

A 'dim' program brightens evangelization efforts

When parishes were asked last Spring to consider an evangelization program such as RENEW International's "Why Catholic?" or the Paulists' "Disciples in Mission (DIM)," priests and lay leaders from my parish—St. John the Evangelist Parish in Bergenfield—dutifully attended the presentations and together we discussed which might be the best fit for our community.

We chose DIM for its multiethnic and multi-faceted approach, which would seem to reach the widest possible audience through prayer, faith-sharing groups, family activities, homilies and bulletin inserts.

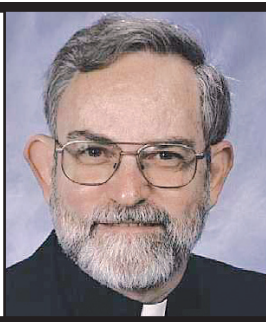
Archdiocesan Coordinator for Evangelization Liliana Soto spent most of the summer and early fall asking me every time I was at the Pastoral Center how our parish was doing with the preparation. Given our parish's centennial celebration in early October, I kept putting her off, but she gently persisted. She talked me into hosting an evangelization workshop presented by Good News International.

That was just the spark we needed!

Many of the attendees were so enthused that I knew we had the beginnings of our parish leadership team. Given the size and diversity of our parish, our team is composed of almost 30 people, including our staff. All already are

Seeing & Believing

By Rev. Msgr.
Richard J. Arnholts



involved in so many ways in our parish, from teens to seniors, Anglos, Hispanics and Filipinos.

Given our late start, we had to condense a four-month preparation into two months. We agreed to meet twice a week: Tuesday nights and Saturday mornings. Except for illness or work or school schedules, every member has attended every session.

While the planning meetings deal with the nitty gritty details, the formation meetings immerse us in the U.S. Bishops' pastoral letter: "Go and Make Disciples." This has

provided marvelous opportunities for team members to share the wonderful faith experiences they enjoy here at St. John's, as well as how they have struggled

through the years with some mighty challenges to their faith.

This sharing, I believe, is the key to the attraction we all experience to come back for more. Faith shared is faith nourished. Faith nourished is faith grown. Faith grown is faith ready to be shared some more.

Anticipating a similar dynamic with our Lenten faith-sharing groups and family activities, this should be a most uplifting time for all who participate. The rewards will be rich as we examine the first goal: "The Call to Holiness—to bring about in all Catholics such an enthusiasm for their faith that, in living their faith in Jesus, they freely share it with others."

As one of the teens from our Jóvenes de Jesús group mentioned, they were wondering how they could get more involved in the life of the parish. By responding to my invitation to the workshop and the team meetings, they have found the direction they were seeking.

Everyone, young or old, has a faith story to share. Each enriches the other. After all, that's how evangelization works.

As the bishops note: "We have no reason to be shy about the heritage of our Catholic faith. We have God's own Word...in the Sacred Scriptures. This Word is the light by which we live and see."

Rev. Msgr. Arnholts is Pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish, Bergenfield, and Archdiocesan Vicar for Pastoral Life.

*Everyone, young or old,
has a faith story to share.
That's how evangelization works.*

The Covenant and the Bridegroom, a prayerful bond

Readings: Hosea 2:16-22; Psalm 103: 1-13; 2 Corinthians 3:1-6; Mark 2:18-22

A variety of realities in daily life can point to spiritual and eternal verities. The great teachers of Israel were inspired to take images from the familiar to convey to people the mysteries of God in human terms.

Thus Moses and other prophets described the Sinai Covenant between the God of Israel and the Twelve Tribes so that ordinary members of the community would know that they are now a nation destined to possess a land in which they would be free to serve God alone.

Throughout the ancient Middle East, the treaty between a great emperor and a neighboring state conveyed the idea of an irrevocable commitment to serve, with rewards being bestowed on a faithful vassal. Thus Israel would learn its indebtedness to God and the call for a response by keeping the commandments.

Prophets like Hosea and Jeremiah taught that marriage, the most intimate of human experiences, enables people to appreciate the marvelous personal dimension of God's covenant with Israel. Tragically, some marriages are seriously flawed and Hosea experienced the infidelity of his wife, whom he forgave when she returned.

In a graphic way, the prophet gained an insight into the fidelity and forgiveness of God when his people committed idolatry. God wanted to renew the Covenant bond with a return to the wilderness. There the Israelites had learned to rely exclusively on God for all their needs. This was the "honeymoon" period in Israel's history, Hosea learned. Would that the wilderness generation had responded so completely!

This time had included trials and complaints, but the prophet chose to ignore the memory of those negative experiences. In this way he could portray an ideal of observance and service to the Lord.

Sunday Readings

8th Sunday
of Ordinary Time
(Feb. 26, 2006)

By Father Lawrence Frizzell



From ancient times, Israel's commitment to God in the Covenant has been celebrated through prayer, symbol and gesture. "Bind (the words of the commandments) at your wrist as a sign, and let them be as a pendant on your forehead. Write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates" (Deut 6:8-9). The tefillin (phylacteries) are the miniature boxes that are strapped around the head and on the left arm of the observant Jew during morning prayer on weekdays.

This symbolic reminder of the individual's commitment to keep the commandments is accompanied by the prayer: "I will espouse you to me forever: I will espouse you in righteousness and in justice, in love and in mercy; I will espouse you in fidelity, and you shall know the Lord" (Hos 2:21-22).

These words recorded by Hosea have inspired people to imitate God's attributes, balancing the right order that achieves justice in judgment with the loving kindness that shows merciful compassion to weak creatures. God is as good as his word, manifesting fidelity to the Covenant and challenging each person to "know the

Lord." This implies a profound personal experience of divine faithfulness and compassion, conveying the insight that God is the husband of Israel.

The Gospel celebrates the role of Jesus as Messiah, preparing the chosen people for the eschatological marriage feast. The time of Jesus' public ministry was a privileged context for the disciples to experience divine righteousness and mercy personalized in God's Son.

Undoubtedly, Jesus wore the tefillin in prayer. Matthew (23:5) records that he criticized those who ostentatiously widened the bands of their phylacteries and lengthened the tassels of their garment (Num 15:37-39). We are not certain whether the prayer from Hosea was recited, but the very gesture of putting on tefillin would have conveyed the commitment to the Covenant that was epitomized by the obedience of Jesus to the heavenly Father's will.

Marc Chagall's painting of Jesus crucified (Crucifixion in Yellow-1943) portrays Him wearing phylacteries. This interpretation of the last act of Jesus' earthly ministry conveys the insight that the Bridegroom offered his life as a prayer. The disciples were deprived temporarily of their Master's presence, but only so that he could prepare the heavenly nuptial banquet, the marriage supper of the Lamb (Apoc 19:9).

The Church's traditional rhythm of a weekly abstinence on Fridays and a 40-day Lenten fast reminds each generation of Christians that we will treasure the wedding banquet in eternal life to the extent that we prepare to "know the Lord" by our experience of the manifest presence and seeming withdrawal of the messianic Bridegroom.

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

*The Gospel celebrates the role
of Jesus as Messiah.*

Urban School Scholarship Act

Continued from page 1

"The failure of many of these districts (Newark, Orange, Trenton and Camden) to educate these kids is immediate and tragic," Bradford said.

Bradford, who also serves as deputy director of Excellent Education for Everyone (E3), is especially critical of how taxpayer money is "wasted" for public education. "Newark spent \$22,000 per child last year; for that, only 740 students were able to pass the high school exit exam," he said. "Are these students actually getting what we're paying for? Taxpayers are paying more money for students to be poorly educated (in public schools). Just spending more money is not the answer."

Although the scholarship act remains controversial in New Jersey, the Pennsylvania law upon which it is based has been in place in the Keystone State for nearly five years, providing education options for low-income families there.

Former Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge signed the Educational Improvement Tax Credit program (EITC) into law in May 2001. The program gives companies the opportunity to direct their tax dollars to improve education. The Commonwealth Association for Public Policy Alternatives, indicated that, during the 2002-2003 school year, more than 15,000 low-income students

received nearly \$19 million from over 1,000 companies via 127 local scholarship organizations in Pennsylvania.

The urban scholarship bill is not the first legislative effort in New Jersey aimed at reforming urban public education. In the case of *Abbott v. Burke* (1997), the N.J. Supreme Court ruled that the education provided to urban school children was inadequate and unconstitutional, and deemed select poorer urban areas as so-called "Abbott" districts. All of the four cities cited in the Urban School Scholarship Act are Abbott districts.

A comprehensive set of programs and reforms were implemented following the 1997 ruling, including standards-based education supported by parity funding, supplemental programs and school facilities improvements, according to the Education Law Center website (<http://www.edlawcenter.org>).

One of the main opponents of the Urban School Scholarship Act is the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA), Trenton. "NJEA opposes any expenditure of public funds on private or religious schools," Steve Wollmer, spokesman for the NJEA, said.

Proposals, like the scholarship bill, "take money out of the state treasury that is available to public schools, leaving them with fewer resources to educate the vast



Advocate photo - M. Gabriele

majority of students," according to Wollmer. For example, he said the bill would take \$360 million from the state treasury at a time when the state is already running a deficit of more than \$5 billion.

"This scholarship does not take money away from public schools because it is coming from corporate tax dollars," Dr. George Corwell, director of education for N.J. Catholic Conference, Trenton, said. "We are giving corporations a chance to choose to designate their money for this particular

purpose and not just general tax use," Corwell said.

"The economics (behind the bill) is smoke and mirrors for what is really going on," Bradford said. "People who do not live in these districts don't know how bad the education system is. The social outcome of poor public education is unacceptable. Poverty is not supposed to be an industry. This is a civil rights movement for the 21st Century. In the past, it was about if blacks could sit in the restaurant. Today, it's about if you can read the menu."

Wollmer, saying that the use of language to evoke the civil rights struggle in this debate is a ploy by those in favor of the bill, acknowledged there are problems in the urban public school systems, but noted that the NJEA is helping and the Abbott districts gradually are improving.

Bradford, however, challenged that assessment, saying that troubled, urban schools are not improving fast enough. "How many people have lost opportunities while waiting for public education to improve?" Bradford asked.

Supporters say the bill, if enacted, would increase competition between private and public schools, putting pressure on public schools to improve. "What makes anything improve is competition," Sister Dominica Rocchio, archdiocesan secretary for education and superintendent of schools, said. "This bill puts more decision-making (power) in the hands of parents."

"The urban scholarship bill does not provide meaningful competition," Wollmer argued. "Private schools can limit their

enrollments and class sizes; public schools cannot. Three-quarters of private and religious schools do not even offer programs to educate special-needs students."

While the Urban School Scholarship Act has the support of the Catholic Church and other faith-based groups, Sister Dominica stressed that "this issue has nothing to do with faith; it has to do with justice."

The Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey (CIANJ), Paramus, supports the urban scholarship legislation. With approximately 800 companies as members, the CIANJ is the leader in free-enterprise advocacy in the state. "The employer community is concerned with the educational system. Children are the future of the workforce and we should give them the opportunity they deserve. Something must be done," Jeanette Issenman, vice president of communications for CIANJ, said.

"New Jersey corporations have the opportunity to put their money where their mouth is," she said. "There will always be a resistance to change for people entrenched in the status quo. Substantial change equals substantial results."

'The economics (behind the bill) is smoke and mirrors for what is really going on.'

—Derrell Bradford,
executive director,
N.J. School Choice Alliance

Hispanic young people gather, prepare for the 1st National Pastoral Encounter

BY CLAUDIA TALLEDO

Special to *The Catholic Advocate*

AREA—Hispanic young people between the ages of 14 and 30 will meet on Saturday, Feb. 25, at the Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center, Kearny, to select delegates for a special regional diocesan pastoral encounter, which will be held in Pennsylvania, March 23 to 25.

Twenty archdiocesan delegates will be selected to attend this pastoral encounter, along with delegates from 34 other dioceses in the Northeast. Bishop Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., will celebrate the closing Mass on March 25.

Gearing up for the first National Pastoral Encounter for Young Hispanics—known as the "Encuentro"—the Archdiocese of Newark recently sponsored a series of local workshops to inform young people about this evangelization program.

The national event will be held June 8 to 11 at the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN. Bishops, Hispanic teens and young adults, diocese coordinators for the Hispanic Youth ministry and parish ministers will participate in this conference.

This first-ever National Pastoral Encounter is an evangelization and education process designed to

promote the enthusiastic participation of young Hispanics in the mission of the Church. The central objective of the regional and national encounters is to attract Hispanic young people, group leaders and professional young adults into a process known as "encounter, communion, solidarity and mission."

The archdiocesan Hispanic Apostolate, the Office for Evangelization, both located in Newark, the Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Kearny, and Centro Guadalupe, the Hispanic Pastoral Center of the Archdiocese of Newark recently sponsored events to attract young people. Workshops were held on Jan. 28, at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Elizabeth; Feb. 4 at the Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center, Kearny; and Feb. 11 at Centro Guadalupe. In all, more than 350 young people throughout the archdiocese participated in the workshops.

It will cost \$275 per person to attend the event at Notre Dame. Scholarships will be available to help defray costs. Contact Father Jose I. Gamba, the director of Office of Hispanic Apostolate at (973) 497-4335 and (973) 783-4852, or Liliana Soto, coordinator of the archdiocesan Office for Evangelization at (973) 497-4353 for more information.

The topic of urban education is a passionate cause for Bradford. "I'm from a lower-middle-income black family in Baltimore," he said. "There were terrible schools in my area, and there still are 14 years later. I was lucky to get into an excellent private high school and I went on to Dartmouth College and the University of Pennsylvania. I am every one of these kids. I want these kids to be part of the dream."

McElroy and her organization are encouraging families in the archdiocese to contact their representatives to support the scholarship bill. "The mission (of her organization) is to educate and mobilize Catholic school families and supporters regarding public policies that affect them," she said. "Advocating for and with our parents for passage of the Urban Schools Scholarship Act is a prime example of that mission. Parents need to speak out on this issue. Their voices will make the difference."

February 22

Winchester Gardens, Maplewood, celebration of Black History Month, noon-5 p.m., (973) 378-2080.

February 23

St. Peter's Preparatory School, Jersey City, "Men on a Mission: The Origin of the Jesuits in the Metropolitan New York Area," 6 p.m., (201) 547-2374.

February 24

St. Agnes Parish, Clark, annual boardwalk weekend, 6:30- 10 p.m., Feb. 26 1- 6 p.m., Call Bob at (732) 388-5595.

Fairleigh Dickinson University, Teaneck, "Limping to Jerusalem: Celebrating Holy Week in a Post-Holocaust World," 7:30 p.m., (201) 692-2406.

February 25

Center for Hope Hospice and Palliative Care, Scotch Plains, charity ball, 7:30 p.m., L'Affaire in Mountainside, Cost: \$75, (908) 889-7780.

St. John the Apostle Parish, Bloomfield, Lenten Spiritual Day, 9:30 a.m.- 3 p.m., Call Anna at (973) 338-9538.

February 26

St. Cassian Parish, Upper Montclair, *Chantez!* Vocal quartet's "Music of the America's," 4 p.m., Cost: \$15 donation, (973) 744-2850.

February 27

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Bloomfield, Holy Hour for Life and Special Intentions, 7:30 p.m., (973) 338-9190.

March 1

Knights of Columbus Saint Anthony Council #11585, Wood-Ridge, meatless pasta dinner for Ash Wednesday, Our Lady of Assumption School cafeteria, 4:30, 5:30 and 6:30 p.m., Cost: \$6 for adults, \$4 for children under five, Call Forrest Elliot at (201) 372-0556 or Angelo Urato at (201) 460-8929 or email kofc11585@aol.com.

St. Andrew Parish, Westwood, bereavement support group, eight sessions on Wednesdays, 1- 2:30 p.m., Call Barbara at (201) 666-1100.

March 2

Center for Hope Hospice and Palliative Care, Scotch Plains, "Journey Through Grief," Thursdays thru March 30, 7-9 p.m., Roselle Catholic High School, (908) 654-3103.

March 3

Xavier Center, Convent Station, "Fasting as A Holy Act," 7 p.m. thru March 4 at 5 p.m., Cost: \$60, RSVP ASAP, (973) 290-5100.

Sacred Heart School, Lyndhurst, Spring Tricky Tray ticket auction, 6 p.m., RSVP by Feb. 24, Cost: \$7, Call Patty at (201) 933-0783.

Sodality of the Children of Mary of St. Teresa, Jersey City, meeting, 3:15 p.m., Mass at 3:30 p.m., (201) 413- 0123.

March 4

Sodality of the Children of Mary of St. Teresa, Jersey City, recitation of the Rosary, 8:45 a.m., Mass at 9 a.m., (201) 413- 0123.

St. Phil's Singles, Livingston, Master Class: Chatham Playhouse, Chatham, 7:15 p.m., Cost: \$15, order tickets at box office (973) 635-7363. Call Frank at (973) 340-4001.

Sisters of Christian Motherhouse, Mendham, "Centering Prayer," 9 a.m.- 3 p.m., Cost: \$25, Call Len at (973) 763-3045.

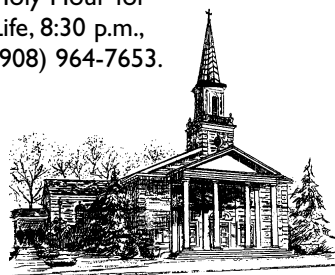
March 7

Mt. Carmel Parish, Ridge-wood, St. Patrick's Day luncheon and fashion show, Season's Restaurant, Washington Township, noon, Cost: \$34, (201) 445- 6553.

March 8

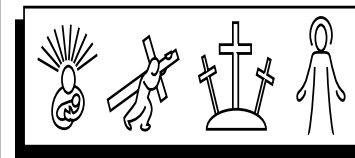
St. Phillip the Apostle Parish, Saddle Brook, annulment information session, 7:30 p.m., (973) 497-4327.

Holy Spirit Parish, Union, Holy Hour for Life, 8:30 p.m., (908) 964-7653.

**Other**

Father Justin Rosary Hour, radio Lenten retreat, weekend of March 5, check local listings.

St. Joseph Parish, East Rutherford, listening sessions, (201) 939-0457.

**Correction**

A story in *The Catholic Advocate* of Feb. 8 announcing the appointment of new pastors had the wrong date for the ordination of Father Charles B. McDermott. He was ordained on May 26, 1973. Also in the story he was inadvertently referred to as a Monsignor.

Newark parish slates Mass to honor Coretta Scott King

NEWARK — Archbishop John J. Myers will be the main celebrant and homilist at a Mass this Saturday, Feb. 25, in memory of the late Coretta Scott King, the civil rights activist who died late last month.

The Mass, sponsored by the Office of Black Catholic Affairs of the Archdiocese of Newark, will begin 10 a.m. at Our Lady Queen of the Angels Parish, 44 Irvine Turner Blvd.

Mrs. King and her husband, slain civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., visited the parish in 1968. Contact Our Lady Queen of the Angels Parish at (973) 497-4339 for more information on the event.

In addition to this special Mass, a concert was held earlier this month to highlight the celebration of Black History Month by the Office of Black Catholic Affairs. The concert took place on Feb. 5 at Christ the King Parish in Jersey City in honor of the 17th annual National Day of Prayer for the African American Family.

According to the National Black Catholic Congress, Father James Goode, O.F.M., created The National Day of Prayer for the African American Family in 1989 as a day to give special thanks to God for black families and to place every care in the arms of Jesus. As

a sign of support and solidarity, the organization has asked that each parish, family, convent and religious house to stand and pray for the black family. This year's theme was "God's ever present help keeps us keeping on."

Commenting on the Mass at Our Lady Queen of the Angels Parish, slated for Feb. 25, Tracey G. Battles, director of the Office

of Black Catholic Affairs, noted that "on Jan. 30, the world lost a wonderful woman in Coretta Scott King. Since her husband's death in 1968, she worked hard to carry on the mission for justice and equality throughout the world. Her death reminds us that we have to continue the mission that her husband and many others have given their lives for."



The National Day of Prayer for the African American Family took place earlier this month at Christ the King Parish in Jersey City.

Advocate photo — Tracey G. Battles

Official Appointments



Archbishop John J. Myers has announced the following appointments:

ARCHDIOCESAN AGENCY/MINISTRY

Reverend Kevin M. Hanbury, Ed. D., Faculty Member of Seton Hall University, South Orange has been appointed Vicar for Education and Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of Newark for a term of five years with continued residence at Seton Hall University, effective July 1.

Reverend Anthony J. Kulig, faculty member of Immaculate Conception Seminary at Seton Hall University, South Orange has also been appointed as a member of the Advisory Committee for Continuing Education and Ongoing Formation of Priests for a period of five years, effective immediately.

Reverend W. Jerome Bracken, C.P., faculty member of Immaculate Conception Seminary at Seton Hall University, South Orange, has been reappointed to the faculty of Immaculate Conception Seminary for a period of seven years, beginning July 1.

PAROCHIAL VICAR

Reverend Carlos M. Viego has been appointed Parochial Vicar of St. Lucy Parish, Newark, effective Feb. 15.

CHAPLAINCY

Reverend Anthony R. Forte, Parochial Vicar of St. Lucy Parish, Newark, has been appointed Chaplain of St. Anthony of Padua Chapel, West Orange, effective Feb. 15.

Reverend Robert E. Tooman, chaplain at Muhlenberg Hospital, Plainfield, has been appointed chaplain at Trinitas Hospital, Elizabeth, with residence at Blessed Sacrament Parish, Elizabeth, effective Feb. 10.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Reverend John T. Michalczak, chaplain at Holy Name Hospital, Teaneck has also been appointed Spiritual Director of Our Lady of the Most Holy Eucharist Curia of Bergen County (formerly Bergen County Curia of the Legion of Mary), effective immediately.

Human trafficking legislation praised

Editor,
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark congratulates Rep. Christopher Smith and commends President George W. Bush for signing HR 972—legislation that strengthens measures to combat human trafficking. Archbishop John J. Myers and our agency applaud the enactment of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005, and we pledge to continue our vigorous efforts to rescue and protect victims of human trafficking.

Federal support and involvement in the fight against human trafficking remains particularly important to the Greater Newark area, a region now among the largest epicenters for an international criminal industry that nets an estimated \$7 billion annually. In 2004, Archbishop Myers called for swift and effective action, identifying the Archdiocese as “ground zero” for what he rightly described as a modern-day slave trade. In response, we initiated the Rescue and Restore Program, which identifies victims, works with authorities to rescue them and then guides them step-by-step through the process of spiritual and physical recovery. From the provision of emergency food and shelter to the delivery of legal counseling, health care, case-management services and job training, our program aggressively supports the restoration of victims’ hope and dignity.

In a nation founded on liberty and justice for all, human trafficking casts a dark shadow over America’s promise of freedom. However, thanks to the efforts of the President, Rep. Smith, and other leaders here, in Washington, and across the country, victims and potential victims of human trafficking have new hope of escaping this shadow and enjoying the opportunity to live the American dream. We call on all New Jerseyans to join us in this fight.

Geoffrey Scowcroft
Managing Attorney
Catholic Charities of
the Archdiocese of Newark

Politicians’ ‘lip service’ a source of frustration

Editor,
In a recent letter (*The Catholic Advocate*, Dec. 21, 2005), Deanna Hohmann raised the question about why such a low percentage of Catholics supported the pro-life candidate for president in the last election.

The answer may be found in the expression that “actions speak louder than words.”

I think many Catholics are tired of hearing politicians claiming to be pro-life, and then once they are elected they

do nothing to stop abortions and protect the life of unborn babies.

Being pro-life extends beyond the question of abortion. The Catholic Church has come out strongly in opposition to the death penalty in the United States. While he was campaigning for president, George W. Bush boasted of his accomplishments as governor of Texas. During that tenure more people were put to death in that state than in any other state in the union. That hardly reflects a pro-life attitude.

A pro-life candidate must realize that life does not begin at conception and end at birth. He or she must be prepared to fund programs that support the baby after it is born.

Deciding on which candidate to support in an election is one of the most difficult decisions that Catholics of good conscience can make. Unfortunately, more and more, it is a matter of choosing the lesser of two evils. At the same time, voters recognize politicians who only give lip service to a pro-life agenda.

Frank S. Miklos
Linden

Social justice in immigration

Editor,
It is good that *The Catholic Advocate* Jan. 11 issue has featured Melissa McNally’s front-page, well-written article on the immigration problem and what our government is doing about it.

Her in-depth presentation is fact-filled, with material the readers can act on.

For example, though it is too late to change the sad result of passed bill HR4437, we can be vocal about persuading the senators to do better and pass HR2330, a much fairer and less “paranoid” version (as one of your readers called it).

What is more, we can learn who these insensitive congressmen are who supported this bad bill and consider whether we want them to represent us.

To keep abreast of developments we can turn to NETWORK, a lobby group in Washington looking after social justice issues. Their publication, *Connections*, Jan./Feb., 2006, provides the 2005 voting record on key social justice causes for each congressman and senator. It is shocking to see this record and learn that some congressmen did not support a single social justice issue.

To keep up with legislators’ votes concerning NETWORK’s issues, we can use the “Key Votes” section on the Legislative Action Center at <http://capwiz.com/networklobby/issues/votes/>. Hopefully, we can make a difference by being becoming active citizens.

Jeanne B. Dillon
Summit

Catholic Press Month; a time to pause, explain our mission and say ‘thank you’

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE
Editor

A cardinal rule in journalism is that a reporter never should become “part” of the story. Editors and writers must step back and remain observers in order to faithfully relay timely information to readers.

However, in life there are exceptions to nearly every rule, and in order to discuss the importance of National Catholic Press Month, it is required we temporarily violate these journalism guidelines. In this case, we are the story!

The Catholic Advocate is one of more than 600 Catholic publications in North America. The newspaper has served the good people of the Archdiocese of Newark since 1951. It has, during those 55 years, gone through numerous iterations in its format, size, editorial content and frequency of publication.

What has remained consistent during the last five-plus decades is that *The Catholic Advocate* has worked to educate, evangelize and inform its readers. The fundamental mission of any Catholic publication is to present the Catholic perspective on a wide range of issues—local, national and international.

The particular mission for this newspaper involves conveying the teachings of the Church and ministry of Archbishop John J. Myers.

The challenge involves functioning as a community newspaper for over 100,000 readers and more than 230 parishes throughout Bergen, Essex, Hudson and Union counties. That means outreach—reporting on local activities in the four counties in order to document the profound Catholic experiences of lay people.

This is our readership—our customers. We are especially grateful to all those who have become paid subscribers in recent months. We also appreciate the advertisers who support this mission. These are votes of confidence that inspire us and allow us to do what we do. We thank you for your support.

The emphasis on the local angle is a mandate that not only guides our editorial decisions; it also, quite frankly, translates into a basic business strategy that is necessary for a community newspaper to succeed.

In the case of *The Catholic Advocate*, the community is a highly diverse region of cultural, ethnic, economic, political and religious interests; perhaps the most diverse region in the United States. A challenge for a newspaper? Yes, but also a grand opportunity. Just imagine how many colorful stories there are to tell!

The stories we enjoy telling the most involve topics like education programs of schools and universities; the activities and interests of young people; an academic, “think-piece” approach to the important theological and social issues of the day; the vibrant riches of our cultural heritage; and interfaith dialogue—all from a Catholic point of view.

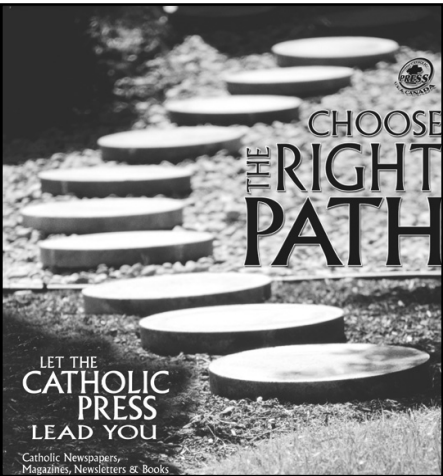
Focusing on local, community Catholic news is the best way we can serve the needs of our readers and advertisers. The assignment means paying attention to regional developments, but it also involves telling the story of “larger” national and international issues through the eyes of the local Catholic audience.

Examples of this editorial thrust were seen in our coverage of major national events, like the devastation in the Gulf Coast from Hurricane Katrina, as well as the recent March for Life in Washington.

Rather than simply rely on wire stories to describe events in those far-away locations, we chose to “bring those stories home.” Our aim was to tell those stories through people from the archdiocese who actually experienced those events first-hand. From our perspective as lay editors and reporters, we feel this approach to covering the news is, indeed, the best way we can contribute to the evangelization imperative of the Church and Archbishop Myers.

While some may not always agree with our editorial perspective, opinions or approach, we do hope readers respect the effort and spirit behind our coverage of the Church of Newark.

As we are reminded on almost a daily basis, there’s always room for improvement. Rest assured, we’re working on it.



N.J. Catholic Conference outlines '06 legislative agenda

TRENTON—The New Jersey Catholic Conference has announced the publication of its legislative agenda for 2006/2007.

"This document will be distributed widely in brochure form to legislators, public officials, the Catholic press and interested parties," Archbishop John J. Myers, the president of the New Jersey Catholic Conference, stated. "It outlines the current major public policy concerns of the Catholic community."

The New Jersey Catholic Conference, composed of the Catholic Bishops of New Jersey, is one of the means by which the bishops address matters of public policy. The bishops receive recommendations concerning these issues from a public policy committee comprised of members from each diocese and from various areas of the Church's ministry, such as social services, education and health care.

The conference staff interacts with the state and federal governments, monitors matters of concern to the Catholic Church in New Jersey, and advocates for the Catholic Church's position in these matters. The conference works with other religious entities as well, such as civic, private sector, and non-profit organizations on matters of concern to the general welfare of the state's citizens.

Because a fundamental tenet of Catholic social teaching is that each human life is sacred, particular emphasis must be placed on the dignity and rights of the family and its members. This truth is the basic principle by which all of the actions of government must be judged. Therefore, we support those legislative and policy efforts that support and enhance life.

Our special concern for those who are vulnerable because they are unborn, young, old, disabled, poor, hungry, homeless, or ill is rooted in the Scriptural message, which calls us to speak on their behalf and to alleviate their pain, suffering, and anxiety by direct action.

Human Life

The sanctity of human life, which begins at conception, is the gift of a loving God. We support the right to life of unborn children because they are fully human. We support legislation, which bans partial-birth abortions and oppose any "health" exception amendment.

We oppose in vitro fertilization and artificial insemination because children have the right to

be born from the loving union of a mother and a father. We oppose experimentation on, and utilization of, unborn children, their tissues, and embryonic stem cells obtained from induced abortions.

We believe that society by its laws should protect human life at every stage of its existence and support a constitutional amendment, which gives the legislature the right to regulate and restrict all forms of abortion and its funding. Consistent with our view of human life, we

reforms for child protection. We support needed expansion of child care, but only when safety and quality are assured. We support parental notification of abortion for minors and programs to prevent abuse of persons of all ages.

Social Justice

Poverty is a lack of financial resources, but it also entails a more profound kind of deprivation—a denial of full participation in the economic, social, and political life of society and an

ity care, equitable financing and genuine respect for the dignity of human life from conception to natural death. Special priority should be given to fully funding the health care needs of the poor, the immigrant, and the severely and chronically mentally ill.

We support expansion of subsidized health insurance for children and the working poor. Adequate funding for charity care must be assured. Healthcare policy must ensure respect for the religious and ethical values of con-

toxins in our environment is connected to rising rates of cancer, asthma and other respiratory diseases in our state. We believe we have a moral responsibility to care for God's creation.

The Economy and Employment

The growing wage gap between high-skill and low-skill jobs contributes to the economic disparities between workers who are prospering and those who are struggling or left behind. One of the current issues in our economy is the rise of part-time and temporary employment and jobs with low wages and few, if any, benefits such as health insurance.

We believe the economy should serve people and not the reverse. Therefore, we endorse the right to jobs and just and living wages and the right to organize as defined in Catholic social teaching. We support programs such as job training and adult literacy that help low-income workers move into jobs with wages and benefits that enable their families to live in dignity. We support non-discrimination laws and protection for migrant and sweatshop workers.

Education

Quality education in all schools is a goal we affirm by our support for full funding of all state-aid programs for public and nonpublic schools, including those intended for compensatory education, aid for students with disabilities, and nursing services. In order to reinforce the fundamental rights of parents, we support government initiatives to fund the education of children in schools of their parents' choice, including such models as tuition tax credits, education tax savings accounts, and vouchers.

We affirm the right of all students to be secure in their school environment. We support financial assistance from the government to maintain all school buildings as "hazard free," so that the economic burden of complying with safe schools regulations will not erode the financial base of nonpublic schools.

We recognize the necessity for a school transportation system responsive to the needs of all students. State appropriations for nonpublic school transportation should provide greater availability, more efficient service, and expansion of current mileage limits.

We emphasize the importance of providing opportunities for all students to participate in state technology initiatives. We oppose

Continued on page 9



Archbishop John J. Myers,
President of the New Jersey Catholic Conference

oppose "right to die" legislation, which would lead to the legalization of suicide or euthanasia. Also, we oppose the death penalty and any law that would facilitate the imposition of the death penalty. We support legislation that vindicates the rights of unborn children who are killed or injured outside the context of abortion.

Children and Families

When the family unit functions well, all of society benefits. Children are among the most vulnerable members of the family. As we seek to help children, we must support families, because children's lives are nurtured or neglected, enhanced or diminished, by the quality of family life and because the family is the primary, indispensable, and essential unit of society. Therefore, we support policies that maintain and promote marriage and strengthen the family.

We oppose same-sex unions and domestic partnership legislation. We support full funding and

inability to influence decisions that affect one's life.

Poverty assaults fundamental human dignity. Therefore, we seek solutions that enable the poor to help themselves through education, training, and employment. Participation in the life of society is the key to justice for the poor. We also believe that society has a responsibility to help those who cannot care for themselves, and it is for this reason that families and children in need should be guaranteed assistance.

Because racism is an evil that dehumanizes our society, we support efforts to dispel all forms of racism. We applaud the courage and perseverance of immigrants and their contributions to New Jersey's economy and culture. We oppose denial of public benefits to immigrants or their children who are in need of assistance.

Healthcare and the Environment

Healthcare is a basic human right. We support healthcare reform, which guarantees universal access to comprehensive qual-

ity care, equitable financing and genuine respect for the dignity of human life from conception to natural death. Special priority should be given to fully funding the health care needs of the poor, the immigrant, and the severely and chronically mentally ill.

We support care to pregnant women and their unborn children as fully as care for those who are terminally ill, disabled, or elderly. While we support a continuum of services for people with HIV/AIDS and their families, we reject decriminalization of the sale of hypodermic needles and government funding of needle exchange programs.

Counseling in prevention of and treatment programs for substance abuse and other addictive behavior, teenage pregnancy, and suicide are necessary components of any health care system. While we support health services to students in schools, we oppose the distribution of contraceptives in school-based clinics or the referral to other agencies for abortion or contraception.

The health and well being of people, especially children and the elderly, is intrinsically linked to the quality of our land, air, and water. For example, the impact of

Because a fundamental tenet of Catholic social teaching is that each human life is sacred, particular emphasis must be placed on the dignity and rights of the family and its members. This truth is the basic principle by which all of the actions of government must be judged. Therefore, we support those legislative and policy efforts that support and enhance life.

Archdiocese issues Lenten regulations

The days of both Fast and Abstinence during Lent are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The other Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence.

On a day of Fast, only one (1) full meal is permitted. Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast.

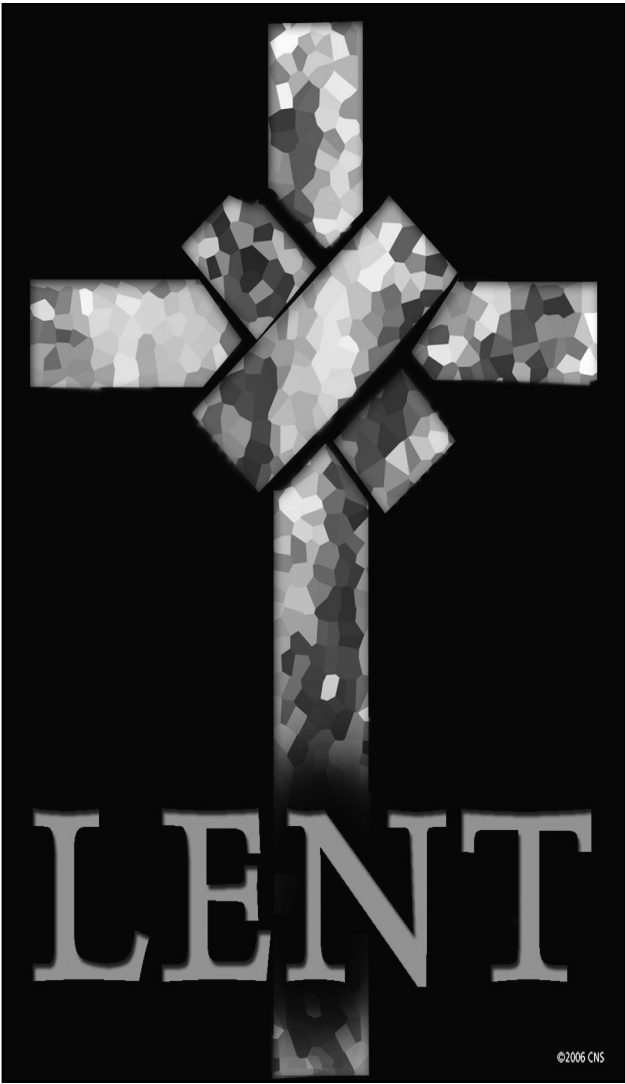
On a day of Abstinence, no meat may be eaten. Those who have reached the age of 14 are obliged by the law of abstinence.

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

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

The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty*) extends from the First Sunday of Lent to the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity.

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



LENTEN SYMBOL—The penitential season of Lent begins Ash Wednesday, March 1. Archbishop John J. Myers will celebrate Mass on Ash Wednesday at 12:10 p.m. at St. Patrick Pro-Cathedral in Newark.

‘Year of Covenant’ theme for retreats

FAIRFIELD—St. Thomas More Parish will host a series of five Lenten Lunch Retreats.

Scheduled for consecutive Wednesdays, with the exception of the final retreat, each will take place in O’Connor Hall from 12:10 to 1 p.m. Prayer and reflection in the church will precede the retreats. Participants should bring a bag lunch. Drinks and dessert will be provided.

Under the theme of The Year of the Covenant, the retreats will reflect on the first readings from the Sunday Masses of Lent.

The retreats are March 8, The Covenant with Noah; March 15, The Covenant with Abraham; March 22, The Covenant with Moses; March 29, Covenant and the Promised Land and April 5, Covenant and the Prophets. The final retreat is during Holy Week on Monday, April 10 at 7 p.m. with the topic The New Covenant.

For additional information and directions call the rectory at (973) 227-0055.

‘Journey Through Lent With Saint Benedict’

NEWARK—The Benedictines of Newark Abbey will offer a series of Tuesday night Lenten conferences “Journey Through Lent With Saint Benedict.”

Abbot Melvin Valvano will speak on “Facing my False Self” on March 7. Brother Maximilian Buonocore, will speak March 14 on the topic “Holy Combat.” Father Matthew Wotenko will consider “The Call to Conversion” on March

28. The final lecture on April 4 will be presented by Father Edwin Leahy, and is entitled “Christ: Model of Trust in God.”

Each lecture will be preceded by sung Vespers in St. Mary’s Parish at 7 p.m. All talks will be held at 8 p.m. in the St. Benedict’s Prep cafeteria, 520 Dr. M. L. King Blvd. Secure off-street parking is available.

For more information call (973) 792-5751.

The Pope Speaks



Pope Benedict XVI

The grace of Mary

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we bring to a conclusion the cycle of reflections, begun by my beloved predecessor Pope John Paul II, on the psalms and canticles found in the Liturgy of the Hours. We do so with a meditation on the Magnificat, which extols the biblical poor, the “anawim,” who live in a deep humility of heart and openness to God’s saving grace. They are free from pride and detached from aspirations to human greatness. The first part of the canticle portrays Mary rejoicing in the grace which has come into her heart and her life. She does this in a personal way, but is aware also of her mission to all humanity. The second part places Mary’s words of praise in harmony with the whole history of the faithful. They celebrate the surprising choices of God who “scatters the proud-hearted... casts the mighty from their thrones ... fills the starving with good things.” Let us conclude by associating ourselves with the invitation of the great St. Ambrose: “May each one of us glorify the Lord with the soul of Mary and rejoice in God with the spirit of Mary.”

NJCC agenda

Continued from page 8

legislation, which discriminates against any student for reasons of religion, special needs, or school attended, and we seek the enactment of legislation inclusive of all students. We urge removal of all barriers that homeless children face in gaining access to an adequate education.

In all schools, we recognize the value of the teaching of authentic family life education, which prepares children for their role as parents and which honors the dignity of the individual from conception to natural death. Additionally, we support family life education that emphasizes an abstinence-based curriculum.

Housing and Homelessness

Housing is a basic human right. The lack of affordable housing is especially pressing in New Jersey, which is the most expensive state in which to live. Consequently, the path to end homelessness leads us to support development of housing, especially rental units, affordable to low and moderate-income persons.

We also support increased funding for rental assistance, transitional housing, and emergency shelters for the homeless, with accompanying social services. All sectors of society must do more to meet our common responsibility for housing, including group homes for children and persons with developmental disabilities and mental illness.

The New Jersey Catholic Conference calls upon public officials to address these issues that affect the common good of all people. The response to this call must be grounded in the recognition of each individual’s dignity and in the protection of all human life.

Leaders of the New Jersey Catholic Conference include Archbishop of Newark Most Rev. John J. Myers, president; William F. Bolan, Jr., executive director; and Elmer M. Matthews, general counsel. The organization is located at 149 North Warren St., Trenton, N.J. 08608; phone: (609) 989-1120.

Focus on Liturgy reinforces community bonds

BY MELISSA MCNALLY

Staff Writer

Christ the King Parish in Hillside began as a Mission Church of nearby St. Catherine Parish on Nov. 8, 1931.

The little white wooden structure became a separate parish on June 16, 1948. Father Perry G. DeWitt was the first pastor. He was assisted by Father Gerard B. Whelan and Father Joseph B. Bagley, followed by Father Richard A. Greene.

A variety of organizations have bolstered the parish over the years. For example, groups formed in 1932 included The Holy Name Society, Rosary/Altar Society, Young Ladies Sodality, the Junior Holy Name Society and the CCD. Christ the King Parish went on to add Boy Scout Troop 99 and a Girl Scout troop.

On Dec. 12, 1952, Father DeWitt broke ground for Christ the King School. It opened with 530 students from kindergarten through sixth grade in the fall of 1953.

Sister Veronica Mary of the Dominican Sisters was the first principal and the Dominicans were its first teachers. A convent was completed in October 1954 to house the many Sisters that would serve the school.

The school grew rapidly and the first eighth grade class graduated in June 1956. Today's principal, Sister Sheila Madden, has been on the job since 1983. Since 2002, all the teachers are lay faculty.

Father DeWitt remained pastor until his death. Father Emmet Knox succeeded him on March 2, 1957 and saw to fruition his predecessor's plan for a new rectory.

Four years later Father Daniel Curtain became pastor. The laying of the cornerstone and the blessing of the new church on Rutgers Avenue was celebrated on April 16, 1966. Father Curtain was able to pay off the parish debt though the enormous sacrifice and love of Christ the King parishioners.

Father Joseph T. O'Connor became pastor on March 3, 1974, and rekindled the CYO Prayer Group as well as the High School CYO and Home School Association.

An innovation from the archdiocese became a reality in 1979 with the team ministry program, which gave three priests equal power in responsi-



Advocate photo - Melissa McNally

Christ the King Parish is the spiritual home to some 900 registered families.



The main altar is adorned with a beautiful mural.

bility in the parish as opposed to just one pastor.

Father Richard D. Carlson

Christ the King, Hillside

became pastor in July 1988 and oversaw the transition from team ministry back to pastor and held that position for a dozen years. Groups such as Handmaidens for Christ, Alcoholics Anonymous, Portuguese Community and small prayer groups either continued or began meeting at Christ the King during those years.

Six years ago Msgr. Venantius M. Fernando became pastor. He has succeeded in getting more parishioners to become involved with the various committees and ministries that make Christ the King a vibrant community.

Today, the parish has around 900 registered families. While many are caucasian, there are Portuguese Masses and Latin and Caribbean parishioners fueling an influx of young families.

As part of the archdiocese's ongoing New Energies Transition Project, St. Catherine Parish and Christ the King Parish have formed an alliance. The parish schools joined together in September 2004, to form Hillside Christian Academy.

The top goal for Msgr. Fernando is a close-knit parish community. "My primary aim is to strengthen the bond we have as a parish," he explained. "We are different people, but we are a community. I want to

feel like a community and grow in that light."

Another important goal of the pastor is emphasis on family and the care for the family. "I want to bring people together. I deal with all people equally and have all different friends. Everyone who visits Christ the King Parish says that they feel comfortable here. People have said that we have pleasant, warm, affectionate parishioners. I give hugs and kisses to all of the women and everyone teases me about it," Msgr. Fernando laughed.

To celebrate the community and different cultures, many events are planned at the parish to entertain as well as strengthen the bond between families and their faith. For example, the Filipino celebration of Simbang Gabi is marked at the parish for nine days before Christmas. There are special celebrations, an evening Mass, and a social with food and dancing on the final day.

There other social gatherings offered including Couples for Christ meetings, a Mardi Gras celebration after evening Mass before Lent and monthly Liturgy meetings.

Stressing the importance of Liturgy ensures the future of the Church, according to Msgr. Fernando. For example, Eucharistic ministers, lectors and parishioners meet regular-

Meet the Pastor



Rev. Msgr.
Venantius M. Fernando

Birthday: May 18, 1936

Hometown: Kovalam, South India

High School: St. Xavier's at Tuticorin, South India

Seminary: St. Paul's Thiruchirappally, South India

Undergraduate School: St. Paul's Seminary College

Graduate School: De Paul University, Chicago; Seton Hall University

Ordination: March 24, 1961

Hero: Rev. Amalor, Indian Theologian

Favorite Saint: St. Francis of Assisi

Favorite Sport: Tennis

Favorite Food: I enjoy all foods

Favorite Subject in School: Logic

Favorite Movie:

A Beautiful Mind

Lasts Book Read: *The life of Mahatma Gandhi* by Louis Fisher

Occupation if I weren't a

Priest: Teacher

ly discuss new developments in Church teaching and delve deeper into a variety topics to expand their faith.

Along with Liturgy, meetings to foster a closer community, there is an annual cultural program in November where different foods and customs are celebrated. In addition there is a Christmas pageant and play performed by the children of Hillside Christian Academy.

In his six years as pastor of Christ the King, Msgr. Fernando has made significant changes in parish community life. "When I came (to the parish), there was no youth group. I started one five years ago," he said. "I also started the Rosary Society and have regular the Liturgy meetings. It's important to keep the Liturgy alive and it helps in community building."

Christ the King Parish is located at 411 Rutgers Ave.

St. Rose of Lima generosity aids education efforts in Golobiladji

SHORT HILLS—Home at Christmas from a 27-month Peace Corps tour in Mali, West Africa, Charlie Bailey appealed to his fellow parishioners at St. Rose of Lima for funds to help build an addition to a village school.

The result was a \$55,000 donation.

The 24-year-old volunteer, the son of Joseph and Sue Bailey, graduated from St. Rose of Lima School, Seton Hall Prep and Duke University. As a member of the parish's Troop 17, he achieved Eagle Scout, the highest rank in scouting, with two palms.

Reflecting on the young man's achievements, Msgr. George Trabold, pastor, remarked that "we are all so proud of Charlie and all that he has accomplished. Charlie has been an active member of the St. Rose community his entire life, from his days in our parish school to scouting and beyond. Charlie's parents have been wonderful role models for him on living a Christ centered life and service to others.

Now, through his Peace Corps experience, Charlie can, in turn, serve as a role model for all of our young people."

Bailey left for Mali in January 2005. He spent nine weeks in training, primarily for natural resource management, and had daily four-hour language lessons to learn Bambara, the native language.

Last March he was installed as the sole Peace Corps volunteer in Golobiladji, Mali. He lives in a mud hut approximately 12 feet in diameter with no running water and or electricity.

Golobiladji is a village of about 2,000 people, most of whom are farmers. Bailey decided on a special project in concert with the village chief, construction of a three-room addition to the local grade school. With it the children will be able to attend the secondary school (middle school) and not have to leave the village.

In order to make the project a reality, Bailey needed \$20,000. In accordance with Peace Corps pol-

icy, the village is responsible for providing an additional \$9,000. That would cover manual labor and some of the materials.

Bailey selected the school project, he explained, because "the villagers of Golobiladji realize the importance of education, not only as the cornerstone of their personal and communal development, but also as a means of empowerment. Given the opportunity to continue their studies in science, math, history, literature, and foreign languages, the children of Golobiladji will be given some control of their own future: to continue on to lycée (high school), to go to university, to find decent work, and to help their village develop."

As a result of the generosity of St. Rose of Lima Parish, the excess funds over the \$20,000 needed for the village school project will be used to fund similar education projects in Mali.

Msgr. Trabold said "the people of St. Rose have always been very generous in their support of



Charlie Bailey is pictured in front of mural he painted in one of the classrooms in Mali. His training to help the people in West Africa has focused on natural resource management.

those in need. Charlie's willing sacrifice and passion to help others is a powerful reminder to each of us that one person can make a difference. Although we all cannot give our time and talents directly serving others in a foreign land, through our generous stewardship we can provide the necessary financial resources to enable people like Charlie to directly impact the lives of others and build a better world."

Bailey has a committee of villagers that is soliciting bids from contractors and he hopes to start construction soon. He expects to

have the new schoolrooms available for the fall term. The government of Mali will provide the teachers for the secondary school when the village is able to complete the addition.

Bailey's father noted "in the end, this is a story about how one young man can love his fellow human beings enough to devote 27 months of his life to helping them. He has endured poisonous snakes, scorpions and severe illness. His attitude is tremendous, because he has a goal in mind and he sees Christ alive in each of the villagers."

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(L-R): Kevin P. Frey, General Chairman, Ann Tully Kirk, 2006 Deputy Grand Marshal, Stephen B. Kirk, 2006 Grand Marshal, and Thomas P. Giblin, 1975 Grand Marshal.

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- ♣ Grandstand at Broad St.
and New Street

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The Hamilton Pub, 27 Central Avenue
Immediately after the Parade

For further information, contact: Kevin P. Frey,
General Chairman (973) 560-9620

A look at Catholic Schools Week...



HELPING ONE OF THEIR OWN—St. Genevieve School in Elizabeth held its annual Quarters March. The class that brought in the most quarters selected which charity or charities would receive the money. This year's winner was Class 7A which collected 724 quarters or some \$1,300. The money has been donated to the Christopher Obara Fund. Christopher is a graduate of the school who has been diagnosed with bone cancer. His sister, Nathalia, is in the eighth grade.

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LIVING LESSON—Students at St. Mary School, Dumont, were visited by some four-legged friends from Outrageous Pets.



GUEST SPEAKER—Sister Arline Zurich spoke to students at Our Lady of Libera School, West New York, about the Holy Childhood Association.

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'Peacemakers' come to dinner



Among those at the dinner party were papier-mâché figures depicting, left to right, "Jesus Christ," "Mohandas Ghandi," "Rosa Parks" and "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr."

Math-a-thon tallies funds for hospital

ELIZABETH—Students at St. Mary Assumption School recently completed a math-a-thon fundraiser for St. Jude children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, TN.

Students obtained sponsors for the number of math problems completed in special workbooks at each grade level.

Children with more than 200 forms of cancer and other catastrophic diseases are treated at St. Jude. Today more than 70 percent of the hospital’s young patients survive their bouts with cancer.

“We are very proud of our students for working so hard on the math-a-thon” noted teacher and volunteer coordinator Rita Sauer. “With their help, St. Jude Hospital will be able to create new treatments that may one day lead to a cure for many forms of cancer. I also want to extend our thanks to the Elizabeth community for supporting our students.”

St. Michael’s receives grant

MORRISTOWN — St. Michael’s Medical Center, Newark, was among the recipients of grants awarded recently by the Susan G. Koman Breast Cancer Foundation.

The presentations were made at the North Jersey Affiliate’s annual Pink Tie Ball attended by some 1,100 supporters who donated over \$1.5 million.

Among the honorees was Dr. M. Michele Blackwood, founder and medical director of the Connie Dwyer Breast Center at St. Michael’s Medical Center.

SHORT HILLS—St. Rose of Lima School celebrated Catholic Schools Week with a unique art installation “The Peacemakers Dinner Party.”

During “Spirittree,” a two-week interdisciplinary arts residency program of the Arts Council of Morris County, students worked with artists Marco Giammetti and Carol Hendrickson to create the art installation which featured nearly life-size papier-mâché figures of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, Jesus Christ, Mother Teresa, Dag Hammarskjold, Pope John Paul

II, Mohandas Ghandi and Chief Joseph of the Nez Percé tribe.

“This very creative and elaborate art project exemplifies the talents of our children while highlighting our mission for this year—as stated by Pope John Paul II—to be ‘Architects of Compassion,’ said Dr. Karen P. Fasanella, principal of St. Rose of Lima. “Working together as one we can accomplish great things.”

The students not only sculpted and painted the historic figures

but also researched their lives and stories, created a script for the dinner party, and recorded dramatic dialogue for the installation. The installation was staged with this compelling “conversation” among the peacemakers broadcast through speakers.

All of the students in kindergarten through eighth grade contributed to the project, crafting every element of the dinner party, from the food to the utensils to the placemats.

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Immaculate Conception Seminary, Seton Hall University

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201-837-3355

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“The prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well.” —James 5:15

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Rosary shown smaller than actual size.

The Healing Rosary is available in gratitude for your gift of \$15 or more in support of the Norbertine Community.

Let the Norbertine Community join you in prayer for your good health and that of your loved ones. Whether you need healing for an illness or just want to pray for continued good health... knowing that many others are praying with you can be a wonderful source of comfort.

The intentions you send us will be remembered for 30 days in the daily Community Masses of the Norbertine Community at St. Norbert Abbey, De Pere, Wisconsin.

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Please remember my prayers for good health in 30 days of Masses by the Norbertine Community. I am including a gift of ☐ \$10 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$_____ to support Norbertine ministries.

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NF230CAN



COFFEE HOUSE FAITHFUL—St. Benedict's Preparatory School, 520 Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd., Newark, has launched its fourth year of monthly Friday night coffee house sessions, with gatherings slated for Feb. 24, March 24, and April 28. Doors open at 7 p.m. The coffee house is held in the school cafeteria. Contact Benedictine Brother Patrick Winbush at (973) 792-5800 (extension 1170) for details. The January session featured music from the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, Our Lady of Fatima Choir, and St. Benedict's Vocal Ensemble. The evening also featured two testimonies given by St. Benedict's students Patrick Gomes and Frank Nobre. The Sacrament of Reconciliation was offered and the evening finished with night prayer. All high schools and parish youth groups in the archdiocese are invited to drop in, grab a cup of java, and enjoy the scene.

Operation Rice Bowl to begin

BALTIMORE—Millions of Catholics from more than 15,000 parishes, schools and community groups in the U.S. are ready to launch Operation Rice Bowl (ORB), Catholic Relief Services' (CRS) Lenten tradition.

New CRS materials make it easier than ever to participate in the program, which helps Catholics in the U.S. pray, fast, learn and give in solidarity with those overseas during the celebration of Lent.

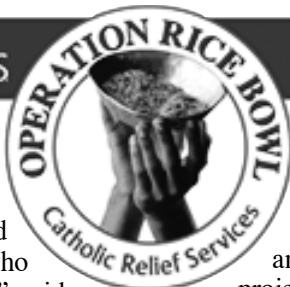
ORB began as a program of the Archdiocese of Allentown, PA, in 1975, and was adopted nationally a year later by CRS. Almost every diocese in the U.S. participates in ORB and parishes and schools adapt ORB's resources to make the program fit with the unique needs of their communities.

"At its core, Operation Rice Bowl gives Catholics in the U.S.

an opportunity to live out their faith in solidarity with those less fortunate around the world, people who are easily forgotten," said Beth Martin, director of Operation Rice Bowl for CRS.

As part of the launch of this year's program, ORB has new materials available to make it easy for Catholics to participate. The cardboard Rice Bowl remains the Lenten centerpiece of the family dinner table and has been integral since the program's beginning.

Annually, ORB raises more approximately \$8 million, 75 percent of which come to CRS to help fund development projects that contribute to food security in 40 countries around the world. Twenty-five percent of the proj-



ects funds remain in local dioceses in the United States to fund local hunger and poverty relief projects.

For more information on ORB, visit www.crs.org/orb, or contact Jeffery Griffith at (410) 951-7245 or email him at jgriffit@crs.org.

The Rosary shrine topic

STIRLING—Inspired by Pope John Paul II's apostolic letter on the Rosary (*Rosarium Virginis Mariae*), internationally known liturgical composer Bob Hurd has created "A Contemplative Rosary" to be presented at the Shrine of St. Joseph Chapel, 1050 Long Hill Rd., Feb. 24 at 7:30 p.m.

Hurd leads an experience of music, visual arts and contemplative prayer around the Rosary designed for both communal and individual recitation. No reservations are necessary. Suggested offering at the door is \$10.

On Saturday, Feb. 25 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Hurd will present a *Lectio Divina* retreat (prayerful reading of the Scripture) at 1292 Long Hill Rd., down the hill from the Shrine. This day of reflection and prayer invites participants to experience how icons and song can gather one into the Living Word and the Paschal Mystery. Suggested offering in \$45 with lunch included. Reservations can be made by calling (908) 647-0208.

Joining Hurd will be iconographer Charles Rohrbacher from Alaska, who was commissioned to create icons especially for these programs.

Charles Rohrbacher has been an icon painter for 25 years. He is the director of the Office of Commissions for Christian Formation, Liturgy and Spiritual Life and Charity, Justice and Peace for the Diocese of Juneau.

For information, reservations and directions, call the Shrine of St. Joseph at (908) 647-0208.



Dr. Henry F. Knight

FDU to host Henry Knight on Feb. 24

TEANECK—Fairleigh Dickinson University's Office of Campus Ministry at the Metropolitan Campus will host its fourth annual Campus Ministry Lecture on Friday, Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m., at the Rutherford Room in the Student Union Building.

Dr. Henry F. Knight, applied professor of hermeneutics and Holocaust studies at the University of Tulsa, OK, will present a lecture titled: "Limping to Jerusalem: Celebrating Holy Week in a Post-Holocaust World."

Knight is an author and activist in the global Jewish-Christian dialogue. He specializes in teaching post-Shoah Christian Theology (Holocaust studies) at the University of Tulsa.

The Feb. 24 program is open to the public and free-will donations will be accepted. Call (201) 692-2406 for more information. Father John "Jack" Baron is the chaplain at the FDU campus here and also serves as the director of campus ministry for the Archdiocese of Newark.

'Intelligent design' forum at SHU

SOUTH ORANGE—Steven Barr, professor of theoretical particle physics at the Bartol Research Institute, University of Delaware, will try to untangle the issues surrounding evolution and the latest phenomenon, "intelligent design," on

Monday, Feb. 27 at 4 p.m. in Jubilee Auditorium at Seton Hall University.

"Our mission at the Center for Catholic Studies is to foster the dialogue between our Catholic faith and contemporary issues, in this case the discussion is about

evolution and the intelligent design movement," noted Msgr. Richard Liddy, director of the Center for Catholic Studies.

The lecture is free and open to the public. For further information please contact Courtney Wyant, Center for Catholic Studies, at wyantcou@shu.edu or at (973) 275-2175.

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Bishop Edgar da Cunha processes to the altar.



Voices were raised in joyful praise of the consecrated life.

Advocate photos Ward Miele

Consecrated life

Continued from page 1

Bishop da Cunha wondered “How Jesus Christ is welcomed in our midst?” among persons who are poor and lonely.

Those in consecrated life, he said, must be a “witness” to the love and grace of Jesus Christ. The final word cited by the bishop was prayer which, he stressed, “changes us.”

In his sermon, the pope said of those in consecrated life, “Their giving of themselves into the hands of Christ and the Church is a strong and clear announcement of the presence of

God, in a language that is understood by our contemporaries.”

Commenting to *The Catholic Advocate* on his recent trip to Brazil, da Cunha said “it was wonderful to go back home and spend some time with my parents, brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews. It was great celebrating Mass in the church where I was baptized. The church was packed with relatives and friends I had not seen in a long time. It was especially gratifying to celebrate the Baptism of my niece, Talitha. There were among the high-

lights of my visit to the warm tropics of at the peak of summer in the Southern Hemisphere.”

(Information for this story was provided by Catholic News Service.)

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Timothy Daniel Doyle Jr.

Veteran administrator takes reins

ALLENDALE—Timothy Daniel Doyle Jr., a Boonton Township resident with more than 20 years healthcare administration experience, has been named as administrator of The Allendale Community for Mature Living.

The appointment was announced by Dr. Hector Giancarlo, founder, president and medical director of the luxury, physician-owned retirement community.

Doyle comes to Allendale with a broad range of experience

in the field of senior living, and management. He served as administrator of the Glenlora Nursing Home in Chester and of the family owned and operated Sarah Frances Tally Ho Manor in Boonton. He has also served as Boonton mayor and president of the Society of Licensed Nursing Home Administrators of New Jersey.

"The Allendale Community for Mature Living is unique in that it is a privately owned facility, rather than a large chain, and therefore can offer residents more personal, hands-on care and attention. In addition, it

offers a complete continuum of care, so that seniors can remain in familiar surroundings even when a change in the level of care is required," the new administrator explained.

Doyle also noted that Allendale's extensive calendar of activities meets the needs of today's more active and involved seniors. "People are living longer and expect to remain engaged and involved. Allendale, with its variety of programs, seminars and special events, offers something for everyone."

In his new position, Doyle, who has a Bachelor of Science

degree in health planning and administration from Pennsylvania State University, supervises a staff of more than 200. They work under the direction of key management and department heads who demonstrate a deep commitment and personal hands-on involvement in the daily activities of the Community.

"I look forward to getting to know each resident and helping this dynamic team of employees in meeting residents' needs," Doyle said. "Our goal is to maximize independence while providing all possible support, warmth and care."

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Fighting cardiovascular disease

ELIZABETH—As the country observes American Heart Month in February, Trinitas Hospital plans events and activities to raise awareness about prevention of heart disease, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases.

The Center of Cardiology, Diagnostic Center, Cardio Fitness Center, Dietary Department, and Sleep Disorders Center are offering information to employees and the public about heart disease risks

and ways to make healthy lifestyle choices. The Dietary Department is making available heart healthy foods and recipes at all meals in the cafeteria. The hospital is offering special education programs in local schools to remind children that healthy eating and regular exercise are lifelong good health habits.

American Heart Association (AHA) statistics show that only 13 percent of women know that car-

diovascular disease is their number-one health risk. That means that one out of every 2.5 women dies from heart disease, stroke or other cardiovascular disease.

"For men, the classic 'Hollywood heart attack' involves sudden chest pain," explains Nancy DiLiegro, Ph.D., Director, Clinical Services adding that "for women, heart disease symptoms are less dramatic, less sudden. Instead, women may experience pain or discomfort in the jaw, arms, neck and back, shortness of breath, nausea or lightheadedness, flu-like symptoms, or breaking out in a cold sweat, all of which they may not realize are symptomatic of heart disease."

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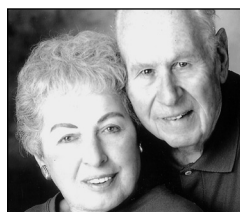
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Marking World Day of Sick, pope says God sent Jesus to heal, save

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Out of his great love for all creatures, God sent His son to heal and to save, Pope Benedict XVI declared.

"Christ is the hand of God extended to humanity so it could escape the quicksand of sickness and death, standing on its feet on the solid rock of divine love," the pope said Feb. 12.

Pope Benedict used the main part of his midday Angelus address to remind people that the Church celebrated World Day of the Sick Feb. 11 and to ask for continued prayers for those who are suffering.

He asked Mary to watch over all the sick, but especially those who also "suffer from solitude, poverty and marginalization."

While the main celebration of World Day of the Sick took place in Adelaide, Australia, Pope Benedict joined Italian sick people and their caregivers at the end of a Mass Feb. 11 in St. Peter's Basilica.

Before personally blessing many of the people in the basilica, the pope said the Church dedicates the Feb. 11 feast of Our Lady of Lourdes to those who are ill because in Lourdes, France, Mary "demonstrated God's tenderness toward the suffering."

Appearing to St. Bernadette Soubirous in Lourdes, Mary iden-

tified herself as the Immaculate Conception "to remind the modern world, which risks forgetting, that the primacy of divine grace is stronger than sin or death," the pope explained.

The 2006 World Day of the Sick was dedicated in a special way to people with mental illnesses and to those who care for them.

Pope Benedict said Jesus' own ministry to the sick was dedicated to healing the entire person, "in body, psyche and spirit."

"Christ is the hand of God extended to humanity."

—Pope Benedict XVI

The pope asked Catholic health workers to let the love of God be alive in their hearts so that it would give direction to their projects and plans, but especially to the way they care for their patients and the patients' families.

At the Feb. 9-11 international celebration in Adelaide, Cardinal Javier Lozano Barragan, presi-

dent of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Ministry, said the World Health Organization estimates "there are 450 million people in the world affected by neurological or behavioral mental disorders, of which 873,000 commit suicide each year."

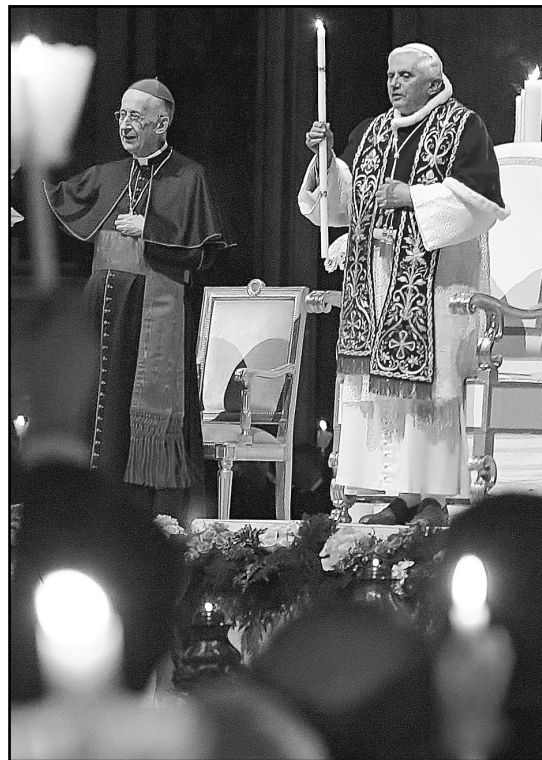
In addition to the illness itself, he said, there is "the serious problem of the social stigma that the patients and their families have to face."

In his homily at the Feb. 11 closing Mass, the cardinal said mental illnesses have a variety of very complex causes, among which are "the negation of God," moral relativism and the "exasperation of desires" in cultures where people have grown up believing that they can have everything necessary to make them happy.

When a broken family and poverty are added to the mix, he said, it is easy to see how the emotional support needed to keep one's balance disappears.

A Catholic approach to caring for the mentally ill must emphasize their inviolable dignity and must be filled with love, he said.

"We are dealing with human beings, and human beings always need something more than technically proper care," Cardinal Lozano said. "They need humanity. They need heartfelt concern."

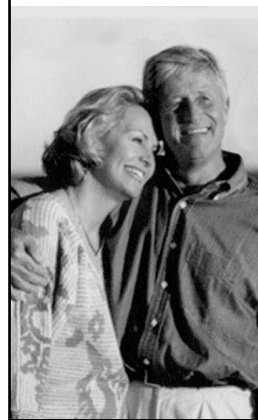


CNS photo

Pope Benedict XVI holds a candle as he blesses the faithful at the end of a Mass for the sick at St. Peter's Basilica Feb. 11. Celebrating World Day of the Sick, the pope said that Jesus' own ministry to the sick was dedicated to healing the entire person "in body, psyche and spirit."

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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. **M.B.**

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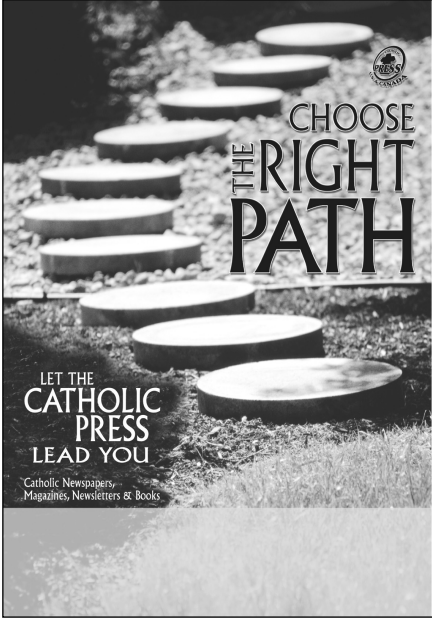
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By UnitedHealthcare

www.oxfordmedicare.com

Bergen - Fort Lee

March 8, 9:00 AM
Red Oak Diner
2191 Fletcher Ave.
Cross St./Bridge Plaza North

Bergen - Fair Lawn

March 14, 9:00 AM
Land & Sea Diner
20-12 Fair Lawn Ave.
Cross St./Pollitt Dr.

Bergen - Hackensack

March 23, 5:30 PM
The Arena Diner
250 Essex St.
Cross St./Polifly Rd.

Bergen - Hackensack

March 30, 9:00 AM
The Coach House Diner
55 Route 4 East
Cross St./Hackensack Ave.

Essex - Nutley

March 7, 9:00 AM
Park Diner
372 Centre St.
Cross St./Franklin Ave.

Essex - Maplewood

March 16, 5:30 PM
Maplewood Diner
1473 Springfield Ave.
Cross St./Chancellor Ave.

Essex - Cedar Grove

March 21, 9:00 AM
Pilgrim Diner
82 Pompton Ave.
Cross St./Route 23 South

Union - Union

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

Union - Westfield

March 15, 5:30 PM
Westfield Diner
309 North Ave. East
Cross St./Central Ave.

Union - Roselle

March 28, 9:00 AM
Cavalier Diner
2401 N. Wood Ave.
Cross St./St. George's Ave.