

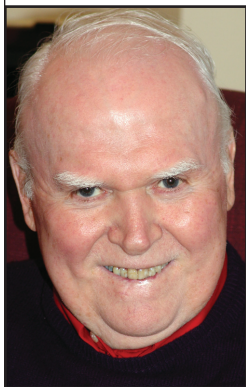


The Catholic Advocate



Notes, prayers help to explain Advent season

Father Thomas Dente provides information to illuminate the celebration.



Smile reflects memories of a special school

Father Robert Brennan recalls his days at St. Al's in Jersey City.

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Pope to visit the Big Apple in April 2008

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI will visit New York and Washington D.C. April 15-20, 2008. Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States, confirmed the dates of the papal trip



Pope Benedict XVI

on Nov. 12 at the beginning of the annual fall meeting of the U.S. bishops.

"It is certainly exciting to have the Holy Father visit our area during his first visit to the country as pope," Archbishop John J. Myers said on hearing the plans of the pontiff's trip. "Even though there won't be time for a second papal visit to Newark on this trip, I know I speak for all Catholics in the archdiocese when I say that I am looking forward in the weeks to come to finding out more about this historic moment."

Archbishop Sambi said the pope will be in New York on April 18 to address the United Nations in the morning and attend an ecumenical meeting in the afternoon. The following day—the third anniversary of his election as pope—he will concelebrate Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral in the morning and meet with youths and seminarians in the afternoon.

The pope will go to "ground zero" in lower Manhattan on the morning of April 20—the site of the

9/11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. Archbishop Sambi said the pope's stop at ground zero will be in "solidarity with those who have died and their families and all who wish for an end of violence and the implementation of peace." Later that day the pope will celebrate Mass at Yankee Stadium in the Bronx, which will be the final event of his U.S. trip.

"Peter, the rock on which Jesus founded this Church, will be among us in the person of His successor—Benedict the XVI," Archbishop Sambi told the U.S. bishops. The official title of the upcoming papal trip is "Apostolic Visit to the United States of America and to the Seat of the United Nations."

Continued on page 18

Death penalty opponents await action in Trenton

BY WARD MIELE
Managing Editor

MONTCLAIR—There is a "real chance" New Jersey could soon legislatively abolish the death penalty, longtime anti-capital punishment advocate Sister Helen Prejean declared Nov. 8 during a presentation at St. Peter Claver Parish.

As Sister Helen sees it, the death penalty represents "government-sanctioned killing." A member of the Sisters of St. Joseph, the Louisiana native drew national attention when the critically acclaimed 1995 motion picture *Dead Man Walking*, based on her book, won an Oscar.

Her lecture here was especially timely given the current state of political affairs in the Garden State. Proposed legislation awaiting action in Trenton would do away with capital punishment, replacing it with life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Celeste Fitzgerald, director of New Jerseyans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (NJADP), said the State Assembly's Judiciary Committee is scheduled to act on the legislation Dec. 6 with a vote expected Dec. 13. Although a specific date for State Senate action on the bill has not yet been determined, Fitzgerald sees a vote being cast "no later" than the end of the current legislative session Jan. 7. Tentative dates for State Senate action are Dec. 10 or 17; Jan. 3 or 7.

Fitzgerald described her Trenton-based, 12,000-member group (founded in 1999 with only five members) as "very hopeful" the death penalty will be abolished in New Jersey. She said the last state to legislatively do away with capital punishment was Iowa in 1965. If New Jersey does likewise, it would become the 14th state to eliminate the death penalty.

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Advocate photo — M. Gabriele

HARVEST OF HOPE—Students at St. Michael's School in Newark participated in the "Harvest of Hope" food drive to help those in need during the Thanksgiving season. Seventh graders (left to right) Jose Ortiz, Kaelyn Solorzano, Chinwendu Abalihi and Michael Quiles are pictured among the boxes of food, which will be distributed by parish food pantries throughout the archdiocese. Teacher Tami Fazio and Principal Linda Cerino guided the effort by students. The Emergency Food and Nutrition Network, directed by Sharon Reilly-Tobin (a unit of Catholic Charities) supports parish pantries. Contact her at (973) 266-7966 to donate food.

Giving thanks to the good shepherds who protect us

BY MOST REV. JOHN J. MYERS, J.C.D., D.D.
Archbishop of Newark

(Editor's note: The following is the homily delivered by Archbishop Myers at the Mass for Law Enforcement Personnel, also known as "The Blue Mass," which was celebrated Nov. 8 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark.)

Once again, I am so very pleased to welcome you to the most beautiful cathedral in the United States. You well deserve to have such a magnificent setting for your annual Blue Mass.

Today, again, you take time out to come here to pray and to reflect, to be comforted and inspired by the Word of God, to give thanks in the ultimate action of thanksgiving, the Eucharist. As we come together, we turn to Sacred Scripture knowing that God's word will give us insights into our lives and into the mystery of our God working in our lives.

The two parables presented to us by the Lord Jesus in today's Gospel reading from St. Luke should cause us to wonder. In one, a woman spends an entire day in search of a lost coin that represents much less than one day's labor. In the other, a shepherd leaves 99 sheep unattended in the wilderness, filled with wolves and other dangers, to go in search of one lost sheep.

As one who grew up on a farm, even though we did not have sheep, at first, this mystified me. However, after thinking about it for a while, it would seem that, perhaps the lesson for us in this Gospel passage is that God often is concerned about things that we count as trivial or of little value—one coin or one sheep.

Sadly, our society today often views people as trivial or of little value. The poor, the weak, the aged, the minority, the marginalized, the illegal alien—often society looks on them not as children of God but as problems to be solved, or worse, problems to be eliminated.

My role as archbishop of this local Church of Newark is to be a shepherd; a good shepherd who cares for my flock. I try to watch over my sheep lest they stray from the path of the Lord and wander into the wilderness of sin. It is my responsibility to search for those who do stray and to welcome them back into the one flock of the merciful Father.

I am mindful of an often-forgotten part of the burden of a law enforcement officer—the daily stress that working round-the-clock shifts and the very nature of police work itself brings on the family.

As law enforcement officers, you too are called on to be good shepherds. Each day you patrol and you watch, you protect and you serve those who might be in danger or come to harm. Your flock includes the entire community—the strong and the weak. You have the responsibility to protect and to defend the lives of our citizens and non-citizens, at the risk of your own. The helpless and the defenseless depend on your skill, your training, your instant response, your bravery, and your self-sacrifice.

You are keenly aware of the dangers that lurk in the wilderness that is part and parcel of each and every community. You are aware of the many dangers out there—dangers to those entrusted to your care, and dangers that await you as you fulfill your mission.

Sometimes you weep as you come upon tragedy, as I did when I learned of the terrible murder of four young college



Members of the law enforcement community from across the state attended the 15th annual Blue Mass on Nov. 8 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, which was celebrated by Archbishop John J. Myers. The Mass paid special tribute to the four officers who lost their lives in the line of duty the past year. In his homily, Archbishop Myers told those in law enforcement they have been called upon to be good shepherds. "Your flock is the entire community," he said. The archbishop also cited the skill, training, bravery and self-sacrifice of law enforcement officers.

Advocate photos — Ward Miele

students not too many weeks ago. On occasions such as this, you are not granted the opportunity to simply weep and move on in your lives. Your calling requires that you continue your involvement in these tragedies, and immediately go to work to ensure that those who commit such crimes are brought to justice, so that the community might be safe from such evil deeds.

Thankfully, many other times your actions prevent such tragedies, or your swift response to a call results in the prevention of a crime, or in victims of crimes or accidents receiving the medical attention that saves their lives. Sometimes, coming on a stalled car driven by a frantic husband, you might unexpectedly assist in God's creative activity by helping to bring a new life into the world. On all of these occasions, like the good shepherd you can say: "Rejoice with me!"

Today I wish to pay my personal tribute to you, to your noble work of law enforcement. I want to thank you for serving the community each and every day. As the "chief shepherd" of this local Church of Newark and a citizen of this community, I consider you to be my "good shepherds." I want you to know how grateful we all are to you and for you.

As we honor you, it also is good and proper that we honor our fallen protectors as we bow our heads in prayer at this Mass. For some folks, misfortune is measured by the

time spent on the Garden State Parkway or the New Jersey Turnpike returning home to family from work. For your fallen comrades it is defined by an unspent lifetime; never again returning home because their lives ended that day in the line of duty. Sadly, it often takes this kind of agonizing heartache to shock the public into keen regard for the life-and-death stakes that police officers face day in and day out.

I am also mindful of an often-forgotten part of the burden of a law enforcement officer—the daily stress that working round-the-clock shifts and the very nature of police work itself brings on the family. It is my sincere hope that you find ways to alleviate these tensions so that you may fully enjoy the joys of family life that are taken for granted by those whom you serve. I pray for your families, your wives and husbands, your children and your parents, your brothers and your sisters. I pray that they will give you the support that you need in these days more than ever.

Today, the entire Archdiocese of Newark prays for you in a special way, asking Our Lord and St. Michael the Archangel, patron of law enforcement officers, always to be at your side; to protect and to defend you against the enemy—seen and unseen. Most of all, we pray that every day, at the end of your shifts, you return safely to the loving arms of your families.

Thank you, again, for dedicating your lives in service to others. God bless you, each and every one!

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FREQUENCY FOR THE YEAR
The Catholic Advocate continues to be a bi-weekly publication. Publication dates for 2007 are: December 5, 19.
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NJPA
ISSN# 1084-3213

Without suspense, author Clark shares her life stories at Stewardship Day forum

325 attendees gain insights on faith, caring

BY KEN DI PAOLA
Special to The Catholic Advocate

PARAMUS—The sixth annual Stewardship Day conference, held Nov. 3 at Paramus Catholic High School and sponsored by the archdiocesan Office of Development, celebrated an understanding of stewardship and its importance to the Church.

The conference, which attracted 325 attendees, presented a diverse group of speakers and programs, which offered spiritual insights as well as practical ways to implement stewardship programs in parishes.

Carla Gonzalez, executive director of the archdiocesan Office of Development, explained that stewardship consists of giving time, talent and treasure to God as a gift of gratitude for all the blessings we have received from Him. The essence of stewardship involves helping those in need.

The high point for many attendees was the presentation by keynote speaker, Mary Higgins Clark. Clark, a best-selling author of suspense novels, shared her Catholic reflections on stewardship and how God has acted in her life.

During her keynote address Clark recalled her days growing up in New York City. Her father died of a heart attack when she was 10 years old and, in order to earn money for the family, her mother converted the upstairs of the home to a boarding house. One day her mother came upon a troubled tenant getting ready to sneak out of the house, saying he could no longer afford the rent. Her mother told the distressed man there was no reason for him to leave and then gave him the last two dollars she had in her pocket.

Gonzalez said the heartfelt story demonstrated an act of kindness and stewardship on the part of Clark's mother—reaching out to help this man get through a difficult period of his life even though times were tough for her.

"She (Clark's mother) had enough faith to help this man even though she was in need," Gonzalez said.

The story illustrated a key aspect of stewardship, which was highlighted by Gonzalez in a recent commentary article (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Oct. 10). "When you give from your substance rather than your abundance, a conversion takes place," she wrote. "The things you think you need are placed second to helping those who lack basic necessities. You begin to act on a belief that security lies in your relationship with God and not in your material possessions."

Born Christmas Eve, 1927, in the Bronx, New York, Clark went to secretarial school in order to get a job to support her mother and two brothers. After working for three years in an advertising agency, she became an airline stewardess in 1949. Clark's debut suspense novel, "Where Are The Children," first published in 1975, is now in its 75th printing. She has written 24 novels and her books have sold more than 80 million copies in the United States alone.

Following Clark's keynote address, there were seven individual breakout sessions, which focused on different aspects of stewardship. The breakout session programs included: Deacon Joseph A. Dwyer Jr., vice chancellor of administration for the Archdiocese of Newark, "Stewardship as Discipleship"; Father Larry Evans, parochial vicar of Our Lady of Mercy in Jersey City, "Diggin' Stewardship—Reality vs. Theory"; Kevin Lynch, president of Lynch Development, "Strategic Planning for Capital Campaigns"; Kay Furlani, director of the archdiocesan Office of Human Concerns, "Human Concerns and Stewardship"; Tracey Vieira, associate director of youth ministry for the Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center, "Youth Ministry in the Parish"; Ken Di Paola, associate director of the archdiocesan Office of Development, "Stewardship for Dummies"; and George Ruotolo, president of Ruotolo Associates, "Practical Solutions—Capital Campaign Case Studies."



Suspense novelist Mary Higgins Clark (left), the keynote speaker for the Nov. 3 Stewardship Day conference, is pictured with Carla Gonzalez, executive director of the archdiocesan Office of Development, displaying a raffle prize—a statute of Pope John Paul II. Active in Catholic affairs, Clark is a steward of the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, and a Dame of the Order of St. Gregory the Great (a papal honor).

Another highlight of the event was the announcement of the winners of the Stewardship for Youth Contests. Four hundred third, fourth and fifth graders submitted drawings depicting the true meaning of stewardship. In addition, there were 300 essays submitted by junior high and high school students that explained the meaning of being a good steward and related volunteer activities.

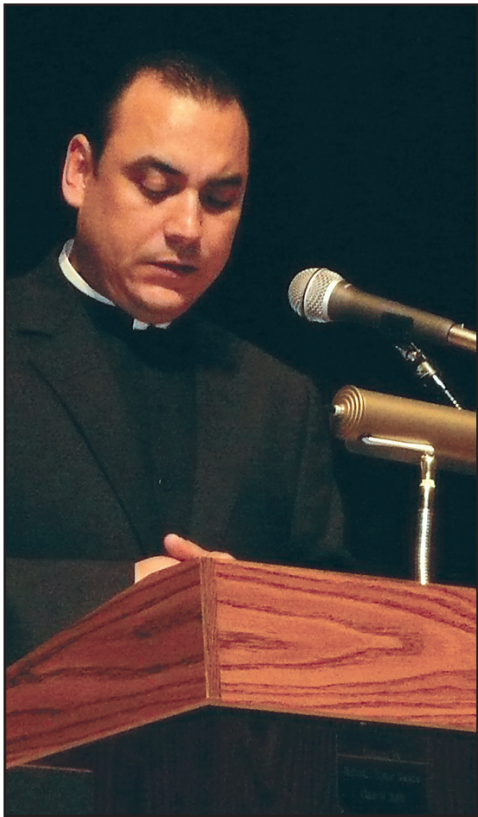
Monetary prizes of \$1,000 were awarded to the schools attended by first place winners, Jillian Hojsak from Our Lady of Mount Carmel School in Tenafly; Gabrielle Gubernat from Saint Bartholomew Academy in Scotch Plains; and Anna Lee Rice from Immaculate Heart Academy in Washington Township.

The second place winners, Chinchu Jacob from Transfiguration Academy in New Milford; Patricia Palanca from Our Lady of Mercy School in Jersey City; and James Stewart from Paramus Catholic High School each had \$750 donated to their schools.

The third place winners, Megan Brockmeier from St. Peter the Apostle Church in River Edge; Andriana Kranjac from Our Lady of Mount Carmel School in Tenafly; and Thomas Flaim from St. John's Parish in Leonia each won \$500 for their parish or school.

Stewardship Day began with an opening prayer led by the Father John J. Galeano, the parochial Vicar of Our Lady of Mount

Continued on page 20



Advocate photos - Ken Di Paola

Father John J. Galeano, parochial vicar of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Jersey City, was the keynote speaker for the Spanish-track segment of the Stewardship Day conference. Earlier this year Father Galeano produced and directed a play ("My Broken Christ"), which was staged at the Ritz Theater in Elizabeth.

Moral convictions must steer political engagement

Bishops offer guidelines on 'faithful citizenship'

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN
Catholic News Service

BALTIMORE (CNS) — In what several bishops called “a watershed moment” for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), the full body of bishops overwhelmingly approved a document intended to help Catholic voters form their consciences on a variety of issues before the 2008 elections.

“Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States” was approved on a 221-4 vote Nov. 14—the last public day of the Nov. 12-15 USCCB fall general assembly.

The bishops also endorsed a shorter document, designed as a parish bulletin insert, by a 221-1 vote.

Prepared by a task force made up of the chairmen of seven USCCB committees, the document underwent more than a dozen drafts and was still heavily amended during the meeting and immediately before the Nov. 14 vote.

The longer document rejects politics based on “powerful interests, partisan attacks, sound bites and media hype” and calls instead

for “a different kind of political engagement.” That engagement must be “shaped by the moral convictions of well-formed consciences and focused on the dignity of every human being, the pursuit of the common good and the protection of the weak and vulnerable,” it says.

Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of Brooklyn, N.Y., introduced the documents Nov. 12, saying that he spoke not only as chairman of the bishops' Committee on Domestic Policy but also as “the leader of an unprecedented, extensive and some would say endless consultation” among seven USCCB committees.

“This document is a summary of Catholic teaching. It is not a voter guide,” Bishop DiMarzio said shortly before the Nov. 14 vote. “It calls on us as bishops to help form consciences for political life, not tell people how to vote.”

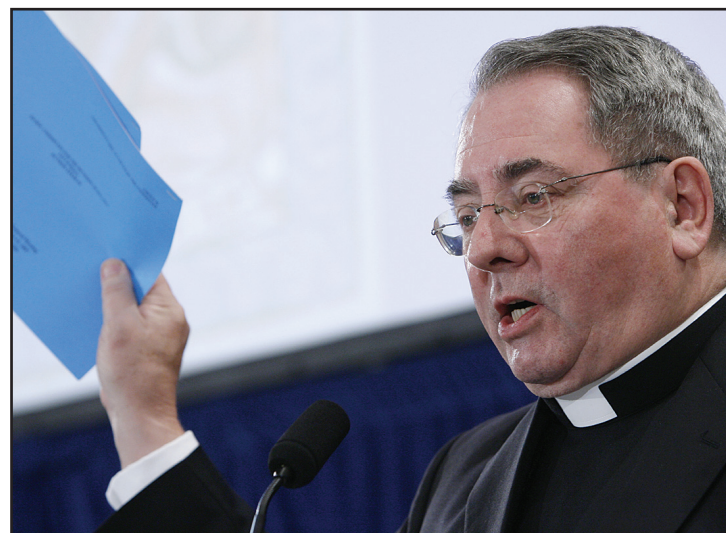
“Faithful citizenship” clearly distinguishes between “intrinsic evils like abortion and racism that can never be supported, and the related but different moral obligation to serve ‘the least of these,’ seek justice and pursue peace,” he said.

In the longer document, the bishops admit that “Catholics may feel politically disenfranchised,” sensing that no party and too

few candidates fully share the Church's comprehensive commitment to the dignity of the human person. “As Catholics, we should be guided more by our moral convictions than by our attachment to a political party or interest group,” the document says.

It is part of a series of documents that have been issued before every presidential election for more than 30 years. However, the 2007 version underwent a wider consultation at the committee level and is the first to come before the full body of bishops. In past years, the documents were approved by the Administrative Committee, made up of the executive officers of the USCCB, elected committee chairmen and elected regional representatives.

The document does not address a topic raised during the 2004 presidential campaign—giving Communion to Catholic politi-



CNS Photo

Participating at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' meeting in Baltimore, Archbishop John J. Myers delivered presentations on changes in conference bylaws as well as issues relating to diocesan financial matters under common law.

cians who support keeping abortion legal. Archbishop Raymond L. Burke of St. Louis already has said he would not give

Communion to former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, who is, according to recent polls, the leading Republican presidential candidate.

Iraq crisis remains 'unacceptable'

BALTIMORE (CNS)—Some U.S. policymakers “seem to fail to recognize sufficiently the reality and failures in Iraq and the imperative for new directions,” warned the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in a new statement on transition in Iraq.

“As pastors and teachers, we are convinced that the current situation in Iraq remains unacceptable and unsustainable,” the document says.

The statement issued Nov. 13 by the conference president, Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, WA, reiterates the bishops' insistence that the transition of U.S. forces out of Iraq should take into ac-

count moral issues, such as minimizing the loss of human life, addressing the humanitarian crisis in Iraq, the situation of refugees and the protection of human rights, especially religious freedom.

The statement bemoans the “political and partisan stalemate in Washington” that it described as a parallel to the “dangerous political stalemate” that blocks reconciliation in Iraq. “Our country needs a new direction to reduce the war's deadly toll and to bring our people together to deal with the conflict's moral and human dimensions,” the document states.

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK
CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

4th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FOOD COLLECTION

We will once again be accepting any non-perishable food items for distribution to food pantries for those less fortunate people in the Archdiocese.

Your donations may be dropped off during business hours in the office of all Archdiocesan Cemeteries and Mausoleums between

Saturday, December 1st thru Saturday, January 5, 2008

The ministry of Catholic Cemeteries operates under the auspices of the Catholic Church.

It is important to recognize that the burial of the dead is only one of the Corporal Works of Mercy.

The Church encourages frequent cemetery visits and prayers for the dead.

Visiting the sick, clothing the naked, feeding the hungry are also works of mercy to also be encouraged.

Performing them on behalf of our deceased loved ones are Mitzvah (*wonderful gifts that cannot be repaid*)

and truly honor the memory of the deceased in a tangible way.

Decision on Nov. 6 resonates as a victory for life

There were many shouts of "alleluia" on the morning after the Nov. 6 election when we learned that New Jersey voters had repelled the efforts to make taxpayers fund immoral and financially irresponsible human embryonic stem-cell research.

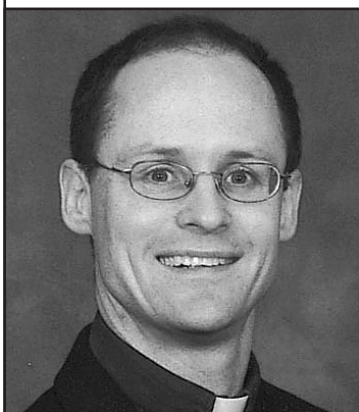
Thank you to all who worked so tirelessly in helping to educate Catholics in our archdiocese in order to repel this newest attack on human life at its very beginnings.

The Respect Life offices of all five dioceses in New Jersey worked together in recent months to spread the word out on this vital issue. The weapon we used and will continue to use in this battle is simply the truth about the sanctity of human life in all its stages. As a very wise person once said: "The truth is like a lion; it does not need to be defended. Just let it out of its cage and it will defend itself."

We realize that the efforts of each and every one of us in promoting a culture of life cannot diminish. There are some in the fields of research and medicine, the media and in public office who continue to promote an ideology of absolute authority of the strong and the educated over the weak and the vulnerable. They claim as their right what belongs to God alone, the authority over life and death.

Human embryonic stem-cell research is a seductive program and a contradiction. It is the exploitation and killing of the small and weak of humanity in the name of promoting life and health for the

Respect Life



BY FR. JOSEPH A. MEAGHER
Director of Respect Life Office

powerful. Such is a culture of death. Any culture that does not protect the smallest and most vulnerable among its own will eventually destroy itself.

Embryonic stem-cell research requires the destruction of innocent human life. Funding such research is immoral and an irresponsible use of limited resources. The so-called "therapeutic cloning" has been a dismal failure. By contrast, adult stem-cell research is both ethical and very effective (over 70 effective treatments already).

All of you who showed the video documentary ("The Science of Stem Cells: Finding Cures and Protecting Life") in your parishes and schools helped to proclaim this simple but effective truth on stem-cell research. This video was funded in part by the New Jersey Knights of Columbus and was dis-

tributed to pastors and high school principals throughout the four counties of the archdiocese (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Oct. 10).

Many parishes responded that they were amazed at how many people did not know or understand the fundamental differences between embryonic and adult stem-cell research.

A big "thank you" goes out to Archbishop John J. Myers and all the other bishops in New Jersey who spoke so clearly the Church's position on this most important moral issue (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Oct. 24). Another big "thank you" goes out to the parishes and their pastors who showed the video to their com-

munity during Mass, ensuring that the maximum number of people were able to see it.

(Editor's note: Father Joseph Meagher is the director of archdiocesan Respect Life Office. Contact the office by phone, (732) 388-8211, or via e-mail at arnewrespect@sjanj.net for more information.)

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NJ voters reject proposal on funding for stem cells

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Voters in New Jersey defeated a proposal that would have authorized \$450 million in bonds for stem-cell research projects.

Bishops in the five New Jersey dioceses had urged rejection of Public Question 2 and launched an educational campaign to help Catholic voters distinguish between adult stem-cell research, which the Church supports, and stem-cell research involving the destruction of human embryos, which the Church strongly opposes.

"Although the intent of the bond question is to provide funding of embryonic stem cells, it does provide for some funding of research into adult stem cells,"

Archbishop John J. Myers wrote in the Oct. 24 edition of *The Catholic Advocate*.

"Our hope is that all funding would be devoted to adult stem cells because of the moral dilemma that embryonic stem-cell research causes," Archbishop Myers continued, urging Catholics to "let their elected representatives know that, if they empower our state to enter into financing stem-cell research, New Jersey must concentrate its efforts on research that produces true benefits instead of another series of promises."

After voters rejected the bond question, 53 percent to 47 percent, Patrick R. Brannigan, executive director of the Trenton-based New Jersey Catholic Conference, said "the people have spoken and we are pleased that our message was understood."

November 24

St. Phil's Singles, Livingston, hike through South Mountain Reservation in Millburn, 1:30 p.m., call Frank (973) 340-4001.

Catholic War Veterans Post 1612, Bayonne, blood drive, 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., (201) 858-9405.

November 26

Holy Family Parish, Nutley, Rosary Society meeting, 7:45 p.m., call Joyce Ritacco (973) 235-0668.

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES MASSES

All masses are at 9:30 a.m. For more information call (866) 773-7526

Dec. 4

Gate of Heaven Chapel, East Hanover

Dec. 5

Holy Cross Chapel, North Arlington

Dec. 7

Good Shepherd Chapel, Colonia

November 28

Trinitas Hospital, Elizabeth, "Caregiver's Seminar," 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., (908) 994-5138.

November 29

Trinitas Hospital, Elizabeth, "An Overview of Diabetes," 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., (908) 994-5138.

November 30

Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology, South Orange, *Lectio Divina* lecture, call Dr. Jo-Anne Lieder (973) 313-6331.

December 1

St. Joseph Regional High School, Montvale, Christmas craft show, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., cost: \$2, (201) 391-2099.

SS. Mary and Elizabeth Academy, Linden, craft/gift fair, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., cost: \$25, call Josette Sullivan (908) 486-257.

St. Mary Parish, Jersey City, Catholic Café, songs performed by Father Ed Sombilon, 7:30 p.m., call Theresa (201) 433-9606.

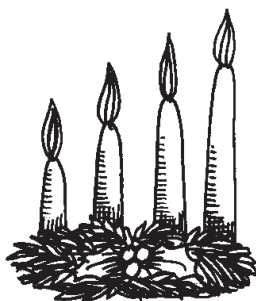
St. Bartholomew Academy, Scotch Plains, "Breakfast with Santa" at Union Catholic High School, cost: \$10 adults/ \$6 children, contact Connie Del Negro at connielady@comcast.net.

Mother Seton Regional High School, Clark, craft fair, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., (732) 382-1952.

St. Elizabeth Parish, Wyckoff, "Advent Friends and Family Supper," at Adorno Fathers Hall in Ramsey, 7 p.m., cost: \$25 adults; \$20 seniors; \$15 children, call Gina Marie 201-891-1122 ext. 222.

December 2

Immaculate Conception Convent Chapel, Lodi, Taize Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, 7 - 8 p.m., call Sister Marilyn Minter (973) 473-7447.

**December 5**

St. Mary Parish, Nutley, eight-week bereavement—support group, 7 - 8:30 p.m., call Elaine Tanimura (973) 667-0335.

The Sodality of the Children of Mary of St. Teresa, Jersey City, Triduum of Masses, through Dec. 7, 3:30 p.m., call Katherine T. Crossan (201) 689-1471.

Holy Spirit Parish, Union, Holy Hour for Life, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m., (908) 964-7653.

Other

Knights of Columbus Council 5437, Garwood, food drive, canned and dry food goods, turkeys and hams collected at 37 South Ave., distributed through the holidays, (908) 789-9809.

Rosary for Life, Montclair, gathering in front of local abortion clinic Pilgrim Medical Center, every second Saturday, 8:45-10 a.m., call Liz Arias (973) 239-7868 or (973) 974-5560.

'Nephew Fred' opens Nov. 30

SOUTH ORANGE — The Seton Hall University (SHU) Arts Council will present "Nephew Fred," a comic take on Charles Dickens' classic

Camp Fatima plans party for Christmas

UNION—The annual Camp Fatima of New Jersey Christmas Party, for all special children and adults throughout the state, will be held Dec. 9 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1034 Jeanette Ave.

Lunch will be served from 1 to 2 p.m. with Santa arriving at 2:30 p.m. There will be gifts for everyone in attendance and the opportunity to have a picture taken with the visitor from the North Pole. All attendees must be accompanied by a guardian or parent.

Contact Sister Ann Dominic, O.P., at (908) 686-5271, ext 110 or write her at St. Michael Convent, 1211 Orange Ave., Union, N.J. 07083 to register. The deadline is Dec. 1. Camp Fatima (Web site: www.campfatimanj.org) is a volunteer camp for people with disabilities.

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...?



Fr. Brian Plate
Vocations Director
The Vocations Office
171 Clifton Avenue
P.O. Box 9500
Newark, NJ 07104-0500
(973) 497-4365

BIBLE

**How to report abuse**

The Archdiocese of Newark takes very seriously any and all credible complaints of sexual misconduct by members of the clergy, Religious and lay staff of the archdiocese. We encourage anyone with knowledge of an act of sexual misconduct to inform the archdiocese immediately so that we may take appropriate action to protect others and provide support to victims of sexual abuse.

Individuals who wish to report an allegation of sexual misconduct may do so by calling the Archdiocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection at (201) 407-3256.

**Thinking about a will?**

Request a free Wills Kit from CRS.
Learn what you need to know
before you see an attorney.

1-800-235-2772 ext. 7318

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES
Serving the poorest of the poor overseas.

Tenors (baritones and bases too !!!!)

The Glee Club of the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick in the City of New York is auditioning for new voices.

The Friendly Sons Glee Club is one of the oldest in New York City, founded by Victor Herbert in 1909. The music we perform consists of traditional Irish choral music as well as contemporary tunes in TTBB format. In the past Glee Club has performed at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall and for various Catholic Charities in New York.

For information contact Jack at (973-564-8832)

Food Aid in America

Food banks and soup kitchens feed more than 25 million clients each year. Percentage of those receiving food aid who are...

93% U.S. citizens

72% unemployed

68% female

36% under 18 years old

57% urban residents

Data taken from interviews with 52,878 clients at selected food pantry and kitchen program sites in the America's Second Harvest national network of Food Banks.

Source: "Hunger in America 2006" by America's Second Harvest ©2007 CNS

Retirement Fund for Religious eases the angst

Led by Baby Boomers, over the next decade or so a record number of Americans will enter the "golden years" of retirement. For many who have worked hard all their lives the luster of that much anticipated and well-deserved time to relax and enjoy life has begun to fade.

From a Social Security system on the verge of collapse to a looming healthcare crisis, the uncertainty is as frightening as it is unfair. But it is a reality that will not go away.

The sad truth is that no one is immune—not even the Religious of the Catholic Church, who have devoted their lives to God and His people.

In 1988 the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) established the Retirement Fund for Religious to meet the crisis. It was a crisis 19 years ago and is a crisis now.

The USCCB last June extended the fund another decade to 2017, facing the harsh fiscal reality that—without an ongoing infusion of dollars—every religious order in the United States will exhaust its retirement savings by 2023.

The Archdiocese of Newark, to its great credit, has been especially generous to the call to help retired Religious. Mindful of the continuing need, the faithful should again be generous the weekend of Dec. 8-9 when the annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious takes place.

Approaching retirement is a source of tremendous angst among too many Americans. The Religious among us have earned the right to be spared that angst.

Everyone can recall a special priest, Sister or Brother. They were there for us. Now it is time to be there for them.

Sending a clear signal on communications

Although the Catholic Church's observance of next year's World Communications Day is not until May 4, Pope Benedict XVI recently selected its theme. Those in the media would do well to reflect on the pontiff's message.

"The Media: At the Crossroads Between Activism and Service; Seeking the Truth in Order to Share It with Others" is the theme voiced by the pope for 2008. It is a stinging indictment of the direction in which the secular media is headed and an equally stern warning to refocus on the objectivity and fact-finding that are the essence of journalism.

Unfortunately, one need not look too far to find frightening evidence of the "dumbing down" of the journalistic product brought into homes every day in print, over the air waves or

via the Internet.

Archbishop Claudio Maria Celli, president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, said it all in explaining next year's theme as a call "to reflect on the role of the media...especially, the increasing risk of their becoming self-absorbed and no longer tools of the service of truth—something which is meant to be sought and shared."

It is ironic that with prolific, online technology and skewed priorities producing an information overload, too many people are more aware of what is happening in the silly entertainment industry than the real issues facing their nation.

A return to the mission and responsibility of journalism is what Pope Benedict feels is desperately needed. He is so right.

Brothers show that generosity runs in the family

Jim and Victor Picozzi are not people you meet everyday. Residents of Summit, the brothers—ages 87 and 91—are still quietly spending their time in what has been their family home since 1924.

The family started out in Newark until their father, a New York furrier, moved them to their home in Summit.

Today Jim and Victor are now retired from their careers in engineering and accounting, respectively, but still remain active in work they love. Jim volunteers at Runnells Hospital in Berkeley Heights, while Victor works at the Summit Municipal Golf Course, where the annual tournament is named for him. When you meet Victor, you can see how he has inspired such a following.

Although retired, they are always planning new ways to invest in the future as well as save on taxes. One example is the recent unveiling of the Picozzi Family Foundation in July. As the last surviving members of their generation of the family, they envision their legacy will be realized through educational grants and scholarships provided by their foundation.

They've also been generous to their parish, St. Teresa of Avila in Summit, through the Archdiocese's Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) program, which years ago started them on the road to philanthropy. Jim was the first to contribute and Victor followed with his own gift.

Their sisters, Adeline and Phyllis, also participated, up until last year when they both passed away. Adeline was a school teacher in Madison for 41 years and Phyllis, the only sibling to marry, died at age 98.

When asked why he decided to open the CGA, Jim—the leader of the family who encouraged his siblings in their charitable giving—was candid and straight forward about the matter. He said it was a decision based on saving taxes and that the incentive to give a gift that allows a donor to receive income for life was also very motivating for him. As he put it: it's better to give to charity and/or your church than to the government.

Jim approached the Archdiocese of Newark years ago, before there was a planned-giving program. He had been attending financial seminars held by other

organizations where he learned about CGAs. He thought it would be a good way to help his parish, which did not have a program of its own for these types of gifts.

After Jim's inquiry, many more followed, and the archdiocese began holding financial planning seminars of its own, which led to the beginnings of what is now a well-established CGA program.

A CGA is created when a donor gives cash or property to the Archdiocese of Newark (either for their parish or for an archdiocesan ministry) in exchange for an annuity—a dollar amount that is a fixed percentage of the original gift. The fixed percentage depends on the age of the annuitant on the date of the gift; the older the annuitant, the higher the percentage.

The transfer itself is considered part gift/part sale for tax purposes. The donor who transfers money to the annuity program is entitled to a charitable tax deduction for the gift portion. A set amount of the annuity payment may be a tax-free return of principal.

A CGA is very easy to start. All that is needed is a simple contract between the donor and the institution to which they are giv-



Jim and Victor Picozzi

ing. The donor receives a quarterly check, and at the end of the year, the financial institution holding the funds for the donor's use calculates the income tax deduction and prepares a statement.

Jim and Victor are just two of the extraordinary people who make up the over 1.3 million Catholics in this archdiocese and we are grateful to them for their legacy.

What is your story of faith? What is your legacy? Write and

share it with us. Or, if you have remembered your parish or the archdiocese in your will, please tell us so we can include you as a member of the Legacy Circle Planned Giving Society.

If you would like to open a CGA to benefit either your parish or the archdiocese, please contact Anne DeMesa in the Office of Planned Giving at (973) 497-4048; visit the Web site (www.rcan.org/plannedgiving); or e-mail her at demesaan@rcan.org.

Submitted photo

Giving thanks for reminders to count our blessings

Do we really need a Thanksgiving Day? Why do we celebrate it anyway?

Most people can give the story of its historic origins of the harvest celebration of the British colonists who had survived an extremely difficult first year and had learned something from the Native Americans about more productive crop planting.

Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a day of Thanksgiving after our brutal Civil War (April 12, 1861 to April 9, 1865) ended. Many presidents since then have endorsed a thankful remembrance for all God's blessings on our country, even though many of us still have to learn how to share these blessings more equitably.

Many Catholics start their Thanksgiving Day with the celebration of Holy Mass in their parish churches. Of course, we celebrate "thanks" every time we come to Mass, because "Eucharist" means "thanksgiving." Sometimes parishioners bring canned goods for food pantries or make contributions for the less fortunate.

For the majority of Catholics who attend Thanksgiving Day Mass, the parable of the 10 lepers will challenge them to consider

Seeing & Believing

By Rev. Msgr.
Richard J. Arnhols



how grateful to God they really are.

The story illustrates a mixed community of nine Jews and one Samaritan. Normally, they would not associate with each other, but their leprosy caused them to share ostracism by others as a common bond.

All 10 dutifully showed themselves to their own priests, nine to the Jewish priest and one to the Samaritan priest. All received approval to return to their communities. Perhaps the nine celebrated together. The one knew he was no longer

included with them, so more readily returned to thank the stranger who made him whole.

The parable speaks to the human condition of taking God, others and things for granted. If life were perfect, we would always be aware of how blessed we are, with whatever and whomever we have and don't have, and would readily express our gratitude. However, being in an imperfect world, we do need reminders like Thanksgiving Day to clarify our focus.

We are blessed in so many ways: with people who love us (even though not everyone may); with things we have (even though we don't have all we might like). We could identify hundreds of things we have that others don't, and perhaps as many that others have that we don't.

Thanksgiving directs us to see the positive rather than the negative. Every day should elicit in us a grateful heart for the good people in our lives, but we at least have this official reminder once a year. We can give thanks for:

- life, liberty and for the pursuit of happiness
- people who love us
- faith that binds us to God and to others
- (fill in the blank and add your own blessings)

Let us give thanks!

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

If life were perfect, we would always be aware of how blessed we are. We do need reminders like Thanksgiving Day to clarify our focus.

The ruler who brings justice, order and true peace

Readings: 2 Sm 5:1-3; Ps 122; Col 1:12-20; Lk 23:35-43.

The beginnings of an intense election campaign bring opportunities for the candidates to express their vision for the future, as well as their insight into the means to achieve precise goals.

The public should also note which potential leaders manifest a sense of humility before the gargantuan challenges of government. Besides the profound theological teachings in the Sunday readings, they also provide points for reflection on principles for the social order.

From early times the people of Israel acknowledged God alone as their King. "The Lord shall reign forever and ever" (Ex 15:18). After Saul had failed to please God, Samuel was sent to Bethlehem and was guided to anoint the youthful David to show divine election (1 Sm 16:1-13).

Acknowledging that he was but God's servant, David was victorious over Goliath and gained the people's favor (1 Sm 17:1-18:7). Ever respectful of Saul as God's anointed one, David did not try to usurp the throne, but waited patiently for the divine plan to unfold.

Through the prophet Nathan, David heard marvelous assurances. "Your house (dynasty) and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever" (2 Sm 7:16). The king would represent the chosen people before God and experience divine favor and guidance. "I will be a father to him and he shall be a son to me" (2 Sm 7:14).

Although the Davidic dynasty was swept away in the Babylonian Exile and Zerubbabel was not able to restore it after the people returned to the Land, the prophets and psalmists continued to instill the people with hope for an ideal king in the future. Anointed by God and therefore to be known as Messiah, this ruler would bring the justice and order that lead to true peace.

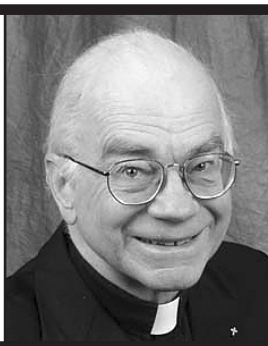
Fifty years or so before the time of Jesus this theology was expressed in prayer:

"Lord, you are our King forever and ever... You, O Lord, chose David to be king over Israel, and you made an eternal oath...that his kingdom would not come to an end in

Sunday Readings

Feast of
Christ the King
(Nov. 25, 2007)

By Rev. Lawrence Frizzell



your sight...Behold, O Lord, and raise up for them their king, the son of David, at the time you know, O God, to rule over Israel your servant" (Psalms of Solomon 17:1, 4, 21).

The evangelists Matthew and Luke drew upon prophetic teachings to elucidate the Church's understanding of Jesus and His mission. He is Son of God and descendant of David. St. Luke stressed the royal character of Jesus' work from his account of the Incarnation. "He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give Him the throne of David his father, and He will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end" (1:32-33).

Gabriel's message to Mary echoes the prophecy of Nathan and other teachers in ancient Israel. When the evangelists described how Jesus entered Jerusalem astride a donkey, they recalled the words of a later prophet: "See, your king shall come to you; a just savior is He, meek and riding on a donkey..." (Zech 9:9). Luke recorded that the disciples proclaimed: "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord" (19:38, see Psalm 118:26). The royal mission of Jesus should bring peace to Jerusalem, fulfilling the angelic hymn that celebrated His birth (see Luke 2:14).

Because many Jews of the time hoped that God would

send the Messiah to deliver their land from Roman oppression, Jesus had to combat inadequate notions of His mission. Even after the resurrection, disciples asked: "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:6). So Pilate asked Jesus if He claimed to be "King of the Jews" (Lk 23:3), a title that would sound treasonous to a servant of the Empire.

Remarkable as it seems for us in an age saturated with written reports about virtually everyone of note, "King of the Jews" is all that was written about Jesus during his earthly life.

Does anyone ever stop to reflect on the impact of verbal abuse on those who are suffering physically or mentally? Several categories of people lashed out at Jesus during his final agony. The leaders of any community should be sensitive to the affliction of the poor, but for many a criminal is beyond pity. Innocent or guilty, the accused stands condemned. The titles "Messiah" and "Elect" should bespeak evident signs of God's favor, yet Jesus was like many teachers who bore

the brunt of a negative reaction to their instructions (see Psalm 22:8-9; Wisdom of Solomon 2:12-20).

Virulent prejudice may come as well from those assigned to execute justice in society, and this occurs especially

when soldiers are assigned to exercise police duties. How many in our day have been stripped of their sense of dignity in prison or in the death chamber?

Luke alone tells of the repentant thief, who is moved in compassion to defend the innocence of Jesus. Then he implicitly accepted the truth of the title on the cross of Jesus. He begged for the clemency that belongs to royal privilege. "Jesus, remember me when you enter into your reign." The reply is one that we all hope to hear as we face death: "This day you will be with me in paradise."

(Rev. Lawrence Frizzell is the director of the Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies at Seton Hall University, South Orange.)

Jesus was like many teachers who bore the brunt of a negative reaction to their instructions.



Submitted photo

St. Aloysius High School marked its closing with a final Mass for alumni on June 23. The school was located at 721 West Side Ave. in Jersey City. St. Aloysius Parish and elementary school remain open. Father Frank J. McNulty, delivering the homily at the Mass, encouraged a gathering of 600 to remember, celebrate and believe.

Classmates meet, reflect at Mass as school doors close final time

Farewell to St. Al's High School in Jersey City

BY FATHER ROBERT BRENNAN

Special to the Catholic Advocate

(The following is a heartfelt reflection by Father Robert Brennan, a 1955 graduate of St. Aloysius High School, Jersey City, on the Mass that marked the closing of the school.)

It was a morning in October 1952 when I first spotted Father Frank J. McNulty, a newly ordained priest from Immaculate Conception Seminary in Darlington. He was talking to Sister Gertrude Jose, S.C., the wonderful principal at St. Aloysius High School.

At the time I was a freshman at St. Al's and, because he looked so young, I thought Father McNulty was a student. I later realized my error when he mentioned that he had just celebrated a Mass at a nursing home in Roseland.

Earlier this year, an elderly woman heard Father McNulty's name announced as the celebrant of a special Mass that was held in Jersey City on June 23. She walked up to him and asked: "Are you Father McNulty from St. Al's in the early 1950s?" He was so pleased to be remembered and responded proudly: "Yes, I am!" Then, with a sly, expressive Jersey City smile, she said: "Boy, did you get old!"

As they say, it's always in the eye of the beholder.

St. Aloysius High School closed earlier this year and the final Mass for the school and its graduates was celebrated in Jersey City on June 23 at St. Aloysius Parish. Father McNulty was the perfect person to give the homily. It served as the final liturgy for the school's



Father Robert Brennan

alumni and over 600 attended the Mass. A great school, serving so many for 80 years, was closing its doors for the last time.

Father McNulty is my dear friend and mentor, and was my teacher in both high school and the seminary. He preached at my first Mass reception to my large Irish family on Sunday, June 6, 1965.

Now retired and in residence at St. Teresa of Avila in Summit, Father McNulty was a moral theology professor at Immaculate Conception Seminary, Darlington, and was a priest at St. Al's. He also was the pastor of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, Roseland (from 1986 to 1997) and serves as a pastor emeriti at the Essex County parish.

An honorary graduate, Father McNulty shared this bittersweet moment with us. His homily touched on three key points: to faithfully remember, celebrate and believe. We remember and memories are God's gift to us. Father McNulty shared some of his memories, such as his first visit to St. Al's with Coach Patsy Murray. He encouraged us to remember our teachers and classmates. He said that Newark author and poet Judith Viorst refers to these kinds of relationships as "Crossroad Friends"—people who occupy a special

The Pope Speaks

Pope Benedict XVI



Reading the Bible essential for faith

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—To know God and to know how to live their lives, Christians must read the Bible, Pope Benedict XVI said at his Nov. 14 general audience.

"Drawing close to the biblical texts, especially the New Testament, is essential for believers because 'ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ,'" the pope declared, quoting St. Jerome.

The pope was continuing a talk begun the week before about the importance of the teaching of St. Jerome, the fourth-century doctor of the Church.

Reading the Bible teaches believers the way they are to live their lives, the pope said, but the Scriptures must be read in a spirit of prayer and must be understood the way the Church understands them.

"For Jerome, a fundamental criterion for the interpretation of Scriptures was harmony with the magisterium of the Church," he said.

Pope Benedict said the books of the Bible "were written by the people of God, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit," so "only in harmony with the faith of this people can we understand the sacred Scripture."

The pope said St. Jerome also emphasized the importance of "a healthy, integrated education" in religion, morality and culture for all Christians, including women, which was unusual in ancient times.

place and time in our lives. This would include first dates, priests who gave you encouragement and absolution, coaches who taught you to play the game well, Sisters who believed in you and dedicated teachers who called on you to be all you could be.

We celebrate things like the school's first graduation class—just 20 students—and the many class reunions in the years that followed, Father McNulty continued. We also absorb a range of emotions: happiness and success after graduation; amazement at the number of students who have died; and the sorrow of broken relationships.

We believe that the good Lord Jesus always has been at the heart of St. Al's. We received His wonderful gifts of justice, truth, love and charity. Thank you Lord Jesus for the marvels, wonders and graces over these past 80 years.

Father McNulty concluded his homily by urging everyone to keep remembering, celebrating and believing. He told us that we carry with us the story of St. Al's. Applause rang forth from the grateful audience. At the conclusion of Mass, we heard the school song and it never sounded better. Bells rang out. Bagpipers greeted us on the steps of the church. Jack Brody, Class of 1954, played his faithful bagpipe with abandon.

St. Al's was a grand school and it always will be in our hearts.

(Editor's note: Father Brennan, now retired, is in residence at St. Paul Parish in Ramsey. Ordained on May 29, 1965, he has served at a number of parishes in the archdiocese, including Sacred Heart, Lyndhurst; St. Paul in Irvington; St. Antoninus in Newark; and Our Lady of Lourdes in West Orange.)

Activities, outreach help to bond faith community

BY MELISSA MCNALLY
Staff Writer

Father Benedict O'Neil, O.Carm., celebrated the first Mass in Closter on Dec. 3, 1911. The foundation stone of the old St. Mary Parish building was laid in 1913 on the corner of Durie and Demarest avenues. The land was purchased by Father Vander Staay and dedicated on Jan. 25, 1914.

The Catholic population in the northern Bergen County town grew rapidly. By 1959, the parish had over 550 families. The same year, ground was broken for the present rectory designed by M. George Vuinovich. The present church was dedicated on Sept. 25, 1960.

In 1953, Father Kevin Cahill, O.Carm., realizing the need for a Catholic school, planned the construction of a school building, which included a large hall for Sunday Mass. Father Dionysius Lickteig, O. Carm., purchased the property on the corner of Legion Place and High Street. The



Submitted photo

St. Mary Parish, Closter, offers a variety of activities that aim to bond the 650 registered families together in faith. The Catholic Golden-Age group for seniors and the Cherub Choir for youngsters, among other activities, builds a sense of community while enriching the spiritual life of parishioners. Father Paul A. Cannariato, the pastor of St. Mary since July 2005, said the parish has a strong commitment to social service.

Felician Sisters staffed the school upon its opening. The convent was completed a year later.

Over the years, the Dominican Sisters and the School Sisters of St. Francis served the parish school. St. Mary parish school merged with St. Joseph/Sacred Heart School in 2004 and became the Catholic Academy of Northern Valley. The academy has Spanish taught daily from grades 1-8 with students completing two years of high school Spanish before graduation.

The Catholic Academy of Northern Valley was featured as a "Class Act" in the October edition of *Kidz Magazine* for its innovative math program, where students in grades 5-8 presented their "Architects of the Future" projects. The academy was also ranked as a "Catholic School for Tomorrow" for its innovations in education by *Today's Catholic Teacher* magazine (see *The Catholic Advocate*, May 10, 2006).

Homework is listed online at the school's Web site for reference to all parents and students. The science program includes a weekly double lab period in a newly constructed virtual dissection lab.

Twelve years ago the Carmelite Fathers gave the care of the parish to the Archdiocese of Newark. Father James McKenna became the first archdiocesan pastor. Upon Father McKenna's retirement in July 2005, Father Paul A. Cannariato became pastor.

"I have been pastor here for about two years and over that

time, I have seen the parish respond very generously to our time, talent and treasure stewardship initiatives. The parish has a strong devotional life with a couple of holy hours a week, monthly exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and a monthly First Friday Healing Mass," Father Cannariato explained.

Saint Mary, Closter

Today St. Mary is composed of 650 registered families. The parish has diverse ethnic groups with a mix of long-time parishioners and newer families. "We have a children's Liturgy of the Word each Sunday, led by dedicated volunteers. We also have a Catholic Golden-Age group with over 60 members and growing. While most come from our parish, we welcome seniors from all over the Northern Valley area. They have regular monthly meetings and a very active social schedule," Father Cannariato noted.

Social activities and service to the members of the community are important to St. Mary Parish. "We are always seeking new ways to bring our community together. The people of the parish are involved in our ministries. We are always seeking ways to involve more of our people to share their gifts and talents with our parish family," Father Cannariato said.

From feeding the homeless to helping the less fortunate interna-

tionally, St. Mary Parish has a variety of ministries and activities. "Our parish has a strong commitment to social service. We donate (food) and other items regularly to the poor. Our parish volunteers at the Walk-in Dinner program in Hackensack, making food and serving it to the homeless. Our young families are involved in

service opportunities from leaf raking and food drives to a bake sale for Heifer International (Web site: www.heifer.org). Most recently our parish sponsored a Work of Human Hands sale of products manufactured in Third-World countries and sold through Catholic Relief Services," Father Cannariato stated.

Parish traditions such as a pasta supper before Lent and a pancake breakfast in the fall strengthen the faith community bond. A liturgical music program, led by Grace Calabro, includes every age group. The adult and youth choir, Cherub Choir and high school choir aid in creating a sacred and prayerful environment for celebrating Mass. The adult choir recently began to lead Taize prayer services throughout the year. Taize prayer is a meditative service that includes simple chants sung repeatedly, moments of silence and prayers of praise and intercession.

Sister Georgette Dublino, O.S.F., is the pastoral associate for adult faith formation. Through

creative programs that enrich the spiritual life, Sister Georgette leads the parish community in deepening its faith. "From its inception, adult faith formation has become an energizing and refreshing presence for our faith-filled people. The presence of the Spirit is very noticeable in the programs that are evolving here," Sister Georgette said.

Programs such as Scripture study, baptismal sessions, Mom's Group, movie nights and recently, Cornerstone Team, join the adult community together in faith.

"Twice per week, adults gather to 'break open the word' to better understand the scriptures. Young adults enjoy initiating movie nights for those who enjoy potlucks and just having fun together. The Mom's Group is a delight beyond words. Babysitting is provided and even the children look forward to being with their adopted 'grandmothers,'" Sister Georgette explained.

The varied adult ministry programs aim to target all age groups and involve all members of the community. These events not only foster a spirit of unity, but enrich their Catholic faith.

"The people attending these events express over and over again how much these experiences deepen their faith and the understanding of a spiritual life. It's these kinds of comments that make all our efforts worthwhile, for we want our parish to be a warm, loving and compassionate presence for our families," Sister Georgette added.

(St. Mary Parish is located at 20 Legion Place, Closter, 07624.)

Meet the Pastor



Father Paul A. Cannariato

Birthday: Aug. 25, 1956

Hometown: Passaic

High School: River Dell Regional, Oradell

Seminary: Immaculate Conception, Darlington

Undergraduate: Montclair State University

Graduate School: M. Div., Immaculate Conception Seminary

Ordination: Nov. 19, 1983

Heroes: Thomas Merton, Dorothy Day

Favorite Saints: St. John Vianney, Blessed Andre Bessette

Favorite Sport: Fishing

Favorite Subject in School: History

Favorite Food: Sushi and Italian

Favorite Movie: *The Iceman Cometh*

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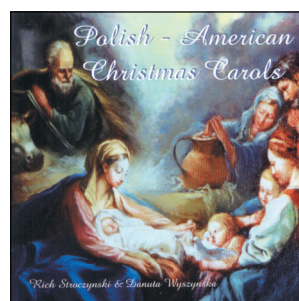
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A voice cries out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord'

(Editor's note: Father Thomas A. Dente, the director of the archdiocesan Office of Divine Worship, prepared the following information on the Advent season.)

The season of Advent has a twofold character: as a time to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us is remembered; as a period when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation (from "Norms for the Liturgical Year").

The Advent wreath

The use of the Advent wreath is a traditional practice that has found its place in the Church as well as the home. The blessing of an Advent wreath takes place on the first Sunday of Advent or on the evening before the first Sunday of Advent.

Customarily the Advent wreath is constructed of a circle of ever-

green branches into which are inserted four candles. According to Church tradition, three of the candles are violet and the fourth is rose. However, four violet or white candles may also be used.

The candles represent the four weeks of Advent and the number of candles lit each week corresponds to the number of the current week of Advent. The rose candle is lighted on the third Sunday of Advent, also known as "Gaudete Sunday." The term Gaudete comes from the first word of the Latin entrance antiphon, which begins: "*Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico, gaudete...*" (Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice...)

On this third Sunday of the season of Advent the Church can no longer contain her joyful longing for the coming of the Savior. We light the rose candle and rejoice that our redemption is so close at hand. Rose-colored vestments are worn and flowers may decorate the chancel of the church. We also light the rose candle on our Advent wreath.

The Advent wreath is blessed at

the first Mass of Advent after the Prayer of the Faithful or at a service outside of Mass. On the second and succeeding Sundays of Advent the candles are lighted either before Mass begins or immediately before the opening prayer; no additional rites or prayers are used.

When the Advent wreath is used in the home, the opening prayer of the Sunday Mass is recited when the candles are lighted. The lighting of the candles may be preceded or followed by an Advent hymn and a Scripture reading. The lighting of the Advent wreath may be included as a part of the evening meal ("from the Book of Blessings," Chapter 47).

Advent Prayers

(All four prayers listed below come from "The Sacramentary")

First Sunday of Advent

All-powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming and call us to his side in the kingdom of heaven, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,



Advocate photo — M. Gabriele

for ever and ever. Amen.

Second Sunday of Advent

God of power and mercy, open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy, so that we may share His wisdom and become one with Him when He comes in glory, for He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Third Sunday of Advent

Lord God, may we, your people, who look forward to the birth of Christ experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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Scripture clarifies view on women and ordinations

Author Sister Sara says Bible text holds answers

BY MELISSA MCNALLY
Staff Writer

CALDWELL—The controversial and sometimes divisive topic of women and their role in priestly ministry in the Catholic Church was discussed Nov. 7 at Caldwell College.

Sister Sara Butler, M.S.B.T., author and teacher of dogmatic theology, addressed the topic “Women and Priestly Ordination,” answering questions about the role of women in the Church.

Acknowledging the objections about the Church’s teaching on or-

daining women as priests, Sister Sara said “people are looking at the wrong argument. People are not looking at the text (the Bible).”

An instructor at St. Joseph’s Seminary in Yonkers, NY, Sister Sara indicated she was not always in agreement with the Church’s teaching on women and priestly ordination. She was involved in the Catholic Theological Society of America Task Force that concluded, in 1978, that available evidence favored the admission of women to the priesthood.

During the 1980s, Sister Sara participated in the Anglican-



Sister Sara Butler

Roman Catholic Consultation and was a consultant on the Bishops’ Committee for a Pastoral Letter on Women’s Concerns. She changed her perspective after years of reflection and analysis. Her book, “The Catholic Priesthood and Women,” further examines the topic.

“I wasn’t reading the (Bible) texts closely and over a 10-year period,” she said, “I realized that what I believed the Church was teaching was not accurate. You have to understand the point of view of the Church before you can form any argument.”

In 1976, the sacred document, *Inter Insigniores*, was published by the Church, which concluded that, in fidelity with the example of the Lord, women cannot be ministerial priests. Two arguments—one theological and the other fundamental—were derived after that document.

Sister Sara claimed that people respond to theological arguments but are not focusing on the fundamental arguments that are rooted in Scripture. Theological arguments include the belief that only

men can represent Christ and therefore only men can be priests. The fundamental argument is, following the tradition of Christ, only 12 men were chosen as apostles, serving as the model for all priests.

While conducting research as part of the Anglican-Roman Catholic Consultation, Sister Sara explored the “Gospel innovation” that although Jesus was surrounded by faithful women and taught them, He still only selected men as apostles.

“We read the Gospels with a new, fresh eye. Christ never said anything in the Bible about the question of women as priests or apostles. Jesus treated women as equals and taught them. He was free to choose who He wanted to follow Him and He chose 12 men. Women were in His company and there were many holy women, but He did not choose them,” Sister Sara declared.

In 1994, Pope John Paul II issued the Apostolic Letter, *Ordinatio Sacerdotalis*, in response to the Church of England ordaining women as priests. “The letter defined the constant tradition and the bottom line that the Church has no authority to change the priestly ordination of women. Jesus’ choice determines what constitutes a sacrament,” Sister Sara explained. “The letter’s purpose was to remove all doubt about the Catholic Church’s teaching on a matter that pertains to her ‘divine constitution.’”

She said one common objection to the Church’s teaching on female ordination is that the Catholic Church is patriarchal and not including women in the role of priests is sexist. “Most argue that

the exclusion of women from a public leadership role is an injustice and explicit sexism. Some view that Jesus’ choice of 12 men is irrelevant and that it is just an ecclesiastical tradition to have men as priests,” Sister Sara said. However, she explained that the priesthood is a sacrament and that all priests are to follow in the tradition of the apostles who were all men.

“Priestly ordination is a vocation to exercise Christian ministry through the Church. It is conferred by a sacrament instituted by Jesus and ordained ministry is traced back to the apostles. Priests are successors of the apostles,” Sister Sara emphasized.

Women held roles of influence and had leadership positions in the early Church, Sister Sara stressed, and both female and male saints are represented and revered in the Catholic Church.

The goal of a Christian life is not to be a priest, but to be a saint,” she said. “Women have full participation in the Church and we are all called to live the Gospel to the hilt. It is not about a leadership position. Mary’s dignity was not compromised because she wasn’t a priest or an apostle and she is known as the ‘Queen of All Saints.’”

Big Apple

Continued from page 1

The pope is slated to arrive in Washington on April 15 and will receive an official welcome at the White House April 16. That afternoon—his 81st birthday—he will address the U.S. bishops. The following day he will celebrate Mass at the new Washington Nationals major league baseball stadium. He then will meet with directors of Catholic universities and colleges and diocesan educational leaders at The Catholic University of America in Washington and then he is to attend an interreligious meeting at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center.

Pope John Paul II traveled to Washington and New York in 1979 and revisited New York and stopped in the Archdiocese of Newark in 1995. During both visits to New York, he addressed the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Archbishop Sambhi likened the pope’s trip to the United States next year as “a sign that the spirit of the Lord is with its Church.”

He praised the U.S. bishops for “upholding the faith” and said the Church in the United States showed “an impressive unity” among the faithful.



Submitted photo

ORNAMENT PRODUCTION—Eighth grade students at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, Bayonne, recently made Christmas ornaments to be placed on their parish’s “giving tree” during the holiday season. Mount Carmel parishioners will take the ornaments, which will include an attached gift suggestion note, and then donate the gift to those in the community who are less fortunate. Art teacher, Sister Marie Gavigan directed the students in the ornament project. Msgr. Ronald J. Marczewski is the pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.



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Oratory Prep students (left to right) Thomas Amundsen, Virendra Goolcharan and Tony Salort assemble lunch bags of ham and cheese sandwiches for those in need.

Oratory Prep teens deliver kindness to homeless in NY

SUMMIT—Students at Oratory Preparatory School recently prepared brown-bag meals for distribution to the homeless in New York City.

Lunch bags were being filled with ham and cheese sandwiches, chips, cookies, and juice containers along with toiletries donated by students, their families and the school’s faculty. In addition, students in grades 7-12 donated gently used clothing and blankets.

Half a dozen boys traveled by minibus with their religion teacher, Cathy Marshall, and English teacher Frank Kearns, to New York to perform the community service and deliver the items.

“We offer the opportunity to boys to do a ‘Bridges run’ and because they want to help the homeless, they do it,” explained Marshall, coordinator of community service activities. Bridges, based here, is a philanthropic organization that delivers clothing, food and good wishes every weekend to homeless or needy people in Newark, Irvington and New York City.

“We had a very rewarding time. It is sometimes a real eye-opener for the young boys who haven’t come across people before this who are truly needy,” Marshall added.

As part of the school’s campus ministry, students are encouraged to participate in community service activities including Bridges, Operation Smile and Darfur Relief. Through their additional involvement in church youth groups, Boy Scouts and other organized activities, they donate hundreds of hours of service.



Submitted photo

‘LIVING SAINTS’—St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Cedar Grove held its annual “Living Saints” program on All Saints Day, Nov. 1. Father Robert Suszko, parochial vicar, offered his congratulations to students for portrayals of their favorite saints. With Father Suszko are, left to right, Megan Callaghan (St. Bernadette), Brian McGowan (St. Maximillian Kolbe), Graceann Deyo (St. Therese), Dwight Thomas (St. Dominic), Victoria Leon (St. Elizabeth of Hungary), Brooke Ramos (St. Catherine of Siena) and Anthony Prinzo (St. Anthony).

Transfiguration students win five awards

NEW MILFORD—Transfiguration Academy did well in the St. Joseph Regional High School Academic Challenge, bringing home five trophies.

The winners were: first place, English, Melissa Tan; first place, science, Paolo Alesna; second place, math, Melanie Mariano; third place, math, Joseph Pallath and third place, spelling, Hayley McGlone.

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Stewardship

Continued from page 3

Carmel Parish, Jersey City. Concurrent with the English language presentations, there were also a series of Spanish language stewardship talks that included: Father Galeano, the keynote Spanish presenter, "Stewards: We are the Keepers of the Treasures of God"; Father Bill Halbing, pastor of Saint Antoninus Parish in Newark, "Biblical Perspectives on Stewardship"; and Father Luis Gonzalez, pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel in Newark. The Offering that God Desires."

Lynn Gully, associate director of Stewardship, said the archdiocese is planning another Hispanic Stewardship Day on April 12, 2008, following

the enthusiastic support of this year's event (see *The Catholic Advocate*, May 9). Contact Gully by phone at (973) 497-4589 or via e-mail at www.gullylyn@rcan.org for more information on stewardship programs. The Office of Development/Stewardship is located at

the Archdiocesan Center, 171 Clifton Ave., Newark.

Gonzalez was grateful to the generous sponsors that supported Stewardship Day: Emerson House Coffee LLC, Spring Lake; Graham-Pelton Consulting Inc., Summit; Habitat Visual Communications, Linden; Institutional Commodity Services Corp., New York; J.S. Paluch Company Inc., East Brunswick; Lynch Development Associates, Huntington, NY; *Our Sunday Visitor*, Huntington, IN; Ruotolo Associates, Cresskill; Supreme-Lite Industries Inc., Englishtown; SVO Printing Inc., Rockaway; and Trinity Fund Raising Consultants Inc., Commack, NY.

(Editor's note: Ken Di Paola, is the associate director of the archdiocesan Office of Development and was an organizer of Stewardship Day.)



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FEAST DAY PERFORMANCE—The Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart Choir will honor Our Blessed Mother on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on Dec. 8 with a 7:30 p.m. performance in the Mary Help of Christians Chapel of Don Bosco Preparatory School in Ramsey. Under the direction of John Miller—director of music ministries for the Cathedral Basilica and music coordinator for the Office of Worship and artistic director of the Cathedral Concert Series—the choir will feature Marian music. The concert is wheelchair accessible. Tickets, priced at \$20, are available by calling the school at (201) 327-8003, ext. 188. Visit the school's Web site (www.donboscoprep.com) for more information.

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Sister Helen

Continued from page 1

Noting the return of capital punishment in the United States 31 years ago, Sister Helen said religious groups in Canada convinced that country to do away with the death penalty. The “same groundswell,” she declared, exists in New Jersey. “In New Jersey, truth is springing up out of the ground.”

The United States Supreme Court reinstituted the death penalty in 1976. Since then there have been 1,098 executions in the United States—53 last year. Lethal injection represents the dominant method (85 percent) for carrying out executions, followed by electrocution (14 percent) and gas chamber/hanging/firing squad (1 percent).

New Jersey, which has had the death penalty on the books since 1982, has not executed anyone since 1963. However, the state currently has eight men on death row.

At a state study commission hearing in July 2006, the Catholic Bishops of New Jersey issued a statement, declaring that the death penalty “is not consistent with evolving standards of decency. Because the State of New Jersey has other means to redress the injustice caused by crime and to effectively prevent crime by rendering the one who has committed the offense incapable of doing harm and because we recognize the dig-

nity of all human life, we continue to consistently and vigorously oppose the use of the death penalty.”

Sister Helen began her presentation by recalling a chance airport meeting with death penalty proponent U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, a Catholic. He will never, she said forcefully, be there when the condemned is strapped into the electric chair and “he will never touch the tears.”

Stressing “the dignity” of everyone’s life, Sister Helen somberly mentioned her personal “crucible” of accompanying six prisoners to the death chamber. “Truth springs out of human suffering,” she said.

“We are steeped in a culture that violence is how we get justice. We kill to prove we are tough on crime.”

—Sister Helen Prejean

Focusing on the executions to which she was an eyewitness, Sister Helen lamented that in this country “we are steeped in a culture that violence is how we get justice.” Declaring “people have to be brought down to the suffering,” Sister Helen regretted that in this country “we kill to prove we are tough on crime.” Often, she continued, psychiatrists wind up counseling guards who carry out an execution.

Time and again during her presentation, she expressed profound sympathy for the plight of the families of murder victims. Citing the pain felt by victims’ families, Sister Helen said they “must be listened to.” She mentioned one family is active in the effort to abolish the death penalty in the state. Sister Helen emphasized that statistics have shown that as many as 70 percent of victims’ families “break up” due to the emotional aftershocks caused by the violent crime.

Sister Helen referred to a Texas case where a woman had been sentenced to death for killing a baby in her care. In Texas, she noted, part of the death penalty requirement is to establish that the accused poses a future danger to society. The condemned babysitter was poor and the court would not allow a head trauma expert to testify. The prosecutor, she explained, claimed that the women “had to be a murderer.”

She found a lawyer in Philadelphia whose firm agreed to take the case. Four head trauma experts eventually gave their expert opinions in the women’s defense and the medical examiner ultimately withdrew his testimony. The woman had come within two days of being executed. Sister Helen remembered that among the woman’s reaction was that “Texas thinks it is God.”

Following Sister Helen’s presentation, those in attendance signed petitions to state lawmakers, calling upon them to end the death penalty.



Advocate photo — Ward Miele

Author and anti-death penalty activist Sister Helen Prejean—addressing a capacity, interfaith crowd at St. Peter Claver Parish in Montclair—pointed out that the majority of the world’s nations do not have capital punishment. She noted that Catholics are “the leading moral wedge” in the anti-death penalty movement in the United States.

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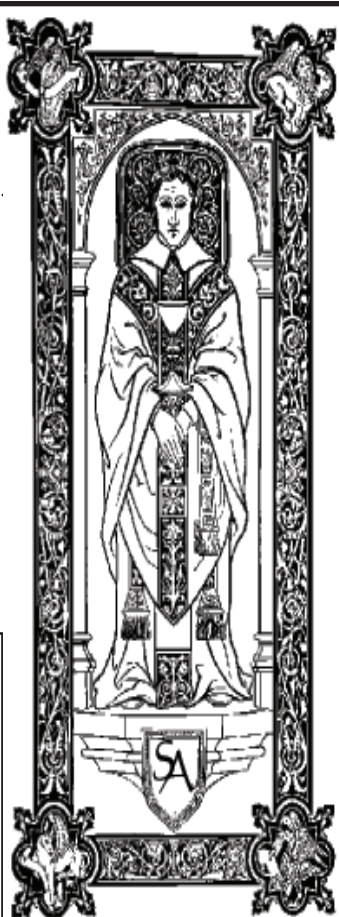
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NOVENAS

PRAYER TO ST. JUDE

Oh, Holy St. Jude, Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near Kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and urgent petition (make request). In return I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. Say three Our Fathers, three Hail Marys and Glorias. St. Jude, pray for us all who invoke your aid. Amen. This Novena must be said for 9 consecutive days. Thank you for answering my prayer.

R.H.

PRAYER TO ST. CLAIRE

Ask St. Claire for three favors; one Business and two impossible. Say nine Hail Mary's for nine days with a lighted candle. Published the ninth day "May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, adored, and glorified today and every day. Requests will be granted no matter how impossible they seem. Publication must be promised.

S.J.

NOVENA TO ST. JUDE

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

G.R.

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.

J.K.

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

O Holy St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and Charity for His creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Miracles waited on your word, which you were ever ready to speak for those in trouble or anxiety. Encouraged by this thought, I implore of you to obtain for me (request). The answer to my prayer may require a miracle. Even so, you are the Saint of Miracles. O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of the Sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms; and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours. Amen. Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be. Novena is Published in Gratitude. Thank you St. Anthony.

L.A.C.

PRAYER TO ST. CHRISTOPHER

O Glorious St. Christopher you have inherited a beautiful name. Christbearer, as a result of the wonderful legend that while carrying people across a raging stream you also carried the Child Jesus. Teach us to be true Christbearers to those who do not know Him. Protect all of us that travel both near and far and petition Jesus to be with us always. Amen. Novena is Published in Gratitude.

R.C.

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.

S.P.

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.U.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF POSITION

The Paterson Diocesan School Office is currently seeking applications from qualified priests, religious or lay persons, for the position of Principal at DePaul Catholic High School in Wayne for the 2008/2009 school year (www.depaulcatholic.org)

Qualifications: Applicant should be knowledgeable and a practicing Catholic. Principals are expected to have a Master's Degree and hold Principal's Certification from the State of New Jersey. Principals should have prior teaching and administrative experience. A number of years should have been in Catholic secondary education.

Application Deadline: January 4, 2008

Information should be sent to: Sr. Dorothy Banashak, S.S.C.
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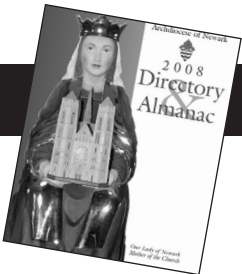
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Prostate Net selects Dr. Richard Watson for clinician award

HACKENSACK — Dr. Richard A. Watson, chief of ambulatory surgery and the director of resident education for the Department of Urology at Hackensack University Medical Center (HUMC), has been named "Clinician of the Year" by The Prostate Net for his research of the disease among Native American men.

Watson, who is also a member of the Division of Urologic Oncology at the HUMC Cancer Center, is a past president of the Catholic Medical Association, Wynnewood, PA, and its New Jersey region coordinator. His wife, Dr. Leonie S. Watson, is medical advisor to the Office of Family Planning for the Archdiocese of Newark. The Watsons are active members of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Mountainside.

The study by Watson ("Prostate Cancer in Native American Men"), which was published in the

American Urological Association's newsletter, noted that "serious shortfalls in the diagnosis and care of prostate cancer among Native American men need to be remedied. Geographic and cultural issues have created barriers which need to be broken down, in order that Native American men may receive life-saving diagnostic and treatment services."

Secaucus-based Prostate Net (Web site: www.prostate-online.org), which honored Watson at its third annual "In the Know" awards ceremony at New York University, is an organization that combines Internet technology, traditional media and personalized support in order to reduce the disparity of impact that prostate cancer is causing within minority communities.

Watson undertook an extensive search of all medical literature regarding the impact of prostate cancer, specifically on Native American men. He found that this

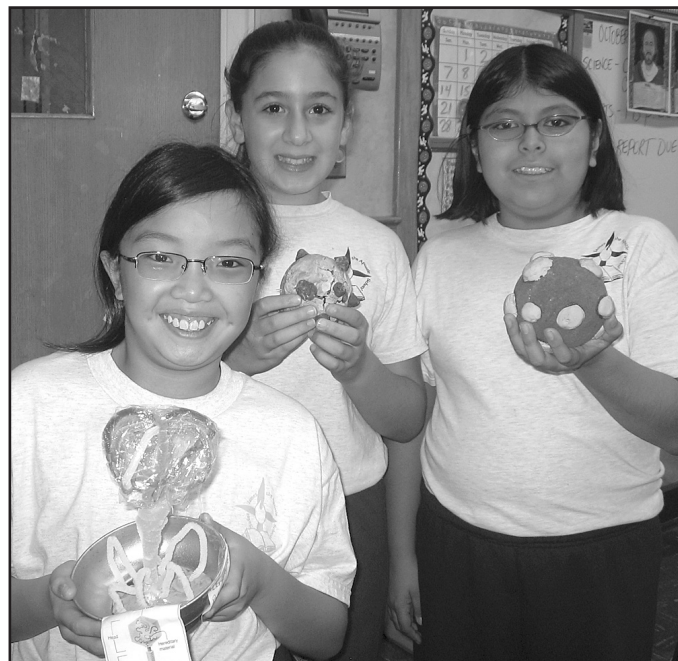
important healthcare issue has been largely ignored. His interest in healthcare advocacy for Native American men stems from his experience working as a physician 10 years ago at the Crow Creek Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

"The diagnosis and treatment of prostate cancer is receiving a great deal of attention throughout the United States and overseas as well, and yet very scant concern has been shown for the needs of our First Americans—Native American men—even though prostatic malignancies are the second-leading cause of cancer death among this population," explained Watson, who also serves as an adjunct associate professor of urology and military medicine at the Uniformed Services University of Health Services in Bethesda, MD.

"The entire Cancer Center community congratulates Dr. Watson on his 'In the Know' award," commented Dr. Andrew L. Pecora, chairman and executive administrative director of The Cancer Center.

Call the Department of Urology at (201) 336-8020 or visit their Web site (www.humc.com/urologynew) for more information. For details about The Cancer Center, call 201-996-5900 or visit the Web site (www.humc.com).

Learning about germs



Submitted photo

HANDS-ON LESSON—A recent science project at St. James the Apostle School in Springfield included a study of viruses and bacteria. Fifth graders, left to right, Victoria Galante, Giovanna DelSordo and Ashley Sarango, proudly display models they made of their subject matter. Science teacher Caroline Ponterio led the project for the students. Patricia Dolansky is the principal of the school.

Ministries to support AIDS Day

WESTFIELD—In observance of World AIDS Day on Dec. 1, the AIDS ministries of Holy Trinity and St. Helen parishes will raffle off a sampler quilt to benefit two AIDS service groups.

Raffle tickets for the quilt, donated by Harvest Quilters, will be sold the weekend of Dec. 1-2 at St. Helen Parish before and after all masses. The drawing will take place at St. Helen's Parish on Dec. 2 following the 6:30 p.m. Mass.

Proceeds are earmarked for St. Clare's Home for Children in Elizabeth, the first facility of its kind for children with HIV/AIDS, and Kent House in New Orleans, a transitional program for families impacted by the disease. Call Anita Dazzo at (908) 233-8710 for more information.

Established by the Geneva, Switzerland-based World Health Organization (Web site: www.who.int/en) in 1988, World AIDS Day serves to focus global attention on the devastating impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

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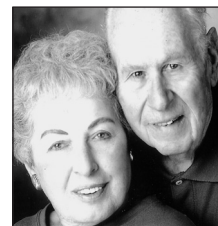
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NJHA applauds efforts by St. Joseph's



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St. Joseph Regional's Medical Center staff members (left to right) Christine Cutugno, Maria Brennan, Mary Ellen Meara and Dr. Robert Amoruso display their award from the New Jersey Hospital Association.

PATERSON—The New Jersey Hospital Association (NJHA) has recognized and awarded steps taken by nurses, physicians and other healthcare staff at St. Joseph Regional's Medical Center (SJPMC) to reduce and eliminate the number of hospital-acquired infections.

"Of the over 80 hospitals in New Jersey, St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center (SJPMC) is only one of half a dozen hospitals that have eliminated ventilator associated pneumonia (VAP), a hospital-acquired infection, for two or more years," said Aline Holmes, RN, APNC, MSN, NJHA's senior vice president, clinical affairs. Holmes recently presented the hospital's medical intensive care unit an award.

Christine Cutugno, Ph.D., RN, CCRN, SJPMC's director of critical care, recalled that "when a child died at Johns Hopkins over four years ago, Johns Hopkins decided to initiate a comprehensive patient safety program which included the goal of eliminating hospital acquired infections." She said the program was then taken on the road to hospitals in Michigan and then New Jersey, where these same evidence-based "best practices" were established.

The focus of the program is on controlling three major hospital-acquired infections: ventilator associated pneumonia (VAP); catheter-related blood stream infections (BSI); and catheter-associated urinary tract infections (UTI). All of these infections result in a predictable number of preventable deaths.

Two years ago, SJPMC was one of 25 hospitals to join the Princeton-based NJHA's ICU Collaborative, an initiative designed to improve patient safety and the quality of care provided in critical-care units.

The initiative, which started in the Medical Intensive Care Unit (MICU), saw a steady decline and then total elimination of VAP infections for the last two years. The Coronary Care Unit (CCU) has eliminated VAP infections for 16 months.



Dr. Jan A. Huston

Connie Dwyer Center taps Dr. Huston as director

NEWARK — Dr. Jan A. Huston, F.A.C.S., has been installed as the new medical director of the Connie Dwyer Breast Center at St. Michael's Medical Center.

A general and vascular surgeon, Huston has practiced in the Newark area for many years. She is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and certified by the American Board of Surgery. Huston holds a bachelor's degree in nursing from Michigan State University, a master's degree in Clinical Psychology from Western Michigan University and an M.D. from Michigan State University.

Huston served a residency in general surgery at St. Barnabas Medical Center and a fellowship in General Vascular Surgery at Lehigh Valley Hospital Center. During her residency Huston received training at Memorial-Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City.

She is the founder and director of Summit Breast Care. Her partners in the practice, Dr. Michelle O'Shea, F.A.C.S. and Dr. Diane Addis, also will be joining the Connie Dwyer Breast Center medical staff.

"Dr. Huston has the experience, expertise and commitment to advance the vital mission of The Connie Dwyer Breast Center and she will do so with great compassion, skill and dedication," Robert Evans, chief operating officer of Cathedral Healthcare System, said. Felicia Karsos, administrator of the medical center, said Huston "will be a tremendous addition to our medical staff. We are very pleased to welcome her and her colleagues."

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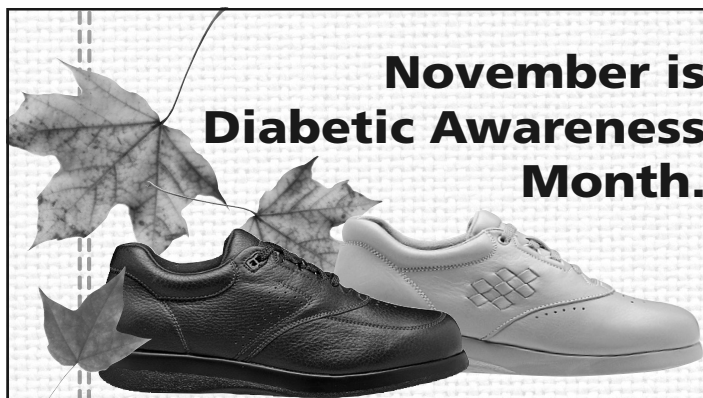
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Cusack Care plans reception for Sister Ann Taylor

JERSEY CITY—Sister Ann Taylor, C.S.J.P., administrator of the Margaret Anna Cusack Care Center, who was instrumental in overseeing the expansion, modernization and outreach of the facility during the last decade, will retire at the end of the year.



Sister Ann Taylor

A retirement party is being planned to honor Sister Ann on Thursday, Nov. 29, 6 p.m. at Casino in the Park. Contact Sue Sims, Cusack Care Center director of development and community relations, by phone (201) 653-8300, ext. 2161, or via e-mail at ssims@cusackcarecenter.org to reserve tickets.

Sister Ann has been the administrator of Cusack Care Center (Web site: www.cusackcarecenter.org), 537 Pavonia Ave.—the 139-bed long-term, skilled-nursing care facility for blind and sighted adults—for the last 10 years. During her tenure, Sister Ann led the organization through a \$20-million construction and renovation project that increased the number of beds and replaced

all resident living quarters in a state-of-the-art facility with modern amenities.

She was also instrumental in seeing the all-Sister board of trustees grow into an active 20-member entity comprised of mostly lay people as well as several Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace. Sister Ann spearheaded efforts to develop programs and services of

care to residents that addressed contemporary issues surrounding long-term care. Other accomplishments include a successful capital campaign that raised over \$10 million toward the new building project and a thriving development program.

During the last 12 months Sister Ann joined with the board of trustees in a strategic plan to

guide the center through the next five years and help it to continue to grow and develop programs and services to serve the needs of senior adults in the Jersey City community.

Prior to joining the Cusack Care Center, Sister Ann was executive director at The York Street Project, an organization also sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph

of Peace that is comprised of four inter-related programs.

Serving as province leader of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace's St. Joseph Province from 1983-1988, Sister Ann coordinated the total rehabilitation of buildings here on York Street. While at the York Street Project she was instrumental in the formation of a coalition of non-profit organizations.

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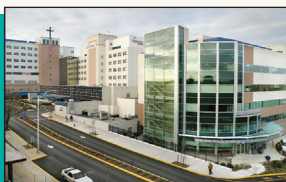
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Trinitas Hospital's Behavioral Health services are among

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CANCER CARE

Since it opened its doors in September 2005, the \$28 million Comprehensive Cancer Center remains the

only place in the state that provides patients with the state-of-the-art Trilogy linear accelerator. Trinitas Hospital recently unveiled the state's newest inpatient Cancer Care Unit, complete with 23 private patient rooms, specialized staff and equipment, and patient amenities such as plasma screen televisions. For more information call (908) 994-8000.



CARDIOLOGY

Trinitas maintains a full-service cardiac facility for the intensive care of patients with heart disease. Patients in need of elective

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SENIORS SERVICES

Trinitas Hospital's commitment to seniors takes many forms, most recently the establishment of the Acute Care for the Elderly (ACE) nursing unit, The Brother Bonaventure Extended Care Center and the Seniors

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Orange parish plans Mass for AIDS Sunday

ORANGE—Our Lady of the Valley Parish will mark AIDS Compassion Sunday, Dec. 2, with a Mass at noon.

Sponsored by the parish's Health and Wellness Ministry, the day will focus on raising awareness of HIV/AIDS, with an informal gathering following Mass.

As part of the parish's observance of World AIDS Day, the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt will be on display Nov. 25-Dec. 16.

Father George Hanna, S.D.B., is the pastor of Our Lady of the Valley. The parish is located at 510 Valley St. For additional information call (973) 674-7500.

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BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE
Editor

NEWARK — The Christian Foundations for Ministry program of the Archdiocese of Newark has again received accreditation from the Commission on Certification and Accreditation of the Washington, D.C.-based U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). The archdiocesan program met the requirements in all areas and was commended for its excellence in particular areas.

This accreditation follows an intensive self-study report required by the commission, along with on-site visits and evaluations by a site-review committee. The program was first accredited in 1994. The

accreditation was re-affirmed in 1999 and again at this time.

The archdiocesan Christian Foundations for Ministry is one of 18 formation programs in the country receiving accreditation from the USCCB commission. There are over 300 participants presently enrolled in the program throughout the archdiocese. Overall, more than 2,000 people in the four counties of the Archdiocese of Newark have completed the program since it was launched in the mid-1980s.

The archdiocesan Ministerial Development Center, which oversees the Christian Foundations for Ministry, comes under the supervision of Rev. Msgr. Richard Arnhols, the Vicar for Pastoral



Sisters Kathleen Burton, S.S.J., and Georgette Gavioli, S.S.J., recently discussed the content and management of the archdiocesan Christian Foundations for Ministry with Father Joseph Merkt, a member of the site-review committee of the USCCB Commission on Certification and Accreditation (pictured here, left to right). The program once again has met the requirements and garnered accreditation from the USCCB commission.

Advocate photo — M. Gabriele

Life. Msgr. Arnhols (a columnist for *The Catholic Advocate*) is the chairman of the advisory committee and also directed the archdiocesan self-study/site review committee.

Sister Virginia Stanton, who

serves as the director of the archdiocesan Ministerial Development Center, said her main concern is the development of the spiritual formation/education of the laity as a preparation for ministry in the Archdiocese. This is accomplished through the Christian Foundations for Ministry.

She explained that the purpose of this ministry is to form a knowledgeable, prayerful and community-oriented laity by providing foundational courses in current Catholic theology, spirituality and ministerial skill development.

Among her responsibilities, Sister Virginia ensures that the teaching done through the archdiocesan program adheres to the Church's comprehensive teaching authority, known as the Magisterium, and that the program complies with the standards set by the USCCB commission.

To evaluate ministry formation programs for accreditation, the USCCB commission has established standards to measure the quality and effectiveness. The commission judges the content and management of areas such as: mission statements; goals and objectives; curriculum; methodology; and resources.

Standards established by the

USCCB commission create the points of reference for the self-study report, which formed the first part of the evaluation. The site-review committee then interviews various archdiocesan representatives, all of whom are part of the program. The USCCB committee interviewed the county directors, pastors, the advisory committee, mentors, instructional faculty and the program director. As part of the evaluation, the committee also met with Most Rev. Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, and Rev. Msgr. John E. Doran, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia.

The Ministerial Development Center provides for the ongoing formation/education of those who have completed the program. Offerings include days of retreat, workshops and course offerings beyond those offered in the program.

Christian Foundations for Ministry programs are made available at various parishes throughout the archdiocese. Classes are given in English, Haitian (Creole), Portuguese and Spanish languages. To obtain a brochure explaining the program, contact Sister Virginia by phone at (973) 497-4350 or via e-mail at stantovi@rcan.org.

Sister Anne Lucille Coates to mark 50 years of joyful service on Nov. 24

FRANKLIN LAKES—Sister Anne Lucille Coates, S.S.J., will be honored Nov. 24 for a half-century of ministry. A noon Mass will be celebrated here at Most Blessed Sacrament Parish followed by a reception at Academy of the Most Blessed Sacrament, 785 Franklin Lake Rd.

The Roselle native first became acquainted with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Chestnut Hill, PA, in her

hometown. She attended Holy Family Academy in Bayonne where the influence of the order continued. "I always found peace and a spirit of joy when I was around the Sisters," she said.

Recalling her teenage years, Sister Anne said she attended daily Mass in the morning, "but my last class of the day was usually 'detention.'" Back in the 1950s, "we sold everything from cookies to

Christmas Seals, but my most profitable task was soliciting subscriptions to what was then the new *The Catholic Advocate*, for which I earned 25 cents for each sale."

For most of her Religious life, Sister Anne taught in Spring Lake and Palisades Park. During the last 35 years she has worked here as both a teacher and director of religious education.

"Sister Anne is the greatest Sister I have ever worked with," Msgr. Carl Henrichsen, her pastor for 17 years, said. "She can do almost everything and finds it very hard to say 'no.'"

Bishop Arthur Serratelli of the Paterson Diocese, who worked with Sister Anne for over 25 years, called her an "extraordinary" Religious. "Not only is she blessed by God with so many gifts, but she is the type of person who is generous to a fault. Her complete dedication to the people that she serves is a blessing. Her sense of humor, her warmth, her kindness and her thoughtfulness are unmatched," Bishop Serratelli said.

Most Rev. John Flesey, Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, her current pastor here at Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, said that he admired Sister Anne's "joyful spirit. Her boundless enthusiasm for teaching others God's love for us has never diminished over 50 years. That alone testifies to the presence of great grace," Bishop Flesey said.



Submitted photo

Sister Anne Lucille Coates gets a big hug from her niece, Erin S. Coates. Sister Anne said Halloween ranks as the highlight of her ministry at Most Blessed Sacrament Parish. She said each year the parish staff would dress up and visit 30 or more shut-ins and families who had lost a loved one during the year. "To see the joy in hearts that were broken was a reward indeed."

In its report, the USCCB site-review committee commended the archdiocesan ministry in these particular areas:

- incorporating the multicultural realities of the archdiocese into its mission statement
- a focus on evangelization as described by Pope Paul VI in his encyclical: "Evangelization in the Modern World"
- using consistent methodology that provides a basis for participants to become self-motivating in their choice of ministry in their parishes
- establishing parish formation centers throughout the archdiocese so that participants do not have to travel great distances to attend classes
- providing formation programs that are attentive to the specific needs of various cultures and ethnic groups
- offering three retreats each year that bring participants together to celebrate a multicultural liturgy, share food and camaraderie, pray together and participate in small group discussions
- recognizing the contributions of faculty members who have been instructors and strong supporters of the program for many years.

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The Archdiocese of Newark *Year End Giving Reminder* *from* *The Office of Planned Giving*



*Thanksgiving, the time of the year when we give thanks for all we've been given and
a time for remembering to bless others by giving back.*

It is the perfect time to take advantage of the income tax charitable deduction by making a year end gift.

Your 2007 year end gift can significantly reduce your income taxes, while providing meaningful support for one of your favorite Archdiocesan priorities. Also, your charitable gift makes a meaningful difference in the life of the Church.

Here are some of the best 2007 year end gift ideas:

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- **Gifts of real estate**—Avoid the capital gains tax, and receive a charitable deduction.
- **Life income gifts**—Charitable gift annuities provide a dependable source of income in exchange for your charitable gift.
- **Bequests**—Consider the long-term tax savings of advance planning and avoid having the government take 40%-50% of your estate at the time of death.

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On August 21, 2006, a federal law, called the Pension Protection Act of 2006, was signed allowing IRA owners to share the wealth of their retirement savings by giving directly to a non-profit organization, without first counting it as income and paying income tax. The Pension Protection Act allows donors with traditional IRA assests, who are at least 70^{1/2} or older, to transfer those assests, directly to a charity, tax free. it could allow you to give the Archdiocese (and your parish) a gift directly from your IRA without triggering federal income taxes. The gift will also satisfy the rules for required minimum distributions for the year. We'll be glad to provide you with the tax-wise details.

For a free information packet, call or email Anne DeVivo DeMesa at **The Office of Planned Giving**. She would be pleased to talk with you further about your plans and involvement in the Church and also to answer any questions. Telephone (973) 497-4048 • Email: demesaan@rcan.org

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The Archdiocese of Newark, Planned Giving Office, 171 Clifton Avenue, Newark, New Jersey 07104

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_____ Please send information about the **Legacy Circle Planned Giving Society**.

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