



The Catholic Advocate



PAGE 8-9



New encyclical links hope with faith in God

Pope Benedict critiques contemporary Christianity, Marxism and philosophical rationalism.

PAGE 12



'Carol Sing' at Cathedral set for Dec. 13

Joyful and triumphant voices, led by John J. Miller, will soar at "Candlelight" concert.

Inside

USA & World News	...2, 4
Around the Archdiocese	...6
New Appointments	...6
Opinion	...7
Faith & Spirituality	...8, 9
Parish Profile	...10
Holiday Gift Ideas	...11
Spiritual Journeys	...15-17
Classifieds	...20
Professional Directory	...21
Commentary	...22

Powerful encounter with the Real Presence

Eucharistic adoration growing as a devotion

BY CHRISTY GUERRA

Special to The Catholic Advocate

Pope Benedict XVI, in his homily on the 2006 Feast of Corpus Christi, declared that the Eucharist "constitutes the treasure of the Church. The Eucharist is the Lord Jesus...in all times and places, He wishes to encounter men and women and bring them the life of God."

Parishes throughout Archdiocese of Newark are providing more opportunities for a personal encounter with Jesus; not only at Mass, where the Eucharist is consumed, but in chapels and churches through the powerful worship experience of eucharistic adoration.

Sixty-nine parishes in the arch-

diocese now offer eucharistic adoration and interest continues to expand. Eucharistic adoration is a devotion in which the Blessed Sacrament is taken from the tabernacle to be displayed in a monstrance, where the faithful have an opportunity to worship the Lord in the physical form of the Host.

Because the Eucharist is Jesus' body and blood and not merely a symbol, those who pray in front of the Eucharist are, in essence, praying in front of the Lord Himself—the Real Presence.

The first parish in the archdiocese to offer perpetual adoration, St. John the Apostle in Linden, will celebrate its 11th anniversary of perpetual adoration on Dec. 8.

Continued on page 14



Advocate photo — M. Gabrielle

Gathering in Trenton to raise awareness on the state of welfare

BY MELISSA MCNALLY

Staff Writer

NEWARK—A statewide effort by the Anti-Poverty Network (APN) of New Jersey to raise welfare grants in the Garden State by 10 percent culminated today Dec. 5 with the organization's eighth annual conference.

The group will present thousands of signed petition cards to state legislators in Trenton asking them to raise the welfare rate that has stayed the same since 1987. The APN slated a full day of events in Trenton—the "Anti-Poverty State of the State" conference—including a series of workshops and speaker presentations.

Kay Furlani, director of the archdiocesan Office of Human Concerns, has been involved with the APN

since its inception and attended the Trenton conference to support the efforts of the group. Based in Edison, the APN (Web site: www.antipovetynetwork.org) includes grassroots and advocacy organizations, faith-based groups, people living in poverty, labor unions and others. The New Jersey Catholic Conference (NJCC), based in Trenton, is part of the APN.

It's estimated that 8.7 percent of the state's population is living below the poverty rate. According to information published by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's "Homeless Assessment Data," a single parent in the Garden State with two children receives just \$425 a month in cash assistance. Even combined with food stamps,

Continued on page 19

St. Lucy's Parish in Newark began eucharistic adoration on the feast of Corpus Christi in 1998. Msgr. Joseph J. Granato, the pastor of St. Lucy's, believes this devotion has led to a growth in vocations. He said two seminarians recently joined Immaculate Conception Seminary in South Orange because of the time spent in prayer before the exposed Eucharist at St. Lucy's.

Bishops call on Trenton to eliminate death penalty

(The Catholic Bishops of New Jersey, in a statement issued Nov. 26, called upon the New Jersey Legislature to abolish the death penalty during the current Legislative session. The topic of capital punishment was addressed in the Nov. 21 edition of The Catholic Advocate.)

Consistently, over many decades, the Catholic Bishops of New Jersey have called for the abolishment of the death penalty. Most recently, we spoke out on this issue on Feb. 4, 2005, on July 19, 2006, and on May 8, 2007. Our message always is simple: the death penalty takes a human life and should be abolished. Many others have pointed out that the death penalty is not consistent with evolving standards of decency.

On Holy Thursday of 2005, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C., launched a campaign to end capital punishment across the nation with a theme: "The death penalty diminishes all of us. Its use ought to be abandoned not only for what it does to those who are executed, but what it does to us as a society. We cannot

teach respect for life by taking life."

The Catholic Church is guided by our belief that every person has an inalienable right to life, because each human being is made in the image and likeness of God, who alone is the absolute Lord of life from its beginning until its end (cf. The Book of Genesis 1:26-28).

We acknowledge that the subject of capital punishment is controversial, emotional and not an easy matter to address. All murders are violent and shocking; some are savage. They all stir emotions of revulsion and anger. We grieve for the victims of murder, for the brutalization and loss of life. We commiserate with the families and friends of victims who must suffer with their loss through the years.

We recognize the need to improve our criminal justice system and the need for a greater societal commitment to preventing crime and to providing assistance for victims of crime. We do affirm that the state has the duty to punish criminals and to prevent the repetition or occurrence of crime. We believe that greater efforts must be made to bring the criminal to repentance and rehabilitation.

We urge the legislature to pass and Gov. Jon Corzine to sign Senate Bill 171 and Assembly Bill 3716, which would abolish the death penalty in New Jersey.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church acknowledges the right of public authorities to impose criminal punishment proportionate to the gravity of the offense, "if this is the only possible way of effectively defending human lives against the unjust aggressor. If, however, non-lethal means are sufficient to defend and protect people's safety from the aggressor, authority will limit itself to such means, as these are more in keeping with the concrete conditions of the common good and more in conformity with the dignity of the human person."

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 dignity of all human life, we continue to oppose the use of capital punishment vigorously. Life in prison without the possibility of parole is an alternative to the death penalty.

As pastors and teachers we urge the State of New Jersey not to impose the death penalty in our state. We urge the Legislature to pass and Gov. Jon Corzine to sign Senate Bill 171 and Assembly Bill 3716, which would abolish the death penalty in New Jersey.

(Editor's note: The New Jersey Catholic Conference (NJCC), Trenton, issued this statement. Archbishop Myers is the president of the NJCC, while Patrick R. Brannigan serves as the executive director.)

Critics charge 'Golden Compass' points to anti-Christian themes

BY HARRY FORBES AND JOHN MULDERIG

Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Hollywood history is rife with examples of literary works that by dint of problematic sexual, violent or religious content have been softened to varying degrees to mollify public sensibilities.

So it appears to be with "The Golden Compass" (New Line), which, we'll say right at the start, is a lavish, well-acted and fast-paced adaptation of "Northern Lights," the original title of the first volume of Philip Pullman's much-awarded trilogy, "His Dark Materials," published in 1995.

The film already has caused some concern in Catholic circles because of the author's professed atheism and the more overt issue of the novels' negative portrayal of his (very much fictionalized) church—a stand-in for all organized religion.

The good news is that the first book's explicit references to this church have been completely excised with only the term "magisterium" retained. The choice is still a bit unfortunate, however, as the word refers so specifically to the church's teaching authority. Yet the film's only clue that the magisterium is a religious body comes in the form of the

icons, which decorate one of their local headquarters.

Most moviegoers with no foreknowledge of the books or Pullman's personal belief system will scarcely be aware of religious connotations, and can approach the movie as a pure fantasy/adventure. This is not the blatant real-world anti-Catholicism of, say, the recent "Elizabeth: The Golden Age" or "The Da Vinci Code." Religious elements, as such, are practically nil.

The narrative itself charts the adventures of spunky 12-year-old Lyra (Dakota Blue Richards), an orphan who leaves Oxford's Jordan College, where she resides as a ward to become apprentice to a glamorous scholar known as Mrs. Coulter (Nicole Kidman).

She's allowed to leave, equipped with the titular compass—a truth meter that Lyra is among the privileged few to know how to interpret. Once in Mrs. Coulter's care, Lyra begins to surmise that the woman's motives are far from pure and she escapes.

Inspired by her Arctic-exploring-uncle, Lord Asriel (Daniel Craig)—who, to the consternation of the magisterium is about to make some discoveries about the mysterious substance called Dust—Lyra journeys northward. She hopes to rescue her young friend Roger (Ben Walker), who

has been kidnapped by the magisterium.

Lyra picks up several useful allies along the way, including John Faa (Jim Carter), a pirate-like seafarer of the wandering tribe called Gyptians, Texas aeronaut Lee Scoresby (Sam Elliott), and a great polar bear named Iorek Byrnison (voice of Ian McKellen).

Richards makes an appealingly no-nonsense heroine, and Kidman makes a glamorous and chilling villain. Christopher Lee, Tom Courtenay and Derek Jacobi round out a distinguished cast, with excellent voice work from McKellen and others (e.g. Kathy Bates, Kristin Scott Thomas, Ian McShane and Freddie Highmore).

Whatever author Pullman's putative motives in writing the story, writer-director Chris Weitz's film, taken purely on its own cinematic terms, can be viewed as an exciting adventure story with, at its core, a traditional struggle between good and evil, and a generalized rejection of authoritarianism.

There is, admittedly, a spirit of rebellion and stark individualism pervading the story. Lyra is continually drawn to characters who reject authority in favor of doing as they please. Equally, only by defying the powers that be, can a scientist like Lord Asriel achieve progress. Pullman is perhaps drawing parallels to the Catholic



CNS photo

Nicole Kidman (left) and Dakota Blue Richards star in a scene from the movie "The Golden Compass," which will debut in theaters Dec. 7. The film is based on one volume of a trilogy of children's books, which some critics describe as containing anti-Christian themes. Hollywood reports say the film will make no direct references to the Catholic Church, but critics of the trilogy remain skeptical about the film adaptation.

Church's restrictive stance towards the early alchemists and, later, Galileo.

To the extent, moreover, that Lyra and her allies are taking a stand on behalf of free will in opposition to the coercive force of the magisterium, they are of course acting entirely in harmony with Catholic teaching. The heroism and self-sacrifice that they demonstrate provide appropriate moral lessons for viewers.

The script also makes use of some of the occult concepts found in the books, such as the diabolically named "daemons"—animal

companions to each person, identified as their human counterpart's visible soul.

The film contains intense but bloodless fantasy violence, anti-clerical subtext, standard genre occult elements, a character born out of wedlock and a whiskey-guzzling bear. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II—adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13—parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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FREQUENCY FOR THE YEAR

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NJPA



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Youth group finds 'beauty' amid shambles left by Katrina

Notre Dame teens help build hope in Mississippi

BY WARD MIELE
 Managing Editor

NORTH CALDWELL—The desperate need of people living along the Gulf Coast, two years after the widespread devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina, made the decision of where the youth group at Notre Dame Parish would go this year an easy one.

Seventeen teenagers and nine adults—including the pastor, Msgr. Edward Ciuba, Joy McDonald, the parish youth minister, and Ed Frenzel, the music director—drove 2,400 miles round trip to Bay St. Louis, MS, as part of an eight-day "Project Katrina" outreach effort.

Located 50 miles northeast of New Orleans, Bay St. Louis still showed the scars of the massive storm when the Notre Dame group visited there last July. National news reports indicate the Gulf Coast area continues to suffer from stalled rebuilding efforts and bureaucratic delays. For example, many families in the Bay St. Louis area are still living in trailers, McDonald said.

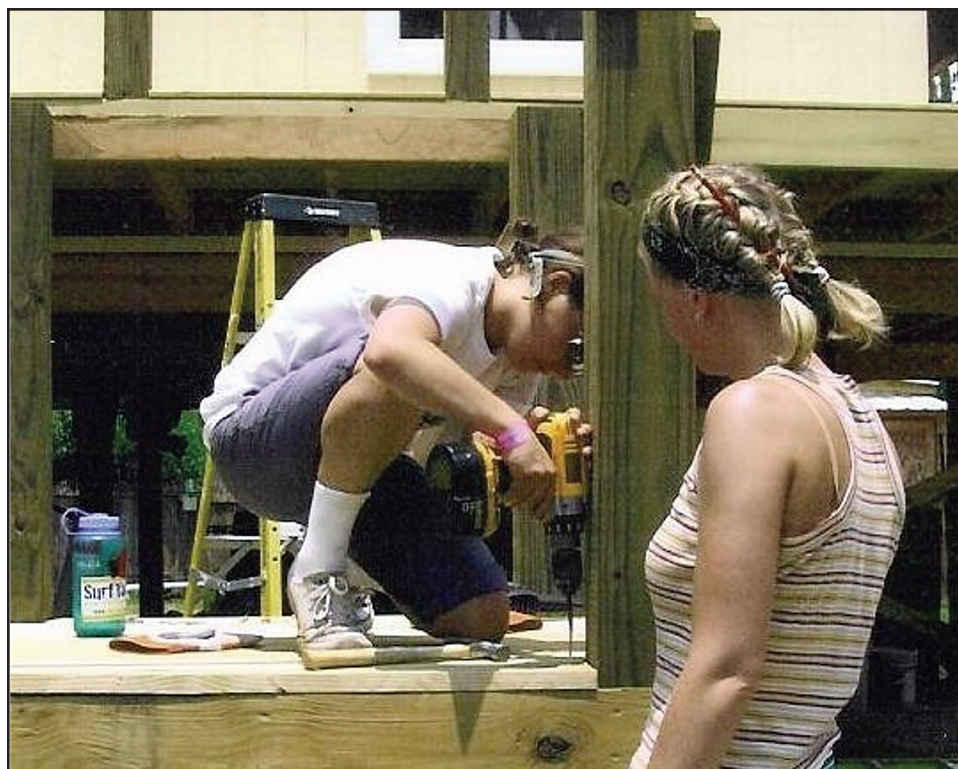
McDonald, who coordinated the trip and was one of the adult chaperones, said that, given the ongoing need of families in this region, leftover funds will be used to help finance a return trip to Bay St. Louis for the youth group this coming summer.

As a real-world example of spirituality in action, Msgr. Ciuba said it was important for young people from his parish to "see the devastating after-effects" of Hurricane Katrina, citing the "great benefit" of interacting with the "still-suffering" people along the Gulf Coast.

The archdiocesan contingent had a lot of help before heading south. Once the decision was made to travel to Bay St. Louis, the young people mobilized to raise funds for supplies and transportation needs. The teens and adult supervisors held a gourmet dinner night, washed cars, had bake sales and put together an evening at "Café Katrina."

The Notre Dame Parish group joined with other young people from across the country to work on rebuilding homes. Most of the work, Msgr. Ciuba explained, was installing sheetrock. When the visitors from the Archdiocese of Newark departed, he noted, practically all of the sheetrock on the first floor of a new home was completed.

The entire outreach effort, Msgr. Ciuba stressed, was "religiously oriented." Each morning began with prayer. In addition, many



Katrin Cengiz and Allie Candido (left to right) put the finishing touches on an entrance deck to a new home, which they helped to build for victims of Hurricane Katrina in the Bay St. Louis area. The decks were needed in certain areas because the homes were constructed on 14-foot stilts.

meaningful one-on-one connections were formed between youth group members and area residents. One of the houses the Notre Dame Parish young people and adults worked on was for a couple with two children. Occasionally they stopped by and one afternoon made a hamburger dinner for the volunteers. The day before they were to return to the Garden State, the family also came to a farewell celebration.

"I headed out (to Bay St. Louis) thinking I was going to help rebuild and repair homes, but it was really so much more than that," Sandra Lucero, now a freshman at Notre Dame University, IN, said. Lucero was struck too by the fact the residents "put their complete trust in complete strangers and in God



Katrin Cengiz works on steps for the entrance deck of a home her youth group from Notre Dame Parish in North Caldwell helped to construct for a family in need. Behind her is a Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) trailer—the type still being used by scores of families two years after Hurricane Katrina devastated the area.

and welcomed us into their homes despite all the devastation and disappointment they had already suffered. The blind faith that they entrusted us with was the greatest gift they could have given us."

While some homes were close to being restored, many others, she lamented, looked the same as they did after being hit by a 40-foot wall of water. The "sweltering heat, the bugs that did not want to leave us alone and the brown water that tasted kind of funky were all small things compared to what the Bay St. Louis residents were going through," Lucero said.

Julianne Contreras, another adult chaperone, took note of the beauty of Bay St. Louis "in spite of the great damage it had suffered." That beauty, she stressed, "went far beyond the surface." Meeting other youth group members from throughout the United States, she noted, everyone was asked to look each day for "God sightings" in the picturesque Gulf Coast community. Such sightings were meant "to remind us of the ability to find God in our everyday experience and surroundings," she explained. Particularly moving was the impact of the genuine appreciation and heartfelt thanks from the people they had journeyed to help, she said.

"Overwhelmingly grateful" is how Msgr. Ciuba described the response by area residents to the youth group's mission of mercy. Many times the prolific thanks came when the locals found out they were from out of state, he said, adding that the Notre Dame Parish group was the only one from New Jersey there at the time.

"I cannot begin to count the number of times someone said 'thank you' just because we hadn't forgotten about this small town that needed so much support and love," Contreras said. "Perhaps what touched me most were the teens themselves. God clearly was here. I think God's proudest moment at camp occurred when one of our own teens stood up and sang 'Amazing Grace' to a crowd of over 200 peers and adults. Everyone stood to cheer. I know that God was smiling."

Submitted photos

Dialogue aids the 'unlearning' process

FAIRFIELD, CT (CNS) — Interfaith dialogue has become increasingly important in a world “thirsting for a genuine reconciliation and healing” of age-old injuries resulting from people’s misunderstanding of their differences, especially when it comes to religion, the head of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America declared.

In a talk at Jesuit-run Fairfield

University on the need for greater understanding among believers, Archbishop Demetrios said dialogue participants must “unlearn in order to learn,” noting that people often enter interfaith conversations believing “they know well the people of other religions and their beliefs.”

He said the need to relinquish one’s preconceptions “implies honesty, consideration, frankness,

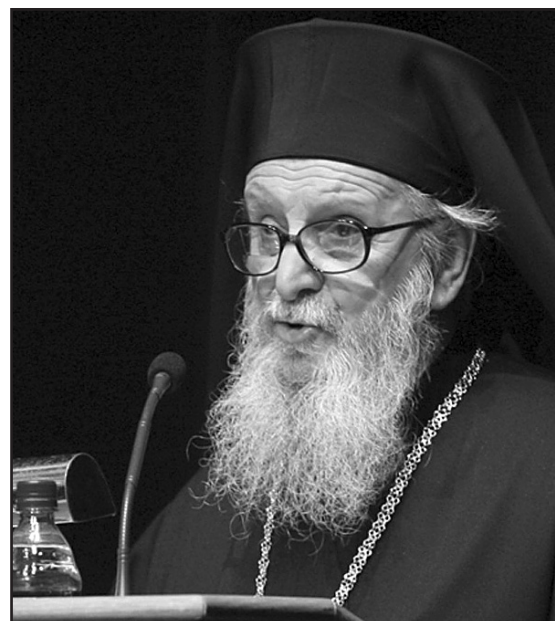
a prayerful disposition and even the willingness to accept truths which may in fact feel hurtful when they are offered in a genuine spirit of love with the aim of understanding.”

‘Vacuum’ may spark conflict in Lebanon

BEIRUT, Lebanon (CNS)—Lebanon’s lack of a president could stir religious conflicts in the Middle East and affect the Christian role in the country, according to a Lebanese bishop.

Maronite Bishop Bechara Rai of Jbeil said “the danger of the vacuum of the presidency is that it would lead to an absence of the Christian role in Lebanon, so that the actual conflict between the Shiites and Sunnis will continue as a consequence of the war in Iraq.”

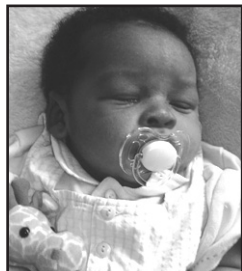
Lebanon’s parliament failed to elect a successor to President Emile Lahoud before he stepped down at midnight Nov. 23, just hours after he announced the transfer of security responsibilities to the Lebanese Armed Forces.



Archbishop Demetrios—the spiritual leader of 1.5 million Greek Orthodox Christians and a strong voice in the ecumenical movement—received an honorary doctor of laws degree from Fairfield University.

CNS photo

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When Jesus turned around and noticed them following Him,

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“What are you looking for?”

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“Rabbi, where do you stay?”

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He answered.

John 1:38-39

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

Krasnoborski wins 'inclusive' honor

BY MELISSA MCNALLY
Staff Writer

AREA—The New Jersey Coalition for Inclusive Ministries recently honored Joetta Krasnoborski, a parishioner at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Cedar Grove, at a statewide awards dinner Nov. 8 in New Brunswick.

One of 15 awardees, Krasnoborski, who is hearing impaired, was recognized for her work with the Pastoral Ministry

with the Deaf in the Archdiocese of Newark.

Deacon Thomas M. Smith, C.S.W., director of the archdiocesan Pastoral Ministry with the Deaf, nominated Krasnoborski for the lay leadership award. In his nomination form, Deacon Smith described Krasnoborski as an example of the kind of service deaf persons can provide, rather than the old model of hearing people always providing services to the deaf. For example, Krasnoborski signs Scripture readings at Sunday Mass and welcomes other deaf persons to the parish.

Along with her parish activities, Krasnoborski regularly visits isolated deaf seniors in nursing homes, providing them with much-needed conversation and companionship. With Deacon Smith, she helps instruct deaf culture and religious signing to seminarians at Seton Hall University, South Orange, and coordinates deaf Catholic cultural events at churches and schools.

With nine host parishes, Deacon Smith and his ministry demonstrate that deaf Catholics are full members of the Church. "I facilitate participation and Joetta is

a great example of leadership. She not only brings deaf people back to the Church, but through signing during Mass, she lifts linguistic and attitudinal barriers," Deacon Smith explained.

Along with helping deaf Catholics, Deacon Smith sees the positive impact of a "signed" Mass for hearing parishioners. "Having a Mass with accompanying sign language enhances the liturgy for hearing people," he explained.

"By seeing a visual representation of scriptures and prayers, everyone's experience is enhanced. One child asked, 'Are they talking to God with their hands?' Parishioners see as well as hear the message of the Gospel."

The New Jersey Coalition for Inclusive Ministries is an interfaith coalition dedicated to ministries and religious services with people with disabilities and other special needs.



Joetta Krasnoborski, pictured with her award, is "a great example of service and discipleship, giving all she has to our mission of total inclusion for those with hearing loss," according to Deacon Thomas M. Smith.

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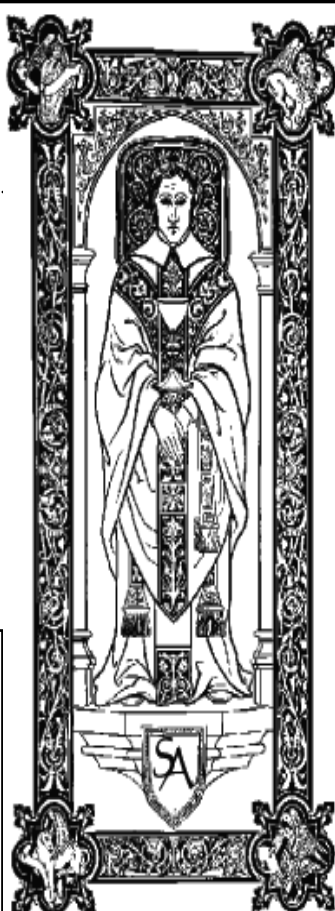
First Friday: 7:00 pm followed by Benediction

Tuesday: 7:00 p.m. (with devotions to St. Anthony)

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. (with Miraculous Medal Novena)

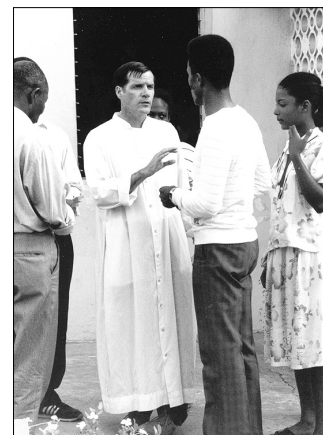
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December 7

Caldwell College, Christmas Spectacular, 8 p.m., call Colette Liddy (973) 618-3209.

December 8

St. Mark's Social Club (Unmarried Mature Adults), Rahway, Christmas party, at Grand Centurions, Clark, cost: \$35, RSVP with Nina, call (732) 381-1298.

Queen of Peace Parish, North Arlington, Holy Hour for Life, 7-11 p.m., call (201) 997-0700.

Lumen Center, Caldwell, "Genesis: A Spirituality of Care for Creation, Ourselves and One Another," 10 a.m. - noon, call (973) 403-3331 ext. 25.

Ascension Parish, New Milford, Christmas Arts and Crafts Fair, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., also on Dec. 9, call Josie McEwan (201) 265-0485.

Official Appointments

Archbishop John J. Myers has announced the following appointments:



DEAN

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Reverend Richard J. Kelly, pastor of the Church of St. Aloysius, Jersey City, has been appointed dean of the Jersey City South Deanery, Deanery 12, effective Oct. 18.

Reverend Joseph D. Girone, pastor of the Church of St. Peter, Belleville, has been appointed spiritual director for Movimiento de Retiros Parroquiales Juan XXIII, effective Nov. 7.

CHAPLAIN

Reverend Anthony J. Randazzo, Parochial Vicar of the Church of Notre Dame, North Caldwell has been appointed dean of the Essex West Deanery, Deanery 15, effective Nov. 16.

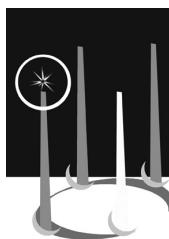
Reverend Donald K. Hummel, director of continuing education and ongoing formation of priests, has been named chaplain of the New Jersey State Park Police, Trenton, effective Nov. 5.

DEACON

PASTOR EMERITUS

Deacon Michael DeRoberts, deacon of the Parish of St. James, Springfield, has been appointed deacon at St. Anne Parish, Garwood, effective Nov. 25.

Reverend Monsignor John P. Hourihan has been named pastor emeritus of St. John Parish, Newark.



Assumption of Our Blessed Lady Parish, Wood-Ridge, author Kelly Ann Lynch signing copies of her book "He Said Yes," after 5:30 p.m. Mass, also on Dec. 9, call (201) 438-5555.

St. Phil's Singles, Livingston, bowling at Hanover Lanes, East Hanover, 8 p.m., RSVP by calling (973) 560-9728.

Notre Dame Parish, North Caldwell, support group for fathers whose children have died, 10 a.m., call (973) 497-4327.

Our Lady Mother of the Church Parish, Woodcliff Lake, gala Irish-American Evening, 7:30 p.m., cost: \$35, call (201) 391-2826.

December 9

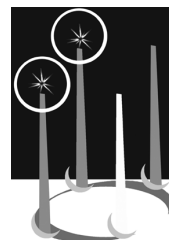
Saint John the Apostle Parish, Linden, Christmas concert by the Garden State Concert Band featuring soprano Andrea Covais, 3 to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for children; call Thomas Dutkiewicz, (732) 827-2941, Johanna Desiderio (732) 499-9730 or the rectory (908) 486-6363.

Knights of Columbus Council 3428, North Arlington, pancake breakfast with Santa, 9:30 a.m., cost: \$5 for adults, \$2 for children, call (201) 991-9606.

Knights of Columbus Council 5427, Washington Township, Christmas Party, 1-5 p.m., call Bob Hibler (201) 666-2454.

St. John the Baptist Parish, Hillsdale, Advent/Christmas concert, 4:30 p.m., call (201) 664-3131.

Eagle Scout Committee Troop 73, Haworth, Eagle Ceremony, 2 p.m., call (201) 315-0803.



St. Margaret of Cortona Parish, Little Ferry, Festival of Lessons and Carols, 3 p.m., call (201) 641-2988.

December 10

St. John the Baptist Parish, Hillsdale, Advent mission, through Dec. 12, call (201) 664-3131.

December 12

Lumen Center, Caldwell, "Hands of Praise," 6:30- 9 p.m., cost: \$25, call (973) 403-3331 ext. 25.

St. Theresa Parish, Kenilworth, Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea concert, 7:30 p.m., cost: from \$50- \$15, call (908) 709-1930.

St. Thomas More Parish, Fairfield, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, 7:30 p.m., call (973) 747-7128.

December 13

Trinitas Hospital, Elizabeth, blood pressure, cholesterol, glucose and body fat analysis screenings, 12-2 p.m., call (908) 994-5138.

The Shrine of St. Joseph, Stirling, piano concert, 7:30 p.m. cost: \$15, call (908) 647-0208.

December 15

St. Phil's Singles, Livingston, volleyball, 7:30 p.m., call (973) 340-4001.

Blessed Sacrament/St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Newark, Advent revival, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., call (973) 824-6548.

December 16

Immaculate Conception Convent Chapel, Lodi, "An Evening of Prayer, Worship and Song," 7-8:30 p.m., call Sister Marilyn Minter (973) 473-7447.

Notre Dame Parish, North Caldwell, Orchestra of St. Peter's by the Sea concert, 7:30 p.m., cost: \$30, call (973) 226-0979.

December 17

St. Mary Parish, Closter, "Preparing for Jesus at Christmas," through Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m., call (201) 768-7565.

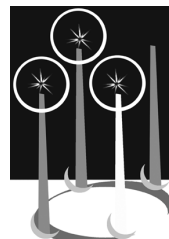
December 19

St. John the Apostle Parish, Linden, Healing Mass, 7:45 p.m., call (908) 486-6363.

Other

Knights of Columbus Council 3428, North Arlington, sweat pants/shirt and bathrobe Christmas collection drive for veterans, drop off clothing at 194 River Rd., call Bob Tarantula (201) 991-9606.

Our Lady of Victories Parish, Harrington Park, weekly Traditional Latin Mass, 1:30 p.m., call (201) 768-1706.



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'YOUR MAN' TOURS 1-800-736-7300

Career ministry workshop
set Dec. 16 in Ridgewood

RIDGEWOOD—The Career Resources Ministry of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, 1 Passaic St., will present the final installment of its four-part series of fall/winter workshops on Sunday, Dec. 16 at noon.

The Dec. 16 session will focus on the topic "cultivate offers and negotiate," offering thoughts on how jobseekers should assess their talents and experiences as potential solutions to the challenges they face in an organization or when preparing for an interview.

Workshops are held in the meeting room located in the lower church. The workshops are free and open to anyone seeking employment or anticipating unemployment. Attendees do not have to be members of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish. Light refreshments will be served at the meeting. Call Carol Shea at (201) 447-4215 for details. Those planning to participate in the workshop are asked to bring their most recent resume.

Ed McCabe, a senior placement professional, leads the workshops and covers such topics as resume writing and networking. The aim of the ministry, which began hosting career workshops at the parish six years ago, is to provide information, support and prayerful assistance for anyone seeking employment or considering a career change.

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.

God provides hope, pope writes in new encyclical

BY JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—In an encyclical on Christian hope, Pope Benedict XVI said that, without faith in God, humanity lies at the mercy of ideologies that can lead to “the greatest forms of cruelty and violations of justice.”

The pope warned that the modern age has replaced belief in eternal salvation with faith in progress and technology, which offer opportunities for good but also open up “appalling possibilities for evil.”

“Let us put it very simply: Man needs God, otherwise he remains without hope,” he said in the encyclical, *Spe Salvi* (“On Christian Hope”), released Nov. 30.

The text explored the essential connection between faith and hope in early Christianity and addressed what it called a “crisis of Christian hope” in modern times. He worked on the text over the summer during his stay in the Italian mountains and at his villa outside Rome.

In commenting on the Holy Father’s encyclical, Most Rev. John J. Myers, Archbishop of Newark, said, “I was struck by the clarity and simplicity of Pope Benedict’s presentation of this most basic element of our faith—the hope of redemption. His words remind us that through Jesus we are transformed both in this earthly life and into eternal life. All of us, as people of God, share in this hope, which moves us together to work through the sufferings and challenges we face to bring about productivity, justice, peace and goodness for everyone.”

The encyclical critiqued philosophical rationalism and Marxism and offered brief but powerful profiles of Christian saints—ancient and modern—who embodied hope, even in the face of suffering.

The encyclical also included a criticism of contemporary Christianity, saying it has largely limited its attention to individual salvation instead of the wider world, and thus reduced the “horizon of its hope.”

“As Christians we should never limit ourselves to asking: How can I save myself? We should also ask: What can I do in order that others may be saved?” it said.

The pope said the essential aspect of Christian hope is trust in eternal salvation brought by Christ. In contrast with followers of mythology and pagan gods, early Christians had a future and could trust that their lives would not end in emptiness, he said.

Yet today the idea of “eternal life” frightens many people and strikes them as a monotonous or even unbearable existence, the pope said. It is important, he said, to understand that eternity is “not an unending succession of days in the calendar, but something more like the supreme moment of satisfaction.”

“It would be like plunging into the ocean of infinite love, a moment in which time—the before and after—no longer exists,” he said. This is how to understand the object of Christian hope, he said.

The encyclical’s main section examined how the emphasis on reason and freedom—embodied in the French Revolution and the rise of communism—sought to displace Christian hope. Redemption was seen as possible through science and political programs, and religious faith was dismissed as irrelevant and relegated to a private sphere.

While praising Karl Marx for his great analytical skill, the pope said Marx made a fundamental error in forgetting that human freedom always includes “freedom for evil,” which is not neutralized by social structures.

In the same way, the pope said, those who believe man can be “redeemed” through science and technological advances are mistaken. “Science can contribute greatly to making the world and mankind more human. Yet it can also destroy mankind and the world unless it

is steered by forces that lie outside it,” he said.

The pope said that while Christians have a responsibility to work for justice, the hope of building a perfect world here and now is illusory. Hopes for this world cannot by themselves sustain one’s faith, he said.

“We need the greater and lesser hopes that keep us going day by day. But these are not enough without the great hope, which must surpass everything else. This great hope can only be God,” he said.

The second half of the encyclical discussed how Christian hope can be learned and practiced—particularly through prayer, acceptance of suffering and anticipation of divine judgment.

The pope called prayer a “school of hope” and as an example he held out the late Vietnamese Cardinal Francois Nguyen Van Thuan, who spent 13 years in prison, nine of them in solitary confinement.

In this “situation of seemingly utter hopelessness,” the fact that he could still listen and speak to God gave him an increasing power of hope, the pope said.

He emphasized that prayer should not be isolating and should not focus on superficial objectives. Nor can people pray against others, he said.

“To pray is not to step outside history and withdraw to our own private corner of happiness,” he said. “When we pray properly we undergo a process of inner purification which opens us up to God and thus to our fellow human beings as well.”

Suffering is part of human existence, and the sufferings of the innocent appear to be increasing today, the pope said.

He said Christians should do whatever they can to reduce pain and distress.

Yet suffering cannot be banished from this world, and trying to avoid anything that might involve hurt can lead to a life of emptiness, he said. Instead,

Christians are called to suffer with and for others, and their capacity to do so depends on their strength of inner hope.

The saints were able to make the great journey of human existence in the way that Christ had done before them, “because they were brimming with great hope.”

The pope recalled that in the not-too-distant past, many Christians would “offer up” to Christ their minor daily disappointments and hardships. Perhaps that practice should be revived, he said.

The pope said the idea of judgment—specifically the Last Judgment of the living and the dead—touched strongly on Christian hope because it promises justice. “I am convinced that the question of justice constitutes the essential argument, or in any case the strongest argument, in favor of faith in eternal life.” It is impossible for the Christian to believe that the injustices of his-



CNS photo

Pope Benedict XVI signs his encyclical, *Spe Salvi* (“On Christian Hope”), at the Vatican Nov. 30. Archbishop Fernando Filoni, Vatican assistant secretary of state, is standing at right. This was the pope’s second encyclical and followed his 2006 meditation on Christian love, *Deus Caritas Est* (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Feb. 8, 2006).

tory will be the final word, he said.

The Last Judgment should not evoke terror, however, but a sense of responsibility, the pope said. It is a moment of hope, because it combines God’s justice and God’s grace, but “grace does not cancel out justice. (Grace) is not a sponge which wipes everything away, so that whatever someone has done on earth ends up being of equal value. Evil-doers, in the end, do not sit at table at the eternal banquet beside their victims without distinction, as though nothing had happened.”

The pope said the idea of purgatory, as a place of atonement for sins, also has a place in the logic of Christian hope. Heaven is for the “utterly pure” and hell for those who have destroyed all desire for truth and love, but “neither case is normal in human life.” Thus, the souls of many departed may benefit from prayers, he said.

The pope began and ended his encyclical with profiles of two women who exemplified Christian hope. The closing pages praised Mary for never losing hope, even in the darkness of Jesus’ crucifixion.

A snapshot of key thoughts, themes

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Here at a glance are the main points of Pope Benedict XVI’s encyclical, “*Spe Salvi*” (“On Christian Hope”), released Nov. 30:

- Jesus Christ brought humanity the gift of a “trustworthy hope” in salvation and eternal life, a hope that is directly connected with faith.
- In the contemporary world, however, religious faith has been replaced with faith in progress and technology, provoking a “crisis of Christian hope.”
- Ideologies like Marxism tried to do without religion and create a perfect society through political structures. Instead, this led to the “greatest forms of cruelty,” proving that “a world which has to create its own justice is a world without hope.”
- Some have placed their hope in the mistaken belief that man could be redeemed through science, but science can destroy the world unless it is guided by religious values.
- Christianity cannot limit its attention to the individual and his salvation; Christianity’s transforming role includes the wider society.

Two communities prepare for ‘a wonderful journey’

BY MELISSA MCNALLY
Staff Writer

The mission of Saint Joseph in Demarest was taken over by the Carmelite Fathers of Englewood in 1907. The mission, originally known as St. Rocco, was organized in 1894 to meet the religious needs of the Palumbo family who lived on Insley Street.

Theodore Palumbo was an officer of a land company that owned the building used as the church. The company also provided a house next door to the church building that became the school and convent. For some

prompted the pastor to give up his leadership position, Bishop John J. O'Connor placed the Carmelites in charge of the small mission.

The sponsors of the first foundation, Palumbo and his company, sold the property to “The Franklin Society for Home Building and Savings.” Vincent P. Tursi purchased the buildings in May of 1905 and converted the school into a two-family house. The other building continued to be used as the church for a rental fee of \$6 a month

from there. However, priests also resided at the Englewood rectory of St. Cecilia Parish. After St. Mary Parish in Closter obtained a rectory, the priest for St. Joseph Parish resided in Englewood.

Father Walter Poynton served the parish of St. Joseph’s from 1946-1951. In 1948, a rectory was purchased and he became the first resident pastor of the parish, which was increasing in numbers following World War II. The new rectory was a large home, previously owned by the

church itself, designed by George Vinovitch of Englewood Cliffs, was the first in the archdiocese to have a radiant heating system.

The stained glass windows were designed by Cloister Studios of Englewood. On the south side of the nave, the windows depict Carmelite saints and those on the north side are dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

Father Fitzgerald celebrated the last Mass at the old St. Joseph Parish in December 1953. The first Mass in the new church was celebrated at midnight, Christmas Eve of 1953 with a full church. The dedication of the new church was celebrated in January 1954 by Archbishop Thomas A. Boland.

By 1954, the Westervelt-Meyerhoff house—built in 1723 and the oldest home in Demarest—was purchased and used as a rectory. In 1965, a modern brick convent, designed by local architect, Jerry Oakley, was constructed for the Felician Sisters, who were serving the parochial school. In 1982, under the direction of Father Dan Smith and assistant Father Dan O'Neill, the church underwent a major renovation. During this time masses were held in the Demarest Middle School cafeteria. Twenty-one years ago the Sisters departed and the priests moved from the old rectory into the convent. Today, the building serves not only as a rectory, but also houses various parish offices and a small chapel.

Father James T. Brown, the administrator of St. Joseph Parish for 18 months, hopes to usher in more changes to the constantly evolving parish. “At this time St. Joseph and St. Joseph’s Korean Parishes are exploring the possibility of uniting,” Father Brown said. “We are currently looking to adjust the Sunday Mass schedule to allow St. Joseph Korean Parish a more reasonable Mass time. This is an exciting time in our parish’s life.”

Bringing the two communities together is a way to enhance the faith community in Demarest, Father Brown believes. “God has brought these two communities to Demarest and placed them side by side for the past 18 years. Now, together, we are working to embark on a wonderful journey. I believe that each community has many rich treasures to share with each other. With God’s grace and blessings, we will grow and flourish.”



Father James T. Brown
Administrator

Birthday: Aug. 5, 1966
Hometown: White Haven, PA
High School: Crestwood High School, Mountaintop, PA
Seminary: St. Pius X; Dalton, PA
Undergraduate: University of Scranton
Graduate School: Mary Immaculate Seminary; Northampton, PA
Immaculate Conception Seminary, Seton Hall University
Ordination: May 24, 1997
Hero: Pope John Paul II
Favorite Saint: St. Paul
Favorite Food: Red beet soup
Favorite Subject in School: Math
Favorite Movie: Newsies
Last Book Read: *Weird New Jersey*, vol. 2
Occupation if I Weren’t a Priest: Accountant

Saint Joseph, Demarest



Submitted photo

St. Joseph Parish is exploring uniting with St. Joseph Korean Parish. The two communities have shared the same church building for 18 years. St. Joseph Parish has 600 registered families is an ethnically diverse congregation that is seeing the beginnings of an influx of young families along with lifelong parishioners. The parish was staffed by the Carmelites until June 2006.

time, this building was known as “the Palumbo Catholic School.”

The first pastor, Father Meyer (his first name is not known) rented one or two rooms from a parishioner.

For a decade, the tiny Catholic community celebrated Mass on Sundays on Insley Street. Once established, the church became the center for Catholic families that were thinly distributed in a wide area, which included the towns of Haworth, Bergen Fields (Bergenfield), Schraalenberg (now Dumont), Closter, Norwood, Alpine and Cresskill.

In 1907 when poor health

until the purchase of the old Harrington Township schoolhouse on Hardenburgh Avenue in 1909. At this time, the new name of St. Joseph was given to the Carmelite Mission. The schoolhouse was renovated and the original furnishings of St. Rocco, including the crucifix, altar, pews and statues were moved to the new Hardenburgh Avenue site.

Father Leopold Wysbeck was the first Carmelite priest to administer at St. Joseph Parish. When a rectory was established in Tenaflly, the mission church of St. Joseph was administered

Palmer family, which occupied the south-east corner on Orchard and County roads. The property extended to Piermont Road. It was a wooded area with a pathway from Piermont Road, leading to a grotto dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

Father Terrence Fitzgerald became the resident pastor in 1951. It was during his pastorate that major changes took place. A new church was built, a new rectory purchased, a school established, a new convent built and property acquired. The new church was built, facing County Road next to the rectory. The

Father Brown is proud of the way his parishioners are committed and involved with parish activities. “The people of St. Joseph’s love their church,” Father Brown said. “They are united in the long-standing parish organizations such as Men’s and Women’s Cornerstone, the Rosary Society and the Holy Name Society which has united them in strong and meaningful ways.”

One of the major changes at St. Joseph Parish is the addition of Joette Vecchione as director of religious education, who Father Brown believes is essential to the communal spirit of the parish. There are about 150 children in the program with 15 teachers.

“(Vecchione) has been a blessing to St. Joseph’s. Of course she could not do it without the wonderful teachers and parents stepping in to help. She is also introducing multidimensional methods into the program in an attempt to captivate the children and keep their attention,” Father Brown explained.

(St. Joseph Parish is located at 280 County Rd, Demarest, 07627.)



STOCKING SUFFER—Liz Weishapl, chairwoman of events for the Auxiliary of Trinitas Hospital, displays samples of the decorative note cards the Auxiliary is selling to raise funds for the hospital, which is based in Elizabeth. Buyers can choose from several standard greetings or can have the cards personalized for gift giving. Contact the auxiliary at (908) 994-8988 for order information.

Submitted photo





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2124 East St. Georges Avenue • Linden, New Jersey 07036-1049
Tel: (908) 352-9190 • Fax: (908) 925-2144

The Krowicki McCracken Funeral Home, located at 2124 East St. Georges Avenue, Linden, has again offered their families a *personalized glass angel keepsake ornament* in memory of their loved one. The deceased's name, date of birth and date of death has been placed on each ornament. The funeral home has sent letters to families that reads as follows: "During Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Baby Jesus, Let us not be sad when reminded of a love one's absence, but celebrate their birth into eternal life."

Our Christmas Tree of Remembrance is dedicated to everyone we have served during the past year and will be displayed in the funeral home during the month of December. We invite our families to come in and accept their ornament. If you would like further information please call us at (908) 352-9190.

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Eucharistic adoration

Continued from page 1

"We began perpetual adoration at St. John's because it was our late pastor's dream for us," Michele Krystofik, a parishioner and the associate director of the arch-

diocesan Respect Life Office, said. Krystofik was referring to Msgr. Richard M. McGuinness, who died Aug. 9, 2006 at the age of 80 (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Aug. 23, 2006).

"Currently, we have over 400 volunteers who have signed up for designated times to adore the Eucharist, and I believe our parish has grown immensely because of it," Krystofik continued. "We have a very active parish and at least two vocations since we began offering adoration. I

believe they stem directly from offering that opportunity for prayer and time with the Lord."

"There is more of a devotion to Mass since we started eucharistic adoration (in 1998)," Msgr. Joseph J. Granato, the pastor of St. Lucy's Parish in Newark said. "Daily Mass attendance has increased and we now offer eight masses each day, with a substantial number of attendees at each one."

The practice of eucharistic adoration dates as far back as the Middle Ages. Believing in the power of the Real Presence exposed to the faithful, monasteries and convents held the Blessed Sacrament in places for viewing apart from Mass and Holy Communion. Pope Clement VIII, before the end of the 16th century, issued a historic document, *Quarant Ore*, which outlined a devotional consisting of 40 hours of continual prayer before the exposed Blessed Sacrament.

"I truly believe that God wishes us to adore His Son in His Real Presence in the Eucharist," said Michael Adriance, a parishioner at St. Joseph's Parish in Bogota, which offers adoration on a daily basis. "I go to adoration to be still. I know that God is greater than every situation in my life. I lay before Jesus all my sinfulness and weakness. I gather so much strength from that."

Cynthia Torres, the organizer of eucharistic adoration at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Ridgewood, agrees. "It's the strength you get to carry on. It's a taste of heaven. For me, one hour is not enough," she said, referencing the hour most spend in Eucharistic adoration in order to fulfill Jesus' request to "Stay awake one hour" in prayer with Him (Matthew 26:40).

The Church continues to hold eucharistic adoration in high regard, supporting its practice in all Catholic Churches around the world. Before his death in 2005, Pope John Paul II wrote that the "Church and the world have great need of eucharistic adoration," adding that "Jesus waits for us in this sacrament of love. Let us be generous with our time in going to meet Him in adoration and contemplation full of faith...may our adoration never cease."

Although many parishes in the archdiocese provide eucharistic adoration on a monthly basis, in conjunction with the First Friday devotion, many now offer it on a daily basis. A handful of those parishes have also begun to offer adoration around the clock, with the Eucharist continually exposed and available to those who wish to worship at any hour



Msgr. Richard M. McGuinness

of the day or night. This ensures that someone is always in prayer before the Holy Eucharist.

Much like St. Lucy's Parish, Our Lady of Mount Carmel also has seen blessings they count as direct results from their offering of eucharistic adoration. "People come from all over and they become parishioners," Torres said. "So many people have a love for the Holy Eucharist."

"There are a great many people who come to the adoration chapel (at St. Joseph's Parish in Bogota)," Adriance observed. "The people I have spoken to are so very grateful to have our Lord present in such a



Msgr. Joseph J. Granato

profound way. Jesus heals wounded souls individually in the chapel, and those increase the health of the 'whole body', the parish."

"It's a very simple thing to do," Torres added. "In adoration, your prayer life is conditioned and when the soul is happy, the body follows. It's important to keep the soul healthy and that will keep the body happy. It's the peace that comes when you know God is there, listening to you. It's a wonderful journey."

(Editor's note: Readers are advised to contact archdiocesan parishes to confirm specific dates and times for the devotion. More information on eucharistic adoration can be found online at www.therealpresence.org).

Students speak up on smoking



Advocate photos - M. Gabriele

NO DOUBT ABOUT THE CLOUT OF A SMOKEOUT—Michael Lia, Eric Messina and Matt Lia (top photo, left to right), juniors at Queen of Peace High School in North Arlington, organized a "Great American Smokeout" demonstration at their school on Nov. 19. Queen of Peace students (bottom photo), during their lunch periods that day, fell to the floor on a whistle signal—a gesture to symbolize that, every 72 seconds, someone in the United States dies from a tobacco-related disease such as lung cancer. Students enthusiastically participated in the event, a project associated with The Lindsey Meyer Teen Institute (Web site: www.lmteeninstitute.org), a statewide leadership-training program for high school students. The three juniors said the project also was designed to offer a faith-based message to young adults regarding the prevention of tobacco, drug and alcohol abuse.

Sister Kathleen marks 50 years in God's service

BAYONNE — Sister Kathleen Reynolds, S.F.P., recently celebrated a 50-year ministry during a Liturgy of Thanksgiving at St. Vincent de Paul Parish.

"I saw the Sisters at work in the hospitals in the Bronx (New York)," Sister Kathleen said, reflecting on what initially attracted her to religious life. "As a young adult,

I visited the Sisters and saw first hand how they took care of the poor. This had a great and lasting influence on me so I decided to go on a retreat in Warwick.

"I hope and pray that we will carry on our ministry of living out the Gospel way of life and continue to touch the lives of the poor as well as many other lives," Sister Kathleen said.

Sister Kathleen attended St. Francis Hospital School of Nursing and received her RN degree in 1975. She also has many professional certifications, including gerontological nursing and clinical pastoral education. During her ministry, she has responded to the healing mission of the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor by serving in nursing, massage therapy and administration.

She ministers as a certified massage therapist at Hoboken University Medical Center and is an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist at St. Vincent de Paul Parish. She also worked as a massage therapist for six years (1999-2005) at the former St. Francis Hospital of the Bon Secours New Jersey Health System, in Jersey City.

Sister Kathleen served as the clinical coordinator at Mount



Submitted photo

Sister Kathleen Reynolds, pictured at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Bayonne, entered the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor on Aug. 15, 1957. She received her spiritual formation at Mount Alverno Convent, Warwick, NY, and made a First Profession of Vows on March 8, 1960 and Perpetual Profession of Vows on Aug. 22, 1965.

Alverno Center for nine years (1986-1995). She also ministered at the former Anthony House in Jersey City for two years (1984-1985) and was head nurse in pediatrics at St. Francis Community Health Center in Jersey City for eight years (1975-1983).

In addition, she served as a nurse at St. Michael's Medical Center, Newark, for two years (1970-1972); the former St.

Francis School of Nursing in Jersey City for three years (1973-1975); and the former St. Francis Community Hospital in Greenville, SC, for three years (1967-1970).

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Advocate photo — M. Gabriele

A TIME TO REFLECT—The second annual "Sons and Daughters of the Light" retreat will be held Jan. 25-27, 2008 at the Archdiocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries and Youth Retreat Center, 499 Belgrove Dr. in Kearny. The event is the culmination of Young Adult Month and is geared for young women and men between the ages of 18 and 39. The retreat will include speaker presentations, praise and worship, music, faith-sharing groups, scriptural rosary and Taizé prayer. Taizé involves meditative, candlelit services that include simple chants sung repeatedly; rich silence; and prayers of praise and intercession. The registration cost to attend the weekend retreat is \$75 per person. Visit the Web site www.newarkoym.org for more information or call Tracey Vieira, associate director of retreats and spirituality, at (201) 998-0088, ext. 4153.

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- 10:10 Private Meditation
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- 11:15 Adoration, Confessions, Benediction
- 12:00 Full Lunch
- 1:00 2nd Conference
- 1:30 Quiet or free time for reflection. Outdoor Stations/Cross
- 2:20 Mass & Final Blessings
- 3:00 Departure



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Workshop to explore 'work you love'

SOUTH ORANGE—The Christian Employment Outreach program of Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology's Institute for Christian Spirituality will sponsor a workshop, "Finding the Work You

Love," on Saturday, Jan. 26, 2008, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at St. Peter the Apostle Parish, 445 Fifth Ave., River Edge.

Julie V. Burkey, the coordinator for the institute's chief executive officer program, will lead the

workshop. Burkey, who holds a Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry degree, has many years of experience assisting major pharmaceutical companies to fill senior-level management positions.

The cost of registration, which

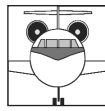
includes lunch, is \$20 per person and payable at the door. Contact Deborah Kurus by phone at (973) 313-6329 or via e-mail at kurusdeb@shu.edu to register. The seminary is located on the campus of Seton Hall University.

The workshop will explore topics such as finding meaningful

work that utilizes our gifts and talents; work as a call to service; work that allows time for God, family and community; and the Catholic theology of work. It will include discussions on the practical aspects of job hunting, networking, making career transitions, and writing resumes.



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RETREAT AT THE SHORE—Members of Knights of Columbus St. John's Council 1345 from the Bergenfield/Dumont area enjoyed a spiritually refreshing weekend at the San Alfonso Retreat House in Long Branch. As in previous years, the members had the honor of being joined by Father John Murray, S.M.A., (front row, center) the group's chaplain and the state Father Prior of the Columbian Squires. Members at the retreat included (front row, left to right): George Olszewski (PGK), Father Murray, John Dillon (PGK) (middle row) George DiCostanzo (PFN, PGK), Bill Hamilton, John Kerner, Warren Kaine, (back row) Tom Ciotti, Tony Tulli, Peter Papa and Tom Trank (PGK).

BETHANY SPIRITUALITY CENTER, NY,



announces the following spring/summer/fall 2008 retreats: **Introduction to Directed Retreat, "Launching Out into the Deep"**, with Bethany staff, March 14-16; **"Aging with Grace"**, with Barbara Metz, SND, and John Burchill, OP, April 20-24; **"Forgiving Love: In the Word, In the World"**, with Sr. Janice Farnham, RJM, and Sr. Rosemary Mangan, RJM, June 8-14; **"Twelve Steps to Inner Freedom; Humility Revisited"**, with Sr. Carolyn Gorny-Kopkowski, OSB, June 16-22; **8-day Directed Retreats**, July 1-9, 12-20, 23-31; **Retiro Predicado**, August 3-10, and **Retreat with Margaret Silf**, September 26-October 3.

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Feb. 29-March 2 Knitting into the Mystery: A Shawl Knitting Retreat Weekend.

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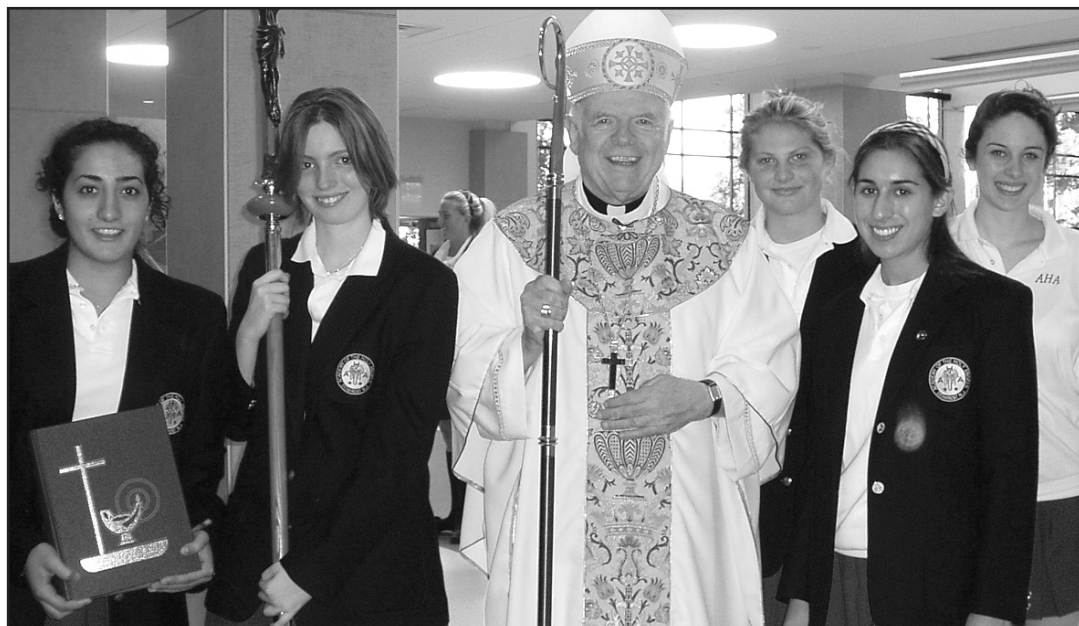
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Presenter: Lainey Rudolph, RN, BSN

March 20-23 Holy Week Retreat

Presenters: Edward Salmon, SJ
and the Linwood Staff.

For Summer Retreats see our website: linwoodspiritualctr.org



Submitted photo

CELEBRATING FEAST DAY—Most Rev. John W. Flesey, S.T.D., D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, visited Academy of the Holy Angels (AHA), Demarest, Oct. 2 to help celebrate the school's annual feast day. The AHA community expresses its unity on feast day and, as the Feast of the Guardian Angels, it's also designated as "Holy Angels Day." The event also pays tribute to the vision of the AHA foundress, Sister Mary Nonna Dunphy, S.S.N.D. Her legacy is reflected in the students who are honored with scholarships in her name.

'Cornerstone Retreat' to offer a weekend for women to reflect

FAIR LAWN—A Women's Cornerstone Retreat will take place Jan. 11-12, 2008, at St. Anne Parish, 15-05 St. Anne St.

The 26-hour weekend retreat begins Friday, Jan. 11, at 7 p.m. and ends Saturday, Jan. 12, at 9 p.m. Participants will be given the opportunity to come together to nurture their spiritual life through reflection, prayer, small discussions groups and liturgy. Women of the parish who have experienced Cornerstone will conduct the retreat.

According to the Web site "Cornerstone Alumni" (www.cornerstonealumni.com) the goal of Cornerstone is for each retreat participant to develop a stronger connection to God. The retreats are gender specific and organized by lay leaders of a parish, however priests and deacons often become involved to provide spiritual guidance.

The purpose of a Cornerstone retreat is to provide Catholics with clarity, purpose and hope on spiritual matters. The Cornerstone con-

cept involves sharing life stories to understand how God works through the lives of people. Participants often join teams and form small Christian communities to continue their spiritual growth.

There is a suggested offering of \$50 to attend the retreat. Contact Donna by phone at (201) 791-1616 or via e-mail: dstickna@hotmail.com for details.

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Dominican Sisters list schedule of pilgrimages

CALDWELL—The Caldwell Dominican Sisters are organizing European pilgrimages and retreats for 2008 and 2009. The retreats are geared for Dominicans, Dominican associates and lay people who have a connection with or experience of Dominican spirituality and feature a variety of venues and themes.

Since 1996, Dominicans have traveled to the south of France to where St. Dominic preached and envisioned the beginnings of the Dominican Order. A congregation of French Dominican Sisters owns a guesthouse in the small village where St. Dominic lived and invited their American counterparts to visit for a retreat and associated spiritual programs. Over 300 Sisters, friars and lay associates have benefited over the past 11 years from this experience of prayer and renewal in the spirit of St. Dominic.

The upcoming dates for next year are a three-week pilgrimage June 2-23 and a two-week pilgrimage June 15-30. For additional information on any retreat or pilgrimage call Sister Peggy Ryan, O.P., at (973) 403-3331, ext. 46. While most retreats already are filled for 2008, registrations are being accepted for retreats in 2009.

A new retreat "Praying with Catherine of Siena in Tuscany," will take place in the summer of 2008. It will provide Dominicans with the time to prayerfully reflect on the saint's lived theology.

Lodging will be in Florence, Italy, with trips to Siena and other locales connected with the life of St. Catherine. Sister Mary O'Driscoll, O.P., who has written several books on the life of St. Catherine, will present the conferences.

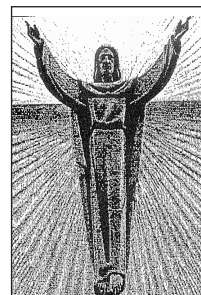
Other retreats include Fanjeaux, France, the birthplace of the Dominican Order; "The Lands of Dominic, a pilgrimage of study, prayer and community."

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SMILING SCHOLARS—Students from St. Therese of Lisieux School, Cresskill, proudly displayed their third-place trophy, which they won at the "Academic Olympics" on Oct. 18, sponsored by St. Joseph Regional High School, Montvale. The students captured first and third place in mathematics and art, second place in science and third place in social studies. Sister Helene Byrne is the principal of St. Therese of Lisieux.

Volunteer efforts garner Prudential Spirit honors

ROSELLE—Ellen Salmi, a senior honor student at Roselle Catholic High School, has been named a "volunteer of the year" in the nationwide Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program.

Sponsored by Prudential Financial and the National Association of Secondary School Principals (Web site: www.prudential.com/spirit), the award, created in 1995, recognizes outstanding community service by young people. During the last 12 years, the program has honored more than 75,000 young volunteers at the local, state and national level.

Salmi is now eligible to be one of two state honorees who will be selected in February and receive \$1,000, a silver medallion and a trip to Washington, D.C.

A total of 10 national honorees will be named in the nation's capital. Each will receive a \$5,000 award, a gold medallion, a crystal trophy for their school and a \$5,000 grant from the Prudential Foundation for a nonprofit charitable organization of the recipient's choice.

The Roselle Catholic High School student received the community service award in conjunction with the Girl Scouts of America Gold Award—the highest achievement in Scouting. She coordinated a project to revamp the school's homeless outreach program known as "Bridges."

Brother Owen Ormsby, F.M.S., the principal of Roselle Catholic High School, speaking at a recent ceremony honoring Salmi, praised the student for her "outstanding endeavor."

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Welfare

Continued from page 1

this income level is well below what is needed to meet basic needs. A single adult on welfare receives \$140 per month in cash assistance even though the Federal Poverty Threshold is \$874 per month and the real cost of living is estimated at \$1,783.

The APN argues that other public assistance programs, such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Unemployment Insurance, have annual cost-of-living increases and have adjusted grant levels for inflation, but welfare has not had in increase in 20 years.

One common misconception is that people on welfare are not working and are comfortable coasting on money provided by the government, according to Furlani. In fact, Work First New Jersey—the state’s welfare reform program operating under the Department of Human Services—requires all adults receiving cash assistance participate in a work activity for 35 hours per week.

Furlani has had first-hand knowledge of the flaws in the welfare system through her friendship with a young woman who volunteers in her office for the “Welfare to Work” program. “She is a single mother with three young children and I have gotten to know her,” Furlani explained. “I see how hard she works and yet still has so little money. Because of the family cap on welfare in the state, she can’t receive more money.”

Another misconception of those on welfare is that the government helps with their housing

costs, so an increase in welfare grants is not needed. In fact, in order to receive emergency housing assistance, participants must be homeless or in imminent danger of becoming homeless. Those who receive housing assistance can only receive help for a limited time and their benefit amount is cut by 65 percent.

While on welfare, the young woman befriended by Furlani had another child. However, the Work First New Jersey program does not give even the smallest cash-grant increase because of New Jersey’s “family cap” rule.

“Having a friendship with this young woman has deepened my commitment to people who are poor,” Furlani said, lamenting that a sense of hopelessness often can overtake those on welfare. “People



Kay Furlani

that think people on welfare are not trying to do better are way off base. The Church calls us to be in solidarity for the poor. Poor people don’t need or want our pity. They welcome our friendship. Being in solidarity with the poor is essential to our faith.”

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J.K.

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.

M.S.

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.S.

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T.G.

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Feeling spiritually empty and exhausted on Dec. 26

Two weeks before Thanksgiving I decided to visit several shopping malls. I needed a few birthday gifts.

To my amazement I found the stores fully decorated for Christmas. There were colorful displays. There were lights and music. I traveled from one end of the malls to the other. Sales people stood at attention everywhere.

I passed through Bloomingdales and was astounded to see the prices charged for goods. A piece of cloth, for example, made into a light sweater is marked at four hundred dollars. I saw a huge display of Christmas goods and heard the holiday sounds from music and bells.

The one thing I did not see was the name or image of Jesus. Nowhere was there a hymn of praise to the one person whose birthday gave rise to this feast.

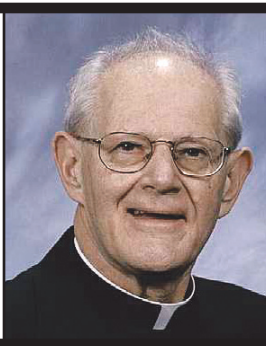
I have had 78 years on this planet. I have been able to witness a huge subversion of Christianity occur in my lifetime. The Russian Communists at least were open and blatant about their method and purpose. They wanted to replace a religious holiday with a secular feast. They did so.

In America, however, the transition has been far more subtle and far more effective. The masses of Christians have been anesthetized by a slow process of change that involved com-

The secularists have driven Jesus from the public school, from the market place, from the civic center and finally from the celebration of His own feast day.

Voices

By Rev. Msgr. John Gilchrist



mercial and secular forces. They have never fully realized what was happening to their religious holiday.

Saint Nicholas became the mythical Santa Claus. Imaginary reindeer and elves took the place of the animals at the manger. The Virgin Mary has become invisible as models wearing designer clothes have eclipsed her image. The Christ Child has all but disappeared from view.

In the place of hymns of praise we hear the crooning of "White Christmas," "I'll Be Home for Christmas," "Have a Holly, Jolly Christmas," "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," "Jingle Bell Rock," and "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus."

Friends, face the fact: We have two holidays going on at one time. The secularists have driven Jesus from the public school, from the market place, from the civic center and finally from the celebration of His own feast day. If we make the mistake of entering totally into the frenzy of gift buying and of the senseless empty rituals of organized merry making, we shall arrive at Dec. 26th empty and exhausted, with no spiritual benefit to our souls. It will have been like a meal of whipped cream—sweet and frothy with no substance.

The only true Christmas celebration is one that centers upon the Christ Child and upon all that His incarnation means for us personally, for our loved ones, and for the world. The Incarnation of the Divine upon the earth is, yes, beyond the comprehension of our intellect. But at the Holy Liturgy, we can truly experience the reality of God's presence. While kneeling at the manger, with children around us, we can be the recipients of a true gift—the realization of how much God loves us. The infinite Word became man out of pure love.

So come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord. Abandon the other Christmas—the secular one. You will have lost nothing. It is all illusionary anyway. Secular Christmas, to quote Shakespeare, is a "tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing." It is all an empty show.

Christ's Mass, on the other hand, can bring us a glow that will last until eternity dawns and we are home with God forever. Then we will hear the angelic concert in person and up front.

(Rev. Msgr. Gilchrist is pastor emeritus of Holy Cross Parish, Harrison.)

Recalling convictions of a 'very serious Catholic'

Several years ago, I asked my friend, Cardinal Christoph Schoenborn of Vienna, what he thought about the delays in the beatification process for Franz Jaegerstaetter, the Austrian peasant beheaded for refusing to serve under arms in Hitler's Wehrmacht (the unified armed forces of Germany).

Cardinal Schoenborn is a theologian of no small accomplishment. He's also a man of deep piety, which his answer to my query reflected: "I'm already praying to him."

A little relieved, I confessed that I, too, had jumped the canonical gun and had been praying to a man whom, like the cardinal, I regarded as a martyr; indeed, as one of the singular figures of Catholicism in the 20th century.

So it was a great satisfaction on Oct. 26 when the official Church caught up with us, so to speak, and Franz Jaegerstaetter was beatified in Linz, Austria.

Very few people would have imagined the young Franz as a saint. He was a hellion and it was only after his marriage to Franziska Schwaninger and a honeymoon pilgrimage to Rome that this largely uneducated peasant-worker was transformed by grace into serious Catholic—a very serious Catholic.

Jaegerstaetter was a daily communicant in an era when that was far more unusual than today; he became a Third Order Franciscan; he read closely in the Scriptures and the lives of the saints; he fasted, did acts of penance, gave generously to the poor, and served as volunteer sacristan of his local parish.

When Hitler's 1938 Anschluss led to Austria's incorporation into the Third Reich, Jaegerstaetter, alone in his village, protested. Too many Austrian Catholics welcomed the new order with enthusiasm, voting in large numbers for incorporation into Nazi Germany. Jaegerstaetter (according to that distin-

The Catholic Difference

by George Weigel



guished amateur historian, William Doino Jr.) wrote that "what took place in the spring of 1938 was not much different from what happened that Holy Thursday 1,900 years ago when the crowd was given a free choice between the innocent Savior and the criminal Barabbas."

Franz Jaegerstaetter's own trial came soon enough. Called to military service in 1943, he refused induction, not on pacifist grounds (he wasn't a pacifist), but on the basis of what we would now call selective conscientious objection: Hitler's war was an unjust war being waged by a fatally wicked regime; therefore, conscience would not permit serving as a soldier in the Wehrmacht.

His pastor and bishop tried to talk him out of his objections; his responsibilities to his wife and family weighed heavily on him; his offer to serve as a military paramedic was refused by the Nazi regime.

In a prison cell in Berlin, Jaegerstaetter suffered

intensely at the thought that he might be acting irresponsibly toward his family. But as he wrote his wife on the day of his execution: "It was not possible for me to spare you the pain that you must now suffer on my account. How hard it must have been for our dear Savior when, through His sufferings and death, He had to prepare such a great sorrow for His Mother; and they bore all this out of love for us sinners. I thank our dear Jesus, too, that I am privileged to suffer and even die for Him. May God accept my life in atonement not only for my sins but for the sins of others as well."

Franz Jaegerstaetter was executed by guillotine on Aug. 9, 1943—one year to the day after Edith Stein, now St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, died in the gas chambers of Auschwitz/Birkenau. The brilliant

Carmelite philosopher and the simple Austrian peasant shared an unshakeable faith that, as Blessed Franz put it, "neither prison nor chains nor sentence of death can separate (us) from the love of God...(for) the power of God cannot be overcome."

Given the life-and-death choice between what Dietrich Bonhoeffer (the Lutheran martyr executed by the Nazis in 1945) called "cheap grace" and "costly grace," Edith Stein and Franz Jaegerstaetter embraced the costly grace of the Cross and now share the glory of the resurrection.

May their intercession at the throne of grace be a powerful aid in the new evangelization of the German-speaking world.

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

Neither prison nor chains nor sentence of death can separate (us) from the love of God.'



Missionaries of Charity sisters gather for a special prayer in Calcutta, India, on the 10th anniversary of Blessed Mother Teresa's death. Mother Teresa founded the Missionaries of Charity in 1950. The order now has a worldwide presence serving those who suffer, including the homeless, the dying and AIDS victims. World AIDS Day is observed Dec. 1 annually.

CNS photo

Pope calls for more compassion to ease plight of AIDS victims

BY CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Benedict XVI offered his prayers for the families of the estimated 2.1 million people who have died of AIDS this year, and he asked all people to work to end discrimination against those living with AIDS and HIV.

At the end of his Nov. 28 general audience, the pope spoke about the Dec. 1 commemoration of World AIDS Day. "I am spiritually close to those who suffer because of this terrible disease and their families, especially those who have lost a relative," he said. "I assure all of them of my prayers."

In addition, I want to exhort all people of good will to multiply their efforts to stop the spread of the HIV virus, to oppose the scorn which often strikes those who are afflicted with it and to take care of the sick, especially when they are still youngsters," the pope said.

Parishes in the Archdiocese of Newark, as part of the observance of World AIDS Day,

marked AIDS Compassion Sunday on Dec. 2 with masses and programs (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Nov. 21).

In Westfield, the AIDS ministries of Holy Trinity and St. Helen parishes conducted a raffle to benefit 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. Msgr. Joseph P. Masiello, V.F., is the pastor of Holy Trinity, while Msgr. William C. Harms serves as pastor of St. Helen.

According to figures released Nov. 20 by UNAIDS, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, "global HIV prevalence (the percentage of people living

with HIV) has leveled off" and the number of new infections each year has fallen. UNAIDS (Web site: www.unaids.org/en) estimated that in 2007 about 33.2 million people were living with HIV, 2.5 million became infected and 2.1 million died of AIDS. Sub-Saharan Africa remains the region most affected, with an estimated 22.5 million people infected, it said.

"The number of new HIV infections per year is now estimated to have peaked in the late 1990s," UNAIDS said, reflecting "natural trends in the epidemic" as well as greater HIV prevention efforts.

The UNAIDS data estimated that 2.5 million children under the age of 15 were living with HIV/AIDS, including 420,000 children who contracted the virus in 2007.

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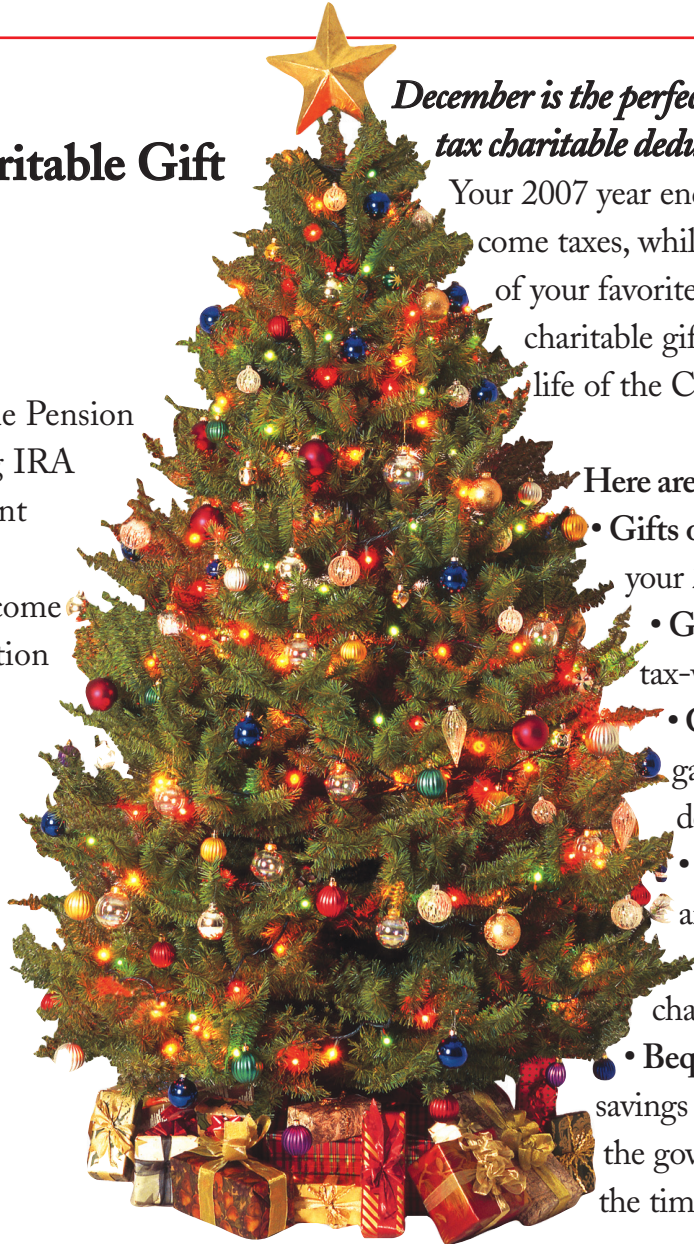
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