



# The Catholic Advocate



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More than 150 participants from the Archdiocese of Newark, as well as dioceses throughout New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania, opened the first-ever Hispanic Stewardship Day at the Archdiocesan Center, Newark, with a prayer, led by Most Rev. Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., Regional Bishop for Essex County.

Advocate photo: Greg Tobin

## Pope imparts blessing from hospital window

VATICAN CITY, FEB. 27 (Zenit.org)—Three days after his tracheotomy, John Paul II made a surprise appearance at his hospital window to greet and bless well-wishers gathered outside.

For the first time in his 26-year pontificate the pope missed the Sunday *Angelus* and his traditional address. In a message read by an aide at the Vatican, the Holy Father asked well-wishers “to continue to support me with your prayer.”

“The Holy Father is not with us, but he is following us from the Gemelli and offers his prayers and sufferings for us and for the world,” began

Archbishop Leonardo Sandri, substitute of the Vatican Secretariat of State, before reading the papal address to crowds gathered in St. Peter’s Square.

“And we, from his square, united to him with great affection, pray with and for him,” said the prelate.

The archbishop, surrounded by acolytes, addressed several thousand pilgrims from the courtyard of St. Peter’s Basilica. John Paul II followed the event on television in his room at the Gemelli Polyclinic, a few miles away.

Several hundred pilgrims, many of them young people, gath-

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## Nine elementary schools adopt new strategic plan

### Four ‘area’ programs to debut in the fall

BY JAMES GOODNESS  
Director of Communications

The Archdiocese of Newark announced that it has accepted the recommendations of pastors and school administrators of nine elementary schools in the archdiocese to merge their current programs into four “area” school programs to serve their distinct geographic localities.

The decision followed many months of study and consultation with the archdiocesan school advisory board. The host sites for these programs—to be located in the Ironbound section of Newark, Union City, Jersey City and Fort Lee—will enable the Church to remain a strong, attractive and affordable education alternative for children and their parents in these communities.

These mergers reinforce a strategic vision for Catholic schools into the next decade as a priority ministry for all Catholics and every parish in the archdiocese. This strategic vision was

announced in May 2004 as part of the archdiocese’s New Energies Task Force for Parishes and Schools.

The new programs will serve students in Grades K-8 or Pre-K-8.

In commenting on the new directions for these schools, Sister Dominica Rocchio, S.C., Secretary for Education and Superintendent of Schools said, “In recent months, groups of pastors and administrators have approached the Schools Office to explore how to implement many of the elements of the strategic plan for Catholic schools in the face of the population shifts that have occurred in their areas over the years, as well as the increased investment parents have had to make to ensure a Catholic education for their children.

“After meeting with school parents and reviewing the challenges that exist for these schools in their current state, the four groups of pastors and principals

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## The guarantee in this ‘Age of Miracles’

How many times over the years have we heard people quote the truism: “There are no guarantees in life”?

About as often, I would think, as we have been hearing recently that each new scientific or medical breakthrough implies a guarantee of a newer, better, improved life in this new age of miracles.

The desire for and the lure of guarantees are part of what and who we are. Advertising and marketing spiels promote a “Money Back Guarantee,” “Satisfaction Guaranteed,” or “Guaranteed/Proven Results.” In our heart of hearts, we know the claims are exaggerated, yet we gravitate to them out of hope. They are the sirens calling Odysseus.

I have been particularly concerned about this paradox in the past few days as I have talked with reporters about the state of health of the Holy Father, his fragility and the obvious toll that illness is taking on his body.

As I relate my own personal experiences with this

great and holy man, and the physical changes that I have witnessed when I have visited with him over the years, I still marvel at his immense spiritual and mental strength and abilities.

I also marvel at the lesson that the Holy Father is pre-

place in the human experience. In *Salvifici Doloris* (On the Salvific Meaning of Suffering), issued in 1984, the Holy Father emphasized the link between the pain, illness and tragedy in our lives and the suffering and death that Jesus Christ experienced for us and for our salvation.

John Paul II is the only pope to be treated in a hospital. Each of the ten or so times that John Paul II has been hospitalized, we have been privileged to witness the way in which he has borne the trials. And each

time, we have seen him reaffirm his commitment to serve God and His people despite these challenges. He also reaffirms that those who use science and medicine to heal and to maintain the dignity of the human condition despite these trials are, indeed, blessings from the Lord.

And still the reporters ask me, “Is it possible or inevitable that, as this man,

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Sincerely  
in the  
Lord

By Archbishop John J. Myers





# Let’s talk: Reflections on money and finances

**BY DAVID OSBORNE**  
*Director of Stewardship and Planned Giving*

When I ran an investment and insurance planning practice, I frequently came across clients who felt very uncomfortable talking about money. I realized that most of them had parents who thought of money as private an issue as sex, which means they never talked about it. Sometimes the parents had lived through the Great Depression and felt embarrassed about financial issues, and the parents passed on these uneasy feelings to their children. Other reasons for my clients’ uneasiness were their confusion about financial issues and not know-

## Sincerely in the Lord

Continued from Page 1

the moral conscience of the world, continues to suffer before our eyes, he will step down and let someone else take over?” I easily reply that, despite his illness, John Paul II still has work to complete, and he is still teaching us how to live as Christ did even from a hospital bed. Which leads us back to the idea of guarantees. John Paul II reminds us every day that for those of us who seek to live as Christ lived, who endure suffering as Christ endured it for us, there is the Resurrection, and there will be eternal life.

ing how to talk about them. They lacked experience, felt awkward needing assistance, and did not know how to trust me or give up control. Sometimes they did not have much wealth, know how to create wealth, spend wealth or even give wealth away. Many people have an unhealthy stigma or attachment to money, which is why financial issues remain the primary reasons for divorce in our country. Nevertheless, money ought not have such influence over any person or family. It should just be a means to a good end, and we should not fear talking about financial issues. Catholics have not escaped the awkwardness of dealing with financial issues. Too many times after listening to a priest’s homily that incorporates parish finances, I hear parishioners criticize it as “The Sermon on the AMOUNT,” or say, “Father is always asking for money.” The reality is that Catholics on average are not very good when it comes to using financial resources for producing religiosity and supporting the Church’s mission. However, I believe the main problem lies in the omissions of the Church. Simply put, the Church has not been teaching, living and celebrating stewardship very well. Not all of us in the Church have talked enough about

*We should feel the honor that comes from helping to bring God’s love to those who need it.*

finances. Just as many of my clients had parents who avoided talking about financial issues, so too has the Church. It is only in recent years that the Church has openly discussed our need to respond as good stewards. When the collection basket comes around at Mass, try to notice your feelings. Do you feel privileged to be able to offer God a gift and to support the Church’s mission? Do you have feelings of annoyance or shame for being asked to contribute? If your feelings are negative, perhaps you should talk with a priest about them. Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta once said, “It is not important how much you give, but how much love you put into what you give.” Nevertheless, I think there is a correlation between how well we love to how much of our resources we are willing to give to creating what we love. The feelings we have about giving money are important, but we should feel the honor that comes from thanking God and helping to bring God’s love to those who need it. Therefore, let us talk more about financial issues, and perhaps together we can make the stewardship process a better experience for all.



# Ruth and Naomi — a story with a happy ending

Sometimes reading the Old Testament is like reading about a succession of battles (think of Joshua), horribly sad stories (think of Job) or endless lists of dos and don’ts (Numbers). The story of Ruth and Naomi is a welcome change. It is one of the most beautiful stories of the Old Testament, the story of the romance of Ruth and Boaz—but it is also the story of strong, committed love between a mother-in-law and daughter-in-law. And it’s a story with a happy ending. It starts out somewhat like the story of Job. Elimelech, his wife, Naomi, and their two sons owned a small farm near Bethlehem. But famine came upon the land and Elimelech lost the farm, so the little family had to move to Moab, a neighboring country. This was a great hardship for them because Moab was a very different culture, and the people were different from the people they knew and loved in Bethlehem. But this is where the boys grew up and married Moabite women. In a very few short years, Elimelech died, then Naomi’s two sons both died childless. Naomi was left alone, poor and homeless. She had no one to care for her except her two Moabite daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth. When she heard the famine in Bethlehem had ended, Naomi decided to return home. At first, the two daughters-in-law planned to go with her. Naomi and her family were Jewish; Moabites were Gentiles. She encouraged Orpah and Ruth to go back to their own people. However, Ruth sees something in Naomi she wants (perhaps her strong faith), and Ruth declares her love in a statement that has lasted for thousands of years and is read at many wedding ceremonies: “Wherever you go, I will go; your people shall be my people and your God my God.

Over the Coffee Cup

By Mary Costello

Where you live, I will live, and where you will be buried, I will be buried.” It must have been very difficult—and risky—for Ruth. After all, loving someone is sometimes like walking out in a raging blizzard in your underwear. But we still have to open the door and take that walk. Nothing good ever happens until we love someone. After returning to Bethlehem, the two women were very poor and so, while Naomi stayed home, Ruth went out to the fields to gather what had been left after the harvest (gleanings traditionally left for the poor). Here she met Boaz, a well-to-do landowner who noticed her and, having heard of her loyalty to her mother-in-law, promised he would protect her. Both Naomi and Ruth realized that Boaz would make a good husband for Ruth, and when Boaz didn’t move fast enough to suit them, the two women conspired to hurry things up. After a few other problems were cleared up, Ruth married Boaz. Our story ends with the birth of Ruth and Boaz’s son, Obed, who will become the grandfather of David. But

the best part, to me, is that Naomi (who was not biologically related to Obed at all) took the baby in her arms and lovingly cared for him. At one point early in the story when things were looking pretty bleak, Naomi had called out, “Don’t call me Naomi, call me Mara, because God has made my life bitter.” Naomi means “pleasantness” and Mara means “bitterness.” Yet at the end of the story, here is Naomi, cradling her newborn grandson and rejoicing in God’s goodness. Naomi went from being a widow, poor and alone, to being a busy grandma, bustling about caring for her grandson. Who knows what wonderful things God has in store for each one of us? Mary Costello is a freelance columnist.

Lenten regulations

The days of both Fast and Abstinence during Lent are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The other Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence. On a day of Fast, only one (1) full meal is permitted. Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast. On a day of Abstinence, no meat may be eaten. Those who have reached the age of 14 are obliged by the law of abstinence.

The obligation to observe the laws of Fast and Abstinence “substantially,” or as a whole, is a serious obligation.

The Fridays of the year, outside of Lent, are designated as days of penance, but each individual may substitute for the traditional abstinence from meat some other practice of voluntary self-denial as penance.

The time of fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty\*) extends from the First Sunday of Lent, Feb. 13, to the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity, May 22.

\*Canon 920, §1. All the faithful, after they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year.

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Most Reverend John J. Myers  
President and Publisher

G. Gregory Tobin  
Editor and Associate Publisher

Margaret Pearson-McCue  
Advertising Director

J. Ward Miele  
Managing Editor

Marilyn Smith  
Production Supervisor

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TELEPHONES, E-MAIL AND FAX NUMBERS:

Phone: (973) 497-4200  
Fax: (973) 497-4192  
Editorial: [mielejos@rcan.org](mailto:mielejos@rcan.org)  
Advertising: [pearsoma@rcan.org](mailto:pearsoma@rcan.org)

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to:  
P.O. Box 9500, Newark, NJ 07104

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# Archbishop assigns two new pastors

Archbishop John J. Myers has appointed two new pastors in the Archdiocese of Newark.

Father Antonio F. Da Silva, parochial vicar of Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Newark, has been appointed pastor, effective Feb. 1.



Father Antonio F. Da Silva

A native of Brazil, he studied philosophy and theology at the Benedictine School, Rio de Janeiro. He migrated to the United States in 1985, entering Immaculate Conception Seminary, South

Orange, and was ordained on Dec. 10, 1988, in the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark.

During this time, he also worked towards a B.A. in psychology at Caldwell College, completed in 1994.

His first assignment was as parochial vicar at St. Michael Parish, Newark. In June 1990, he became parochial vicar at St. Nicholas Parish, Palisades Park.

In September 1993, Father Da Silva became parochial vicar of St. Benedict Parish (Ironbound), Newark, and in 1997, he began service at Holy Cross Parish, Harrison.

In October 1998, he returned to his native Brazil, serving as administrator of St. Anthony of Lisbon Parish, Rio Preto, São Paulo.

In December 2001, Father Da Silva returned to the United States and was assigned as parochial vicar of Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Newark.

Father Joseph A. D'Amico, parochial vicar of SS. Peter and Paul Parish, Hoboken, has been appointed pastor of St. Leo Parish, Elmwood Park, effective April 1.

A native of Brooklyn, Father D'Amico attended Immaculate Conception Seminary, South Orange, graduating in 1995 with an M.Div., and was



Father Joseph A. D'Amico

ordained on May 27, 1995 in the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark.

After ordination, he was named parochial vicar of Our Lady of the Lake, Verona, where he served from June 1995 to June 1998.

In 1998, Father D'Amico began working at SS. Peter and Paul Parish, Hoboken. In his early years there, he also helped out at St. Francis Parish for six months and St. Joseph Parish for two years, both in Hoboken.

Presently, Father D'Amico serves on the archdiocesan vocation board and the priest personnel policy board, and he is an advocate in the Metropolitan Tribunal Office.

## Evangelization info sessions Mar. 9, 10

Registration remains open for evangelization information sessions March 9 and 10.

Pastors, administrators and two or three lay representatives from each parish can attend either session at the Archdiocesan Center, Newark, starting at 7:30 p.m. The sessions will be presented in English and Spanish. The agenda includes:

- "Why Catholic?" by RENEW International. Based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church, a flexible adult faith-formation program that offers leadership formation and ongoing pastoral support. Appropriate for catechist formation, RCIA, sacramental preparation, small Christian communities. "Why Catholic?" outlines a concrete approach to help adults deepen their Catholic faith and connect its teachings to their every day lives. The program offers a total parish experience.

- "Disciples in Mission" by the Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association. A pastoral process that integrates the Sunday liturgies, small faith-sharing groups, catechesis, family activities, teen groups, planning and follow-up activities into a coordinated parish-wide experience of evangelization. "Disciples in Mission" fosters spiritual renewal by placing the missionary dimension at the heart of the community of faith, thus transforming it by the power of the Gospel.

After the initial presentations, parishes will choose one program. The appropriate staff will then provide training of leaders for their particular evangelization experience.

For more information call the Evangelization Office at (973) 497-4353 or email at [sotolili@rcan.org](mailto:sotolili@rcan.org).

## Official Appointments

Archbishop John J. Myers has announced the following appointments:

### Pastors

**Reverend Monsignor Richard J. Arnolds**, Pastor of the St. John the Evangelist, Parish, Bergenfield, has been appointed to a second six-year term as Pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church, Bergenfield, ending on Aug. 1, 2010.

**Very Reverend Canon Felix R. Marciniak**, Pastor of Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Wallington, has been appointed to a second six-year term ending on July 4, 2010.

### Pastor-Designate

**Reverend Joseph A. D'Amico**, Parochial Vicar of SS. Peter & Paul, Parish, Hoboken has been appointed Pastor-designate of St. Leo Parish, Elmwood Park, effective April 1.

### Administrator

**Reverend Monsignor Joseph P. Masiello, V.F.**, Pastor of Holy Trinity Parish, Westfield, has also been appointed Administrator of St. Bartholomew Parish, Scotch Plains, effective March 1, 2005 until a pastor is named.

### Chaplaincy

**Reverend Monsignor Donald E. Guenther**, Pastor of St. Elizabeth, Wyckoff Parish, has also been appointed Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus, Council No. 13678, Wyckoff, effective Feb. 11.

**Reverend Martin Okoro** has been appointed Chaplain of St. Mary's Hospital, Hoboken with residence at Our Lady of Grace Rectory, Hoboken, effective Feb. 1.



### Residence

**Reverend Donald K. Hummel**, Director of Continuing Education and Formation of Priests in the Archdiocese of Newark, has been appointed to residence at St. Agnes Rectory, Clark, effective March 1.

### Retirement

**Reverend James T. McKenna**, Pastor of St. Mary Parish, Closter, has been granted retirement, effective July 1.

**Reverend James Redstone**, Parochial Vicar of the Church of St. Catherine of Siena, Cedar Grove, has been granted retirement, effective July 1.

**Very Reverend Matthias T. Conva, V.F.**, Pastor of St. Michael Parish, Union, has been granted retirement, effective Feb. 1, 2006.

### Sabbatical

**Very Reverend Matthias T. Conva, V.F.**, Pastor of St. Michael Parish, Union, has been granted a two-month sabbatical to begin April 1.

**Reverend Pedro Navarro** has been granted an extension to his sabbatical, until June 30.

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## Arrests made

ALTAMIRA, Brazil (CNS)—Brazilian authorities have arrested three suspects in the murder of a U.S. nun but were still looking for the rancher they believe ordered her killing.

For nearly four decades, Sister Dorothy Stang, S.N.D., 73, had been an outspoken advocate for Brazilian peasants and the environment. She was shot several times in the chest and head Feb. 12. The nun's death sparked an international outcry. Since then the Brazilian president has put nearly 19,900 square miles of Amazon land under federal environmental protection and suspended logging in some disputed areas.

## Progress cited

WASHINGTON (CNS)—A major report released Feb. 18 that shows great strides in the application of the U.S. bishops' child sex abuse prevention policies came with a stern warning against complacency.

The imperative against backsliding was made by the bishop's Office of Child and Youth Protection in its 50-page annual report for 2004 on implementation of the bishops' police contained in the 2002 "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People."

The 2004 report say audits showed that 96 percent of the 195 U.S. dioceses and Eastern-rite eparchies were implementing all the applicable articles of the sex abuse prevention policies contained in the charter.

## Polarization at peak

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Addressing a national gathering of about 100 diocesan social action leaders, a religion researcher said Feb. 19 that the divisive polarization long felt in the U.S. Catholic community reached a new peak in the 2004 election season. A "more ominous" element of the election-year divisions, said William A. Dinges, a professor of religious studies at Catholic University of America and a member of the university's Life Cycle Institute, was the "vitriolic and escalating" rhetoric and "uncivil behavior, characterized by confrontation, harassment and attempts at intimidation." He said much of this was fueled by a relatively small number of groups and individual Catholics who sought to get the entire Catholic community to make the election hinge on the issues of abortion and embryonic stem-cell research, but the polarization itself runs deep across the Catholic community.

## Abortion ruling stands

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The Supreme Court Feb. 22 turned down a request that it reconsider its 1973 Roe vs. Wade ruling that legalized abortion. Norma McCorvey, who was identified as "Jane Roe" in the 1973 case, and Sandra Cano, the "Mary Doe" of the companion Doe vs. Bolton ruling, petitioned the court to set aside the decisions, or at least order a new trial on the merits for reversal. Neither Cano nor McCorvey ever had the abortions at issue in their cases. Both women now oppose abortion. Their effort to see the Roe and Doe decisions overturned is backed by 33 women from 19 states who say they regret having had abortions. Without comment, the court rejected the appeal.

## Deficit causes concern

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Five years ago, "the country was actually awash in budget surpluses," recalled Martha Coven, a senior legislative associate for the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Back then, the federal focus was on what to do with the surplus, she said, and ideas included paying down the national debt and shoring up the country's Medicaid and Social Security obligations. In 2005, with "not only deficits, but deficits as far as the eye can see," Coven said, "now we're talking about dismantling Social Security." Coven was one of the featured speakers at a policy briefing on budget and housing issues held Feb. 21 during the annual Catholic Social Ministry Gathering, which ran through Feb. 23.

## Dialogue to open

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Two internationally prominent religious leaders will open a Catholic-Jewish dialogue on March 13 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of *Nostra aetate*, the Second Vatican Council's declaration on the relations of the Church to non-Christian religions (1965).

Cardinal Walter Kasper and Rabbi Eugene Borowitz will discuss "God and Revelation: Theological Dimensions of Catholic-Jewish Dialogue." The lectures will take place at the Prybyla Center, the Catholic University of America.

## Legislative threat seen

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Leaders of three Catholic organizations appealed to members of the Senate Feb. 23 to resist efforts to strip conscience protection on abortion from a previously passed

appropriations bill, even if they support keeping abortion legal. "If you see yourself as 'pro-choice,' this is an opportunity to affirm that your commitment to 'choice' includes respect for everyone's choices on abortion," said a letter to all senators from Msgr. William P. Fay, general secretary of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops; Sister Carol Keehan, D.C., who chairs the board of the Catholic Health Association, and Dr. Steven White, president of the Catholic Medical Association. The three were asking senators to oppose moves to rescind the Hyde-Weldon Conscience Protection Amendment, enacted in December. The amendment, named for Reps. Henry Hyde and Dave Weldon, protects the rights of health providers—individual and institutional—from government discrimination because they decline to provide, pay for, cover or refer for abortions. U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer has said she will introduce a motion to rescind the amendment before the end of April.

## Social problems noted

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Haiti's problems are more social than political, said Deacon Patrick Moynihan, who runs a school for poor children in Haiti. It does not matter to a child that his or her lack of education is the result of a right-wing or left-wing government, said Deacon Moynihan. "The politicians change but the problems are still the same," he said Feb. 21 at a workshop on Caribbean issues during the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in Washington. Deacon Moynihan is president of the Haitian Project, a Catholic aid program based in Providence, RI., that supports education projects in Haiti. He is also director of Louverture Cleary School in Haiti, which is supported by the project.

## Making world better

WASHINGTON (CNS)—NBC News Washington bureau chief and "Meet the Press" moderator Tim Russert said America's principal task is to make a better world for its young people. "If there's an issue that Democrats, Republicans, conservatives and liberals can agree on, it's our kids," Russert said Feb. 22 in an address at the annual Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in Washington, co-sponsored by five agencies of the U.S. bishops' conference and nine national Catholic organizations. With "15 million kids largely living off the streets" and 12 youths shot dead daily in the United States, addressing the issue is imperative, Russert said.



# Greater voice needed

WASHINGTON (CNS)—African-American and Hispanic Catholics need a more institutionalized voice in the Church's social ministry, said several officials of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

"We have to find ways to get all voices around the table. We can't afford to have some persons outside and some persons in," said Beverly Carroll, executive director of the USCCB Secretariat for African-American Catholics.

The legislative agenda is filled with major issues of importance to African-Americans and Hispanics such as Social Security, public education and healthcare, she said.

Carroll and officials of the USCCB's Secretariat for Hispanic Affairs spoke Feb. 21 at a breakfast attended by about 150 diocesan officials involved in African-American and Hispanic ministry. The breakfast was part of the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering held in Washington.

In developing local strategies for greater involvement, "we need to reinvent ourselves" and find different ways to collaborate because the economic downturn in many dioceses means there is less money for ministry," said Ronaldo Cruz, executive director of the Hispanic affairs secretariat.

Alejandro Aguilera-Titus, associate director of the Hispanic affairs secretariat, said structures need to be created at all levels of the Church "to strengthen and facilitate" the voice of African-Americans and Hispanics in

social ministry decision-making.

He told the diocesan officials to make efforts to get African-Americans and Hispanics on diocesan advisory boards.

Hispanics are the fastest growing ethnic group in the Church. Statistics distributed by the Hispanic affairs secretariat at the breakfast said that there are 26 million Hispanic Catholics in the United States, about 40 percent of the entire Catholic population.

There are 3 million African-American Catholics, according to figures prepared by the African-American secretariat.

## Airport chaplains elect president

NORTH PALM BEACH, Fla. (CNS) — Father Michael Zaniolo, chaplain at Chicago O'Hare and Midway International Airports, was elected president of the National Conference of Catholic Airport Chaplains during the organization's annual meeting in North Palm Beach.

Father Zaniolo was ordained a priest of the Chicago Archdiocese in 1988. Prior to entering the seminary, he was an electrical engineer, which he said gives him a deeper understanding of the airport work that goes on behind the scenes.

There are 53 Catholic airport chaplains working in 30 airports around the United States. Their duties vary at each airport. Most airport chapels are interfaith and ecumenical.



# The truth is essence of media’s mission

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Catholics must not be afraid of the communications media, but must learn to use them to promote the truth and must speak out when the media distort the truth, Pope John Paul II said.

Modern media are instruments “God has placed at our disposal to discover, to use and to make known the truth, including the truth about our dignity and about our destiny as his children,” the Holy Father said in a letter to communicators.

The apostolic letter, titled “The Rapid Development,” was addressed to “those responsible for communications” and was released Feb. 21.

In addition to looking at the way Catholics can and must use the media and interact with them, Pope John Paul called for greater public involvement in the running of newspapers, television and radio stations.

If the communications media are a good destined for all humanity, then ever-new means must be found—including recourse to opportune legislative measures—to make possible a true participation in their management by all,” he said.


The free, rapid and powerful exchange of information and ideas through the media places them at risk of manipulation by those promoting an ideology, looking only for power or profit or seeking to increase tension between groups or individuals, the pope said.

The need for participation in the media applies to Catholic media as well, he said, although with the guarantee of “adequate confidentiality.”

Archbishop John P. Foley, president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, presented the document to the press and encouraged Vatican officials to be more open with the media.




Thai Sacred Heart Sister Uraiwan Mispi surveys damaged boats on Lanta Island, Thailand. The Thai church is helping fisherman restore their lost businesses and apply for government aid in the aftermath of the Dec. 26 tsunami that struck southern Asia.



Catholics around the world love the bishop and Patron of Ireland, Saint Patrick, who brought God’s Word to the Irish people, we observe his feast day with parades and other festivities. Like Saint Patrick, the Archdiocese of Newark continues to bring God’s Word to thousands of people and provides practical help with food, clothing, education and support to those in need. The following prayer attributed to Saint Patrick, is a powerful message of faith in God.

Saint Patrick’s Breastplate

I arise today through God’s strength to pilot me.  
God’s might to uphold me, God’s wisdom to guide me.  
God’s eye to see before me. God’s ear to hear me.  
God’s word to speak for me. God’s hand to guard me.  
God’s way to lie before me. God’s shield to protect me.  
God’s host to secure me - against snares of devils, against temptations and vices, against inclinations of nature, against everyone who shall wish me ill, afar and near, alone and in a crowd...  
Christ be with me. Christ before me. Christ behind me.  
Christ in me. Christ beneath me. Christ above me.  
Christ on my right. Christ on my left. Christ where I lie, Christ where I sit, Christ where I arise. Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me. Christ in the mouth of every man who speaks of me. Christ in every eye that sees me. Christ in every ear that hears me. Salvation is of the Lord. Salvation is of the Lord. Salvation is of the Christ.  
May Your salvation, O Lord, be ever with us.



**2005 Eucharistic Pilgrimage to**  
▪ **Germany** ▪ **Austria**  
▪ **Switzerland**  
**June 14 - 27, 2005**

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February 28

**Holy Family Parish**, Nutley, St. Lucy Filippini Sodality, monthly meeting, 8 p.m., St. Joseph’s Center. (973) 667-2633 or 667-0875.

March 2

**Holy Family Parish**, Nutley, Lenten parish mission in Italian, March 2-4, 7:30 p.m., conducted by the Capuchin Franciscan Friars of San Giovanni, Italy. The topic, “Padre Pio and the Year of the Eucharist.” (973) 667-0026.

March 3

**Epiphany Parish**, Cliffside Park, “Sermon on the Mount,” with actor Frank Runyeon, 7:30 p.m. Free will donations. (201) 943-7320.

March 4

**St. Philomena Parish**, Livingston, “I Thirst—The Crucifixion Story,” performed by recording artist Tatiana, 7 p.m. Visit [CameronProductions.org](http://CameronProductions.org).

**Immaculate Conception Parish**, Elizabeth, Lenten fish and chips dinner, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Cost \$10, under 12, \$6. Call Cyndi Wilson, (908) 355-0953 or (973) 649-3991.

March 7

**Holy Trinity Parish**, Westfield, AIDS compassion prayer service, 7:30 p.m., Anita Dazzo, (908) 233-8710.

**Our Lady of Lourdes Parish**, Mountainside, Rosary Altar Society, “A Spiritual Journey Through Song,” 7:45 p.m., recitation of the Rosary and novena, 7 p.m. (908) 232-1162.

Women’s Commission Day of Reflection

The Archdiocesan Women’s Commission, will sponsor a Day of Reflection: “The Light of Hope: Christ’s Divine Promise for the Future,” Mass at 10 a.m., Most Rev. John J. Myers, Archbishop of Newark, celebrant. James B. Stenson, author/educator, is keynote speaker, St. Aloysius Parish, Caldwell, March 12, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Call (973) 497-4010.

**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](mailto:mielejos@rcan.org), **fax:** 973-497-4192, or **mail:** The Catholic Advocate, Around the Archdiocese, P.O. Box 9500, Newark, NJ 07104

**Ascension Parish**, New Milford, Rosary Altar Society, monthly meeting, after 7:30 p.m. Mass, celebrating feasts of St. Patrick and St. Joseph. (201) 836-8961.

March 11

**St. Helen Parish**, Westfield, Stations of the Cross with reflections by a person with AIDS, 7:30 p.m., call Anita Dazzo, (908) 233-8710.

March 12

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish**, Garfield, St. Joseph’s Dinner, sponsored by Parish Life Committee, 7 p.m., Father Casserly Hall. Cost \$20, \$10 for children. Call (973) 772-2295.

**St. Anthony of Padua Parish**, Jersey City, Lenten reflection, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sponsored by the Congregation of the Religious of the Virgin Mary for the cause of the beatification of Mother Ignacia Del Espirtu Santo, foundress. (201) 653-0343.

March 13

**Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament**, Elizabeth, 50th anniversary communion breakfast, 11 a.m., Hanover Manor, East Hanover, speaker is Greg Tobin, editor of *The Catholic Advocate*, Cost \$20. Call Elizabeth, (973) 226-6716.

March 19

**Holy Rosary Parish**, Jersey City, annual Legion of Mary ACIES Mass, 1 p.m. (201) 795-0120.

Local Highlights

**Lenten Events**

- Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Bayonne, Gorzkie Zale, Polish Lenten devotions, Sundays at 4 p.m.; 40 Hours devotion, beginning March 4, 10 a.m. Mass (Polish) and ending March 6, 5 p.m. Mass (Polish and English); Anointing of the Sick, March 14, noon (English), March 15, noon (Polish), and Reconciliation, week-days following 7 a.m. Mass, Saturdays, 3:30 p.m., and March 22, following 7 p.m. Mass (Polish and English).
- St. Mary Parish, Nutley, Lenten events include recording artist Tatiana, “I Thirst,” The Crucifixion Story, March 5, 7:30 p.m.; a discussion about St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, with Father Dante DiGiorlamo, March 10, 7:30 p.m., and a discussion on the historic contributions of Hispanic Catholics to American life, conducted by Bishop David Arias, March 16, 7:30 p.m.
- St. Matthew Parish, Ridgefield, is hosting a Lenten benefit concert for the Ridgefield Clergy Association Emergency and Food Funds, featuring the Mozart *Requiem*, presented by the New Jersey Chorale, March 13, 4 p.m.

**Concerts**

- Schola Cantorum on Hudson continues its tenth season with “L’Chaim! Music of the Jewish People” with concerts March 6, 4 p.m. at the Jersey City Museum and again on March 12, 8 p.m., in the Maurice Levin Theater, JCC MetroWest, West Orange. For additional information go to [www.scholaonhudson.org](http://www.scholaonhudson.org).

**Fundraisers**

- The Parents Guild of Saint Joseph Regional High School, Montvale, annual spring craft show and sale, March 20, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., cost \$2, children and seniors, free. [www.saintjosephregional.org](http://www.saintjosephregional.org).
- Felician College, Lodi, Alumni Association will host a dinner-dance at the Cotillion Caterers, 454 Midland Ave., Garfield, 7-11 p.m. Cost \$40 per person and \$75 for two tickets. (201) 559-3315 or email [carusol@felician.edu](mailto:carusol@felician.edu).
- St. Joseph Parish, Oradell/New Milford, social concerns committee, a benefit breakfast for cross cultural institute, New Hope for Children, March 6, 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 1 Patrolman Raymond Woods Lane, New Milford. Cost \$6, adults, \$4, children. Call MaryAnn Olsen, (201) 262-7544.
- Mother Seton Regional High School, Clark, gift auction, March 4, 7:30 p.m. in the school auditorium. Cost \$7, advanced ticket sales, \$5, may be purchased at the school office weekdays, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Call (732) 382-1952.

**Pre-K**

- St. Vincent de Paul School, Bayonne, is opening a new 4-year-old Pre-K program, featuring full- or half-day sessions for enrollment. Call (201) 339-4438 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Open House**

- Felician College, Lodi, for prospective students and their families, March 5 and April 16, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Call (201) 559-6131.

**Workshops**

- The Office of Family Life Ministries will host Retrouvaille, a program of the Catholic Church designed to provide practical help and support to married couples that are in difficult relationships, March 4-6. Call (973) 497-4327.
- Family Life Ministries of the Archdiocese of Newark will offer the Home Visit Workshop in Spanish, designed to train leaders to strengthen families in faith formation through a series of home visits. The sessions will take place at the Archdiocesan Center, 171 Clifton Ave., Newark, March 11, 18, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Cost \$25. Deadline for registration is March 7; call Reina Basualdo, (973) 497-4326.

**Communion Breakfast**

- Saint Benedict’s Prep Alumni Association, annual communion breakfast, March 6, after Mass, 9 a.m., at St. Mary Parish, Newark. Cost \$15, \$7.50 children, \$20 at the door. Call (973) 792-5778, email [bgulledge@sbp.org](mailto:bgulledge@sbp.org) or register online at [www.sbpalumini.org](http://www.sbpalumini.org).

**Forum**

- The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, Convent Station, forum on human trafficking, March 19, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Saint Anne Villa, Convent Station. (973) 290-5345.

**Blood Drive**

- Assumption Catholic War Veterans, March 19, 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m., at CVWV headquarters, 18 West 23rd St., Bayonne. (201) 858-9405.

**Health**

- Holy Name Hospital, Teaneck, “Coping with Diabetes” March 9, 7:30-9 p.m. Pre-registration required. “The Eyes Have It; Eye Care & Eye Enhancement for Mid-Life,” March 16, 7:30-9 p.m. Call (201) 227-6250.

**Singles**

- St. Phil’s Singles will go hiking at South Mountain Reservation, West Orange, and have dinner at Charlie Brown’s restaurant, Millburn, March 5, 1:30 p.m. The group will play volleyball at St. Philomena’s School gym, Livingston, March 19, 7:30 p.m. (973) 340-4001 or visit [www.homestead.com/stphilssingles](http://www.homestead.com/stphilssingles).

**Scholarship**

- The James Picarella Memorial Trust Scholarship Fund will award scholarships to Washington Township high school seniors. The Knights of Columbus, Mother Seton Council, will make applications available, at 79 Pascack Rd., weekdays, 3:30-6:30 p.m. (201) 265-1749 or (201) 664-0422 between 3:30-6:30 p.m.

**Annulment**

- Family Life Ministries and the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Newark will sponsor an annulment information evening on March 9, at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Ridgefield Park, 7:30 p.m. (973) 497-4327.

**Miscellaneous**

- Garwood Knights of Columbus are collecting items for babies on behalf of St. Joseph’s Social Services Center, Elizabeth, including disposable diapers, towels, bottles, baby food, and baby care items, such as powder, shampoo, brushes, combs and baby wipes, to be dropped off after 4 p.m. at 37 South Ave., Garwood. (908) 789-9809 after 4 p.m.



# Passion Play

*La Pasión de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo* (The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ), performed completely in Spanish by the youth group and families of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Jersey City, will be presented March 20 at 4 p.m. at the Ritz Theater, 1148 East Jersey St., Elizabeth. Seats are \$15, \$25 and \$35 and are going quickly. For information or to purchase tickets call Father John Galeano at (201) 297-1856, (201) 232-4878 or (201) 982-3104. All proceeds will go to help refinish the church basement for Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

# 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.



Gospel of life

Editor,  
I would like to thank you for carrying George Weigel’s column. He is not only a good writer, but is orthodox and faithful to the Magisterium and a friend to our Holy Father.

His column of Feb. 2, about the U.S. bishops rediscovering their voices in 2004 was right on the mark.

I thank and congratulate those fearless and grace-filled bishops for bravely standing up for the Gospel of Life and not being intimidated by others.

Our own Archbishop John Myers has also been a strong soldier in this battle for life.

Thankfully, because of such bishops, the pro-life candidate won the Catholic vote in this election. As the American Life League has often stated, “You can’t be Catholic and pro-abortion. “

Deanna Hohmann  
West Caldwell

Lack of coverage

Editor,  
I have searched in vain through the pages of your newspaper for any clear commendation of the misapplication of the doctrine of pre-emptive war as a justification for the invasion of Iraq by the United States of America.

Under the direction of Pope John Paul II, the Roman Catholic Church has made its unequivocal abhorrence of abortion and its institutional advocacy of priestly celibacy unmistakably clear. This stance echoed in your newspaper.

But, while the Roman Catholic Church did join others in formally reiterating the doctrine of a “just war,” before the occupation of Iraq, it has limited itself to limp, platitudinous exhortations for peace which

are scarcely more emphatic than those one has heard throughout all the sermons and articles of years past.

This almost noncommittal attitude on the part of the Church itself, and *The Catholic Advocate*, as a voice for the Church in Newark, contrasts very weakly with the Quaker community’s pointed, powerful and consistently courageous positions in their “Friends Committee on National Legislation Washington Newsletter.”

Linda Marinelli-Bollettino  
West Caldwell

Leadership cited

Editor,  
Last fall we were edified by Archbishop Myers’ column in *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Catholic Advocate* defining the moral criteria Catholic voters should bring with them into the voting booth.

This past week we were fortunate to be able to attend a lecture by Cardinal Avery Dulles at St. Joseph’s Seminary, Yonkers, NY, on the Eucharist in this Year of the Eucharist.

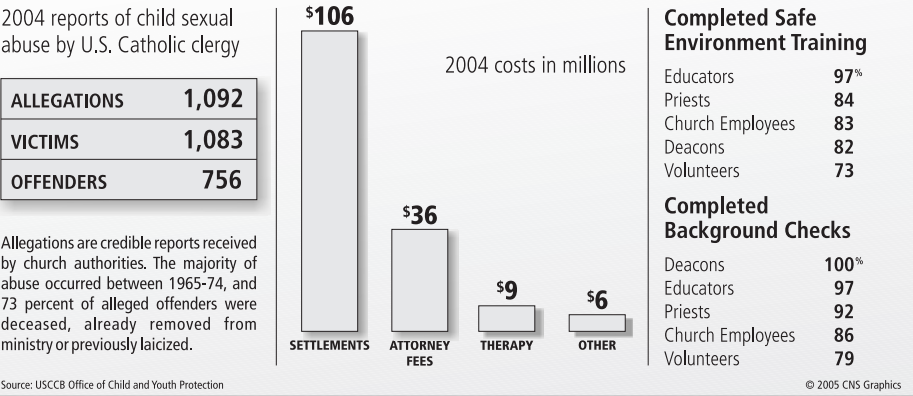
Both prelates expressed themselves with an unambiguous clarity and forthrightness.

We have many wonderful men and women in the Church. We would encourage them to equip themselves with a full knowledge of the teachings of the Catholic faith as expressed in the Catholic Catechism and other orthodox resources, and to emulate these two great Church leaders.

In a world increasingly indifferent or hostile to our Catholic faith, we need to be constantly reinforced and encouraged lest truths not spoken become truths denied. Pastoral sensitivities must not override the obligation to be faithful apostles. The seed must be sown even if it falls on fallow ground.

Arthur E. Lavis  
Montvale

Child and Youth Protection Update



The 2004 report of progress made by the U.S. church to protect young people against clergy sexual abuse was released last month. Here are some figures and findings from the report.

Professing the faith, protecting life

Designed for those who have their whole lives ahead of them, the second annual Pro-Life Youth Rally will be held Friday at Seton Hall University.

Hosted by the Salesians of Don Bosco, the rally will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Focusing on areas too many young people dismiss as archaic and irrelevant, the goal is the power of knowledge about such vital issues as chastity, Catholic beliefs on life and the vital role of living one’s faith.

There will be a variety of ways for the next generation to become part of and foster a culture of life at the dawn of a new millennium.

Young people can attend pro-life skits, hear the testimony of a post-abortion witness and even take in the concert experience with a live performance by a group that bills itself as “the Christian funk band.” Intriguing. The group’s lead singer is the keynote speaker.

The rally will conclude with Mass celebrated by Most Rev. Thomas A. Donato, Auxiliary Bishop of Newark. Most Rev. Arthur J. Serratelli, Bishop of Paterson, will deliver the homily.

Carrying on with the pro-life message and movement is the responsibility of the next generation.

Joined by their contemporaries in what oftentimes can be a fight to promote life in an increasingly secular society, the rally will both encourage and enlighten.

Be there.

Respect Life  
Taking of the tiniest human life

BY MSGR. RICHARD MCGUINNESS  
Director of the Respect Life Office

Adopting a child is a wonderful gift to that child; it provides a home and loving parents who will love and care for that child.

Recently there was a meeting with members of Congress by a group of parents and their adopted children.

Each of these children had once been a frozen embryo—the result of in vitro fertilization. They were adopted while they were still embryos and brought to birth by their adoptive parents.

This helps to realize that each of us begins our human life as a tiny embryo.

Embryonic stem cell research begins with an in vitro fertilized egg.

This tiny embryo is allowed to grow for five to seven days and then stem cells are harvested—killing the embryo who, if allowed to live, might have become a great teacher, scientist or leader.

There are two kinds of stem cells—embryonic and adult. Embryonic stem research always results in the death of a tiny human being.

Not a single cure has come about as a result of their research. Another disadvantage is that they are often rejected or produce tumors.

Adult stem cells can be taken from bone marrow, olfactory tissue, as well as umbilical cords and placentas.

Thousands of lives have already been saved by the use of adult stem cells, most often in treatment of leukemia and other cancers.

The Catholic Church supports the use of adult stem cells, whose use has already produced amazing results for many diseases.

The Catholic Church rejects the use of embryonic stem cells since it always is the taking of a tiny human life.

Today’s Question: What is the communion of saints, and what is its significance to our faith? – Greg Tobin, Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, South Orange

According to the summary in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the term is considered in two ways:

“The Church is a ‘communion of saints’: this expression refers first to the ‘holy things’ (*sancta*), above all the Eucharist, by which ‘the unity of believers, who form one body in Christ, is both represented and brought about.’ (*Lumen Gentium* 3, Dogmatic Constitution on the Church).

“The term ‘communion of saints’ refers also to the communion of ‘holy persons’ (*sancti*) in Christ who ‘died for all,’ so that what each one does or suffers in and for Christ bears fruit for all.

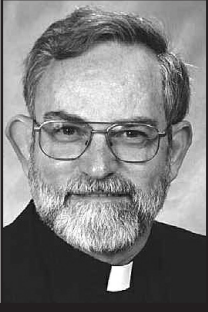
“We believe in the communion of all the faithful of Christ, those who are pilgrims on earth, the dead who are being purified, and the blessed in heaven, all together forming one

Church; and we believe that in this communion, the merciful love of God and his saints is always [attentive] to our prayers.” (Pope Paul VI, Credo of the People of God §30).

For a fuller explanation, read paragraphs 946 through 962 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

What’s the Matter?

By Msgr. Richard J. Arnholz



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](mailto:advnews@rcan.org). Be sure to include your parish affiliation.



# Visiting the seminaries crucial to authentic reform

When the U.S. cardinals came to Rome to discuss the Long Lent of 2002 in April of that year, they recommended that a visitation be made of all U.S. seminaries, houses of priestly formation and theological *consortia*, with an eye toward accelerating the process of reform already under way in many of those institutions.

Those visitations, which may begin as soon as this coming fall, are crucial to authentic Catholic reform in light of the crisis caused by clerical sexual misconduct and failed episcopal leadership. If the visitations are to fulfill their promise, they must be conducted with certain imperatives in mind. Here are three.

(1) The purpose of a visitation is to ascertain the truth about the spiritual, moral, and intellectual life of the institution being visited. The primary task of the visitors, in interviewing faculty, staff and students, is to establish the truth about this particular situation. That is not going to be easy.

Those who have built careers by skating around issues like improper sexual activity in seminaries and houses of formation are not going to want those careers jeopardized. Those who have seen problems and yet have not had the courage to name them for what they are must be encouraged to tell the truth, even if the truth is painful—and so must students, who must be confident that they will not be jeopardizing their chances for a positive faculty evaluation if they tell the truth to visitors. Which means that students must be assured that their comments to visitors will be held in the strictest confidentiality.

There are prudent and experienced priests throughout the country who are quite familiar with the games that are often played to prevent the truth of certain seminary situations coming to light. A roster of such priests should

## The Catholic Difference

by George Weigel



be put together, and the relevant names should be made available to a visitation team before it visits an institution with which one or more of these priests is familiar. Visitors who know what to look for, and where, will be more likely to get at the truth of things.

(2) The intellectual, spiritual and human formation of seminarians, especially on issues of sexuality, all intersect in the field of moral theology. Yet there are still seminaries in the United States where the teaching of moral theology remains in the hands of those who do not seem to have read the 1993 encyclical *Veritatis Splendor*, which rejected certain approaches to moral reasoning that, in my judgment and that of others, contributed to the meltdown of discipline in seminaries and houses of formation in the 1970's and 1980's. Or, having read *Veritatis Splendor*, they have dismissed it as impossibly old hat.

*American seminaries are in considerably better shape than they were two decades ago.*

There are knowledgeable and sophisticated moral theologians in America who are both faithful to the teaching authority of the Church and notable scholars in their field. Those scholars should be asked to sketch a model moral theology curriculum, including a list of appropriate textbooks, that visitation teams can use as a template in assessing this critical aspect of priestly formation. The point is to insure that future priests are taught a method of moral theology that is compatible with the settled teaching of the Church on this matter.

(3) Then there is the issue of psychology and psychologists. When psychology trumped moral theology in dealing with issues of sexual maturation in the seminaries of the 1970s and 1980s, bad things happened and a disciplinary breakdown followed—with what we now know were awful consequences. Today's seminary visitors need the counsel of psychologists who

were not identified, personally or institutionally, with those past problems—psychologists who understand the priority of moral theology over psychology in assessing certain patterns

of abusive behavior, and who have not succumbed to the temptation to use clinical jargon to mask the reality of those kinds of sexual abuse.

American seminaries are in considerably better shape than they were two decades ago. Yet there are still problems in some places. Identifying and fixing those problems must be the purpose of these visitations.

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

# Creationism is an intelligent, rational philosophy

Perhaps you have noticed that there is a conflict spreading throughout the United States. The place of the controversy is primarily the public school. The immediate subject of debate is the teaching of science—and in particular, the theory of evolution.

The contestants are basically those who control the curriculum. They propose the theory of evolution as if it were proven fact.

On the other side are mostly Christian evangelicals who believe in creationism as it is described in Genesis. But they disguise their true purpose by putting forth the theory of “intelligent design.”

However, when it comes down to reality, they believe in the seven-day creation as found in Genesis, and they are trying to put a form of religion in the classroom.

It is very important that Catholics—all of whom presumably believe in God—understand the argument, lest we be drawn into a discussion that does not help explain our Catholic position to others.

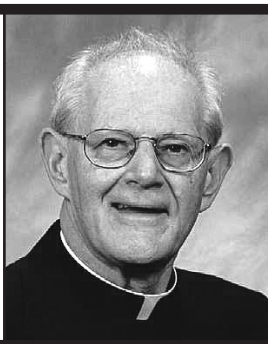
First of all, we cannot argue theology. Theology for us implies a divinely revealed body of truths to which we have given our assent. We generally call this “our faith.”

But to be honest, it does us no good to go into a meeting waving our Bible and reciting the Nicene Creed.

Why? Because many other Christians do not read the Bible as we do. More than that, we will meet

## Voices

By Msgr. John Gilchrist



Jews with their Tanak (the Old Testament) and Talmud, Moslems brandishing the Quran, Hindus reciting their Sanskrit Vedas and Buddhists wielding their Tripitaka—their collection of 17 books.

It would end in chaos because everyone believes God has spoken to them, and faith becomes a subjective argument.

The secular humanist or the atheist merely laughs at the lot of us. They are delighted when

believers show up because they can hammer them with science and point out the contradictions in faith positions.

However, all believers do have a weapon. The weapon is the keen instrument of the human mind. It is philosophy—a whole range of scientific inquiry that utilizes the methods of logic, the analysis of the world, the study of being itself, and the

contemplation of the psychic life of mankind to reach rational conclusions.

Scientists themselves are coming to believe more and more that the argument for intelligent design—and therefore an intelligent designer—is the only logical explanation of our universe.

From the laws of physics that govern the farthest galaxy down to the very basic nature of living cells, all things practically shout out that there had to be a beginning and a creator who had no beginning but exists as pure being. It is the only explanation for the world.

Otherwise we have a chain of events hanging in space with no logical explanation for anything. All else is “a tale told by an idiot.”

Creationism has every right to be taught in school. But it cannot be taught as theology. It is philosophy—a rational exercise of the human mind that must be accepted as a true science. Then evolution as a theory is perfectly acceptable.

The atheist and the skeptic are left with a huge, beautiful, wonderful world—and no rational explanation for anything. They are the ones who look foolish.

Thank God for a Church that does not ask us to leave our brains at the door of the church. I would never look at a Cadillac and say, “What a beautiful accident.” Nor would a rational person look at the world around us and say, “My goodness, what a wonderful random happening.”

What an amazing instrument is the human intellect. It speaks to me of *Ipsium Esse Subsistens*: the Creator.

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

*All believers do have a weapon.  
The weapon is the keen  
instrument of the human mind.*



# Pope takes historical look at evil

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—In a new book, Pope John Paul II warns that despite the failed ideologies and tragic lessons of the 20th century modern society still acts as if it can determine good and evil without reference to God.

That represents a threat to entire groups of people, including the unborn, the Holy Father says in the book, *Memory and Identity: Conversations Between Millenniums*.

“If man can decide alone, without God, what is good and what is evil, then he can also decide to exterminate a category of human beings,” the pope wrote.

The 228-page book was unveiled by the Italian publisher Rizzoli at a Feb. 22 press conference in Rome. It is due out in English later this year.

Based on conversations between the pontiff and several Polish academics, the book is essentially a papal reflection on the ideological struggles that played out in Europe over the last 100 years and their significance for the 21st century.

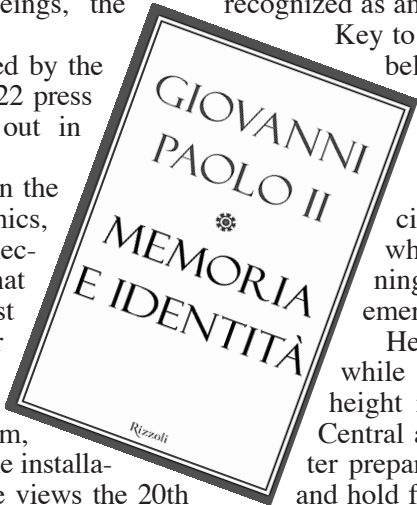
With the advance of the communist revolution, the rise of Nazism, the outbreak of World War II and the installation of the Soviet regime, the pope views the 20th century as a stage upon which the forces of good and evil engaged in sharp combat.

He is convinced that good has triumphed, but worries that not all the lessons have been learned.

“The most immediate association of ideas that comes to mind are the laws on abortion,” he said.

“The parliaments that create and promulgate such laws should be aware that they are abusing their powers and remain in open conflict with the law of God and the law of nature,” John Paul II wrote.

If in the past it was nationalist regimes that



advanced totalitarian agendas, today the threat is often represented by powerful economic forces that try to impose their ideas around the world, especially in poorer countries, the pope said.

Under “democratic” forms, this new type of totalitarianism has taken aim at basic human values by promoting moral permissiveness, abortion, euthanasia, genetic manipulation, contraception and divorce, he added.

The pope said one egregious example was the recent legislative push to have homosexual unions recognized as an “alternative form of family.”

Key to the Pope John Paul’s vision is the belief that the memory of one’s own history and culture in large part forms human identity, at the personal and collective levels.

The pope said that idea has special applications in modern Europe, which, despite its Christian underpinnings, is afflicted by an “insistent re-emergence of refusal of Christ.”


He noted he was convinced that while the Christian culture reached its height in Western Europe the people of Central and Eastern Europe are today better prepared to resist the erosion of values and hold firm to the conviction that “God is the supreme guarantor of human dignity and human rights.”

The danger, the Holy Father said, is that Eastern Europe will concede to negative cultural models imported from the West, misunderstanding it as a type of “cultural promotion.”

In describing the events of his own lifetime, the pope said he was convinced that evil manifested itself not in a minor or “homemade” edition, but in giant proportions that made use of state structures to “carry out its wicked work.”

The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II



## The Lenten journey

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Sitting with two aides in his private library, Pope John Paul II used closed-circuit television to greet hundreds of pilgrims who had come for his weekly general audience.

In English, he said, “I greet all the English-speaking pilgrims here today and thank you for your prayers. May your time in Rome be filled with joy and deepen your love for the universal Church. God bless you all.”

It was the first general audience following Pope John Paul’s Feb. 10 release from the hospital for breathing difficulties. No audience was scheduled for Feb. 16 because of the annual Lenten retreat for the pope and his top aides.

While he was wheezing a bit, the pope read his introductory remarks with strength, even adding several phrases to the prepared text published by the Vatican press office.

“We are following the Lenten journey, which began Ash Wednesday, helped and stimulated by the liturgy which calls us to a particular commitment to prayer, fasting and penance and to a greater solidarity with our neighbors, especially the poor and needy,” the pope said.

“The austere itinerary of Lent will lead us to the solemn celebration of Easter,” he said. “Let us open our hearts to a sincere and profound conversion. May selfishness give way to love so that we can experience the joy of forgiveness and of intimate reconciliation with God and with our brothers and sisters.”

# Mature leadership is guided by the mystery of faith

**Readings: 1 Sm 16:1-13; Ps 23:1-6; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41**

In ancient times, as people organized into societies, the communities laid precise obligations upon their members. Almost without exception, the family and the clan provided the structures that permeated the maturing and passing of each generation.

Among the Hebrews the first-born son had the duty of caring for the mother and unmarried sisters after the patriarch’s death. This led people to expect that the first-born was the best candidate for other positions of leadership.

However, very often when Israel faced a crisis, the leader chosen by God would be a surprise. There are undoubtedly many reasons for this divine pedagogy; among them is the principle that God’s thoughts cannot be limited to the perspective of human reason (see Is 55:8-9).

Thus, when Samuel, the great prophet and judge who had given Israel its first king, realized that Saul was a failure in God’s eyes he anointed a successor. Even he was surprised when God passed over seven mature sons of Jesse, selecting a youth who had not even been invited to the sacrificial banquet!

Beloved of God, David was endowed with “the Spirit of the Lord,” guiding him throughout his long reign. Flawed as we all are, and guilty of grave sin, David grew in faith and prayer, as shown in the psalms attributed to him.

Sunday Readings

Fourth Sunday of Lent  
(March 6, 2005)

By Father Lawrence Frizzell



The fourth Gospel presents a rich doctrine of faith, intimately linked with Baptism and the gift of a fuller life for the believer. Jesus taught Nicodemus that the new life comes from above, bestowed by the Spirit (Jn 3:1-15).

Faith is an insight into all reality now perceived in its essential relationship with God and His plan. The new life has “faculties” that enhance the potential of our natural gifts.

In John’s drama of Jesus healing the man born blind, the Master opens a man’s eyes by washing them and this becomes a sign of the gift required by all human beings. Human logic and wisdom can be

*Faith is an insight into all reality.*

wonderful, but ultimately they provide only a fragmentary vision of reality.

Yet how sure some of us are that we have all the answers, that we are masters of our present and future life!

By virtue of their authority, Jewish leaders had the responsibility to supervise teaching and other activities that would affect people’s faith and moral life.

As in other times and places, there may have been among them charlatans and some who became inebriated with power. The Jewish authorities are often portrayed negatively in the Gospels, with their failure to appreciate Jesus and His work, growing to a crescendo of condemnation. It is beyond the scope of this reflection to deal with this confrontation adequately.

It suffices to note that the proclamation of the Gospel is intended to alert us Christians that we can fail in faith, especially as adults and leaders in our community.

Indeed we must know our faith and teach it vigorously. And we must humbly expect that our God may have a surprise or two in store for us!

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



# Retirement Fund for Religious – 2004 Donations

## BERGEN COUNTY

<b>DEANERY 1</b>		
<b>PARISH</b>	<b>CITY</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Ch. of Presentation	Up. Saddle Rr.	\$16,421.00
Guardian Angel	Allendale	5,909.00
Im. Conception	Mahwah	2,248.00
Im. Heart of Mary	Mahwah	2,810.00
Most Blss. Sac.	Franklin Lakes	16,046.00
Nativity	Midland Park	3,819.00
O.L. Mt. Carmel	Ridgewood	7,643.00
O.L. of Perpet. Help	Oakland	2,255.00
St. Catharine's	Glen Rock	7,714.77
St. Elizabeth	Wyckoff	16,412.90
St. Gabriel's	Saddle River	6,965.00
St. Luke's	Ho-Ho-Kus	5,892.00
St. Paul's	Ramsey	15,544.00
<b>DEANERY #1 TOTAL</b>		<b>\$109,679.67</b>

<b>DEANERY 2</b>		
<b>PARISH</b>	<b>CITY</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Assumption	Emerson	\$2,529.00
Im. Conception	Norwood	4,299.00
O.L. Mother Ch.	Woodcliff Lake	2,700.00
O.L. of Good Consl.	Westwood P.O.	7,880.00
O.L. of Mercy	Park Ridge	7,156.50
O.L. of Victories	Harrington Pk.	3,837.00
Sacred Heart	Haworth	1,646.00
St. Andrew's	Westwood	3,882.50
St. Anthony's	Northvale	1,296.00
St. John Baptist	Hillsdale	2,987.00
St. Joseph's	Demarest	3,290.00
St. Mary's	Closter	6,624.00
St. Pius X	Old Tappan	2,528.00
<b>DEANERY #2 TOTAL</b>		<b>\$50,655.00</b>

<b>DEANERY 3</b>		
<b>PARISH</b>	<b>CITY</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Annunciation	Paramus	\$3,369.00
Ascension	New Milford	3,364.00
O.L. Mt. Carmel	Tenafly	6,870.00
O.L. Visitation	Paramus	3,445.00
St. John Evan.	Bergenfield	5,085.00
St. Joseph's	New Milford	6,695.00
St. Mary's	Dumont	4,412.63
St. Peter's	River Edge	7,667.00
St. Therese Lisieux	Cresskill	3,824.00
<b>DEANERY #3 TOTAL</b>		<b>\$44,731.63</b>

<b>DEANERY 4</b>		
<b>PARISH</b>	<b>CITY</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Korean Martyrs	Saddle Brook	\$2,247.00
Most Holy Name	Garfield	1,102.00
O.L. of Mt. Virgin	Garfield	749.00
O.L. of Sorrows	Garfield	315.00
Sacred Heart	Rochelle Park	1,630.00
St. Anne's	Fair Lawn	2,637.00
St. Francis de Sales	Lodi	1,308.70
St. Joseph's	Lodi	1,716.00
St. Leo's	Elmwood Park	1,808.00
St. Philip Apostle	Saddle Brook	2,764.00
St. Stnsls. Kostka	Garfield	2,800.00
<b>DEANERY #4 TOTAL</b>		<b>\$19,076.70</b>

<b>DEANERY 5</b>		
<b>PARISH</b>	<b>CITY</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Holy Trinity	Hackensack	\$5,147.00
Imm. Conception	Hackensack	1,561.00
O.L. Queen of Peace	Maywood	3,199.00
St. Anastasia's	Teaneck	4,506.00
St. Francis of Assisi	Hackensack	364.00
St. Francis of Assisi	Ridgefield Park	3,094.00
St. Joseph's	Bogota	5,577.00
St. Joseph's	Hackensack	461.00
St. Margaret's	Little Ferry	3,544.00
<b>DEANERY #5 TOTAL</b>		<b>\$27,453.00</b>

<b>DEANERY 6</b>		
<b>PARISH</b>	<b>CITY</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Epiphany	Cliffside Park	\$2,987.00
Holy Rosary	Edgewater	774.00
Holy Trinity	Fort Lee	5,272.00
Madonna	Fort Lee	2,097.00
Our Lady of Grace	Fairview	1,146.00
St. Cecilia's	Englewood	2,143.53
St. John Baptist	Fairview	704.00
St. John Evangelist	Leonia	3,863.00
St. Matthew's	Ridgefield	1,940.00
St. Michael's	Palisades Park	2,221.00
St. Nicholas	Palisades Park	887.00
<b>DEANERY #6 TOTAL</b>		<b>\$24,034.53</b>

<b>DEANERY 7</b>		
<b>PARISH</b>	<b>CITY</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Assumption	Wood-Ridge	\$2,851.00
Corpus Christi	Hasbrouck Hts.	3,528.00
O.L. of Mt. Carmel	Lyndhurst	1,480.00
Queen of Peace	North Arlington	5,797.00
Sacred Heart	Lyndhurst	3,062.00
Sacred Heart	Wallington	1,871.00
St. Joseph's	East Rutherford	1,725.00
Imm. Conception	Secaucus	1,975.00
St. Mary's	Rutherford	7,335.23
St. Michael's	Lyndhurst	1,821.00
<b>DEANERY #7 TOTAL</b>		<b>\$31,445.23</b>
<b>BERGEN COUNTY TOTAL</b>		<b>\$307,075.76</b>

## HUDSON COUNTY

<b>DEANERY 8</b>		
<b>PARISH</b>	<b>CITY</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Holy Family	Union City	\$333.00
St. Mary/Help Chr.	West New York	
Our Lady of Fatima	North Bergen	985.00
Our Lady of Libera	West New York	667.65
Sacred Heart	Cliffside Park	1,558.00
St. Anthony of Padua	Union City	1,655.00
St. Augustine's	Union City	1,971.74
St. Bridget's	North Bergen	156.00
St. John Nepom.	Guttenberg	503.00
Sts. Joseph's/Mchl's	Union City	2,057.00
St. Joseph of the Pal.	West New York	3,183.00
St. Rocco's	Union City	768.00
<b>DEANERY #8 TOTAL</b>		<b>\$13,837.39</b>

<b>DEANERY 9</b>		
<b>PARISH</b>	<b>CITY</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Our Lady of Grace	Hoboken	\$1,106.00
St. Ann's	Hoboken	636.00
St. Francis	Hoboken	2,508.00
St. Joseph's	Hoboken	289.00
St. Lawrence's	Weehawken	1,965.00
Sts. Peter & Paul	Hoboken	4,295.10
<b>DEANERY #9 TOTAL</b>		<b>\$10,799.10</b>

<b>DEANERY 10</b>		
<b>PARISH</b>	<b>CITY</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
O.L. of Mt. Carmel	Jersey City	\$397.00
St. Aedan's	Jersey City	

St. Ann's	Jersey City	567.00
St. Anne's	Jersey City	2,253.00
St. John The Bap.	Jersey City	896.75
St. Joseph's	Jersey City	854.00
St. Nicholas	Jersey City	1,325.00
St. Paul of Cross	Jersey City	1,047.50
<b>DEANERY #10 TOTAL</b>		<b>\$7,340.25</b>

<b>DEANERY 11</b>		
<b>PARISH</b>	<b>CITY</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Holy Rosary	Jersey City	\$400.00
O.L. Czystochowa	Jersey City	1,007.00
St. Anthony's	Jersey City	545.00
Resurrection	Jersey City	3,718.71
St. Bridget's	Jersey City	
St. Boniface	Jersey City	
St. Mary's	Jersey City	
St. Michael/St. Jude	Jersey City	
St. Peter's	Jersey City	
<b>DEANERY # 11 TOTAL</b>		<b>\$5,670.71</b>

<b>DEANERY 12</b>		
<b>PARISH</b>	<b>CITY</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Assumption/All Sts.	Jersey City	\$385.00
Christ the King	Jersey City	259.00
O.L of Mercy	Jersey City	3,914.00
O.L. of Sorrows	Jersey City	350.00
O.L. of Victories	Jersey City	1,127.00
Sacred Heart	Jersey City	523.00

## ESSEX COUNTY

<b>DEANERY 15</b>		
<b>PARISH</b>	<b>CITY</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Blessed Sacrament	Roseland	\$5,347.00
Notre Dame	North Caldwell	5,926.00
O.L. of the Lake	Verona	7,297.00
O.L. of Lourdes	West Orange	2,056.25
St. Aloysius'	Caldwell	10,560.00
St. Catherine Siena	Cedar Grove	7,708.00
St. Joseph's	West Orange	2,969.05
St. Philomena's	Livingston	7,047.00
St. Raphael's	Livingston	5,334.00
St. Thomas More	Fairfield	3,393.00
<b>DEANERY #15 TOTAL</b>		<b>\$57,637.30</b>

<b>DEANERY 16</b>		
<b>PARISH</b>	<b>CITY</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Holy Family	Nutley	\$6,941.00
Imm. Conception	Montclair	5,986.00
O.L. of Mt. Carmel	Montclair	1,298.00
O.L. of Mt. Carmel	Nutley	2,855.00
Sacred Heart	Bloomfield	2,165.00
St. Anthony Padua	Belleville	2,096.00
St. Cassian's	Upper Montclair	2,506.00
St. Mary's	Nutley	2,822.00
St. Peter's	Belleville	2,007.00
St. Peter Claver	Montclair	500.00
St. Thomas Apostle	Bloomfield	9,351.03
St. Valentine's	Bloomfield	2,035.00
<b>DEANERY #16 TOTAL</b>		<b>\$40,562.03</b>

<b>DEANERY 17</b>		
<b>PARISH</b>	<b>CITY</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
St. Andrew Kim	Orange	\$3,230.00
Holy Name	East Orange	825.00
Hoy Spirit/Hlp Chris.	East Orange	1,028.00
O.L. of Mt. Carmel	Orange	643.00
O.L. of the Valley	Orange	1,103.00
St. John's	Orange	1,355.00
St. Joseph's	East Orange	760.00
<b>DEANERY #17 TOTAL</b>		<b>\$8,944.00</b>

<b>DEANERY 18</b>		
<b>PARISH</b>	<b>CITY</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Imm. Heart of Mary	Maplewood	\$608.00
O.L. of Sorrows	South Orange	5,457.00
Sacred Hrt. of Jesus	Irvington	435.00
St. Joseph's	Maplewood	5,287.00
St. Leo's	Irvington	887.00
St. Paul the Apostle	Irvington	669.00
<b>DEANERY #18 TOTAL</b>		<b>\$13,343.00</b>

<b>DEANERY 19</b>		
<b>PARISH</b>	<b>CITY</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Imm. Conception	Newark	\$485.00
O.L. Good Counsel	Newark	1,003.00
Srd. Heart Cathedral	Newark	1,811.00
St. Francis Xavier	Newark	1,759.00
St. John's	Newark	202.00
St. Lucy's	Newark	1,450.00
St. Michael's	Newark	1,256.00
<b>DEANERY #19 TOTAL</b>		<b>\$7,966.00</b>

<b>DEANERY 20</b>		
<b>PARISH</b>	<b>CITY</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Bl. Sacrament/St. Charles	Newark	\$405.00
Queen of Angels	Newark	
Sacred Heart	Newark	931.33
St. Ann's	Newark	
St. Antoninus	Newark	873.00
St. Augustine's	Newark	150.00
St. Columba's	Newark	149.00
St. Mary's	Newark	1,280.00
St. Patrick's Pro Cath.	Newark	153.00
St. Rocco's	Newark	382.00
St. Rose of Lima	Newark	120.00
St. Stanislaus	Newark	337.00
<b>DEANERY #20 TOTAL</b>		<b>\$4,780.33</b>

<b>DEANERY 21</b>		
<b>PARISH</b>	<b>CITY</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Epiphany/Holy Trinity	Newark	\$191.00
Imm. Heart of Mary	Newark	838.00
O.L. of Fatima	Newark	245.00
O.L. of Mt. Carmel	Newark	574.50
St. Aloysius's	Newark	588.05
St. Benedict's	Newark	1,598.00
St. Casimir's	Newark	398.00
St. James	Newark	89.30
<b>DEANERY #21 TOTAL</b>		<b>\$4,521.85</b>

<b>ESSEX COUNTY TOTAL</b>	<b>\$137,754.51</b>
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## UNION COUNTY

<b>DEANERY 22</b>		
<b>PARISH</b>	<b>CITY</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Little Flower	Berkeley Hts	\$4,172.25
O.L. of Lourdes	Mountainside	5,523.00
O.L. of Peace	New Providence	12,002.00
St. James	Springfield	2,884.00
St. Rose of Lima	Short Hills	13,325.00
St. Teresa's	Sumit	12,881.37
<b>DEANERY #22 TOTAL</b>		<b>\$50,787.62</b>

<b>DEANERY 23</b>		
<b>PARISH</b>	<b>CITY</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Assumption	Roselle Park	\$1,580.00
Christ the King	Hillside	1,885.00
Holy Spirit	Union	4,826.00
St. Anne's	Garwood	1,860.00
St. Catherine's	Hillside	594.50
St. Joseph's	Roselle	2,799.00
St. Michael's	Union	3,752.00
St. Michael's	Cranford	5,300.00
St. Theresa's	Kenilworth	2,100.00
<b>DEANERY #23 TOTAL</b>		<b>\$24,696.50</b>

<b>DEANERY 24</b>		
<b>PARISH</b>	<b>CITY</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Holy Family	Linden	\$313.00
St. Agnes	Clark	7,234.00
St. Eliz. of Hungary	Linden	2,100.00
St. John the Apostle	Linden	3,827.50
St. Mark's	Rahway	1,269.00
St. Mary's	Rahway	3,767.00
St. Theresa Ch. Jesus	Linden	1,922.00
<b>DEANERY #24 TOTAL</b>		<b>\$20,432.50</b>

<b>DEANERY 25</b>		
<b>PARISH</b>	<b>CITY</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Blessed Sacrament	Elizabeth	\$1,318.00
Holy Ros./St. Mich.	Elizabeth	1,500.00
Imm. Conception	Elizabeth	1,905.00
Imm. Hrt. of Mary	Elizabeth	611.00
O.L. of Fatima	Elizabeth	502.00
St. Adalbert's	Elizabeth	822.00
St. Anthony Padua	Elizabeth	1,680.00
St. Genevieve's	Elizabeth	4,445.00

St. Hedwig's	Elizabeth	697.00
St. Mary's	Elizabeth	1,405.00
St. Patrick's	Elizabeth	328.00
Sts. Peter & Paul	Elizabeth	861.00
St. Thomas Aquinas	Newark	203.00
<b>DEANERY #25 TOTAL</b>		<b>\$16,277.00</b>

<b>DEANERY 26</b>		
<b>PARISH</b>	<b>CITY</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Holy Trinity	Westfield	\$11,463.00
Imm. Heart of Mary	Scotch Plains	5,580.00
St. Bartholomew's	Scotch Plains	6,059.00
St. Bernard's	Plainfield	1,165.00
St. Helen's	Westfield	9,791.00
St. Mary's	Plainfield	1,548.00
St. Stanislaus Kostka	Plainfield	43.00
<b>DEANERY #26 TOTAL</b>		<b>\$35,649.00</b>

<b>UNION COUNTY TOTAL</b>	<b>\$147,842.62</b>
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Other Organizations: Misc.	\$ 809.90	<b>TOTAL FROM PARISHES</b>	<b>\$671,135.34</b>
Community of God's Love	\$ 128.00		
St. Theresa's Chapel, Paramus	\$ 1,277.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,214.90</b>	<b>ARCHDIOCESAN TOTAL</b>	<b>\$673,350.24</b>



# Giving witness to Gospel message

BY LISA HADDOCK  
Special to The Catholic Advocate

Just before ascending to heaven, Jesus gave marching orders to His Church: “You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

The 1,285 families of St. Anastasia Parish, Teaneck, have embraced this message. They are spreading the Gospel throughout their parish, their town, Englewood, the Bowery and to the high mountains of Peru.

And their pastor, Father Daniel O’Neill, O. Carm., D. Min., couldn’t be prouder.

“They understand Christianity needs to be expressed,” said Father O’Neill, who took first vows as a Carmelite in 1963 and solemn vows in 1966.

“This parish is humming. It was humming before I got here, and I am happy to be part of it,” said Father O’Neill, whose church was founded as a mission in 1908 and became a parish in 1931. “The people are at such a pitch of engagement that it’s easy” to be pastor.

Father O’Neill is especially proud of the church’s Bowery Ministry, founded in the late 1970s by Father Paul Kirchner, O. Carm. Every Saturday morning since then, parishioners have delivered sandwiches, soup, coffee, baked goods, and clothing to 75 to 150 needy people who gather at Fourth Avenue and East Houston Street in Manhattan.

On Christmas, volunteers hand out toiletries along with winter hats and gloves.

“People are lined up there waiting for us. ... We’re just known as ‘the Church from New Jersey,’” said Father O’Neill, who became pastor in June 2002.

Approximately 50 people keep the ministry running. Some make 235-250 sandwiches every week. Some pick up donated baked goods from Butterflake Kosher Bake Shop. Others load the parish van and take the goods into Manhattan.

In addition to handing out food on the streets, volunteers deliver baked goods to Maryhouse, a Catholic Worker house of hospitality, and the University Community Soup Kitchen, a project of Nativity Church.

Bob Paladino, a volunteer with the ministry for the past 15 years, drives the van twice a month. To him, this work is vital to his faith. Twenty years ago, through a Cursillo program,

Paladino learned: “To receive Christ, you always have to give Christ. I think there’s no other way to do that than to do that kind of ministry.”

Paladino, who also teaches Confirmation classes at the parish, gets the students involved. “We have them as part of their community service to go to the Bowery with us ... to help us out.”

The outreach doesn’t stop there. With help from the Carmelites, St. Anastasia sponsors a lay missionary from its own ranks. Parishioner Elizabeth Larson, a retired Columbia University professor, volunteered to perform a year of service at Sicuani in the high Andes of Peru.

“She’s living with a sister named Eileen Egan, I.H.M.,” said



## St. Anastasia, Teaneck

cation and education.

Both Father O’Neill and Sister Bradley point with pride to the diversity of their parish and its hometown.

According to U.S. census figures, Teaneck—population 39,000—is home to 22,000 whites, 11,300 African-Americans, 4,100 Latinos, and 2,800 Asians. It has a thriving Jewish community, with 17 synagogues and a large Modern Orthodox presence. It is home to a Syrian Orthodox

highly multicultural parish that welcomes rather than tolerates other cultures.”

Special recognition is given to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Black Catholics of Bergen County hold regular meetings at the church. FAST (Filipino American Society of Teaneck)

also meets at St. Anastasia.

The parish joins in Bergen County’s Filipino observance of Simbang-Gabi. This novena of Masses leading up to Christmas is held at dawn in the Philippines. (Simbang-Gabi means dawn Mass in Tagalog.) However, in Bergen County, the Masses are celebrated in the evening, and churches with large Filipino memberships host the liturgies and parties that follow.

The church also celebrates a Mass for Kerala Catholics of Asian Indian heritage.

The bottom line is that every ethnic group at St. Anastasia is integrally involved in parish life, Father O’Neill said.

As founding parish of the Carmelite Forum of New Jersey, the church does educational outreach to the community. “It’s a collaboration of the seven Carmelite parishes,” he explained.

The forum’s breakfast speaker series, which takes place at the Marriott Glenpointe Hotel in Teaneck on first Saturdays of the month, began in October 2003.

Speakers have included Archbishop John J. Myers; the Most Rev. Wilton D. Gregory, newly named Archbishop of Atlanta; U.S. Rep. William Pascrell; author Peter Steinfelds, and Dolores R. Leckey, a senior fellow at Woodstock Theological Center.

Why does the parish work so well and do so much? “They’re just one group of people who respect one another, get along with one another, and work well with one another,” said Sister Bradley. In her 12 years at St. Anastasia, she had worked under two pastors, Father Hilary Milton, O. Carm., and Father O’Neill.

“Both of them are very approachable people. ... And so I think that the fact that the people are so receptive of one another is partially due to the fact that the leadership is so receptive,” she said.

And the pastor readily shares credit with the entire staff. “There’s a high level of competence here. ... You give them the ball and they run with it,” he said.



Advocate photo- Lisa Haddock

A view from the balcony of the interior of St. Anastasia Church.

Father O’Neill, who was ordained in 1969. Sister Egan operates a community center and chapel. “Elizabeth is our first volunteer. We hope to send a team [from Carmelite parishes in the area] to that same place in August.”

Helping folks closer to home, the church runs a food pantry and a visitation program for parish shut-ins. Under the auspices of the Interreligious Fellowship for the Homeless of Bergen County, parishioners donate time at the homeless shelter run by St. Cecilia, a Carmelite parish in Englewood.

The parish also serves 225 children through its religious education program, run by Sister Adrienne Bradley, S.S.J.

Forty-five volunteers, including parents and teens, “come forth very readily to assist with the religious education of the children,” said Sister Bradley, who holds master’s degrees in religious edu-

parish, numerous Protestant churches, a Baha’i congregation and a mosque.

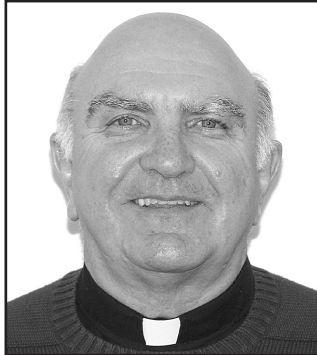
“It’s all part of the richness of the town. We chose to live here, and we get along with everybody,” said Father O’Neill. “The secret here is the town of Teaneck ... which has an open, liberal image. People who come to Teaneck come for that reason. The people who are still here are happy with that. That’s part of why it works here. And this church has been a part of all that.”

St. Anastasia mirrors that diversity. Its membership is a mixture of Latinos, Asians (mainly Filipinos), African-Americans, and whites.

“Every Mass you go to ... you look around the church, and you see someone who looks like you and someone who looks different,” Father O’Neill said.

Sister Bradley added, “It’s a

## Meet the Pastor



Fr. Daniel O’Neill

**Age:** 61  
**Date of Birth:** Sept. 11, 1943  
**High School:** Carmelite Seminary, Hamilton, Mass.  
**College/Seminary/Graduate School:** Mount Carmel College, Niagara Falls, Ont.; Washington Theological Coalition (now Washington Theological Union), Washington, DC; M.A. in English, Notre Dame University, South Bend, IN; counseling certificate, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles; D. Min., St. Mary of the Lake Mundelein Seminary, Chicago.  
**Heroes:** The Carmelites of my childhood parish, St. Cecilia’s Church, Englewood  
**Favorite Saint:** Bl. Titus Brandsma, O. Carm.  
**Favorite Sport:** Football  
**Favorite Food:** Italian  
**Favorite Subject in School:** English  
**Favorite Movie:** *The Mission*  
**Last Book Read:** *Gilead: A Novel* by Marilynne Robinson  
**Proudest Moment:** Being founding pastor of St. Gelasius Church, an African-American parish in Chicago  
**Occupation If I Weren’t a Priest:** English teacher

Ask Father O’Neill about any aspect of parish life, and he’ll say he’s pleased about the way that the parishioners are fulfilling their mission as followers of Christ. The religious education and youth programs, music director and choir, children’s liturgies, theology reading club, Cornerstone retreats, outreach to the elderly—all of these ministries delight him.

“The gifts that this congregation possesses are phenomenal,” he said.

“This parish is a piece of cake. ... I love it,” he said.

*St. Anastasia is located at 1095 Teaneck Rd.*



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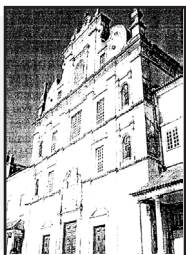
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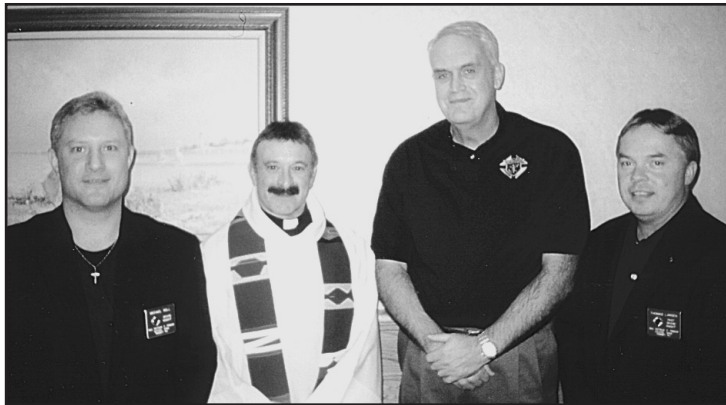


photo- Michael Adams

Left to right, Grand Knight Michael Roll; Father James Manos, moderator of the altar servers; Stephen Adams, youth activities chairman, and Thomas Larsen, immediate past Grand Knight.

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**Knights honor altar servers**

The Father Patrick Pindar Council 3962, Ramsey Knights of Columbus recently hosted an altar servers recognition ceremony and Italian dinner, at the council hall.

Sixty altar servers and their parents attended a special Mass, celebrated by Father James Manos, parochial vicar of St. Paul Parish and moderator of the altar servers.

"The parish is very blessed to have such a vibrant group of young people willing to serve their Church," Father Manos noted. "I would like to bless and distribute Rosary rings to all of the servers."

In addition to the Rosary rings, each altar server received a certificate from the Knights.

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# The Catholic experience of marriage explored

BY LIESL FORES

Staff Writer

Communication and intimacy are the hallmarks of Worldwide Marriage Encounter.

The organization is spreading its mission "of renewal in the Church and change in the world ... to assist couples and priests to live fully intimate and responsible relationships by providing them with a Catholic 'experience' and ongoing community support for such a lifestyle"—one couple and one priest at a time.

Marriage Encounter weekends allow married couples to take a break from their daily responsibilities to focus on their relationship with each other and with God.

Started in Spain in the 1950's by Father Gabriel Calvo as a series of conferences for married couples to learn how to better express themselves to each other, the movement was brought to the United States in 1967 and was hugely successful.

Today, it has sites in practically every U.S. state as well as in over 90 countries on almost every continent; it is held in numerous lan-



Presenting team members for Marriage Encounter in the Newark area, from left to right, Katie and Mike D'Agui, Msgr. Frank Houghton, Ela and Jan (in back) Ziobro, and Kathy and Mario Parker.

guages and welcomes other denominations too.

The weekends are comprised of approximately 15 talks, from Friday night to Sunday afternoon, given by a team of one priest and three married couples. The presentations, given alternately by team members, address issues of relationships, the Church and the idea of marriage as a sacrament.

After each presentation, a question is proposed. Participants go off independently to reflect and

write about the topic, then come together to discuss their responses with one another as a couple. This is called a "dialogue."

Each presentation and follow up question/reflection period is an opportunity for individuals to contemplate their own feelings, beliefs and perspectives, then as a couple consider their relationship, in light of personal sentiments. Finally, they reflect on their relationship with God and the world around them.

Jan and Ela Ziobro, part of the ecclesial team for the Newark area, along with Msgr. Frank Houghton, and weekend presenters, had their first Marriage Encounter weekend in 1997.

"It meant a lot to us—it changed our lives," said Mr. Ziobro.

"Couples getting in touch with feelings...and understanding each other's feelings is a key concept," he stressed.

Learning about why one's

spouse feels a particular way about a given subject and then looking at the behavior—which carries over into family, community, etc.—that stems from these emotions and attitudes, says Mrs. Ziobro, helps couples know and understand each other better.

"You learn about each other, but you also learn about yourself," she said.

"[Couples] are going to rediscover each other. ... They will learn how to cherish each other, not to take each other for granted," she asserted.

Msgr. Houghton, Newark area coordinator and presenter, remarked, "The primary focus in the weekend's presentations is to help people build on the relationship they have. ... People are first partners in marriage before they are parents. If they don't keep a strong relationship between the two, everything else is affected."

Understanding that "there's nothing they can't talk to one another about" is crucial, he continued, noting that this helps engender a "growth in trust."

Continued on Page 14



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(L-R) Kevin P. Frey, General Chairman, Monsignor John J. Gilchrist, 2005 Grand Marshal, Sister Eileen Bradshaw, S.C., 2005 Deputy Grand Marshal.

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Marriage

Continued from Page 13

He also pointed out that couples learn so much about each other on the weekend, which helps foster a deeper, more meaningful intimacy.

Besides improving an individual relationship, Msgr. Houghton explains, the long-term hope is that the couple's good example will extend to their children and

family. In turn, the family reaches out to the community and beyond.

Interestingly, Marriage Encounter is not just for married couples. It is also geared towards priests and Religious, whose entire ministry, almost always and regardless of their particular niche, is based on relationships with people.

Father Mitch Walters, J.C.L., Marriage Encounter leader for Section Three (New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and

eastern Maryland), has been involved in the movement for 12 years. He and a married couple make up the ecclesial team for the section. He also served as the Newark area coordinator before taking his current position and is a member of the weekend presenting teams in the archdiocese.

Father Walters, who was serving on the Metropolitan Tribunal, the Church body that reviews and rules on marriage annulment cases, became involved in the

monthly Marriage Encounter meetings at his parish of Sacred Heart, Haworth.

After being transferred to another parish, he felt the need for a "reawakening" to his vocation, he recalls, and decided to experience a Marriage Encounter weekend.

"The people of God in the parish are my spouse," he asserted, and as such, he says, he must be attentive to them and nurture the relationship.

"It's tough being a priest ... so

it's really important to be in love with your ministry—that's what Marriage Encounter does. ... And it gets you in touch with people who can love you back—the affirmation priests get back is just amazing," Father Walters said.

Msgr. Houghton agrees. "Our life is as relational as people in a marriage. ... [We are] engaged in our ministry," he said.

On the weekends, he explained, the priest shares his experiences, while learning about the responsibilities and obligations of married couples.

Msgr. Houghton, who has been involved in Marriage Encounter since 1987, was the priest member of the presenting team on Father Walters' first weekend. When asked what was the most important thing all people could take away with them for the weekend, both answered resoundingly, "Communication!"

"You can always improve communication, keep growing, and be more aware," Msgr. Houghton concluded.

There are three more Marriage Encounter weekends scheduled in the Archdiocese of Newark for 2005: April 8-10, July 15-17 and Oct. 7-9. For information or to register call (800) 823-5693 or (973) 857-8184.

Obituary

Sister Florence Carroll, S.C., 99

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Jan. 26 for Sister Florence Catherine Carroll, S.C., 99, who died Jan. 23.

Sister Florence entered the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth in 1928. She received a B.S. from the College of Saint Elizabeth, Convent Station.

During her 76 years of ministry, her assignments in the Archdiocese of Newark included teaching at St. Aloysius School, Jersey City 1929-1953; Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, Tenafly, 1953-1955, and St. Mary of the Assumption School, Elizabeth, 1955-1977. She was also chapel sacristan at St. Elizabeth Hospital (now Trinitas Hospital), Elizabeth, 1977-1979. She retired to Saint Anne Villa, Convent Station, in 1993.

Pray for them

**Grace DiMarzio**, mother of Most Rev. Nicholas A. DiMarzio, Bishop of the Brooklyn Diocese, died Feb. 16.

**Patricia R. Baron**, mother of Father John Baron, director of campus ministry, died Feb. 20.

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photo by REUTERS/Aiko Datta, courtesy www.alertnet.org

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Immaculate Conception Parish, Mahwah, will hold its annual grand celebration of St. Patrick on Saturday, March 12, 7 p.m. at 900 Darlington Ave., Mahwah. Among those performing will be the Early-McLaughlin School of Irish Dance which includes, left to right, front row, Mary Kate Hall, Roisin Mackrell and Colleen Egan. Second row: Walker Larson and Conor Hurley. Third row: Patti Mackrell, Maeve Egan, Ryan Feeney, Ciara Mackrell, Victoria Greenan, Brendan Hall, Shannon Hall and Briege Mackrell. Back row, Chris Conway (musician) and Father M. Christen Beirne, pastor. For tickets or additional information call (201) 327-1276 or (201) 512-0248 or email to [icc@intac.com](mailto:icc@intac.com).

## County parades planned

St. Patrick's Day parades have been scheduled in Union and Hudson counties.

The ninth annual Union County parade, with a family theme, will take place on Saturday, March 12.

The day begins with Mass at 9 a.m. at St. Patrick's Church, Court Street, Elizabeth.

At noon the grandstand events begin at the intersection of Morris and Stuyvesant avenues in Union Center.

Starting time for the parade is 1 p.m. on Morris Avenue.

Those planning to attend can

reach the area by using exit 140 on the Garden State Parkway. Parking, available for all events, can be found in the township parking lot across from the Masonic Lodge on Morris Avenue.

For additional information go to [www.unioncountystpatrickss-dayparade.com](http://www.unioncountystpatrickss-dayparade.com).

The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Hudson County will attend their annual Mass for Peace in Northern Ireland prior to the annual parade on Sunday, March 13.

Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. at St. Aedan's Parish, 800 Bergen Ave.

## Contest deadline extended

The Society of African Missions (SMA), an international Catholic missionary organization with headquarters in Tenafly, has extended until March 14 the deadline for entries in worldwide contest to select a new international logo.

Artists and interested people of all ages may enter. The logo contest is one of many events slated to celebrate the society's 150th anniversary in 2006.

Linda Telesco, a spokeswoman for the SMA International Media Commission, creators of the competition, added. "A logo should vividly communicate to the world the mission and spirit of an organization. A contest like this is typical of the visionary quality of SMA," Telesco said.

"Our new logo should celebrate that we are international and unified," she explained.

The grand prize winner will receive a trip to Lyon, France, where SMA was founded. The

new logo will be officially adopted at the anniversary celebrations there in June 2006.

United States contestants should send their design entries to the American Province Headquarters in New Jersey where a panel will choose three semifinalists.

Semifinalists will each receive a \$200 cash prize and certificate of honor. Their designs will be forwarded to the International SMA Logo Contest Jury in Rome which will select 10 finalists from the semi-finalists submitted by SMA branches around the world.

The grand prize winning design will be announced in May 2005.

For complete contest rules and information about SMA visit [www.smafathers.org](http://www.smafathers.org) or send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: SMA Logo Contest, 23 Bliss Avenue, Tenafly, New Jersey, 07670. Inquiries may be directed to: [logo@smafathers.org](mailto:logo@smafathers.org).

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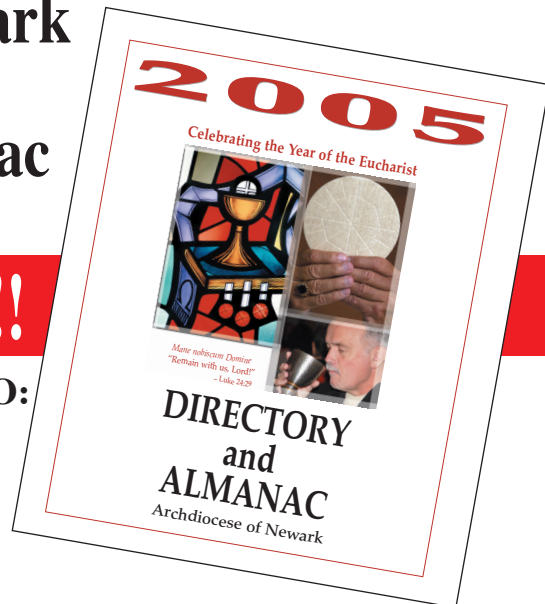
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Students at St. Agnes School, Clark, and Our Lady of Peace School, New Providence, have reached out to the troops in Iraq. In the bottom photo, youngsters from the aftercare program in Grades 1 through 5 at St. Agnes School, made and sent some 45 Valentine Day cards to a Navy Reserve unit. At Our Lady of Peace School, top photo, sixth grade CCD students took part in a My Soldier program sponsored by Manhattanville College. Each student "adopted" a soldier sending him or her an introductory letter, socks, lip balm and snacks. Each soldier also received a baseball cap with My Soldier printed on it and signed by the student. Each student is also wearing a red bracelet. Taking part are, left to right, bottom row, Scott Lessing, Daniel Chiera, Kaitlyn Cresencia and Lindsey Pavero. In the top row are Sal Liberto, Thomas Fontana, Patrick O'Meara, Jack Shannon, Rikki Arale and Corinne Fluta.



## 'Student for a Day'

High school seniors can spend a day at Felician College and participate in college life with the help of a student ambassador during a Student for a Day program March 16.

Sponsored by the office of admissions, prospective students will tour both the Lodi and Rutherford campuses, attend college classes, meet professors and visit a dormitory.

Students have the option to stay overnight in one of the residence halls with a Felician College student host.

After a 9 a.m. check-in and registration at the Lodi campus, prospective students will meet their student ambassador and tour guide.

They will then be able to talk to faculty members from their program of interest and experience and participate in a college-level class.

There will also be a walking tour of the Lodi and Rutherford campuses and a complimentary lunch.

To make a reservation call the office of admissions at (201) 559-6131 or visit [www.felician.edu](http://www.felician.edu).

## College plans open house

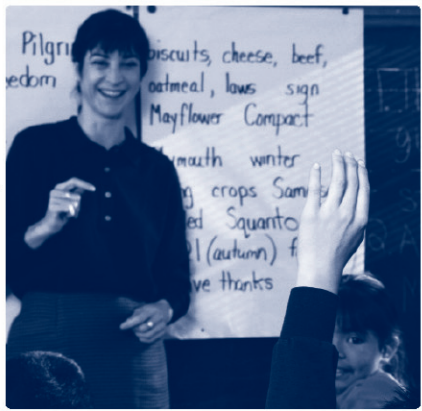
Bloomfield College will host an open house for high school juniors and seniors on Saturday, March 5 at 9 a.m. in the Robert V. Van Fossan Theatre. The theatre is part of the Westminster Arts Center, corner of Franklin and Fremont streets.

The open house will include campus tours and an opportunity to meet with representatives from academic divisions, support services, and the office of financial aid.

Instant admission decisions will be made if students bring a completed application, SAT scores, transcript, essay, and letter of recommendation.

A continental breakfast will be offered from 8:30 to 9:15 a.m., lunch will be provided from noon to 1 p.m.

For more information or to reserve a place, email [admission@bloomfield.edu](mailto:admission@bloomfield.edu) or call 973-748-9000, ext. 230 or 1-800-848-4555.



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Advocate photo Greg Tobin

Hudson Catholic High School, Jersey City, conducted by the De LaSalle Christian Brothers, will have a new president-principal in September. Shown here at the faculty meeting to announce the appointment are, left to right, Brother Timothy Ahern, F.S.C., current principal; Paul E. Ward, Ed.D., incoming president-principal, and Brother Patrick Cassidy, F.S.C., who will become associate principal.

## New president-principal named at Hudson Catholic

Paul E. Ward, Ed. D., has been named president-principal of Hudson Catholic Regional High School, Jersey City.

Dr. Ward, who assumes the post July 1, will direct the financial, facilities management, alumni development, admissions, public relations and overall school mission facets of the 40-year-old high school for young men.

He currently serves as deputy superintendent of schools in the Archdiocese of New York.

The post of president-principal is a new position. It was announced late last year that Hudson Catholic would restructure its administrative management plan to reflect the changing and more complex educational and fiscal needs of Catholic secondary education in the 21st century.

In this model, the associate principal serves as the chief operating officer (COO) of a business, responsible for the day-to-day operations of a school. The president-principal, by comparison, acts much like a corporate chief executive officer (CEO).

In commenting on the appointment Brother James Butler, F.S.C., assistant provincial and director of education of the Baltimore province of the De LaSalle Christian Brothers, said: "Dr. Ward brings to this position a lifetime commitment to Catholic education. He is particularly strong in the areas of facilities, personnel and financial management, and demonstrates genuine energy and love for urban education and Catholic schools.

His early years of teaching at Paramus Catholic provide a certain familiarity with Lasallian

schools," Brother Butler continued, "and I was particularly impressed with how compatible his personal philosophy of education is with that of the Brothers and our partners."

Dr. Ward brings to Hudson Catholic some 30 years of experience in Catholic education as both a teacher and administrator.

During the last two years, he developed and managed the Safe Environment Program of the Archdiocese of New York, which included instituting a code of conduct, background screening, and sexual abuse awareness training for all staff and volunteers in archdiocesan programs and parishes.

Of his appointment, Dr. Ward said, "I think the operating model that Hudson

Catholic is adopting for the future makes sense in today's educational environment because we ask principals to do so much.

"Years ago, a principal could concern him or herself primarily with supervising the academic elements of the school, the teachers and the curriculum.

"Today," he continued, "the challenge is to find new clients for the schools and to ensure that the school itself is financially and physically capable of meeting the desires and demands for quality."

Paul Ward holds a doctorate in educational administration and supervision from Seton Hall University.

He earned a master of science degree in industrial labor relations through a joint program of Baruch College, CUNY and Cornell University, a master of arts in History at Hunter College, CUNY, and a bachelor of arts in history from St. John's University.

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# Celtic theme is featured

Retreat director, singer and recording artist Carmel Boyle of Ireland will present an evening and day program at the Shrine of St. Joseph, Stirling.

“Journeying Home: A Celtic Pilgrimage” will be presented March 6, 7:30 p.m. in the shrine chapel. Through prayer and song, Boyle will offer a reflective evening on the symbolic pilgrimage of the heart. Suggested donation \$10. No reservations required.

“Journey To Wholeness: Celtic Spirituality: Keeper of the Flame” will be offered on March 8 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the shrine auditorium. Inspired by the songs and stories of St. Brigid and St. Patrick, Boyle will guide participants to experience the healing power within. Suggested donation \$30 (lunch included). Reservations required.

Carmel Boyle is a co-founder of An Croi Retreat Center in Meath, Ireland. She is a singer, songwriter and recording artist of sacred and inspirational songs.

# Pope’s blessing

Continued from Page 1  
ered outside the Gemelli hospital to support the pope with their presence and prayer.

“Once again I address you from the Agostino Gemelli Polyclinic. I thank you with affection and feel that you are by my side spiritually,” said the pope in the message read by Archbishop Sandri.

“I think of you, those who are gathered in St. Peter’s Square, whether individually or in groups, and of all those in all parts of the world who are concerned about me. I ask you to continue to support me with your prayer,” he added.

In his message, the Holy Father said: “The penitential climate of Lent that we are living, helps us to understand even better the value of suffering which, in one way or another, affects us all.

“Looking at Christ and following Him with patient confidence, we are able to understand how all forms of human suffering bear within them a divine promise of salvation and joy.”

The pope’s address concluded with his renewed “devotion to Mary, Mother of the Church: ‘Totus tuus!’ May she help us at all moments of life to fulfill the will of God. May my paternal blessing reach everyone.”

Totus tuus, “all yours” in Latin, is the motto of the papal coat of arms with which John Paul II entrusted his pontificate to the Virgin Mary. They were among the first words he wrote after his surgery last Thursday.

After reading the message on the pope’s behalf, Archbishop Sandri imparted a blessing. Pilgrims were beginning to leave when all of a sudden the Holy Father’s white figure, seated in a wheelchair, appeared on large screens in St. Peter’s Square.

The Holy Father was re-hospitalized Thursday and had a tracheotomy to relieve respiratory problems caused by the flu, which sent him to the hospital for the first 10 days of February.

Vatican spokesman Joaquín Navarro Valls said the pope is recovering normally from his surgery. He is eating and breathing on his own, but will not be able to speak for some time.

# School plan

Continued from Page 1  
came to the conclusion that they could fulfill the mission of providing a faith-based education more affordably and effectively by combining their education ministries into a single school building in their respective area.”

All changes will take effect for the 2005-06 school year.

“We view these changes very positively for the children and their families.”  
—Sister Dominica

In Bergen County, students from Epiphany School, Cliffside Park will join Christ the Teacher Interparochial School, Fort Lee. The pastors felt that Christ the Teacher, which has served effectively as a co-sponsored school for three parishes for more than 13 years, was the appropriate location because of the proximity of the communities.

The school will be co-spon-

sored by Epiphany, Cliffside Park, Madonna and Holy Trinity, both in Fort Lee, and Holy Rosary, Edgewater.

In the Ironbound, Newark, Essex County, three neighboring schools—St. Lucy Filippini Academy, St. Casimir Academy and the Academy of St. Benedict—will form a new school, Ironbound Catholic Academy, to be located at the site of St. Casimir.

All eight parishes in the Ironbound will provide financial support for this new school.

In Union City, Hudson County, St. Anthony and Mother Seton Parochial will form a new co-sponsored school to be called Mother Seton Interparochial, and will operate on the site of the current Mother Seton campus. St. Anthony and SS. Joseph and Michael Parishes will provide support to the new school.

Also in Hudson County, St. Patrick and Assumption/All Saints Schools, which have long been linked through a common pastorate of the two parishes, have chosen to concentrate education for both parishes at the St. Patrick site and with that name.

“We view these changes very positively for the children and their families,” Sister Dominica stated. “In each of these areas, the demand for Catholic education remains high, and both the parishes and the archdiocese feel we can provide both the financial support and the parish-centered education central to the mission of Catholic schools into the future.”

Despite this encouraging news about the future of Catholic education in the archdiocese, one elementary school in Newark, Our Lady of Good Counsel, announced to parents and parishioners this past week that it would close at the end of the current school year.

A recent survey of school parents indicated that only 77 students—roughly one-half of the current student body—were planning on returning to the school in September. Students whose parents wish to continue to provide a Catholic education for their children may seek a program at one of the neighboring Catholic schools.

The archdiocese was also advised recently that Bender Memorial Academy, Elizabeth, a private elementary school operated by the Benedictine Sisters of Elizabeth, would close at the end of the current school year. The community advised the archdiocese that it could no longer afford to maintain the school without significantly affecting the quality of education.

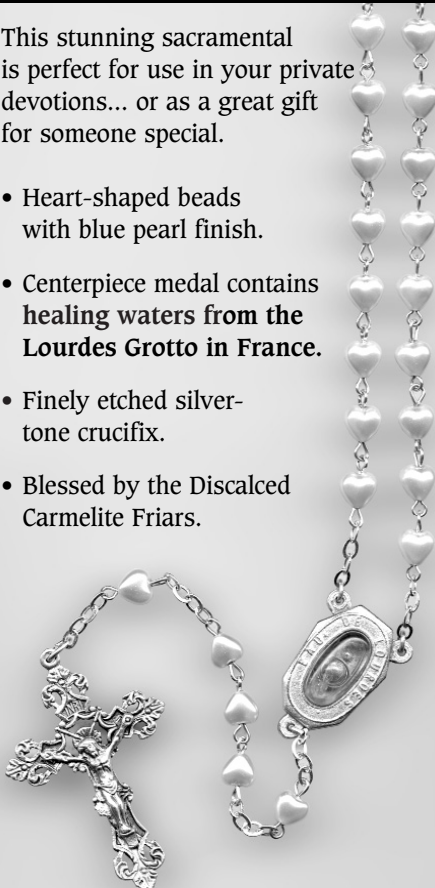
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# Story of the Apostle of Ireland, a man of prayer

In or about the year A.D. 390, in Roman Britain, there was born to a local public official and his wife a son whom they named Patricius. His father was also a deacon and his grandfather a priest.

Patrick led a privileged boyhood into his teens. Then at 16 he was kidnapped by a band of pirates, taken across the sea to Ireland and sold into slavery.

His master imposed upon him the task of tending to the cattle. The boy's nights on the Irish hills were cold and lonely, his days monotonous. He could have easily turned to self-pity and despair. Instead he went on a long internal journey, teaching himself to pray the agonizing hours away. Only a young man of deep faith could have borne the weight of such a cross.

In fact, he began to view his fate as a blessing. "This I know," he wrote in his old age, "that before this humiliation I was but a stone lying in the mire. Then Our Almighty Father came and lifted me up and raised me aloft to the top of the wall."

After six years of enslavement Patrick was told in a dream that he would soon return to his homeland. Not long afterward he escaped from bondage and found his way to a port on the southeast coast. There he implored some men about to set sail to Britain to take him with them. In due course he was reunited with his family. They found him a profoundly changed young man.

He soon felt a calling to the priesthood and embarked upon priestly studies, such as they were in those days. He longed to return to the land of his captivity whose people

knew not the Gospel and the one true God. He got his wish when he was sent as a missionary bishop to Ireland.

Patrick possessed a magnetic personality and simple eloquence. His homilies could reach the pagan mind and win it over to the truth of Christ. He went about from one end of the Emerald Isle to the other preaching the Gospel, converting souls, establishing churches and monasteries, consecrating bishops and ordaining priests. His pastoral love and concern for his ever-increasing flock was evident. And he in turn was beloved and admired by the people.

He was intensely spiritual. He was consumed with thoughts of Christ. On his breastplate was this invocation:

*Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me  
Christ on my right, Christ on my left  
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me  
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me*

He became a legend in his own lifetime. The Irish took Patrick to their hearts and followed to the letter his wise counsel.

All this activity notwithstanding, Patrick was able to develop an extraordinary prayer life for himself. In his "Confession," which was more of an autobiography, he

tells of saying hundreds of prayers by day and hundreds more by night. He cherished the simplest prayer of all—the Sign of the Cross—and made it about a thousand times each day. He also made fasting and penance an integral part of his daily spiritual regimen.

Patrick's devotion to Our Lord was total. He lived to toil in His vineyards in Ireland. Late in his life he yearned to see his family and homeland once more. But he would not leave. Lest in his absence some souls be lost to Mother Church.

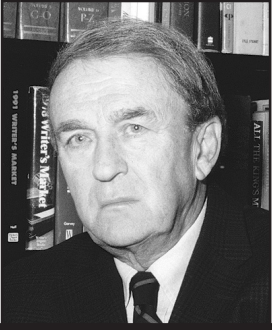
At the end of his days Caesar Augustus liked to boast: "I found Rome a city of brick and left it a city of marble." Patrick in his twilight would have been justified in claiming: "I found Ireland a land of pagans and left it a land of Christians."

Some historians say that Patrick died about 461 and was buried near the Fortress of Saul, in the vicinity of the future cathedral town of Down. His feast day is March 17.

*Frank J. Korn is an assistant professor of Classical Studies at Seton Hall University. His latest book is Hidden Rome (Paulist Press).*

## A View from History

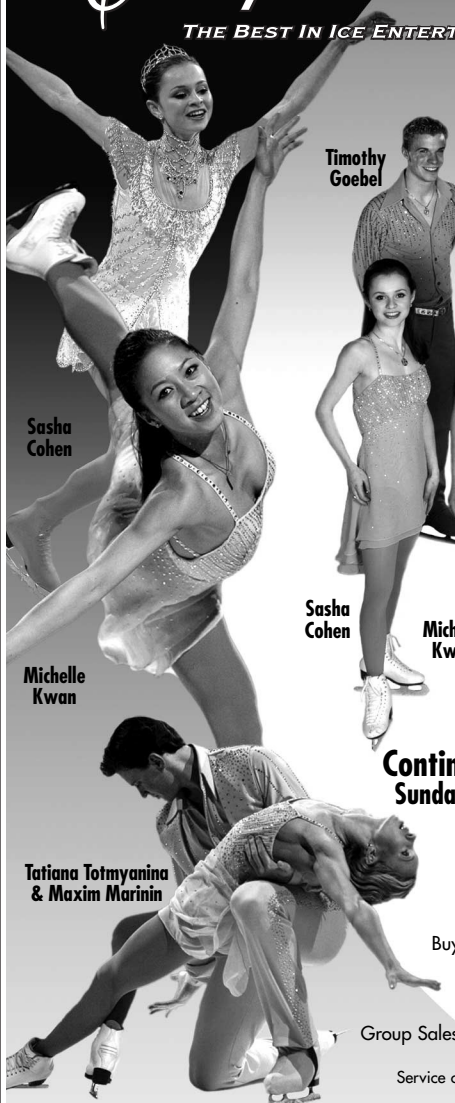
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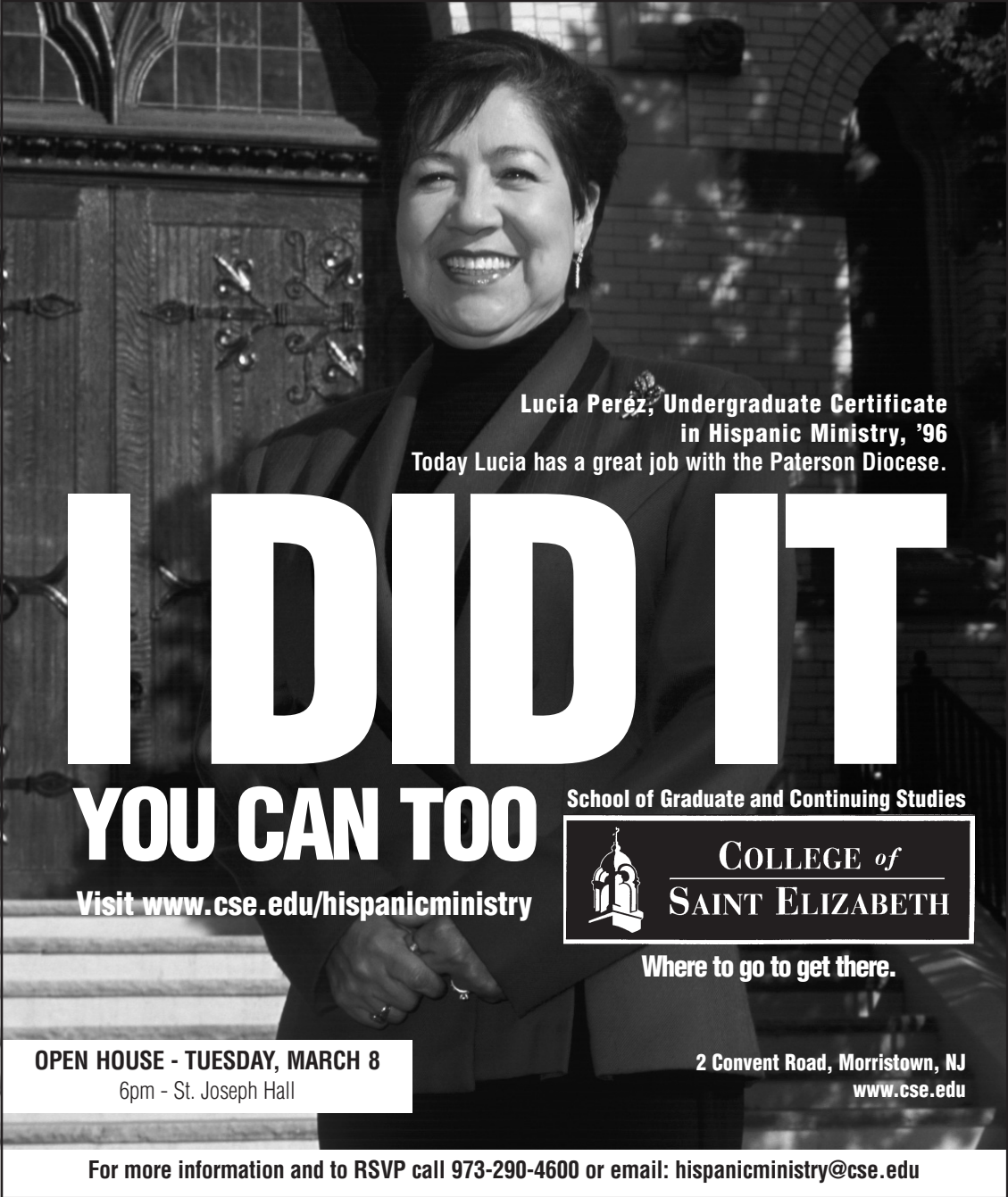
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**The Passion of Matthew:** March 20 (9:30am-1:30pm)  
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**Remember Me: A Seder Meal:** March 20 (4:00pm-7:30pm).  
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**The Sacred Triduum Retreat:** March 23-27.

**Sundays with Mary: Gifted by the Spirit:** April 24 (9:30am-1:30pm).  
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## Pilgrimage June 14-27

Father James J. Reilly, administrator of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Kearny, will be the spiritual director of a pilgrimage, which begins and ends in Germany and includes Austria and Switzerland. Dates are June 14-27.

Highlights of the itinerary include, in Germany, Munich; the Shrine of Our Lady of Alotting; and Salzburg for a visit to the chapel where "Silent Night" was written.

Next is Vienna, the capital of Austria. Also in Austria, stops include the Benedictine Abbey in Melk overlooking the Danube River; St. Stephen's Cathedral, Homburg, the Cistercian Abbey, Heiligenkreuz, and Benedictine Abbey Gottweig, St. Polen; and then on to Innsbruck, site of the two winter Olympic games. Another stop is the small principality of Liechtenstein.

In Switzerland, pilgrims will visit the Benedictine Abby and Shrine of Our Lady, Einsiedeln; Lucerne and Lake Lucerne.

The all-inclusive rate is \$3,195 based on a minimum of 22 pilgrims. There is a \$193 airline tax and security charge and \$400 supplemental charge for a single room.

To make a reservation, mail \$300 per person, payable to Catholic Travel Office, to 6909 Kearts Court, Rockville, MD, 20855. Call (301) 869-9700 or email [catholictravel@comcast.net](mailto:catholictravel@comcast.net).

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## Center offers Lenten programs

Xavier Retreat and Convention Center, Convent Station, has scheduled two Lenten programs.

On Saturday, March 5, from 1 to 5 p.m., "Women and the Questions of Lent" will be held in the center. The afternoon reflection will focus on the message that the Scriptures offer women. The cost is \$25 with a \$10 deposit.

A Lenten directed prayer retreat will take place March 7-9. It begins at 7 p.m. Cost is \$60 with a \$20 deposit.

To register or for additional information call (973) 290-5100 or email [XavierCenter@scnj.org](mailto:XavierCenter@scnj.org).

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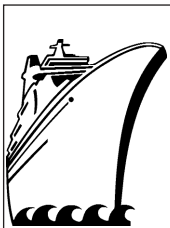
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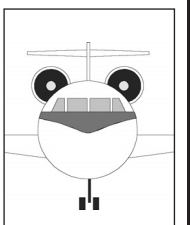
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# Archbishop to lead Poland pilgrimage

“In the Footsteps of John Paul II,” an 11-day spiritual journey to Poland led by Archbishop John J. Myers, will take place May 29-June 8.

Included in the travel package are round-trip flights from New York to Warsaw and Krakow to Newark, accommodations in four and five star hotels, two nights in Warsaw, one in Czestochowa, four in Krakow and two in Zakopane.

Highlights include Mass at the Church of St. Stanislaw Kostka, a visit to St. John’s Cathedral and the Polish Parliament, all in Warsaw.

Stops will be made at the icon of the Black Madonna in Czestochowa where Mass will be celebrated, the tomb of St. Faustina Kowalski, Mass at the Shrine of the Divine Mercy and a tour of the Basilica of the Divine Mercy, all in Krakow.

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

On the itinerary too is a stop in the village of Stawisza, hometown

of Father Miroslaw Krol, parochial vicar of Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish, Harrison.

Returning to Krakow, Mass will be celebrated in Wawel Cathedral where the Holy Father was ordained and celebrated his first Mass.

The \$2,695 price includes daily breakfast and dinner, all transfers, luggage handling, sightseeing, tour escorts and guided tours.

For additional information contact Teresa Frankiewicz at Doma Travel, (908) 862-7660 or email [teresa@domatravel.webmail.com](mailto:teresa@domatravel.webmail.com).

## Center plans spring programs

The Stella Maris Retreat Center, Elizabeth has several programs scheduled.

A Circle of Women’s Wisdom forum will take place the first Monday of the month from 7 to 9 p.m. through June.

The spring equinox will be celebrated March 19 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. On May 11 at 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., “Holiness in Later Life: A Different View,” a program for senior citizens, will take place.

“We are blessed to have the opportunity to share this peace-filled space with people of all faiths and cultures who seek holistic renewal in their daily lives,” notes Sister Ann Rutan, C.S.J.P., center director.

The center is located at 981 Ocean Ave. Call (732) 229-0602.

## Days of prayer for Lent set


Loyola Retreat House, run by the Jesuits, has scheduled days of prayer during Lent.

Both, part of the center’s Year of the Eucharist series, will be presented by staff members.

“What the Eucharist Means to Us” is the topic for March 8 followed on March 15 with “Sharing the Meal,” a film with a Eucharistic theme.

On both dates, morning prayer will take place from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Evening prayer will be from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

The Loyola Retreat House is located at 161 James St., Morristown. For additional information call (973) 539-0704.


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- Lenten Directed Prayer Retreat - Mar. 7-9, 2005
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- Labrynth - Mar. 22-24, 2005

For more information on upcoming programs please contact Xavier Center. PO Box 211, 2 Convent Road, Convent Station, NJ 07961  
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### ST. MARY’S ABBEY at DELBARTON

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(973) 538-3231, ext. 2036



**St. Patrick's Parade Mass for Peace in Ireland**

Holy Cross Church – Harrison, NJ  
Sunday, March 13th  
12 Noon Mass



**Homilist** - Msgr. John J. Gilchrist,  
Pastor, Holy Cross Church



Singing of Irish Songs 11:30 am • Flag Raising 11:45 am

"ALL ARE WELCOME"

**Pro-Life youth rally at SHU**

The Salesians of Don Bosco, South Orange, will host the second annual Pro-Life Youth Rally on March 4, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Seton Hall University.

The theme for this year's rally is "Be Prophets of Life, Love and Joy!" The goal of this year's program is to educate New Jersey youth on the true facts of chastity, Catholic beliefs on life issues and the importance of practicing one's faith.

The event will include skits presented by staff as well as Generation Life—a pro-life group made up of students, activists and professionals aimed at educating Catholic

youth and inspiring leadership.

Other highlights include the testimony of a post-abortion witness and live music performed by Crispin, a nationally recognized group that bills itself as "the Catholic funk band."

The keynote speaker for the event is Daniel diSilva, the lead singer of Crispin.

The rally will conclude with Mass at 1 p.m. Most Rev. Thomas A. Donato, Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, will preside, and Most Rev. Arthur J. Serratelli, Bishop of Paterson, will be the homilist.

Cost for the event is \$7 per person. For more information, contact Father Steve Ryan, S.D.B. or Elaine Alexander at (973) 761-0201 or visit pro-lifeyouthrally@yahoo.com

**'Journey' programs offered at shrine**

Retreat director, singer and recording artist Carmel Boyle of Ireland will present an evening and day program at the Shrine of St. Joseph, Stirling.

"Journeying Home: A Celtic Pilgrimage" will be presented March 6, 7:30 p.m. in the shrine chapel. Through prayer and song, Boyle will offer a reflective evening on the symbolic pilgrimage of the heart. Suggested donation \$10. No reservations required.

"Journey To Wholeness: Celtic Spirituality: Keeper of the Flame" will be offered on March 8 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the shrine auditorium. Inspired by the songs and stories of St. Brigid and St. Patrick, Boyle will guide participants to experience the healing power within. Suggested donation \$30, (lunch included). Reservations required.

Carmel Boyle is a co-founder of An Croi Retreat Center in Meath, Ireland. She is a singer, songwriter and recording artist of sacred and inspirational songs. Boyle is a native of Monasterboice, Ireland, and holds a bachelor's degree in theology and music. She gives retreats, concerts and missions at various centers in Ireland, England and the United States.

**Events scheduled at retreat house**

Loyola Retreat House, run by the Society of Jesus, has scheduled days of prayer during Lent.

Both, part of the center's Year of the Eucharist series, will be presented by staff members.

"What the Eucharist Means to Us" is the topic for March 8, followed on March 15 with *Sharing the Meal*, a film with a eucharistic theme.

On both dates, morning prayer will take place from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Evening prayer will be from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

The Loyola Retreat House is located at 161 James St., Morristown. For additional information call (973) 539-0704.

**Bulletins sought**

Parish bulletins are needed by *The Catholic Advocate*. The front cover rendition of church buildings will be used on the Around the Archdiocese page. Send a bulletin to P.O. Box 9500, 171 Clifton Avenue, Newark, NJ 07104.

## Greetings To All on St. Patrick's Day

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Bob Valiante



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**April 8-9-10, 2005**

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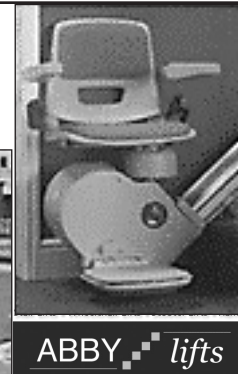
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**Holy Week Retreats**

**Directed Retreat**

March 20 – 27

**Sacred Triduum**

March 23 – 27

**Sisters Preached Retreats**

June 26 – July 2

July 12 – 18

July 25 – 31

Louis Sogliuzzo, SJ  
and Eileen Gatza

Ken Boller, SJ

Thomas Walsh, SJ

**Directed Retreats**

June 17 – 24; July 4 – 11; August 1 – 8

**Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius**

Contact: Louis Sogliuzzo, SJ

*For group information, please call our meeting coordinator.*



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UPCOMING SEMINARS

www.oxfordmedicare.com

<b>Union - Linden</b> March 9, 9:00 AM Colosseum Diner 1932 E. St. George's Ave. Cross St./Park St.	<b>Union - Union</b> March 25, 9:00 AM Huck Finn Diner 2431 Morris Ave. Cross St./Burnet Ave.	<b>Essex - Irvington</b> March 17, 9:00 AM Don's Diner 666 Nye Ave. Cross St./Union St.	<b>Essex - Newark</b> March 29, 9:00 AM IHOP 109 Bergen St. Cross St./South Orange Ave.
<b>Bergen - Westwood</b> March 8, 9:00 AM Seville Diner 289 Broadway Ave. Cross St./Jefferson St.	<b>Bergen - Fort Lee</b> March 16, 9:00 AM Red Oak Diner 2191 Fletcher Ave. Cross St./Bridge Plaza North	<b>Bergen - Fairlawn</b> March 24, 9:00 AM Land & Sea Diner 20-12 Fairlawn Ave. Cross St./Pollitt Dr.	<b>Bergen - Hackensack</b> March 29, 9:00 AM The Coach House Diner 55 Route 4 East Cross St./Hackensack Ave.



HELP WANTED



Diocese of Trenton

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Diocese of Trenton is seeking applications for the position of Director of Public Relations.

The successful candidate will act as primary spokesperson for diocesan offices with all media outlets, will cultivate media relations and actively promote positive news coverage. The Director will be responsible for news releases, development of communications strategies, and provide support to diocesan departments with communications/marketing campaigns.

The successful candidate will have a minimum of 10 years experience in public relations and a Bachelor's Degree in Communications or a related field. The candidate must have strong knowledge of the Catholic Church, excellent written and communications skills, and the ability to work on a variety of issues and be detail oriented.

No telephone calls will be accepted. Please submit your resume, including your salary requirements to:

Joseph Bianchi, SPHR  
Office of Administrative Services  
Diocese of Trenton  
PO Box 5147  
Trenton, NJ 08638-0147  
OR  
Fax to: 609.406.7450  
Email: jbianc@dioceseoftrenton.org

Education

PRINCIPAL

Blessed Sacrament School located in the South Ward of Newark, is conducting a search for a qualified individual to serve as Principal. BSS is a Middle States accredited K through 8th grade elementary school with a student population of 260 students.

Candidate's qualifications must include:

- A practicing Catholic
  - Masters degree in Supervision and Administration
  - NJ State Principal's Certification
  - Strong leader with effective communication and motivational skills
  - Creative, state of the art educator
  - Optimistic visionary dedicated to the future of our children
- Position effective July 2005. Please submit letter of application and resume to: Fr. Anselm Nwaorgu, 15 Van Ness Place, Newark, NJ 07108. Email: anwaorgu@yahoo.com

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**FEMALE-** looking for same to share 2 BR condo in Mahwah. Will have her own BR, walk-in closet & bath. \$700 incl. utilities, use of laundry room. Must be clean (no negotiation), mature, responsible and have professional demeanor. Leave message (201) 236-1017.

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973-509-7839  
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Ministry

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

For Immaculata High School. Plan & implement a development program for a Blue Ribbon Parish High School of 850+ students. Candidate must have prior exp. in development field w/successful record. Exc. interpersonal skills req. Candidate must be passionate about quality Catholic education & ready to devote self to the mission. Salary comm. w/skill & proven success in field of development. Benefits pkg. avail. Send resume by March 31, 2005 to: Immaculata High School. 240 Mountain Ave., Somerville, NJ 08876-1599. Attn: Search Committee or Fax (908) 725-6269.

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ORGANIST

Needed for weekend liturgies, weddings, funerals, and adult choir. Call Guardian Angel Church, Edison. (732) 985-7565.

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Part Time

YOUTH MINISTER

Saint Catharine Parish in Glen Rock, NJ is seeking a part time Youth Minister to serve High School Youth. Responsibilities include: weekly gatherings for spiritual and social events, retreats. The successful candidate must be a college graduate who is a practicing Roman Catholic, as well as, responsible and energetic. Part time salary. Submit resume and salary requirements to: St. Catharine Church, 905 South Maple Ave., Glen Rock, NJ 07452, Attention: YM Search.

Ministry

MUSIC MINISTER

For weekend liturgies at Sussex County parish. Organ or keyboard, choir direction. Salary commensurate with performance. Call (973) 764-4457.

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

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

C.O.

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.

C.O.

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NOVENA TO ST. JUDE

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

J.M.

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E.J.

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.

R.D.

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.

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K.K.

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E.P.M.

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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.

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J.M.

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E.D.

Your Novena  
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D.R.

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

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

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

**"Come and see,"**  
 He answered.  
 John 1:38-39

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## New publications explore priesthood and charity

### Alter Christus:

#### *St. Paul Speaks to Priests*

Msgr. John Gilchrist  
 (Notre Dame: Ave Maria Press, \$14.95. 288 pages)  
 ISBN: 1-59471-031-7

Drawing on the words of St. Paul and a lifetime of pastoral experience, author Msgr. John Gilchrist, pastor of Holy Cross Parish, Harrison, provides spiritual sustenance for priests of all ages and ministries as they live out their

### Covenant House, *Journey of a Faith-Based Charity*

Peter J. Wosh  
 (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, \$39.95, 296 pages)  
 ISBN 0-8122-3831-1

For more than 30 years, Covenant House has provided shelter and care for homeless youth as a faith-based social service organization.

Founded in 1968 by the

special calling. These personal and prayerful meditations touch on subjects that are at the heart of the daily life of a priest.

Among the chapters are: "A Call, Not a Profession," "The Priest as Total Giver," "Trying to Keep Our Focus," "Fidelity: On the Job Day by Day" and "The Priestly Heart."

The reflections treat the many practical questions priests face, such as preaching, justice, collaborating with the laity,

Father Bruce Ritter, Covenant House began its life as a modest ministry of availability to the poor in New York City, inspired by Franciscan traditions and by the expansive vision of Vatican II.

Suddenly and unexpectedly, the organization suffered a major scandal. Father Ritter faced charges involving sexual abuse and financial misconduct. The institution quickly became fodder for tabloid journalists and hovered on the edge of ruin. Wosh

celibacy and friendship.

Each meditation begins with the words of St. Paul—words that encourage, challenge and affirm priests to live their vocation each day.

Msgr. Gilchrist then offers a brief commentary on the text, sharing the wisdom he has gained in his ministry and exploring how to live the challenging call of the priesthood in today's Church.


Following each reflection there are a number of brief quotes from commentators on the priesthood, ranging from the Fathers of the Church to Pope John Paul II.

Msgr. Gilchrist is a columnist for *The Catholic Advocate*, and serves as a liaison to labor for the Archdiocese of Newark.

explores this question, along with a variety of other issues.

Drawing extensively on oral histories and rich archival collections, this meticulous and compelling work charts the path of Covenant House from its humble beginnings to its eventual reemergence as a strong and respectable charity.

Peter J. Wosh is Director of the Program in Archival Management, and a member of the Department of History, at New York University.



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Isabel Armendi brings the ball downcourt during the all-star game in Denver.

NBA photo

# An all-star shines in Tenaflly

BY WARD MIELE  
Managing Editor

Her principal, coach and classmates know Isabel Armendi is an outstanding basketball player, and now so does the entire country. Armendi, 12, a student at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, Tenaflly, is among only five girls nationwide to be named to the 2004-05 NBA/Jr. WNBA national team. A boys team was also selected. In all both national teams were chosen from among some 6,000,000 young athletes. Her talents and that of her teammates were on display last month in Denver when they took the court against a team of local all-stars as part of the 54th NBA

All-Star Game weekend program. Ron Kilmartin, who has coached Armendi since the third grade in the Northern Valley parochial League, calls his all-star guard “an excellent athlete.” She is a player, the coach goes on, who is “lightening quick, susrprisingly strong and just incredibly smart about the game of basketball.”

She is the kind of player, he adds, to whom you tell something once and never have to do so again. Her role model, the coach notes, is Michael Jordan. The national team was introduced to the soldout crowd and attended the NBA All-Star Game. Armendi arrived in Denver on Friday, Feb. 18. That evening the National Team attended an NBA welcoming party hosted by Commissioner David Stern.

The next day, following breakfast hosted by Hall of Famer Bob Lanier, the all-stars were introduced at an NBA All-Star Saturday Night program.

Game day, Sunday, Feb. 20, saw the girls meet in their exhibition game in the morning and then attend the NBA All-Star Game that evening. Every Jr.NBA/Jr. WNBA league director across the country

had the opportunity to nominate one of their athletes. An independent national selection committee, made up of Jr. NBA/Jr. WNBA officials, NBA and WNBA team representatives, national team sponsors and ESPN commentator and Hall of Famer Bill Walton, selected 30 finalists.

It was from that group the boys and girls national teams were selected.

“Fanastic” is how Coach Kilmartin describes his team’s reaction to the all-star in their midst. Armendi, he adds quickly and with emphasis, is “good in the classroom” noting she is on the principal’s list.

Fran Orefice, principal, calls Armendi “one of those students you hope for.” While saying she is an “excellent athlete,” Orefice stresses too Armendi “lives Christian Catholic values and excells academically.”

## Correction

The girls’ team that won last year’s February Frenzy basketball tournament, sponsored by Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, South Orange, published in the Feb. 16 issue, was from Good Shepherd Academy, Nutley.

## Pirate among soccer’s best

Seton Hall University sophomore Sacha Kljestan has been named to the NSCAA/Adidas Men’s Soccer Division I All-America first team. Kljestan is the first Pirate to earn All-America honors since Tom Houston was named to the second team in 1994. The last SHU player named to the first team was Hector Zamora in 1992. Kljestan earned several awards after an out-

standing sophomore campaign in which he helped SHU reach the Big East championship and the NCAA Tournament. The midfielder earned All-Big East first team honors after setting career-highs in points (21), goals (seven) and assists (seven). Kljestan tied for the lead in the Big East with five game-winning goals and ranked in the top 10 in every other major nationally offensive category. He was a preseason all-conference pick. Kljestan earned a spot on the NSCAA/Adidas Mid-Atlantic Region All-America first team. He was a second team selection in 2003. Kljestan was among three Big East players selected to the All-America teams.

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