

Sisters of St. Joseph celebrate 50, 60-year jubilees

ENGLEWOOD CLIFFS—The Sisters of Saint Joseph of Peace recently honored nine members of their religious community celebrating 50- and 60-year jubilees.

A Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated at St. Michael Villa by Father Walter Kron, former chaplain. Other celebrants were Father Joseph Murphy, Father Jeremiah McGinley, O.F.M., Father Daniel Danik, Father Nikolas Perjgini, and Father Dominic Fuccile.

Marking 50 years are Sisters Ellen Mary Aherne, Patricia Anne Becker, Lucille Durso, Janet Luik, Rita Ponzini, Janet Davis Richardson and Patricia Wall. Celebrating 60 years are Sisters Anne Collins and Laurence Marie O'Neill.

Sister Ellen Mary Aherne, County Cork, Ireland, served as a nurse in Ireland prior to entering the order. After profession, she entered the field of education, serving in elementary

schools in New Jersey and West Virginia. In 1968, Sister Ellen Mary was assigned to St. Anne's School, Fair Lawn, where she ministered for 34 years, retiring to the Villa Marie Claire, Saddle River, in 2002.

Sister Patricia Ann Becker, Oxford, taught in various grammar schools in New Jersey, including St. Anne's, Fair Lawn, and St. Joseph's School for the Blind, Jersey City. In later years, she trained as a certified nursing assistant working in Wellington Hall, Hackensack and Holy Name Hospital, Teaneck. Retired, Sister Patricia Ann resides at St. Michael's Villa, Englewood Cliffs.

Sister Lucille Durso, North Bergen, serves as director of development at St. Ann's Home, Jersey City. As an educator, she has ministered in various grammar schools in New Jersey as well as Immaculate Heart Academy, Washington Township, Marymount High School, Los



Angeles, and Alemany High School, Mission Hills, CA. Sister Lucille, a well-known speaker, is a certified instructor in health and retirement planning. She resides in Glen Rock.

Sister Janet Luik, Hackensack, educated in Germany and New Jersey, ministered in the field of education prior to completing a degree in Nursing from Seton Hall University.

She served at St. Joseph Home for the Blind and St.

James Hospital, Newark. From 1968 until 1972, Sister Janet volunteered with Catholic Relief Services, working with refugee populations in Vietnam and Cambodia.

She resides and ministers at St. Michael's Villa.

Sister Rita Ponzini, Newark, a social worker, has ministered with Catholic Charities, and with Homemakers of Hudson County. She also served as guidance director at St. Luke's High School, Ho-Ho-Kus and as a counselor at the Institute of Healing, Caldwell, and at Shalom Center, Englewood Cliffs. Sister Rita lives and ministers at Marian Manor, Caldwell.

Sister Janet Davis Richardson, Cedar Grove, a social worker and educator, has ministered in education at St. Luke's High School, Ho-Ho-Kus, Immaculate Heart Academy and Caldwell College.

She then served as a member of the staff of the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations, where in

1983 she was the recipient of the "Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice" from Pope John Paul II. She then directed the international Catholic Center of the United Nations.

Sister Janet is involved in research and writing relating to the life and ministry of Margaret Anna Cusack, foundress of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Peace, and resides in Lakeland, FL.

Sister Patricia Wall, Westwood, a mathematics educator, has ministered in various primary and secondary schools in New Jersey, including St. Anne's, Fair Lawn, Immaculate Heart Academy, Washington Township, Paramus Catholic High School, St. Dominic Academy and Kenmare High School, Jersey City, and Academy of the Sacred Heart, Hoboken.

Sister Patricia also served as administrator of Villa Marie Claire, Saddle River, and as pastoral associate at St. Elizabeth Parish, Wyckoff. On sabbatical, she resides in Bayonne.

Sister Anne Collins, County Kerry, Ireland, ministered in England and Scotland, prior to her transfer to New Jersey in 1947. She served at St. Mary's Home for the Blind, Lansdale, PA, and various New Jersey convents of the order. At St. James Hospital, Newark, Sister Anne served in the Pastoral Care Department. Since 1979 she has been in ministry at Holy Name Hospital, Teaneck, in the patient special services department and resides in Teaneck.

Sister Laurence Marie O'Neill, Dublin, Ireland, has had a long career in both elementary education and school administration both in New Jersey and California. Sister Laurence served at St. Peter the Apostle School in River Edge as a remedial reading teacher and school librarian prior to relocating to St. Michael's Villa in 1992, where she served as sacristan until her retirement last year. She continues to reside at St. Michael's Villa.

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Simon says 'match grant' is elementary

BY BRIAN FORES
Staff Writer

JERSEY CITY — Twelve Catholic grammar schools are the recipients of a "match grant" for up to \$1 million, awarded by the William E. Simon Foundation, founded by the late U.S. Secretary of the Treasury.

The philanthropic organization will match new donations to Catholic elementary schools in Jersey City through June 2006, dollar-per-dollar, up to \$1 million.

"I am awed, grateful and humbled by the generosity of the Simon Foundation, and I welcome the challenge the foundation has put before us," said Archbishop John J. Myers at a press conference held at St. Peter College, Jersey City, on Sept. 20.

Brother Ralph Darmento, F.S.C., deputy superintendent of schools for the Archdiocese of Newark, noted, "I think it's a wonderful idea to challenge the schools to augment funding for scholarships and programs. The



Peter Simon (left), president of the Simon Foundation, presents a large check to (left to right) Archbishop John J. Myers, Father James Loughran, S.J., president of St. Peter's College, and Jersey City Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy.

grant allows schools to focus their attention on developing new sources of revenue, which are sorely needed by the parents of students attending these schools."

The foundation, which continues the legacy of the late U.S. secretary, is run by his son, Peter, president of the group. Simon said the foundation's main mission has always been "to help

the poor help themselves."

Simon added that the foundation chooses organizations that "have the infrastructure to handle the funds, and the solid leadership to know how to implement those funds and create opportunities at the community level." He noted that faith is an important factor, but said they chose Catholic schools because "Catholic education is

among the most efficient, on a cost-per-student basis."

John Richards, principal at St. Joseph School, said the school's relationship with the Simon Foundation began three years ago. As a result, students have updated science and computer facilities.

"Teachers use the technology for their respective classes and are more able to engage the students. The kids love computers," Richards noted.

Rebecca Lopez, an eighth grader at St. Joseph's and winner of several awards in the school's science fairs, said she enjoys using the science lab's microscopes. "The lab makes science easy and fun. It also makes it easier to come up with original ideas, which is what the awards are based on." Andrew Abuan, a fellow eighth-grader, added "if we were just learning from a book, it would be harder to learn the concepts, but with the lab, we get to put them into practice."

Father James Loughran, S.J., president of St. Peter's College,

pointed out that many of the college's students have come through Jersey City's Catholic elementary schools, and said the grant would help today's elementary students reach the college level.

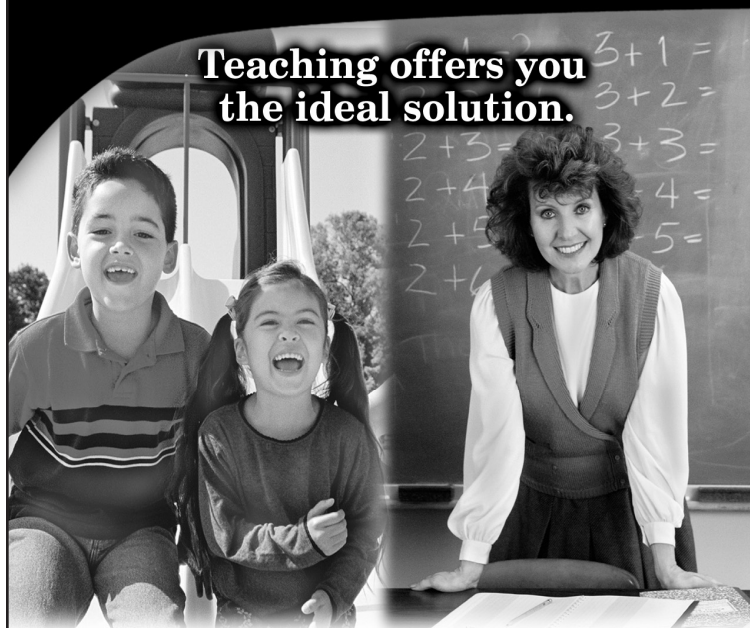
Jersey City Mayor Jerramiah Healy, who called himself "a poster boy for Catholic education," pledged the first \$1,000 on the spot, and called Catholic education "The greatest gift the Catholic faith has given to this country."

William Simon became the 63rd Secretary of the Treasury on May 8, 1974. The son of an insurance executive, Simon was born in Paterson on Nov. 27, 1927. He graduated from Newark Academy and, after service in the Army, received his bachelor's degree from Lafayette College, Easton, PA.

He was an active member of the United States Olympic Committee for over 30 years, serving as president in the 1980s. In addition to his public service, he wrote two best-selling books: *Time for Truth*, published in 1978, and *A Time for Action*, 1980. He died on June 3, 2000, in Santa Barbara, CA.

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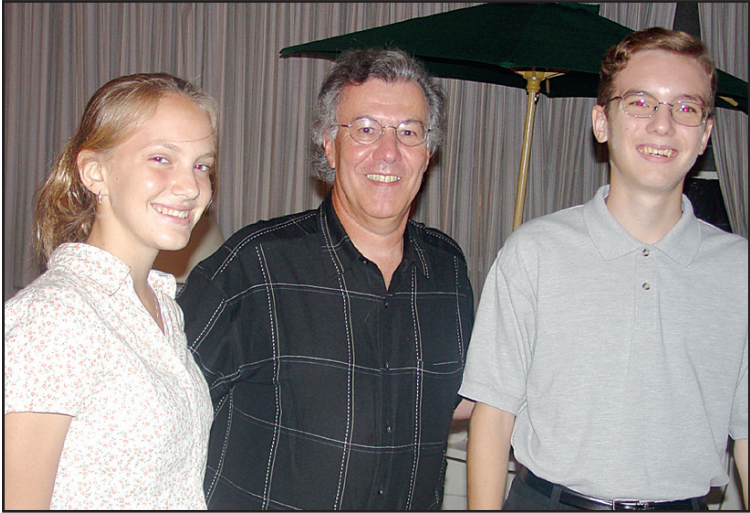
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Pictured at the dedication ceremony for Roselle Catholic's new publication room on Sept. 17 are newspaper staff members Ellen Salmi '08, alumnus Tom Libonate '64 and literary magazine contributor Timothy Faver '08.

Aid by alumnus 'connects' publication room at RCHS

ROSELLE—Seven state-of-the-art computers, a digital archive of every Roselle Catholic photo memory and an inspiring environment for writers and editors are all part of the new Roselle Catholic Publications Office.

Alumnus Tom Libonate '64, a former Roselle resident and graduate of the second class at Roselle Catholic, made this room possible. Libonate is president of Ryan Partnership, a marketing services firm that provides strategic planning, creative development and expertise in the areas of consumer promotion, direct marketing, trade and field marketing and interactive client services headquartered in Wilton, CT.

During his Roselle Catholic years, Libonate was the editor-in-chief of the second yearbook and the first art editor of the school newspaper. He credits his interest in design and art back to his print experience at Roselle Catholic.

Libonate was interested in creating a publications office just like he had during his years at Roselle Catholic—a room to inspire creativity for editors and writers of the literary magazine, the yearbook and the school paper.

He said it was the students who inspired him to take on the project. On recent visits, Libonate was struck by the passion and tremendous school spirit of Roselle Catholic students. Libonate told students he has learned values that have stuck with him in and out of the classroom. "Let your work speak for itself," is one of his business mottos.

After a summer of complete renovations, the room is the new hub for the production of the school's three major publications: *Vox Leonis*, *The Pride* and *The Lions' Lair*.

Felician College to host Festival 2005

RUTHERFORD—The Rutherford campus of Felician College will host Festival 2005 for the community, alumni and prospective students on Sunday, Oct. 16 from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., rain or shine. Admission is free.

Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m.

Children's activities include the giant slide, moonwalk, rock climbing and boardwalk games. There is a special story hour at 1 p.m.,

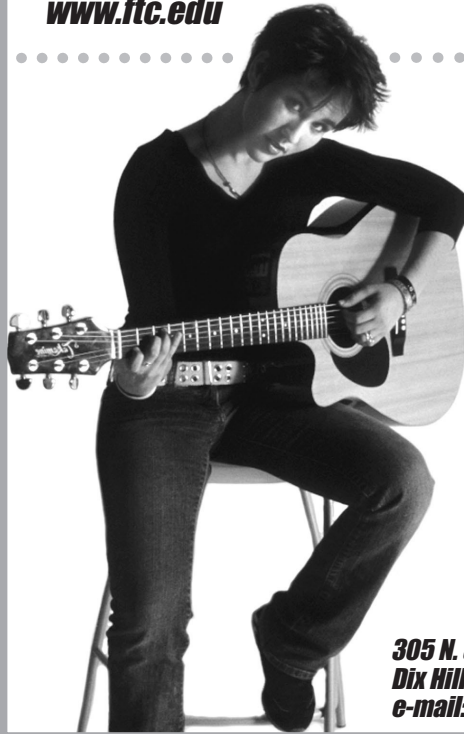
karate demonstrations throughout the day, and a poetry reading at 3 p.m. Vendors will sell crafts, new merchandise, used books and food.

The Rutherford campus is located on the corner of West Passaic Avenue and Montross Avenue. Nonperishable food items will be collected for the Rutherford Community Pantry and St. Joseph's Food Pantry of Lodi.

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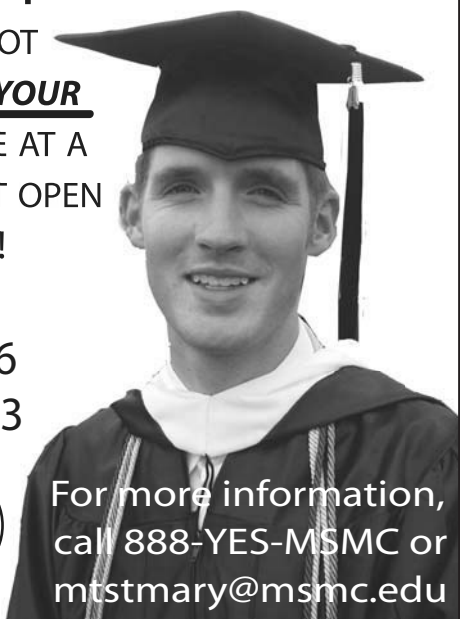
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We've Added to "Ahr Tradition" *St. Thomas Aquinas Wing*

As the members of a new generation of students entered the halls of Bishop George Ahr High School this year, they were greeted by a new three-story addition that reflects the school's commitment to quality Catholic education.

The St. Thomas Aquinas Wing includes additional classrooms, a gymnasium and locker rooms, a music room and fine arts center, and a fitness center. Students will also have access to the latest in classroom technology.

These enhancements are part of Bishop Ahr's ongoing efforts to provide its students with an exceptional educational experience. To learn more about Bishop Ahr, visit our **Open House**, 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, October 16.

The Class of 2010 entrance exam will be held November 19, 2005. For information, call 732-549-1108, Ext. 641.



Bishop George Ahr High School is a co-educational college preparatory school of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Metuchen, New Jersey. The school provides an atmosphere in which each individual's God-given abilities are nurtured and developed. Every student is encouraged to strive for spiritual, academic, social, creative, and athletic excellence through the interaction of a caring community. With

Christ as our model, the Bishop Ahr community fosters a uniquely Christian environment. Each individual can grow in self-esteem, in social and moral responsibility, and in those values needed to face the challenges of tomorrow's world.

High school information night draws big crowd

NEWARK — The Archdiocesan Center in Newark was filled to the rafters on Sept. 20 for the first Fall High School Information Night, an event sponsored by the archdiocese.

It was the first time a high school information night had been held in the fall.

Students in grades 5-8 and their families came to the meeting to visit with admissions directors and student ambassadors from 34 schools representing the four counties of the archdiocese.

"Parents were appreciative of the presence of the Catholic secondary school representatives because of the opportunity it affords to learn of the myriad religious formation, academic, athletic and activities programs offered," Brother Ralph Darmento, F.S.C., deputy superintendent of schools, said.

Brother Ralph added that "the participation of over 500 parents and students in this evening's program indicates the value of the Catholic secondary school education and the excitement and interest the public demonstrates for our faith-based and quality education."

Parents had the opportunity to pose questions of student ambassadors as well as school officials. Parent reaction to the poise, articulation skills and confidence displayed by the student representatives varied from: "These young

people are wonderful witnesses to the excellence of their schools," to "Wow, these students can really convince you that their school is the place to be!"

A fall high school information night was added as a pilot to supplement the traditional six spring information nights held throughout the archdiocese. Admissions directors said they enjoyed the opportunity to speak with students, particularly those in the eighth grade who will soon sit for the Cooperative Admissions Examination Program (COOP) test, attend open houses on campus and plan "freshman for a day" visits to high schools.

"We are grateful to our wonderful elementary school principals who encouraged their students to attend and also to pastors who helped publicize this evening in their bulletins," Trish Fitzpatrick, archdiocesan director of school marketing said. "It's exciting and fun to be a witness to students who are planning to embark on the great adventure that is high school."

The Office of the Superintendent of Schools plans six high school information nights in the spring of 2006 and information regarding these will be available after January 2006 on the archdiocesan website, www.rcan.org/schools. The website lists information regarding the Nov. 11 COOP examination as well as individual high school open house dates this fall.



SHU 500—Seton Hall University students paint stormwater drains in and around the Eastern Branch of the Rahway River in Meadowland Park in South Orange as part of SHU 500, a day of service at the University. Students painted the drains blue with outlines of fish, as well as white and yellow writing asking citizens not to dump waste into the drains. More than 850 students, staff and alumni took part. Participants were bused to community-service locations throughout Essex and Union counties, including the Rahway River; South Orange Recreation Center; Salesian Youth Center; Franciscan Friars of the Renewal; YWCA of Essex and Hudson; Weequaic Park; Community Food Bank of New Jersey; Children Together Foster Home; New Community Corporation and South Orange Middle School.



Advocate photo-M. Gabriele

HALF OF THE QUARTET—Bloomfield residents and sisters Nadia (left) and Luz Bautista recently returned from World Youth Day (WYD) in Cologne, Germany. Their sisters Jennifer and Margaret also traveled with them to Germany. The four women attended the last WYD celebration, which was held in Toronto. They were hip to the dynamic vibe in Cologne, joyfully trading artistically decorated tee-shirts with people from Texas: finding the energy to attend special events even though they were jet lagged and exhausted, and seeing the glow in the faces of young German children while walking along streets of outlying towns. Luz is a senior at NJIT, Newark, while Nadia is entering her senior year at Rutgers University, Newark. The two women were employed as summer temp workers at the Archdiocese of Newark's Scholarship Fund office for inner-city children.

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More information about the Felician School for Exceptional Children can be found at www.fsec.org.

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Project Forward previews college life

LODI—Students at Immaculate Conception High School (ICHS) can take college classes while completing their high school education through a partnership with Felician College.

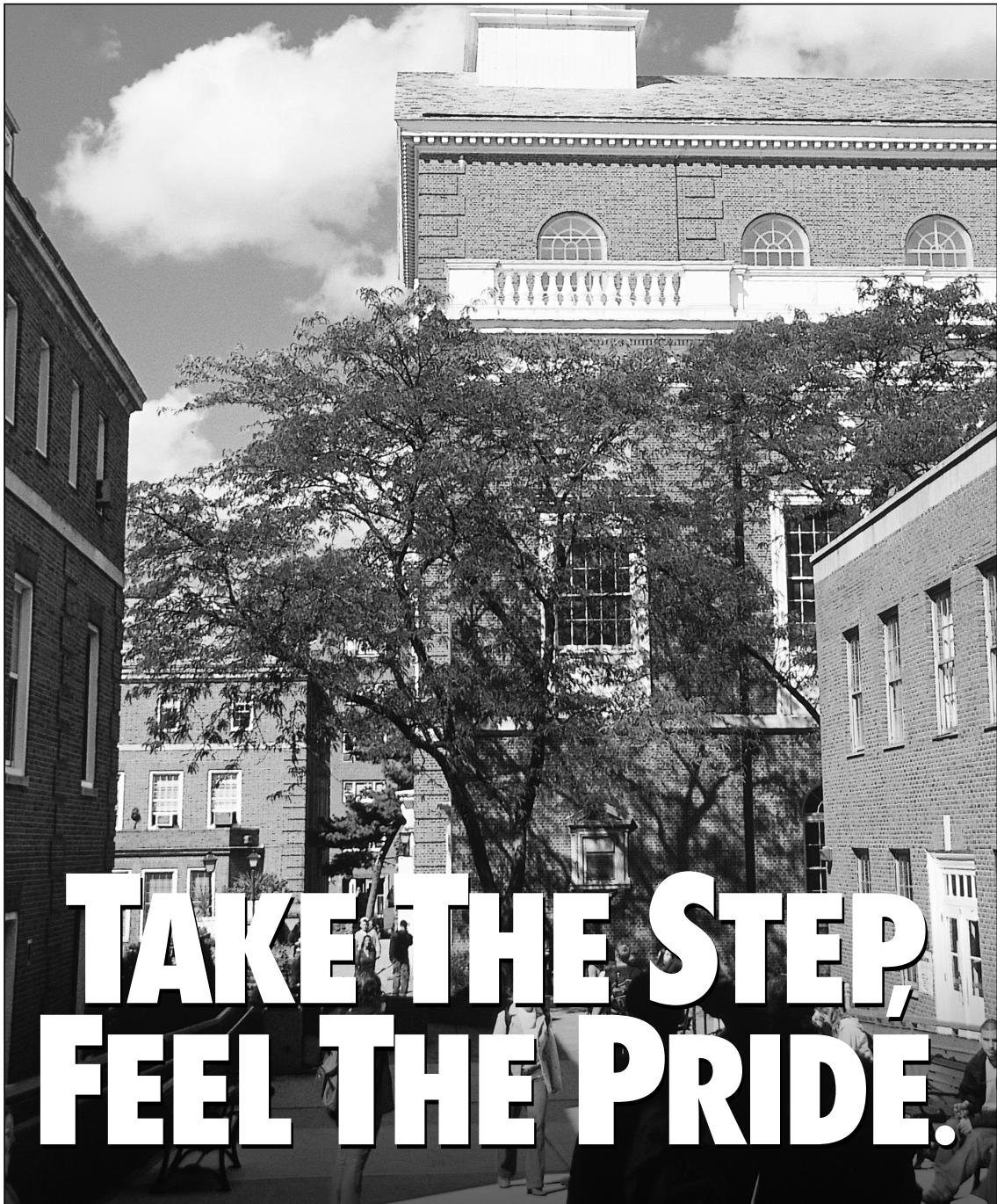
Under Project Forward, eligible juniors and seniors take classes at both the college's Lodi and Rutherford campuses as part of their curriculum.

Introduced in the late 80's, Project Forward has evolved over the years. Initially, a limited number of classes were available and taught at the high school. In more recent years, students have taken the classes during the summer and after school.

During the current academic year, ICHS students are able to take the classes as part of their high school curriculum. Eligibility is based on grade point average and teacher recommendation. Students pay a reduced tuition per course.

ICHS students are allowed to take up to six credits per semester with course selection from a variety of 100 level courses. It is possible for a qualified student to graduate from ICHS with approximately 30 college credits.

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Photo by Robert Keith Brosan

9/11 VICTIMS REMEMBERED—A Memorial Cross was installed recently outside the entrance to the Campus Ministry Office at Boland Hall on the campus of Seton Hall University. The 3x3 foot cross was cut from a steel girder of the South Tower by a police officer, a friend of the University, who worked on the recovery effort. Installed on a granite block, a brass plaque contains the names of Seton Hall alumni, students and faculty who were killed during the terrorist attack. The Memorial Cross is illuminated at night.

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The campus of St. Joseph continues to transform. Currently, St. Joseph draws students from over seventy public, parochial, and private schools covering Middlesex, Monmouth, Somerset, and Union counties.

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Memories of Brooklyn schools highlight vast cost change

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE
Editor

NEWARK — Educators, advocates, politicians, parents and pundits all use their own yardsticks to define the financial status of Catholic schools. But a single anecdote from Brother Ralph Darmento, F.S.C., archdiocesan deputy superintendent of schools, clarified how and why tuition costs have risen for Catholic school students during the last 40 years.

His anecdote also spoke volumes on how Catholic school operations, overall, have changed drastically in recent decades.

Brother Ralph recalled his parents paid \$6 a year for him to attend a Catholic elementary school and \$150 per year to attend a Catholic high school in Brooklyn during the 1960s. Today, the yearly median tuition cost for high school students in the Archdiocese of Newark is \$6,150; \$2700 for elementary school students. And those tuition prices are paid on ever rising state and local taxes imposed on northern New Jersey residents.

The cost structure for Catholic schools during Brother Ralph's days in Brooklyn was premised on donated services of religious brothers and sisters. Today, lay men and women represent 93 percent of the teaching staff for archdiocesan elementary schools; 89 percent for secondary schools.

Sister Loretta Hogan, director of elementary school finance, commended the current genera-

tion of lay teachers working in Catholic schools here for their dedication and willingness to accept a lower wage scale compared with public school teachers. However, this expanding salary gap is an ongoing concern for archdiocesan schools, she said.

Teacher salaries are only part of the soaring cost structure to operate Catholic schools here. Many institutions have a host of other cost challenges, including the price tag to maintain and/or modernize aging facilities, as well as purchase new books and computers.

Information provided by the archdiocese offices of education and finance indicates that annual costs to operate parish and co-sponsored schools registered \$124.5 million in fiscal 2004, a 34-percent increase compared with costs of \$92.9 million recorded in 1996. These dollar totals do not include "private" schools (those operated by religious orders) in the archdiocese.

Meanwhile, enrollment in archdiocesan schools (grades K to 12) slipped nearly 19 percent to 45,767 students for the 2004-05 school year, compared with 56,390 students in 1995-96.

More than any other point in the discussion on the future of education in the archdiocese, Sister Dominica Rocchio, archdiocesan school superintendent/secretary of education, objected to the notion of support for schools as being negatively defined as a "subsidy."

"I know of no other ministry that gets (financial) help that's called a 'subsidy,'" she said.

"Education should be considered an 'investment' in our future. It should be a joy. The ministry of Catholic education is at the heart of the ministry of the Church."

By way of comparison, the financing of public schools within the borders of the archdiocese has its own set of challenges. As reported in the Sept. 28 edition of *The Star-Ledger*,

Nutley voters rejected a \$70-million referendum and twice defeated less-costly proposals in 2002. Meanwhile, a \$34-million proposal to upgrade schools in Verona passed by only 10 votes.

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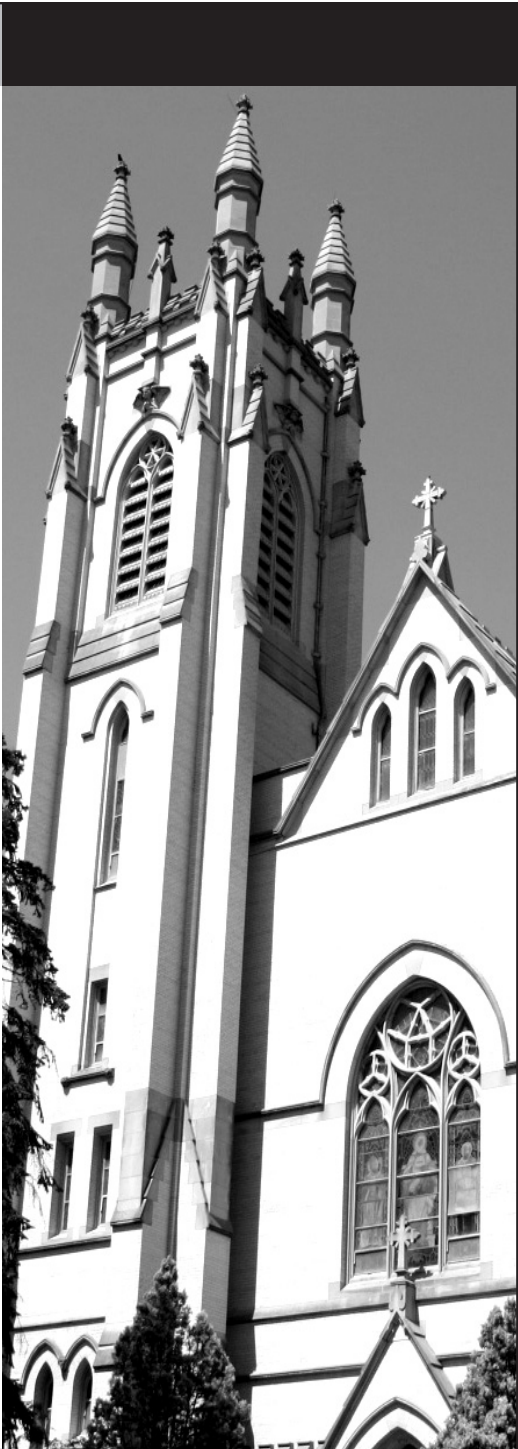
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'Trafficking'

Continued from page 1

16 victims so far have been given a second chance at a better life.

"The problem used to be hypothetical and now it has become more real," Geoffrey Scowcroft, managing attorney for the Refugee Resettlement and Immigration Assistance unit at Catholic Charities, explained.

All 16 victims were women involved in domestic labor or commercial sex trade. Since November of 2004, Catholic Charities has helped these victims find apartments around the area. For security purposes, Scowcroft declined to reveal their names and the circumstances surrounding their rescue.

In response to the unfolding human trafficking phenomenon, Catholic Charities, in conjunction with New Jersey Anti-Trafficking Initiative, hosted a workshop at Holy Trinity Parish here on Sept. 26 to inform Church leaders and lay people about the horrors of modern-day slavery.

The great fear is that the 16 cases cited by Scowcroft represent only the tip of the iceberg, and that many more trafficking victims exist throughout the archdiocese.

Human trafficking is defined as obtaining commercial labor from a person using force, fear or coercion. Victims of trafficking, who are forced to work against their will—in effect, held prisoner by the trafficker—are usually illegal or legal immigrants from Latin America, Africa and South Asia who are in fear of being deported.

The Anti-Trafficking Initiative began in June 2003 to promote awareness through conferences, outreach to media and coalition building.

"I want people to walk out of this workshop knowing more about the subject," Irene Dominguez, project manager of the Anti-Trafficking Initiative declared. "The more vulnerable you are, the more you are at risk for being trafficked," Dominguez said.

A new bill sponsored by Senator Nia H. Gill was passed on April 27, which mandates state law enforcement to get involved with investigating human trafficking cases. Those who are convicted of human trafficking could face up to 20 years in prison and \$200,000 fines.

As was outlined at the Sept. 26 meeting, New Jersey is a convenient port of entry in trafficking with its proximity to airports and

large cities such as Philadelphia and New York. However, the scope and reach of the crime extend beyond urban areas.

"Human trafficking is not just an urban problem," Scowcroft explained. "Leafy suburban areas in Bergen County could also have trafficking victims."

Domestic servitude is especially a problem in suburban areas. "Domestic labor is very common and hard to detect because it takes place in secluded houses," Dominguez added.

Catholic Charities provides food, shelter, access to healthcare, job placement and training, case management and legal services that aid in getting a "T-Visa" that enables human trafficking victims to stay in the country. "Victims often have no resources, are displaced and are from other countries," Scowcroft noted.

"Every new case is a learning experience for us," the Catholic Charities' attorney said. "Having a workshop like this gives Catholic Charities another set of eyes and ears in the community."

Scowcroft said that Catholic Charities encourages victims, as well as anyone who suspects human trafficking activity, to call its 24-hour hotline at (866) 999-9007 for further information.



Advocate photo — M. Gabriele

Geoffrey Scowcroft, managing attorney of the Refugee Resettlement & Immigration Assistance program at Catholic Charities, speaks to an audience about the atrocities of human trafficking at Holy Trinity Parish in Hackensack.

Our Lady celebration

RIVER EDGE—St. Peter the Apostle Parish on Sunday, Oct. 9 will hold its second annual Our Ladies of the Americas/Nuestra Senoras de las Americas, a celebration honoring Our Lady as the patroness of the Spanish-speaking world and the United States.

A bilingual Mass will be at 12:30 p.m. followed by a brief procession and a fiesta that is open to the public.

October is Hispanic Heritage Month in the United States.

Juried craft show Oct. 16

ORADELL — Bergen Catholic High School will hold its 12th annual juried craft show on Sunday, Oct. 16 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Admission is \$2 for adults and \$1 for senior citizens. Children under 16 will be admitted free.

For additional information call (201) 261-1844 or (201) 384-6676.



FOR THE NEEDY—The faithful of Sacred Heart Parish, Lyndhurst, donated essential items, many handmade, to Catholic Charities. The items were distributed throughout several counties. Among those helping with the distribution were Ruth Tracey and Phyllis Scelsa.

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