



Advocate photo - Brian Fores

Daniel diSilva, lead singer of the "Catholic funk band" Crispin, was the keynote speaker at the 2nd Annual Pro-Life Youth Rally hosted by the Salesians of Don Bosco. Here, he leads some 700 teens from the Archdiocese of Newark and its neighboring dioceses in morning prayer. See the March 23 edition of *The Catholic Advocate* for full coverage.

Archbishop Myers issues new letter on evangelization

Most Rev. John J. Myers, Archbishop of Newark, has written a new pastoral letter on the subject of evangelization. Titled, "The Way, the Truth, and the Life," the new document is published for the first time in this issue of *The Catholic Advocate* on Pages 15-18.

"We must lead others to 'the way' by our personal example of a holy, joy-filled life in Christ," Archbishop Myers writes.

The pastoral letter will soon be available in pamphlet form, as well, for all pastors and faithful throughout the Archdiocese of Newark.

Holy Father continues to recover

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—It is hoped Pope John Paul II will return to the Vatican for Holy Week.

Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls made the announcement March 7 saying, "I think the pope will be here for Holy Week; it is still 13 days away."

A day earlier, the Holy Father spent several minutes at the window of his hospital room waving to and blessing enthusiastic crowds at Rome's Gemelli hospital and in St. Peter's Square.

The large screens in the Vatican piazza showed the 84-year-old pontiff, somewhat slumped in his wheeled throne, watching television as his delegate, Archbishop Leonardo Sandri, led the Sunday *Angelus* prayer at the Vatican.

John Paul's posture was more erect when the blinds on his hospital window were opened and he made the sign of the cross, blessing the hundreds of faithful who waited in the rain for a glimpse of him.

When the pope is back at the Vatican, he will decide how to

Continued on Page 11



Advocate photo - Greg Tobin

Archbishop John J. Myers addresses the participants at the first Hispanic Stewardship Day, held at the Archdiocesan Center, Newark. At left is Carla Gonzalez, executive director of development for the Archdiocese of Newark.

Historic event promotes Hispanic stewardship

Most Rev. John J. Myers welcomed more than 150 participants from the Archdiocese of Newark, as well as surrounding dioceses in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania, to the first Hispanic Stewardship Day, held at the Archdiocesan Center, Newark, Feb. 26.

In his remarks, delivered in Spanish, Archbishop Myers said, "The finest witness to the Christian life is consistency between our words and actions."

"It is so important for what we believe and speak to correspond to our actions that in the Letter of St. James we hear, 'Faith without good works is dead.'"

Most Rev. Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., Regional Bishop for Essex County, led the gathering in an opening prayer and participated in the day's activities, along with members of the archdiocesan Office of Development who organized the first-ever event of its kind.

Carla Gonzalez, executive director of development, introduced the featured speaker, José de Jesus from Lynch Development Associates, a Huntington, NY-based consulting firm that specializes in programs geared to the language and cultural needs of Hispanic Catholics.

Other speakers from archdiocesan ministries and agencies included Father José Montes de Oca,

Continued on Page 11

Immigrant family's plight resolved by Catholic Charities

BY LIESL FORES
 Staff Writer

To hope seemed futile for a married couple from Guatemala and Brazil without documentation that was about to be deported.

Having just lost a daughter to brain cancer, Baudilio Rojas and Maria Ramos were now fighting to stay in the United States—where they had lived for more than 10 years—in order to remain with their other daughter.

Were it not for a community banding together, a congressman reaching out, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark (CCAN) stepping in and the immigration courts cooperating—all quite an orchestrated feat—

Advocate photo - Roy Groething



Left to right, Geoffrey Scowcroft and Rex Chen, attorneys with CCAN Immigration Assistance Program, look at photos of Cesilia Ramos-Rojas with her parents, Baudilio Rojas and Maria Ramos.

Rojas and Ramos would have been deported, leaving behind 15-year-old American-born daughter Marina Oribes (Ramos' child from a previous relationship) in someone else's care or with the option to go to Brazil or Guatemala, which each parent left in the first place to make a better life.

But that didn't happen.

"It was a rare moment in time when everyone worked together," said Geoffrey Scowcroft, managing attorney of CCAN Immigration Assistance Program.

When Cesilia Ramos-Rojas fell ill, the town of Bound Brook and particularly Lafayette Elementary School, where the

Continued on Page 11

Consultants bring experience, local perspective to their project task

BY JOHN REID

Special to The Catholic Advocate

Archbishop John J. Myers appointed eight Newark-based consultants in September 2004 to work with parishes. These women and men—Mary Bertani, Zeni Fox, Father Richard Kelly, Jennifer Leitner, Diane Pew, Father Robert Tooman, Eugene Tozzi and Sister Elizabeth Vermaelen—work with the Seattle-based consultants, the Reid Group.

These consultants are responsible for helping leadership at the parish and cluster levels to be successful in the conversation and response phase of the New Energies project.

To gain their perspectives after four months of work on the project, we caught up with Mary Bertani and GeneTozzi to ask some important questions.

What parishes are you working with?

Mary: I'm working with the Elizabeth parishes, St. Hedwig, St. Adalbert and SS. Peter and Paul, as well as Sacred Heart, North Bergen and St. John, in Fairfield.

Gene: I have three Newark parishes, Queen of Angels, St. Ann and St. Rocco, as well as St. Joseph, East Orange and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Orange.

What background do you bring to your responsibilities as internal consultants for the New Energies Project?

Mary: I've been a pastoral minister at St. Peter for eight years and have 18 years experience in the Archdiocese of Newark. I was fortunate enough to work with Msgr. William Harms as the associate coordinator of the archdiocesan synod in 1994. Earlier, I worked in the Family Life Office dealing with loss and bereavement. I am a licensed family therapist with a degree from Seton Hall in marriage and family therapy. In 1987, I received an advanced diploma from Fordham in religious studies. I am married with a wonderful husband, Robert, and a married daughter, Andrea.

Gene: I have been the associate director for adult and family catechesis in the Catechetical Office for the past two and one-half years. Previously, I was a religious education director in New York and New Jersey for 28 years. In 1994, I received a doctorate degree from Fordham in

education administration and Church leadership. I live in New Rochelle, NY with my wife, Suellen. We have two grown sons.

What are some hoped-for outcomes for you personally as an internal consultant?

Gene: Two goals are to help the people on the cluster transition team express themselves and get on with the process; and to help keep parish leaders clarify their options and possibilities. My personal goal is to get to know some of these parishes better, particularly the Essex County faith communities.

Mary: That I would be able to use the skills, both spiritual and professional, that God has given me. I do a lot of work with loss and bereavement and I know that there is a resurrection experience that happens in painful change and transition. It gives me a tremendous satisfaction to be able to work with individuals or groups going through the process of loss and into new life.

What has been a highlight for you in your work on the New Energies project?

Gene: One highlight for me has been my role in facilitating the cluster transition team, 12 people, and full transition team, 40 people, discussing the recommended linkage of St. Rocco, Queen of Angels, and St. Ann. From the beginning the transition teams had real questions about the practicality of what was being proposed. Queen of Angels is a traditional African-American parish, while the other two parishes have a significant Hispanic presence. It took them a while to formulate a credible response. However, all three parishes worked well together and are close to presenting a consensus response to the executive committee.

Another highlight has been working with pastors and administrators like Father Josephat Kalima, administrator of St. Rocco, Father William Halbing, administrator of St. Ann, and Father James McConnell, pastor of Queen of Angels. All three leaders have made important contributions to the process. Father Josephat reminded us all, "You can merge the parishes legally in a week but it takes years to merge the communities if it's going to be done successfully. People are attached to a particular group and place and it

takes time for real change." The fear was that some people would drift away during the transition process.

Mary: What is very successful and encouraging is what happens when the pastors are present and cooperative with one another as pastors and honest with their people. This has been my experience in working with Sacred Heart and St. John parishes in North Bergen and Fairfield. The meetings that I have facilitated with this cluster have been very honest and open and this allows progress to happen. The two pastors, Father Anthony Robak from Sacred Heart and Father Michael Gubernat from St. John, have exercised real leadership in my opinion. All in all, the conversations have been very honest and open. I look forward to helping them formulate their initial response, due next month.

Another highlight for me is experiencing SS. Peter and Paul, a Lithuanian parish, and St. Adelbert, a Polish parish, moving closer together through the death in January of the pastor of SS. Peter and Paul, Father Alfred Zemeikis. The two groups came together for a meeting to discuss the executive committee's recommendations but it turned into a very respectful and loving witness to the life of this holy priest. A lot of progress was made that evening in my view.

What are one or two major challenges you have encountered?

Mary: To continue to maintain a level of trust with the teams with whom we work. The challenge for me is to be able to see the big picture even as people struggle through the immense difficulties facing them in giving up that which they know for something untried. Not all these parishes see the recommendations to link or merge as beneficial. One of the satisfying things is to witness the tremendous love that people have for their parishes and their priest. The challenge is helping them to see that the outcome of this process is that their faith will be stronger and the larger church will be stronger as a result. For most people, Church is the local parish. They really don't have the sense of diocese and the larger Church. The challenge is to be able to grow a little bit more into the sense of what it means to be the Church of Newark.

Gene: My experience has been that communication is sometimes an issue. Leadership of the pastors is key because a pastor can help his parish to accept something that might be difficult for them. On the other hand, a pastor can get his people riled up. So that's an ongoing challenge, I feel.

Stewardship

Church calls us to live as good stewards

BY DAVID OSBORNE

Director of Stewardship and Planned Giving

Perhaps there has never been an era as convoluted as the last century. The era was quite ironic since it had many and great opportunities for people to choose justice or injustice, mercy or cruelty, peace or chaos and life or death.

Many times in salvation history, God has revealed and better explained how we ought to live by choosing to love even in the face of great evil.

God's message revealed that we were created through a great act of love, and with His help, we have the ability to reproduce this love in this world.

For nearly 2,000 years, our world has experienced the fullness of the revelation that came through the incarnation of the Son of God; God is a divine family whose inner family life is sacrificial love. Although our first parents turned away from God and made us a family of sinners, God's love can redeem and sanctify us so that we can participate in the divine family life and help others to do so.

The Church has stood as witness to the power of God's sacrificial love that came through the death and resurrection

of Jesus Christ. Even though Jesus was murdered, His love was more powerful and concurred sin and death.

Nevertheless, it seems as if humanity has grown less responsive to God and the life of love He offers us. Too frequently, humanity chooses hatred and death, the opposites of love and life.

For example, it is estimated that more people died over the last century in war than through all previous wars combined.

The Nazis may have even murdered more than 6 million Jews and 3 million Christians under the guise of creating a "superior race" that would not have needed love. The Soviet Union may have murdered tens of millions under the guise of Communism during the last half-century, even though it was supposed to stand for the common good.

In addition, it is estimated that during the last thirty years, more than 1.5 billion babies worldwide may have been murdered through abortion under the guise of "health care," even though healthy love gives life. Since legalization of abortion in the United States,

more than 35 million babies were murdered in the land that stands of life, liberty, and happiness.

As part of the Church's mission, she has constantly taught that we cannot live a life of hatred. Our love must be strong enough to forgive and be inclusive to all people, born and unborn. In union with Jesus, we must love like him in order to transform a world that easily turns to cruelty and death.

Today, the Church calls us to live as good stewards, to cooperate with God in continuing Jesus' mission to transform this world. God wants us to be collaborators in the work of His Son, the work of creation, redemption, and sanctification.

The call to stewardship is an invitation to turn away from a self-centered life and to care more for the needs of others even in the midst of a culture that avoids making sacrifices.

Stewardship is the habit of choosing to use our resources to produce a spirit of religiosity in our daily life, a spirit that loves to live life and to help other lives life more fully.

Through the wise use of our time, talent, and money we can help bring justice, mercy, and peace into a secular world that is in great need of people heroic enough to give to someone else sacrificial love.



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Around the Archdiocese6
Editorials7
Commentary8
Faith & Spirituality9
Sports23
Classified28
Cultural News29

Pastors appointed
at two parishes

Archbishop John J. Myers has appointed two new pastors.

Father Jose C. Saltarin, parochial vicar of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Elizabeth, has been appointed pastor of St. Anne Parish, Jersey City, effective April 1.

Father Saltarin is a native of the Philippines. He studied at Holy Rosary minor and major seminaries, Naga City, Philippines, graduating with an A.B. in philosophy, 1963. He went on to study theology at St. Francis Seminary, Milwaukee, graduating in 1967. He was ordained in St. John Cathedral, Milwaukee, into the Archdiocese of Nueva Caceres, Philippines, on May 20, 1967.

He served as parochial vicar at the Cathedral Parish of St. John the Evangelist, Naga City, from Sept. 1967-May 1971. In 1971, he was appointed parochial vicar at Holy Cross Parish, Nabua, Camarines Sur, Philippines. In June 1973, he was named pastor of St. Paschal Baylon, Cabusao, Camarines Sur.

In Aug. 1980, Father Saltarin returned to United States, serving as adjunct clergy at St. Nicholas Parish, Jersey City, 1980-81. From July 1981-Sept. 1982, he studied German at St. Louis University. Returning to New Jersey, he served as adjunct clergy at St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Jersey City, Dec. 1982-June 1993.

In June 1993, he was appointed parochial vicar at Holy Spirit/Our Lady Help of Christians, East Orange. In June 1994, he was named parochial vicar at St. Nicholas Parish, Jersey City. In July 2003, he was named parochial vicar of St. Mary of the Assumption, Elizabeth.

Father Armando Palmieri, S.D.V., administrator of St. Nicholas Parish, Palisades Park, has been appointed pastor effective Feb. 22.

Father Palmieri is a native of Salerno, Italy. He entered the Vocationist Fathers in 1984. He studied theology at the Gregorian University, Rome, and graduated with an M.Div., 1998. He was ordained on Dec. 3, 1998, in Saint Antonino Parish, Altavilla Silentina, Salerno.

Father Palmieri came to United States in Jan. 1999, and in February was appointed parochial vicar at St. Nicholas Parish, Palisades Park. In Sept. 2000, he moved to the Vocationist residence in Florham Park, and was named religious superior and novice master. In Sept. 2003, he was named administrator of St. Nicholas Parish.

Stations of Cross

A living Stations of Cross will take place on Good Friday, March 25, 11 a.m., in Englewood.

Participants should assemble at the railroad station parking lot, Demarest and Dean streets. Those taking part will then proceed through town past the abortion clinic at 40 Engle St.

Organizers stress that this will be a peaceful and prayerful event. No one should bring any signs or posters.



IN CELEBRATION OF LIFE- Most Rev. Peter L. Gerety, Archbishop Emeritus of Newark, was the main celebrant for the fifth anniversary Mass of the chapel of perpetual adoration at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Mountainside. At the Mass, Archbishop Gerety was greeted by the Keogh family, whose quintuplets he and Archbishop John J. Myers baptized, in October 2001. Shown in the photo at right, are Kathleen, 6 (foreground); Susan, mother of the quintuplets, and Meaghan Claire, 3. In the photo at top, the children's choir performs during a musical interlude before the Mass.



Advocate photos-Brian Fores

Official Appointments

Archbishop John J. Myers has announced the following appointments:

Pastors

Reverend Thomas P. Lipnicki,
Pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish,
Oakland, has been appointed to a
second six-year term ending Sept. 1, 2010.

Reverend Armando Palmieri, S.D.V.,
Administrator of St. Nicholas Parish,
Palisades Park, has been appointed
pastor, effective Feb. 22.

Reverend Jose C. Saltarin,
Parochial Vicar at St. Mary of the Assumption
Parish, Elizabeth, has been appointed pastor of
St. Anne Parish, Jersey City, effective April 1.

Administrators

Reverend Ilario Crepaz,
Administrator of St. Anthony of Padua Parish,
Union City, has been granted an
extension, ending Sept. 25, 2006.

Reverend Charles B. McDermott,
Parochial Vicar St. Michael Parish, Union, has
been appointed administrator, effective April 1
through May 31.

Reverend Jaroslaw Zaniewski
has been appointed administrator of St.
Valentine Parish, Bloomfield, effective March 1.

Parochial Vicar

Reverend Peter Michota
has been appointed Parochial Vicar of Sacred
Heart Parish, Bloomfield, effective March 1.



Incardinations

Reverend Gerardo D. Gallo,
Parochial Vicar of Our Lady of Grace Parish
and St. Joseph Parish, Hoboken, has been
incardinated in the Archdiocese of Newark,
effective Feb. 11.

Reverend Philip F.A. Latronico,
Chaplain of the Community of God's Love,
Rutherford, has been incardinated in the
Archdiocese of Newark, effective Feb. 11.

Releases

Reverend Fernando Carranza
has been released from assignment in the
Archdiocese of Newark, for a period of five
years, to serve as Rector of Redemptoris
Mater Seminary in the Diocese of Dallas, TX
effective immediately.

Reverend Kevin Murphy,
faculty member of Seton Hall Preparatory
School, West Orange, has been released from
pastoral service in the Archdiocese of
Newark to begin ministry in the Diocese of
Venice, FL, for a period of three years,
effective March 19.

Instability of pope's health raises question

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The fluctuations of Pope John Paul II's health problems have prompted people inside and outside the Vatican to ponder the question: What happens if a pope becomes incapacitated?

No one is suggesting that Pope John Paul has reached that condition or is even close to it. He reportedly is making a good recovery from a tracheotomy and is expected to resume a modified schedule of activities within weeks.

But the Holy Father's latest health scare has reminded Church officials that canon law fails to spell out what procedures would be followed if a pope, for example, slips into a long or irreversible coma, or if he completely loses his ability to communicate.

The pope has a neurological illness believed to be Parkinson's disease, which progressively weakens patients and often leaves them disabled.

Canonists interviewed in Rome expressed concern at the situation, saying there is a serious gap between the Church's preparedness to deal with a disabled pontiff and the ability of modern medicine to keep people alive in a physically or mentally disabled state.

Those interviewed did not want to be named, however, because almost any statement on the topic now risks being seen at the Vatican as pressuring the pope to resign.

"It is a new situation and presents a serious dilemma, one that could have deep repercussions on Church governance," said one Church law expert.

Canon law speaks of "special laws" that should be followed when the Apostolic See becomes impeded or vacant. The laws for a vacant see (*sede vacante*), which spell out the papal election process, are well-known and were last revised by the pope in 1996, but no special laws for an "impeded" pope have ever been promulgated.

The reason, according to one canonist in Rome, is the difficulty in devising a process that can respond to concrete situations of mental or physical incapacity without being subject to political pressures.

"The key question is always: Who is going to decide that the pope is impeded or incapacitated, that he no longer has the faculties to govern? And that opens a whole series of practical problems," he said.

Some Church law experts

would say a pope is impeded when he can no longer communicate, either through speech or writing or in some other intelligible manner. That is a concern at the Holy See, because many Parkinson's patients eventually become completely unable to communicate or move.

The assumption by some canonists is that, if necessary, the College of Cardinals could meet and declare that a pope no longer has control of his faculties and is therefore impeded in his office.

But just the prospect of that kind of meeting, and the possibility of disagreement among cardinals, makes it unthinkable to some.

Also, it is far from clear who would run the Church if the Holy Father were declared impeded—especially in carrying out those duties reserved personally to the pontiff, like the appointment of bishops or the publication of important documents.

In the case of a pope who has gone into a long coma, cardinals would be hesitant to declare a pope impeded unless the coma were clearly irreversible, said one canon law expert.

There have long been rumors that Pope John Paul has left a letter with a trusted aide, perhaps instructing cardinals to consider him resigned in case of incapacity.

The problem with such a letter is that someone else would have to decide when to pull it out of the drawer and apply it, said one canon law expert at a Rome university.



Polish pilgrims wave their scarves as they pray for the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, outside Gemelli Hospital in Rome on March 1.

CNS photo

Church law states that a pope can resign, but it stipulates that papal resignation must be "made freely and properly manifested"—conditions that would be difficult to ascertain if a pope were already incapacitated.

Like the issue of papal incapacitation, resignation is such a sensitive issue at the Vatican right now that few Church officials will openly discuss it.

After Cardinal Angelo Sodano,

the Vatican secretary of state, answered a journalist's question about papal resignation by saying it must be left to the pope's conscience, he was privately criticized by others at the Vatican for even talking about the possibility.

With that in mind, the Church legal experts said it would probably be the next pontificate, not this one, that addresses the question of papal incapacity in a systematic way.

Dignity of mentally ill

LINCOLN, NE (CNS)—As their state was going through a major reform in behavioral health care, the Catholic bishops of Nebraska issued a joint statement affirming the human dignity of the mentally ill and those suffering from problems of substance abuse and addiction. "Mental illness, substance abuse disorders and other addiction problems are often stereotyped and stigmatized," they said in the statement, released Feb. 18 by the Nebraska Catholic Conference in Lincoln. The bishops urged Christians instead to "reach out in compassion to help those so afflicted." The bishops' 2,200-word statement is titled "Affirming the Dignity of the Mentally Ill."

Schiavo's fate is concern

CLEARWATER, FL (CNS)—With a March 18 court-imposed deadline for removal of the feeding tube that keeps Terri Schindler Schiavo alive, the Catholic bishops of Florida reiterated their plea that the brain-damaged Florida woman continue "to receive all

treatment and care that will be of benefit to her." In a Feb. 28 statement released by the Florida Catholic Conference, the eight bishops said they recognize that questions about her prognosis and her wishes persist, raising doubt about what she would truly want at this point in her life. "No longer able to speak on her own behalf, Mrs. Schiavo is a defenseless human being with inherent dignity, deserving of our respect, care and concern," the bishops said. "Her plight dramatizes one of the most critical questions we face: To be a truly human society, how should we care for those we may not be able to cure?"

Closings announced

ST. LOUIS (CNS)—The Archdiocese of St. Louis has announced a parish consolidation plan that will result in the closing of 24 parishes and 10 elementary schools. The closings follow an 18-month planning process that included consultation and several drafts of the plan from a committee of lay people and priests in two of the archdiocese's 10 deaneries.

Talks can build peace

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Interreligious dialogue can contribute to peace in the world, a Vatican official told a gathering at Georgetown University Feb. 28. Archbishop Michael L. Fitzgerald, president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, described concrete cases in different parts of the world where interreligious dialogue is in fact contributing to peace by calming tensions and promoting new understanding and mutual respect among people of different religions. He related the principles and practices of interreligious dialogue to the four "pillars of peace" outlined in Pope John XXIII's 1963 encyclical, *Pacem in Terris* (Peace on Earth).

U.N. official visits Rome

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Two top Vatican officials met the president of the U.N. General Assembly at the Vatican March 2. The secretary of state, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, and the Vatican's foreign minister, Archbishop

Giovanni Lajolo, met with Jean Ping, president of the 59th session of the U.N. General Assembly. Ping, who is also the foreign affairs minister of Gabon, came to the Vatican with Gabon's ambassador to the Holy See, Desire Koumba. The talks at the Vatican focused on "U.N. reforms," the "worrying" situations unfolding in some African nations and action being taken by the African Union.

'Bernadette' re-released

LOS ANGELES (CNS)—When you're 15 years old and just spent part of your sophomore year of high school in France making a movie in which you play the title character, it's only logical that your classmates back home in California will want to know all about it, and probably want to see it. Eighteen years later, Sydney Penny can finally tell her old classmates from Chaminade Preparatory School, Chatsworth, "Okay, you guys, here it is!" It was in 1987 that Penny—then the young star of a syndicated TV series—was recruited by French director Jean Delannoy to portray

St. Bernadette in a film about the life of the young woman who in 1858 witnessed apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Lourdes, France. The film, created to be a historically precise dramatization of the encounter, was praised by those who saw it for its sensitive yet powerful message. But most of "those who saw it" lived in France. Its U.S. distribution was virtually nonexistent—until recently, with DVD and VHS versions of *Bernadette* now available from Ignatius Press at www.ignatius.com.

Investigation of records

MERRIAM, Kan. (CNS) — The Catholic bishops of Kansas have welcomed an effort by the state's attorney general to investigate records of two abortion clinics for possible discovery and prosecution of criminal sexual acts against minors. The abortion clinics have appealed a court order to turn over certain records on patients that might provide evidence of sex crimes against girls under 16 or violations of legal limitations on late-term abortions.

Prisoners’ rights and dignity deemed vital

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While prisoners lose certain liberties, they must never be denied basic human rights or stripped of their dignity, said the head of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

Opening a two-day seminar on the human rights of prisoners, Cardinal Renato Martino, president of the council, told the audience that imprisonment “never separates one from the love of God” and, “therefore, never separates one from his human dignity.”

The March 1-2 international seminar attracted more than 80 prisoner advocates, scholars and chaplains from some 30 countries to discuss how the Church could play a larger role in promoting and protecting the rights of prisoners.

The justice and peace council organized the event with the International Commission of Catholic Prison Pastoral Care, which helps religious and laity provide spiritual care and assistance to the prison community.

In a written message, Pope John Paul II said he hoped seminar participants would help “affirm the due respect, permanent human dignity of the individual who has broken the law.”

Cardinal Martino said, “Unfortunately, there are situations of imprisonment and modes of detention in the world which are even ‘prejudicial,’ meaning they still have not provided the basic protection of a person’s rights.”

Some poorer countries or areas of conflict often do not provide prisoners their basic material

needs such as clean water, proper sanitation or nutritious food. But even prisons in wealthier, “developed countries experience concrete situations of severe hardship,” the cardinal said.

While some forms of torture and ill treatment may have been kept out of public discourse before, some governments are now talking about “permissible methods and nonpermissible methods” of extracting information from suspected terrorists, said Silvia Casale, president of the Council of Europe’s Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Casale said the way of thinking about the rights of terrorists changed after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on New York and Washington.

“If we start fighting violence with violence, then we have already lost the plot,” she said.

“Torture is actually a very unsafe way of protecting society, because under torture, people will say anything, and it’s not likely to be the truth, so it doesn’t actually solve the problem,” she said.

The more effective way to combat terrorism, Casale said, involves more costly and time-consuming measures such as long-term surveillance of suspects “to make sure what they’re doing doesn’t endanger the public.”

She said the Church can provide a counterbalance to the prevailing opinion that international human rights’ law does not apply to terrorist suspects.



ALLIANCE OF HOPE- Rabbi Arthur Schneier, left, president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation; Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, and Rabbi Yaakov Bleich, chief rabbi of Ukraine, greet each other during a recent meeting of Catholic and Jewish leaders. Called the World Symposium of Cardinals and Rabbis: An Alliance of Hope, the gathering was hosted by the World Jewish Congress in New York. Topics included how to combat genocide in Sudan.



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the Archdiocese of Newark will send you a check every quarter, or annually if you wish. The amount will be the same every time. While the economy may rise or recede, your check will remain the same.

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We hope to hear from you, and we trust that someday soon we will be able to send you an annuity check on a regular schedule ... for the rest of your life.

Please take a moment and let us hear from you. Complete and mail the handy response form below, or call Mr. DiPaola at (973) 497-4332, or email him at dipaolke@rcan.org.



Johnnette Benkovic



Fr. Bill Halbing



Bob Valiante



Dawn Kinsman

New Jersey Catholic Charismatic Conference

Follow The Spirit

April 8-9-10, 2005

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3-9-05

March 7

Christ the King Parish, Jersey City, three-day Healing Revival of Prayer, Hope and Thanksgiving with guest homilist, Father Robert Seay of New Orleans, through March 9, 7:30 p.m. (201) 333-4862.

March 9

St. Lawrence Parish, Weehawken, sung evening prayer service, March 9, 7:30 p.m. Sister Sandra DeMasi, S.S.J., archdiocesan director of Worship Office, speaker, (201) 863-6464.

March 13

Ascension Parish, New Milford, pancake breakfast. Cost \$6; children under three, free. 8 a.m.-noon. (201) 836-8961.

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

March 16

Holy Family Parish, Nutley, St. Lucy Filippini Sodality monthly meeting, 8 p.m., St. Joseph's Center. (973) 667-0026.

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Bloomfield, Healing Mass, 7:30 p.m. (973) 338-9190.

March 20

St. Philip the Apostle Parish, Saddle Brook, viewing of Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ*. Free. (201) 843-1888.

March 30

St. Philomena Parish, Livingston, Mass for couples wishing to conceive or adopt, 7 p.m., with speakers and literature. Call Chris, (973) 994-2523.

April 2

St. Mary Parish, Plainfield, "Mary's Thrifty Place," new or nearly new clothing, furniture and household items at low cost, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and 5-7:30 p.m. Sundays, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (908) 756-0085 or Joe, (908) 654-5208.

Local Highlights

Retreats

• Carmel Retreat, Mahwah, "The Passion of Matthew," 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., March 20. Cost \$25, includes lunch. From 4-7:30 p.m., "Remember Me: A Seder Meal," understanding Jewish roots of Catholic tradition. Cost \$35, includes dinner, or \$55 for both retreats. Call (201) 327-7090.

• St. Joseph of the Palisades Parish, Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel, 77th Street and Broadway, North Bergen, *The Way of the Cross* as composed by St. Alphonsus Liguori, Good Friday, March 25, 7 p.m.

• Rachel's Vinyard Retreat, March 18-20. Cost \$100 (includes retreat material, room and meals). Call Respect Life Office, Archdiocese of Newark, (732) 388-8211.

• Lumen Center, Caldwell, "Praying Hands," March 10, 6:30-9 p.m., Caldwell Dominican Motherhouse, 1 Ryerson Ave. Cost \$20. Presenter, Gerardine Mueller, O.P. Pre-registration required. Call (973) 403-3331, ext. 25 or email Lumencenter@Caldwellop.org.

Lecture

• Seton Hall University, South Orange, lecture and book-signing for Machiavelli's *The Prince* in a new translation by Professor William J. Connell, March 14, 4-6 p.m., Kozlowski Auditorium, followed by panel discussion. Free, reservations

encouraged. Call (973) 761-9005 or email hillcatr@shu.edu.

Pilgrimage

• To Shrine of Fatima, Lourdes, as well as Paris, Lisbon and Burgos, Spain, scheduled for Oct. 31-Nov. 11. Organized by Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Garfield. Cost \$1,799 per person/double occupancy. Call Father Joy Alappat, (973) 772-7889.

Blood Drive

• Columbus Hospital, Newark, in cooperation with New Jersey Blood Services, a blood drive March 22, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., in the hospital auditorium, 495 North 13th Street. Must be 17, bring Social Security number, and present a signed- or picture I.D. Participants—who are asked to eat a meal before donating blood—will receive a snack afterward. Call (800) 933-BLOOD to determine eligibility.

Singles

• Join Singlez/Amicus, an adult singles Catholic group ages 21-49, March 18 for Coffee Night. Meet at Starbucks, Ridgewood Ave., Ridgewood, 7:30 p.m. Call Tom, (973) 248-9245 before March 17. On March 20, Mass and brunch for Palm Sunday. Mass at St. Philip the Apostle Parish, Clifton, 10:30 a.m. Call Kathy, (201) 288-4187. March 26, Café Night, Panera Bread, Brentwood Shopping Center on Rt. 23 South, Wayne, 7:30 p.m. Call

Tom, (973) 248-9245 before March 25 or visit <http://www.singlez.org>.

Open House

• St. Mary School, Dumont, "Breakfast with the Bunny" and an open house for Pre-K programs, March 19, 9-11 a.m. Children will have photo opportunity with Easter Bunny. Cost \$5 for breakfast. Call (201) 384-0512.

Miscellaneous

• The Pegasus Production Company, Christian Brothers Academy, Lincoln, will present "Footloose," March 11 and 12, 8 p.m., Henderson Theatre on the Christian Brothers Academy campus. Cost \$12 adults; \$8 seniors, and \$6 children/students. Call (732) 758-1118.

• The Academy of the Holy Angels, Demarest, Math Honor Society Induction ceremony, March 15, 2:30 p.m.

• James Goodness, director of communications for the Archdiocese of Newark, will discuss the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, established two years ago by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Sunday, March 13 at the St. Aloysius Parish, Jersey City, communion breakfast. The event, sponsored by the Holy Name Society and Filipino-American Association, will run from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the school cafeteria. Requested donation is \$5 per person and \$12 per family.

Parish mission features local speakers

BY JULIE BURKEY

Special to The Catholic Advocate

A parish mission is a time of special grace and blessing. It is a time set aside, when all other activities lie fallow in the hopes of a greater harvest.

At St. Joseph Parish, Maplewood, the evenings of Feb. 27 to March 2 were reserved in the hopes of such a harvest of souls. The mission's theme, "Come and See: Four Steps to A More Meaningful Life," inspired by a book of similar title written by the Father David Knight, put forth a series of questions that called on attendees to reflect on how they live the Christian life as a Catholic people.

Father Michael Saporito,

pastor of St. Joseph, along with the pastoral staff, assembled a group of talented speakers from the Archdiocese of Newark to ask those questions and deliver the mission message.

Father Thomas Nydegger, vice-rector and director of formation at Immaculate Conception Seminary, preached at all the parish's weekend Masses, issuing the bold challenges that motivated people to brave the winter weather for four evenings.

Father Robert Stagg, pastor of St. James, Springfield, provided cause for further reflection with his talk, "What Gives Your Life Meaning?"

Dr. Dianne Traflet, associate

dean/assistant professor at Immaculate Conception Seminary, and co-director of the newly established Institute for Christian Spirituality, presented "What Difference Can One Person Make?" on the topic of Catholics' responsibility as stewards.

Msr. Robert Slipe, pastor of St. Peter the Apostle, River Edge, offered several concrete and heartfelt answers to the question, "What Does the 'Church' Have To Do With It?" And Father John Cryan, pastor of Our Lady of Mercy, Jersey City, closed the mission by explaining, "What Risks Are Worth Taking?"

"It was a very special time," commented Father Saporito, "not only to hear our talented speakers share their wisdom, but also to share a meal and comradery with those who minister so near to us."

He went on to say, "The mission was a wonderful experience for the people of the parish, but also for the pastoral staff, who came together in a unique way to share faith stories and reflect upon our ministries."

Novena to honor St. Joseph

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, West Orange, will holds its sixth annual novena in honor of St. Joseph from March 10-18.

The schedule of speakers includes: March 10, Father James Chern, parochial vicar, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish; March 11, Most Rev. Thomas Donato, Auxiliary Bishop of Newark; March 12, Father Joseph Petrillo, pastor, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish; March 13, Father Anthony Randazzo, parochial vicar, Notre Dame Parish, North Caldwell and adjunct professor, Seton Hall University; March 14, Alan Wright, author of *Silent Witnesses-Biblical Bystanders and their Stories* and a teacher at Union Catholic High School, Scotch Plains; March 15, Father Jurek Zaslon, parochial vicar,

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Bayonne; March 16, Diane M. Traflet, J.D., S.T.D., professor, Immaculate Conception Seminary; March 17, Linda English, pastoral associate, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Ridgewood, and March 18, Father Lawrence Fama, parochial vicar, St. Helen Parish, Westfield.

The novena will begin at 7:30 p.m. each day with the exception of Saturday when novena prayers will take place during the 5:30 p.m. Mass.

Following the Friday novena, participants can partake of a traditional St. Joseph's table for dessert and fellowship.

For additional information call the parish office (973) 325-0110 or go to www.lourdeswest-orange.com.



Father Michael Saporito, left, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Maplewood, with Msgr. Robert Slipe, one of the mission's presenters.

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.

School closings affect communities

Editor,

I was sorry to hear that declining enrollment and high costs are causing several Catholic schools to close, and others to merge. Yes, the merged schools will be stronger, but the closed schools are a loss, one in particular to me.

More than a decade ago, when I was in one of the top journalism programs, in New York City, I wrote a story about a visit to Our Lady of Good Counsel in Newark. It was my first exposure to elementary school since my actual attendance.

My professor for that class unfortunately did not have high expectations for these students, knowing that it was in a large city. He just thought it would be great if most of the kids graduated from school.

It was a wonderful experience. I learned about the high costs of operat-

ing these old buildings. I learned that many of the students did not know how to write in Spanish when they first arrived (their original language). They not only learned to do that, but also to write in English. Most of the students went on to college.

My professor was very impressed as was I by the sense of mission that the staff and faculty possessed.

I don't know how the school has changed these years later, but it makes me very sad to hear of a school's closing. So many non-public schools are an asset to this nation, and we should appreciate what services they are performing.

The eager young scholars' faces are still with me today.

Frances A. Toohey
Essex Fells

No place for funding of stem cell institute in proposed state budget

BY MARIE TASY
Special to The Catholic Advocate

In his March 1 budget address, Acting Gov. Richard Codey said, "Don't mislead the public with false choices about easy options that do not exist."

In his state of the state address in January, the acting governor vowed to push for \$380 million in bonds to fund clone and kill research performed on human embryos.

We hope the governor will follow his own advice and abandon previous plans to fund the New Jersey Stem Cell Institute in this year's budget.

Any attempt to promote the funding of research which involves the killing of human embryos as a cure for illness or disease is not only wrong, it misleads the public with false information that is not based on evidence and will divert critical resources away from much needed investments in health from other sources that have proven to be effective.

To date, scientists have not even been able to use human embryonic stem cells in animals, let alone in humans.

Regardless of all the hype and promises of miracle cures perpetuated by proponents of human embryonic stem cell research, the truth is that researchers have failed to coax human embryonic stem cells to become specific types of mature cells without inducing runaway cell growth—malignant cancers called teratomas."

Comparatively, non-embryonic or adult stem cells such as those taken from bone marrow and umbilical cord blood have been used in about 300 human clinical trials and are treating over 80 different diseases ranging

from Parkinson's, diabetes, heart disease and spinal cord injury.

In fact, the significant strides that are occurring daily through the use of adult stem cells are making the push to use human embryos obsolete.

The NJ law, P.L. 2003, C.203 and the proposal to provide funding to the New Jersey Stem Cell Institute run counter to a Feb. 18, United Nations General Assembly vote which calls on all governments to prohibit all forms of human cloning.

"Somatic cell nuclear transplantation (SCNT)," universally recognized as cloning, is expressly authorized under a law signed in January 2004 which was sponsored by the acting governor.

The legislation made it through the state assembly by a razor thin margin of only one vote in a contentious lame duck session in December of 2003.

Last year during former Gov. McGreevey's budget address, \$6.5 million was proposed for the state stem cell institute. Without public notice, the amount was later increased to \$11.5 million on the day before the budget vote.

The New Jersey Supreme Court has ruled the state cannot borrow to fund operating costs. Therefore, any effort to get the legislature to use bonds to fund the stem cell institute would be unconstitutional under this ruling.

The taxpayers of New Jersey want their money used ethically and wisely. Any proposal to fund this research would be a gross betrayal of the public trust and a shameful waste of taxpayer money. The state legislature would be wise to reject it.

Marie Tasy is executive director of New Jersey Right to Life.

www.thankyoufather.com

Catholics know and take comfort in the fact that the vast majority of priests have nothing to do with the abuse scandal that burst onto the national scene several years ago.

Now there is a unique way to let these men called by God to guide us on our spiritual journey know how much we love them and appreciate who they are and what they do.

A group of Catholics in Louisville, KY has a web site that really says it all: www.thankyoufather.com. Organizers ask the intriguing question, "Would you like to thank a priest who made a difference in your life?"

It is pointed out that the group does not have a conservative or liberal base. It is quite simply and most profoundly an effort to thank these men of God who have truly committed their lives to serving Christ by faithfully ministering to the people of the Catholic faith.

There are several ways the faithful can reach out to their priests. One can tell the story of a special or favorite priest or just leave a message of encouragement to all of those in the priesthood.

A specific priest can be mentioned or an overall comment about priests who have served a parish over the years can be provided. Submissions can contain the sender's name or be anonymous.

Input from the faithful will be posted on the website.

While thanking and encouraging a priest personally or with a note is still the best way to thank him, this website has tremendous potential.

A significant step forward

The first-ever Hispanic Stewardship Day, hosted last weekend by the Archdiocese of Newark, was an important and historic milestone.

Held at the Archdiocesan Center, Newark, the event drew more than 150 participants from throughout New Jersey as well as New York and Pennsylvania.

Conducted entirely in Spanish, with remarks from Archbishop John J. Myers, the almost five-hour program was as welcoming as it was informative.

As part of the archdiocese's commitment to this vital and ever-growing segment of its population, the program included presentations by all archdiocesan departments with Hispanic ministries.

Hispanic Stewardship Day is an idea whose time has come.

Today's Question: In your response to Mr. McAteer's query in the Feb. 16 issue of *The Catholic Advocate* about the necessity of Baptism for salvation, I didn't notice anything about what we used to call Baptism of blood or Baptism of desire. Don't we consider these legitimate too? – Msgr. Roger A. Reynolds, Our Lady of Victories, Harrington Park.

Actually, Monsignor, I had included these themes in the text I submitted. Due to editorial constraints, they were reduced to a simple citation that "Sections 1258 and 1260 of the Catechism [of the Catholic Church] explain what the Church teaches about how the unbaptized may, in special circumstances, be saved." I quote them below.


"The Church has always held the firm conviction that those who suffer death for the sake of the faith without having received Baptism are baptized by their death for and with Christ. This Baptism of blood, like the desire for baptism, brings about the fruits of Baptism without being a sacrament. (1258)

" "Since Christ died for all, and since all men are in fact called to one and the

same destiny, which is divine, we must hold that the Holy Spirit offers to all the possibility of being made partakers, in a way known to God, of the Paschal mystery.' Every man who is ignorant of the Gospel of Christ and of His Church, but seeks the truth and does the will of God in accordance with his understanding of it,

What's the Matter?

By Msgr. Richard J. Arnholz



can be saved. It may be supposed that such persons would have desired Baptism explicitly if they had known its necessity." (1260)

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.

Perspectives on news coverage of our ailing pontiff

Shortly after Pope John Paul II came home from his first February hospitalization, my NBC colleague, Keith Miller, sent me an email. A foreign correspondent for decades, Keith has seen a lot in his time. But even he found “the level of speculation, rumor, and innuendo that surrounded the pope’s bout of ill health...amazing.”

What accounts for all this? Is it the press (as the Vatican would insist), or the Vatican’s mishandling of the press (as the media would insist)? Perhaps it’s a bit of both.

Two false assumptions continue to blur the vision of a lot of journalists (although not, I’m happy to report, the people in charge at NBC or my friend John L. Allen, whose CNN commentary was level-headed and perceptive, as usual).

The first false assumption is captured in a default phrase we’ve heard since 1994: “the frail and failing pope”—a phrase so common that it’s assumed it must be true. Yet these ubiquitous adjectives obscure far more than they illuminate.

The Holy Father isn’t “failing,” if by “failing” we mean someone who’s likely to die at any moment. As for “frail,” when you touch John Paul II today, he still feels like the sturdy athlete he once was.

Of course, he’s got a serious neurological problem and terrible arthritis in his knees; 26-plus years in the papacy have taken a considerable toll. But if “frail” connotes a porcelain figurine ready to shatter at any moment, that isn’t this pope.

A lot of the press corps believed its own “frail and failing” storyline—and overly excited reporting (not to mention groundless speculation) followed.

The second false assumption that distorts reporting from Rome is the widespread conviction among reporters that the Vatican lies, or at least dissembles, about everything.

The Catholic Difference

by George Weigel



Like every other institution of consequence in the world, the Holy See “manages” the news, in the sense of putting out the story it wants told. In this instance, though, as in previous cases when John Paul II was hospitalized, the story was, in the main, accurate—if sometimes delayed longer than makes sense in a global 24/7 news environment.

Still, if you believe “they’re always hiding something important” or “they’re always spinning,” it’s hard to see the facts for what they are. (At the beginning of the first February frenzy, I was trying to calm an interviewer who, following the “failing”/dissembling script, asked, “Well, then, why did they take the pope to the hospital so late at night?” “Because,” I explained, “that’s when he was feeling poorly.”)

It’s certainly true that the higher echelons of the Curia could be more disciplined in their interactions with world press; ill-advised comments from one

senior figure triggered a month-long sub-frenzy to the main frenzy, this time about a papal abdication being under active consideration among senior churchmen.

On the other hand, that sub-frenzy was also the product of a media machine that, having been revved up to maximum RPMs, had to find something to justify staying at fever pitch for a while longer.

I hope some lessons were learned in recent weeks. It’s entirely possible that John Paul II will make many more trips to the Gemelli before he’s called home to glory. It would be ridiculous if every future papal hospitalization triggered frantic speculation and rumor-mongering.

By the same token, the codicil to this first lesson is that people really do care; the outpouring of concern for the Holy Father bore global witness to the unique place he holds in the hearts of men and women around the world, many of whom aren’t Catholics. So

attention should be paid—if it’s serious, sober-minded attention, not fevered, groundless speculation.

The other lesson to be taken from last month’s drama is that is that the cast of characters isn’t necessarily in place for

the next conclave—at least not yet. Don’t be surprised, for example, if John Paul II creates new cardinals at some point this year.

All of which brings to mind a truth neatly articulated by that great metaphysician, Lawrence Peter (Yogi) Berra: “It ain’t over ‘til it’s over.”

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

Two false assumptions continue to blur the vision of a lot of journalists.

A Coptic community that knows how to grieve

A few weeks ago, on a Saturday, I sat in a huge white hall that was once a government building. It is now a place where the Coptic Christian community worships. I sat among a group of 40 or so priests from the Coptic and Eastern Rite churches.

A few ministers and I had also been invited to a memorial service. I was there at the invitation of my dear friend Bishop David, bishop of all the Coptic churches in the U.S.

Seven hundred or more grieving people filled the room. All of them were there to honor and pray for the Armanious family: Hossan, a 48-year-old immigrant; his wife, Amal, 38 (her name means “hope” in Coptic); Sylvia, 16, and Monica, 9.

Mr. Armanious had come from Egypt for freedom and opportunity. He and his wife were deeply devout.

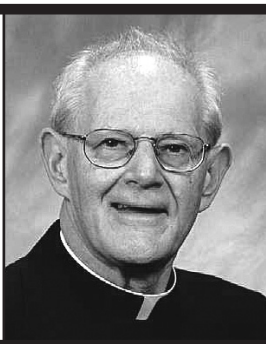
At one time in her youth Amal had wanted to become a religious. Now their home was like a religious shrine, yet filled with life and joy and love. They were deeply committed to their Coptic Christian faith community.

Hossam lived and breathed his faith. He even had a website where he proudly stated, “I love Jesus.” Amal worked in the social welfare activities of the church aiding the poor. Sylvia was a gifted poet. At 16 she was deeply moved by all of the sentiments that affect teenagers.

However, her poems are all of love, pathos, fear and joy. Her poems are also filled with love of God. Here is one:

Voices

By Msgr. John Gilchrist



*I love You deeply from the bottom of
my heart
I have always loved You from the start
Jesus Christ, light of the world
May Your blessing dawn upon me
Dear God, open my eyes so I can see
I love You
I love You
&
I thank You
&
I thank You*

Monica was like a pixie. She had long hair, blue eyes and apple cheeks. As described by one of the family, “You are so beautiful. You are like electricity in the family. Without you there would be no cheer.”

The booklet given out at the memorial service was entitled, “Together in Love, Together in Heaven.”

The booklet, the prayers, the testimonies lasted for two hours and they were filled with words from the scriptures. Yet, in all of the service not one word was a hate word, an angry word or a vengeful word.

That fact is remarkable because each of these beautiful people had had their throats slit. Monica had 28 knife wounds in her tiny body.

This Coptic Community knows how to grieve. They know how to be martyrs. For 1,300 years they have been persecuted for following Jesus. I sat there and meditated. Would that I had a half of their faith. Would that I had a half of their love for God. The Coptic community now has four more saints. God bless them all.

Their bishops, priests, deacons and people have lived as a persecuted minority in a violent land. And the very fact that their Coptic (Egyptian) Christian community has survived is a miracle of faith and love for all the world to see.

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

Holy Father links the future of Africa to working as one

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a message signed before he went into the hospital, Pope John Paul II said the future peace, stability and development of Africa depend on the ability of Africans to work together.

The Holy Father said that in calling for a new Synod of Bishops for Africa he hoped to “deepen and prolong” the energy and commitment African Catholics brought to the Church and society following the most recent African synod, which was held in 1994.

Pope John Paul announced in November that he was convoking a new synod, although he did not announce a date for the gathering. Generally synods take several years to prepare.

The pope’s letter to the synod planning committee

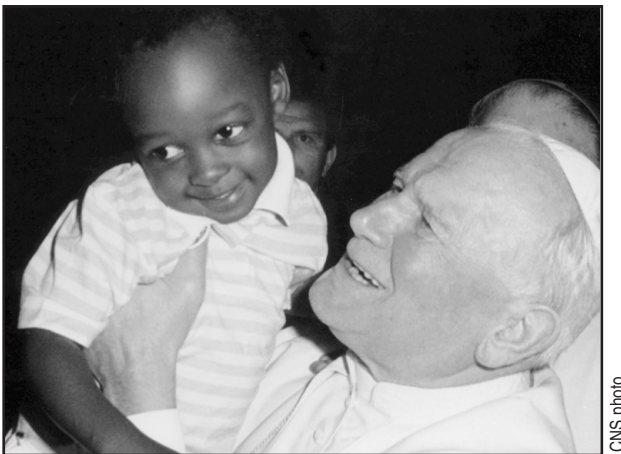
was dated Feb. 23, the day before he was taken to Rome’s Gemelli hospital, where he underwent a tracheotomy to relieve breathing difficulties.

The text of the Holy Father’s message was released Feb. 25 by the Vatican.

“I rejoice at the commitment of numerous faithful in the urgent work of evangelization and to social development in the continent’s countries,” the pope said.

But more needs to be done to face the “terrible scourges” of “armed conflict, persistent poverty, diseases and their devastating consequences—beginning with the social drama of AIDS—widespread insecurity and corruption,” the pontiff said.

“To build a prosperous and stable society, Africa



The Holy Father embraces a young boy during a visit to Kampala, Uganda, on one of numerous trips taken to Africa.

needs all its children and their joint efforts,” he said.

The pope prayed that African Catholics would become clear witnesses for their neighbors of how much can be accomplished with commitment, generosity and sacrifice.

Vatican website adds pope’s email address

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The Vatican website has highlighted Pope John Paul II’s public email address so that well-wishers can send him their greetings and promises of prayer.

As in the past, the Vatican’s Internet office added the email link to the Vatican’s home page Feb. 25 without fanfare or public notice.

Pope John Paul was hospitalized Feb. 24 and underwent a tracheotomy to help him breathe. As of March 1, the Vatican had not said how long he would remain at Rome’s Gemelli hospital.

Messages may be sent to the Holy Father by clicking

on a link in English titled “Best Wishes for the Holy Father” on the Vatican’s homepage: www.vatican.va.

It opens an email form with the pope’s address—john_paul_ii@vatican.va—for those writing in English. Those writing in Spanish can use: juan_pablo_ii@vatican.va. Links also are available in German, French, Italian and Portuguese.

Because of the volume of email the pope receives when the address is highlighted, the Vatican usually gives it prominence on the home page only on special occasions such as Christmas or the pope’s May 18 birthday.

But even when the address was not easy to find on the website, when the pope was hospitalized Feb. 1-10 he received between 40,000 and 50,000 email messages, said an official in the Vatican’s Internet office.

The official said March 1 he did not know how many emails the pope had received since undergoing the tracheotomy because the Internet office is “really just a transit point” for the messages, which are forwarded to the Holy See’s Secretariat of State.

Arriving at an address already divided according to language, each message is read by an official in the secretariat. He prepares a summary of the messages he has read and forwards the summary to the pope, along with the complete texts of a few sample messages.

Personal and communal aspects of Christian life

Readings: Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-8; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-5

As the Second Vatican Council (1962-65) reminded us, one of the purposes of Lent is to stress a penitential spirit among the faithful. “During Lent, penance should be not only internal and individual but also external and social” (Dogmatic Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, 110).

As the Gospel (Mt 6:1-18) for Ash Wednesday emphasized, we must avoid hypocrisy and mere show in our religious practices; however, we need to understand that sin has severe social repercussions.

Public acts of penance help us to realize the truth that our personal spiritual activities prepare us for the liturgy, the public expression of our faith and service of God. We should also sense that we are not alone in our struggle to die to sinfulness.

Together with the saints of past generations and our contemporaries (some further along the road to sanctity than others), we strive to be united with Christ.

Pressing upon the Christian are the need and the duty to battle against evil through manifold tribulations and even to suffer death. But, linked with the paschal mystery and patterned on the dying Christ, each will hasten forward to resurrection in the strength which comes from hope.

(Vatican II, The Church in the Modern World, 22)

The readings for this Sunday show the bond between the individual and the entire people of God in this great task of modelling our life after that of Christ, hoping to share in his victory.

Ezekiel was a young priest taken into exile ten years before Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem and deported the majority of those inhabitants who survived the siege.

During a long career in which his own sufferings became a sign to his contemporaries of the national

Sunday Readings

Fifth Sunday of Lent
(March 13, 2005)

By Father Lawrence Frizzell

catastrophe they were undergoing, Ezekiel also enjoyed an intimacy with God that included visions to foster the people’s hope.

They complained that, apart from their land and signs of their national identity, they were merely bags of bones, lifeless because true life is communion with the living God.

Ezekiel drew upon an incipient hope in resurrection of the body to assure them that God could, and would, move them from their graveyard existence by His Spirit and restore them to their own land.

The Gospel according to John stresses the personal, interior dimensions of the Spirit’s gift of “eternal life.” However, throughout the ministry of Jesus a community is formed so intimately linked with him and each other that the image of a vine and its branches best expressed this reality.

In recounting the death of Lazarus, John portrays a fam-

ily and community experiencing the Jewish approach to the social dimensions of death and mourning. When Jesus stated to Martha that her brother would rise, she enunciated the faith of the Pharisees: “I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day” (11:24).

Jesus’ next statement is startling: “I am the resurrection!”

The mystery of life is greater than our physical existence. Through the Spirit of the Father, Jesus assures His followers of a communion enabling them to transcend the death of the human body. “I am the bread of life... whoever eats this bread will live forever” (Jn 6:51).

Of course, it was only in light of the Last Supper and the paschal mystery that the disciples could appreciate how Jesus was to become their source of nourishment. “Whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die” (11:25-26).

How do we come to appreciate this rich life more deeply? The Church knows that we need rhythms of discipline and order in our lives.

Fasting and abstinence are means to prepare ourselves for both the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist and Holy Week.

If we are very hungry or thirsty, we then appreciate the food and drink that is prepared for us.

Among the reasons for fasting is the desire for a keener awareness that we need Christ in our lives. Then we will know the righteousness (i.e. the right order with God and neighbor) for which we must hunger and thirst to be truly satisfied (see Mt 5:6).

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

The mystery of life is greater than our physical existence.

Parish mission service March 14-16

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Ridgewood, will hold a mission service March 14-16 at 7:30 p.m.

The themes are “The Lost Art of Listening” March 14; “Why be Catholic?” March 15 and “Just Do It” March 16. Father Kevin Cronin, O.F.M., is the presenter.

Father Cronin has been a member of the Franciscan Holy Name Province since 1993.

He worked with a youth group as a pastoral team member at St. Mary Parish, Pompton Lakes.

Father Cronin also served as vocations director for Holy Name Province.

He received a B.A. degree in philosophy from Catholic University of America and an M.A. degree in theology from the Washington Theological Union, both in Washington, DC.

Father Cronin is the author of two books. *Kenosis* deals with the early times of his life while serving the order, while *A Friar’s Joy* is a collaboration with other friars.

The mission service is open to parishioners and anyone else interested in attending.

For those unable to attend the evening mission, Father Cronin will be preaching at all the Masses on March 12 and March 13.

Bishops’ Holy Week Schedule

The bishops of the Archdiocese of Newark will maintain the following public schedules for the upcoming Holy Week—from Palm Sunday, March 20, through Easter Sunday, March 27.

- Most Rev. John J. Myers,**
Archbishop of Newark

All at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark

Palm Sunday - Mass, noon

Monday - Chrism Mass, 8 p.m.

Holy Thursday – Mass of the Lord’s Supper, 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday – Celebration of the Lord’s Passion, 3

Holy Saturday – Easter Vigil, 7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday - Mass, noon
- Most Rev. Peter L. Gerety,**
Archbishop Emeritus of Newark

Palm Sunday - Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, South Orange, 11 a.m.

All the following at Our Lady of Mercy, Park Ridge

Holy Thursday – Mass of the Lord’s Supper, 8 p.m.

Good Friday - Celebration of the Lord’s Passion, 3 p.m.

Easter Sunday - Mass, 11 a.m.
- Most Rev. Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V.,**
Regional Bishop for Essex County

Palm Sunday - Mass at St.Aloysius Parish, Newark, 11 a.m.

Holy Thursday - Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, West Orange, 7:30p.m.

Good Friday - Passion Service at Michael Parish, Newark, 7 p.m.

Saturday - Vigil at St. Nicholas Parish, Palisades Park, 8:30p.m.

Easter Sunday - Mass at St. Michael Parish, Newark, 1p.m.
- Most Rev.Thomas A. Donato,**
Regional Bishop for Hudson County

All at St. Henry Parish, Bayonne

Palm Sunday - Mass, 11 a.m.

Holy Thursday - Mass of the Lord’s Supper, 7:30p.m.

Good Friday - Celebration of the Lord’s Passion, 7:30p.m.

Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil, 7:30p.m.

Easter Sunday - Mass, 8:45 a.m.
- Most Rev. John W. Flesey,**
Regional Bishop for Bergen County

All at Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, Franklin Lakes

Palm Sunday - Masses at 7:30 and 10:30 a.m.

Holy Thursday - Mass of the Lord’s Supper, 8p.m.

Good Friday - Celebration of the Lord’s Passion, 3p.m.

Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil, 7:30p.m.

Easter Sunday - Mass, noon
- Most Rev. Dominic A. Marconi,**
Auxiliary Bishop of Newark Emeritus

Palm Sunday - Mass at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish, Linden, noon

Holy Thursday - Mass at St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Parish, Linden, 7p.m.

Good Friday - Service at St. Margaret of Cortona Parish, Little Ferry, 7:30p.m.

Holy Saturday - Blessing of Easter Food at St. Theresa of the Child Parish, Linden, noon;Vigil at Our Lady of Peace Parish, New Providence, 8 p.m.

Easter Sunday - Mass at St. Theresa Parish, Kenilworth, 9 a.m.
- Most Rev. David Arias, O.A.R.,**
Auxiliary Bishop of Newark Emeritus

Palm Sunday - Mass at St. John Parish, Fairview, 1p.m.

Holy Thursday - Mass at St. Anthony Parish, Union City, 7p.m.

Good Friday - Procession 1 p.m., Service 3 p.m., and Stations of the Cross 6 p.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Newark.

Easter Sunday - Mass at St. Peter Parish, Belleville, 1p.m.
- Most Rev. Charles J. McDonnell,**
Auxiliary Bishop of Newark Emeritus

All at Holy Trinity Parish, Hackensack

Palm Sunday - Mass, 11 a.m.

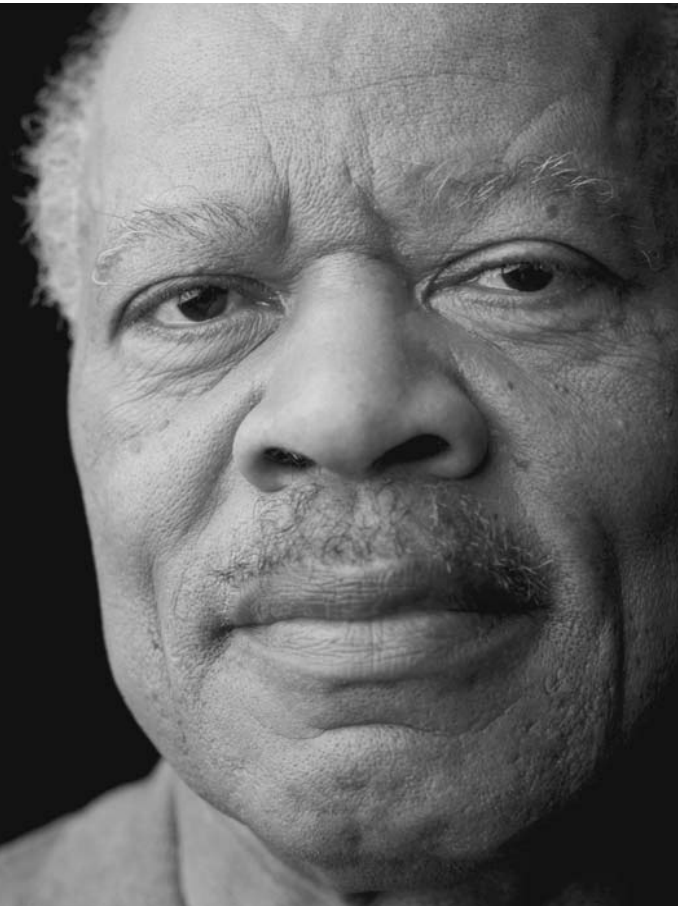
Holy Thursday - Mass, 7:30p.m.

Good Friday - Celebration of the Lord’s Passion, 3p.m.

Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil, 7:30p.m.

Easter Sunday - Mass, 11 a.m.

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Catholic Charities

Continued from Page 1

little girl was enrolled, rallied around the family to help support them emotionally and financially. Ramos had to quit her job in order to take care of Cesilia, and Rojas was laid off. With ever-increasing medical expenses, no income and no recourse to seek official financial assistance—since both parents were here without status—the Ramos Rojas family took a chance on seeking legal status and went to see a law firm in New York that specializes in immigration cases, about three years ago.

When they were already in the middle of court but could no longer afford the legal fees, they found themselves in a desperate situation.

A teacher at Lafayette School contacted U.S. Representative Michael Ferguson's office, who in turn got in touch with CCAN.

Almost one year ago, the Immigration Assistance Program agreed to take on the case pro-bono, given the couple's plight.

"There are two remarkable things about this case," said Scowcroft. The first thing, he said, was the outpouring of sup-

port the family received from the community of Bound Brook.

Donations were made and fundraisers organized "to help keep the family financially afloat," he noted.

In a recent interview, Cesilia's second grade teacher, Jennifer Garbey, commented that the Ramos Rojas family "makes you feel a part of the community."

"I'll never have another student like her," she said of Cesilia, adding, "Her spirit engaged the whole town."

"She renewed me, my spirit, my belief that there's some greater good," said Garby, noting that the little girl never blamed God for her sickness and told others not to either. "She kept us going."

Of the town residents, Rex Chen, staff attorney at CCAN and co-counsel on the case, said, "They were very helpful to us," and pointed out that they were willing to testify in court on behalf of Rojas and Ramos.

However, it did not come to this, because the government attorney agreed not to oppose if CCAN attorneys could provide crucial information.

Pope's recovery

Continued from Page 1

participate" in the Holy Week and Easter liturgies, the spokesman remarked.

He also said that Pope John Paul had been advised to observe "a prudent limitation of the use of his voice to allow the recuperation of the functioning of his larynx," which had been

going into spasms, cutting off his air supply.

At the same time, the spokesman explained the Holy Father's ability to speak is improving because of the rehabilitation exercises he is performing each day.

The spokesman noted too there had been no complications from the tracheotomy and that the tube allowing the pope to

This, asserted Scowcroft, is the second remarkable thing about the case.

According to him, three criteria must be met in order to receive a "cancelation of removal," the order of removal itself mandating that Rojas and Ramos be deported.

First, the person(s) in question must have been continuously in the United States for at least the preceding 10 years.

Second, counsel must be able

"They never abandoned us at any moment."

- Baudilio Rojas

to prove that the person(s) has good moral character. (In addition to not having any criminal background, says Scowcroft, counsel was able to show that Rojas and Ramos are "good members of the community" who care for their children and contribute to society.)

Lastly, counsel must be able to establish that removal of said person(s) would result in "exceptional and extremely unusual hardship to a spouse, parent or child who is either a citizen or legal permanent resident"—a

qualifying relative.

All three conditions were present, and, despite the tremendous difficulty in meeting the third standard, it should have been a "prototypical case," observed Scowcroft. But when Cesilia died in the fall of 2004 at the age of eight, besides the terrible heartache the family was suffering, the situation became legally uncertain, as the qualifying relative was no longer alive and the remaining U.S. citizen child was not Rojas' biological daughter.

Given the devastation of losing one daughter and being on the brink of losing the other, Chen and Scowcroft were able to establish that Marina, who had already endured so much herself, even as a stepchild is qualifying relative.

Government attorney Elisa Hertzan did not oppose the request for the cancellation of removal, and on Feb. 1, Judge Eugene Pugliese of the Newark Immigration Court granted Rojas and Ramos permanent residence.

"We're so glad the judge made the right decision," said Chen, who noted that the process was "very stressful," especially while awaiting the decision.

These clients, he continued, "are so dear to us. It was an honor to work on their case."

For their part Rojas and Ramos are extremely grateful to their attorneys and to CCAN in general.

"They treated us well and gave us the confidence that they could help us," said Rojas. "They never abandoned us at any moment."

Both called Chen, Scowcroft, employees of Catholic Charities, members of the Bound Brook community and all those who helped them "excellent people."

Ramos noted in particular that she has become good friends with the teachers of Lafayette School, the institution that was such an integral part of connecting them with CCAN and helping her family along the entire way.

When asked how their lives will change now that they are legal residents of the U.S., Rojas explained that now he can obtain a work visa and get a good job with medical insurance, a driver's license, and maybe one day have a chance to visit his home country of Guatemala, to which he has not returned in 14 years.

But most of all, Rojas stressed that now the family has security and peace of mind.

The United States has finally become their true home.

Hispanic stewardship

Continued from Page 1

the coordinator of Hispanic ministries; Reina Basualdo, associate director of Family Life Ministries; Jorge Repollet, strategic initiatives manager of the Office of Catholic Cemeteries, and Liliana Soto, coordinator of evangelization for the Archdiocese of Newark.

Archbishop Myers concluded, "There are many ways to show Jesus how much you love Him by serving in and supporting the Church. I know you are already doing that in many ways and I thank you. In addition, I ask that you commit yourselves to helping others hear Jesus' call that we not only speak words of love but also take an active role and show people His love."

breathe through the hole cut in his throat was still in place.

The ponitiff's doctors have not said when they will remove the tube, he said.

The next medical bulletin is expected March 10, Navarro-Valls said.

In the pope's message for the March 6 *Angelus*, read by Archbishop Sandri, an assistant

secretary of state, Pope John Paul again thanked all those who had sent "signs of affection" as he continued recovering from the Feb. 24 tracheotomy to ease breathing difficulties.

The Holy Father thanked the cardinals, bishops, priests, pilgrim groups, ambassadors and ecumenical delegations that had made their way to the hospital,

usually meeting a Vatican official, but rarely being admitted to the pope's 10th-floor room.

Pope John Paul said he wanted to extend special thanks to members of other religions, particularly Jews and Muslims, who "have wanted to come to pray here at the hospital. This is a comforting sign for me and one for which I thank God."

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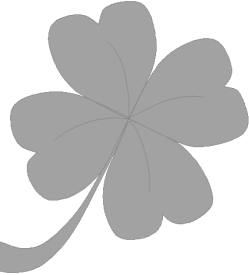
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IN PRAYER WITH SEMI-NARIANS- During the Lenten season, Most Rev. John J. Myers, Archbishop of Newark, was principal celebrant at Mass at Redemptoris Mater, Kearny, the archdiocesan mission seminary, left, and presided at evening prayer and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at Immaculate Conception Seminary, South Orange, the major seminary of the archdiocese, right.



Advocate photos — Greg Tobin




St. Patrick's Parade Mass for Peace in Ireland

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nday, March 13th
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t - Msgr. John J. Gilchrist,
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St. Joseph feast day celebration

To honor St. Joseph on his Feast Day, the Shrine of St. Joseph, Stirling, will offer a Triduum of Masses on Thursday, March 17, Friday, March 18, and Saturday, March 19, at 7:30 p.m.

After the March 19 Mass, Father Peter Krebs, S.T., shrine director, will bless the donated breads, baked goods, fruit and fava beans for everyone to enjoy.

Josephine Megaro, shrine and guild secretary, has coordinated the popular event for many years. The fava beans at St. Joseph's Table, explains Megaro, are part of the Sicilian legend that at a time of drought and famine, the fava bean was used as fodder for cattle. In order to survive, the poor farmer prepared them for their table—thus, it became a "Lucky Bean." When the crops prospered once again, they offered their food to the poor in thanksgiving.

The Shrine of St. Joseph is located at 1050 Long Hill Rd. For more information, call (908) 647-0208.

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"Hear ye all who love Christ about the holy merits of that blessed man, Bishop Patrick."
—from "The Hymn to St. Patrick"



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St. Vincent DePaul Church
Bayonne

Holy Spirit and Our Lady Help of Christians Church
East Orange

Our Lady of Sorrows Church
Garfield

Bower & Company
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Kearny

Our Lady of Sorrows Church
Kearny


St. Theresa Church
Kenilworth

St. Margaret of Cortona Church
Little Ferry/Moonachie

St. John Church
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St. Lucy Church
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Giving Through Your Will

Every year the Archdiocese of Newark receives bequests from the estates of deceased friends. These gifts make a tremendous difference and we count on such gifts as we move into the future.



*When you revise or create your will, we hope you will include the Archdiocese of Newark.
Your estate gift will help us serve the next generation.*

Types of Bequests

As you consider an estate gift to the Archdiocese of Newark, it may be useful to know some of the bequest options. For example, you may make your bequest as an unrestricted gift. This permits the Archdiocese to use your bequest where it is needed most.

A second type of bequest is designated or restricted to a specific purpose. For example, a gift may be earmarked for a program you feel keenly about or for capital improvements. You may even designate a bequest to establish an endowment.

A third kind would be a combination of the first two. That is, part of the bequest may be used where the Archdiocese has most need of funds and the restricted part for the predetermined purpose.

Methods for Making Bequests

Once you've decided on the kind of bequest, you must determine how the bequest will be identified. You have at least three options.

First, you may specify a specific amount or item. For example, you might bequeath your home or a vacation house, certain securities, or a set dollar amount.

Second, you may name the Archdiocese to receive a percentage of the residue of your estate -- the amount that is left after the bills and specific bequests have been made.

Finally, you may name the Archdiocese of Newark as a contingent beneficiary to receive that part of your estate that would have passed to another person had he

or she been living. For example, a will can indicate that everything is to go to your spouse unless your spouse predeceases you -- in which case the assets, or part of them, could be assigned to the Archdiocese.

As you think through your estate giving plans, you may want to talk with our Associate Director of Planned Giving, Ken DiPaola. He can explain the giving options you have. He will also tell you whether the Archdiocese will have trouble honoring any restricted bequest you may envision.

In addition, Ken will supply you with the correct legal name of the Archdiocese, as well as suggested wording for the various bequest types and methods mentioned above.

All of this will assist your attorney when you meet with him or her to discuss and finalize your will. As you proceed with your estate plans, we strongly encourage you to inform us about any bequest decisions affecting the Archdiocese. This will help ensure that we can honor any restrictions you have placed in your bequest. It also helps our long-range planning efforts if we know where future resources are being directed. Best of all, it gives us the opportunity to thank and honor you in advance.

Please use the response form below to request our free will kit and, if you wish, to request a visit from Mr. DiPaola. You can also obtain the kit and arrange for a visit by calling the Archdiocese's Planned Giving Office at (973) 497 - 4332, or email him at dipaolke@rcan.org.

Dear Mr. DiPaola, I would like to learn more about the Archdiocesan Endowment Program:

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The 12th Annual Business and Labor Salute



Labor, business work together for local youth

BY LIESL FORES
Staff Writer

In an ongoing effort to support the Youth and Young Adult Ministries/CYO Athletics of the Archdiocese of Newark, the 12th annual Archbishop's Business and Labor Recognition Reception raised \$140,000.

Acknowledging outstanding leaders in New Jersey's business and labor communities, this year's honorees were Ralph Izzo, Ph.D., president and chief operating officer of PSE&G, and Patrick Brennan, business manager and secretary-treasurer of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT) AFL-CIO District Council 711.

The event joins management and labor in the spirit of collaboration to lend a hand to the youth of the archdiocese.

Most Rev. John J. Myers, Archbishop of Newark and host for the evening, noted in his remarks his concern for "the spiritual health and well-being of all the children," within the archdiocese and beyond.

"Our Catholic schools are one way we show we care. ... CYO is another," he said. "Tens of thousands [of children and youth] find their lives touched by the work of CYO."

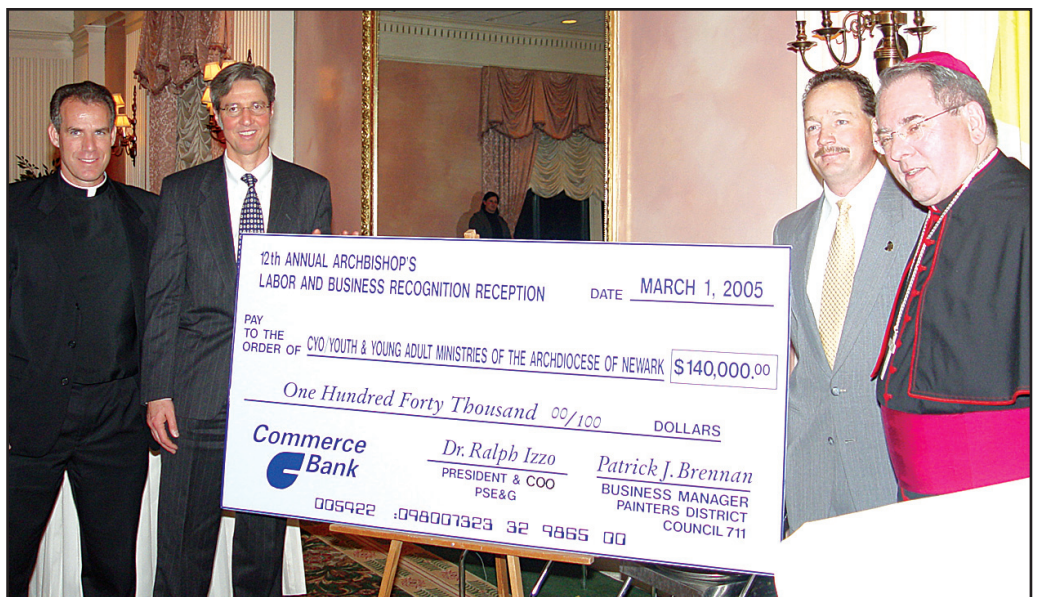
The archbishop added that the honorees are both outstanding examples of "civic virtue in areas of business and labor. ... They make New Jersey a great place to live and work."

Izzo, who has been with PSE&G since 1992, became president and COO in October 2003. He holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in mechanical engineering; an M.B.A. from Rutgers School of Management, and a Ph.D. in applied physics from Columbia University, NY.

In the past, he worked as an American Physical Society Congressional Science Fellow in the office of Senator Bill Bradley and as senior policy adviser for Governor Thomas Kean.

Izzo is involved in various philanthropic and extra-curricular activities, including serving as chairman of New Jersey After 3, Inc., a public-private partnership for first-rate after-school care, and on the board of directors of the Electric Power Research Institute, New Jersey Chamber of Commerce, American Gas Association, New Jersey Performing Arts Center and New Jersey Utilities Association. He is also on the board of trustees of the Independent College Fund of New Jersey, Industrial Advisory Group, College of New Jersey and New Jersey Network.

Continued on Page 19



\$140,000 was raised for the children and youth of the Archdiocese of Newark at the 12th annual Archbishop's Business and Labor Recognition Reception. Left to right, Father Richard Corbett, executive director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries/CYO Athletics; Dr. Ralph Izzo, business honoree; Patrick Brennan, labor honoree, and Archbishop John J. Myers.



Opening the ceremonies for the evening were the Patriotic Fife and Drum Corp of Holy Cross School, Harrison, led by Joseph, Thomas and William Gilchrist; the Hudson County Fire and Police Pipes and Drums; Brownie Troop 36 and Girl Scout Troop 559, Bloomfield; Boy Scout Troop 142, Nutley, and Catholic Committee on Scouting, Kearny.



Left to right, Father Corbett, Father Charles McTague, in residence at Holy Cross Parish, Harrison, and known for his extensive ministry in the area of labor, and Gerry Ricci-Menegolla, office manager/executive secretary of Youth and Young Adult Ministries/CYO Athletics and reception coordinator.

The Way, the Truth, and the Life

*I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me.*

(John 14:6)

Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

(Matthew 28:18-20)

Evangelization in Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ, "the Way, the Truth, and the Life," is the beginning and the end of all evangelization. The goal of all evangelization is to bring all peoples and all things into one in Him (cf. Ephesians 1:9-10). The unity and communion we seek is a reflection of the unity and communion of the Triune God. This was Jesus' hope for us when he prayed on Holy Thursday "that all may be one as you, Father, are in me, and I in you; I pray that they may be one in us, that the world may believe that you sent me" (John 17:21).

In and through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection this communion has been made available for humankind. The Church, the community of people in friendship with God, is both a sign and an instrument of this unity. As sign she is called to give witness to the possibility of real loving communion. Our communion with each other and with the Lord in the Church is a foretaste of the heavenly communion for which we yearn. As instrument, the Church, and each of her members, is called to proclaim the good news of Jesus to the entire world.

Our local Church, the Archdiocese of Newark, has the great privilege and the great duty to share with our neighbors, families, and friends the good news of Jesus Christ. This letter is addressed to all the faithful of the archdiocese as a reflection on our duty to evangelize.

What is evangelization?

Evangelization is the sharing of the good news of Jesus Christ with those who have not yet effectively heard the Gospel. In one sense, it is missionary activity *ad gentes* (to the nations), bringing Christ to peoples who do not know Him. In another, it is proclaiming Him in our own families, neighborhoods, and workplaces.

Without in any way diminishing the urgent need for commitment to the mission *ad gentes*, this second, broader mission is of vital importance. John Paul II calls this type of missionary activity the "new evangelization" or "re-evangelization." Re-evangelization is focused on proclaiming the good news in countries (like our own) with historical Christian roots where "...entire groups of the baptized have lost a living sense of the faith or even no longer consider themselves members of the Church and live a life far removed from Christ and his Gospel" (*Redemptoris missio*, 33).

Who are called to evangelize?

To evangelize is to proclaim Jesus Christ and Him crucified "in season and out" (2 Timothy 4:2) to all the world near and far. Who is called to missionary activity? The answer is quite clearly stated in the Scriptures, the documents of the Second Vatican Council, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and the teaching of John Paul II: each Christian is called to mission by virtue of his or her baptism. There is no avoiding this simple and explicit teaching. We are called to missionary activity. As the Second Vatican Council's document on missions,



Most Rev. John J. Myers, J.C.D., D.D.
Archbishop of Newark

Ad gentes, says:

For, wherever they live, all Christians are bound to show forth, by the example of their lives and by the witness of their speech, that new man which they put on in baptism, and that power of the Holy Spirit by whom they were strengthened at confirmation. Thus other men, observing their good works, can glorify the Father (cf. Mt. 5:16) and can better perceive the real meaning of human life and the bond which ties the whole community of mankind together (Ad gentes, 11).

John Paul II has applied this universal mandate to proclaim Christ to Christian communities as well. For from the family, the smallest and most important Christian community, to the parish community, the local Church and beyond, all are called to mission. The Holy Father went so far as to state in his message for World Mission Sunday:

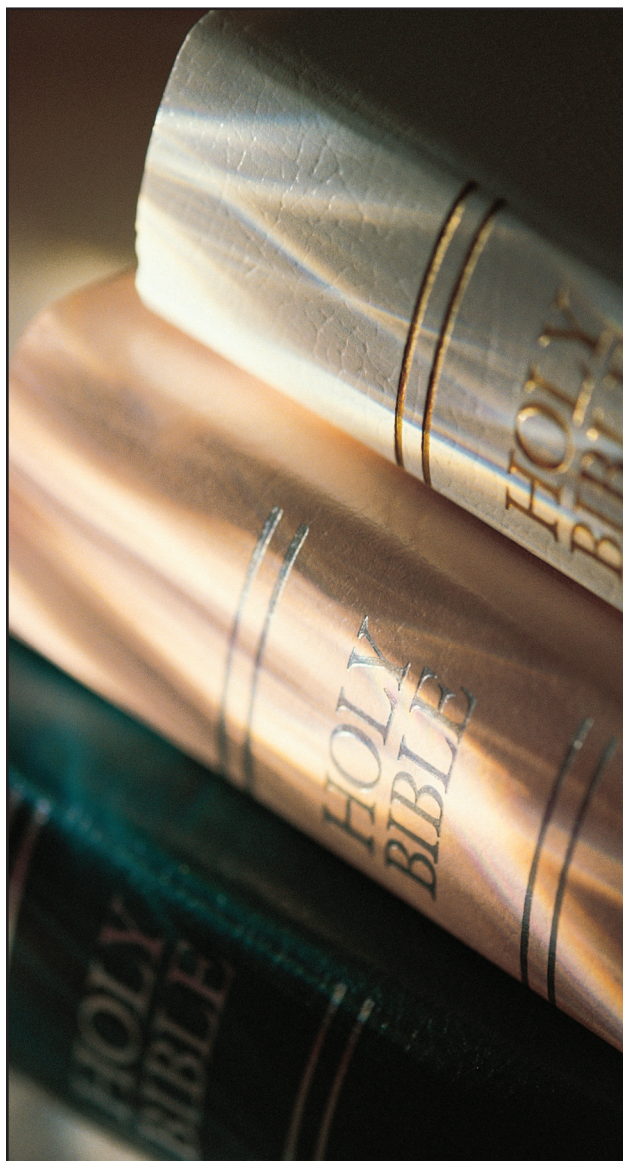
No Christian community is faithful to its duty unless it is missionary: either it is a Missionary Community or it is not even a Christian community, because these are simply two dimensions of the same reality, which is brought about by baptism and by the other sacraments (Papal Message for World Mission Day, October 20, 1991, "Mission: The Right and Duty of Every Christian").

All are called to "labor in the Lord's Vineyard" (cf. Matthew 20:1 ff). By our baptism, we share in the mission of Jesus Christ—to reveal to the world the love of the Father. In Jesus, we all share in His priestly, prophetic, and kingly office. As priests we offer spiritual sacrifice and praise. As kings, we rule over and sanctify that part of God's kingdom entrusted to our care. As prophets, we proclaim the good news and give witness to God's saving power at work in us and in the world.

Why evangelize?

The short answer to the question, "Why evangelize?" is because love demands it. We have experienced the love poured out on us in Christ Jesus. We wish to share this love and help others to come to friendship with God.

It is Catholic teaching, restated at the Second Vatican Council, that God's grace—His supernatural help unto salvation—is offered to everyone "in a way known to God alone" (*Gaudium et spes*, 22). Thus, it is our hope that all men and women cooperate with God's grace. While God does not limit His love and His grace to those who are formally Christian, the ordinary way for men and women to find salvation is in an explicit faith in Christ Jesus; for it is only in Him that we find the fullness of truth and life.



Anyone who is saved, the Scriptures and the Church teach, is saved through Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of Man.

Thus, to fail to evangelize because of the mistaken notion that “everyone is saved” is both presumptuous and uncharitable: presumptuous because it assumes that God will provide salvific grace in extraordinary ways, uncharitable because it leaves people in ignorance and denies them the many sources of grace available in the Church.

The false notions which have caused a very discernable waning of missionary activity, “an identity crisis” and a “lack of motivation” in the Church’s mission, must be dismissed. As the Holy Father wrote in his first encyclical:

The Church’s fundamental function in every age and particularly in ours is to direct man’s gaze, to point the awareness and experience of the whole of humanity towards the mystery of God, to help man to be familiar with the profundity of the redemption taking place in Christ Jesus (Redemptor hominis, 10).

To John Paul II, the fundamental function of the Church is missionary. The Church must make her own the urgent cry of Paul: “Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel!” (cf. 1 Corinthians 9:16).

Where do we evangelize?

By now it must be clear that missionary activity is not an option for Christians. It is at the heart of the Gospel! St. John Chrysostom went so far as to say:

I cannot believe in the salvation of anyone who does not work for his or her neighbor’s salvation. How can such a person who does nothing for anybody else really be a Christian? (Bishop James Malone, “The Basics of Re-Evangelization,” Origins [Vol. 21: No. 11] August 15, 1992, 183.)

But, one may wonder, where does one begin in one’s role as missionary?

Evangelization, like charity, begins at home. The “hidden evangelization” that occurs within the family is essential. Parents are the first educators and evangelists for their children. Mothers and fathers who teach their children prayers, who explain the meaning of the Christmas crib and the cross, are true evangelizers. The atmosphere of unconditional merciful love along with the countless sacrifices that parents make everyday gives witness to their children of how God loves them. Thus the home, “the domestic Church,” is an indispensable place for sharing the good news.

In addition to the home, there is the Church. Everything in our parish life should be ordered towards sharing the good news. Our schools and educational programs have this as a primary focus. Our programs for adult initiation and education strive to share the Gospel with those inquiring into the mystery of Christ. The life of the parish itself should radiate Jesus Christ in word and sacrament to the entire neighborhood. Particularly, the willingness and openness of the parish community, to serve “the least among us” should give witness to Jesus’ compassionate love.

There is also the workplace, the marketplace, and our various associations and friendships. One of the most effective forms of evangelization today is “the apostolate of like to like.” Who better to share the good news of Jesus Christ than someone who shares a friendship and way of life with another? When we are friends with another, we naturally wish to share with them all the most important aspects of our life. We share our passions and our beliefs. Chief among these should be our relationship with Jesus. The old adage “make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Jesus” is a very effective way of sharing the good news.

How do we evangelize?

We evangelize through docility to the Holy Spirit that leads us to dialogue and witness. Through docility to the Holy Spirit we are transformed to become “other Christs” (cf. Galatians 2:20). The presence of the Holy Spirit is essential to every aspect of evangelization. Jesus promises us that “the Advocate, the Holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name—He will teach you everything and remind you of all that (I) told you” (John 14: 26). The Holy Father describes it in this fashion:



This spirituality is expressed first of all by a life of complete docility to the Spirit. It commits us to being molded from within by the Spirit, so that we may become ever more like Christ. It is not possible to bear witness to Christ without reflecting his image, which is made alive in us by grace and the power of the Spirit. This docility then commits us to receive the gifts of fortitude and discernment, which are essential elements of missionary spirituality (Redemptoris missio, 87).

The Gospel must first have permeated our lives before we can pass it on to others.

Jesus Christ is the goal and the means of evangelization. For us to be evangelizers, to authentically be bearers of His message, we first must allow Christ to enter our lives and transform our lives. Christ must be within us before we can dare to bring Him to others. To allow Christ to enter our lives and to transform them requires humility and docility to His message on our part. Building on the words of the Gospel, “Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses it will save it” (Luke 17:33), the Second Vatican Council teaches that “Man cannot find himself except through a sincere gift of himself” (*Gaudium et spes*, 24). Trusting in our faith in Christ, we must surrender our very selves to Him. In this self-surrender to Christ, we offer ourselves with Him in the Eucharist. In this radical act of losing ourselves in Christ, we Catholics find our true selves.

As we are transformed by Christ’s love, we desire more and more to share Our Beloved with others. Like St. Paul we are compelled to go forth to bring others to Him. Our first encounters with others will often take the form of dialogue. John Paul II has recommended St. Paul’s speech at the Areopagus (marketplace) in Athens (and at Lystra) as a model of missionary activity (Acts 17:16-34). Here, Paul enters into “dialogue” with the cultural and religious values of the Athenians. He attempts to show them that God is already present in their lives as Creator and Sustainer of all things. But to recognize Him as He really is, the Athenians must abandon their false gods or the false notion of God, which they have made. One can easily see parallels to the false gods of the modern, secular world.

The Holy Father makes reference to many areas in need of evangelization. These he calls modern-day equivalents of the Areopagus. *Redemptoris missio* lists first and foremost the world of communications. The mass media is quickly establishing the “global village” and in many

ways conditioning the way people look at this new world. Other areas cited as forms of the modern Areopagus are the peace movement, the environmental movement, the various liberation movements, the human rights movements, the feminist movements, and the “new age” religious movements. The Holy Father also mentions the “immense Areopagus” of scientific culture and intellectual relations. All these areas are in need of evangelization through dialogue.

Dialogue of this sort brings into contact two or more persons sincerely searching for the truth. The Christian comes to these encounters as a “fellow seeker” of truth.

He or she knows that there is much to be learned from the other. But the Christian also knows that he or she has much to share. Having encountered and been encountered by Jesus, Christians bring the light of the Gospel to these discussions. Because the Gospel can never be imposed on another’s freedom, the dialogue provides an opportunity to propose the truth of the Gospel.

Along with dialogue, and perhaps even more important, is witness. There is first the witness of those called to a specific missionary vocation *ad gentes*. As the Second Vatican Council states:

Although the task of spreading the faith, to the best of one’s ability, falls to each disciple of Christ, the Lord always calls from the number of his disciples those whom he wishes, so that they may be with him and that he may send them to preach to the nations. Accordingly, through the Holy Spirit, who distributes his gifts as he wishes for the good of all, Christ stirs up a missionary vocation in the hearts of individuals and at the same time raises up in the Church those institutes which undertake the duty of evangelization, which is the responsibility of the whole church, as their special task (Ad gentes, 23).

I can think of no better way to spend one’s life than in total dedication to missionary proclamation of the Gospel. If this is your call, follow it! Make a “total gift” of yourself to Christ and His Church. As the Holy Father states:

[A missionary vocation] is manifested in a total commitment to evangelization, a commitment which involves the missionary’s whole person and life, and demands a self-giving without limits of energy or time (Redemptoris missio, 65).

What of the rest of us who do not receive this call?



We are called to be missionaries in our own places and towns. This will mainly take place through the way we live our lives. As St. Francis of Assisi taught: “Preach always! When necessary use words.” Ultimately the most successful form of evangelization and mission is the personal witness of a holy life. As the Holy Father writes, “People today put more trust in witness than in teachers, in experience than in teaching, and in life and action than in theory” (*Redemptoris missio*, 42). To put it simply, the true missionary is the saint!

Since each Christian is called to be a missionary, each one of us is also called to be a saint. We must

lead others to “the way” by our personal example of a holy, joy-filled life in Christ.

For you who are married and have dedicated yourself to the great vocation of “spouse and parent” you must witness to the truth about conjugal love. You must show the world the joy of Christian motherhood and fatherhood, of fidelity to your spouse, of openness and loving acceptance of the great gift of human life, of dedication to the education and rearing of Christian children, and of holy and good friendships.

For you who are called into the workplace and the professional world you must strive to sanctify the world through your work offered to God in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. You must witness to Christian values in the marketplace, the academy, government, the hospitals, and the courts.

You who are called by God to live a consecrated life have a special obligation to missionary activity. As the Holy Father writes:

The Church needs to make known the great Gospel values of which she is the bearer. No one witnesses more effectively to these values than those who profess the consecrated life in chastity, poverty, and obedience in a total gift of self to God and in complete readiness to serve man and society after the example of Christ (Redemptoris missio, 69).

Consecrated life is a powerful witness to the truth that the “earthly treasure” of power, wealth, glory, and sensual pleasure are of fleeting importance compared with the “heavenly treasure” of a God-centered life.

Bishops, priests, Religious and deacons are called to preach and teach the whole of the Gospel. We are to offer the sacraments to feed, heal, and strengthen the pilgrim people of God as they strive to fight the good fight of faith. In our own lives we are called to believe what we teach, to practice what we preach.

But whatever one’s personal vocation is, he or she is called to holiness and to mission. Each person, with his or her own personal vocation, must be totally dedicated to living a unified, holy life and to teach others, especially entire families, to do likewise. As the Holy Father writes:

The first form of witness is the very life of the missionary, of the Christian family and of the ecclesial community, which reveal a new way of living. The missionary who despite all his or her human limitations and defects, lives a simple life taking Christ as the model is a sign of God and of transcendent realities. But everyone in the Church striving to imitate the Divine Master can and must bear this kind of witness. (Redemptoris missio, 42).

The task of missionary activity and evangelization is a vast undertaking. It would be impossible, even unthinkable, if Jesus did not promise that He would be with us to the end of time. In this undertaking the laity play an essential role, perhaps the most vital role.

Obstacles to evangelization

There are many obstacles to evangelization. Most of these are internal to each Christian and to the Christian community; our own sinfulness acts as a countersign to the Gospel. Concupiscence, the tendency to sin that remains in us even after baptism, is difficult to overcome. A lukewarm heart and lack of fraternal charity can make us less than totally fervent to share the Gospel.

Honesty demands of us a sincere recognition of the limits within our communities as well. The divisions among Christians obscure the gospel call to unity. The many failings of our Church and its members have led others astray. In all of this we must as individuals and as a community acknowledge our sinfulness and strive to genuine renewal and transformation. We must be able to say,

“Be patient, God is not through with us yet.”

But in addition to internal obstacles, there are external difficulties that we face. Culturally, many recognize that we live in a society that is not fully supportive of the Christian life; in fact, it is in some ways hostile to it. Over recent decades, political and social supports for religion have been eroding and many social policies have been enacted that are antithetical to our Catholic faith and ethics. In our increasingly pluralistic environment, many demand that religion be reduced to a strictly private realm, on the specious ground that it might possibly introduce discord into society. Others believe that all religions are basically the same.

Yet we know that all religions are not equal or compatible. Either Jesus is Lord or He is not. Both cannot be true. To paraphrase St. Augustine: Either He is the Lord of all or He is not the Lord at all. In addition, authentic religion can never be merely a private matter because by nature we are social beings and must live out our lives in community.

The first evangelists, the apostles and the disciples, faced similar difficulties. The Roman Empire, in the name of pluralism and concord, recognized all gods as equal. Early Christians, frequently persecuted by the Roman Empire, were offered the option to recognize Christ as a god among other gods. They recognized that such a “compromise” would deny Christ, who is the unique Savior of the World and the only way to salvation and eternal life. Many often gave witness to their belief through martyrdom.

We have experienced the love poured out on us in Christ Jesus. We wish to share this love and help others to come to friendship with God.

While respecting the faith of others and recognizing the inviolability of their consciences and their right to religious liberty, we cannot fall into the false trap that considers all religions as equally true. Faithful to the teaching authority of the Church, authentic evangelizers show forth the joy and freedom that comes from a personal relationship with Christ. Reflecting on our Holy Father’s encyclical *Redemptoris missio*, the instruction *Dominus Iesus* summarizes this reality well.

When the words and experience of evangelization are ungrounded in the Person of Christ, there is a danger of relativism. . . As a remedy for this relativistic mentality, which is becoming ever more common, it is necessary above all to reassert the definitive and complete character of the revelation of Jesus Christ. In fact, it must be firmly believed that, in the mystery of Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Son of God, who is “the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6), the full revelation of divine truth is given.

Thus, the Encyclical Redemptoris missio calls the Church once again to the task of announcing the Gospel as the fullness of truth: “In this definitive Word of his revelation, God has made himself known in the fullest possible way. He has revealed to mankind who he is. This definitive self-revelation of God is the fundamental reason why the Church is missionary by her very nature. She cannot do other than proclaim the Gospel, that is, the fullness of the truth which God has enabled us to know about himself” (Redemptoris missio, 5). Only the revelation



of Jesus Christ, therefore, “introduces into our history a universal and ultimate truth which stirs the human mind to ceaseless effort” (Fides et ratio, 14). (Dominus Iesus, 4, 5)

In an atmosphere that regards every opinion as a “truth,” evangelization is never easy. But we must be careful not to fall into the trap of blaming the prevalent culture for our lack of success. While we are obligated to point out the dangers of individualism, secularism, hedonism, relativism, and other negative forces, we cannot overlook the deep religious hunger that stirs the hearts of our fellow men and women.

Secularization ironically has produced a religious emptiness in many parts of our society, an emptiness that yearns to be filled. The idea that everyone has his or her own “truth” does not satisfy basic human needs. Dissatisfied with such relativism, many realize the foolishness of asserting that contradictory views are equally “true.” Many, especially the young, seek answers to the mystery of life. This gives us Christians the opportunity to show them that Christ is the answer to humanity’s questions, that He is “the Way, the Truth, and the Life” (Acts 14:15-17; 17:22-31). Our culture provides obstacles, but it also provides opportunities. There is much that is good in our culture, not the least of which is our dedication to religious liberty.

In the midst of all the discussion about our secularizing society, it is good to remember that our nation has always been a religious nation. While few of our founding fathers were Catholics, they were genuinely religious men. “For [Jefferson] and the other founding fathers, the good of society requires a people who believe in one almighty God, in providence in a divinely given moral code, in a future life, and in divinely administered rewards and punishments” (Avery Cardinal Dulles, “The Deist Minimum” in *First Things*, January 2005, Number 149, 30). Most Americans share these basic beliefs today, even if it often seems unpopular to articulate them. Perhaps our role as Catholic Christians is to give a clear consistent voice to these gospel values.

Evangelical action within our families and parishes

As a local Church we must attempt to share the good news with everyone. Of particular immediate concern are our families, those who have not received all the Sacraments of Initiation, those who have fallen away, and our own prayer, sacrifice and personal sanctification.

Parents must ensure that their children receive education in the faith so that, nourished by prayer and authentic teaching, they will be transformed into true disciples. As stated above, parents are the first teachers of their children. Where necessary, they must be assisted in learning or relearning the teachings and traditions of the Catholic faith so that they can pass them on to their children.

Family members also are in a unique position to reach out to relatives whose faith has weakened or who have

strayed from the Christian life to offer them the support they need once again to encounter the Risen Christ through the ministry of the Church.

The family needs support in this endeavor. The parish is the indispensable source of support for the family and the most important resource for evangelization. The entire range of parish education, schools, religious education, and adult education, can be an enormously effective agent of evangelization. Pastors have a significant role in assisting the teachers and catechists under their care in the transformation of their lives and attitudes, in recognizing their responsibility to engage in the work of spreading the Gospel of Christ. Our parishes must be examples of cooperation and solidarity as they share the many gifts that each possesses for the greater good of the whole. This solidarity extends to cooperation among parishes in evangelization efforts. Solidarity and discipleship together drive evangelization.

The parishioners of the Archdiocese of Newark come from every corner of the globe. Each person should be welcomed and made to feel a part of the life of every parish. When we seek to understand and respect the religious customs and traditions of new immigrants we reaffirm their human dignity, affirm them in their faith, and welcome them into our communion. Our unity does not mean that we are all the same. Our unity is a reflection of the life of the Trinity, three Persons in one God, each separate and distinct, each having a different self-gift, and yet so unified that they form the one Godhead. So, too, it must be with us.

I counsel all evangelizers to respect the manifold forms of authentic popular piety that newcomers bring. "(W)hen hearts are united, the result is a great force for good. To be rooted in what is ancient, strong, profound, and, at the same time, dear to the heart, gives an extraordinary interior energy" (Pope John Paul II, *Rise, Let Us Be On Our Way*, p. 180). Our great task, while always open to the future, is to cultivate sound traditions with an affectionate respect for the past.

Those who have not yet received all the Sacraments of Initiation

It is heartbreaking to realize that there are thousands in this Archdiocese who have received the seal of Baptism, but for many reasons, often beyond their control, never have received the Eucharist. Perhaps it was the strain of a difficult migration to this country and problems of language that continually postponed preparation for and the first reception of the Eucharist.

To pastors and all evangelizers, I say, "Seek out your brothers and sisters who have never received the nourishment of the Eucharist." To those who have not received the Lord I say, "Fill your hearts and your souls with the Eucharistic Lord. Come to the table, your Lord is waiting for you and is expecting you."

Let us make the experience of coming into Eucharistic unity as joy-filled as possible. In this Year of the Eucharist, our efforts of re-evangelization must focus on Christ present in our celebration and always present in the Sacrament of the Altar. The participation of many Catholics, especially those actively involved in evangelization and re-evangelization, in parish, regional, and archdiocesan observances that celebrate the Year of the Eucharist will be a source of grace for them and witness to those to whom they endeavor to bring the message of the Gospel.

It also is disheartening to realize that even more of our baptized brothers and sisters have never completed the Sacraments of Initiation, have never received the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation. A recent study tells us that up to 40 percent of young adult non-Latino Catholics and up to 60 percent of Latino Catholics in this age group have never received the sacrament of Confirmation. The study also shows that confirmed Catholics are more inclined to remain in and grow in the Church (Dean R. Hoge, William D. Dinges, Mary Johnson, S.N.D. de N., and Juan L. Gonzales, Jr., *Young*

Adult Catholics: Religion in the Culture of Choice, p. 116).

Thanks be to God, the overwhelming majority of these young people, whether they attend Mass regularly or not, consider themselves Catholics. But it is sad to think how impoverished their spiritual lives as Catholics must be. For most, Confirmation is the completion of the Rites of Initiation into the family of the Church. It is an occasion on which the gifts of the Holy Spirit enter the life of the person confirmed. "The effect of the sacrament of Confirmation is the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. From this fact, Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1302-1303).

For about half of our young people never to have received the grace of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation is a scandal. Somehow over the last decades, our catechesis, our evangelization, has failed our people. Perhaps we have shown too much concern for the "completion of programs" and not enough concern to allow the Holy Spirit to enter the lives of young people through this sacrament. In any event, we have the opportunity, and all of us have the responsibility, to bring them to the possession of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Fallen-away Catholics

A special effort should be made by all to reach out to baptized Catholics who for whatever reason have left active practice of their faith. They are our brothers and sisters in Christ, and the lack of active communion with them hurts everyone in the community. It makes us all less. "If one member of the Body suffers all suffer" (1 Corinthians 12:26).

Pastors often do not know who the fallen away are. It is one area where the laity have a special obligation. It will most likely be a friend or family member who helps another find the way home. Invite those you know who have fallen away to come back. Invite them to receive the embrace of a loving God in the sacrament of Penance. Even if they have not celebrated this comforting sacrament in many years, encourage them to see it as a vehicle of return to the practice of the faith, a vehicle of renewal and rebirth. Go with them to the sacrament of penance if necessary to help them overcome any hesitation or obstacle.

Last year, here in the Archdiocese of Newark, we established a task force to identify ways to implement evangelization in this local Church. As a result of the work of the task force, the Office of Evangelization was established. The task force also recommended that every parish become an evangelizing parish. To assist the parishes in this effort, we chose a program, "Why Catholic?" from RENEW International. Also available is "Disciples in Mission," from the Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association. I join the task force in recommending these programs.

Prayer and sacrifice for evangelization

As we seek to transform the lives of others, we should be mindful that all of us, bishops, priests, deacons, Religious, laity, have the responsibility to transform our lives so that our actions and activities will be directed to the goal of showing the mystery of Christ and His Church to all whom we encounter.

Our ministry of re-evangelization begins with our own personal renewal, our own re-dedication to the Gospel.

"Without doubt a mending of the Christian fabric of society is urgently needed in all parts of the world. But for this to come about what is needed is to *first remake the Christian fabric of the ecclesial community itself present in these countries and nations*" (*Christifideles laici*, 34). Open to the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives and living the message of Christ, we will be able to show

Christ to the world as the "Way, the Truth, and the Life."

Filled with the Holy Spirit, we Christians should never tire of offering prayer and sacrifices to God and advocating that others do likewise. However, I am afraid that we, including bishops, do not speak enough about the efficacy of prayer and sacrifices offered to God. But Scripture constantly witnesses to its importance. Jesus Himself fasted and prayed. He told His disciples that some demons could only be cast out by fasting and prayer. Paul specifically asked for prayers for his mission.

An excellent modern example of this kind of spiritual cooperation is St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, the "Little Flower." Because of her love and dedication to prayer and suffering offered for the missions, she is rightly proclaimed as co-patroness of the missions although she was never sent to them. I ask all the faithful of the Archdiocese to be men and women of deep prayer and particularly ask you to pray and sacrifice for the successful spread of the Gospel in our local Church and throughout the world.

Conclusion

This year has been proclaimed by John Paul II as the Year of the Eucharist. Every Sunday, the Risen Christ asks us to meet Him once more in the Upper Room where, on the evening of "the first day of the week" (John 20:19) He appeared to His disciples in order to "breathe" on them His life-giving Spirit and launch them on the great adventure of proclaiming the Gospel.

What a privilege this is! To be with the Lord and one another, to hear His word, to receive Him in the Eucharist, and to worship together as one family.

This privilege demands to be shared. Love compels us to attempt to extend our communion. We might not be successful in our efforts. That is relatively unimportant. Success is not a Gospel term. After all, we follow a crucified Savior. In the words of our Holy Father:

"Let us go forward in hope!...We can count on the power of the same Spirit who was poured out at Pentecost and who impels us still today to start out anew, sustained by the hope 'which does not disappoint'" (Romans 5:5). (*Novo millennio ineunte*, 58) Hope does not disappoint. We will "set out into the deep" with the Lord to bring Him to others.

The Risen Jesus accompanies us on our way and enables us to recognize Him, as the disciples at Emmaus did, "in the breaking of the bread" (Luke 24:35). Their hearts burned with love as they listened to Jesus teaching them the meaning of the Scriptures. May He find us watchful, ready to recognize His face and may we run to our brothers and sisters with the good news: "We have seen the Lord!" (John 20:25).

Given at my Chancery on March 3, 2005

John J. Myers

✠ Most Rev. John J. Myers
Archbishop of Newark

Robert E. Emery

Very Rev. Robert E. Emery
Vicar General, Moderator of the Curia and Chancellor



CNS photo



Archbishop Myers with honorees Ralph Izzo (left) and Patrick Brennan at the 12th annual Archbishop's Business and Labor Recognition Reception, which raised \$140,000 for children and youth of the archdiocese.

Labor dinner

Continued from Page 14

In accepting his award for excellence in the area of business, Izzo recognized the hard work and dedication of the employees of PSE&G and commented encouragingly on the merging of the company with Exelon Corporation, assuring of the continued quality and "positive benefits" this unification will bring about.

"A company is not about a logo. ... It's represented by the people who make up the firm,"

he asserted, noting PSE&G's commitment to the Archdiocese of Newark.

Brennan, the labor honoree, started right out of high school as an apprentice paperhanger with the IUPAT Local 277 in Atlantic City, subsequently holding several offices within the local.

In 1993, he joined the IUPAT staff, serving as the state-wide director of organizing when the two district councils merged in 1996.

In 2000, Brennan was elected as business manager/secretary-treasurer for IUPAT District Council 711 and re-elected in

2002, currently leading more than 4000 union members. He is also vice-president on the executive boards of New Jersey State AFL-CIO and New Jersey Building Trades and has a role in many charitable causes, particularly those that assist children.

Pointing out the value of children's organizations, Brennan cited the CYO of his own youth in Atlantic City.

"Cooperation with labor and management to help public causes like this are very important," he stressed.

Msgr. John J. Gilchrist, labor liaison for the archdiocese and



Msgr. John J. Gilchrist leads the invocation for the evening. With him are Thomas P. Giblin (right), Master of Ceremonies, and Ralph Izzo.

pastor of Holy Cross Parish, Harrison, led the invocation for the evening.

Msgr. Gilchrist has been involved in labor relations and workers' rights throughout his 45-

monies, and William T. Mullen, president of New Jersey Building and Construction Trades Council, who was the reception chairman.

A special award was presented to Joan Critchley, the widow of John Critchley, commemorating his work as president of the New Jersey State Building and Construction Trades Council, among other things, and his devotion to the Youth and Young Adult Ministries of the Archdiocese of Newark.

Father Richard R. Corbett, executive director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries/CYO Athletics, closed the evening with a prayer. He assured attendees that the money raised from this event will go to serving children and youth, through the department's summer camp, athletic programs and retreat center in Kearny.

The honorees are both outstanding examples of "civic virtue in areas of business and labor."

— Archbishop John J. Myers



Ryan, Conor and James Woods of the Hudson County Fire and Police Pipes and Drums join guests in saluting the flag during the Pledge of Allegiance. Music for the reception, including "America, the Beautiful," was provided by Jerry Tolve.



Members of the Archdiocesan Center attended the annual dinner. Left to right, Father Robert E. Emery, Vicar General, Moderator of the Curia and Chancellor; Roseann Vazquez, executive assistant to the archbishop; Deacon Joseph Dwyer, Jr., vice chancellor for administration, and Steve Belloise, executive director of property management administration.

Advocate photos- Liesl Fores

Major renovations completed at Paramus CHS



Students complete schoolwork in Paramus Catholic's renovated libraries, fully equipped with computers and internet access.

BY BRIAN FORES
Staff Writer

Paramus Catholic High School (PCHS), in coordination with the Office of Property Management of the Archdiocese of Newark, has undergone several major renovations.

The school has completed the addition of four new classrooms demarcated by a stained-glass window at its entrance, a prayer chapel, outdoor amphitheatre and new elevator.

PCHS has significantly upgraded its athletics facilities, starting with a new 2,200 square-foot weight training/conditioning facility, a 1,500-seat bleacher stadium, new track, and a 23,000 square-foot air bubble over the tennis courts, designated for winter activities.

While the most recent additions and renovations focused on athletic facilities, James Vail, president and principal, pointed out that the first phase of renovations

included significant improvements in the academic and technological facilities, including five new computer labs, 71 computer equipped classrooms, 15 classrooms equipped with "smart boards," four new science labs and a digital language lab, as well as wireless laptop access in all rooms.

The renovations have coincided with an 80 percent increase in enrollment since 1998. Vail said total enrollment has grown to 1,500, and the renovations help maintain small class sizes and equip students with the latest technological tools for a well-rounded education.

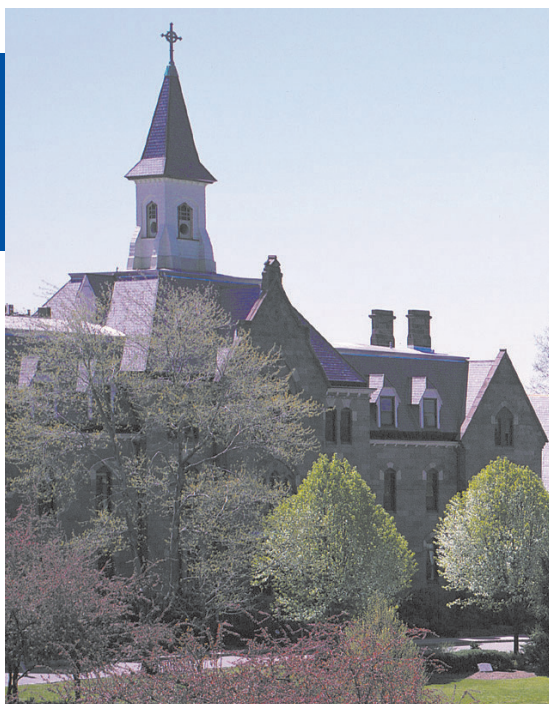
Steve Belloise, executive director of the Office of Property Management for the Archdiocese of Newark, noted, "The architectural firm of Scott Lurie and the general contractor, Cibco Corp, met the challenge to complete the project in time for the new school year.

"Lou Cibischino of Cibco Corp, who has children attending PCHS, was most responsible for making sure the project was well under budget and on time."



Students volley for the ball in Paramus Catholic's 23,000 square foot "bubble," used for physical education during winter months.

Advocate photos- Brian Fores



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WARMING HEARTS, BODIES- Students at Mother Seton Regional High School, Clark, left to right, Katherine Howell, Kimberly Smela, Casey Egger, Melissa Felicio and Candice Belluscio, with home economics instructor Carol Henerson, prepare to deliver some 60 coats to area homeless shelters and Emmaus House, Perth Amboy.

Joan Barron photo

UCHS student attends presidential inauguration

Vincent Napolitano, a National Honor Society student at Union Catholic High School, Scotch Plains, was selected to attend the presidential inauguration through the People to People Student Ambassador Program.

He was accepted for the exclusive honor based on previous participation with People to People programs.

Activities included the official swearing in of the president

and vice president, the inaugural address, parade and a celebratory ball.

During the summer of 2004, Napolitano attended a summer school program for high school students at Brown University in Rhode Island. He dedicated many hours to the Bush campaign on a local level.

His future plans include attending a four-year college or university, majoring in political science.

Students from Our Lady of Libera capital bound

Lyanne Marrero and Krishna Sachanandani, students at Our Lady of Libera School, West New York, will be among 200 middle school students nationwide attending the Junior National Young Leaders Conference (JrNYLC) March 12-17 in Washington, DC.

Themed "Legacy of American Leadership," the conference introduces young people to the tradition of leadership throughout American history, while helping them develop their own leadership skills.

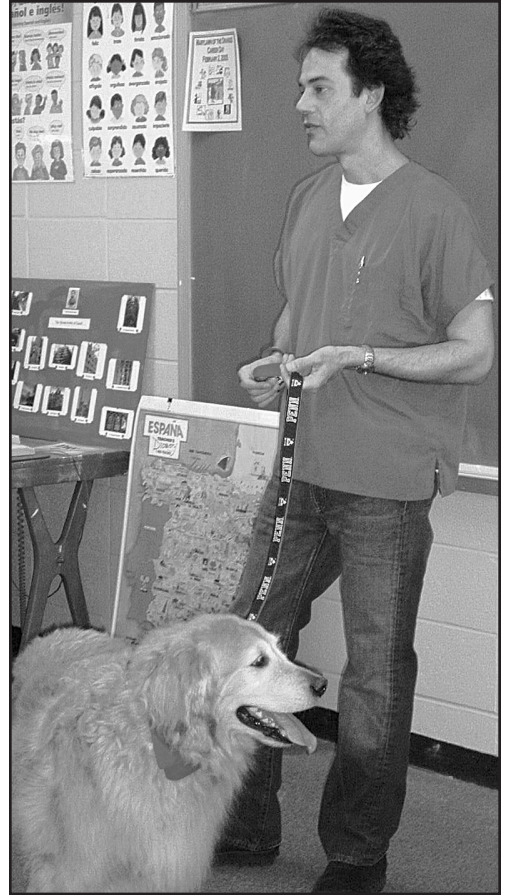
Both will participate in educational activities and presentations led by individuals in high-level positions as well as young people who exercise leadership skills.

Students will also rub elbows with elected officials and key congressional staff members on Capitol Hill, and will visit historic national landmarks including Colonial Williamsburg, from which the United States took shape.

"The aim of the Junior National Young Leaders Conference is to inspire students to recognize their own leadership skills, measure their skills against those of current and former leaders and return home with new-found confidence in their ability to exercise a positive influence within their communities," said Mike Lasday, executive director of the Congressional Youth Leadership Council, the organization that sponsors JrNYLC.

"Young people are not only welcome in Washington, DC, they actually keep this city and our country running," Lasday added.

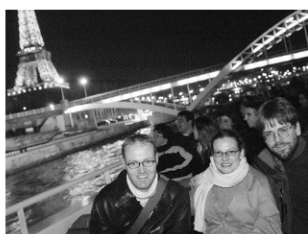
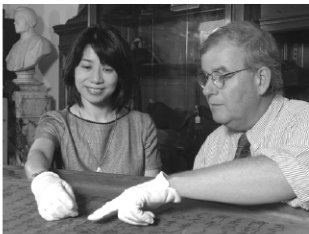
In addition to examining notable U.S. leaders and historic figures, Marrero and Sachanandani will study the impact of leadership throughout critical periods of American history.



FOCUS ON SERVICE TO COMMUNITY- Among the participants at a career day program at Marylawn of the Oranges, South Orange, was veterinarian Dr. David Croman from the Dog, Cat and Bird Hospital of Nutley. He was among 18 speakers to address the students at the all-girl high school.



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Brian Barrachina plays the role of Jesus in "The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ," performed in Spanish by the youth group and families of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Jersey City, on March 20, 4 p.m. at the Ritz Theater, Elizabeth.



The Passion Play in Spanish marks milestone production

BY LIESL FORES
Staff Writer

A special Passion Play will take place this Lenten season in the Archdiocese of Newark. *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 take place March 20 at 4 p.m. at the Ritz Theater, Elizabeth. With 50 actors, two acts and 70 scenes, presented in a theater

that seats 2800, this is the first Spanish-language Passion Play of this magnitude to be staged in the United States. The performance is "full of light and sound that will touch your heart and faith," said Father John Galeano, parochial vicar of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and director of the production, along with co-directors Segundo Lema, youth minister, and Jorge Guengue, youth group activities associate. The priest lauded the entire cast of the presentation, which

includes Brian Barrachina as Jesus, Maria Manzo as Mary, Natalia Melendes as Mary Magdalene and Guillermo Aveldaño as Judas. "The love and talent of our youth group and families emerge in this process," commented Father Galeano, indicating that they've been involved in all aspects, from sewing costumes to making sets to acting. "Everything is based in love. And it's the best way to see the youth group so close to God ... living the Christian life as they're supposed to do," Father Galeano said.

He also noted that the pastor, Father Michael C. Santoro, has been very supportive and is "very pleased" with the project. This is the fifth year of the production, but never has been it been so elaborate, Father Galeano stressed, adding that the endeavor has been made possible by generous donations from local businesses and residents, including Dr. Claudia M. Rodriguez-Peña, Family Dentistry; Riotto Funeral Home; Klinger Tire and Auto Repair, and Home Truck Repair, all in Jersey City, and Mariano Enriquez, Maria Dinapoli, George Flores and Peter and Iliana Guadagnino-Montes, among others.

Hector Cardona of the Ritz Theater remarked that "as a gesture of faith, good will and confidence in Father John Galeano," the theater took on the venture. Pointing out that the theater, which recently underwent a near \$4 million renovation, is one of "high art," with big-name headliners, Cardona asserted, "This production has the professionalism and quality for this venue."

"This is important for the Hispanic community and for the Catholic community," he emphasized. "We have no doubt of the performance's quality." Seats are \$15, \$25 and \$35. Father Galeano urges people to get tickets as soon as possible as they are going quickly. A full house is expected, he said. All proceeds will go to help refinish the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church basement.

The Ritz Theater is located at 1148 East Jersey St., Elizabeth. For information or to purchase tickets call Father Galeano at (201) 297-1856, (201) 232-4878 or (201) 982-3104.

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Parish celebrates 95 years

Most Rev. Charles J. McDonnell, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of the Archdiocese of Newark, was the principal celebrant at a Mass of Thanksgiving marking the 95th anniversary of

St. Joseph Parish, Hackensack.

Concelebrating the Mass with the retired regional bishop for Bergen County were Father Marian Spanier, pastor, and several other priests from the area.

The church overflowed with current and former parishioners, families and friends. It was a bilingual celebration with children in traditional Polish dress leading the procession, Polish and English hymns, and readings in both languages.

Following the Mass, over 200 people attended a buffet luncheon in the church hall, where they could also view an exhibit detailing the history of the parish.

St. Joseph Parish was established to serve a growing number of Polish immigrants. Before the church was built, the faithful had to travel ten miles to Passaic to worship in their native language.

Approval for the new parish was granted by Bishop John J. O'Connor in 1908.

Parishioners contributed not only money, but also labor by helping to dig the foundation.

The first Mass was celebrated on Christmas Day 1909.

Today the parish consists of some 180 families.

Caldwell College alumni honor their own March 18

The Caldwell College Alumni Association has selected Sister Patrice Werner, O.P., Ph.D., college president, to receive the Veritas Award for excellence in leadership in higher education on March 18, 7 p.m. at the Manor, West Orange.

New Jersey First Lady Mary Jo Codey, Class of '77, a former French student of Sister Patrice and teacher in her own right, is honorary chair of the dinner.

Traditionally, the annual awards dinner selects three recipients to receive the Veritas Award, but this year the 60th and sole award will be presented to Sister Patrice.

For the 20th anniversary of the event, profiles of all the past Veritas recipients will be updated and displayed during the evening and individuals will have the opportunity to meet these alumni in person.

Anne Buckley of West Caldwell, Class of '52, received the Veritas Award in 1987 for excellence in journalism. She also received the highest honor given by the Catholic Press Association and the 2001 St. Francis de Sales Award.

She is a former managing editor of *The Catholic Advocate*. She joined the newspaper in 1952 as a staff member, shortly after graduating from Caldwell College with a bachelor of arts degree.

Sister Patrice assumed her current duties in July 1994 and has overseen growth and expansion in all areas of campus life. In addition to enrollment increases, Caldwell College has experienced graduate program growth, technological and facilities expansion and a restructured board of trustees.

Goals for Sister Patrice during her third term include balancing the needs of a growing student population, while stabilizing enrollment and launching a capital campaign to strengthen the insti-

tution's philanthropic base.

A native of Jersey City, Sister Patrice graduated *summa cum laude* from Caldwell College and earned her M. A. in French with honors from McGill University, Montreal and her doctoral degree in French from New York University.

The Veritas dinner is open to the public. Alumni are encouraged to attend. To receive an invitation, call or e-mail Kathleen Buse in the Alumni Affairs office (973) 618-3411 or kbuse@caldwell.edu to be added to the mailing list.



Archbishop John J. Myers recently addressed more than 90 members of the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women. The archbishop spoke about the tragedy of human trafficking and archdiocesan efforts to combat it. At the luncheon, the Woman of Faith, Woman of Action Award was presented to Mary Reed for her volunteer work at Our Lady of Grace Parish, Fairview.



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Rule of Saint Benedict, Ch. 4

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Academy's Dunne, coach of the year

Patrick Dunne, and faculty member and bowling coach at Academy of the Holy Angels, Demarest, has been named New Jersey State Coach of the Year in girls bowling.

He will receive the National Federation High School Association (NJSCA) award for the 2003-04 athletic year.

Bob Baly, assistant director of

the New Jersey Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA), noted "As a coach, Mr. Dunne's career and involvement with student-athletes has provided many intangible benefits, which only a coach can give. It is our hope that these fine young women, whose lives you have touched, become positive role models and citizens in future

years. You should be proud of your accomplishments and contributions. We are honored to have you as a coach in the state of New Jersey."

Dunne will receive his award along with the National Federation High School Association's Hall of Fame inductees at a luncheon held in their honor on Sunday, April 10.



KUDOS TO KEGLERS- The bowling team at Union Catholic High School, Scotch Plains, with the most successful season in school history won the Mountain Valley Conference crown in both the scratch and handicap divisions, finished second in the Union County tournament and competed in the state sectionals. Since January the team has played at a torrid 58-6 pace in the scratch division. Team members include, left to right, back row, Jeff Pribush, Brian Kratky and Hugo Moras and, front row, Jessica Bonafide, Mike Pirozzoli, Rachel Rota and Judy Adan. Missing from the photo are Evan Davis and Charles Defendorf.

Local free throw champs crowned

Ten boys and girls from Livingston, ages 10 to 14, were named local champions of the annual Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship. They advanced to the district level.

Our Lady of the Mountains Council, Livingston, sponsored the local competition at Aquinas Academy at St. Philomena's Parish.

Taylor DiCicco is the 10-year-old girls' champion and Sean Hunter is the winner of the 10-year-old boys' division. In the 11-year-olds' bracket, Carly LaGrotta

is the girls' champion and Conor Orr the boys' champion.

Twelve-year-old winners in the girls' and boys' division are Kathryn Ferrante and Sebastian LaGuerre. The 13-year-old girls' division was won by Marisa Banzhaf and the boys' by Maverick Vincent Mahon.

Fourteen-year-old champions are Raquel Antoine in the girls' bracket and Rohan Lala for the boys.

Each contestant was allowed 15 free throw attempts in the contest. Ties were settled by successive rounds of five free throws per contestant until a winner emerged.

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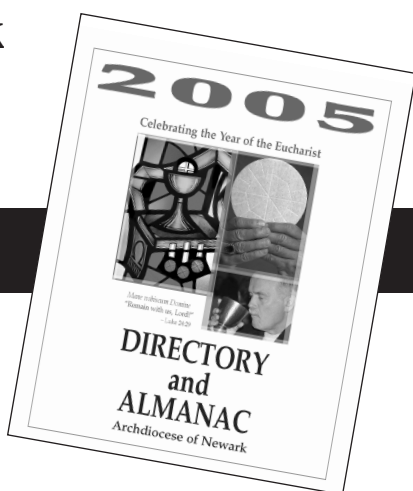
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A GIFT OF HONOR- Father Venantius M. Fernando, pastor of Christ the King Parish, Hillside, presents Archbishop John J. Myers with a *pon-adai*, a traditional Indian robe given to dignitaries when they visit as a sign of respect and gratitude. The robe, directly from India, was given to the archbishop during a recent visit to the parish.

Advocate photo-Frank Wood

The distinctive sound of bagpipes

BY FR. DONALD K. HUMMEL
Special to The Catholic Advocate

As part of my duties as chaplain for law enforcement agencies and fire departments, I am often invited to pray at ceremonial occasions, some joyous, some sad—but each very important to the uniformed participants who serve as public safety officers.

Usually at some dramatic moment bagpipes are called upon to solemnize the event, so much so that we almost instinctively listen for the pipes to make the occasion complete.

Now—answer honestly—do you like bagpipe music? Does your spirit soar? Or do you cringe when you hear the distinctive skirling sound?

And what song do you most often associate with bagpipes? Probably “Amazing Grace.” And does it jar your sensibilities that such a message of redemption is enveloped in that unique cacophony, or are you enveloped,

instead, in a warm blanket of blessed assurance and peace?

It has been my experience that the pipes evoke equally strong reactions on both sides. Few people feel blasé about this instrument.

There is a story told of a person who had a radical conversion after many early years of dissolute living and who served the community afterward, reaching out generously to the destitute and poor.

After 20 years as an outstanding and respected citizen the person died and appeared before St. Peter. The rules for admission to heaven were laid out for him: “You need 2,000 points to get in.”

After cataloguing his entire life story, with emphasis on the decades of selfless service, an apparently impressed St. Peter said, “Good, that’s worth three points.”

“In that case,” the applicant said, “only the grace of God will

get me in.”

“You’re right,” came Peter’s retort, “that’s worth 1,997 points—come right in!”

Now about those pipes . . . the “drones” produce the backdrop for the melody line that the “chanter” carries. Similarly, God’s amazing grace carries us and is ever-present as the backdrop to the melody of our lives—no matter what past transgressions or current service to others.

So what are you doing to “earn” your three points? Do you really want justice, or is divine mercy going to be the measure?

Listen to the pipes again. You might just hear them a little differently.

By the way, in case you haven’t already guessed, I’m one of those who love the pipes. I’ve heard the sweet sound; I’ve been lost and now been found. I have been touched by God’s grace, and it has made all the difference.

Obituary

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Feb. 14 for Sister Mary Fabiola Ratajczak, C.S.S.F., 91, who died Feb. 10.

Sister Fabiola entered the Felician Sisters in 1933. She received a B.S. in education and an M.A. in guidance, both from Seton Hall University.

Ministering for 71 years, she served as a missionary at Our Lady of Mercy High School, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and as a guid-

ance counselor at St. Thomas Aquinas High School/Bishop Ahr High School, Edison, for 19 years.

Her assignments in the Archdiocese of Newark included teaching at St. Anthony School and High School, Jersey City, and at the following elementary schools: Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Bayonne; St. Valentine, Bloomfield; St. Casimir, Newark; St. Theresa of the

Child Jesus, Linden, and Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Wallington.

Sister Fabiola retired to Immaculate Conception Provincial House, Lodi, in 1995 and continued to work there, taking on various assignments to help the resident sisters. In 2001, she was transferred to Our Lady of Lourdes Infirmary, Lodi, where she resided until the time of her death.

Editor departs diocesan paper for post at SHU

Gregory Tobin, the editor and associate publisher of *The Catholic Advocate*, will leave the newspaper to take a position at Seton Hall University, South Orange. Tobin has headed the newspaper for nearly two years, and this is the last issue he will publish.

He will become senior adviser for strategic communications at the university, reporting to the president, Msgr. Robert Sheeran, and work closely with the university advancement division’s public relations and marketing group.

Tobin is the former editor-in-chief of Book-of-the-Month Club, Inc. and of Random House’s Ballantine Books division. He is also the author of *Selecting the Pope: Uncovering the Mysteries of Papal Elections* (published by Barnes & Noble Books) and other works of fiction and nonfiction about the Catholic Church.

“I already miss my colleagues and friends at the Archdiocesan Center, who have been so supportive of our efforts to improve and advance the diocesan newspaper as a primary vehicle of evangelization and communication by the archbishop to the local Church of Newark,” he said.

“I look forward to working in a vibrant Catholic community on the campus of our diocesan university,” he added.

Deacon Joseph A. Dwyer, Jr., vice chancellor for administration, has assumed direct responsibility for business operations of the Advocate Publishing Corp., which publishes *The Catholic Advocate*, *New Jersey Católico* and the annual Directory and Almanac of the archdiocese.

James Goodness, the director of communications for the Archdiocese of Newark, will serve as acting editor of the biweekly newspaper until a new editor is selected.

Marge Pearson-McCue, the longtime director of advertising sales and member of the Catholic Advertising Network national board, will serve as director of operations, including all aspects of advertising, circulation, bookkeeping and production.

To submit stories or make editorial inquiries, email mielejos@rcan.org, and for advertising inquiries, email advoads@rcan.org.

New Jersey Catholicism lecture series under way

Through April 28, Seton Hall University, South Orange, will host the fifth annual Monsignor William Noé Field University History and New Jersey Catholicism Lecture Series, organized by the Msgr. William Noé Field Archives and Special Collections Center.

This year’s series is themed “Catholic New Jersey: From Local Landmarks to International Influence.” Free and open to the public, the lectures will take place in Beck Rooms A and B on the first floor of the Walsh Library.

The lecture series schedule is as follows: “The Catholic Home: Celebrations and Traditions for Holidays, Feast Days and Every Day,” Meredith Gould, author, Tuesday, March 8, 4 p.m.

“American Catholic History Student Research - New Jersey Catholicism Projects Panel,” Msgr. Richard Liddy, director of the Center for Catholic Studies, Seton Hall University. Elliot Guerra, student—“Catholicism as Ethnicity.” Edmund Luciano, student—“Importance of Saints in Italian-American Devotional

Life.” Roberto Ortiz, student—“Hispanic Catholic Rituals and Symbolism in Newark, New Jersey.” Tuesday, March 15, 2:30 p.m.

“Eucharistic Renaissance: Frequent Communion and the Transformation of Catholic Piety in Early 20th Century Newark and Beyond,” James McCartin, professor of history at Seton Hall University, Thursday, April 7 at 4 p.m.

“A Historical Look at the Structures of the Archdiocese of Newark,” Greg Tobin, former editor and associate publisher of *The Catholic Advocate*, Thursday, April 28 at 5 p.m.

The series honors the memory of the late Msgr. Field, former university professor and archivist.

An alumnus of Seton Hall’s Immaculate Conception Seminary, Msgr. Field was ordained a priest in 1940. The lectures will be broadcast live over www.shu.edu. For additional information contact Alan DeLozier, special collections librarian, (973) 275-2378.

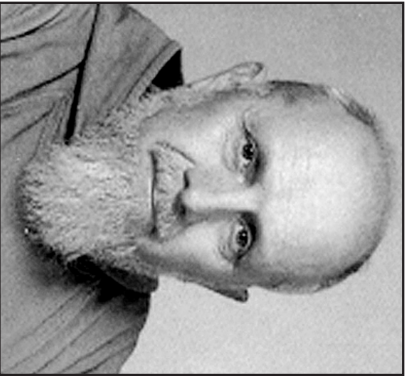
DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

Fri. Mar. 25 – Sat. Apr. 2

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER, APRIL 3, IS DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

“There is nothing the world needs more than Divine Mercy.” – Pope John Paul II

***SPECIAL SERVICE — Wed. Mar. 30**
OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL
Ridgewood, NJ – 7:30 p.m.



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DEVOTIONS AT CHURCHES AND CHAPELS STARTING THE 4TH DAY

Services include Benediction, Divine Mercy Prayers, Reflections, Chaplet

4th Day — Mon., Mar. 28

St. Joseph’s, Oradell, 7:30 p.m.

Intention – “SOULS WHO DO NOT BELIEVE IN GOD AND DO NOT YET KNOW JESUS”

5th Day — Tues., Mar. 29

St. Elizabeth’s, Wyckoff, 7:30 p.m.

Intention - “SOULS WHO HAVE SEPARATED FROM THE CHURCH”

6th Day — Wed., Mar. 30

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Ridgewood, 7:30 p.m.

Intention – “WEEK AND HUMBLE SOULS AND LITTLE CHILDREN” * **SPECIAL SERVICE**

7th Day — Thurs., Mar. 31

Most Blessed Sacrament, Franklin Lakes, 7:30 p.m.

Intention – “SOULS WHO ESPECIALLY VENERATE & GLORIFY MY MERCY”

* **MOMM presentation,**

“Tell All Souls About My Mercy”

8th Day — Fri., April 1

Church of the Assumption,

Emerson, Holy Hour, 7:00 p.m.

Intention – “SOULS WHO ARE DETAINED IN PURGATORY”

9th Day — Sat., April 2

Bergen Mall Chapel, Paramus, 12 noon

Intention – “SOULS WHO HAVE BECOME LUKEWARM”

Good Friday — Stations of the Cross, Divine Mercy Chaplet — Englewood Abortion Clinic, 11 a.m.

Divine Mercy Sunday Service April 3 — St. Paul’s Catholic Church, 200 Wyckoff Ave., Ramsey, NJ, 2 p.m.

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Education

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 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.

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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.

Pro-Life Openings
ASSISTANT HOUSEMOTHER
 At the Several Sources Shelter. Our non-profit, non-sectarian shelters for pregnant women are in need of kind, compassionate individuals to fill the following opening: Title: Live-in Assistant Housemother, \$9,500 to \$11,500 per year. Drivers License required. If you would like to receive specific job descriptions and an outline of our Pro-life work, please contact Kathleen Wrona or Susan Lloyd, PO Box 157, Ramsey, NJ 07446, (201) 818-9033.

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Ministry
YOUTH MINISTER
 St. Virgil Parish, Morris Plains, NJ, is searching for a full time or part time Youth Minister. Candidates should have a relevant degree in religious education. Preference given those with experience in youth ministry and catechesis. The Youth Minister is the director of one of the major ministerial departments of the parish and a member of the parish's catechetical team. The Minister is responsible to develop a faith community for the youth of the parish through a wide range of programs, including Confirmation, service projects and retreats. Salary and benefits are commensurate with education and experience. One year contract, renewable annually. Position could be filled by two part time ministers or a married couple. Contact: Monsignor James L. Fallon, Saint Virgil Parish, 250 Speedwell Ave., Morris Plains, NJ 07950.

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

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 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.

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.

A.F.
 E.D.

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.

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.

M.L.K.

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.

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Singing about their health in a scene from “How to Stay Home from School,” are, left to right, Jessica Nesi, Janeclare McCann and Mae Rose Aduabato. All are members of the new drama club.

Drama club members make a scene

Despite the cancellation of the two final rehearsals due to snow, the new drama club at St. Michael’s School, Cranford, staged their first Scene Night program.

The evening included short scenes performed by two to four actors. In all, the students presented 20 scenes that varied in tone and topic.

Gabby Mittleman and Rita Della Valle presented “Above It All” about a ferris wheel that offers one girl an escape from a troubled family situation. “Trouble,” presented by Megan Byrne and Katie Lubin in which a girl ultimately decides not to join the “in crowd” if it means stealing.

There were abundant laughs too. Chritina Foti and Jade Neves-Novak bickered convincingly in “Lisa and Nancy” while Kathleen Sullivan did a monologue in which her character portrayed

a dog, mother and villain.

Lorraine DeMan, club moderator, was pleased with the performances and enthusiastic response from the audience. “I thought it went very well... everyone worked very hard.”

Museum exhibiting student’s art work

Caitlin Colesanti, a senior at Academy of the Holy Angels, Demarest, has had a piece of her artwork selected by a jury of professional art curators for inclusion in an exhibition at the Morris Museum, Morristown.

The annual exhibition, Fresh Perspectives, began 15 years ago as a means to provide artistically accomplished high school stu-

dents a professionally organized museum exhibition experience and to recognize art teachers.

Colsanti, a student in the school’s advanced placement studio art class, will also be included in the exhibition catalogue and receive a certificate of participation.

A preview and opening reception will be held April 21.

The Catholic Advocate

Catholic Radio

SUNDAY
Religion on the Line
6 a.m. - WABC 770 AM
Mass
6:30 a.m. - WPAT 930 AM
La Hora Católica
8 a.m. - WADO 1280 AM
Catholic Heritage Hour
9 a.m. - WSOU 89.5 FM
Voices of Our World
10:45 a.m. - WSOU 89.5 FM
The Sunday Morning Mass
11 a.m. - WSOU 89.5 FM
Proclaim the Good News
12:30 p.m. - WCTC 1450 AM
Perspectives on the News
12:30 a.m.(Mon.) - WOR 710 AM

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



TV Masses

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

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

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

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

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

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

Other Programming
Religion and Ethics Newswk
Weekends - WNET Ch 13



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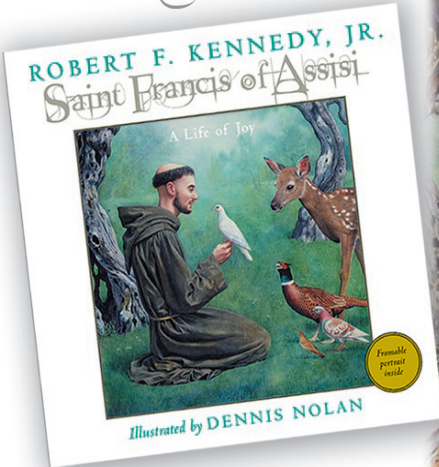
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MINUTES FROM ROUTES 17, 46 & I-80

Pastor, educator to be honored at Newark parade

Msgr. John Gilchrist, pastor of Holy Cross Parish, Harrison, and Sister Eileen Bradshaw, S.C., director of development at St. Vincent Academy, Newark, are the grand marshal and deputy grand marshal respectively of this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade in Newark.

The 70th annual parade, the oldest in New Jersey, steps off at 1 p.m. on Sunday, March 20.

Msgr. Gilchrist was ordained in 1957. He is the chairman of the Newark Archdiocesan Commission for Inter-Religious Affairs and a columnist for *The Catholic Advocate*.

Msgr. Gilchrist is the chaplain for the New Jersey State AFL-CIO and Local 68 International Union of Operating Engineers. He also serves as spiritual director to the

Essex West Hudson Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

Sister Eileen, a Sister of Charity of Saint Elizabeth for 54 years, has served in Newark for 25 years at St. Vincent Academy. Today, it is the only Catholic secondary school for young women in Newark.

The 2005 Newark St. Patrick's Day Parade is being dedicated to

Patrick J. Tansey, who died on Jan. 29 at age 55. He was born and raised in Newark and had lived in Rockaway many years. He was a longtime Newark Firefighter.

After 33 years of service, he retired as a battalion chief for the Newark Fire Department and was named chief of staff to the director of the Newark Fire Department.

Tansey served as president of the New Jersey Association of Professional Firefighters and of the International Association of

Firefighters, AFL-CIO.

The parade will assemble at Washington Street and Central Avenue. The parade route will run east on Central Avenue, then south on Broad Street, past Newark City Hall, and end at Court Street.

There will be two reviewing stands, one located at the corner of Broad Street and New Street and the second located at Newark City Hall.

For more information call (201) 214-3296.



9th Annual UNION COUNTY SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

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Grand Marshal
Peg Cullen

General Chairman
Frank M.
McGovern

Parade Adjutant
Joe Dugett

Saturday, March 12, 2005

A Family-Oriented Celebration of Irish Heritage

Schedule of Events

- 9:00 am MASS**
Saint Patrick's Church
215 Court Street, Elizabeth, NJ
- 12:00 pm GRANDSTAND FESTIVITIES**
Intersection of Morris and
Stuyvesant Avenues, Union Township, NJ
- 1:00 pm PARADE**
*Line of March-Morris Avenue,
Union Township, NJ*
(Beginning at Commerce Avenue to
Stuyvesant Avenue)
Two Best Viewing Locations...
- Burnet Junior High School
(Located at Morris and Caldwell Avenues,
opposite Walgreen's)
 - Intersection of Morris and Stuyvesant
Avenues

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Frank M. McGovern (908) 347-8245
www.unioncountystpatricksdaysparade.com



Msgr. John J. Gilchrist and Sister Eileen Bradshaw, S.C.

County parades to step off

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, 215 Court St., 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



Frank McGovern is general chairman of the Union County parade.

go to www.unioncountystpatricksdaysparade.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., Jersey City.

Dinner dance set March 12

The Parents' Club of Bergen Catholic High School, Oradell, will hold its annual St. Patrick's Day dinner dance on Saturday, March 12 in the gymnasium at 7 p.m.

In addition to the traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner there will be bagpipers, a deejay and Irish step-dancers.

Tickets are \$50 and available by calling Janet Donaghy at (201) 262-1703.

That same evening, the Parents' Club will hold its fourth annual Super Car Raffle for a 2005 BMW 325i. Second and third place prizes are a laptop personal computer and gift certificate to Tiffany and Company.

Tickets are \$100 and can be obtained through Gale Speanburg at (973) 801-2122.

Historical works about the mission of St. Patrick in 5th-century Ireland

BY GREG TOBIN

Editor & Associate Publisher

The ever-tantalizing questions about St. Patrick's true identity and time period have been addressed with scholarly vigor in two new books published within the past year.

As a student of Patrician biography and Church history of late antiquity, I am gratified that the subject—which also has an emotional value for so many of Irish descent—continues to spark serious research and fascinating speculation.

Last year Simon & Schuster published *St. Patrick of Ireland: A Biography* by Philip Freeman (216 pages, ISBN 0-7432-5634-4). It is available now in paperback reprint. Freeman is a professor of classics at Luther College in Iowa and a visiting scholar at Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, MA.

Just this month, Paulist Press (in nearby Mahwah) has issued the U.S. edition of a British book, *Discovering Saint*

Patrick by Thomas O'Loughlin (254 pages, ISBN 0-8091-4360-7) in softcover. The author is a lecturer in theology at the University of Wales, Lampeter.

Why do we continue to care about St. Patrick, who is so far distant in memory, whose life and times are so very different from our own? We care—we are deeply attracted to him—because of his powerful witness to Christ and his wholehearted commitment to the Church.

Even in a world that is foreign to our experience, the world of Pope St. Leo I (440-61) and St. Jerome and the heresy of Pelagianism (now nearly forgotten), the world of the crumbling Roman Empire, two centuries before the founding of Islam—the so-called Dark Ages—the message of salvation was a bright light that shone through the words and actions of a self-described “despised” and “rustic” sinner.

Patrick's letters (the *Confessio* or Confession and the

Epistola or so-called Letter to the Soldiers of Coroticus) are the only surviving documents of the time and place—5th-century Ireland—and provide unique insights not only into the mind of a mystical saint but provide a glimpse into how the Gospel was brought “to the ends of the earth,” as Ireland was believed to be.

St. Patrick fervently believed he was living and laboring at the end of time, that he was a latter-day apostle in the mold of St. Paul. He was a “man of one book,” i.e., the Holy Bible, which he quotes in nearly every line of his own writings.

Philip Freeman provides a very readable popular biography of this remarkable man. He effectively brings to life the world of this remarkable saint: “The worship services Patrick conducted would have been plain by modern standards. Much of the time they would have been out-of-doors or in a small home, even a

barn, as he traveled about the countryside.”

St. Patrick of Ireland is recommended for Freeman's lucid explications of the knotty historical problems and his ability to write a smooth narrative of an obscure time, place and historical person.

On the other hand, O'Loughlin's volume falls squarely in the honorable and sometimes controversial school of high-level Patrician scholarship. Since J.B. Bury's magisterial 1905 biography through D.A. Binchy's penetrating 1962 essay on “Patrick and His Biographers,” there have been competing schools, competing dates, even competing Patricks!

Lay readers have had to contend with disputes and unclarity, but O'Loughlin helps us wade through the scholarly



conundrums with ease and confidence. His *Discovering Saint Patrick* stands tall in the forest of tomes about this compelling religious figure.

Greg Tobin is the author of *The Wisdom of St. Patrick* (Barnes & Noble Books, 245 pages, ISBN 0-7607-6322-4).



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