University and will be joined in the Ivy League by his backcourt mate, Chris Andrews who will head next year to Yale University. The team's center, 6'-9" Brandon Costner has signed with North Carolina State University.

Coach Farrell is beginning his 19th year at the helm of the Pirates. They will be joined by returning players Mark Solomon, Darryl Harvey and Alex Wujciak.

"Having so many returning starters allows you to pick up where you left off," Coach Farrell noted. "But the challenge for a coach is to stay fresh, to give them a different look, to not let them get bored from the same drills they've been doing for three years. You need to find different routines to get the same results. It can't be business as usual."

Let us know

The Catholic Advocate welcomes information about the sports teams and players throughout the Archdiocese of Newark. Send stories and photographs to: The Catholic Advocate, 171 Clifton Avenue, Newark, N.J. 07104-0500 or e-mail to mielejos@rcan.org.

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Volleyball crowns are captured

Hoboken Catholic Academy's Cardinals captured both the A and B level volleyball titles in recent CYO action.

The A team extended its undefeated mark to 22 matches and 62 games with a 3-0 victory over St. Aloysius.

Team members include Marilyn Baer, Nicole Ciandella, Monica Dempsey, Kris Medina, Caity Whitman, Ariel Mastroianni and Emily Mone. Dempsey was named tourney MVP.

At the B level, Hoboken Catholic Academy jumped out to an early one game lead and held off several rallies from a determined St. John's squad to post a 3-0 triumph.

On the roster this season are Vicki Vitale, Bryana Caraballo, Chris LaBruno, Sam Perkins, Tabitha Feola, Jasmine Pena, Isabella and Athena Bogdanos, Jessica Ciandella, Jade Gomez, Jaslyn Media and Coco Rayo.

The girls will now take the court against the champ from Union County.

Top area hoops action feature of SFIC tourney

St. Anthony High School, Jersey City, the defending champions of last winter's New Jersey Interscholastic Athletic Association Tournament of Champions, will highlight the second annual Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children (SFIC) Basketball Festival on Saturday, Jan. 8, 2005 at the Yanitelli Recreational Life Center on the Jersey City campus of St. Peter's College.

The tripleheader will feature St. Benedict's Preparatory School, Newark, against St. Joseph's High School, Metuchen, in the first game; St. Patrick's High School, Elizabeth, battling Paramus Catholic High School in the second game. In the final game, St. Anthony will face Jersey Shore power Christian Brother's Academy, Lincroft.

Last season, St. Anthony finished with a perfect 30-0 thanks to its 67-55 victory over Bloomfield Tech in the championship game at the Continental Airlines Arena. It was the fourth time in the school's history that its basketball team had an undefeated season.

Providing scholarships since 1983

Founded in 1983, SFIC has raised over \$19 million to provide need-based scholarships to inner-city youngsters who seek alternative educational opportunities at independent and parochial schools. This very exciting basketball event will benefit over 2,000 scholarship recipients who are attending schools such as St. Benedict's and St. Anthony.

"We are very excited about playing in the Scholarship Basketball Festival for a second consecutive year," declared Bob Hurley, St. Anthony basketball coach and Jersey City's Director of Recreation.

"We could not raise this scholarship money without the help of many, many people," affirmed Bill Fitzpatrick, Event Director and SFIC Trustee. For additional information about the Basketball Festival, log onto the event's website www.BasketballFestival.com and or call the Scholarship Fund office at (973) 497-4279.

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Sat.	Feb. 12	ST. JOHN'S	7:30 PM
Sat.	Mar. 5	WEST VIRGINIA	12:00 PM

*All Home Games at Continental Airlines Arena, East Rutherford, NJ. Dates and times subject to change.

and receive a signed holiday card from Coach Louis Orr!

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Candlelight sing at the Cathedral Basilica

The 34th annual Candlelight Carol Sing took place at the filled-to-capacity Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, on Dec. 14. John Miller, director of Music Ministries, led the Cathedral Choir, the Cathedral Chamber Orchestra, clergy, Religious and the faithful of the Archdiocese of Newark in Christmas favorites, including "Silent Night," for which only the congregation's candles illuminated the Cathedral Basilica.



Photos courtesy of Ken Smith

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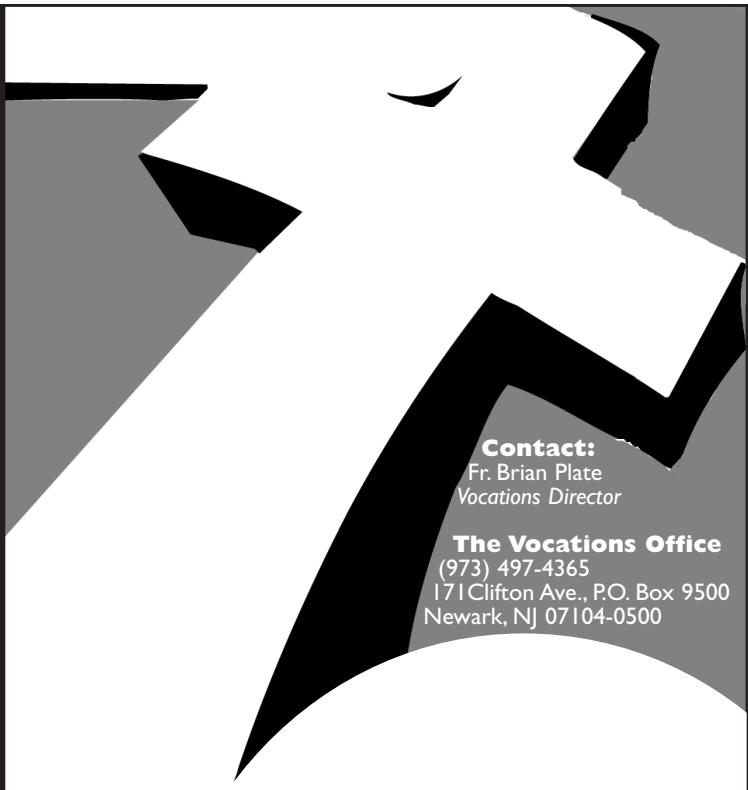


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When **Jesus** turned around
and noticed them following him,

He asked them,
"What are you looking for?"

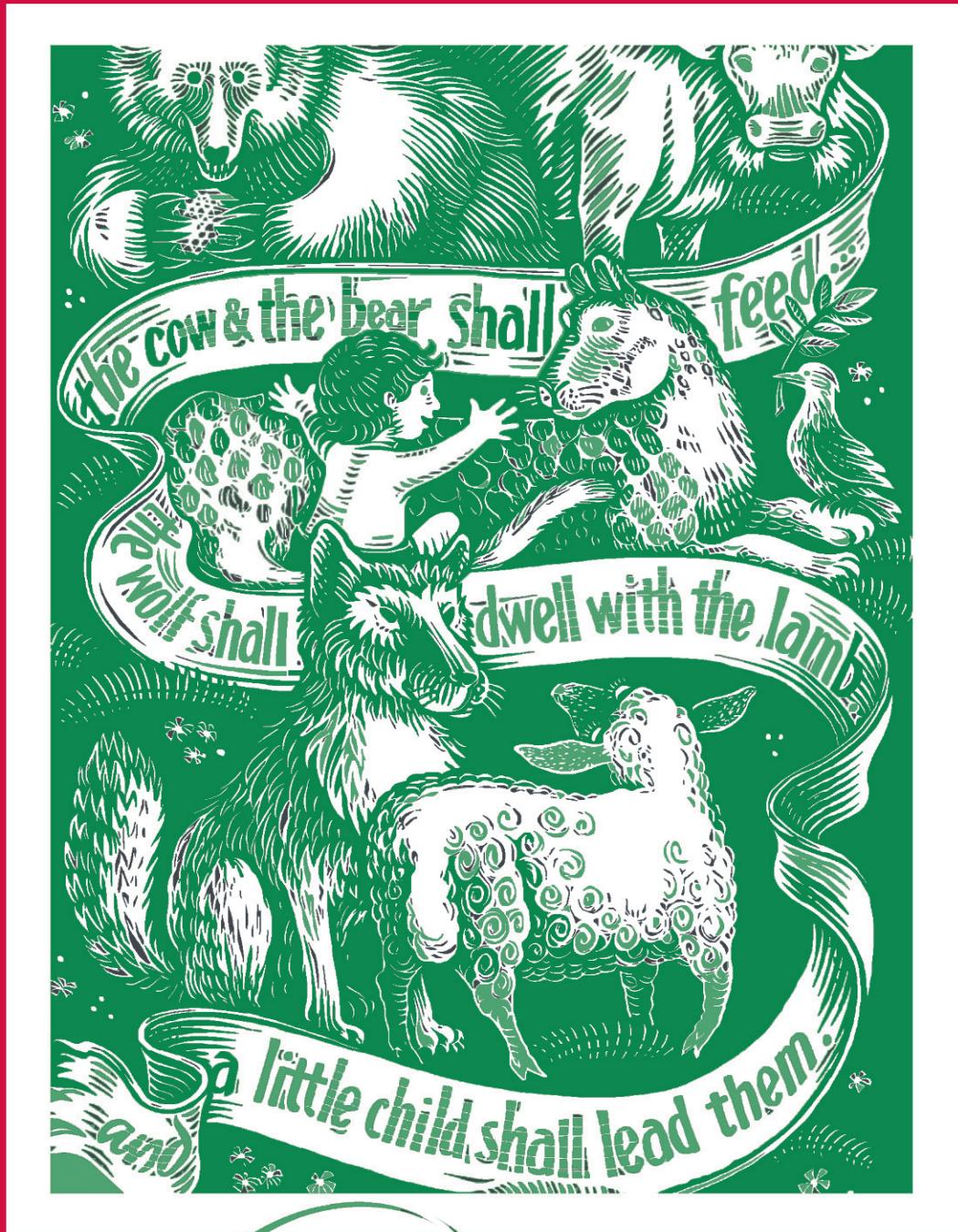
They said to him, Rabbi,
where do you stay?"

"Come and see,"
He answered.

John 1:38-39

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

This is the season of hope, of joy, of faith. May you gather together with your loved ones this Christmas, and truly celebrate all that you have, and all that you feel.



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