



# The Catholic Advocate



Vol. 54, No. 10

Wednesday, May 4, 2005



Advocate photo—Brian Fores

Archbishop John J. Myers held a press conference attended by more than a dozen television, radio and print journalists on the election of Pope Benedict XVI.

## Cardinals sought 'continuity' declares Archbishop Myers

BY BRIAN FORES  
Staff Writer

NEWARK—"The people of this local Church of Newark rejoice with Catholics throughout the world in the selection of Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger as our Holy Father," Archbishop John J. Myers declared in an April 19 news conference at the Archdiocesan Center.

"Guided by the Holy Spirit," he continued, "the members of the Conclave have selected a loving and caring pastor, a strong defender of the faith, and a bishop truly capable of guiding the Church in the tradition and spirit of his predecessor, Pope John Paul II."

Speaking from personal experience, the archbishop stated, "I can attest to the depth of his faith, his devotion to the Gospel and to Church teaching, his sense of humor, and immense caring and concern for all people."

He added, "He is a loving, humble priest and bishop who will lead the Church and deliver the message of Our Lord Christ."

Archbishop Myers recalled Cardinal Ratzinger

from his days in Rome as a student. "He was a respected theologian and scholar," he said. "And a gentle man."

Responding to questions from the media, who called Pope Benedict XVI a "controversial" choice because of his firm stance on matters pertaining to Catholic orthodoxy, Archbishop Myers said, "The notion that he leads with an iron fist is untrue."

The archbishop, who, as a student, attended lectures given by the new pontiff, noted, "He is not unbending, but listens very well, and has years of experience as a bishop in Germany and as the head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome." He went on to describe Pope Benedict as a "kind and caring man."

Upon being asked whether or not the new pontiff's age, 78, was of concern, Archbishop Myers joked, "Well I suppose if his age isn't a problem for the cardinals, then it's not for me," drawing a burst of laughter from the room crowded with reporters.

When asked about the cardinals' choice, the arch-

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## Unique educational venture planned by archdiocese

BY BRIAN FORES  
Staff Writer

NEWARK—The Archdiocese of Newark is working toward establishing a unique high school in Newark's inner city for students who otherwise could not afford to attend a Catholic high school.

Part of the Cristo Rey Network, it is a venture where students participate in a work-study program to help finance their own education.

Sister Elizabeth Vermaelen, S.C., Cristo Rey Feasibility Study Coordinator for the School's Office of the Archdiocese of Newark, explained, "Students go to school four days a week and work the fifth day in an entry-level clerical job which we will obtain for them in a bank, insur-

ance company, law firm, or other corporate level position located in downtown Newark."

In addition, the school will provide transportation for the students to and from the workplace and assume responsibility for the students' safety while outside of the school.

For the program to be successful, the school needs to be located in a major city, where there are ample opportunities for employment. Cristo Rey schools can be found in Austin, Cambridge, Chicago, Cleveland, New York, and other cities.

There are 11 Cristo Rey schools in the United States. Sister Elizabeth said Newark is the "perfect location" because of the number of corporations located there that call New

Jersey's largest city home.

The first Cristo Rey school was started by Father John Foley, S.J., in Chicago in 1996. The "Cristo Rey Network" of

schools began in 2001, aided by philanthropist B.J. Cassin.

In its mission statement, the network describes itself as "explicitly Catholic" and "open to stu-

dents of various faiths and cultures," as well as "family centered" and "culturally sensitive and community-based."

The goal is to establish an accredited college-preparatory

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## Former Soviet president explores democracy

BY WARD MIELE  
Managing Editor

SOUTH ORANGE—Mikhail Gorbachev, speaking last month at Seton Hall University addresses the role of democracy during his time as president of the former Soviet Union and beyond was addressed.

The Nobel Peace Prize Laureate visited the South Orange campus as part of the university's Whitehead School of Diplomacy World Leaders

Forum and the Philip and Mary Shannon Speaker Series.

Leader of the Soviet Union from 1985 until its collapse in 1991, Gorbachev was instrumental in unraveling communist rule in Eastern Europe. He is credited with introducing a new age of openness, or "glasnost," and in decentralizing the country's government through what become known as "perestroika."

Among those in the sold out Walsh Auditorium were members

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Mikhail Gorbachev



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Mother Seton principal**  
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at St. Agnes Parish**  
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**Pope Benedict XVI**  
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# What Pope Benedict XVI means

The election of Pope Benedict XVI means many things: a resounding affirmation of the pontificate of John Paul the Great; an overwhelming vote of confidence in Joseph Ratzinger, one of the great Christian minds and spirits of our time; dynamic continuity in the world's oldest office.

In the long view of history, though, April 19, 2005 may mark the moment at which the forty-year effort to force Catholicism to tailor its doctrine and its message to the tastes of secular modernity crashed and burned.

Ever since the Second Vatican Council, some Catholics and most of the world media have expected—and in certain cases, demanded—that the Catholic Church follow the path taken by virtually every other non-fundamentalist western Christian community over the past century: the path of accommodation to secular modernity and its conviction that religious belief, if not mere childishness, is a lifestyle choice with no critical relationship to the truth of things. These expectations have involved both doctrinal accommodation (e.g., the question of whether Jesus is the unique savior of the world) and moral accommodation (e.g., the many issues involved in the post-Freudian claim that human beings are essentially bundles of desires).

I respect the decisions that other Christian communities have made, before God and before the bar of history, in adopting accommodation strategies. Yet it is very, very difficult to argue that this strategy of cultural accommodation—which in some cases bleeds into cultural appeasement—has solved the 250 year-old problem of being Christian in the modern world. Nor is it possible to demonstrate, empirically, that cultural accommodation or appeasement produce vital, growing, compelling Christian communities. Precisely the opposite is the case.

## The Catholic Difference

by George Weigel



Christian communities with porous doctrinal and moral boundaries wither and die. Christian communities with clear doctrinal and moral borders flourish, even amidst the acids of modernity.

Yet it was expected that the Catholic Church would, indeed must, take the path of accommodation; that has been the central assumption of what's typically called "progressive" Catholicism.

That assumption has now been decisively and definitively refuted. The "progressive" project is over—not because its intentions were malign, but because it posed an ultimately boring question: how little can I believe, and how little can I do, and still remain a Catholic?

In choosing a pope with an unparalleled command of ancient, medieval, and modern theology, the College of Cardinals has sent a clear signal to the entire Catholic Church; the really interesting question is, how much of this rich, vast, subtle tradition have I made my

own? At the same time, the College of Cardinals, by electing Pope Benedict XVI, has told both the Church and the world that the evangelical adventure of dynamic orthodoxy launched by John Paul II will not only continue, but be deepened.

Conventional wisdom notwithstanding, the great divide in world Catholicism these past several decades has not been between "liberals" and "conservatives," "reformers" and "integrists." It's been between bishops, priests, Religious and laity who see the Church primarily in terms of its evangelical mission, and bishops, priests, Religious, and laity who see the Church primarily in terms of institutional maintenance and the exercise of intra-institutional power. The conclave of 2005 was a rout for the latter and a smashing triumph for the former.

The conclave of 2005 also repudiated what might be called "50 yard-line Catholicism"—the attempt to find the safe, comfortable, unthreatening "center" between "the extremes." Pope Benedict XVI, like his

immediate predecessor, is emphatically not a 50 yard line bishop. If one end zone is the truth of the world, and the other embodies a false story about the world and about us, you can't split the difference and rest

comfortably at midfield. Benedict XVI, to press the imagery a little further, will not play to avoid the interception; he'll play for the touchdown.

Pray for his success. Pray that he'll inspire the bishops of the Church to do the same, so that the people of the Church are given bold leadership in the critical task of showing the world the face of Christ, which reveals both the mercy of God and the truth about us.

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

*The College of Cardinals has sent a clear signal to the entire Catholic Church.*

## Stewardship

# Conversion is a goal never fully achieved

BY DAVID OSBORNE

Director of Stewardship and Planned Giving

Ongoing, daily conversion is an obligation that comes with being a Christian disciple. The Holy Spirit tries to conform us to Jesus Christ and to the Church every day so that we participate in the fullness of what it means to belong to God's family.

If we allow it, the Holy Spirit will enlighten us and help us each day to renew our commitment to the Lord.

It can be similar to marriage and family life; some days we need to recommit to the obligations of loving someone other than ourselves. The Holy Spirit will also help us every day to believe in God and act with the honor of being in God's family. He will help us as stewards of God's gifts to cultivate our resources and give them freely so that we not only think that we love God and others, but show our love too.

Stewardship is an expression of discipleship, with the power of conversion, the changing of how we understand and live our lives. Disciples who practice stewardship recognize God as the origin of life, the giver of all gifts, the source of all they have, are, and will be. They are grateful for what they have received and eager to cultivate their gifts out of love for God and others.

Generous sharing of our resources, which include

our spiritual and human resources, is central to the practice of stewardship. Christian sharing is not an option for Catholics. It is how we express our faith and membership in the Body of Christ. It is our way of being God's family. We must understand that there are serious obligations and consequences of the Catholic heritage that we profess and celebrate.

*Conversion to Christ means accepting the fact that we are stewards.*

According to Pope John Paul II, "In this life, conversion is a goal which is never fully attained," (Ecclesia in America 1999). It is a lifelong task. The experience of a personal

encounter with Jesus Christ, which is what compels

Christians to become disciples and follow Christ daily without counting the cost, fosters "new life." In this new way of living, "there is no separation between faith and works" or between Christian spirituality and the way we live (day-in and day-out) in the world.

Ongoing, daily conversion means overcoming the fragmentation that sin has caused in our life and reuniting all aspects of our life according to our model, Jesus Christ, "the way, the truth and the life." This includes our prayer, our work, our emotions, our sexuality, what we do with our time and talent, and how we spend our money. Conversion to Christ means accepting the fact that we are stewards (not owners) of the gifts Christ has given us. And it means acknowledging that we will be held accountable for how well (or how poorly) we developed our talents and shared our gifts.



## Catholic guidelines for advance directives available

The tragic events surrounding the death of Terry Schiavo demonstrate how important it is for individuals to select someone to serve as health care proxy, to execute an Advance Directives (sometimes referred to as a "living will") and to discuss their wishes with their health care proxy and members of the family.

The Catholic Bishops of New Jersey have prepared *Advance Directives for Health Care: A Catholic Perspective*, which is available on the New Jersey Catholic Conference website:

<http://www.njcathconf.com/Documents/AdvDirforHC.htm>

Anyone who doesn't have internet access may obtain the document from the Archdiocese of Newark Respect Life Office, 1805 Penbrook Terrace, Linden, NJ 07036, or by writing or calling the New Jersey Catholic Conference, 211 N. Warren Street, Trenton, NJ 08618. Telephone 1-609-599-2110.

If it should be necessary to revise the document in the future, *The Catholic Advocate* will publish a notice to that effect and make available the revised document.



USPS-008-380

The Catholic Advocate

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PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT

The Catholic Advocate is published by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark at 171 Clifton Ave., Newark NJ 07104-9500. Member of the Catholic Press Association and associate member of the New Jersey Press Association. Subscriber to Catholic News Service (CNS). Periodical postage is paid at Newark NJ and at additional offices. Postmaster: Please send address changes to: P.O. Box 9500, Newark, NJ 07104.

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New Jersey residents: ..... \$15.00  
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Out of state: ..... \$30.00  
Outside the U.S.: ..... \$50.00  
Call: (973) 497-4195

FREQUENCY FOR REMAINDER OF YEAR

The Catholic Advocate continues to be a bi-weekly publication. Publication dates for 2005 are: May 18; June 1, 15, 29; July 13, 27; August 10, 24; September 7, 21; October 5, 19; November 9, 23; December 7, 21.



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NJPA



ISSN# 1084-3213

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# Benedict XVI is ‘gentle, humble, caring’ Archbishop says at Cathedral Mass

BY BRIAN FORES  
Staff Writer

NEWARK—Archbishop John J. Myers offered a special Mass on April 26 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, to celebrate the election of Pope Benedict XVI, the 265th supreme pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church.

Some 50 clergy from throughout the archdiocese, including the auxiliary bishops of Newark and Archbishop Emeritus Peter L. Gerety, concelebrated the Mass, attended by almost 1,000 Catholic school students, parishioners, local residents and chancery staff.

“It has been an historic two weeks,” the archbishop declared at the start of his homily. “We gather,” he said, “to give thanks to God for the gifts of His Son... the Church” and for “these two great successors to Saint Peter... John Paul II and now Benedict XVI.”

Archbishop Myers, who said he was “privileged” to be present at Pope John Paul’s funeral, to witness the outpouring of devotion from people of “every walk of life.”

He observed that the faithful returned to St. Peter’s Square in droves during the recent conclave—anxiously awaiting the news of the election of the new Holy Father.

Making reference to a recent article by journalist Peggy Noonan, Archbishop Myers asked, “Why did the people come?... Ms. Noonan acknowledges that some may have come out of curiosity or for the moment in history,” the archbishop explained.

“But, they shouted ‘Benedict! Benedict!’ Not only Catholics, but also people from all around the world,” the archbishop stated, referring to the historic moment when official word of the new pope was pronounced on that famous Vatican balcony, the Loggia of Benediction, above the main door of St. Peter’s Basilica.

The archbishop reflected, “We are complicated persons. There is a yearning even in hardened and darkened hearts for a Spiritual Father—someone who stands for what is difficult and right,” adding, “We may not always live up to it, but we want someone who stands for it.”

Referring to an address that Benedict XVI delivered to pilgrims from his native Germany—in which he confessed that he “had prayed not to be elected [pope]”—Archbishop Myers spoke of the pallium, a woolen stole worn over the shoulders that Pope Benedict XVI received during his papal installation. “The pallium—a symbol of the yolk of Christ—is a symbol of our embracing the will of God,” he noted.

“He [Pope Benedict] is not the person that some are depicting, especially in the



Archbishop Myers and Auxiliary Bishop Thomas A. Donato (background) giving Communion to the faithful at a special Archdiocesan Mass offered for Pope Benedict XVI.


media,” Archbishop Myers emphasized. Describing him as “gentle,” “humble” and “caring,” the archbishop called the pope a “man of God,” one who knows that we “must support one another with kindness and prayers.”

Archbishop Myers said of Benedict XVI, “We have seen him affirm the Second Vatican Council—and his com-

mitment to it. He has reached out to people of other Christian communities, to those of other faiths and to those of no faith. He has reinforced the Church’s love for the young.”

More important, the archbishop noted, “He says that the Church is alive, because Christ is alive,” and added, “We only need to look about us for the signs all around.”

Official Appointments



Archbishop John J. Myers has announced the following appointments:

Archdiocesan/Agency/Ministry

Most Reverend

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

Regional Bishop for Essex County, has been appointed Vicar for Evangelization of the Archdiocese of Newark, effective immediately for a term of three years.

Pastors

Reverend John J. Paladino,

Chaplain at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Plainfield, has been appointed pastor of St. Bartholomew Parish, Scotch Plains, effective May 1.

Reverend Monsignor Joseph J. Granato,

pastor of St. Lucy Parish, Newark, has had his pastorate extended for another year, ending April 9, 2006.

Reverend Monsignor Edward M. Matash,

pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Bayonne, has had his pastorate extended for one year, ending Oct. 28, 2006.

Administrator

Reverend Josephat K. Kalema, O.C.S.,

Administrator of St. Rocco Parish, Newark, has also been appointed administrator of the Parish of St. Ann, Newark, effective immediately.

Parochial Vicar

Reverend Misael Jaramillo

has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Elizabeth, effective April 19 and ending June 14.

Reverend Peter Wehrle,

parochial vicar of St. Joseph Parish, New Milford, has been granted an extension on his assignment.

Residence

Reverend Thomas A. Dente,

Director of the Office of Divine Worship, has been appointed to residence at Our Lady of Czestochowa Rectory, Jersey City, effective June 1.



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Bishops cite constitution

QUITO, Ecuador (CNS)—In the wake of violent street protests that led to the ouster of President Lucio Gutierrez, the Ecuadorean bishops' conference called for the new government to "follow the law and the constitution completely and make every effort to return to the country the peace it needs for its development, while constantly listening to the longings of the people." The bishops called for calm, urging the armed forces to "help consolidate the rule of law" in the country and for Congress to "take a patriotic stance, correct attitudes and procedures and think only of the common good." Gutierrez, a former army colonel who played a key role in protests that forced President Jamil Mahuad to resign in 2000, is the third president since 1996 to be overthrown in the impoverished Andean nation of 13 million people. Gutierrez fled Ecuador April 24 for asylum in neighboring Brazil.

To serve humanity

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—In his first meeting with representatives of other Christian communities and of other religions, Pope Benedict XVI pledged his pontificate would be marked by dialogue to promote truth and serve humanity. "I assure you that the Church wants to continue building bridges of friendship with the followers of all religions, in order to seek the true good of every person and of society as a whole," he said. The pope held an audience April 25 for the 70 Christian representatives, seven Muslim delegates and 17 Buddhist representatives who had attended his April 24 installation. Jewish representatives missed the meeting because it was held during their Passover observance.

Students elated

ROME (CNS)—At Rome's North American College, where the average ordination age is 26, Pope John Paul II has been the only pope many students have ever known. But despite their nostalgia and their desire to help fulfill Pope John Paul's goals, this young generation of seminarians appears confident and at ease with the new Pope Benedict XVI. Deacon Jason Tyler, 26, a fourth-year student, was born less than a year after Pope John Paul was elected in 1978. Before and after he entered the seminary, he said,

the late pope struck him as a "truly inspiring" example of constant service and untiring mission. As Italian radio announced white smoke rising from the Sistine Chapel, Deacon Tyler and other students leaped from their desks at the college to rush down to St. Peter's Square.

Homage to St. Paul

ROME (CNS)—In his first official foray into the city of Rome, Pope Benedict XVI visited the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls to pray at the tomb of the apostle and pay homage to his legacy of spreading the Gospel. "At the beginning of the third millennium, the Church feels with renewed strength that Christ's missionary mandate is more pressing than ever," he said.

European reconciliation

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—German Catholics heralded Pope Benedict XVI's installation as a "new beginning" for their country and said the pontiff could help reconciliation among some European countries. About 100,000 German pilgrims, many waving flags and banners, were among some 350,000 people who attended the April 24 installation Mass in St. Peter's Square; the largest number of Germans came from the southern state of Bavaria, where Pope Benedict was born. Michael Ilyander, a 40-year-old university professor who came with fellow Bavarians, said he believed Pope Benedict had a "fantastic opportunity" to heal the World War II wounds still existing between Germany and neighboring countries. "As a universal theologian and philosopher, our new pope's horizons go far beyond Germany," Ilyander told Catholic News Service. "Although his manner and attitude seem conservative, he also embodies a Bavarian tradition of liberalism with very positive aspects, which he can rediscover as pope."

Archbishop Chaput

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Praised for his "courageous defense of the sanctity of all human life," Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Denver received the Proudly Pro-Life Award from the National Right to Life Educational Trust Fund April 20 in Washington. Wanda Franz, president of the National Right to Life Committee, presented the award to the archbishop, a former chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities.



# Federal efforts to keep sharp eye on born-alive infant laws praised

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The U.S. bishops' pro-life spokeswoman praised the Department of Health and Human Services for its plans to "aggressively enforce federal laws that protect born-alive infants," as U.S. Health and Human Services secretary Mike Leavitt announced April 22.

"Roe vs. Wade may currently leave our country helpless to defend infants moments before birth, but even now we can and must protect those struggling for their lives outside the womb," said Cathy Cleaver Ruse, director of planning and information for the bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities.

"We applaud the Department of Health and Human Services for initiating this important and humane effort," Ruse added in an April 22 statement.

The department's action followed the passage in August 2002 of the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act, which says that any infant who is fully born and shows signs of life is considered a human person entitled to the full protection of the law—even if the baby is born during a failed abortion.

Leavitt noted that "Congress had received testimony that some infants who had been born alive after unsuccessful abortions were left to die."

He said his department would "investigate all circumstances where individuals and entities are reported to be withholding medical care from an infant born alive in potential violation of federal statutes" and "take proactive steps to educate state officials, health care providers, hospitals and child protection agencies about their obligations to born-alive infants under federal law."

In the "first of these educational steps," Leavitt said, the department has issued guidelines about how the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act intersects with other federal laws and regulations—the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act, the Medicare Conditions of Participation and the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act.

"Ours is a society that values and defends life," Leavitt said,

pledging that his department would "continue to seek ways to revere and protect the dignity of life."

In a separate statement April 22, Ruse also expressed gratitude that a Senate vote to rescind the Hyde-Weldon Conscience Protection Amendment had been canceled, reportedly because Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-CA, realized she did not have the votes necessary to overturn the provision.

The amendment—named for Reps. Henry Hyde, R-IL, and Dave Weldon, R-FL—prohibits governmental discrimination


against health care providers who choose not to provide or participate in abortions. It became law last December.

"The vote to kill conscience protection for pro-life health care providers made no sense," Ruse said. "How can you claim to be 'pro-choice' and say that Catholic and other health care providers have no right to choose not to participate in abortions?"

Even if senators disagree about abortion itself, she added, "conscience rights should be an area of common ground."



Pope Benedict XVI greets several hundred people gathered outside his former residence in Rome April 21. The new pope had returned to his apartment outside the Vatican walls.



Your way of acting should be different from the world's way; the love of Christ must come before all else.

Rule of Saint Benedict, Ch. 4

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May 5

**Xavier Center**, Convent Station, spring auction, 7-11 p.m. Cost \$20. (973) 290-5100 or XavierCenter@scnj.org.

May 6

**Polish Cultural Foundation**, Clark, Mother’s Day event, 8 p.m. Cost \$25. (732) 382-7197 or (732) 382-7169.

May 7

**St. Paul the Apostle Parish**, Irvington, Filipino Community celebration of Santa Cruzan, 5:30 p.m. Mass. (973) 375-8568.

**Newark Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women**, 11 a.m. Mass at Our Lady of the Visitation Parish, Paramus. Cost \$20. Call Audrey at (201) 659-5723.

**Holy Rosary Parish**, Jersey City, Marian devotion to celebrate the May devotion to Our Blessed Mother with the Cenacle Prayer Group and Legion of Mary. Cenacle prayers and reflections are at 10 a.m. followed an hour later by a street procession. The Mass and coronation take place at noon. For additional information call the rectory at (201) 795-0120.

**St. Thomas the Apostle Parish**, Bloomfield, spirituality conference, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Call Anna at (973) 338-9538 or Mary Anne at (973) 239-8169.

**St. Phil’s Singles**, Livingston, volleyball at St. Philomena school gym, 7:30 p.m. (973) 340-4001 or www.homestead.com/stphilssingles.

**Holy Name Hospital**, Teaneck, CPR classes, cost \$35. Additional date: May 14. Call (201) 227-6254 for varying times and costs.

May 8

**Ascension Parish**, New Milford, Mother’s Day pancake breakfast, moms and children under 3, free; general admission, \$6. (201) 385-0159.

May 9

**Missionary Franciscan Sisters**, Tenafly, golf benefit for sisters’ infirmary, Rockleigh Golf Course. Call Jim Whelan at (201) 385-3855 or Marty Moylan at (201) 410-6824.

**St. John the Evangelist Parish**, Leonia, Father Michael Walters of the Tribunal Office, Archdiocese of Newark, will speak at 7:30 p.m., on annulment and divorce. No pre-registration necessary. Call Geri Bianchi in the religious education office at (201) 944-4346.

May 10

**Aquinas Academy**, Livingston, Awareness session, 9 a.m. in St. Joseph’s Hall. Alternate dates: May 12 and 17. (973) 992-1587.

May 11

**Family Life Ministries**, Archdiocese of Newark, annulment information evening, at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish, Roseland, 7:30 p.m. (973) 497-4327.

**Holy Spirit Parish**, Union, Holy Hour for Life, 7:30 p.m. (908) 687-3327.

**St. Lucy Parish**, Newark, candlelight procession of Our Lady of Fatima, 7:30 p.m. (973) 482-6663.

May 12

**Catholic Charities**, International adoption meeting, 7-9 p.m. at 499 Belgrove Dr., Kearny. (201) 246-7378.

**St. Elizabeth Parish**, Wyckoff, Healing Mass, 8 p.m. (201) 891-1122.

May 13

**Immaculate Conception Province**, Lodi, tricky tray at Immaculate Conception High School, 258 South Main St., benefiting the Felician Sisters, 6:30 p.m. Cost \$4. (973) 473-7447 between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.

May 14

**St. Phil’s Singles**, Livingston, bingo/games night, at 386 S. Livingston Ave., 7:30 p.m. (973) 340-4001 or www.homestead.com/stphilssingles.

**St. Paul the Apostle Parish**, Irvington, pilgrimage to National Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington DC. Call Vickie Shear at (908) 687-1397 or Melyn Lopina at (973) 371-6906.

**Holy Trinity Parish**, Fort Lee, spring concert by the New Jersey Chorale, 7:30 p.m. Cost \$10. (201) 947-1216.

**Holy Family Academy**, Bayonne, Late Nite Catechism-2, 239 Avenue A, 7 p.m. Cost \$40. (201) 339-7341.

**St. Joseph Shrine**, Stirling, fundraiser for 9/11 Tower of Remembrance, 7:30 p.m. Cost \$30. (908) 439-9571 or www.stshrine.com

May 15

**St. Rose of Lima Parish**, Short Hills, singer-songwriter Sarah Hart performs for all ages, 7 p.m. (973) 379-1255.

**St. Philip the Apostle Parish**, Saddle Brook, *Godspell*, 6:30 p.m., at 492 Saddle River Road. Cost \$10; \$5 for children under 13. Call Dina at (201) 843-1888.

**The Friends of the Adornos**, spring fair, St. Michael Seminary, Ramsey, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Free. (201) 327-7375.

**St. Cassian Parish**, Upper Montclair, Madrigal Singers

perform sacred motets and secular madrigals, 4 p.m. Cost \$15. (973) 744-2850.

May 16

**Queen of Peace Parish**, North Arlington, day of recollection at San Alfonso, 7:30 a.m. (201) 997-0700.

**Xavier Center**, Convent Station, “Monday for Men,” reflection and discussion, 6:30-9 p.m. Cost \$25. (973) 290-5100 or XavierCenter@scnj.org.

**Holy Name Hospital**, Teaneck, course for older drivers, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Additional date, May 18. Cost \$10. (201) 227-6250.

May 18

**Holy Name Hospital**, Teaneck, free guided tour of local supermarket with registered dietician for people with diabetes, 10-11:30 a.m. (201) 227-6250.

**Holy Name Hospital**, Teaneck, weight reduction program, 7-9 p.m. Cost \$60. Also, Series for women: osteoporosis prevention, 7:30-9 p.m. (201) 227-6250.

**St. Mary Hospital**, Passaic, English testing for free citizenship preparation classes, 6:30 p.m., pre-register with Sister Peggy Nulty at (973) 470-3535.

Prayers are offered for guidance in election of a new Holy Father

BY BRIAN FORES  
Staff Writer

NEWARK—Prayers for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in selecting the new pope were offered at Masses celebrated at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, as the conclave to select a new pontiff began at the Vatican on April 18.

The first, April 17, was the annual Mass for couples celebrating wedding anniversaries of five to 30 years, sponsored by the Office of Family Life.

“I want to extend a warm welcome to all present here today, especially couples celebrating their anniversaries,” commented Archbishop John J. Myers, the principal celebrant, at the start of the Liturgy.

“We pray today for the cardinals who are deliberating and

will decide who our new pope will be,” the archbishop said, adding, “We pray that the Holy Spirit guides them.”

The anniversary couples held hands during the celebration of the Mass.

Anthony and Ruth Sgobbo, of St. Raphael Parish, Livingston, noted, “We are happy to be here and renew our vows.” The couple was celebrating their tenth wedding anniversary.

Dino and Maria Picinich, St. Ann Parish, Hoboken, celebrating their 25th anniversary, came with their three young children. Noting that they did not have children until after 16 years of marriage, both agreed, “We feel blessed; this is wonderful.”

Among the youngest, Christopher and Cheryl Silverio of Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Verona, were celebrating five

years of marriage. Remarking that “we think it is nice that the archdiocese recognizes married couples,” they noted, “We hope to be back here for our 25th wedding anniversary.”

Father John Paladino, chaplain at Muhlenberg Hospital, Plainfield, delivered the homily.

Addressing the couples, he said, “Through your marriage, you have said yes to life, to love, and to God... Only your love for each other has given you the ability to turn stumbling blocks into stepping stones,” adding, “Just as the cardinals now try to hear the voice of the Good Shepherd, so you, too, through your marriage, have heard his voice, and it is through your marriage that Jesus is revealed to you.”

The following day, to note

the first day of the Papal conclave in Rome, Bishop Thomas A. Donato, Regional Bishop for Hudson County, celebrated a Mass at the Cathedral Basilica to pray for the cardinals.

“My hope is that there be some lighter moments of

relief among the cardinals when they gather, because the very purpose of their gathering is so serious, and that we continue to send them our love and support from where we are... for the man they choose will serve the church universal.”

School logos sought for publication

A copy of your school logo is needed by *The Catholic Advocate*. The images may be used on the Around the Archdiocese page. Send a .jpeg image of no less than 200 dpi to blackmpa@rcan.org.



*The Catholic Advocate* welcomes photographs sent in by readers. Photos will be run at editor’s discretion. Digital photos must be sent unaltered, in original .jpeg format, and must include identification of all subjects. Submissions and contact information should be emailed to: mielejos@rcan.org.

Our Policy

To publicize an upcoming event at your parish, school or organization on the “Around the Archdiocese” page, please note:  
• Submissions must include the name of the sponsoring organization, a phone number for the contact person and event specifics, including the date, place and time.  
• Deadline for submission is 10 days prior to publication date.  
The Catholic Advocate publishes submissions as space allows and cannot print an item more than once.  
• Contact by **email:** mielejos@rcan.org, **fax:** 973-497-4192, or **mail:** The Catholic Advocate, Around the Archdiocese, P.O. Box 9500, Newark, NJ 07104



# A good, holy man

Editor,

Our Holy Father has always been a man of faith, peace and love!

He always reached out to those who agreed or disagreed with his deep Christian convictions.

He knew that many thought issues like the evil of abortion were a choice, but he always found it a depraved end, a sin against life itself, against God, the author of life!

Let us all pray for and to the Holy Father as we travel the road of life, keeping always in our mind our Holy Father's words, "Be not afraid," something he always found comfort in his years as our spiritual leader.

God rest his soul. He was a good and holy man of God.

Bernard Kiernan  
Fort Lee

# The great treasure

Editor,

I was taking a break from studies, walking on the streets of Rome when a few church bells began ringing.

Not wearing a watch, I at first thought they were the 6 p.m. *Angelus* bells and so I began praying the *Regina caeli*, but the bells did not stop. And the bells of one church after another joined in the joyous toll announcing: we have a pope.

Making my way toward St. Peter's Square I began praying over and over again the traditional prayer for the pope: "The Lord preserve him and give him life, and make him blessed upon the earth, and deliver him not to the will of his enemies."

The streets of Rome quickly became a river of persons racing toward the Square. Store owners locked up their shops, patrons scurried away from sidewalk cafes, one woman left a hairdresser with some type of tin-foil wraps in her hair, young and old rushed as a peaceful and in some sense even prayerful mob in a single direction: to the Chair of Peter.

In these few shorts weeks we have mourned the death of our beloved John Paul II, experienced the spiritual unease of being a family of Faith without a Father, hoped and prayed for the College of Cardinals, and now we have the spontaneous joy of the gift of a new pope. Our Lord has chosen another Peter, a new Vicar of Christ on Earth. And this is cause for great rejoicing.

A Catholic mature in the faith loves and respects the Holy Father, not for who he was, where he has come from, not for what he may or may not do, not because of his personal characteristics, but simply because the pope, throughout the ages, is Peter, the Rock upon whom Christ builds His Church.

In the homily which Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger delived at the Mass for the Election of the Roman Pontiff, he concluded with these prayerful words of petition: "...we pray with insistence to the Lord, so that after the great gift of Pope John Paul II, He again gives us a pastor according to His own heart, a pastor who guides us to the knowledge of Christ, to His love and to true joy." The Lord has answered the prayers of the Church.

As I was walking back from St. Peter's square, joyful and peaceful to have just

received the first Papal Benediction of His Holiness Benedict XVI, I thought of a few lines that are engraved atop one of the buildings on the outer-part of the city of Rome. The inscription, as I remember it, is an address of praise to the city itself and speaks of the beauty of the city of Rome, of its ancient ruins, its grand works of art.

After eloquently recounting the precious attributes of the Eternal City, the inscription concludes with the words: "But of all your treasures, O Rome, the greatest, of which only you can boast, is the Vicar of Christ." Let us offer prayers of thanksgiving to the Lord who has given to the Church, the world, and the Eternal City, the great treasure that is Benedict XVI, the Vicar of Christ.

Father M. F. O'Malley  
Pontifical North American College  
Rome

# Pope John Paul loved everyone

Editor,

The astonishing outpouring of the millions of people from every government, color and creed at Pope John Paul II's funeral Mass gave unquestionable evidence of his effect on the entire world.

He gave a new meaning to the understanding of love, forgiveness, humility and the inherent dignity of every single human life.

He loved everyone, saint and sinner alike, from Mother Teresa of Calcutta to the man who shot him—to whom he gave forgiveness. He humbly asked for forgiveness from those who, through the centuries, were abused in the name of Catholicism, and strove mightily toward reconciliation with other branches of Christianity, with Judaism and other religions.

We in America, arguably the most affluent of nations, sadly, are among the more impoverished spiritually.

Our forbears came to America seeking freedom of religion, not freedom from religion.

The deplorable state of matrimony, the debasement of family, which, from time immemorial, has been the foundation of all civilized society, the acceptance of violence and the embracing of the culture of death are proof of the loss of what was common decency.

May Pope John Paul's examples of selfless service and self-giving, and his oft-expressed prayer "Be Not Afraid," be continuing signposts of responsible, moral behavior.

Rosemary Monaghan  
Ridgefield Park

# 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 Archdiocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection at (201) 407-3256.

# A true ecumenical leader

For over 26 years, Pope John Paul II reached out to every corner of the globe and all of its religions. Reaction to his passing dramatically demonstrated just how much he touched the heart and souls of millions of God's children.

Probably the most visible sign of what this holy man meant to humanity was best shown by thousands of people patiently and prayerfully waiting in line for as long as 12 to 14 hours to view the Holy Father's body lying in state.

But a different perspective is provided by a glimpse at letters of condolence sent to Archbishop John J. Myers from area ecumenical leaders.

Mr. Imam Mohammed Qatanani, Ph.D., a member and speaker at the Christian Muslim Project of North Jersey, Islamic Center of Passaic County, called the late Holy Father "a mentor, a beacon of peace and the voice for morality and the oppressed."

The world, said Tadeusz Mich, Ph.D., Church Relations Director, World Vision, Washington, DC, "mourns the loss of this inspiring follower of Christ."

From officers of the United Jewish Communities of Metrowest New Jersey came the description of the pontiff from Poland as "a towering figure representing righteousness, spirituality and humanity."

His Eminence, Metropolitan Evangelos, spiritual leader of Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey, saw Pope John Paul II as "a man of great courage, deep spiritual faith and unwavering moral character."

Allyson Gall from the American Jewish Committee in Millburn said the late Holy Father was "the central figure of our times in the remarkable transformation in Catholic-Jewish relations in particular, and Christian-Jewish relations, in general."

From New York, His Eminence, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate, the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), spoke on behalf of his members when he said, "The whole world has lost a spiritual father, a teacher of truth, a protector of the innocent and a lover of God and all His children."

Pope John Paul II was, explained Hegomen Father Abraam Sleman, priest and rector, and Father Markos Ayoub, priest, at the Coptic Orthodox Church of Saint Mark, Jersey City, "a great leader and father for the Roman Catholic Church worldwide, as well as a distinguished ambassador of our common Christian cause to the whole world."

New Jersey Regional Office of the Anti-Defamation League wrote that the pontiff's "compassion, leadership and understanding forever changed the history of the Catholic Church's relations with the Jewish people."

Also from New York, Ambassador Ayre Mekel, Counsel General of Israel, told Archbishop Myers, "Jewish history will remember him as the supreme pontiff who bridged the gap between Rome and Jerusalem. We are indebted to him for the great understanding he portrayed in the course of his 26 years on the Chair of St. Peter."

The legacy of a man who loved and served God all his life is secure.

**Today's Question: I would appreciate your publishing the answer to a frequently asked question which our office receives: May the divorced receive Communion? – Judith Miller, Director, Archdiocesan Family Life Ministries**

The commentary on Canon 1155 of the Code of Canon Law clarifies a misperception which many Catholics have:


"Although Catholics should obtain ecclesiastical permission to initiate civil divorce action, in fact a good number do not seek such a permission. If a divorce is obtained, the spouses are prohibited from a subsequent marriage since the marriage bond is presumed to perdure even though common life has been definitively terminated. On the other hand, they are neither excommunicated nor prohibited from receiving the sacraments or fully participating in the Church's life.

"Spouses who separate without ecclesiastical permission may not be deprived of the sacraments unless one or the other enters a subsequent marriage without ecclesiastical approval."

Put in perhaps simpler terms, Catholics who only separate or divorce may con-

What's the Matter?

By Msgr. Richard J. Amhols



tinue to receive the sacraments. Those who divorce and then remarry civilly without the benefit of a Church annulment for the previous marriage may not receive the sacraments, although they are still encouraged to come to Mass to be fed with God's Word, which might hopefully lead them to pursue the possibility of regularizing their status through the Archdiocesan Marriage Tribunal.

*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. Please give your name and parish.*



# It is God's will that everyone attain salvation

On the day after the election of Cardinal Ratzinger as the new Pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church, I woke up as usual at 6:15.

The alarm was set at 770—WABC. I usually turn the radio off as soon as I can drag my aged body out of bed. But this day I heard the talk show host Ron Kuby of “Curtis and Kuby” fame stating that as a Jewish atheist, he had just lost his “passport to heaven.”

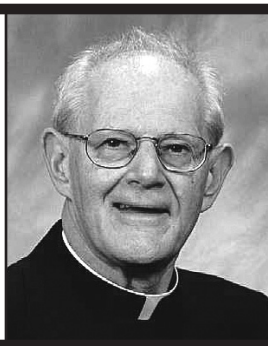
Why? Because the new pope had been the author of a document called *Dominus Jesus*. That document had been issued by the Congregation of the Faith, of which Cardinal Ratzinger was the prefect—the boss—in 2000. Mr. Kuby was stating that the new pope was saying that as a Jewish atheist he had no chance of entering heaven.

The line that Mr. Kuby quoted (I believe—after all I was half asleep) was the phrase, “If it is true that the followers of other religions can receive divine grace, it is also certain that objectively speaking, they are in a gravely deficient situation in comparison with those who, in the Church, have the fullness of the means of salvation.” (*Dominus Jesus*, 22).

I groaned. Just the previous evening, before going to bed, I had flicked on the television to find a commentator named Bill O'Reilly interviewing another gentleman—an evangelical Christian. The evangelical was affirming that all men who had not taken “Jesus Christ as their personal savior” were doomed to hell. Yes, he said emphatically, he meant that every single Jew, Moslem, Hindu, Buddhist, and pagan in the world was going to eternal damnation.

## Voices

By Msgr. John Gilchrist



Now Ron Kuby was implying that the Catholic Church held the same doctrine as the evangelical or was returning to a teaching just like it under the new pope.

The media is so dangerous. They do “sound bites.”

They take things out of context. They can twist words and use inference, innuendo, exaggerations and at times outright falsehoods, to push their agenda, or at times just to stir things up.

Ever since Pius IX, the Catholic Church has made it perfectly clear that it teaches that it is God's will that “all men be saved.” Here are that pope's words about non-Catholics or non-Christians. “Since God wants the salvation of all, it is clear that such a person, obedient to the natural law inscribed in the heart of everybody, can gain eternal life.” (*Quanto Conficiamur Moerore*, 1863). We have never changed that belief. I

counted at least nine places in *Dominus Jesus* where universal salvation was part of the Divine Plan.

At any rate, that very Wednesday afternoon I went to Jersey City where my friend Father Gene Squeo had convened a large ecumenical group. There in the council chambers of City Hall we all—Catholics, Copts, Muslims, Episcopalians, Hindus, Lutherans, Bahai and others—signed a statement of mutual respect, affection, and solidarity, also a common pledge to work for unity, peace, and harmony.

It was a huge event for the communal life of Jersey City. It was a great event for all of us who work together as brothers and sisters in a bond of mutual interfaith cooperation.

I wished that Ron Kuby could have been there. In fact, I wished that Pope Benedict XVI could have been present also. He would have rejoiced, because as he said the day following his election, “The current successor of Peter (meaning himself, Benedict) is fully determined to cultivate any initiative that may seem appropriate to promote contact and agreement with representatives from the various churches and ecclesial communities.” In fact, the very next day the pope sent a message to the chief Rabbi of Rome, Rabbi Di Segni, promising to continue to improve relations with the Jews. That hardly sounds like the pope believes that all non-Christians have no chance of heaven.

So, yes, Ron, you have a shot at heaven. Even the Catholic Church agrees. Although I understand that Curtis has his doubts about you.

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

# Bartolo Longo—one man can make a difference

Just south of Naples, Italy, a spur of the Autostrada curves around the bay, traverses pleasant countryside, then passes through tranquil towns with names like Torre del Greco and Torre Annunziata. Every now and then motorists catch sight of huge, grotesque, concrete World War II machine-gun bunkers rising among the wheat, the grapevines, and the olive trees—incongruous leftovers from the Nazi attempt to prevent the landing of Allied troops.

Soon signs appear indicating the exit for Pompei, a modern town—spelled with one “I”—that sits on the edge of the excavated ancient community by the same name. As does its tragic predecessor, ancient Pompeii, Pompei Nuovo attracts visitors from far and wide, but for wholly different reasons.

In 1873, a 32-year-old lawyer from Latiano (located in the heel of Italy) took up residence in the Valle Pompeiana as the area was then known. Though success in his chosen field had afforded him a comfortable life, Bartolo Longo felt unfulfilled. One night the restless man had a dream in which the Virgin Mary exhorted him to work among the poor and downtrodden. Thus he had moved to Valle Pompeiana where a sizeable number of peasant farming families toiled their bleak lives away in poverty and misery.

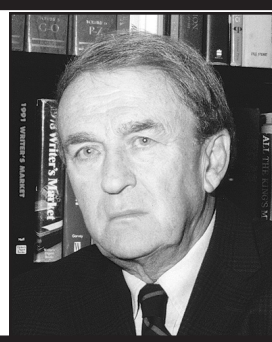
While settling in to help these families survive, Longo also sought to enrich their spiritual lives. This self-appointed missionary would gather the ill-clad, ill-fed, ill-housed peasants each evening in the aged little church of San Salvatore (Holy Savior) for the recitation of the Rosary, a prayer form to which Longo had recently become especially devoted.

Two years into his “new life” Longo brought back from a trip to Naples an oil painting on canvas of the Madonna del Rosario, which the locals soon came to cherish and venerate.

Profoundly thankful to the Virgin Mary for having

## A View from History

By Frank J. Korn



guided him to a more satisfying life, Longo then sought and gained permission from the area's bishop to pull down the rickety old church to make way for a splendid Marian shrine.

By pouring his own money into the project along with funds collected from all over the region, Longo was able to start construction of this new church complex on May 8, 1876, just three years after having undertaken his new mission in life. Thanks also to the encouragement and support of the pope himself, Leo XIII, the new church was consecrated fifteen years later almost to the very day.

Called *Il Santuario della Madonna del Rosario*, the large travertine structure has an attractive façade of two orders. The lower portion features Ionic columns framing three arches that lead into an airy atrium. The upper, in the Corinthian style, has a papal loggia. On the entablature is a relief of Pope Leo's coat of arms over the word PAX, engraved in letters six feet tall. Atop the pediment is a marble carving of Our Lady of the Rosary. The transept of the church is crowned with a huge dome flanked by four miniature cupolas.

The interior is rich in frescoes, mosaics, and sculptures. Prominent among the last are effigies of the most learned

“Doctors of the Church,” including Thomas Aquinas and Catherine of Siena. Displayed above the tabernacle in a gold-leaf frame is the oil painting of the *Madonna del Rosario* that Longo had bought in Naples in 1875.

Beneath the main altar reposes the body of Blessed Bartolo Longo, who died on Oct. 5, 1926. (He was beatified by Pope John Paul II on Oct. 26, 1980 at solemn ceremonies in St. Peter's Square in Rome.)

Longo lived to see the completion of Il Santuario's eighty meter-high belltower, just in time to herald the arrival of the Holy Year of 1925. Its eleven enormous bells fill the air each day with a sweet sound to announce the passing hours.

On the sprawling property around Il Santuario, the tireless benefactor of the town also established an orphanage, a hospice for pilgrims, a museum called the *Museo Vesuviano* and a health spa called the *Terme Fonte Salutare*. Considered the very founder of the modern city of Pompei, the gentle man is honored with an impressive monument in the main square. The inscription, in Italian, translates to:

*Pompei, the Marian City  
Where works of faith and charity abound  
Where prayer shines forth perpetually  
Honors its founder  
Bartolo Longo  
Apostle of the Rosary, Father of orphans.*

Just as Longo hoped it would, the modern city of Pompei quickly became and continues to remain a focal point of pilgrimage. Buses stream in daily bringing thousands of the faithful whose goal it is to recite the Rosary in the world-famous shrine erected for just that purpose. Thus each day the streets leading to Il Santuario are filled with pilgrim processions chanting hymns to Mary.

*Frank J. Korn is an assistant professor of Classical Studies at Seton Hall University.*



# Holy Father expresses awe and gratitude during the first general audience of his pontificate

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—At the first general audience of his pontificate, Pope Benedict XVI sat in the full force of the spring sun, expressing again his “awe and gratitude” that God chose him to lead the Catholic Church.

God, he said, “Surprised me first of all.” Although leading more than one billion Catholics is a huge task, the knowledge that he will have the help of God and of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the spiritual support of the faithful “gives me serenity and joy,” he said.

Pope Benedict began the audience by touring St. Peter’s Square in an open popemobile for about 10 minutes. He stood the entire time, waving and blessing the crowd.

He told the estimated 15,000 people gathered in St. Peter’s Square that in the coming weeks he would continue the series of audience talks Pope John Paul II had begun on the psalms and canticles used in the Church’s morning and evening prayers.

But first, he said, he wanted to share with the public his reasons for choosing the name Benedict when he was elected pope April 19.

“I wanted to call myself Benedict XVI to bind myself to the venerated Pope Benedict XV, who guided the Church in a troubled period because of the First World War. He was a courageous and authentic prophet of peace and worked with valiant courage first to prevent the drama of war and then to limit its nefarious consequences,” he said.

“In his footsteps, I want to place my ministry at the service of reconciliation and harmony among individuals and peoples, deeply convinced that the great good of peace is, first of all, a gift of God, a fragile and precious gift to

invoke, safeguard and build day after day with the help of everyone,” Pope Benedict said.

The second reason for choosing the name, he said, was to evoke the spirit of St. Benedict, founder of Western monasticism.

In his prepared text, the pope had noted that St. Benedict is a co-patron of Europe along with Sts. Cyril and Methodius. In his Italian-language talk, he went off script to pay homage to Sts. Bridget of Sweden, Catherine of Siena and Edith Stein, who also are invoked as patrons of Europe and Italy.

Pope Benedict said the expansion of Benedictine monasticism had “an enormous influence on the spread of Christianity over the whole continent.”

“St. Benedict is very venerated in Germany, particularly in Bavaria, my homeland; he is a basic point of reference

for the unity of Europe and a strong reminder of the undeniable Christian roots of its culture and civilization,” he said.

Pope Benedict asked the saint “to help us keep Christ firmly at the center of our

existence. May he always have first place in our thoughts and in all our activities.”

The new pope, ably keeping to the general audience tradition, gave his main talk in Italian, then read summaries and greetings in French, English, German and Spanish.

To the delight of an estimated 2,000 Polish pilgrims, he also read greetings in Polish, thanking the pilgrims for “your goodness and your prayers.”

He did not, however, read the greetings prepared for



CNS photo

The Holy Father greets pilgrims as he arrives for his first general audience in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican April 27.

him in Croatian and Slovenian.

At the end of the audience, Pope Benedict led the crowd in singing the Lord’s Prayer, which got off to a rocky start with some prelates singing in Italian and the pope singing more strongly in Latin. He waved his arms like an orchestra conductor, getting everyone singing the same language and in unison.

Before getting into the popemobile for another, briefer ride through the crowd, he personally greeted dozens of cardinals and bishops present for the gathering. He also personally thanked the officials from the Secretariat of State who introduce groups according to the language they speak.

When the English-speaking pilgrims were introduced, there was a long pause to allow the choir from Dowling Catholic High School in West Des Moines, IA, to sing a tribute to the new pope.

After praying the Our Father during his first general audience, Pope Benedict XVI blessed the crowd.

## Prayers of Jesus

Readings: Acts 1:12-14; Ps 27; 1 Pt 4:13-16; Jn 17:1-11. How would I describe the Church to a person unfamiliar with our faith?

Unfortunately, English uses the same term, church, to designate the building (*Kyriakon*, the Lord’s house) and the community of believers (*ekklesia*, those called out of darkness into light, from death to life).

So first, one would emphasize that the edifice we call “church” is at the service of the people in the community. Then, because the Church is often known superficially by its institutions of healing and learning, one would show that all such activities should flow from a deep life of prayer.

The work of the Church continues the healing and teaching ministry of Jesus, whose life was grounded in prayer. He followed the age-old patterns of Temple and synagogue worship that constitute the foundation for our liturgical calendar. He prayed with His followers, especially at meals, and recited Israel’s prayer of faith, “Listen, O Israel” (Dt 6:4-9 being its core), in the evening and morning. He used the tefillin (phylacteries) and the fringes on His garment (Mt 9:20) as evidence that He practiced the commandments. Moreover, He often spent the entire night in intimate communion with the heavenly Father.

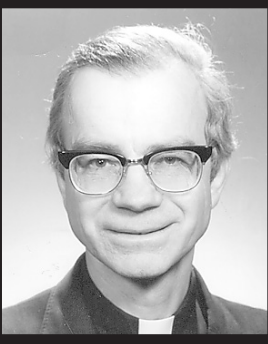
The first disciples had learned the lesson well! St. Luke tells us that, after the Lord’s ascension to the heavenly Father, “they returned to Jerusalem with great joy and were continually in the Temple praising God” (24:53). They also prayed together in their temporary home in Jerusalem, undoubtedly guided into unity of devotion by the quiet presence of Mary. Who would know better how to prepare for the coming of the Holy Spirit?

We might wish that the Gospels would provide more

### Sunday Readings

Seventh Sunday  
of Easter  
(May 8, 2005)

By Father Lawrence Frizzell



details about the way Jesus prayed, the words He used... In fact, much can be learned from the hints given by the evangelists. All we need to do is to study the Jewish practices of that time! And we do have the same Psalter that Jesus prayed and quoted, from His temptation in the desert to His death on the cross.

In his account of the Last Supper, St. John gives us what must be a synthesis of Jesus’ method of melding the various aspects of prayer into a unity. The first part of that text, called “the prayer of Jesus the high priest,” forms the Sunday Gospel during the Church’s preparation for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

By looking at our traditional prayers it would be easy to surmise that “glory” is an important concept in liturgy and personal prayer. The statement “Your glory fills all heaven and earth” in the *Sanctus* (see Is 6:3) makes us realize that glory means first the impressive presence of God that permeates all creation. For the person alert to the mystery of the blessed One, every creature reflects some facet of the divine. Our response should be an acknowledgment of this

fact, both in “giving glory” to God (obviously not considering the creature itself to be divine) and in treating all creatures with respect. If all human beings gave glory to God, all living with this sensitivity to the inherent value of each human person and all other creatures, then peace would indeed come on earth.

The paradoxes of Christianity are rooted in the truth that Jesus, in His humiliations, agony and death, gave glory to His Father and manifested the mystery of God’s life and glorious power to the world. The human spirit should never be crushed, even by the most brutal abuses of cruelty and fanaticism, as long as each person completes the work of God. Thus Jesus could state: “I have given you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do” (Jn 17:4).

Of course, faith is essential because results may not be evident, at least immediately. How many have suffered under the tyrannies of the past century! Millions of lives were cut short, but these martyrs completed their work of fidelity. In recent years, ordinary people in several countries of Africa have faced oppression because they profess Christian faith. What are we doing to help them?

The prayer of Jesus at the Last Supper embraces all generations of His disciples, to whom He entrusted His teaching, the message of His Father. “It is in them that I have been glorified” (Jn 17:10).

One of the many reasons that we come together in the Sunday liturgy is to glorify God through the work of Jesus in His Spirit. In such intimacy we will find strength to complete our work of service and of self-giving. This should be our response to the gift of eternal life.

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

Every creature reflects some facet of the divine.



# Public to get free memorial prayer cards

*The Pope's Final Blessing is now being sent free as his lasting memorial to all*

By K.J. TEDESCHI

Universal Media Syndicate

(SYNDICATED) – Hundreds of thousands from all faiths are flooding call lines to get the emotionally gripping “Final Prayer and Blessing of Pope John Paul II.”

This final “Prayer and Blessing” is being received as a lasting sacred gift. Arrangements have now been made to send the free memorial prayer cards directly to all who want a lasting memory of the great John Paul II.

It has been announced that money can not be accepted for “The Final Prayer and Blessing of Pope John Paul II.” The memorial prayer cards are being given away free to all who request one. Those requesting the cards are only asked to help by volunteering a dollar to cover postage, handling and order confirmation costs.

This special devotion pictures the remarkably young looking Pope, caught deep in reflection while praying his personal papal Rosary. He was particularly fond of blessing rosaries for special visitors to the Vatican. The Pope's touching prayer itself appears below his image which appropriately begins “I leave you now with this prayer...”

“This closely guarded official Vatican photograph is truly stunning. It miraculously captures the Pope during his long Spiritual walk in life,” said John T. White, Director of Universal Museum Collections which has been granted special permission to give the prayer cards away free. “It is the most tranquil image of the pope ever,” White said.

Because of his worldwide following, it can not be guaranteed that there will be enough for everyone. But for at least the next ten days from the date of this publication, all those who request one will be assured of getting the special prayer card free.

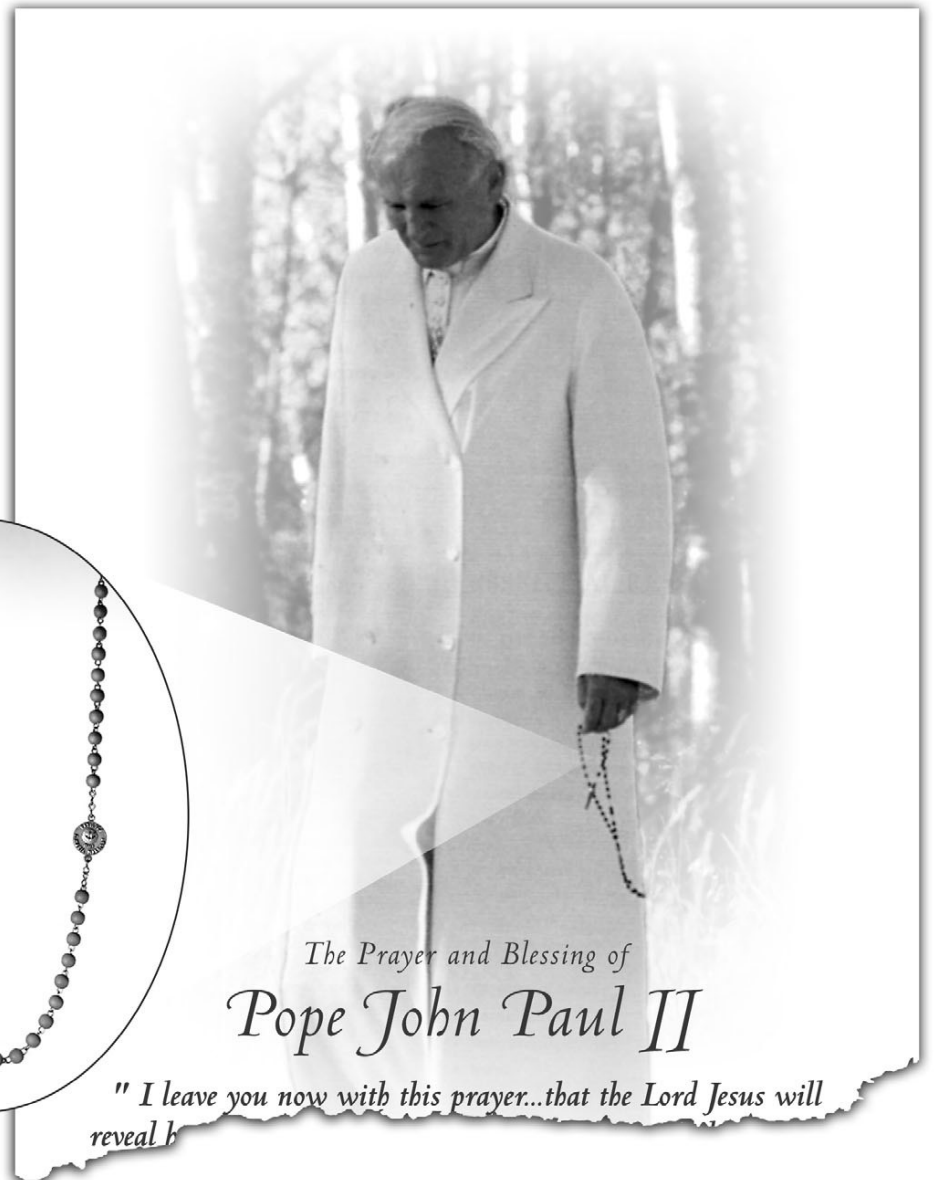
Universal Museum Collections is providing the information needed for all to get the Pope's free memorial Prayer Card along with information on how to protect it. Readers of this publication can call now **1-800-236-7918** toll free for instructions on how to get the free prayer card. A controlled number of larger full color laminated cards are also available free and have been specially reserved for those requesting one of our special rose scented Papal rosaries (shown right at eleven dollars).

Pope John Paul II gave his entire life in service and dedication to people everywhere. And now, the world is flocking to honor this humble man of God in the most fitting way possible.

The release of these sacred gifts gives people everywhere something special to remember him by. He was a great leader and a truly great man of God. ■

*Writer's note: “I attended an audience with the Pope and was deeply touched by his charisma and spirituality. We were fortunate to get the special rose scented Rosary he had blessed. I believe the love of God radiated from his very presence.”*

K.J.Tedeschi; Spring, 2005



■ **EVERYONE IS TRYING TO GET IT:** This is the closely guarded photograph of the late beloved Pope John Paul II taken by an official Vatican photographer. It appears at the top of the special Prayer Card, for which some are volunteering a dollar to cover shipping and service costs. The heart wrenching final prayer is printed below the Pope's image as he carries his personal papal rosary. Optional prayer card lamination and special rose scented rosaries are also available.

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## How to get them right now

The release of the Prayer Cards has been authorized to the general public through the exclusive Universal Museum Collections. To get a prayer card and the special rose scented Rosary delivered to your home call the **National Direct Hotline 1-800-236-7918**, ask for **Dept. PE4476**.

# Cross made with grains of sacred sand from Christ's tomb Free to all



■ **FREE** – All who send 3 first class postage stamps will get the Holy Land Cross made from fine porcelain and fired with grains of sacred sand from the grounds of Christ's tomb, with information about custom optional engraving and the pendant mounting.

*Holy Land Cross is FREE to everyone. Now readers can hold sacred sand from grounds of Christ's tomb in their hands.*

(SYNDICATED) – Sacred Sand from the grounds of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem has reached the United States in the form of Holy Land Crosses.

Universal Museum Collections is now distributing these Holy Land Crosses FREE to those who send three postage stamps to cover order acknowledgement and processing which includes shipping costs.

These specially made Holy Land Crosses were designed to allow the faithful to actually hold a spiritual gift containing grains of sacred sand in their hands and keep it with them where ever they go.

Kathy Tedeschi, Director of Universal Museum Collections said: “It is a wonderfully comforting item to have with you every-

day. When I hold this special Cross in my hand, I always feel closer to God no matter where I am.”

Both mens and womens crosses have been created out of fine porcelain embedded with grains of sacred sand and comes complete with a Certificate which verifies the authenticity of the origins of the sacred sand.

Here's how to get your Free Holy Land Cross delivered with information about custom engraving and pendant mounting.

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2. Enclose along with 3 first class stamps. **MONEY CAN NOT BE ACCEPTED.** Do Not staple, tape or affix the stamps.

3. MAIL TO:

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**Dept PS4640 - write “Mens” or “Womens”**  
**National Distribution Center**  
**Postal Box 9902**  
**Canton, OH 44711-9902**



School

Continued from page 1

school that will serve economically disadvantaged students and enable them to qualify for college, Sister Elizabeth noted.

She explained that admittance will require a professional check of family finances, stressing that “there is no ‘cut off’ point for family income—we will take into consideration what income there is and how many people depend on that income.”

Once admitted to the school, students are divided into a “team” of four, with each team “sharing” one full-time job. They will be given a three-week training to prepare them for the professional world, and the school will provide ongoing assistance for the students.

Rotating in schedule, each student will work one full day a week. Because there are only four students on a team, once a month, one member of the team will work two days in a week. In addition, the school day will be longer, to provide adequate instructional time.

The salary for the single position is divided among the four team members and applied to their tuition.

A Cristo Rey school can be sponsored by a diocese, as is the intention in the Archdiocese of Newark, or by a religious congregation, such as the one in Chicago sponsored by the Jesuits. This school was the subject of a 13-minute feature on CBS’s *60 Minutes* last October. Since 1996, the network has received media attention at both the

Gorbachev

Continued from page 1

of the UN Diplomatic Corps and Archbishop Emeritus Peter L. Gerety.

In opening remarks, Msgr. Robert Sheeran, university president, declared “People change history. One person can make a crucial difference.”

Citing the efforts of Gorbachev, Pope John Paul II and President Ronald Reagan as examples, Msgr. Sheeran pointed to “the power of providence to do extraordinary things on the world stage.”

Retired ambassador Clay Constantinou, dean of the school of diplomacy, emphasized the “daring and sweeping changes” initiated by Gorbachev. Reforms instituted by the speaker, said Dean Constantinou, “unleashed the forces of democracy.”

After approaching the podium to thunderous applause,

Press conference

Continued from page 1

bishop said he believed they sought “continuity” from the papacy of John Paul II. “Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict share the same strong teaching and deeply grounded roots,” he explained.

Archbishop Myers said he would “not have been surprised” had the cardinals chosen a pope from Africa or Latin America, as some had hoped for, calling the Catholic Church increasingly a Church “of the Southern Hemisphere.”

Responding to the oft-heard call for women’s ordination, Archbishop Myers noted that Pope Benedict, in the spirit of Vatican II, would be open to the increasing role of women in the Catholic Church, and that such can be considered “without speaking of ordination.”

When asked whether some Catholics might become “alienated” by Pope Benedict’s continued call, like John Paul II, for adherence to the mandates of Catholic orthodoxy, Archbishop Myers said that Pope Benedict’s papacy, in the spirit of his namesake, will emphasize “reconciliation.”

Archbishop Myers concluded, “I believe that, true to the spirit of St. Benedict, who at a time of darkness was instrumental in leading Europe to a new awakening of the Gospel of Christ and a rebirth in the Church, our new Holy Father, Benedict XVI, will lead the people of God to a new reawakening of faith in the 21st century.”

national and local levels.

Sister Elizabeth is conducting a “feasibility study” to see if there is enough interest and support to begin a Cristo Rey school in the Archdiocese of Newark. There are eight feasibility studies being conducted throughout the United States.

The objective is to answer three important questions. The first is, “Is there a need?” Sister Elizabeth believes there is. Citing Newark’s current socio-economic status, she noted, “30 years ago, a middle-class family could afford to send their children to a Catholic high school.

“Today, with both mothers and fathers working to pay the rent and

put food on the table, they don’t have the extra funds needed to invest in a Catholic education. If middle-class income families can’t afford it, then there certainly is little chance for those who are very poor,” she explained.

The second question is, “Is there a desire?” Brother Ralph Darmento, F.S.C., Deputy Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of Newark, noted, “There has been an increase in interest in Catholic schools in general. In the past five years, enrollment in Catholic high schools in the Archdiocese of Newark has steadily increased.

“Many in the inner city community of Newark do not have the



Advocate photo- Brian Fores

After the press conference, Archbishop Myers spoke with reporters individually. Here, he takes questions from Pat Battle of WNBC-TV Channel 4.

resources to provide for this type of education—this model would help them to generate these resources, so they could benefit from the advantages of a Catholic secondary school,” he stressed.

Sister Elizabeth indicated that determining the level of interest has its own challenges. She is in the process of contacting 100 parents and 300 perspective students.

Brother Ralph added that academic performance at other Cristo Rey schools has been “good,” with most students continuing on to college. “It demonstrates that when you help a student who desire of this type of education, they will perform because they see the relevance of what they are

learning applied in their internship experience,” he commented.

The third major question that needs to be addressed is, “Is there a corporate commitment?” Sister Elizabeth is working to establish relationships with businesses in the downtown Newark area. Generally, they are looking for companies that have 100 or more employees.

As participating partners, companies provide full-time entry-level positions in their offices. The corporate work-study program, which is directed by the school, handles all payroll, W-4, workers’ compensation, FICA, and other employee-related issues for the student.

Depending on the results of the study, the Archdiocese of Newark will make a determination this September. If the results are affirmative, Sister Elizabeth said, a principal and work-study director will be hired. The school will begin in September 2006, if approved.

The tentative location for the school is Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, Newark. An information session there is scheduled for May 16, 7 p.m.

“Having visited the first Cristo Rey school in Chicago, I was very much impressed with the quality of the college preparatory studies and I admired the experience the students are given from the corporate internship program,” stated Brother Ralph, concluding, “It’s a tremendous marriage of theory and practice, with the students benefiting from the education, the work experience and the financial assistance given to them.”

To find out more about the ongoing feasibility study in the Newark Archdiocese, contact Sister Elizabeth at (973) 497-4596 or vermaeel@rcan.org.

president, “world politics lags behind events.” The true socialist idea is of justice, he added.

The United States’ victory in Iraq, as Gorbachev sees it, was “inevitable.” But, he added, “if there is occupation the people will react to it as occupation.” No one, said Gorbachev, wants America defeated in Iraq.

*“Nuclear war can never be won and must never be fought.”*

At the dawn of a new millennium, said Gorbachev, Russia and the United States have put aside confrontation. Now normalization is necessary, he added.

While in office he took “practical steps” to improve relations with this country, Gorbachev explained. President Reagan, he emphasized, “met Russia half



# Warm-hearted parish possesses penchant for social outreach

BY BRIAN FORES  
Staff Writer

Tucked away among green hills and pristine gardens, busy playgrounds and quaint shops, St. Cassian Parish bustles with spiritual and social activity, in tune with the town's rhythms.

The parish, founded in 1895 as a mission of Immaculate Conception Parish, Montclair, was originally made up of a small number of mainly Irish families, some from Irish enclaves in New York, Jersey City and Newark, and others directly from the Emerald Isle.

Today, the parish claims some 1,500 families as members, and is described as "cosmopolitan" by Father John Judge, pastor since August 1997.

Accompanied by his faithful companion, "Amie," a three-year-old chocolate Labrador retriever, Father Judge explained, "This parish is made up of many commuters to New York," pointing out that the town has access to trains and buses, and is close to Routes 3 and 46.

The parish is also served by Father Babu Paul Tharith, parochial vicar, and a weekend assistant, Father Bruce Janiga, also Thomas Nilan, deacon emeritus, Regina Sammon, religious education coordinator, Philip H. Meehan, school principal, David E. Fedor, organist, and Joel S. Peter, youth minister.

"The number of young families has increased since 2001," Father Judge said, citing the exodus of families with young children from Manhattan after September 11.

He explained, "Younger people are searching for values to bring to their children, and for the people who have been here for a long time, St. Cassian is part and parcel of their experience—they raised their children here, and the priests in the past did a fine job of being present to their needs."

Thomas Lugaric, a parishioner of 42 years who raised his five daughters there, is the perfect example of such loyalty. "I'm not in this parish geographically," he clarified.

Lugaric and his wife, Patty, initially lived only a few blocks from the church, but later moved to another area of Montclair, then to West Orange. Today they live in Cedar Grove. "I've always

wanted to belong to St. Cassian, and in all those years, we've never left," he said with a smile.

Lugaric, who grew up around the construction business, was an active participant in the building of a new parish church, after a 1992 survey concluded that the original structure, dating back to 1895, was unsafe. The new church was completed in 1995.

As a parish trustee, Lugaric said that an important focus for the parish is to "reach out to others beyond the parish borders, in Newark, and other areas where people need help."

One way that the parish is helping others is through participating in Habitat for Humanity, a favorite ministry of Father Judge's. Lugaric added that the nature of that outreach should

## Saint Cassian, Upper Montclair

might not get a spot."

Among those various initiatives and activities are a health ministry, annual blood drive, a ministry for job seekers, Religious education programs and youth groups, Cornerstone retreats, RENEW, an O50 (over fifty) group, Children's liturgies, and even a "Little Angels" group for children ages one to three.

"We have a base of about 500 volunteers," Father Judge said. Parents of Young Children, (PYC), he added, is a particularly important ministry for young

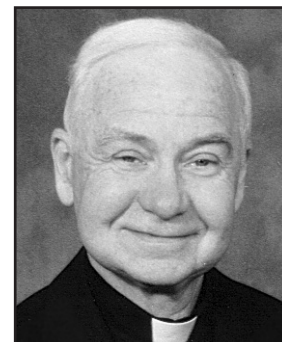
"I remember Father Jack mentioning the PYC group, and saying there were people who wanted to welcome me... That is how I started to come out of my bedroom," Roderick recalled. "They truly became an extended family... a great support system," she added.

Mae Healy, a parishioner of 20 years and another parish trustee, runs the hospitality committee, which serves coffee and donuts after weekend Masses, serves as a Eucharistic minister and pays frequent visits to the Little Nursing Home in Montclair.

Healy named two important efforts at the parish—the "In-a-Pinch Committee," which provides companionship for shut-ins, transportation to doctors' appointments, and meals and grocery shopping for families facing illness and hospitalization; and the second, the Interfaith Hospitality Network, a collective of local churches of different faiths in which the parish provides shelter for the homeless one-week a year.

Roderick, as part of her new role, is also coordinating the homeless ministry this year. "Our kids play

## Meet the Pastor



Father John Judge

**Age:** 62  
**Date of Birth:** February 7, 1943  
**High School:** Seton Hall Preparatory  
**College/Seminary/Graduate School:** Seton Hall University, Immaculate Conception Seminary  
**Date of Ordination:** May 31, 1969  
**Hero:** John Paul II  
**Favorite Saint:** John the Evangelist  
**Favorite Sport:** Football, "Go Giants!"  
**Favorite Subject in School:** History  
**Last Book Read:** *John Paul II: A Life of Grace* by Renzo Allegri  
**Proudest Moment:** Ordination  
**Occupation if I weren't a Priest:** Social services

efforts are integrated. The school has programs that are supported by the parish, and we have parish liturgies where the students are involved," he said.

Summing up her feelings on St. Cassian, Healy noted, "This church is my extended family. I know so many people by name. To me, it's a large enrollment that is a small family."

Roderick added, "It doesn't matter what your family makeup is like, whether you're married with four children or single, there's something for everybody here."

When asked to describe what he thinks makes St. Cassian a special place, Father Judge noted, "I think it's the ability to work with a group of people who are indeed very challenging, yet so much in need of finding Christ in their day-by-day lives." He concluded, "The Eucharist is the center of what we are about. Our primary goal is to foster a parish in which the Gospel is to be found."

*St. Cassian Parish is located at 187 Bellevue Avenue. Some of the source material was taken from the Saint Cassian 2001-2002 membership directory.*



The ceiling of St. Cassian Church is lined with these wooden cross beams, a feature reminiscent of the original church.

not be merely financial, but "to get parishioners involved... to put on a hard-hat and pound some nails."

Ministries are abundant at St. Cassian Parish, as Eileen Ziegler, parish secretary and teacher of religious education, can attest. "I never realized how much work there is to be done at a parish until I actually started working in one," she said laughingly.

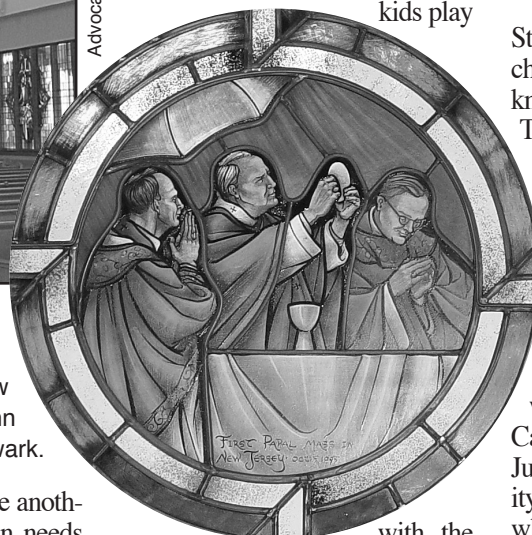
Ziegler, who coordinates and schedules many of the events for the parish's ministries, noted, "If you don't have your event marked on the calendar by June [for September], you

This stained-glass window commemorates Pope John Paul II's 1995 visit to Newark.

mothers. "They talk to one another, discover their common needs and share their experiences. I believe it's especially helpful for first-time parents," he observed.

"PYC is a bit of a passion for me," said Miriela Roderick, who was recently named the Adult Faith Enrichment Coordinator for the parish. She suffered from postpartum depression after the birth of her daughter, Rhiannon, 7. "I lived in my bedroom for nine months," she said.

Advocate photos- Brian Fores



with the children who come to stay with us. We cook, and do things as simple as to provide swimming pool passes in the summer, or take them to the Fourth of July parade. People really come together for this," she enthused.

St. Cassian's is also home to a grammar school, with approximately 200 students. "The parish and the school are one unit," Father Judge said, adding, "Our



# New executive director at Catholic Charities

AREA— Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark, formerly Catholic Community Services, a multi-service agency serving Bergen, Hudson, Essex and Hudson counties, has named Allan J. Daul, M.S.W., its new executive director.

A graduate of Canisius College and the University of Michigan, Daul served as executive director of Catholic Charities, Inc., in Wilmington, DE from 1994 to 2003, and most recently directed the adolescent services program at the Center for Family Services, Inc., Camden.

“Allan Daul brings to our agency valuable experience and an impressive record of achievement in executive management and in strategic and operational planning,” said Henry J. Amoroso, Esq., chairman of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of



Allan J. Daul, M.S.W.

Newark and president and CEO of Catholic Health and Human Services Corporation. “Daul’s nine years as executive director of Catholic Charities in Wilmington culminated more than 20 years of service with that agency. He is eminently qualified to lead

Newark’s Catholic Charities in the vigorous pursuit of its mission.”

Daul looks forward to advancing the agency’s mission of charity and justice, and, he declared, “I am eager to interact with the

people of the archdiocese to determine the most appropriate role for Catholic Charities in addressing contemporary social concerns. We will be working to determine how best we can use

the many resources of Catholic Charities to benefit the people and communities we serve.”

Catholic Charities is affiliated with Catholic Health and Human Services Corporation.

More information about Catholic Charities is available online at [www.ccsnewark.org](http://www.ccsnewark.org).

## Spiritual directors’ Mass, dinner May 17

AREA— The annual spiritual directors’ Mass and dinner, sponsored by the Essex and West Hudson Federation of Holy Name Societies, will take place Tuesday, May 17.

Mass will be celebrated at St. Valentine Parish, 125 North Spring St., Bloomfield.

Man of the Year awards will be presented during Mass celebrated by Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli of the Paterson Diocese.

Dinner follows Mass at the

Essex Manor, 41 Broughton Ave. The Federation’s Monsignor Cornelius Boyle Award will be presented at the dinner.

Father John Laferrera, pastor of St. Philomena Parish, Livingston, is the Federation’s spiritual director. Norman F. Karpf is its president. Hugh W. Dalzell and George F. Dreker are chair and co-chair of the event, respectively.

For additional information contact Dalzell at (201) 998-5247.

## Ramsey Knights of Columbus marking half century of service

RAMSEY— On Dec. 1, 1954, a committee of William DeGise, John P. Byrnes, Cecil Shuart and William A. Ryan met in St. Paul’s School to begin the formation of a Knights of Columbus council.

An application for a charter was submitted to the Supreme Council, New Haven, CT.

The Ramsey Council was to be named in honor of Father Patrick F. Pindar, a well-beloved priest who had ministered to Catholics in Ho-Ho-Kus, Waldwick, Saddle River, Upper Saddle River and Ramsey.

Father Pindar had established St. Luke’s Parish, Ho-Ho-Kus, in 1905, and traveled by freight trains, farmers’ wagons and on foot to reach parishioners.

The original membership consisted of 73 members and today it has grown to 250. A house was

purchased at 48 Mechanic St., a large meeting room and banquet hall were added, and today the facility serves as the base for which the Ramsey Knights conduct many religious, civic and charitable activities.

The group has been at the forefront of life issues, participating actively in both the right-to-life campaign and campaigns for children with developmental disabilities.

The Knights sponsor several youth activities, including poster contests on substance abuse, spelling bees, athletic pursuits and recognizing the altar servers of St. Paul Parish.

Through a golf tournament and participation at Ramsey Day, the Knights engage in many charitable endeavors.



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#### Essex - Bloomfield

May 10, 9:00 AM  
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#### Essex - Newark

May 27, 9:00 AM  
IHOP  
109 Bergen St.  
Cross St./South Orange Ave.

#### Essex - Irvington

June 15, 9:00 AM  
Don's Diner  
666 Nye Ave.  
Cross St./Union St.

#### Essex - Bloomfield

June 28, 9:00 AM  
IHOP  
1129 Broad St.  
Cross St./Watchung Ave.

#### Bergen - Fairlawn

May 11, 9:00 AM  
Land & Sea Diner  
20-12 Fairlawn Ave.  
Cross St./Pollitt Dr.

#### Bergen - Fort Lee

May 12, 9:00 AM  
The Plaza Diner  
2045 Lemoine Ave.  
Cross St./Main St.

#### Bergen - Ramsey

May 19, 9:00 AM  
Horizon Diner  
726 Route 17 North  
Cross St./after Lake St. Exit

#### Bergen - Westwood

May 24, 9:00 AM  
Seville Diner  
289 Broadway  
Cross St./Jefferson Ave.

#### Bergen - Hackensack

May 31, 9:00 AM  
The Arena Diner  
250 Essex St.  
Cross St./Polifly Rd.

#### Bergen - Englewood Cliffs

June 9, 9:00 AM  
New Royal Cliff Rest.  
717 Palisades Ave.  
Cross St./Sylvan Ave.

#### Bergen - North Arlington

June 16, 9:00 AM  
Arlington Diner  
1 River Rd.  
Cross St./Passaic Ave.

#### Union - Union

May 19, 9:00 AM  
Huck Finn Diner  
2431 Morris Ave.  
Cross St./Burnet Ave.

#### Union - Linden

May 25, 9:00 AM  
Colosseum Diner  
1932 E. St. George's Ave.  
Cross St./Park St.

#### Union - Cranford

June 10, 9:00 AM  
The Rustic Mill  
109 North Ave.  
Cross St./Garden State Pkwy.

#### Union - Roselle

June 23, 9:00 AM  
Cavalier Diner  
2401 N. Wood Ave.  
Cross St./St. George's Ave.

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# Archdiocese embraces new shepherd



Pope Benedict XVI has dispensed with the image of the three-tiered crown that traditionally appeared at the top of each pope's coat of arms and replaced it with the more modest and recognizable pointed mitre.

Gone is the former beehive-shaped crown or papal tiara whose actual use was discontinued during the papacy of Paul VI in 1965.

The new silver mitre has three gold stripes to mirror the symbolism of the papal tiara's three tiers of order, jurisdiction and magisterium. A vertical gold band connects the three stripes in the middle.

The pope also has added the pallium, the woolen stole symbolizing a bishop's authority, to the elements surrounding the shield.

What has not changed and has been part of papal emblems for centuries is the Holy See's insignia of two crossed keys, which symbolize the powers Christ gave to the Apostle Peter and his successors.

The gold key on the right represents the power in heaven and the silver key on the left indicates the spiritual authority of the papacy on earth. The cord that unites the two keys alludes to the bond between the two powers.

Nestled on top of the keys lies the unique heraldic shield of Pope Benedict, which is based on his coat of arms as archbishop of Munich and Freising, Germany.

The shield is divided into three sections—each of which has its own symbol.

The central element on a red background is a large gold shell that has theological and spiritual significance to the pope.

The upper left-hand section of the shield depicts a crowned Moor's head with a collar; it is a symbol of the former Diocese of Freising dating back to the eighth century.

Finally, a brown bear loaded with a pack on his back lumbers up the upper right-hand section of the shield.

The bear is tied to an old Bavarian legend about the first bishop and patron saint of the Diocese of Freising, St. Corbinian.

(CNS)



CNS photo



# Pontiff listens well and responds carefully

It has been an historic three weeks. We gather to thank God for His great gifts among us: the gift of His Son, Our Lord; the gift of the Church which carries on His mission in word and sacrament; the gift of two great successors to Saint Peter, the visible Heads of the Church, Pope John Paul II and now Pope Benedict XVI.

Peggy Noonan had a wonderful column last Thursday, April 21st. Her refrain was "Did you see them running?" Men, women and children from every walk of life—old and young, rich and poor, business people and workers, all running. First to view briefly the body of Pope John Paul II and to participate in his funeral rite. I was privileged to be there. The crowds were enormous. Then they ran to catch a glimpse of the new pope. Why?

Ms. Noonan acknowledges that some may have come out of curiosity or for the moment in history.

But, they shouted, "Benedict! Benedict!" Not only Catholics, but also people from all around the world.

We are complicated persons. There is a yearning even in hardened and darkened hearts for a Spiritual Father—someone who stands for what is difficult and right.

We may not always live up to it, but we want someone who stands for it.

St. Paul in the first reading gives us an example. "He summoned the leaders of the Church at Ephesus to encourage them and warn them." "Keep watch over yourselves and of the flock entrusted to you by the Spirit." "Savage wolves will come among you and not spare the flock." "From your own group men will pervert the truth."

Sincerely  
in the  
Lord

By Archbishop John J. Myers



Isn't that a *Father* speaking to His spiritual children? Isn't that what we need and yearn for? Isn't that what the Holy Spirit has given us?

In his remarks before the conclave, the then Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger said, "Every day new sects are born and we realized what St. Paul says on the deception of man, on the cunning that leads to error. To have a clear faith is often labeled fundamentalism. While relativism, that is, allowing oneself to be carried about with every wind of single 'doctrine' seems to be the only attitude that is fashionable. A dictatorship of relativism is being constituted. ..."

Yet the days since his election have revealed much more. Addressing a group of German pilgrims, he admitted that he had prayed not to be elected.

The pallium which Pope Benedict wears is a symbol of his world-wide jurisdiction, but it is a symbol of

the yolk of Christ, it is a symbol of his embracing the will of God.

We have seen him affirm the Second Vatican Council—and he has been committed to the Council. He has reached out to people of other Christian communities, to those of other faiths and to those of no faith. He has reinforced the Church's love for the young. With St. Paul he has urged us to seek reconciliation with God through Jesus Christ, His Son, Our Lord, crucified and risen. He says that the Church is *alive*—because Christ is *alive*. We only need to look about us for the signs all around.

Certainly, he has joined his predecessor St. Peter in saying, "Lord, you know all things, you know that I love you... And, Jesus said, 'feed my sheep.' " And, so will Pope Benedict XVI do.

He is our Shepherd. He is a gentle man. A caring man. A humble man. One who listens well and responds carefully. He is a man with a quiet, peaceful, calm presence who will lead us in truth and deeper into the mystery of Christ. He is not the person some are depicting. He is a man of God who knows that we are all part of the Communion of Saints and must support one another with prayer and kindness. He says, "Be stalwart." Don't vacillate with each new thought or fashion.

As Peggy Noonan said, "He's a Catholic." Isn't that the right thing for the visible Head of the Catholic Church to be?

He did not hesitate to point this out and to turn to Mary most Holy, Mother of God and Mother of the Church. May our new Pope Benedict XVI enjoy her maternal protection.

## German Catholics made their mark in New Jersey

BY MSGR. ROBERT J. WISTER, Hist. Eccl.D  
Special to The Catholic Advocate

It is difficult to determine when the first German Catholics arrived in New Jersey. The first records we have date to the early 1700's.

In 1738, Casper Wister, a Philadelphia Quaker, sent to Germany for expert glass makers to staff his glass works in Salem County. Four Catholics—Casper Halter, John Martin Halter, Johannes Wentzel and Simeon Kreismayer—answered his call. Their spiritual needs were served by Rev. Theodore Schneider, S.J., of Bavaria.

Schneider arrived in New Jersey in 1743, and that same year celebrated Mass in the home of Mauriz Laurentz and administered Baptism in the home of Matthew Geiger. Beginning in 1758, Rev. Ferdinand Steinmeyer, from Swabia, who became the famous "circuit riding" priest known as "Father Farmer," served Catholics throughout New Jersey for almost thirty years. One of the stops on his circuit was Elizabethtown (Elizabeth).

Political instability and religious persecution that followed the French Revolution led many German Catholics to immigrate to the United States in the first half of the nineteenth century. Beginning in 1838, Rev. John Raffener and Rev. Nicolaus Balleis came from New York to minister to German-speaking Catholics in Newark. A small church that eventually became St. Mary's Church and Abbey was dedicated in 1842, and the next year the first German

parochial school in New Jersey was opened.

St. Michael's, Elizabeth, the second parish for German-speaking Catholics, was founded in 1853. Through the years, numerous parishes for German-speaking Catholics were established; among them were St. Henry, Bayonne; St. Joseph and SS. Peter and Paul, Hoboken; St. Nicholas, Jersey City; St. Ann, St. Augustine, St. Benedict and St. Peter, Newark; St. Venantius, Orange; St. Mark, Rahway; Holy Family and St. Joseph, Union City, and St. Mary Help of Christians, West New York.

German ethnic pride was submerged in the aftermath of an outbreak of anti-German xenophobia during World War I. Today, parishes founded for German-speaking Catholics serve Catholics of a myriad of ethnicities.

Religious women of German heritage made significant contributions to health care and education in New Jersey. Blessed Mother Frances Schervier, born in Aachen, founded the Sisters of the Poor of St. Francis. Her sisters, funded by Cardinal von Geissel of Cologne, founded St. Mary's Hospital, Hoboken; St. Francis Hospital, Jersey City, and St. Michael's Hospital, Newark. Mother Pauline Malinkrodt's Sisters of Christian Charity staffed many German-speaking parochial schools. All of these schools were known for their academic rigor and excellence.

Winand Michael Wigger, Newark's third bishop, appointed in 1881, was of German descent. His

appointment was controversial, as many Irish Catholics preferred a co-national. In fact, Wigger was slated to be bishop of Trenton but at the last minute was shifted to Newark. It may be only a coincidence, but the Cardinal Prefect of the Congregation that made the appointment was a German! Bishop Wigger died in 1901.

Sebastian Gebhard Messmer, born in German-speaking Switzerland, came to the United States and served on the faculty of Immaculate Conception Seminary and Seton Hall College. He became bishop of Green Bay in 1891, and Archbishop of Milwaukee in 1903, where he served until his death in 1930.

George William Ahr served for many years on the faculty and as rector of Immaculate Conception Seminary. A learned, skillful and formidable professor, seminarians always referred to him as "Doctor Ahr." Ahr became bishop of Trenton in 1950, retired in 1979, and died in 1993.

Today, Catholics of German descent are few and far between in the Archdiocese of Newark. However, they played a significant role in the history of the Church in New Jersey. Their legacy is evident in the many priests and Religious they gave to the Church, the schools they founded, and the parishes they established that today serve Catholics of many national traditions.

Msgr. Wister is an associate professor of Church History at Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology, Seton Hall University.





# Pontiff begins his ministry as head of universal Church

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—In a liturgy rich with symbols and promises, Pope Benedict XVI formally began his ministry as head of the universal Church, and Catholics from around the world pledged their love and obedience to him.

The morning of April 24, Pope Benedict, elected April 19, walked down to the tomb of the martyred St. Peter in the Vatican basilica to pay homage to the first bishop of Rome.

Then, with some 150 cardinals, he processed into a sun-bathed St. Peter's Square to begin the Mass and receive the main symbols of his office: the fisherman's ring and the pallium.

"At this moment, weak servant of God that I am, I must assume this enormous task, which truly exceeds all human capacity," Pope Benedict said in his homily.

The 78-year-old pope said he would rely on the prayers of all Catholics and the grace of God.

"I do not have to carry alone what in truth I could never carry alone," he said.

The new pope said his inaugural Mass was not the moment to present "a program of governance," but rather a time to promise to try to be a good shepherd to Christ's flock, to rescue those who are lost, to help the poor and to build unity among all believers in Christ.

An estimated 350,000 people attended the Mass, including delegations from more than 130 countries and from dozens of Orthodox, Anglican and Protestant churches.

Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, brother of U.S. President George W. Bush, led the five-member U.S. national delegation. Canada's governor general, Adrienne Clarkson, led the five-member Canadian delegation.

The German-born pope's 81-year-old brother, Father Georg Ratzinger, was seated in the front row by the altar, not far from German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and President Horst Koehler.

The crowd was dotted by faithful waving flags, especially German flags.

Italian President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, King Juan Carlos of Spain and Britain's Prince Philip were seated alongside the altar.

Religious calendars created some complications for some delegations. Israel was represented by its ambassador to the Vatican, although the inauguration took place on the first full day of the weeklong Passover observance. Sixteen Orthodox churches sent representatives even though April 24 was Palm Sunday on the Julian calendar most of them follow.

Chilean Cardinal Jorge Medina Estevez placed the pallium, a long woolen stole, around the neck of Pope Benedict, reminding him that Jesus has entrusted him with taking up the ministry of St. Peter to shepherd Christ's flock.

Italian Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state, handed Pope Benedict the fisherman's ring, which the new pope placed on the ring finger of his right hand.

Cardinal Sodano prayed that "the Spirit of love" would fill the new pope with the strength and meekness needed to minister to Christians "in the unity of communion."

In his homily, Pope Benedict said, "One of the basic characteristics of a shepherd must be to love the people entrusted to him, even as he loves Christ whom he serves."

"Loving means giving the sheep what is truly good, the nourishment of God's truth, of God's word, the nourishment of His presence which He gives us in the Blessed Sacrament," he said.

The new pope asked for the prayers of the entire Church that he would grow in his love for the Lord and



Pope Benedict leads his inaugural Mass, celebrated April 24, in St. Peter's Square.

CNS photos



Part of a crowd estimated to be some 350,000 waves and takes pictures of the new Holy Father.

for the members of the Church and prayers that he would be strong in the face of those who threaten the Church.

"Let us pray for one another, that the Lord will carry us and that we will learn to carry one another," he said.

His homily repeatedly was interrupted by applause, and Pope Benedict received a long ovation when he finished.

After he received the symbols of his office, Pope Benedict received the act of obedience of his new flock, symbolized by 12 people from eight countries.

While the Gospel was chanted in Latin and Greek, the other Bible readings were in English and Spanish. The prayers of the faithful were recited in German, French, Arabic, Chinese and Portuguese.

In French, the people prayed: "For our Holy Father Benedict XVI, who today begins his ministry as the

Roman pontiff, may he serve the Church and be a courageous witness of the Gospel."

The bread and wine consecrated by Pope Benedict during the Mass were brought up to him by Catholics from Hungary, Croatia, Kenya, Burkina Faso, Italy, China and Peru; many in the procession wore their national costumes.

During the offertory procession and the act of obedience, Pope Benedict smiled broadly, listened attentively, stroked the cheeks of the young and offered his blessing.

At the end of the Mass, Pope Benedict took his first ride in the popemobile, standing in the back of the open vehicle, waving to the crowd and blessing them with his right hand, newly weighted by the fisherman's ring.

He then went into St. Peter's Basilica where a chair was set on an oriental rug before the main altar. Members of the government delegations were led into the basilica to greet him and pose for photographs.





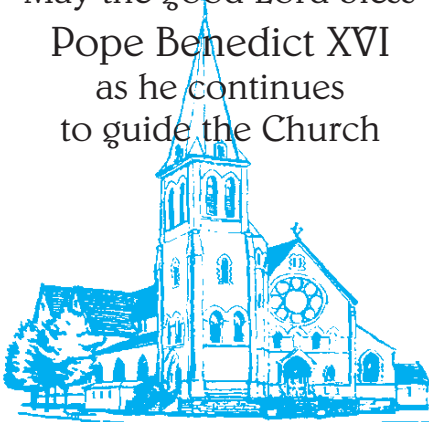
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*Benedict XVI*



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St. Ann  
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St. Joseph  
SS. Peter and Paul

Weehawken  
St. Lawrence

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Pope Benedict XVI  
as he continues  
to guide the Church



St. Mary, Star of the Sea, Bayonne  
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*Benedict XVI,*  
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family of  
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*The people of God of*  
*Our Lady of Lourdes,*  
*West Orange,*  
*pray that God bless*  
*Pope Benedict XVI*  
*with peace and good.*



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Pope Benedict XVI

May God bless our  
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# Perceptions of Holy Father proved pivotal

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—For more than 23 years, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger's public image was that of a brilliant but strict guardian of Catholic orthodoxy, a man who did not hesitate to crack down on errant theologians or risk offending other religions if doctrinal clarity was at stake.

Until recently, most people in Rome discounted the idea that he could ever be elected pope. He was simply too controversial and might divide the Church, according to the prevailing wisdom.

So when the 78-year-old German emerged from the conclave April 19 as Pope Benedict XVI—after just four ballots—it represented a turnaround of sorts.

From the comments of several cardinals afterward, it became clear that a significant change in perception had occurred among some of the voters, and that this helped propel Cardinal Ratzinger past the two-thirds majority needed for election.

The man known for years as a tough disciplinarian was almost uniformly described in post-conclave interviews as a mild, meek and caring person, someone open to ideas and suggestions.

"He's a very loving, lovely person, very unassuming, and shortly you will see this," Cardinal Edward M. Egan of New York said after the election.

Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles cautioned people against judging the new pope on his reputation and said people "will have to get to know this man as we know him."

What happened to soften Cardinal Ratzinger's image and make him more appealing to the wide spectrum of cardinals from 52 countries?

Many pointed to the cardinal's spiritual and organizational leadership during the interregnum as the key to his election. In particular, they were impressed by his sermon during Pope John Paul II's funeral—not just his words, but also his rapport with the huge crowd of mourners.

South African Cardinal Wilfrid F. Napier of Durban said while Cardinal Ratzinger may have built a reputation for severity as head of the doctrinal congregation, "that is certainly not the Cardinal Ratzinger we've come to know in the last two weeks."

"He was very caring, gentle, humble and approachable," Cardinal Napier told Catholic News Service.

"You could see this in the way he interacted with the crowd at Pope John Paul's funeral—for example, when he patiently allowed the crowd to keep chanting during the Mass instead of cutting it off. We could see that this was the kind of person who was able to read situations and respond to them," Cardinal Napier said.

Several others, including Italian Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone of Genoa, cited the funeral sermon as a turning point.

"It was a historic moment, in which he was able to touch the sensitivity and the vision of the universal Church," Cardinal Bertone said.

Clearly, Cardinal Ratzinger's position as dean of the College of Cardinals gave him wider recognition and more exposure, making him a point of reference for all the cardinals. He chaired the daily general



CNS photo

Pope Benedict XVI waves to a cheering and flag-waving crowd of nearly 100,000 people assembled in St. Peter's Square on April 19 to greet the newly elected pontiff.

congregations before the conclave and on several occasions was able to articulate his views on the challenges the Church faces.

Soon after Pope John Paul died, Cardinal Ratzinger already had a core of firm supporters among curial cardinals and others. Despite a news blackout, the level of that support, some 40 electors, leaked out to Italian newspapers.

So did some revealing anecdotes, as when Italian Cardinal Giacomo Biffi, retired archbishop of Bologna and a backer of Cardinal Ratzinger, spoke to the assembled cardinals and ended his strong speech on the need to protect Christian identity with the words, "You already know who I'm voting for!"

The media focus on Cardinal Ratzinger during the pre-conclave period may have affected the cardinals' perceptions.

Asked when the cardinals first sensed that Cardinal Ratzinger was the best candidate, Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington said, "Well, when we read the newspapers. It was the newspapers that were telling us how Ratzinger was a favorite, so we knew. ... The Holy Spirit may even speak through newspapers."

Another factor was continuity. In the wake of the global outpouring of respect and affection for Pope John Paul after his death, many cardinals seemed to be looking for someone of recognized stature to pick up the mantle of Church leadership.

That may have made them less inclined to vote for some of the newer, lesser-known candidates.

Cardinal Ratzinger was seen as Pope John Paul's

right-hand man throughout most of his papacy. During the interregnum, the cardinal reinforced his prominence in sermons and talks and began looking more and more like the heir apparent.

"We all felt like he was a brother with superior qualities," said Cardinal Christoph Schonborn of Vienna, Austria.

To the outside world, Pope Benedict seemed to undergo somewhat of a transformation during the papal election. He went into the conclave sounding like an angry prophet and came out sounding like a humble shepherd.

A few weeks before the conclave, in exceptionally strong language, he denounced the "filth" inside the Church.

At the conclave's opening Mass, he warned of an ominous "dictatorship of

relativism" in today's world and compared the Church to a small boat being tossed by the waves of ideologies, surrounded by human trickery and cunning.

When he emerged after the election, smiling shyly at a cheering crowd in St. Peter's Square, Pope Benedict described himself as "a simple, humble worker in the vineyard of the Lord."

The next day, he told the cardinals who elected him that he wanted their prayers and their advice and pledged to lead the Church along the path of dialogue and unity traced out by his predecessor.

His speech contained several passages that calmed those who feared a sharp departure from the reforms of the Second Vatican Council.

It also contained a hallmark statement of the old Cardinal Ratzinger: that the Church's dialogue and its work in the world are framed by its most basic duty, announcing the Gospel of Christ to all people.

*"He's a very loving, lovely person, very unassuming, and shortly you will see this."*

—Cardinal Edward M. Egan





# New Pope among leading theologians

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—As the guiding light on doctrinal issues during Pope John Paul II’s pontificate, Pope Benedict XVI was one of the most respected, influential and controversial members of the College of Cardinals.

Since 1981 the 78-year-old Pope Benedict—regarded as one of the Church’s leading theologians—has headed the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the Vatican department charged with defending orthodoxy in virtually every area of Church life.

Over the years, Pope Benedict met quietly once a week with Pope John Paul to discuss doctrinal and other major issues facing the Church. Insiders said his influence was second to none when it came to setting Church priorities and directions and responding to moral and doctrinal challenges.

From November 2002 until his election, he was dean of the College of Cardinals, a key position in the time between popes. Pope Benedict, as then Cardinal Ratzinger, presided over the preconclave meetings of cardinals in Rome, set agendas for discussion and action, and was responsible for a number of procedural decisions during the conclave.

White-haired and soft-spoken, Pope Benedict comes across in person as a thoughtful and precise intellectual with a dry sense of humor. A frequent participant at Vatican press conferences, he is a familiar figure to the international group of reporters who cover the Church.

He is also well-known by the Church hierarchy around the world, and his speeches at cardinal consistories, synods of bishops and other assemblies often have the weight of a keynote address. When Pope Benedict spoke as a cardinal, people listened.

Sometimes his remarks were bluntly critical on such diverse topics as dissident theologians, liberation theology, “abuses” in lay ministry, homosexuality, women as priests, feminism among nuns, premarital sex, abortion, liturgical reform and rock music.

As Pope John Paul’s pontificate developed, some Vatican observers said Pope Benedict’s influence grew.

“He’s become the last check on everything, the final word on orthodoxy. Everything is passed through his congregation,” one Vatican official said in 1998.

“I’m not the Grand Inquisitor,” Pope Benedict once said in an interview, referring to the head of a medieval Church tribunal focusing on heresy.

But to the outside world, he has been known as the Vatican’s doctrinal expert and enforcer. He made the biggest headlines when his congregation silenced or excommunicated theologians, withdrew Church approval of certain books, helped rewrite liturgical translations, set boundaries on ecumenical dialogues, took over the handling of cases of clergy sex abuse against minors, curbed the role of bishops’ conferences and pressured religious orders to suspend wayward members.

In 2003, the doctrinal congregation issued a document that said Catholic politicians must not ignore essential Church teachings, particularly on human life. That set the stage for a long debate during the 2004 U.S. election campaign on whether Democratic Sen. John F. Kerry, a Catholic who supports legalized abortion, should be given Communion.

Pope Benedict’s congregation also published a document asking Catholic lawmakers to fight a growing movement to legalize same-sex marriage.

Pope Benedict has frequently criticized the growth of Church bureaucracy and its output of studies, reports and meetings. Asked once whether the Vatican would operate better in Germany, he responded, “What a disaster! The Church would be too organized.”

“The saints were people of creativity, not bureaucratic functionaries,” he added.

In his first decade at the helm of the doctrinal congregation, Pope Benedict zeroed in on liberation theology as the most urgent challenge to the faith. He silenced Latin American theologians like Franciscan Father Leonardo Boff and guided the preparation of two Vatican documents that condemned the use of Marxist political concepts in Catholic theology.

But after the collapse of Marxism as a global ideology, Pope Benedict identified a new, central threat to the faith: relativism. He said relativism is an especially difficult problem for the Church because its main ideas—compromise and a rejection of absolute positions—are so deeply imbedded in democratic society.

More and more, he has warned, anything religious is considered “subjective.” As a result, he said, in places like his native Germany the issue of abortion is being confronted with “political correctness” instead of moral judgment.

He said modern theologians are among those who have mistakenly applied relativistic concepts to religion and ethics. He said Jesus is widely seen today as “one religious leader among others,” concepts like dogma are viewed as too inflexible and the Church is accused of intransigence.

Pope Benedict has been particularly sensitive to wayward trends in Asian theology, especially as they find popular expression. He banned the best-selling books of the late Jesuit theologian Father Anthony DeMello, S.J. from India and threatened the Oblate Sri Lankan theologian Father Tissa Balasuriya, O.M.I. with excommunication for his writings on Mary and the faith. Father Tissa later reconciled with the Church.

After review by then Cardinal Ratzinger’s congregation, U.S. Father Charles Curran, who questioned Church teaching against artificial birth control, was removed from his teaching position at the Catholic University of America in Washington in 1987. Earlier this year, then Cardinal Ratzinger made a similar judgment about Jesuit Father Roger Haight, who was banned from teaching Catholic theology over his book touching on the divinity and salvific mediation of Jesus.

The pope also in the past has focused on ordinary Catholics, saying there can be no compromise on dissent by the lay faithful. He helped prepare a papal instruction on the subject in 1998 and accompanied it with his own commentary warning Catholics they would put themselves outside the communion of the Church if they reject its teachings on eight specific issues.

The same year, he issued a document on papal primacy—a topic of intense ecumenical discussion—saying that, as a matter of faith, only the pope has the authority to make changes in his universal ministry.

Pope Benedict’s theological ideas are based on years of study, pastoral ministry and Vatican experience. Born in Marktl am Inn, Germany, April 16, 1927, the son of a rural policeman, the pope moved with his family several times during his younger years. His priestly studies began early but were interrupted by World War II.

In a book of memoirs, Pope Benedict recalled that while a seminarian he was enrolled by school officials in the Hitler Youth program; he soon stopped going to meetings. After being drafted in the German Army in 1943 he served for a year on an anti-aircraft unit that tracked Allied bombardments then later he deserted and fled. At the end of the war he spent time in a U.S. prisoner-of-war camp before being released.



## HABEMUS PAPAM!

Highlights in the life of Pope Benedict XVI

**April 16, 1927**  
Born Joseph Ratzinger in Marktl am Inn, Germany

**1945**  
Deserted from German army and held briefly as U.S. prisoner of war

**June 29, 1951**  
Ordained a priest, along with his brother Georg

**1957**  
Earned doctorate in theology from University of Munich

**1958-77**  
Taught dogma and theology at five German universities

**1962-65**  
Served as expert at Second Vatican Council

**1969-77**  
Vice president, University of Regensburg

**March 24, 1977**  
Ordained archbishop of Munich and Freising, Germany

**June 27, 1977**  
Elevated to College of Cardinals

**1981-2005**  
Prefect, Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith

**April 19, 2005**  
Elected 265th pope of the Catholic Church.





**Languages**  
German, English, Italian, French, Spanish, some Portuguese

**Hobbies**  
Plays piano  
Author of more than two dozen books translated into English



Source: CNS

CNS graphic  
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Ordained in 1951, he received a doctorate and a licentiate in theology from the University of Munich, where he studied until 1957. He taught dogma and fundamental theology at the University of Freising in 1958-59, then lectured at the University of Bonn, 1959-1969, at Munster, 1963-66, and at Tübingen from 1966 to 1969. In 1969 he was appointed professor of dogma and of the history of dogmas at the University of Regensburg, where he also served as vice president until 1977.

A theological consultant to West German Cardinal Joseph Frings, he came to the Second Vatican Council as an expert or “peritus.” At the council, he was said to have played an influential role in discussions among the German-speaking participants and gained a reputation as a progressive theologian.

After the council, he published several major books, including *Introduction to Christianity*, *Dogma and Revelation* and *Eschatology*. He was named a member of the International Theological Commission in 1969.

Pope Paul VI appointed him archbishop of Munich and Freising in 1977 and named him a cardinal later that year.

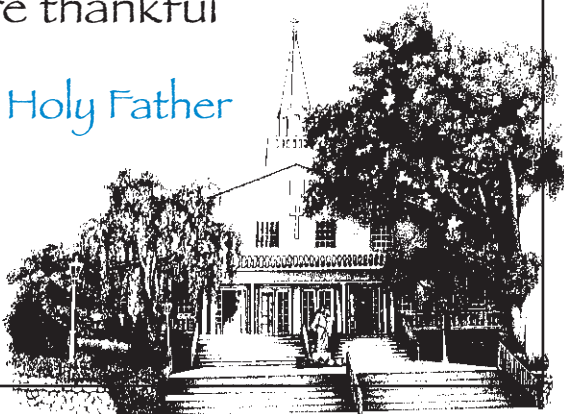




The Shepherd has arrived  
and we are thankful

God bless our Holy Father

St Gabriel  
the Archangel Parish  
Saddle River



We pray for  
our brother Joseph,  
*Pope Benedict.*

May his Words  
and  
Good Works  
Inspire  
and  
Guide  
the  
Church



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Ask  
God's blessing on  
Pope Benedict  
XVI

as he assumes leadership of our  
church in today's world.

Ad multos annos!

Pope Benedict XVI



The Parish Community of  
**BLESSED SACRAMENT  
CHURCH**  
Elizabeth, NJ

Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish  
Harrison, NJ

Rejoices and gives thanks to God  
on the occasion of the election  
of our Holy Father

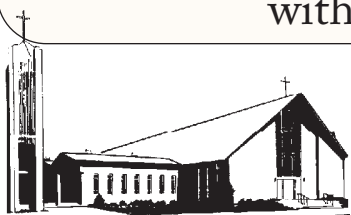
**Benedict XVI**

a friend of John Paul II

STO LAT!



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**ST. THOMAS MORE, Fairfield**  
Welcomes  
**Pope Benedict XVI**  
with great joy!



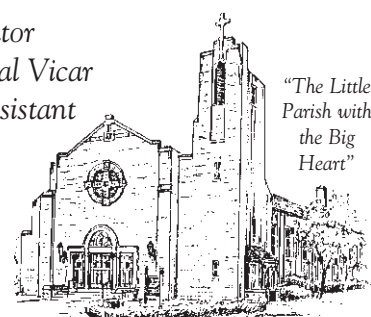
*We follow no leader but Christ and join in  
communion with none but the Chair of Peter.  
We know that this is the rock on which the  
Church has been built.—St. Jerome*

**Pope Benedict XVI**

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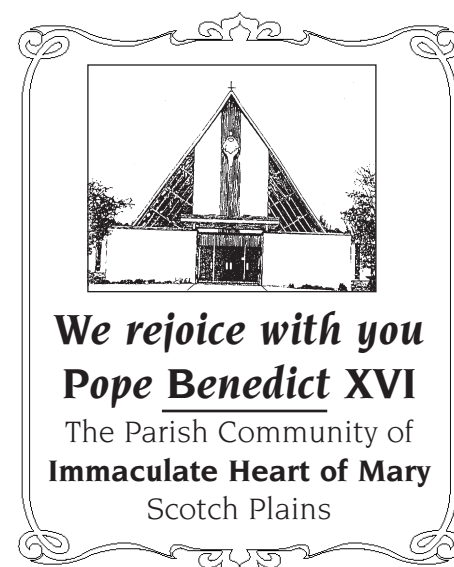
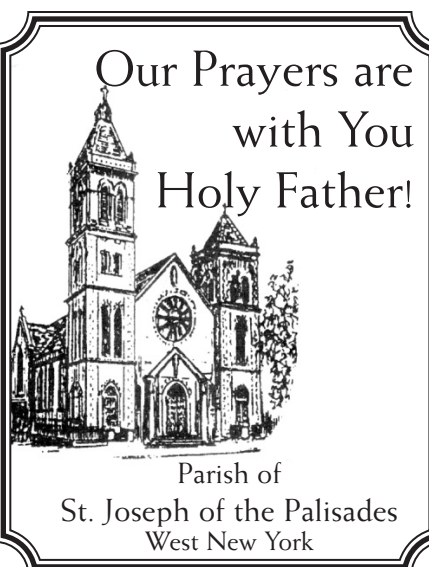
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# Best Wishes to Pope Benedict XVI

The Parish Community of  
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Union



## *Pope Benedict XVI-*

Welcome, you are in our  
hearts and prayers!



Rev. Beaubrun Ardouin, Pastor  
and the Parish Family of  
**St. Leo Church**  
Irvington

## **Pope Benedict XVI,**

we offer our  
congratulations  
and obedience

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# *God Bless our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI*



Holy Family Academy  
Bayonne

St. Michael Church  
Newark

St. Paul the Apostle Church  
Irvington

Sacred Heart Church  
North Bergen

St. John the Baptist Church  
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St. Mark/St. Mary Church  
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St. Paul the Apostle Church  
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St. Helen Church  
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**St. John  
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**Our Lady of  
Mount Carmel  
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**Holy Name of Jesus  
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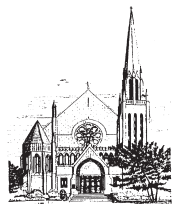
**St. Venantius/St. Andrew Kim  
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**Our Lady of  
the Valley  
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**St. Joseph  
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**Holy Spirit &  
Our Lady, Help of Christians  
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*The Priests and People of  
Central Essex Deanery 17*

*welcome  
Pope Benedict XVI*

*and proclaim with him*

*"The Church is Alive!"*

*God bless you,*  
**Pope Benedict XVI**  
*May the Holy Spirit guide you!*

**Deanery 16**

†St. Anthony

†St. Peter

**Belleville**

†Sacred Heart

†St. Thomas  
the Apostle

†St. Valentine

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†Our Lady of  
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†St. Peter Claver  
**Montclair**

†Holy Family

†Our Lady of  
Mt. Carmel

†St. Mary

**Nutley**

†St. Cassian

**Upper  
Montclair**



*The Parish Family  
of  
Notre Dame Church  
North Caldwell, NJ*

*extends sincerest wishes of welcome  
to our supreme shepherd  
**Benedict XVI**  
and promises to pray for his  
continued faithful response to the  
promptings of God's Spirit for  
the life of the church*

*God Bless You  
Holy Father*

**Pope Benedict**  
*May the Holy Spirit  
guide you!*



**The Adorno Fathers**  
Ramsey, NJ

The parish community of Saint Anthony of Padua  
Silver Lake-Belleville

joins in prayer and thanksgiving to God the Father  
as we welcome our new Holy Father

**His Holiness Benedict XVI**

as he begins his ministry as

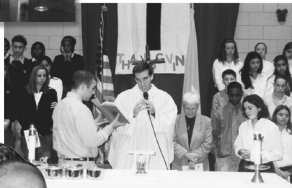
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Sister Regina Martin, principal, poses with Brother Ralph Darmento, F.S.C., Deputy Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of Newark.

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**Testing for the new school year which begins in September will be held on May 5, May 11, July 12, 2005 at 9:00 A.M.**

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## Mother Seton principal receives national award at NCEA convention

CLARK—Sister Regina Martin, S.C., principal of Mother Seton Regional High School, has been honored with the National Catholic Education Association's (NCEA) Secondary Schools Award.

The award was presented at the NCEA Convention in Philadelphia.

Only six educators nationwide were selected to receive the award. Executive committee member Brother Milton Barker, F.S.C., read the citation, which said of Sister Regina, "Because of her faith-filled leadership, Mother Seton is a lifeline to thousands of first and second-generation United States citizens."

Sister Regina was appointed principal in 1975. The NCEA award noted that Sister Regina has "committed her entire professional life to Mother Seton Regional High School." The award states, "In grateful recognition for significant contributions to American Catholic Secondary Education."

The ceremony was attended by many faculty members; several Sisters of Charity, members of the Newark archdiocesan school office; family, friends and hundreds of NCEA members.

Sister Regina has been at Mother Seton since 1964, one year after the school opened. At the beginning, she chaired the mathematics department, moderated the student council, and taught mathematics. She was named assistant principal in the early 1970's. Sister Regina still teaches a course in mathematics.

Sister Regina instituted the prestigious Seton Distinguished Scholars Program, the Seton Fitness Center, expanded the school's athletic program, encouraged the development of a campus ministry team and center and, in the last several years, nurtured the development of a technology program that encourages integration throughout the school from curriculum infusion to administrative communication with a personal touch.

Joan Barron, assistant principal, who has worked with Sister Regina for many years, stated, "Sister Regina has offered us many challenges and opportunities to maintain Mother Seton High School as a premier educational institution, recognized for our strong tradition of academic excellence and Seton spirit."

"I cannot imagine anyone more deserving of this recognition. Sister's faith, commitment, and devotion to the school inspire us all." Sister Jacquelyn Balasia, assistant principal, added, "In many ways, Sister Regina is Mother Seton Regional High School. The school embodies her vision."

A special surprise celebration was held for Sister Regina on campus when she returned from the convention. A prayer service, slide presentation and brunch were held in her honor. Student Council members along with faculty members paid tribute to her in so many heartwarming ways including a musical performance, flowers and a scrapbook full of memories.

## Food service scholarship available

LODI—Felician College is accepting applications for its New Jersey Food Council Scholarship, a four-year, full-tuition scholarship.

A competitive award, it is open to any employee of the food industry or member of an employee's immediate family. New Jersey and out-of-state employees are eligible.

The scholarship recipient will be eligible to begin study in the fall semester for day, evening, or week-

end programs. A winner will be announced in July.

Former Food Council Scholarship recipients have included employees of Grand Union, Kraft Foods, Goya Foods, Food Enterprises, A&P, Shop-Rite, Stop & Shop and Sysco Foods of Metro New York.

For more information or to request an application, call (201) 559-3314. Applications must be received by June 10.

### Attention parents and 5th, 6th, and 7th grade students!

*Are you interested in a Catholic High School education but concerned about the cost?*

Learn about a new model of Catholic high school education. Nationally known **Cristo Rey** schools give students a college-preparatory education with corporate internships (work-study).



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**Come to an Information Night on Monday, May 16, 2005 from 7PM until 8:30 PM at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish • 654 Summer Avenue, Newark Cafeteria Building**

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# High school options explored at annual information nights

BY WARD MIELE  
Managing Editor

NEWARK—Students and their parents filled the auditorium of the Archdiocesan Center the evening of April 19 at the first in a series of evening programs designed to provide information and answer questions about a Catholic high school education.

Representatives of each of the 36 high schools in the archdiocese were present at display tables. In addition to picking up promotional material, students and their parents were free to stop and talk with school staff.

Taylor Walker-Liggins, a seventh grade student at St. James the Apostle School, Springfield, was among those attending.

Explaining she has gone to Catholic schools "all my life," Taylor said she wanted to see what the various high schools had to offer. Catholic schools, she added, offer "a better education" with the benefit of smaller classes.

Her mother, Rosemary, felt it important to gather as much information as possible in order to make the decision for her daughter's high school.

Her father, Lawrence, a public school teacher, said he was there to offer "support, encouragement and motivation."

Although the family is not Catholic, Mr. Liggins noted he values a Catholic education for many reasons, such as the quality of instruction, the size of enrollment and the student to teacher ratio.

Two other Liggins children, both boys, attend St. Peter's Preparatory School, Jersey City.

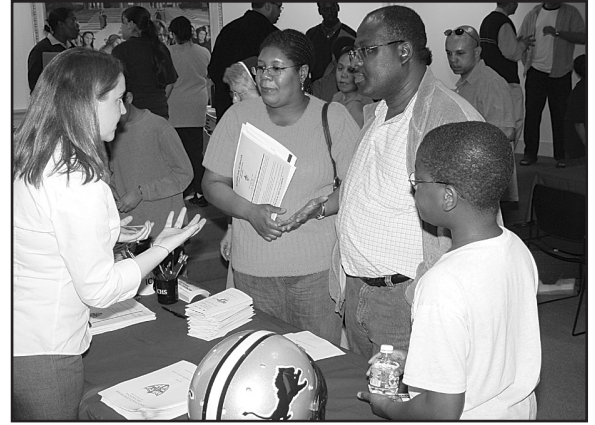
Another visiting seventh grader, John Kelley, who attends Trinity Academy in his hometown of Caldwell, was also exploring his options.

He wants to go to a Catholic school, John explained, because of "good academics." The schools he added quickly, also have fine athletic programs.

His mother Susan said the family "believes" in Catholic education. Citing the "personal attention" available in Catholic schools, Mrs. Kelley feels young people "thrive in a Catholic school environment."

The family was at the Information Night program, she continued, to learn as much as possible about all of the high school options available for her son. The focus,

she stressed, is squarely on Catholic high schools. Mrs. Kelley was of the opinion too that it was important to involve her son in the process of deciding which high school he will attend.



Jennifer DePasquale, admissions director at Immaculate Conception High School, Montclair, discusses the program with interested parents.

3RD ANNUAL



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- Rutgers-Newark
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Advocate photos-Ward Miele

The auditorium at the Archdiocesan Center was filled on the high school information night with prospective students and their families.

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NOVENAS

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

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

L.M.

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

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

E.D.

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

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

L.F.

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

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M.S.

PRAYER TO ST. JUDE

Oh, Holy St. Jude, Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near Kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and urgent petition (make request). In return I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. Say three Our Fathers, three Hail Marys and Glorias. St. Jude, pray for us all who invoke your aid. Amen. This Novena must be said for 9 consecutive days. Thank you for answering my prayer.

L.M.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

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

M.S.

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EMAIL: qpchurch@comcast.net or Msgr. William J. Fadrowski, Pastor

Queen of Peace Church, 10 Franklin Place, No. Arlington, NJ 07031

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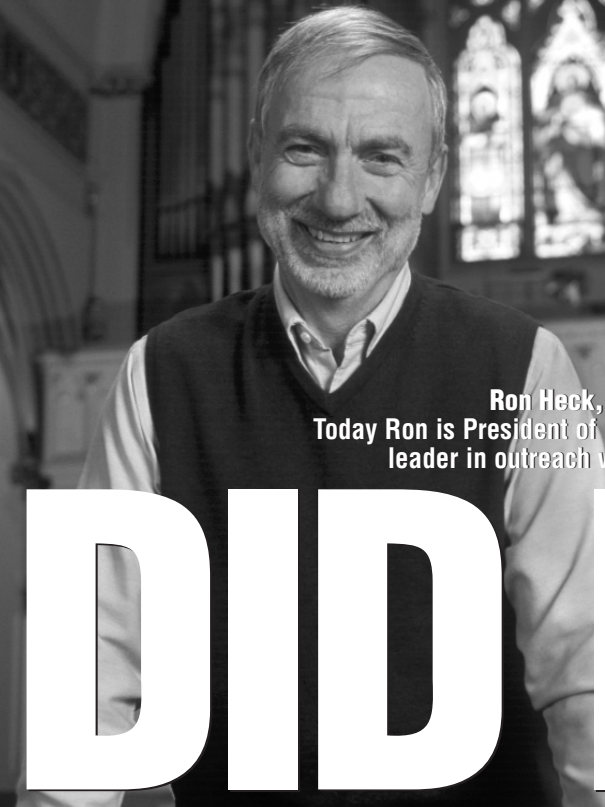
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# ‘Walk Against Hunger’ to step off on May 13

NEWARK—On Friday, May 13, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark will join food pantries, religious and community organizations, corporations, educational institutions, and area residents in downtown Newark for the Second Annual Essex County Walk Against Hunger.

Sponsored by the agency’s Emergency Food and Nutrition Network and its food pantry network, Meeting Emergency Needs with Dignity, the walk will begin at noon, rain or shine, in Washington Park.

Walkers will proceed down Broad Street to Newark City Hall and then return to Washington Park.

“The walk helps raise awareness about hunger in Essex County, while also raising funds for hungry families who come to area pantries for help,” explained Sharon Reilly-Tobin, director of the Emergency Food and Nutrition Network. “Walkers will ask friends, co-workers, neighbors, and family to pledge monetary support to help fight hunger in Essex County.

“Proceeds will be used solely for the purchase of food to stock participating pantries during the summer months, when supplies are always low,” Reilly-Tobin added.

Anyone unable to participate in the walk but eager to support its goals can send donations to Emergency Food and Nutrition Network of Catholic Charities, 37 Evergreen Pl., East Orange, NJ 07018.

# Evangelization session set

JERSEY CITY—The archdiocesan Office of Evangelization has scheduled its next information session for Thursday, May 12, 7:30 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Parish, 3026 Kennedy Blvd., Jersey City.

Parishes unable to attend March sessions now have the opportunity to do so in their

respective counties where the “Why Catholic?” and “Disciples in Mission” programs will be presented.

Dates for Bergen and Union counties will be announced shortly.

For information and to register, call (973) 497-4353 or e-mail [sotolili@rcan.org](mailto:sotolili@rcan.org).

## Archdiocese of Newark

### 2005

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# Collabotative learning on ICHS stage

MONTCLAIR—On the marquee for Immaculate Conception High School's upcoming production of Agatha Christie's *Ten Little Indians*, the subtitle might well be: "An Exercise in Collaborative Learning."

Four of the senior elective classes are joining this innovative educational concept, in which students learn through cooperation, with Christie's classical murder mystery.

The curtain rises on the production Friday, May 6 and Saturday, May 7 at 7 p.m.

While Sarah Moje's drama class is taking care of the acting, Norret Baez's Topics in Science group has worked to see that the famous murder mystery is performed believably.

"Ms. Baez's group has decided how best to kill my students," said Ms. Moje jokingly. "They have made it look realistic—telling us, for example, how bodies would be angled when they have fallen on the ground after being murdered in a certain way."

"We quickly began talking about how to set up a major crime," she said. "We've watched *CSI* and a lot of other crime programs."

The science students have also prepped themselves by viewing such movies as *The Bone Collector* and Hitchcock's *Dial M for Murder*.

As part of their forensic experi-

ence, the students have set up a fingerprinting lab, using charcoal from the art room to record fingerprints. They have analyzed hand-writing to uncover forgery.

"It's a way to apply technology," said Baez, "to see it in a way that's not static." The class is not just for top science students, she said, "it's for anyone interested in science and willing to work hard."

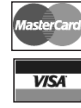
Rebecca Mahon's senior art class has had to provide a stage setting for the performance, which takes place on an island off the English coast. The play requires only one set and one backdrop, but the art students had to begin by historically researching housing style and decoration for an English isle at the play's time period.

"Those Indian statues were tough," said Mahon. "We didn't want them to be too clumsy looking. Not too many people can work well with clay." But trying out such ingredients as flour, salt, and water, the art class was up to the task.

In addition to entertaining an audience, the objective is also, of course, to avoid red ink on the expense ledger.

That has been the job of Liam FitzSimons' business class. "We learned about marketing research, consumer analysis, strategic planning, and promotion," he said. Perhaps most important, the group came up with the play's advertising slogan: "At ten, the countdown begins."

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## The Catholic Advocate

### Catholic Radio

#### SUNDAY

**Religion on the Line**  
6 a.m. - WABC 770 AM

**Mass**  
6:30 a.m. - WPAT 930 AM

**La Hora Católica**  
8 a.m. - WADO 1280 AM

**Catholic Heritage Hour**  
9 a.m. - WSOU 89.5 FM

**Voices of Our World**  
10:45 a.m. - WSOU 89.5 FM

**The Sunday Morning Mass**  
11 a.m. - WSOU 89.5 FM

**Proclaim the Good News**  
12:30 p.m. - WCTC 1450 AM

**Perspectives on the News**  
12:30 a.m.(Mon.) - WOR 710 AM

#### SATURDAY

**As You Think with Father Paul Keenan**  
9 p.m. - WOR 710 AM



### TV Masses

A televised Mass can be seen at the times listed below. Check your cable guide for cable channel.

**WLNY-TV Ch. 55**  
8:30 a.m. - Monday-Friday  
9 a.m. - Sunday

**WNYW, Ch. 5**  
5:30 a.m. - Sunday

**WPXN, Ch. 31**  
9:30 a.m. - Sunday

**WXTV, Ch. 41**  
Santa Misa (local) 6:30 a.m. - Sunday

**EWTN**  
Live Mass 8 a.m. and noon  
Monday- Saturday

Portuguese Mass 5:30 a.m - Sunday  
Mass from Our Lady of the Angels  
Monastery, 8 a.m.  
and midnight - Sunday

**Other Programming**  
Religion and Ethics Newswk  
Weekends - WNET Ch 13

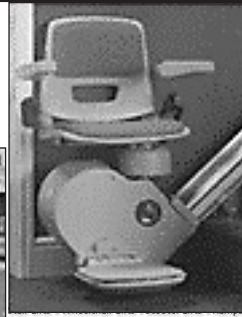


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# Cantor to perform

NEWARK—Rick Erickson, cantor at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, New York City, will be featured Sunday, May 15 at a 4 p.m. performance at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

Erickson, who is appearing as part of the Cathedral Concert Series, directs the Holy Trinity parish music ministry, which includes the renowned Bach Vespers series. He has a life-long involvement with hymn singing.

Erickson has led hymn festivals throughout the United States and in the Hymn Society. He has also served as organist for the Jubilee Conference hymn festival of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

A combined event with the Newark Chapter of the National Association of the American Guild of Organists, there will be a free will donation.

# National prayer breakfast May 20

WASHINGTON—The second annual National Catholic Prayer Breakfast will take place on Friday, May 20.

To held at The Hilton Washington, 1919 Connecticut, N.W., the day opens with the Rosary at 6:45 a.m. followed by Mass at 7 a.m. The prayer breakfast gets under way at 8:15 a.m.

Principal celebrant and homilist is Most Rev. Jose H.

Gomez, Archbishop of San Antonio. Keynote speaker is Most Rev. Charles J. Chaput, Archbishop of Denver.

Donations are \$50 a ticket with a table priced at \$500.

To purchase a table or for more information log on to [www.catholicprayerbreakfast.com](http://www.catholicprayerbreakfast.com) or via email at [info@catholicprayerbreakfast.com](mailto:info@catholicprayerbreakfast.com).

# ‘Fast Track’ registration

MORRISTOWN—Summer sessions for the College of Saint Elizabeth’s Saturday Fast Track program begin May 17.

Those who register by May 11 will have the \$35 application fee waived. For additional information go to [www.cse.edu/fast-track](http://www.cse.edu/fast-track).

To learn more about the college’s School of Graduate and Continuing Studies call (973) 290-4600 or go to [www.cse.edu/academics](http://www.cse.edu/academics).



**CORRECTION**—In the April 20 edition of *The Catholic Advocate*, the names of the two women carrying a portrait of Pope John Paul II from the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, at the conclusion of a Mass for the Polish community, were incorrect. They are, left, Krystyna Osiadacz and, right, Ewa Wisniewska. *The Catholic Advocate* apologizes for the error.

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# Why Mom Created An Endowment

The endowment program at the Archdiocese of Newark continues to grow because more and more of our friends recognize the benefits of creating their own endowment funds.

Mom preferred to launch her endowment now so she can see the results, while others make arrangements to establish endowments later on with estate assets. And some, like Mom, prefer to start an endowment now and add more to it later through a bequest.

## Why did Mom choose to make an endowment gift to the Archdiocese?

There are a number of reasons, of course.  
Here are five she considered:

**1 Durability.** The idea of creating a perpetual stream of financial support makes sense to people like Mom, who see a similarity between retirement funds and endowment provisions. She likes the concept of a fund that is guarded and invested separately from other assets so the principal of the fund will stay intact. Only the income or a portion thereof will be used to support the Archdiocese of Newark.

**2 A Positive Legacy.** When Mom attached her name to an endowment fund, she created an enduring legacy that will outlive her and influence succeeding generations. Grandchildren, great-grandchildren and other family members and friends will be reminded of mom's values and commitments. Endowment funds can also be used to honor the lives of others who have made a significant impact on the donor and/or the Archdiocese.

**3 Perpetuate Annual Gifts.** Mom saw an endowment fund as a means to underwrite her own regular giving to the Archdiocese of Newark. For example, an endowment fund of \$20,000 could create an annual "gift" of \$1,000 to the Archdiocese. It's a great way to keep giving generation after generation.

**4 A Stronger Archdiocese.** Each year, the Archdiocese of Newark must raise millions of dollars to meet operational costs to sustain facilities, programs and personnel. Raising money for the "here and now" is always a priority. Annual payouts from endowment funds relieve some of this pressure and permit the Archdiocese to plan more confidently for the future. An organization with a strong endowment is simply more stable financially.



**5 Personal Satisfaction.** There is something wonderfully fulfilling about doing something good that lasts, something that really makes a difference. Other kinds of giving are important, but having Mom's name on a fund that will benefit others for centuries is truly satisfying.

You can request a meeting with our planned giving officer, **Ken DiPaola**. He will explain the step-by-step process and show you various ways you can fund your endowment. You will find him knowledgeable, courteous and respectful of your confidences.

If you would like to learn more about the Archdiocesan endowment program, fill out and send in the form below.

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# Major renovations under way at St. Agnes church and school

BY WARD MIELE  
Managing Editor

CLARK— Groundbreaking ceremonies were held recently at St. Agnes Parish, for the first major renovations to the church and school buildings since their construction four decades ago.

Following a noon Sunday Mass, Msgr. James S. Choma, pastor, presided at the groundbreaking just behind the school building. Parishioners, most wearing ceremonial yellow hardhats, gathered around for the historic event. A reception followed in the school gymnasium.

Msgr. Choma, who will soon mark five years at the parish, cited in his homily the crucial role stewardship played in making the needed renovations a reality. Stewardship at the parish, he stressed, is “a way of life.”

Pointing to past meetings with the parish finance commit-

tee about work needed in such significant areas as air conditioning and leaking roofs, Msgr. Choma said the determination was made not to “nickel and dime” the parishioners.

A feasibility study followed with the opinions of parishioners, an integral part of the process.

It was determined, said the pastor, that the renovations would be “affordable but a stretch.” Next came a financial feasibility study.

Saying he believed “with all my heart God would open doors for it to happen,” Msgr. Choma said, “God answered our prayers.”

Coupled with donations from parishioners, two \$250,000 gifts were received for the renovations. The original price tag had been estimated at \$2.6 million but ultimately came in at \$3.6 million.

“God came through for us again” declared Msgr. Choma.

Some \$2.4 million was pledged and another \$250,000 check came in.

It was decided to start work now, noted the pastor, because construction costs and interest rates would continue to escalate.

Msgr. Choma publicly thanked Archbishop John J. Myers for his “leadership, support and approval which were all necessary to celebrate this historic day in our parish.”

On the drawing board for what has been designated phase one are a number of projects.

Right now the fourth and fifth grades are housed in trailers. Additional class room space will alleviate that problem. There will also be a new computer room along with an art and music room. Meeting rooms are also planned. The school renovations are designed for the regular school and religious education programs.

The school gym and church building are joined, a common



Advocate photo- Ward Miele

Msgr. Choma along with, left to right, students Marc Aquino, Emily Vargas, Jordan Smith and Mariah Fiore, representing St. Agnes School and the religious education program, along with architect Anthony Genovese and primary contractor Karl Shuetz.

practice when both were constructed decades ago.

The church building itself will be expanded. There will be a new, permanent baptismal font, new tabernacle space and a new pulpit. The sanctuary will also be moved closer to the faithful. When completed, bathrooms will be

handicapped accessible.

A new air conditioning and heating system along with a new roof on the school and church buildings, already done, are part of the phase one work.

Target date for completion of the work is November for the church and the fall of 2006 at the school.



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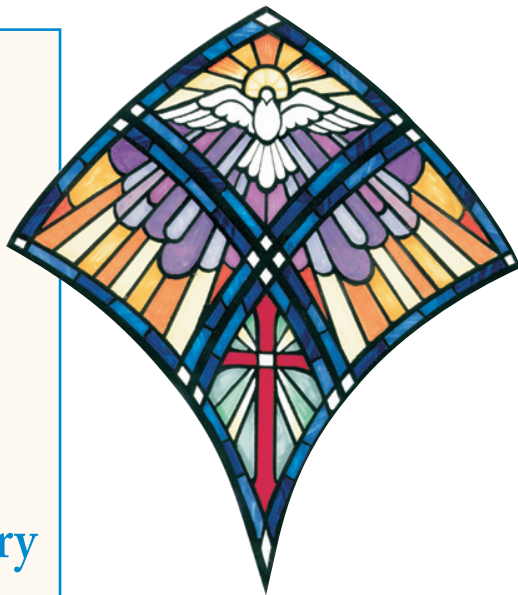
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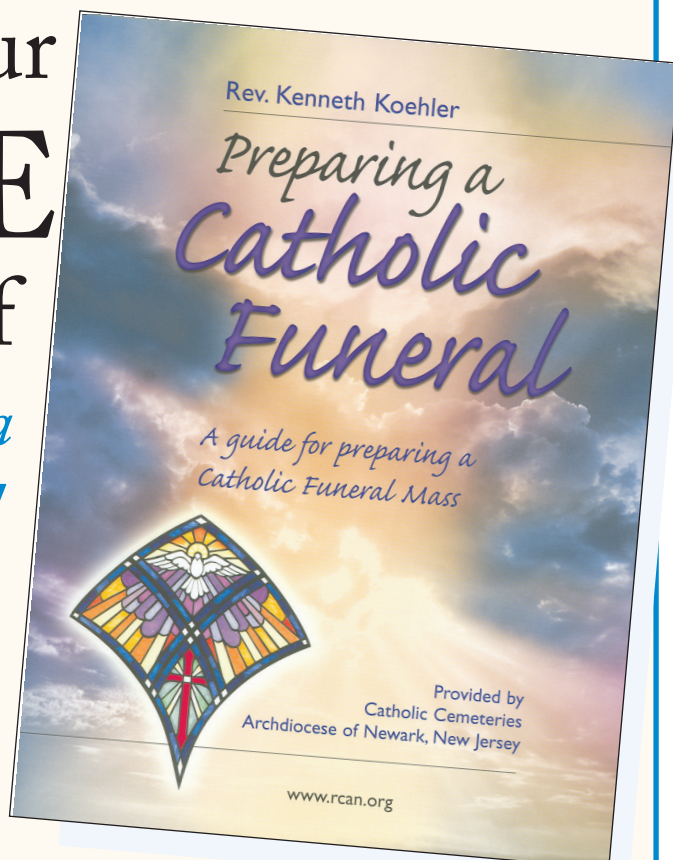
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