

# Faith as a foundation for global peace strategies

BY FATHER FRANCIS V. TISO

*Special to The Catholic Advocate*

The Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon will forever haunt our national memory. As we look back with grief and remember those lives lost, we look forward with resolve that we will honor the victims and future generations by building societies nourished in the soil of justice and peace.

While sound political strategies and diplomacy are critical in fighting terrorism and promoting universal human rights, inter-religious dialogue is just as important if we are to confront the roots of religious violence and the often painful history that Christians, Muslims and Jews share as people of faith. What we do in the United States can and already does serve as a model for peace-making strategies in other parts of the world.

For centuries, armed conflicts have been driven by religious zealotry and intolerance. At the present time, sectarian violence is inflaming parts of Africa and the Middle East, particularly Iraq. However, religion, both prophetic and institutional, plays a redemptive role in history. The abolitionists' crusade to end slavery, Gandhi's nonviolent resistance, and the U.S. civil rights movement for equal citizenship all had spiritual and moral foundations rooted in faith. A sound religious education grounded in the historic communities of faith forms the human imagination in the ways of justice, balanced reasoning, moral virtue and forgiveness.

Along with other religious leaders, the Catholic bishops of the United States spoke urgently in the aftermath of Sept. 11, stating unequivocally that terrorism in the name of religion profanes religion. The bishops reinforced long-standing dialogic partnerships with Muslims and pledged to work more closely with organizations such as the Islamic Society of North America, the Islamic Circle of North America, and the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

While the attacks gave dramatic clarity to the importance of this work, interfaith dialogue between Catholics, Jews and Muslims began well before Sept. 11. The Second Vatican Council, called by Pope John XXIII in 1962, produced among its legacies the groundbreaking document

Nostra Aetate, on the importance of interreligious understanding and mutual respect. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' ecumenical and interreligious office began co-sponsoring regional Catholic-Muslim dialogues in 1996, building upon earlier relationships built up in the 1970s and 1980s.

In the three current regional dialogues that take place annually on the West Coast, in the Midwest, and in the Mid-Atlantic regions, Muslim and Catholic leaders exchange intellectual and spiritual insights from the study of our holy scriptures, seek common ground on matters of faith and public policy, and deepen our bonds as children of one God.

*The roots of Islam, Judaism, and Christianity share core messages of God-centered justice, compassion, and peacemaking that offer a moral framework for us in these troubled times.*



Father Francis V. Tiso

We grapple with issues of marriage and family, virtues and values, war and peace. We learn to eschew generalizations, question stubborn assumptions and move forward humbly with mutual respect. A number of documents have been produced by these dialogue groups, including one on divine revelation, another on the spirituality of dialogue and a projected study of marriage and family life.

As members of Abrahamic religions with a shared history and global reach, Muslims and Christians are called to speak prophetically in a world where materialism, militarism and religious extremism betray the common good.

Despite the benefits of globalization, the growing gap between the wealthy and the poor, and the scourges of hunger and preventable disease, are moral failings that demand urgent attention.

We know that our religions have, at times, been tragically used to justify violence; we are working to heal that dark legacy. We have also inherited rich traditions that provide persuasive examples of cooperation that built bridges between civilizations in the past, and that promise to help us build today a culture of solidarity as a moral counterpart to open markets and free trade.

In 12th Century Spain, the Islamic caliphate in Córdoba tolerated Christian and Jewish worship. Jews exchanged ideas in Arabic with Muslim scholars. Latin, Hebrew and Arabic translations of the works of Hellenistic philosophy and science enabled scholars of the three faiths to create a common culture in pursuit of enlightenment.

While the great religions of the world have significant theological differences, the roots of Islam, Judaism, and Christianity share core messages of God-centered justice, compassion and peacemaking that offer a moral framework for us in these troubled times.

In the hours after the attacks of Sept. 11, Americans were drawn to churches, mosques and synagogues in waves of shock and sorrow. People rushed to buy books about Islam. Interfaith vigils lit up the darkness. Fragile threads of cooperation were woven to balance elements of uncertainty and fear, bearing witness to the power of faith to move people to find solutions to problems that political efforts cannot resolve.

We recognize that religion alone cannot resolve the tensions built up over many centuries of struggle. In a complicated world where geopolitical chess matches and real politick prevail in decision-making, religious communities retain the force of moral persuasion and spiritual conviction. Let us not forget that our living religious traditions in dialogue offer wellsprings of wisdom for a better future.

(Note: Father Tiso is the associate director of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for ecumenical and interreligious affairs, Washington D.C. He was quoted as a source in two news stories earlier this year in The Catholic Advocate—see the March 8 and Aug. 9 editions.)

## Grateful friends praise Father McKenna, recall his ministry as a 'wounded healer'

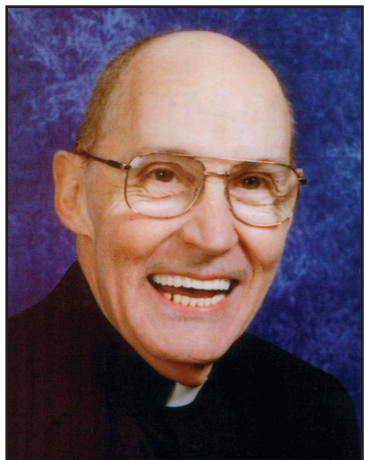
BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE

*Editor*

He was a "wounded healer" who, during a ministry that lasted more than four decades, touched the lives of thousands of people inside and outside of the Archdiocese of Newark.

Father James T. McKenna, who died at the age of 71, was a servant of God for 46 years. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Father McKenna on May 27 at St. Mary Parish, Closter, where he had served as pastor for 10 years (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Aug. 23).

Cresskill resident Robert D. Ryan said Father McKenna's greatest accomplishment was establishing a Recovery Mass, which began 20 years ago. Ryan recalled that Father McKenna opened each Recovery Mass



Father James T. McKenna  
1935-2006

with a simple, profound introduction: "My name is Jim and I'm an alcoholic."

Ryan said Father McKenna's homilies touched the lives of those battling an addiction or suffering from the pain of a loved

one's addiction. He said Father McKenna emphasized the virtues of patience and love in the recovery journey. Ryan's son, who struggled with addiction for 20 years, met Father McKenna while living in a Bergen County halfway house. "Thankfully, my son has been sober for more than seven years, thanks in large part to the guidance and support of Father Jim," Ryan said.

Father Paul A. Cannariato, the pastor of Church of Saint Mary, Closter, praised Father McKenna as "a wounded healer. He helped many people who struggled with alcohol addiction. That was his ministry and that was his gift."

Msgr. Lawrence W. Cull, the pastor of St. Paul Parish, said Father McKenna "knew the downtrodden" and did prison ministry work. Father McKenna lived in residence at St. Paul fol-

lowing his retirement.

"He was everyone's best friend and had a great sense of humor," Msgr. Cull said. "Father Jim was able to bring people back to God." Msgr. Cull confessed that, when he was having his own problems with alcohol, Father McKenna came to his aid.

Bergenfield resident Steve Cochran is assisting in the formation of The Father Jim McKenna Memorial Fund, which will support the Ladder Project in Hackensack—a halfway house for people involved in addiction recovery. The Ladder Project is part of the Bergen County Community Action Partnership ([www.bergenap.org/crisis.html](http://www.bergenap.org/crisis.html)).

Cochran recalled he first met Father McKenna at an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting in August 1989. Father McKenna served as Cochran's sponsor in the pro-

gram and the two men became close friends.

Father McKenna understood that those afflicted by the disease of alcoholism suffer from feelings of isolation and despair, Cochran said. The beloved priest confronted those feelings, and as a result was able to connect with others, leading them to a path of recovery.

"Father Jim was always 'there' for everyone," Cochran said. "He encouraged people to go outside of themselves to find hope; to find God in others." Cochran said that, after he had "hit bottom" from his addiction, Father McKenna "inspired my spiritual awakening."

Those wishing to contribute to The Father Jim McKenna Memorial Fund can write to P.O. Box 35, Cresskill, N.J., 07626. Meanwhile, the Recovery Mass—part of Father McKenna's enduring legacy—continues at St. Paul Parish, 200 Wyckoff Ave., Ramsey, at noon on the third Saturday of each month. All are welcome to attend the Recovery Mass.



USPS-008-380

The Catholic Advocate

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President and Publisher  
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OFFICE HOURS:  
MONDAY THRU FRIDAY  
8:45 AM TO 4:45 PM  
TEL: (973) 497-4200  
FAX: (973) 497-4192  
WEB: www.rcan.org/advocate

EDITORIAL TEAM  
Michael C. Gabriele  
Editor & Associate Publisher  
gabriemi@rcan.org

Ward Miele  
Managing Editor  
mielejos@rcan.org

Melissa McNally  
Staff Writer  
mcnallme@rcan.org

Rev. James Worth  
Editorial Consultant

ADVERTISING TEAM  
Marge Pearson-McCue  
Director of Advertising & Operations  
pearsoma@rcan.org

Ramona Westbrooks  
Classified/Account Executive  
westbrra@rcan.org

Anita Bethea  
Account Executive  
betheaan@rcan.org

PRODUCTION TEAM  
Marilyn Smith  
Production Supervisor  
smithmai@rcan.org

Paula Blackman  
Graphic Artist  
blackmpa@rcan.org

Carolyn Martins-Reitz  
Graphic Artist  
reitzcar@rcan.org

CIRCULATION/  
BUSINESS TEAM  
Kelly Gallegos  
Administrative Asst/Bkkrp.  
gallegke@rcan.org

Mark Chrisco  
Circulation Coordinator  
chriscma@rcan.org

Marisa Inclán  
Clerical Asst.  
inclanma@rcan.org

PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT  
The Catholic Advocate is published by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark at 171 Clifton Ave., Newark NJ 07104-9500. Periodical postage is paid at Newark NJ and at additional offices. Postmaster: Please send address changes to: P.O. Box 9500, Newark, NJ 07104.

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FREQUENCY FOR THE YEAR  
The Catholic Advocate continues to be a bi-weekly publication. Publication dates for 2006 are: October 25; November 8, 22; December 6, 20.

FREQUENCY FOR 2007  
January 10, 24; February 7, 21; March 7, 21; April 4, 18; May 9, 23; June 6, 20; July 18; August 8, 22; September 5, 19; October 10, 24; November 7, 21; December 5, 19.

NJPA



ISSN# 1084-3213

# Catechist convocation on Oct. 28 to provide tools for faith education

PARAMUS—"Who Do You Say That I Am" is the theme of this year's Catechist Convocation on Saturday, Oct. 28 at Paramus Catholic High School.

The convocation, which will run from 8:15 a.m. until 3 p.m. and presented in English and Spanish, is open to parish catechetical leaders, catechists, RCIA catechumenate teams, Eucharistic Ministers, parish sacramental teams, youth ministers, adult faith formation teams, parents, pastoral associates, social justice teams, adult spirituality teams, adult spirituality teams, liturgists, priests and deacons.

Following registration that begins at 8:15 a.m., there will be a welcome and opening prayer from 8:45 to 9:30 a.m. Two workshop sessions, from 9:35 to 10:50 a.m. and 10:55 a.m. to 12:10 or 12: 15 to 1:30 p.m. will precede two lunch sessions. A final

round of workshops is scheduled for 1:35 to 2:50 p.m. A closing prayer session will be held from 2:50 to 3 p.m.

Workshop topics include: It's a Small World After All, Too Old to Color, Too Old to Discuss, Our Heritage: Jewish and Catholic Feasts, Creative Discipline and Classroom Management, Using Icons in Proclaiming the Good News, Celebrating Saints and Seasons, "Let the Children Come to Me," The Da Vinci Code, A Catechist's Tool?, Young Catholic Adults, the Present and Future of the Church, Move Clips, DVDs and Prayer, Leading Adult Groups Practical Skills, Parents: Our Partners, Sacraments: Signs of God's Loving Relationship with His People, Response of the Catholic Church to the Problems Experienced by Immigrants, The Spiritual Care and Feeding of an Adolescent, Catechists and Vocations Awareness, Hello God, I Am

a Boy with Autism, a Girl with Down Syndrome, Catholic Identity In a Religious Education Program, You are Moses...We Lead and Part the Waters, Be a Winner in the Primaries, Music and Catechesis, Confirmation is Not Graduation...Getting Them to Stay, Putting Faith into Action, Confirmation: Sacrament of Service and Witness, Cyber-Catechesis and Global Solidarity...CRS and Catechesis.

Registration cost is \$20 per person, which does not include \$8 for lunch. A bus will leave from the area of St. Augustine Parish, Union City, at 8 a.m. The cost for the bus is \$10.

Registration forms and checks, payable to the "Catechetical Office," should be returned by Oct. 15 to Catechist Convocation, Archdiocese of Newark, Catechetical Office, P.O. Box 9500, Newark, N.J. 07104.

# Foer reviews process, 'pillars' to give catechists certification as faithful teachers, messengers

BY WARD MIELE  
Managing Editor

NEWARK—The important task of preparing catechists to "get the message across" to young people throughout the Archdiocese of Newark is under the careful tutelage of Elizabeth R. Foer, M.A.

From her second floor office in the Archdiocesan Center, Foer, associate director, catechist formation and certification, oversees the certification and enrichment process of some 11,000 parish catechists teaching approximately 18,000 young people.

Foer brings a wealth of experience to her job. She was a director of religious education 22 years and before that taught in Catholic school for 18 years. She has given numerous workshops in the catechetical area.

Certification is mandated in order to become a catechist, she explained. The certification process requires 48 hours of classroom instruction at three distinct levels. One is spirituality that encompasses "the person of the catechist" incorporating "the idea that all are called through Baptism to spread the Word of God," she said. The 12 hours of instruction for this level focuses on the various roles of a catechist such as program leader, a "witness to justice" and "story-teller," she noted.

Methodology is another level. It centers on both faith and moral development designed for the different grade levels a catechist will teach from pre-school through freshman in high school. Depending on the parish, an overview of Scripture is also provided.

The "pillars" of the catechism are studied at the doctrinal level. Those pillars, noted Foer, include the Creed, Catholic morality, the

Liturgy, sacraments, spirituality and prayer. There are, she stressed, "different styles" of instruction at all three levels.

A major change in the program has been a broadening of the number of sites from college campuses to the parishes. There are three sites in Essex, Union and Bergen counties and two in Hudson County.

Certification also includes parish level courses titled "Jesus, Model of Catechist,"

"Catechesis with Children" and "Spotlight on the Catechism." Some programs that are available are the Catechist Convocation at Paramus Catholic High School on Oct. 28.

A Catechist Study Day, presented by Foer, will take place Nov. 11 at the parish center of St. Helen Parish in Westfield from 9 a.m. to noon, dealing with arts and crafts for Advent and Christmas. Participants will learn how to provide a creative classroom through this hands-on workshop for Pre-K to eighth grade. A certificate for three hours toward catechist formation or ongoing formation will be issued at the end of the study day.

Registration brochures for such programs can be found at www.rcan.org.

Foer can be contacted by calling (973) 497-4297 or via e-mail at foereliz@rcan.org.



Father Kevin Hanbury, vicar for education and superintendent of schools, welcomes new directors of religious education to the Archdiocesan Center in Newark. They are, left to right, front row, Lisa Melillo, Claudia Pastrana, Anthony Armando, Michelle Angelo, Rosemary Ellinwood, Director of the Catechetical Office, Ronald L. Pihokker, M.A., Sister Joan Marie Verdi, C.S.A.C. and William Beatty. In the back row are Father Hanbury, Joanne Oziemblo, Luceso Angelica Munoz, Margaret Gardner and Patricia Cook.

Advocate photo-Ward Miele



## Archdiocese aids students

Continued from page 1

Because the school had just closed a month before, everything was in working order and only minor details needed to be addressed.

Although only a portion of Elliott Street School was damaged, the entire building is being renovated and the students are expected to stay at our Lady of Good Council and St. Anthony of Padua for three to five years.

"There was the normal shock of the families in the community after the fire. 'Will my kids be out on the street? Will we have to wait for our children to go to school?' But having this proposal gave them a lot of hope," Father Gonzalez recalled.

The parishes made getting the message out to the students' parents a priority after the deal went through.

"We had information on television, web sites and told everyone in the neighborhood," Father Gonzalez said. "On Aug. 30, we had a meeting with the parents to discuss what exactly was going to happen in September. Because Our Lady of Good Counsel is only

one block away from their former school, it was not that inconvenient. However, some parents could have a conflict if they have one child in Newark at this school and a younger child in Belleville. However, there are buses that bring the children to school."

The use of a former Catholic school building by a secular school could lead to conflict, but Father Gonzalez says that both entities are working well. "It is a classic landlord and tenant relationship. I am there only to offer the facilities and personal help and support. I stay out of school business. Most of the families at the Elliott Street School are Catholic anyway so most of them were just grateful that we offered the space. It was a mutually supportive situation and everyone cooperated with each other."

Although closing a Catholic school was a sad occurrence, Father Gonzales saw an opportunity to come to the aid of hundreds of families. "Rather than looking to the past, I saw that at least the building can be used to educate children. It is rewarding to see that the kids have a place to

go. The North Ward is crowded and we need more schools and using this building was a win-win situation for all."

Like Father Gonzalez, Father Ferraro saw the opportunity for students to relocate to the former parish school in Belleville. Only one mile away from the site of the fire, St. Anthony of Padua School closed in the early 1980s and Catholic Charities had been leasing the space for 28 years as a special education facility. However, Catholic Charities decided not to renew its lease in June and the space was available to rent.

"I took a ride down to Elliott Street School and realized its proximity to our school," Father Ferraro said. "I recalled that (Newark) Mayor (Cory) Booker was worried about a place to put all of the children. I called his office and suggested St. Anthony of Padua. The (Newark) Board of Education came and reviewed the school and jumped at the opportunity. Both our school and Our Lady of Good Counsel did not have enough space for all of the students so we took about 200 third and fourth graders," Father Ferraro explained.

The St. Anthony of Padua site needed to undergo some repairs

and the Newark Board of Education worked tirelessly to make it happen, working closely with the office of Property Management Administration for the Archdiocese of Newark.

"The school board pushed a lot of things through to have this finish on time. Workers came to paint and fix the school and were there everyday, morning to night, sometimes on weekends," Father Ferraro said. "They cleaned and had to provide new furniture because Elliott Street School's had been destroyed. Everything looks so beautiful now and everyone seems happy with the result."

Having a public school in the new space does not present a problem for the pastor and he is grateful that the children are once again in the school. "The parishioners are very happy about the school children here," he said. "All of the children are very nice and respectful. Many of the kids have thanked me for letting them use the space."

Steve Belloise, executive director of Property Management Administration for the Archdiocese of Newark, said he was surprised by how quickly the deal came together.

"Generally it takes longer to put something like this together,

about three to four months," Belloise said. "Elliott Street School called us first and we gave them the market rate. We overcame some red tape because there was a willingness by both parties to help. There was no bickering and no one tried to take advantage of the situation. We didn't impose ourselves and we received great cooperation from the city."

Belloise noted that the arrangement worked well because there was a clear focus on the task at hand from the beginning of the negotiation. "No one wanted the kids to miss out on going to school and we wanted a smooth transition from one grade to the next. It is nice to see when an effort is made to cooperate, there is a benefit made to everyone."

Although having a school struck by lightning is an unusual situation, the Board of Education, the city of Newark and the archdiocese worked together smoothly toward a common goal: giving the displaced students a place to learn.

"The properties were available at the right time," Belloise said. "It's nice to accommodate the city instead of (the archdiocese) asking them for help. It was good to provide an opportunity for the city and for the children."

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# Two ministries move to Newark chancery

NEWARK—The Office of Pastoral Ministry with the Deaf and Office of Pastoral Ministry with Persons with Disabilities, previously under the direction of Catholic Charities, are now within the Archdiocesan Center.

Both ministries, which serve some 264,000 Catholics, focus on individuals and families dealing with disabilities to find welcome in their parish while assisting parish staff members and parishioners to be more inclusive.

The ministries will assure the maintenance of programs at regional centers and explore expansion to other locations for the catechetical instruction, sacramental preparation and liturgical celebration of the life of the Church with the deaf and with all persons with disabilities.

Deacon Thomas Smith, director of the Office of Ministry with the Deaf, sees his occupation as a combination of spiritual and social work. “If our lives are defined by relationships with others and the way we find purpose in Church and with God and if relationship is based on communication which becomes compromised by a language barrier, it hits to the bottom line in terms of our well-being and belonging. Since I was ordained I was able to bring sacramental access to them in their own language.”

In conjunction with degrees from Rutgers University and Emerson College, Deacon Smith has gained insight into working with the deaf for decades, and has been instrumental in setting up emotional support services for deaf people across the country in regards to both spiritual and social issues. Deacon Smith is “excited” about the opportunity “to find more support for the spiritual side” of his position in moving to the Archdiocesan Center.

Anne Masters, M.A., director of the Office of Ministry with Persons with Disabilities, recently earned her Master’s Degree in Theology from St. Elizabeth College and has been active in her parish ministry the past 13 years in the areas of Catechesis, Parish Development, Social Outreach and Scripture Study.

Finding qualification in her position from both an educational and personal standpoint, she draws on her experiences in her work as director. “The purpose of the work is to affirm the Baptism of the disabled and their participation in the life and mission of the Church, and the way it does that is through empowering parishes to be welcoming communities,” she explained. “Whereas the past the focus has been on direct help to the disabled, we are now finding the resources of materials to assist the parishes in reaching out to the disabled in their congregations,” Matthews added.

Commenting on the move, Msgr. Richard Arnholz, vicar for Pastoral Life, said “we are proud to provide these essential ministries to the parishioners of the Newark archdiocese, and we look forward to all of the good that will come of the addition.”

# Parish marks a milestone

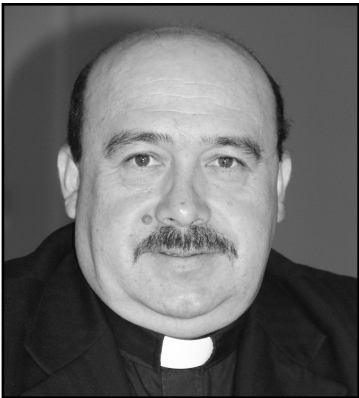
MONTCLAIR — St. Peter Claver Parish will mark its 75th anniversary with a gala reception at The Bethwood, 38 Lackawana Ave., Totowa, on Friday, Oct. 20, 8 p.m.

The reception program includes dinner, dancing and a

silent auction.

Tickets are \$100 per person. Call the parish rectory at (973) 783-4852 for more information on the diamond jubilee event. Information also is available on the parish’s Web site: [www.saint-peterclaverchurch.org](http://www.saint-peterclaverchurch.org).

Father Gamba is the pastor of St. Peter Claver, located at 56 Elmwood Ave.



Father Jose Gamba

# Priesthood Sunday

Continued from page 1

Church and His people. He must be compassionate, understanding of the sufferings and difficulties people face in their lives, humble and aware that he does not have all the answers.”

The 21st Century challenge of being a priest, Bishop da Cunha feels, is that people today live in a highly secularized society centering on materialism and life’s pleasures out of which the “idea of service” as a priest has to struggle to emerge.

Only about 4,000 of the 19,000 parishes in the United States have more than one priest. Many priests serve two or more parishes by themselves.

Liliana Soto, archdiocesan coordinator of evangelization, is providing information in support of Priesthood Sunday. Call Soto at (973) 497-4353 for details. Parish lay leaders also can visit [www.priestsunday.org](http://www.priestsunday.org) for suggested materials both in English and Spanish including liturgies, social celebrations, reflections, downloadable graphics, guides and posters. Requests for printed material should be directed to (888) 777-6681.

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## October 5

**Benedictine Academy**, Elizabeth, open house for sixth through eighth grade female students, 6:30 p.m. and Oct. 21 at 10 a.m., (908) 352-0670 ext. 104.

**Holy Trinity Parish**, Westfield, six-week grief support group, 7:30- 9 p.m., (908) 232-8137.

**Xavier Center**, Convent Station, "Immigration Issues" workshop, 7 -8:30 p.m., (973) 290-5100.

## October 6

**Sodality of the Children of Mary of St. Teresa**, Jersey City, recitation of the "Little Office" followed by Mass, 3:25 p.m., call Katherine Crossan, (201) 689-1471.

**St. Mary Parish**, Closter, Sacred Heart Novena/ Healing Mass, first Friday for nine consecutive months, call John Powers at (201) 768-6388.

## October 7

**Sodality of the Children of Mary of St. Teresa**, Jersey City, recitation of the Rosary followed by Mass, 8:40 a.m., call Katherine Crossan, (201) 689-1471.

**St. Thomas the Apostle Parish**, Bloomfield, Holy Name Communion Breakfast, after 8:30 a.m. Mass, RSVP with John Renie at (973) 338-4615.

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish**, Ridgewood, communion breakfast, after 9:30 a.m. Mass, (201) 444-5932.

**Seton Hall University**, South Orange, University Day, (973) 761-9000.

**Carmel Retreat**, Mahwah, "Learning How to Forgive," 9:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m., cost: \$30, (201) 327-7090.

**Xavier Center**, Caldwell, "What Can the Mystic Teach Me," 10 a.m.- 3 p.m., cost: \$25, (973) 403 3331 ext. 25.

## October 8

**Xavier Center**, Caldwell, "El Hambre y la Sed Jesus (Spanish)," 1-4 p.m., cost: \$20, (973) 403-3331 ext. 25.

**St. Paul Parish**, Ramsey, candlelight living Rosary honoring Our Lady of Fatima, 7 p.m., (201) 327-0976.

**St. Matthew Parish**, Ridgefield, candlelight procession in honor of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, 7:15 p.m., (201) 945-3500.

## October 11

**Sisters of St. Dominic Motherhouse Chapel**, Caldwell, prayer for peace 7-8 p.m., (973) 403-3331 ext. 25.

**Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish**, Scotch Plains, annulment information meeting, 7:30 p.m., (973) 497-4327.

## October 12

**Cedar Hill Country Club**, Livingston, St. Benedictine Academy golf outing, 11:30 a.m. brunch and 12:30 p.m. start, (908) 352-0670 ext. 105.

## October 14

**Carmel Retreat**, Mahwah, "Teresa's Teaching on Prayer," 9:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m., cost: \$30, (201) 327-7090.

**St. John the Baptist Parish**, Hillsdale, ministry fair, after all weekend masses, 5 p.m. on Oct. 14 and Oct. 15 at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and noon, (201) 666-2707.

**St. Catherine of Siena School**, Cedar Grove, pre-school book swap, 10 a.m.- noon, (973) 239- 6968.

**Knights of Columbus Council #3428**, North Arlington, Oktoberfest, 6:30 p.m., cost: \$20, (201) 991-9606.

**Archdiocesan Center**, Newark, training workshop for separation and divorce ministry, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m., cost: \$75, (973) 497-4327.

**Knights of Columbus Council #5427**, Washington Township, dinner/dance, 7-11 p.m., cost: \$55 for couples and \$30 for singles, RSVP by Oct. 9, (201) 664-0422.

## October 15

**Holy Trinity Parish**, Westfield, St. Helen Rosary Altar Society communion breakfast, at Westwood in Garwood, cost: \$20, call Rose Russo at (908) 232-9047.

**St. Aloysius Parish**, Caldwell, fall harvest celebration, 2-5 p.m., (908) 362-6735 or (973) 228-1720.

## October 16

**Corpus Christi Parish**, Hasbrouck Heights, Mother of Mercy Messengers dramatic presentation, 7:30 p.m., (201) 288-5210.

**St. Andrew Parish**, Westwood, Evening of Prayer for Peace, 7:30- 8:30 p.m., (201) 358-8917.

**St. Helen Parish**, Westfield, "Luke Live," through Oct. 19, 7 p.m., (908) 232-1214.

## October 17

**Bayley Seton League**, Seton Hall University, South Orange, meeting, 1:15 p.m. followed by Mass, call Rose Soriano at (973) 375-9332.

## October 18

**St. Mary Parish**, Rutherford, bereavement group, runs until Nov. 29, 7:30-9 p.m., RSVP at (201) 438-2200.

## October 20

**St. Catherine of Siena School**, Cedar Grove, harvest festival tricky tray, 6:30 p.m., cost: \$20, call Jennifer at (973) 228-6205.

## October 21

**Xavier Center**, Caldwell, "A Poetry Celebration for Fall," 10 a.m.- 3 p.m., cost: \$25, (973) 403-3331 ext. 25.

**Xavier Center**, Caldwell, "Your Rhythm in Prayer" 9:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m., cost: \$20, (973) 403-3331 ext. 25.

**Pauline Books and Media Center**, Edison, "Crusade of Charity: Pius XII and POWs," 11 a.m., (732) 572-1200.

**Sodality of the Children of Mary of St. Teresa**, Jersey City, fall luncheon at South City Grill, noon, cost: \$45, call Katherine Crossan, (201) 689-1471.

**Knights of Columbus**, Ramsey, Oktoberfest, 7 p.m.- midnight, cost: \$35, (201) 962-8574.

**St. James the Apostle Parish**, Springfield, travel, service and craft auction, 6:30 p.m., cost: \$10, (973) 376-3044.

## October 22

**Carmel Retreat**, Mahwah, "Joy Luck Club" movie, dinner and discussion, cost: \$25, (201) 327-7090.

**St. Cassian Parish**, Upper Montclair, concert celebrating Mozart's birthday, 4 p.m., cost: \$15, (973) 744-2850.

## Official Appointments



**Archbishop John J. Myers** has announced the following appointments:

### PAROCHIAL VICAR

**Reverend Francis T. Maione**, was appointed parochial vicar of St. Lucy Parish, Newark, effective Sept. 15.

**Reverend Wilson A. Divina**, Summer parochial at St. Luke Parish, HoHoKus, has been appointed parochial vicar of Christ the King Parish, Hillside, effective Oct. 1.

**Reverend Kevin A. Gugliotta**, parochial vicar at St. Joseph Parish, West Orange, has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Bartholomew Parish, Scotch Plains, effective Nov. 1.

### CHAPLAIN

**Reverend Bernard Duga** was appointed chaplain at Hackensack University Medical Center, Hackensack, effective Sept. 19.

**St. James Church**  
Newark  
wishes to thank  
**Sr. Hilaria de Oliveira , O.S.F.**  
for her  
dedication to the faith.

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\*\*\$100 offer requires direct deposit sign-up within the first 30 days of account opening. Bonus will be credited to account within 60 days after the first direct deposit is made. APY is .25% as of 9/1/06. The rate may change after the account is opened. Minimum balance to open the account and obtain the bonus is \$100. Minimum balance to obtain APY is \$1. New accounts only. A \$100 service fee will be deducted if the account is closed within six months. Offer may be withdrawn at any time.

# Enjoying a special Mass to welcome those with developmental disabilities

BY ANNE MASTERS  
*Special to The Catholic Advocate*

ROSELAND—Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish was abuzz on a Monday evening last July with the typical joyous activity and noise that often happens before a family Mass.

Then again, maybe it wasn't so typical; maybe there was something a little extra special beneath all the familiar sights and sounds in the church.

The parish pastoral associate, Sister Rie Crowley, S.S.J., was rehearsing with the children who would bring up the Gifts. When she asked who would be working with the grandmothers reading the petitions, she learned it was she—of course!

Two mothers were practicing the preparation of the altar, which would mark the transition in the Mass from the Liturgy of the Word to the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Polaroid pictures were taken of families as they arrived at the church. The families would then place these "instant" pictures on the altar cloth during the Offertory, as part of the Gifts and as a tangible sign that we offer ourselves up to God in the liturgy.

Jacqueline Alworth, a music minister and parishioner at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, began the Gathering song. Everyone began to sing and, indeed, all those present gathered and became one.

Actually, this was not the "typical" family Mass that takes place in many parishes on Sundays. Instead, it was a "Special Needs" Mass for families that have children with developmental disabilities. The families gathered to celebrate that distinction, for the Church is one body in Christ with many gifts.

The Mass was held July 24 on the Feast of St. Christina the Astonishing, who had lived in the 12th Century. History records that St. Christina exhibited "unusual behaviors," which apparently people of her day did not understand. However, those around her still experienced St. Christina as someone to whom who God was present; someone who God worked through in a special way.

This particular family liturgy grew out of a faith-based mothers' support group known as "And A Child Shall Lead Them." This support group focuses on the needs of mothers of children with developmental disabilities—a program developed by Cherie Castellano, M.A., C.S.W., L.P.C. Sr. Rie Crowley, S.S.J., and Mary Beth Walsh, Ph. D. also contributed to the program. The altar cloth for this Mass was made and donated by Loretta Boronat, the mother of a young man with autism, who has also been a catechist for children with special needs for many years.

Msgr. Richard Arnholz—the vicar for Pastoral Life for the Archdiocese of Newark, the pastor of St. John the Evangelist in Bergenfield, and a columnist for *The Catholic Advocate* (see page 8 for his commentary on compassion for people with disabilities)—presided at the Mass, which was concelebrated by Fr. Theodore Osbahr, the pastor of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, and Fr. Christopher Isinta, the parochial vicar. Many who participated in the liturgical ministries have a connection to someone with a developmental disability.

It is not the purpose of this experience to suggest a separate Church for people with developmental disabilities. In fact, the pastoral statement of the U.S. Catholic Bishops on persons with disabilities declares: "There can be no separate Church for persons with disabilities. We are one flock that follows a single shepherd."

People and families living with developmental disabilities take great comfort in having the opportunity to celebrate God's presence in their lives, without worrying about feeling embarrassed or being stared at by fellow worshipers for the "different" or "distracting" behaviors of themselves, their son or daughter, sister, or brother.

(Note: Anne Masters, M.A., is the director of pastoral ministry with persons with disabilities—an office within the vicariate for Pastoral Life of the Archdiocese of Newark. She can be reached by phone at (973) 497-4309.)



Andrew Jakimowicz, Dominic Castellano and "LJ" Castellano (left to right) walk with Sister Rie Crowley and bring up the Gifts during the July Mass at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish. Another Special Needs Mass will be held at the Roseland parish on Monday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m.

# An informed Catholic electorate can review 'Dialogue' on Oct. 18

It is crucial for Catholics to have a thorough understanding of the legislative issues affecting the Church and their communities when they step into the voting booth Nov. 7. An informed electorate is vital for a viable democracy.

Both major political parties have taken a no-holds-barred approach to the fall campaigns in what most pundits see as a pivotal election. The outcome will have a profound and sustained impact on what is important to Catholics.

A unique opportunity to be brought up to speed on the Church's position will take place when Archbishop John J. Myers hosts an "Evening of Legislative Dialogue" on Wednesday, Oct. 18, 7:30 p.m. at Mother Seton Regional High School, 1 Valley Rd. in Clark.

Featured will be presentations on such core issues as social concerns, education and respect for life. Legislators will be on hand to respond to each of the presentations. That should be eye opening. Audience members will also be able to meet and speak with their representatives following the formal program.

Archbishop Myers' comprehensive knowledge of the issues as they affect the Church coupled with his cogent explanation of what concerns Catholics will benefit the public and put the politicians on notice.

After attending the dialogue evening, Catholics will be far better equipped to look beyond the slick and often negative ads and campaign rhetoric to what a particular candidate's platform means for their faith and its tenants.

Contact Mary McElroy at (973) 596-4046 or Kay Furlani at (973) 497-4341 for more information on the Oct. 18 forum.

# Exploring the tools of stewardship at Oct. 28 forum in Scotch Plains

Stewardship, a vital element of parish life playing a major role in moving the Archdiocese of Newark forward, will be explored at the annual archdiocesan Stewardship Day on Saturday, Oct. 28 at Union Catholic High School, 1600 Martine Ave., in Scotch Plains.

Scheduled for 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., the always informative and uplifting experience will teach valuable lessons for those involved in stewardship, which, in turn, will benefit the larger parish family.

Designed to discover the latest tools for discerning and living one's spiritual strengths, Stewardship Day will provide both an overview of the effort while presenting a look at the parish level.

Keynote speaker for the event is Father Daniel Mahan, executive director of the Marian College Center for Catholic Stewardship in Indianapolis. Joining him on the podium will be Father Jack Cryan, the pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Jersey City, who will discuss the topic of "collaborative service," while Father Larry Evans, the parochial vicar of Our Lady of Mercy, will present "year-round parish stewardship."

Contact Monica Bernardes at (973) 497-4104 for information on Stewardship Day. In making plans to attend, remember always that stewardship is only as good as its people. Be there.

# Abortion denigrates us all

Editor,  
The *New York Post* reported a statement made by Edward Cardinal Egan, the Roman Catholic religious leader of the Archdiocese of New York. It appeared on page three of the Sept. 11, 2006 edition.

The cardinal, in short, described the last five years as difficult, war overseas, threats and uncertainty here at home.

He continued "despite all this I believe that the generosity of spirit, what I would call the holiness exhibited on 9-

11 and in the days and weeks that followed, has remained with us and ennobled us as a people and as a city."

The favorable U.S. Supreme Court ruling on *Roe v. Wade* legally allowed abortion in 1973 into our traditional American way of life. Abortion denies generosity of spirit, which the cardinal calls holiness, and it has denigrated us as people and a country."

Raymond T. Lee  
Elizabeth



# Making strides to include those with disabilities

Back in June, I was privileged to join in the Golden Jubilee Celebration of Ordination of Rev. Charles A. Reinbold at St. Joseph of the Palisades Church in West New York. He had served the first half of his priesthood there where I grew up.

Among the gift bearers at the Mass were a couple of special-needs adults. Their presence made me think back to my high school years, when Father Reinbold got me involved in Saturday morning religious education classes for people with mental retardation at St. Augustine's in Union City.

I am blessed today to be pastor of St. John's in Bergenfield, where we also provide religious education sessions for special needs children. Terminology may change, but the Church must always be concerned about the inclusion of those with disabilities.

More than simply providing parking spaces and adapting seating arrangements, parishes must strive to provide opportunities for spiritual growth for those with special needs and meaningful support to their families.

Parishioners, too, need to remember, especially when distracted at Mass, that by our common baptism, we are all loved by God and worthy of feeling a sense of belonging and welcome at worship and other parish activities.

Renewed efforts on the archdiocesan level have begun. Services recently terminated due to budget constraints at

## Seeing & Believing

By Rev. Msgr.  
Richard J. Arnhols



Catholic Charities have been transformed by Archbishop John J. Myers under my vicariate into Pastoral Ministries with the Deaf and with Persons with Disabilities.

Deacon Tom Smith and Anne Masters—the director of pastoral ministry with persons with disabilities—have refined their focus, while maintaining present parish services, to help priests, religious, and lay parishioners raise their awareness of what a difference a kind word, an understanding mind, and a compassionate heart can make to those with disabilities and to their families.

It can be very easy to take things for granted. For example, while some people may not fully understand every Sunday homily, imagine the deaf person who can

hear none of them. Several parishes now provide regular masses interpreted in American Sign Language.

Consider the family of an autistic child, prepared for Communion, who received without incident the first time, but then unexplainably refuses every other time the family comes forward at Sunday Mass. A priest's reassuring word can go a long way to sustain them.

A few years ago, our parish was challenged by the case of a mentally aware but physically paralyzed young girl, nourished via a feeding tube, who had been prepared to receive First Communion. It would have been simple to say "it couldn't be done." But, after some exploration and with special permission, we were able to offer her the Precious Blood introduced into the feeding tube via syringe.

Our Archdiocesan Youth Ministry is sponsoring a "Hand in Hand" Festival on Sunday, Oct. 15, at which various parish youth ministries put on a carnival-like day for people with all types of disabilities. Fordham University is holding a free conference of witness and hope open to everyone on Friday, Oct. 27, at its Manhattan Campus on "Autism and Advocacy." Special events like these are helpful. They demonstrate solidarity and raise consciousness.

Ultimately, though, it is how each of us treats every other person—in church and outside of it, every day—that will have lasting impact in producing a more welcoming Church and a more compassionate world.

(Rev. Msgr. Richard J. Arnhols is pastor of St. John the Evangelist parish in Bergenfield, and archdiocesan vicar for Pastoral Life.)

*We are all loved by God and  
worthy of feeling a sense of  
belonging and welcome.*

# Understanding the biblical vision of marriage

Readings: Gn 2:18-24; Ps 128; Heb 2:9-11; Mk 10:2-16.

Before the Second Vatican Council, priests would be told to preach a series of sermons on the Decalogue, the sacraments and, in a special way, matrimony. These "lessons" would be related to the Sunday readings but often that might require considerable ingenuity.

The first document of the council offered a new vision of the biblical texts used in worship.

"The treasures of the Bible are to be opened more lavishly so that a richer fare may be provided for the faithful at the table of God's Word...By means of the homily the mysteries of the faith and the guiding principles of the Christian life are expounded from the sacred text during the course of the liturgical year" (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy #52).

Of course, we should present the commandments and the sacraments from the biblical text at the appropriate occasions. But a systematic presentation of all their theological and moral implications must be made in another context. Indeed, never has a profound insight into the theology of marriage been more necessary than in contemporary society.

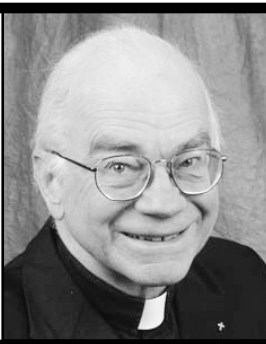
The council addressed aspects of marriage and family life on several occasions which show the roots of its teaching in the Scriptures.

The intimate partnership of life and the love, which constitute the married state, have been established by the Creator and endowed by him with its own proper laws. It is an institution confirmed by the divine law and receiving its stability, even in the eyes of society, from the human act by which the partners mutually surrender themselves to each other; for the good of the partners, of the children, and of society, this sacred bond no longer depends on human decision alone. For God himself is the author of marriage and has endowed it with various benefits and with various ends in view (Constitution on the Church in the Modern World #48).

## Sunday Readings

27th Sunday  
of Ordinary Time  
(Oct. 8, 2006)

By Father Lawrence Frizzell



Of course, to appreciate the dependence of the Church's teaching on the biblical tradition one must survey the entire heritage. However, the passage for this Sunday's readings are especially evocative with regard to the exclusive and perpetual commitment of the partners.

The institution of a monogamous union between man and woman is described in the hymn of creation in seven days (Gn 1:26-28) and in the deceptively simple narrative of Gn 2:18-25, which is part of an older account of creation and its purpose.

Formed from the earth ("adamah"), the human being ("adam") is commissioned to cultivate and care for the garden in which he is placed. In harmony with God, he is at peace with all creatures, but he searches in vain for a partner. The text teaches the uniqueness of the human bond by describing a special creative act of God. He produces an equal for the man and presents her as a matchmaker would.

The purpose of this part of the narrative is stated clearly so that a basic question for all times is answered. Where, after allegiance to God, do a person's loyalties lie? "That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his

wife and the two of them become one body" ("flesh" in Hebrew) (Gn 2:24). The intimacy between the partners in marriage is constituted by an exclusive, lifetime commitment. In a very profound sense each completes the other and together they fulfill the human vocation in God's service. Unless the partnership is open to the Divine Presence the beautiful ideal of self-giving will not be complete.

The experience of marriage in ancient Israel, as in other societies, did not always mirror this pattern of peaceful harmony. Because of the tragic consequences of human sinfulness and the disruption of marital tranquility, the law of Moses permitted divorce and remarriage (Dt 24:1-4), even though the prophet bewailed a man's infidelity and declared that God hates divorce (Malachi 2:14-16).

Jesus was asked to discuss divorce. While acknowledging the law of Deuteronomy for Israel, he pointed to the original principle of the Creator and restored marriage to this ideal. In the fervor of mutual love, young couples all over the world repeat two ideas in their songs and poetry: "you" and "forever."

*Jesus proposed His vision of  
the vocation to marriage on  
the basis of His Paschal Mystery.*

An exclusive union until the death of one partner is intended, but all too often in the course of years some compromises mar that ideal. People do need a remedy for the sinful condition in which

the human race languishes.

Jesus proposed his new vision of the vocation to marriage on the basis of his Paschal Mystery. People would learn the altruistic love that should be exemplified in family life. Mark appropriately linked the blessing of children by Jesus to the passage about married life. Like the rest of us, parents can learn from their little ones an insight into the essence of the Kingdom of God.

(Father Frizzell is the director of the Institute of Judaean-Christian Studies at Seton Hall University, South Orange.)

# Pope endorses adult stem-cell research

ROME (CNS)—Pope Benedict XVI endorsed stem-cell research and therapy utilizing stem cells harvested from adults and umbilical-cord blood.

He also called for researchers and doctors to work more closely together in applying the latest research.

"The possibilities opened up by this new chapter in research are in themselves fascinating" because adult stem-cell studies have pointed to actual and potential cures of degenerative diseases that would otherwise lead to disabilities or death, the pope said at an audience for participants attending a Vatican-sponsored congress on stem-cell therapy.

"How can I not feel compelled to praise those who dedicate themselves to this research and those who support it and its costs," the pope said Sept. 16 to about 260 congress participants at the papal summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, outside Rome.

Scientists, doctors, scholars and bioethicists met in Rome Sept. 14-16 for an international conference sponsored by the Pontifical Academy for Life and the World Federation of Catholic Medical Associations. The congress addressed the scientific possibilities and ethical implications in the use of stem cells.

The pope challenged the "frequent and unjust accusations of callousness" aimed against the Church for its unwavering stance against the use of embryonic stem cells. The Church has always been dedicated to curing diseases and helping humanity, he said.

The resistance the Church shows toward embryonic stem-cell research is because the destruction of human embryos to harvest stem cells is "not only devoid of the light of God but is also devoid of humanity" and "does not truly serve humanity," the pope said.

No matter how promising the goals of such research

may be, he added, the ends can never justify means that are "intrinsically illicit."

"There can be no compromise and no beating around the bush" when it comes to the direct destruction of human life—even when it is just a freshly conceived embryo, he said.

True progress entails the growth of the person that means boosting humanity's technical powers and strengthening its "moral capacity," he said.

Research using adult stem cells "deserves endorsement and encouragement when it happily merges scientific knowledge, the most advanced technology, and ethics that respect the human being at every stage of life," Pope Benedict said.

The pope also asked research centers which look to the Church for "inspiration" to increase research in non-embryonic stem-cell studies and to strengthen ties with health-care providers in proposing new therapies.

During the congress, one researcher said that, while there are more than 70 different therapies that utilize adult stem cells, no cures have yet materialized using embryonic stem cells.

Umbilical-cord blood offers a complete cure for children with severe combined immunodeficiency, and it has shown positive results in brain reconstruction for some children starved of oxygen at birth, said Colin McGuckin, professor of regenerative medicine at the British University.

Researchers have cultivated 20 different human tissues using blood from umbilical cords. Stem cells from bone marrow can make bone and cartilage as well as help regenerate blood vessels and revive damaged tissue, he said.

But despite the numerous success stories using adult stem cells, embryonic stem cells are still getting the bulk of the publicity and funding, said a number of participants.

## The Pope Speaks

Pope Benedict XVI



## Never distance oneself from our Lord Jesus

Dear brothers and sisters,

Continuing our catechesis on the Apostles, I wish to reflect today on Thomas the twin. It is most especially in John's Gospel that we learn about Thomas. At a dangerous time in Our Lord's life, when He decided to visit Lazarus in Bethany, it was Thomas who said: "Let us also go, that we may die with Him." He shows us that the most important thing is never to distance oneself from Jesus. The life of a Christian is one spent together with the Lord.

At the Last Supper it is Thomas who says, "Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" His question leads to the celebrated response, "I am the way, the truth and the life." Jesus also proclaims these words to us today. A further episode in Thomas' life is well known to us all: that of the "doubting Thomas," who says "unless I see in his hands the print of the nails and place my finger in the mark of the nails ... I will not believe." Yet once Jesus appears to him he utters the most splendid profession of faith in all the New Testament, "My Lord and my God."

Let us take heart from the life of Thomas: He comforts us in our uncertainty.

# John Paul II, Benedict XVI, and thoughts on Islam

Throughout the recent controversy over Pope Benedict XVI's remarks on faith and reason at Regensburg University in Germany, attempts have been made to drive a wedge between Benedict and his papal predecessor.

The Arabic satellite TV network, Al-Jazeera, for example, ran a series of cartoons featuring a John Paul-like figure releasing peaceful doves; the doves are then shot down by Benedict from the roof of the Bernini colonnades surrounding St. Peter's. The last images in the series have John Paul weeping, head in hands, while Benedict, holding a smoking shotgun, smirks. All of which is silly and vulgar, of course. But it isn't that far from the views expressed by some Catholics, lamenting what they allege to be the drastic difference between Wojtyla's and Ratzinger's views of Islam.

The 1994 international bestseller, *Crossing the Threshold of Hope* was John Paul II's most personal statement—a summary of his convictions about faith, prayer, the papal mission, other world religions, and the human future. As such, it has a special claim on our attention as an expression of Karol Wojtyla's views, which were honed by an acute intelligence and a long experience of the world.

One section of *Threshold* is devoted to Islam; in it, John Paul expressed his respect for "the religiosity of Muslims" and his admiration for their "fidelity to prayer." As the late pope put it: "The image of believers in Allah who, without caring about time or place, fall to their knees and immerse themselves in prayer remains a model for all those who invoke the true God, in particular for those Christians who, having deserted their magnificent cathedrals, pray only a little or not at all."

But do these expressions of respect suggest, as NPR's Sylvia Poggioli did, that, unlike Benedict XVI, John Paul II

## The Catholic Difference

by George Weigel



put Islam "on the same plane" as Catholicism? Hardly.

Here, again, is the authentic voice of John Paul II, from *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*: "Whoever knows the Old and New Testaments, and then reads the Koran, clearly sees the process by which it completely reduces Divine Revelation. It is impossible not to note the movement away from what God said about himself, first in the Old Testament through the Prophets, and then finally in the New Testament through His Son. In Islam, all the richness of God's self-revelation, which constitutes the heritage of the Old and New Testaments, has definitely been set aside.

"Some of the most beautiful names in the human language are given to the God of the Koran, but He is ultimately a God outside of the world, a God who is only Majesty, never Emmanuel, God with us. Islam is not a reli-

gion of redemption. There is no room for the Cross and the Resurrection. Jesus is mentioned, but only as a prophet who prepares for the last prophet, Muhammad. There is also mention of Mary, His Virgin Mother, but the tragedy of redemption is completely absent. For this reason not only the theology but also the anthropology of Islam is very distant from Christianity."

In other words, there isn't a millimeter of difference between John Paul II's substantive evaluation of Islam and Benedict XVI's.

John Paul II was a master of the public gesture; but to read from his public gestures of respect for Islamic piety an agreement with Islam's understanding of God, man, and moral obligation is to make a grave mistake. John Paul II would have completely agreed with Benedict XVI's critique, at Regensburg, of a theology that reduces God to pure will, a remote dictator who can command the irrational (like the murder of innocents) if he chooses. And, like Benedict XVI, John Paul II knew that such misconceptions can have lethal public consequences, because all

the great questions of the human condition, including political questions, are ultimately theological.

Benedict XVI bears the burden of the papacy at a historical moment in which religiously warranted irrationality is a lethal threat to the future of civilization. He and his predecessor have the

same view of the sources of that irrationality.

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

*Benedict XVI bears the burden of the papacy at a historical moment in which religiously warranted irrationality is a lethal threat to the future of civilization.*



# Parish melting pot thriving in a 'beautiful village'

BY MELISSA MCNALLY

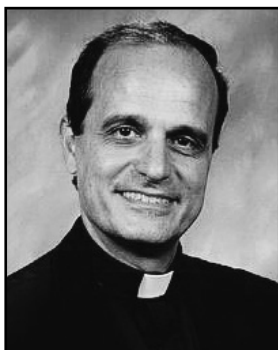
Staff Writer

St. Peter Parish of Belleville stands at the crest of what was once called "Irish Hill." Belleville means "beautiful village," a name that was given by the early settlers in 1877 who were inspired by the area so close to Branch Brook Park and the City of Newark.

The English Gothic-style church, bordered on two sides by the parish cemetery, dominated the skyline. Founded in 1838, St. Peter is the fourth-oldest parish in Archdiocese of Newark.

The parish community of St. Peter is truly Catholic. Its diverse ethnic backgrounds reflect the universality of the church worldwide. The earliest parishioners, who came from Ireland, built the original church in 1838 and later greatly contributed to the construction of the present Gothic church completed in 1914. Irish-Americans continue to make up a large portion of the worshipping community. Large numbers of Italian immigrants moved to the Belleville area during the 20th Century and their descendants continue to be a vibrant part of the parish.

## Meet the Pastor



Fr. Joseph Girone

**Birthday:** April 28, 1950  
**High School:** Saint Joseph's of the Palisades, West New York  
**Seminary:** Immaculate Conception, Darlington  
**Date of Ordination:** May 28, 1983  
**Heroes:** Mom and dad; St. Vincent de Paul  
**Favorite Saint:** Saint Paul  
**Favorite Sport:** Baseball  
**Favorite Foods:** Iberian/Latino  
**Favorite Subject in School:** History  
**Favorite Movies:** "Babette's Feast"; "Life Is Beautiful"  
**Last Book Read:** *Undaunted Courage* by Stephen E. Ambrose  
**Occupation if I weren't a Priest:** Medical doctor



Advocate photo—M. Gabriele

Founded in 1838, St. Peter's diverse ethnic community reflects the melting pot of Belleville. The parish includes people of European descent (Irish, Italian, Polish), as well as families from Ecuador, Peru, Puerto Rico, the Philippines and Vietnam. Construction of the English Gothic-style church was completed in 1914.

There are 1,200 families in the parish. The most recent wave of immigrants hail largely from the Latin American countries of Ecuador and Peru. They join the already established Puerto Rican and Cuban communities at the 1 p.m. Spanish Mass on Sundays, making up the best-attended Sunday Mass at St. Peter Parish. Large numbers of Filipinos also have joined recently, and people from Vietnam, India and Africa are also part of the parish family.

The Hispanic community has a parallel body of leaders called "Presencia Latina," which meets regularly to discuss and implement outreach and ministry to the large number of Hispanics in the area. A representative from the Spanish leadership reports to the parish Pastoral Council monthly.

Now in his 10th year as pastor, Father Joseph Girone has observed the increase in diversity. "Many more Spanish-speaking people from Latin America, especially Ecuador and Peru, have moved here," he said. "The people of the parish work at being all inclusive. We have always been known as a warm and welcoming parish. We have a wonderful mix of many cultures with a unity of purpose and spirit. Stewardship has

become a way of life with many people involved in ministries."

The cultural diversity of St. Peter Parish is evident with its many traditions and ministries. The Fiesta Latina, St. Patrick's Day and St. Joseph's Day are all important festivities as well as Posadas during Advent and the annual Filipino Simbang Gabi Mass. There are also Juan XXIII retreats in Spanish and the "We Care" ministry.

St. Peter School is thriving, embracing more than 300 children from Pre-K through Grade 8. The majority of the children

are Hispanic or of Hispanic origin and the rest are Asian, black, and of European origin, making the school diversified and a model of cooperation, respect and creativity of spirit. The school is Middle States Accredited and interacts with the parish at the Tricky Tray that is well attended by parishioners. The school children also participate in the parish talent show and Christmas party, which builds a sense of community.

Along with the Catholic school education, additional religious education is available at St. Peter Parish. Director of Religious Education Lisa

Melillo has a total of 119 students from kindergarten through grade 8 and a small class of high school students with 30 catechists. The students are taught comprehensive studies and are involved in prayer services such as Stations of the Cross, Reconciliation, and Liturgies of the Word with Children.

Participating in the adult Scripture Study is Mysia Hoogsteden, a parishioner for eight years. She and her husband moved to Belleville from New York several years ago. "It was just so welcoming and we felt right at home. It is nice to be in a parish where there is sense of community," she said.

Hoogsteden also has been president of the pastoral council committee, is a lector, works on the New Energies Committee, participates in the "Word" cluster of the parish council, is a staff member of the parish newsletter "Peter's People," and helps with Liturgies of the Word with Children. "Parishioners here feel like they can make a difference," she explained.

The newsletter is published quarterly and is a valued tool of communication for the people of the parish. "We want to con-

vey a sense of history (in the newsletter) as well as personal interests. We do a parishioner profile and we spotlight different ministries. We try to go beyond the church bulletin."

Having Father Girone as pastor is one of the reasons the parish community thrives, Hoogsteden said. "Father Joe is accessible and he gives wonderful sermons. He is very involved with the Hispanic community and he is concerned with building bridges. He is open to new ideas and if he always supports the committees when we ask for speakers or days for reflection."

Hoogsteden said the different ethnicities present at St. Peter are a valuable asset to parish life. "We have bilingual masses on feast days and I think our diverse parish is reflective of the community. Our parish reflects where the Church is going. Personally, I think that is what life is about. We have to have an open mind and we have to see that everyone is our brother. You get to see different perspectives and we are building a family with our diversity. I would not feel at home in Belleville if it were not for St. Peter Parish."

(St. Peter Parish is located at 155 William St., Belleville. Father Joseph Girone contributed to this article.)

## St. Peter, Belleville

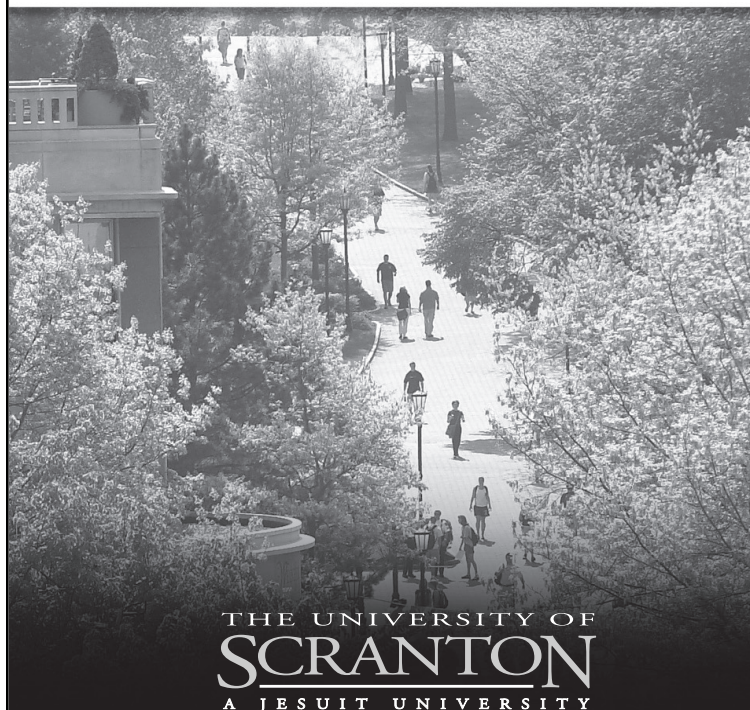




**CELEBRATING HALF A CENTURY**—St. Therese of Lisieux School in Cresskill began a year-long celebration of its first 50 years with a Mass celebrated by Father Joseph P. O'Brien, Pastor, on Oct. 1, the Feast of St. Therese. Art teacher Marilyn Furhmann and several students carefully inspected the banners designed by Mrs. Furhmann and carried into the church in procession at the Mass. In addition to the school community, alumni and parishioners guests included Father Kevin Hanbury, vicar for education and superintendent of schools; Brother Ralph J. Darmento, F.S.C., deputy superintendent of schools and Sister Joan Amelia Ferruggiaro, S.S.J., assistant superintendent of schools.

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## Graduate school open house Oct. 11

**SOUTH ORANGE**—Seton Hall University will host a graduate school open house from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Oct. 11 at the University Center Main Lounge.

Working professionals and other prospective students are invited to learn about Seton Hall's flexible graduate class schedules, easy

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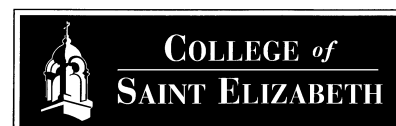
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## Caldwell College graduate program to focus on church administration

CALDWELL—Caldwell College is offering a new concentration in Church administration within its Pastoral Ministry graduate program.

The college's Theology and Business departments have worked together to design a four-course segment in church administration to be offered within the present Master's in Pastoral Ministry.

In addition to two already existing courses within the program ("Organizing As Ministry" and "Psychological Aspects in Ministry"), the two new courses being offered are: Non-Profit Law, Governance and Financial Management; and Marketing, Public Relations and Administration for Nonprofits.

"There is an increased presence of lay people in church ministry positions," Sister Barbara Moore, O.P., D. Min., coordinator for the program, said. "As the realities of the contemporary Church scene unfold, this new offering will enable prospective students who choose to work in various church administration positions, to be well grounded in theology, as well as in the skills needed in areas of administration."

The Master's in Pastoral Ministry, a 36-credit program, combines a solid academic foundation in fundamental Catholic theology with practical approaches to pastoral care. The program is designed to accommodate working adults.

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# A sense of urgency: educators must seize sacramental moments

BY FATHER KEVIN M. HANBURY  
Special to *The Catholic Advocate*

NEWARK—This is a celebration of the ministry of president, principal, teacher or staff in our archdiocesan schools. On this Catechetical Sunday (Sept. 17), we celebrate each of you for answering the call to be catechists.

We say thank you for saying “yes” to serve the Lord and to teach as Jesus did. In every discipline that is taught in our schools, you are asked to serve God’s children by modeling your love of God to your students and their families.

The National Directory for Catechesis outlines the many benefits of faith formation within the Catholic School setting. “The Catholic school affords a particularly favorable setting for catechesis with its daily opportunity for proclaiming and living and appreciating the teachings of our Church; for acquiring a deep understanding, reverence and love of the Liturgy; for building community; for prayer, for proper formation of conscience; for the development of virtue; for participating in Christian service.

“In the Catholic school, the truths of the Catholic faith are not taught solely in isolation during structured religion classes but built into the curriculum.”

I believe that we, as Catholic school teachers and leaders, are sacraments to our students and to our colleagues. Each of us is an outward sign given by Christ to lead our students, our colleagues and our families to a life of grace. Our Old Testament reading from Isaiah challenges us to trust in the Lord’s power for and in our lives. He will be near us and be our help in times of strife and difficulties in our ministries.

The letter of James calls us to match our faith with our works. When we are the sacramental presence in the lives of others, faith will lead us to action, whether it be letting go of prejudice, caring for the corporal or spiritual needs of others or living righteously as people of peace.

The Gospel asks the question: “Who do you say that I am?” Peter responded to Him: “You are the Christ.” I ask you to reflect of this same question: “Who do people say that you are?” Do children and their families see you as this wonderful sacrament; being the outward sign of Christ’s presence? Do you see yourselves as the men and women who have said “yes” Lord, I have come to do your will—to teach, to lead, to form and to pray with and for all your colleagues, your children, your teen-agers, your parents and guardians?

I ask that we never allow these sacramental moments; these teachable moments pass us by. Look for ways to evangelize those who are part of your faith-based school communities. Speak of vocations to



Father Kevin M. Hanbury

religious life, to married life, to single life as all wonderful ways to become alive in Christ’s work in God’s world.

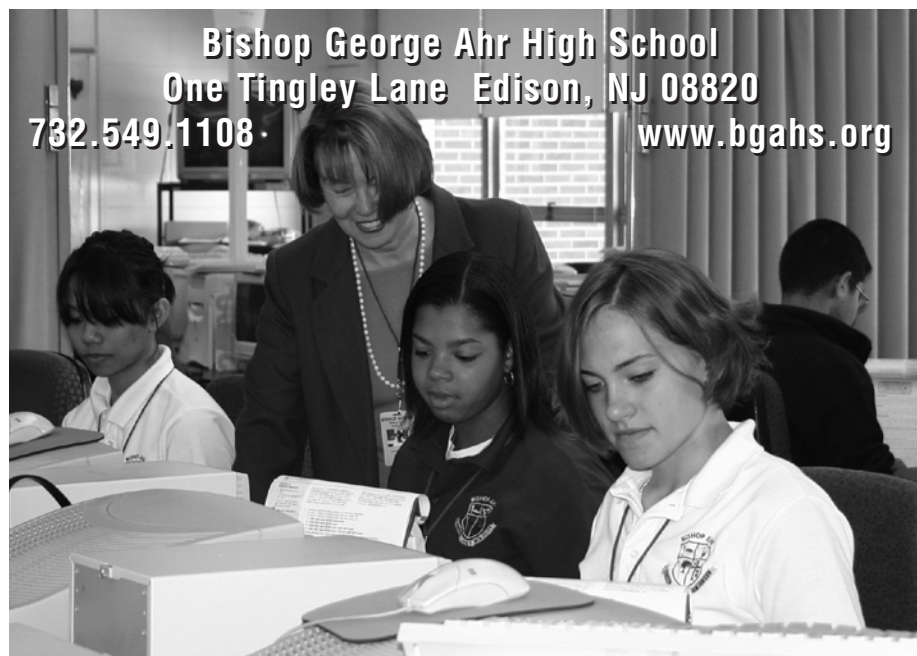
Each of us are part of a team making a quilt. Each square of this quilt portrays our own individual life journey. Our individual squares show our joys and sorrows, our laughter and tears, our successes and failures, our hopes and our dreams, our crosses and our resurrections. Sometimes our pieces of cloth appear noticeably ragged and empty. The square is filled with giant holes. These are the parts of our ministries that perhaps have been difficult, perhaps portray our challenges and temptations that each of us are faced with daily; the crosses that had to be carried and the hardships that need to be endured.

On the other hand, often times the threads making our quilt squares are full of rich color and bright hues showing all our successes and accomplishments; our creative energy and our enthusiasm for work and service. Once our individual part of the quilt is sewn together with the squares made by others, we witness a mosaic of beauty.

We begin to see that collectively we have tremendous gifts and talents. We see that many, at times, had to start over. When we hold our quilt up for all to see we hope that everyone will be filled with awe. We hope that as light shines through the worn spots, the thread-bare places sewn next to the squares rich in hues and splendor we understand that Christ is telling us that together a thing of beauty can evolve.

Let’s get together to make the Catholic schools the best academically and spiritually. As a team we can succeed.

(Father Kevin Hanbury is the vicar for education and the superintendent of schools for the Archdiocese of Newark. He gave this presentation on Sept. 17, Catechetical Sunday, at a special Mass held at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart for Catholic School principals, teachers and support staff.)



*We’ve Added to “Ahr Tradition”*

*St. Thomas Aquinas Wing*

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

The St. Thomas Aquinas Wing includes additional classrooms, a gymnasium and locker rooms, a music room and fine arts center, and a fitness center.

Students also have access to the latest in classroom technology.

These enhancements are part of Bishop Ahr’s ongoing efforts to provide its students with an exceptional educational experience. To learn more about Bishop Ahr, visit our **Open House**, 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, October 15th.

The Class of 2011 entrance exam will be held November 11, 2006. For information, call 732-549-1108, Ext. 641.



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

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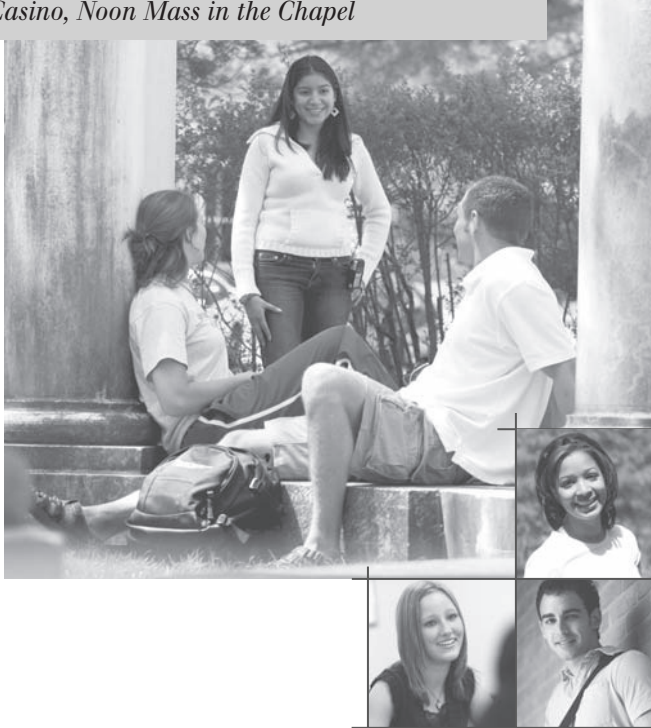
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## CSE open house Oct. 10

MORRISTOWN—Men and women looking for professional advancement or a new career can research educational opportunities offered by the School of Graduate and Continuing Studies at the College of Saint Elizabeth (CSE) during an Open House on Tuesday, Oct. 10, 6 p.m., in McGuire Lounge, Saint Joseph Hall.

The School offers coeducational bachelor's degree programs in Business Administration, Communication, Justice Studies, Psychology and Theology. A Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree is open to students with an R.N.

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# National honors to RCHS magazine

ROSELLE — Roselle Catholic High School's literary-art magazine, *Vox Leonis*, is again a national award winner.

Its latest accolade is receipt of "Most Outstanding Private School Literary-Art Magazine for 2006" by the American Scholastic Press Association.

Over the years, the magazine has won numerous awards, often garnering a first place distinction from the ASPA.

The 2005-2006 editors, Meg Friedman and Tim Faver, are "excited" about the "outstanding" designation this year. Although both remember the pressure in the final weeks of preparation, they now can proudly proclaim, "It was all worth it."

This 26th edition of the literary magazine is made up of contributions from students at every grade level.

It includes short stories, poems, and works of art. The *Vox Leonis* 2006 mission states, "Through the medium of *Vox Leonis*, students are able to express their personal feelings whether it be their hopes, desires, fears, or interests. 'The artist within' is the primary source of inspiration for these students and their creativity as well as the unique expression of their individuality."

*Vox* is a part of the Roselle Catholic tradition that goes back to the first publication, in 1981.

Mrs. Kathleen Douglass, is the current advisor. In her acknowledgements, she highlights the fact that this year, the staff of *Vox Leonis* had access to the school's new Publication Center, provided through the generosity of alumnus Tom Libonate, Class of 1964. The school newspaper and year-book staffs are also benefiting from use of the Center. "The magazine, as always, is totally conceived and created by the students. However, by Mr. Libonate providing the place and the technology, and by Mr. (Joe) Renna (Class of 1978), contributing his publishing advice, yet another level of professionalism has been achieved," Douglass explained.



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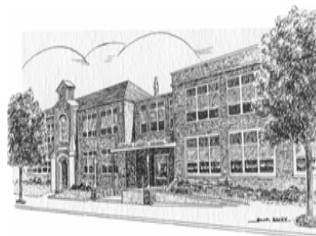
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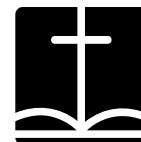


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**ARCHBISHOP-STUDENT**


**DIALOGUE**—Archbishop John J. Myers visited the Bergenfield and New Milford campuses of Transfiguration Academy last month, celebrating the launch of the co-sponsorship school—an alliance of St. Mary Parish in Dumont;

St. John the Evangelist Parish in Bergenfield; and Ascension Parish in New Milford. In addition to the formal remarks and ceremonies, Archbishop Myers engaged in a spirited Q&A session with the academy's upper-school students. Sal Tralongo serves as principal of the academy, while Sister Madeline Hanson is the director of the lower-school campus. Co-sponsorships are in the spotlight this year as a model to strengthen academic programs as well as address changing demographics and financial challenges for Catholic schools in the archdiocese (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Aug. 23).



Advocate photos - M. Gabriele

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## Institute courses set

CALDWELL—Caldwell College is offering a variety of programs for adults over 50 through its Lifelong Learning Institute.

Course offerings include: The History of the Eras of Andrew Jackson and Theodore Roosevelt; Shakespeare's Macbeth; The Art of Drawing; How County Government Works; A Look at the 1930's; Beginning French; Writing Poetry; Contemporary Ethical Issues; Murder, Mayhem and Psychological Drama; Current Events; and a varied Coffee and Conversation series.

There is a \$10 processing fee for each student each semester and there are modest fees for each course. Classes are held during the daytime.

For more information or to register, please call (973) 618-3543 or visit the program Web site at [www.caldwell.edu/adult-ed/LLI/index.aspx](http://www.caldwell.edu/adult-ed/LLI/index.aspx).

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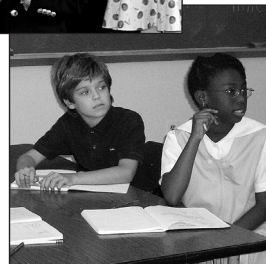
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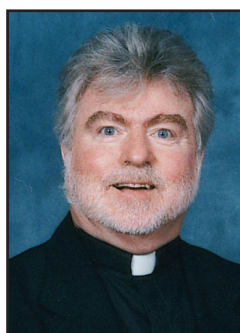
Our Keynote Speaker!  
**Father Daniel Mahan**

Executive Director Marian College Center  
for Catholic Stewardship

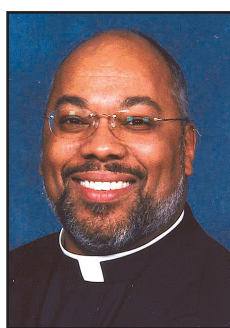
From Our Lady of Mercy Parish  
in Jersey City:

**Father Jack Cryan**  
will discuss Collaborative  
Service and

**Father Larry Evans**  
talks about  
Year Round Parish Stewardship



Fr. J. Cryan

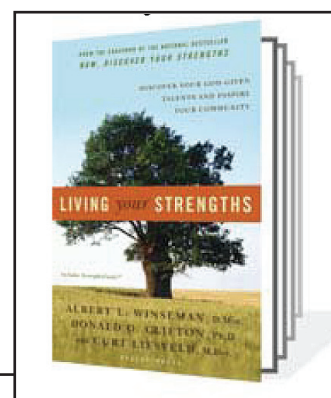


Fr. L. Evans

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Call Monica Bernardes at (973) 497-4104 • Register online at: [www.rcan.org/stewardship](http://www.rcan.org/stewardship)



# World Mission Sunday aids global faith outreach

BY WARD MIELE  
Managing Editor

AREA — World Mission Sunday, organized by the archdiocesan Propagation of the Faith, is a day set aside for Catholics worldwide to recommit themselves to the Church's missionary activity through prayer and sacrifice. It will be celebrated in the Archdiocese of Newark and nationwide on Oct. 21-22.

In urging support of World Mission Sunday, Msgr. Robert J. Fuhrman, archdiocesan director of Pontifical Mission Societies, explained that, "The Catholic world is a big place. There are over 1 billion members in the family of the Church. All of us received the Faith through missionaries.

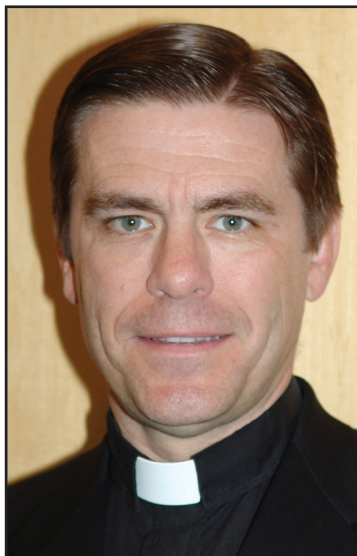
"Across continents, down through 20 centuries, the words of Christ and the gift of the sacraments have been protected by God for our healing and experience," he continued. "So, faith can appear where it is not expected. Christ is proclaimed in forests, on rooftops, behind prison bars, amidst persecution, threat and so on."

Msgr. Fuhrman, who also

serves as pastor of Saint Gabriel the Archangel Parish in Saddle River, stressed "our Church is full of heroes. I speak with 'retired' missionaries. I meet priests and Religious from so-called Third World countries who live with few of this world's goods. I am utterly inspired by their love. When Catholics in America see the beauty of the missions, they are deeply moved."

World Mission Sunday typically is celebrated each year on the next-to-last Sunday in October. As once described by Pope John Paul II, World Mission Sunday is "an important day in the life of the Church, because it teaches how to give: as an offering made to God, in the Eucharistic celebration and for all the missions of the world."

Pope John Paul II also spoke of the Propagation of the Faith's General Fund of support, calling it a "central fund of solidarity." In a message delivered at a previous World Mission Sunday, the late pontiff said "the offerings that will be collected (on World Mission Sunday) are destined for a common fund of solidarity distributed, in the pope's name, by the Society



Msgr. Robert J. Fuhrman

for the Propagation of the Faith among the missions and missionaries of the entire world."

Every year needs grow for Catholic Church missions—as new dioceses are formed; as new seminaries are opened because of the growing number of young men hearing Christ's call to follow Him as priests; as areas devastated by war or natural disaster are rebuilt; and as other long-suppressed areas are opened to hear the message of

Christ and His Church. That is why the involvement and commitment of Catholics from around the world is so urgently needed.

Offerings from Catholics in the United States, on World Mission Sunday and throughout the year, are combined with offerings to the Propagation of the Faith worldwide. Mission dioceses, which today stands at some 1,100, receive regular annual assistance from the funds collected. In addition, these mission dioceses submit requests to the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples for assistance, among other needs, for catechetical programs, seminaries, the work of religious communities, for communication and transportation needs, and for the building of chapels, churches, orphanages and schools.

These needs are matched with the funds gathered in each year. The world's national directors of the Propagation of the Faith vote on these requests, matching the funds available with the greatest needs. These funds are then distributed, in their entirety, to mission dioceses throughout the world.

Contributions to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith on World Mission Sunday and throughout the year help support pastoral and evangelizing programs, catechists and catechetical work, the building of churches and chapels, the work of religious communities in healthcare and education, and communication and transportation needs.

Gifts provided on World Mission Sunday or at other times to the Propagation of the Faith help to ensure that the poor of the missions receive help and the hope that comes from knowing of the love of Jesus Christ. The daily service of the Catholic Church in the Developing World depends on such financial help.

"If we each do what is just, we will be taking care of the Church among the most needy," Msgr. Fuhrman added, citing the importance of and need for World Mission Sunday. "The United States leads the way for all other nations when it comes to giving to the missions. The distribution of the subsidies to the neediest mission dioceses truly depends on our generosity—every one of us."

CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVES LECTURE SERIES

## A Question of Clarity

Seton Hall University and the Order of Malta introduce an important Lecture Series designed to illuminate and clarify the position of the Catholic Church on today's most controversial issues.

**Time:** Lecture - 6:30 p.m. Reception - Immediately following

**Location:** Jubilee Hall, Seton Hall University  
400 South Orange Avenue • South Orange, New Jersey

### End-of-Life Decisions Wednesday, October 18, 2006

Panelists will discuss controversial and emotional issues such as assisted suicide and euthanasia.

Guest Lecturers:

**Kathleen M. Boozang, J.D., LL.M.,** Associate Dean and Professor of Law, Seton Hall Law School

**Thomas G. Higgins, M.D.,** K.M. Cardiologist

**Bobby Schindler, B.S.,** Spokesman,  
Terri Schindler-Schiavo Foundation

#### Upcoming Lectures:

**Wednesday, February 28, 2007**

**The Science and Ethics of Stem Cells and Cloning**

**Wednesday, April 11, 2007**

**Human Sexuality**

Lectures are free and open to the public. Advance registration is requested.

(973) 378-2600 or [universityevents@shu.edu](mailto:universityevents@shu.edu)





# Men's Cornerstone Retreat set Nov. 3-4


HILLSDALE—The Men's Cornerstone Team of St. John the Baptist Parish will hold a Men's Cornerstone Retreat on Friday, Nov. 3 and Saturday, Nov. 4 at the parish center.

The overnight stay begins at 7 p.m. Friday and concludes Saturday at 7 p.m. with a celebration of the Eucharist followed by a social gathering.

Charlie Benante, lay co-director for the Cornerstone Retreat, observed "the weekend affords the men an opportunity for only 26 hours to be away from our stress filled daily schedules. We have time for personal and group prayer, scripture reading and small group discussions."

Jim Stiff, the other lay co-director, pointed out, "some of the men who have made the Cornerstone weekend have said that it's the best 26 hours they have ever spent."

Contact Jim Stiff at (201) 664-7948 for more information.



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Lourdes and Fatima	April 9-16, 07	\$1,945

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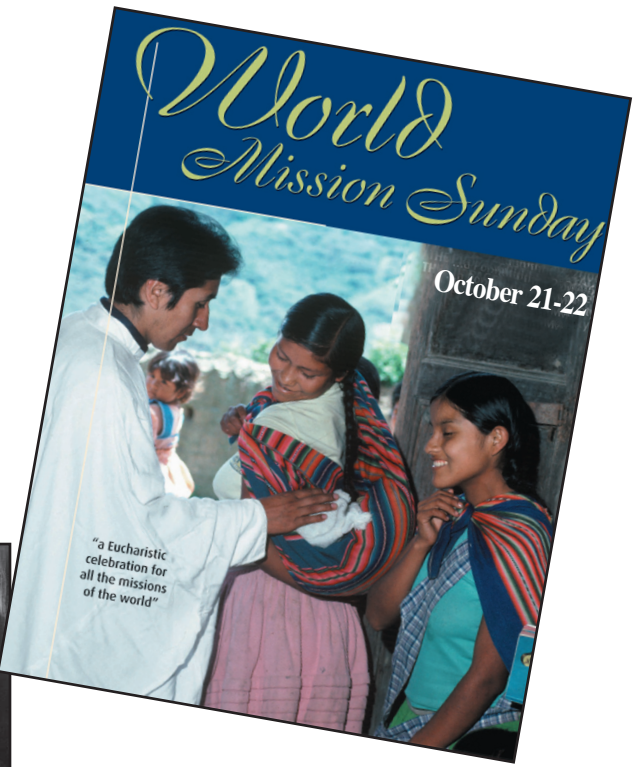
For more information contact:  
Teresa Marie Skierkowski, SCC at 973-543-6528 x 217  
[quellen@sceast.org](mailto:quellen@sceast.org)



*Pontifical Mission Societies*  
**The Society for the Propagation of the Faith**  
Archdiocese of Newark

## World Mission Sunday is October 21-22


PLEASE GENEROUSLY SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE MISSION CHURCH THROUGH YOUR PRAYERS AND FINANCIAL SACRIFICES. A SPECIAL COLLECTION WILL BE TAKEN AROUND THE WORLD ON MISSION SUNDAY TO HELP THOSE WHO HAVE LESS OF THIS WORLD'S GOODS.




October 21-22

"a Eucharistic celebration for all the missions of the world"

To reach billions of people with "Good News" of the Gospel, the missionary work of the Church needs each one of us.



"There is a hunger for God's Word and the Eucharist," says a newly ordained priest in Sierra Leone.



**"The Church cannot neglect the service of charity any more than she can neglect the sacraments and the Word."**

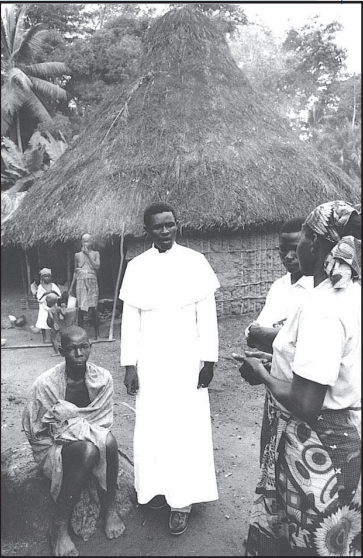
—Pope Benedict XVI

### Why must we support the Church's worldwide missionary task?

At Baptism, we are incorporated into the Body of Christ, the Church, to which the Risen Lord entrusted His mission. So all are called to the missionary task.

### What difference will my World Mission Sunday gift make?

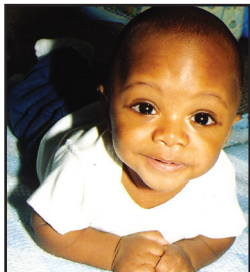
We supply the material and spiritual support to foreign missionaries. Our donations enable the opening of a new mission with chapel, the building of a primary school and a small clinic; education of seminarians; training and supporting lay catechists. We help local people build the Church!



*Pontifical Mission Societies*  
**The Society for the Propagation of the Faith**  
Archdiocese of Newark, P.O. Box 9500 • Newark, NJ 07104-0500  
Rev. Msgr. Robert J. Fuhrman, Archdiocesan Director  
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Advocate photo—Melissa McNally

Adult chaperone Ken Sokolowski (left) and Michelle Augustinelli, 15, from the Catholic HEART Workcamp, laid tiles at St. Antoninus rectory. Information on the organization, based in Orlando, FL, can be obtained by phone at (407) 678-0073 or on online at [www.heartworkcamp.com](http://www.heartworkcamp.com).

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## Scrappy campers do chores in Newark

BY MELISSA MCNALLY  
Staff Writer

AREA—As part of the nationwide Catholic HEART Workcamp volunteer program, 230 teenagers from around the country recently visited Newark for a week. The group stopped at several parishes, schools and charities in the area including St. Antoninus Parish in Newark.

The teens did numerous chores—such as cleaning church basements, repairing floor tiles, and yard work—an experience designed to develop a spiritual work ethic.

Katie Haydee, 17, from New Canaan, CT, believes the youth group mission trip helps prepare her for college next summer. "It has been such a good experience and I am with all of my friends. You get to have fun while helping people," Haydee said. "I used a Weed Whacker for the first time, cleaned out a kitchen, reorganized a closet and varnished a shelf. I'm proud of my work experience."

Erin Sprague-Rice, 15, who lives in Owosso, MI, believes her hard work might surprise her parents back home. "This proved to my parents that I am not as lazy as they think I am. It's hard work but it's worth it; it builds character."

Brad Stankie, 17, a Cleveland resident, said he would encourage other young people to volunteer. "Its good to help out the less fortunate. It makes you really appreciate how much you have in your life."

Stankie and Tommy Faust, 15, who hails from Baltimore, became fast friends in Newark as a result of the experience. "You get to serve others while you are doing work and I'm happy to be doing it. Brad and I will definitely keep in touch," Faust pledged.

Faust said that working in Newark was an eye-opening experience. "I got to see a bit of Newark as we were driving to St. Antoninus from the hotel. I saw a homeless person taking a bath in the street. It made me sad, but it made me want to do something more (to help)."

"Not only do the kids have fun, but it teaches them hard work and fellowship because they work together," Ken Sokolowski, a chaperone from Grand Rapids, MI, said.



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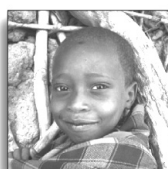
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# Archdiocese puts spotlight on Catechism in October

NEWARK—The Archdiocese of Newark has developed courses on four essential topics within the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The courses will be presented this month in a series called “Spotlight on the Catechism,” conducted by the archdiocesan Catechetical Office in cooperation with local parishes.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C., recently released the United States Catholic Catechism for Adult. (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Sept. 6). Pope Benedict XVI issued the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church in June of 2005.

The “Spotlight” series throughout the four counties of the archdiocese includes:

**Spotlight on Faith:** “The Creed: Our Catholic Faith,” Mondays, Oct. 16, 23 and 30, 7 p.m., the Church of Our Lady of Peace, New Providence.

**Spotlight on Sacraments:** “Life in the Love of the Holy Trinity,” Tuesdays, Oct. 10, 17 and 24, 7:30 p.m., at the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, West Orange.

**Spotlight on Morality:** “Our Moral Life: Living in True Freedom,” Mondays, Oct. 16, 23

and 30, 7 p.m., at the Church of Our Lady of Mercy, Jersey City.

**Spotlight on Prayer:** “God’s Thirst,” Tuesdays, Oct. 10, 17 and 24, 7:30 p.m., at the Church of St. Therese, Cresskill.

Registration for each course is \$25 per person. Contact Dr. Eugene Tozzi, associate director, adult and family catechetics, the archdiocesan Catechetical Office, at (973) 497-4288. Brochures also are available in many parish offices and at [www.rcan.org/catechet](http://www.rcan.org/catechet).

## Offices relocate

The following offices have moved to the Archdiocesan Center:

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(973) 497-4305  
Rev. John B. Baron, Director;  
Jennifer Tunnicliffe, Coordinator

**Pastoral Ministry with the Deaf** – (973) 497-4312;  
TTY 973-497-4311  
Deacon Thomas Smith, Director

**Pastoral Ministry with Persons with Disabilities**  
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### I would like more information...

regarding costs, pre-planning savings & available facilities at the Madonna Chapel Mausoleum, without any obligation on my part.

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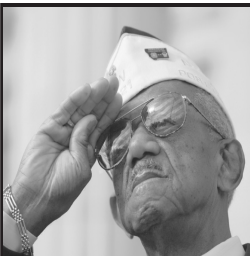
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for seniors and respite for families five days a week.

## Schiavo case opens lecture series at SHU

SOUTH ORANGE—Bobby Schiavo, brother of Terri Schiavo, whose death focused national attention on right to die issues, will be the inaugural speaker at a Catholic perspectives centered lecture series, “A Question of Clarity,” at Seton Hall University.

Scheduled for Oct. 18 at 6:30 p.m. in auditorium of Jubilee Hall, “End of Life Decisions,” is open to the public. The series was organized by Seton Hall in conjunction with the Order of Malta. The series is the order’s first collaboration with an academic institution.

In addition to Bobby Schiavo, Kathleen Boozang, associate professor at the Seton Hall University Law School in Newark, will address the legal intricacies of end of life decisions

Father Anthony Figueiredo, executive director of mission and ministry at Seton Hall, commented, “as a Catholic University dedicated to the search for truth, we seek the input of experts in various fields.”

October 22, 2006  
THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH  
...a Pontifical Mission Society

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“a Eucharistic celebration for all the missions of the world”

Rev. Msgr. Robert Fuhrman  
The Society for the Propagation of the Faith  
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Dept. C262  
10-04-06





Advocate photo—Melissa McNally

**INVITATION ACCEPTED**—Archbishop John J. Myers stopped by on Saturday, Sept. 23 during the annual eighth grade picnic at Most Sacred Heart of Jesus School, Wallington, at the invitation of the class. A letter to the archbishop, signed by each student, read in part “if you could make a little time in your very busy schedule to attend our picnic, we would be very ecstatic...we hope you will attend and we can’t wait to see you.”

## SHU law students’ brief part of U.S. Supreme Court case

NEWARK — When the New Jersey Crime Victims’ Law Center decided to submit a brief asking the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold a conviction in a California murder case, it turned to Seton Hall University School of Law’s Center for Social Justice.

Angela Kopolovich and Natalie Flores, under the direction of Professor Philip Ross, director of the Center’s Pro Bono Program, researched the pertinent case law and

uncovered the justification to uphold the conviction.

There are important implications for crime victims, their families and the criminal justice system in the case, *Carey v. Musladin*.

According to Richard Pompelio, director of the New Jersey Crime Victims’ Law Center, the brief also helps to ensure that the “victims of crime are given a voice.”

In 1995, Mathew Musladin was convicted and sentenced to no less than 32 years in prison for the murder of Tom Studer. He appealed that conviction on the grounds that his Sixth Amendment rights to a fair trial were violated when the Studer family appeared in court wearing buttons with a photo of the victim.

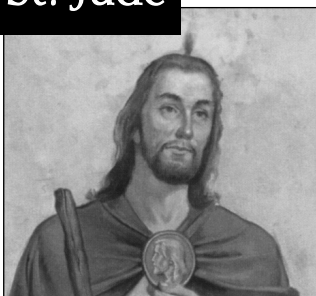
The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals overturned his conviction, prompting California to petition the Supreme Court to hear the case. The case is scheduled to be heard by the Supreme Court on Oct. 12.

The amicus curie brief that Kopolovich and Flores worked on argues that in overturning the conviction, the Ninth Circuit incorrectly relied on its own precedent rather than Supreme Court precedent in interpreting the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act. The federal courts in the country are split on the interpretation of this question and it is one of the primary reasons the Supreme Court agreed to hear the case.

Additionally, the brief argues that victims play a very important role in the justice system and that the defendant’s rights in this case were not violated when family members of the victim wore buttons to the trial displaying a photograph of the deceased.

“It is very rare that a first-year law student gets the chance to make a difference of this magnitude,” said Kopolovich. “It is both exciting and an important reminder that being an attorney puts you in a position of great power and the way you choose to exercise that power defines you as a person.”

### Friends of St. Jude



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# Dominican Sisters' novice welcomed to congregation

CALDWELL — During Solemn Vespers the Caldwell Dominican Sisters celebrated the Rite of Reception with their new novice, Sister Rose Aheneku.

The rite welcomed Sister Rose into Congregation membership. She now begins a two-year period of formation before profession of vows.

"Novitiate is the two-year formation period during which a new member learns about and has the opportunity to live in a setting that

is shaped by the four pillars of Dominican life—Prayer, Community, Study, and Ministry," explained Sister Peggy Ryan, O.P., director of communications.

During this first year, Sister Rose will live with five other novices and two directors in the collaborative Dominican Novitiate in St. Louis. Their life together will enable them to understand and experience Dominican Life and Mission with a focus on the vows they will pro-

fess. As a second-year novice, Sister Rose will live in community with Caldwell Dominican Sisters and continue her formation under the guidance of her Caldwell novice director. She may then choose to profess her vows as a Dominican Sister.

Sister Rose graduated Summa Cum Laude from Caldwell College in May with a B.A. degree in Theology.

Before coming to the U.S., she received a degree in Finance and Banking and a Postgraduate Diploma in Project Management in her home county, Nigeria. In Nigeria, she worked in two oil companies, government and broadcasting offices, and the Justice and Peace Commission in Ahiara Diocese.

Sister Rose has been named to membership in Theta Alpha Kappa National Theology Honor Society and to Kappa Gamma Pi Society for outstanding Catholic service. Through a mentoring connection with Sister Eileen Gannon, O.P., at the United Nations in New York, she has been involved with various U.N. committees working for protection and rights for women and education for girls in all cultures and countries.



Sister Arlene Antczak, O.P., prioress of the Caldwell Dominican Sisters, blesses Sister Rose Aheneku, the newest member of the Congregation.



Father Thomas Wright, S.M.A. provincial superior, center, offers congratulations to, left and right, Eliecer Sandoval and Stephen Majoros.

## Seminarians take oath

TENAFLY—Two seminarians recently made their first oath of commitment to Society of African Missions (SMA) at its American Province Headquarters.

Eliecer Sandoval of Panama and Stephen Majoros of New Haven, CT., took the oath during a concelebrated liturgy with Father Thomas Wright, SMA Provincial Superior as the main celebrant and homilist.

"We are delighted to have these fine men with us," said Father Wright. Emphasizing the fullness of God's love in his homily, he noted that "we are all called to respond to God's love by treating others in a loving way. Sandoval and Majoros are following that call by dedicating their lives in a special way of service as SMA missionary priests in Africa."



**Contact:**  
Fr. Brian Plate  
Vocations Director

**The Vocations Office**  
(973) 497-4365  
171 Clifton Ave., P.O. Box 9500  
Newark, NJ 07104-0500

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

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

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

**"Come and see,"**

He answered.

John 1:38-39

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

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# Six decades of serving God's people

RAMSEY—For the past six decades, Sister Anita McArdle, S.F.P., has had a gift for serving and healing the sick.

Reflecting on her call to religious life, Sister Anita said “the deep and abiding faith of my parents and family attracted me to religious life. Another great witness to me was my experience, at

the tender age of 13, working on a surgical unit with a Franciscan Sister of the Poor. This experience made it clear to me that I was called to the ministry of healing.”

Last month Sister Anita along with many Sisters and friends, celebrated at a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Paul Parish in Ramsey.

Sister Anita entered the Fran-

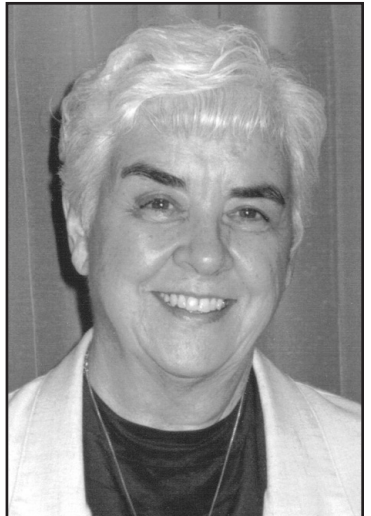
ciscan Sisters of the Poor on Sept. 8, 1946. Her spiritual formation was at Mount Alverno Convent, Warwick, NY. She made her First Profession of Vows on May 10, 1949 and Perpetual Profession of Vows on May 11, 1954.

Sister Anita is a registered nurse and holds a BS degree in Nursing from St. John's University (1959), Jamaica, N.Y. and an MS degree in Administration and Nursing Education from St. John's University (1962). She also received extensive professional

training from the American Academy of Bereavement, New York University, and St. Louis University. She also studied at New York University for a Ph.D. in nursing as part of her responsibilities when serving on the National League for Nursing.

Sister Anita has responded to the healing mission of the Sisters by serving in administration, nursing and leadership for close to 60 years.

She has also served in leadership for her congregation. For four years (1997-2001) she was called



Sister Anita McArdle, S.F.P.

to service by her Sisters as a regional leader in the United States and from 1966 to 1969 she also served as provincial councilor for the Sisters.

She served as executive director of Mount Alverno Center, Warwick, New York (now Schervier Pavilion) for nine years (1982-1991) and was the administrator for ambulatory care at St. Mary Hospital, Hoboken, from 1979 to 1982.

Sister Anita served as a consultant for Hospital Administration for St. Michael Medical Center, Newark. She had done her student nursing at St. Michael's from 1950 to 1953.

Sister Anita served at the St. Francis Community Health Center, Jersey City, for 19 years. For six of those years she served as executive director from 1969 to 1975. She also served as the director of nurses education for five years from 1964 to 1969 and as a nursing instructor from 1957 to 1969.

Looking back on the past 60 years Sister Anita said “living a community life and sharing the same values as the rest of my Franciscan Sisters has given me so many opportunities to deepen my spiritual life. The spiritual formation and academic education I received from the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor have given me the gifts and skills needed to serve the people of God in healthcare.”

Today Sister Anita advocates for the frail and elderly Sisters in Warwick, N.Y. She also serves as treasurer for Alvernia Community. Sister Anita is also active in her parish of St. Paul in Ramsey where she serves as a Eucharist minister and lector. “I hope and pray to remain faithful until God calls me home. I pray that the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor will continue to attract women to the charism of Blessed Frances Schervier.”

Asked if she has retired, Sister Anita replied “I only retire at night!”



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## Seminarians take letters to heart

AREA — Immaculate Conception Seminary in South Orange and the local Caldwell council were among the participants in the annual New Jersey State Council of the Knights of Columbus sponsored Seminary Letter Project.

Over the past year some 200 letters and cards were forwarded to seminarians at Immaculate Conception Seminary, St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Wynnewood, PA, the Theological School of Catholic University in Washington, D.C. and the Pontifical North American College in Rome. The eight participating Knights' councils included Caldwell Council 2561 under the project chairman-

ship of John Hencinsky.

Some comments from Catholic school students included "thank you for your devotion to God and the Church. I hope you enjoy your turkey. Happy Thanksgiving!"... "I wish you a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope you are doing well in the seminary. God bless you."... "Always have

faith, be the best priest you can be."

From Neal McGarrity, a fourth-year theological student at nary came the comment "the Knights of Columbus has always been very supportive of the vocation of seminarians and priests. How wonderful to receive your gracious support."

## Anti-abortion vigil Oct. 26

ENGLEWOOD—Holy Trinity Parish, Fort Lee, will hold a Candlelight Prayer Vigil for Life on Thursday, Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. across the street from Metropolitan Medical Associates on Engle Street.

The exact location of the vigil will be in front of the Englewood Library at 40 Engle St.

"Please join us as we pray for an end to abortion, a restoration of legal rights for the unborn and a change of heart in all who support abortion," said a vigil spokesman.

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## PRAYER TO ST. CLAIRE

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## PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

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

## PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

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

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Advocate photo - M. Gabriele

**ST. VALENTINE COWBOY**—“Little Pete” Rusignuolo demonstrates his superior horsemanship skills by riding the painted ponies at the St. Valentine Parish’s annual family festival. The event, held at the Bloomfield parish Sept. 8-10, featured rides, games, prizes and lots of delicious food. Cathy King served as chairman for the event. Father Jaroslaw Zaniewski is the administrator of St. Valentine.

Pro-life seminar to explore stem cell issues

LINDEN—The archdiocesan Respect Life Office will sponsor a pro-life seminar on Saturday, Oct. 21, titled “Stem Cells and Cloning: Understanding the Scientific Issues and the Moral Objections.”

The event, which will be held here in the auditorium at St. John the Apostle Parish, 1805 Penbrook Terrace, begins with an 11 a.m. Mass to be celebrated by Archbishop John J. Myers. Lunch will be served following the Mass.

Father Tad Pacholczyk, Ph.D., will serve as the keynote speaker for the event. Father Pacholczyk holds a doctorate degree in the field of Neuroscience from Yale University, New Haven, CT, and studied for five years in Rome where he did advanced work in dogmatic theology as well as in

bioethics. He has testified on stem cell issues before numerous state legislatures and has given presentations on bioethics throughout North America and Europe.

Admission is free and the public is encouraged to attend. Contact Michelle Krystofik, the associate director of the Respect Life Office, at (732) 388-8211 to register for the event.

Breast cancer awareness targeted

ORANGE—The Health and Wellness Ministry at Our Lady of the Valley Parish is celebrating Breast Cancer Awareness Month with a series of preventative programs.

Hats for a Cure will be marked on Sunday, Oct. 8 at a noon Mass. Following Mass a cancer awareness program will be held at 1:30 p.m. in the school center. The rectory will be the site of an 8 p.m., forum on Oct. 12 dealing with the major

health problem of breast cancer.

In conjunction with the American Cancer Society’s Making Strides Walk, in which the parish will participate on Oct. 15, Mass will be celebrated the day before at 5:30 p.m. Registration forms are available at the rectory.

The month concludes Oct. 22 with a parish Health and Wellness Fair from 1:30 to 4 p.m.

For additional information call (973) 674-7500.

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# Knights' 'family' grows overseas

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP — The Knights of Columbus, Mother Seton Council 5427 recently completed the process of sponsoring its third overseas child through the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA), headquartered in New York City.

CNEWA is a papal agency for humanitarian and pastoral support. The money raised by the

Council goes to religious sisters who run shelters and schools for the children in some of the poorest places on earth.

All three children are impoverished orphans or have been abandoned because they could not afford to raise the children.

The first of the three is an Ethiopian boy, Obsa Tesfaye Nemerra, born July 13, 1997. His

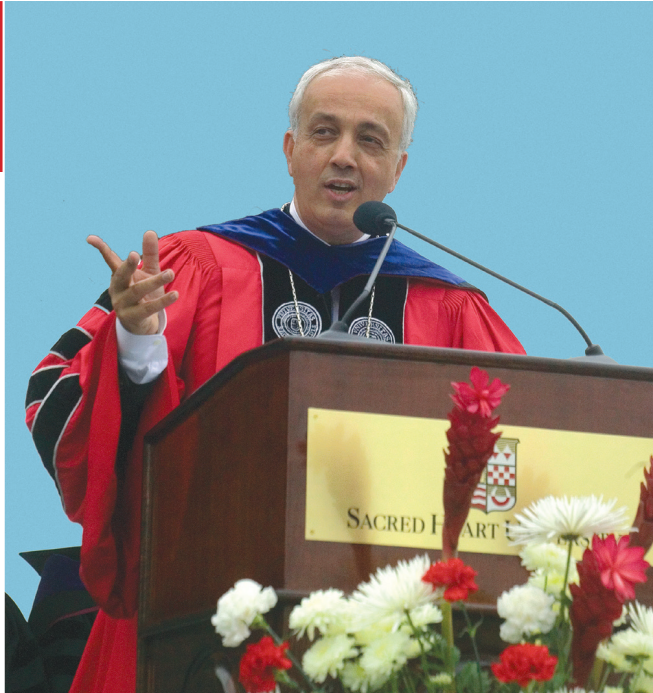
growth has been stunted for lack of proper nutrition and he has several physical ailments including elephantiasis. The second, Mephymol Devasia Erupathinchira, is an Indian girl born Dec. 22, 1994. Reports on her say she likes dancing and reading. Maabiraatee Daawwit Disassaa, the third girl, is an Ethiopian born, May 20, 1997. She wants to be a nun.

"Sponsoring these children is remarkably inexpensive, \$20 per month per child goes a very long way for food, shelter, medical care, and schooling where they live. The religious sisters provide the love," said a council spokesman.

"Our Council also sponsors two American kids, a Native American in the southwest and another in Appalachia. This is done through the Save The Children organization. As the children grow up and out of the pro-

grams, new ones are assigned.

Pictures of all of these youngsters and a brief biography of each are on display at the Council, 79 Pascack Rd. The public is welcome to come by weekday afternoons to visit. With sufficient additional donations, the K of C would like to add to their growing family. Contributions are welcome. For people wishing to do it on their own, information on how to become a sponsor can be found at [www.cnewa.org](http://www.cnewa.org) and [www.savethechildren.org](http://www.savethechildren.org).



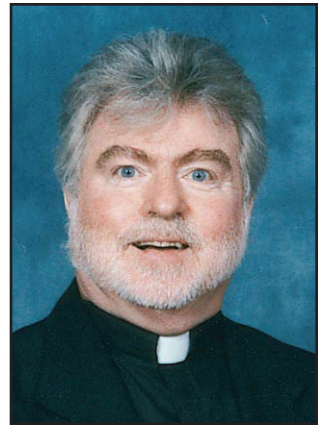
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**STEWARDSHIP SPEAKER—** Father Jack Cryan, the pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Jersey City, will speak on the topic of "Collaborative Service" at the annual archdiocesan Stewardship Day, to be held Saturday, Oct. 28, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Union Catholic High School, 1600 Martine Ave., Scotch Plains. Contact Ken DiPaola at (973) 497-4332 or Monica Bernardes at (973) 497-4104 for more information on the event.

## Breast center benefit Oct. 11

NEWARK—A fashion show and dinner to benefit The Connie Dwyer Breast Center at St. Michael's Medical Center will be held Oct. 11 from 6 to 11 p.m. at Mayfair Farms West Orange.

Founded by M. Michele Blackwood, M.D., F.A.C.S., The Connie Dwyer Breast Center is a state-of-the-art facility providing expert diagnosis and treatment of breast disease, breast cancer prevention, early detection, and educational outreach in northern New Jersey. A nationally recognized breast cancer surgeon, Dr. Blackwood serves a dual role as both surgeon and medical director.

The \$100 admission includes dinner, a silent auction, a tricky tray, and an advance look at some of the best fall fashions for men and women.

More information and directions to Cathedral Healthcare System facilities are available at [www.cathedralhealth.org](http://www.cathedralhealth.org).