

AAA 2007



Catholic Cemeteries



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The Catholic Advocate



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CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

December 19, 2007



Mary cradling the infant Jesus as depicted in a 17th-century painting by Carlo Maratta.

(CNS photo from Art Resource, Erich Lessing)



Mary and the Christ Child appear in this fragment from a larger 16th-century piece by Bernardino Luini.

(CNS photo from Art Resource, Erich Lessing)

Mary, Joseph and shepherds admire the infant Jesus in a contemporary painting of the Nativity by Sister Lucy Serna, a Sister of the Sacred Heart teaching in Guadalajara, Mexico.

(CNS photo by Cathy Joyce, Catholic Lantern)



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FREQUENCY FOR THE YEAR
The Catholic Advocate continues to be a bi-weekly publication. Publication dates for 2008 are: January 9, 23; February 6, 20; March 5, 19; April 9, 23; May 7, 21; June 4, 18; July 16; August 13, 27; September 10, 24; October 15, 29; November 12, 26; December 10, 24.



Members of the St. Elizabeth of Hungary Knights of Columbus Council 13678 collected donations from parishioners to send "care packages" to U.S. soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. Some of the Knights, pictured here, say "thank you" to those who contributed to the effort. The group includes (front row, left to right) Michael Pane, Joe DeVita, grand knight and Rev. Msgr. Donald E. Guenther, pastor of St. Elizabeth Parish and chaplain of the Knights of Columbus Council; (back row) Richard Ciolli, Tom Kopp and Tom Kelly.

Long-distance generosity of Knights brings cheer to troops in Middle East

Council 13678 sends joy from Wyckoff parish

BY MELISSA MCNALLY
Staff Writer

WYCKOFF—The spirit of giving this Christmas season not only abounds in the Archdiocese of Newark, but with the help of the Knights of Columbus Council 13678, it extends to U.S. soldiers thousands of miles away in Iraq and Afghanistan.

For the past three years, the St. Elizabeth of Hungary Knights of Columbus has sent "care packages" to troops bravely serving our country overseas. Since the program's inception, Council 13678 has raised almost \$30,000 through the generosity of parishioners and the Knights of St. Elizabeth Parish.

Over 45 large boxes were shipped on Nov. 29 and divided between the 82nd Airborne Division of the 2-319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment (AFAR) in Iraq and Joint Task Force Paladin in

Afghanistan. To date, 1,000 packages have been sent overseas by Council 13678.

Joe DeVita, grand knight of Council 13678, led the group in organizing the effort and packaging the boxes. Each contained various items such as pre-paid phone cards, hot chocolate, Christmas cookies and snacks, socks, personal hygiene products and small containers of Tylenol and other pain relievers. Joint Task Force Paladin also requested pens, pencils, writing pads and coloring books for the children who attend schools they are trying to rebuild in Afghanistan. Each package costs approximately \$139, including shipping, to send to a soldier.

"The Knights of Columbus does all of the collection, purchasing and shipping. The money comes from parishioner donations and the Knights as well," DeVita explained. A collection box at the entrance of the church became filled with donations. Rev. Msgr. Donald E. Guenther, pastor of St. Elizabeth Parish and chaplain of the Knights of Columbus Council, continues to be impressed with parishioners' willingness to fund the effort. "The generosity of St. Elizabeth's is incredible and this annual (Knights of Columbus) appeal is another example of our commitment to helping and serving others.

The parish continues to demonstrate the actions of stewardship of time, talent and treasure in so many ways," he said.

Sending packages to the troops is the least he can do, DeVita said, for the men and women who are defending our country. He has a personal connection with the armed forces; his son was in the Army and has been home four years. "I hope the packages send the message that (the soldiers) are remembered and we are grateful that they are serving us," he explained.

Along with the Christmas packages, the Knights also donate money annually (usually in the winter/spring) to two Bergen County Marines injured in combat. In early November, one of Marines who received the collection—Sgt. Frank Delgado of Englewood—came back to St. Elizabeth Parish to thank the parishioners.

"This year was a tremendous response from parishioners and I think it was because of Sgt. Delgado," DeVita said. "He wanted to have a career in the military, but was medically discharged from the Marines after being injured. The Knights donated to him at a rough time (in his life) while he was recuperating. Now he has a job in Washington D.C. with the Pentagon."

Continued on page 20

Will 2007 mark end of stem-cell wars?

WASHINGTON (CNS)—This year may come to be remembered as the beginning of the end for the debate over embryonic versus adult stem cells.

In November, separate stud-

ies from teams in Japan and the United States showed that human skin cells can be reprogrammed to work as effectively as embryonic stem cells, thus negating the need to destroy

embryos in the name of science.

"I do not know if those who have invested money and passed laws precisely to allow this (embryonic stem-cell research) will be able to recognize their error and turn back, but at least the scientists who want to achieve results will

go looking where they have been proven to be found," said Bishop Elio Sgreccia, president of the Pontifical Academy for Life, in a Vatican Radio interview.

Some scientists have long touted embryos as the only source of stem cells capable of becoming any of the 220 types of cells in the human body, but Church leaders have said no possible scientific advance could justify the destruction of human embryos.

Even the most sacred things, "like the human body, temple of the God of love and life," have been turned into objects of consumption, he said before praying the noonday Angelus Dec. 8—the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

"Adolescents, young people, even young children are easy victims of the corruption of love, deceived by unscrupulous adults who, by lying to them and themselves, lure them down the dead-end roads of consumerism," he said to pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square.

New book weighs reform conflicts

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—In a new book, a Vatican archbishop has chronicled the birth pangs of the liturgical reform generated by the Second Vatican Council and warned of a Roman Curia tendency to return to a "preconciliar mindset."

The book, *A Challenging Reform*, was written by Archbishop Piero Marini, who recently ended a 20-year tenure as papal liturgist. His Vatican career began in 1965 in the office charged with implementing liturgical renewal.

Archbishop Marini recounted the rise of a decentralized and dynamic reform movement in the 1960s and its "curialization" in the 1970s by Vatican officials afraid of losing control. Many of the hard-won liturgical changes were accompanied by tensions and disagreements inside the Vatican's central bureaucracy, he said.

Relations improve for China, Vatican

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—In many ways, 2007 was a watershed year for relations between the Vatican and China, with signs of hope springing up amid chronic tensions.

Pope Benedict XVI wrote a long letter to Chinese Catholics, new bishops were appointed with Chinese and papal approval, Vatican officials made fresh diplomatic overtures and the Church joined others in looking ahead to next year's Olympics in Beijing.

The pope set the stage for new developments in January when he convened a two-day meeting to discuss the problems of the Church in China. There was a sense among many participants that after decades of harsh persecution of Catholics loyal to the Vatican, China's communist government was relaxing its stance.

To make the most of that opportunity, the Vatican announced the pope was preparing a personal letter to the Chinese Catholic community. After much internal discussion and revision, the 55-page letter was published June 30 and it was immediately clear that this was a landmark document.

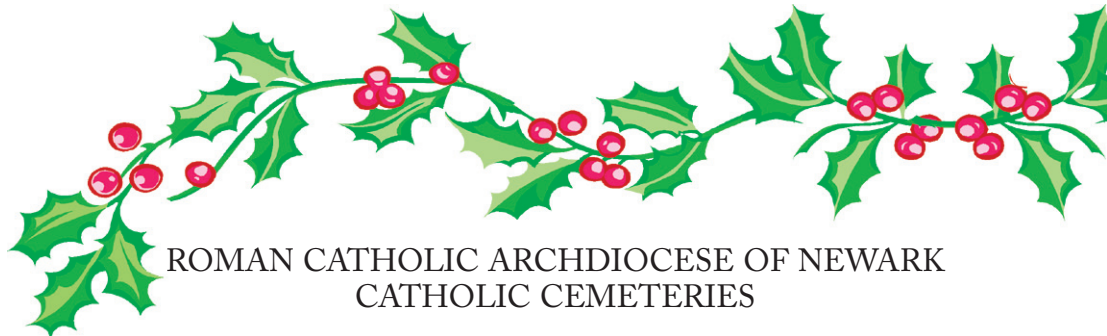
Pope chides adults who abuse children

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Lamenting the climate of consumerism and materialism in today's world, Pope Benedict XVI criticized "unscrupulous adults" who victimize children through sexual abuse and prostitution.



CNS photo

The "Women in White," female relatives of Cuban political prisoners, stand outside a church after attending Mass in Havana Dec. 9. The women marched to Cuba's National Assembly and exchanged shouts with government supporters. Dec. 10 is International Human Rights Day and the group said the protest was a prelude to other activities to draw attention to human-rights abuses by Cuba's government.



ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK
CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

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*Saturday, December 1st thru Saturday,
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(wonderful gifts that cannot be repaid)

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THE JESUIT COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

Diaconate gathering places emphasis on service, Eucharist

BY WARD MIELE
Managing Editor

SOUTH ORANGE — The spiritual bond among members of the permanent diaconate in the Archdiocese of Newark deepened last month during their first convocation in 15 years.

Held Nov. 3 at Seton Hall University (SHU), the all-day gathering of deacons and their wives featured guest speakers, prayer and celebration of the Eucharist. Most Rev. Edgar da Cunha, Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, served as the main celebrant.

Deacon John J. McKenna, director of deacon personnel for the archdiocese, called the convocation an opportunity for the deacons to "share their experiences as a community, renew friendships,

pray and celebrate the Eucharist together. This (the convocation) was something we felt we had to do. The importance of a deacon's every action in the celebration of the Eucharist," was highlighted, Deacon McKenna said.

Along with his role with the diaconate, Deacon McKenna serves as the executive director of human resources/risk management for the Archdiocese of Newark.

The current 35-member formation class will be ordained in 2011. The Archdiocese of Newark currently has 200 active permanent deacons.

Archbishop Peter L. Gerety ordained the first class of permanent deacons in the archdiocese (77 men) in 1975. Ministries for deacons include aid for the homeless,

Continued on page 19



Submitted photo

Most Rev. Edgar da Cunha (left), Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, celebrates Mass for the archdiocesan permanent deacons and their wives at the Nov. 3 convocation. Concelebrants included (left to right) Deacon John Tobin and Father John J. Hughes. Father Hughes, who hails from the Diocese of St. Louis, served as the keynote speaker for the event and discussed the critical role played by deacons in the life of the Church and the celebration of Mass.

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Official Appointments

Archbishop John J. Myers has announced the following appointments:



ARCHDIOCESAN AGENCY/MINISTRY

Reverend Monsignor Joseph R. Reilly, Rector of the College Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, St. Andrew's Hall, South Orange, has been reappointed to a second six-year term, effective Jan. 1, 2008.

PASTOR

Reverend Monsignor Sean Cunneen has been appointed pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Scotch Plains, effective Feb. 1, 2008.

Reverend William P. Sheridan, Campus Minister at Ramapo College, Mahwah, has also been appointed pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Mahwah, effective Feb. 1, 2008.

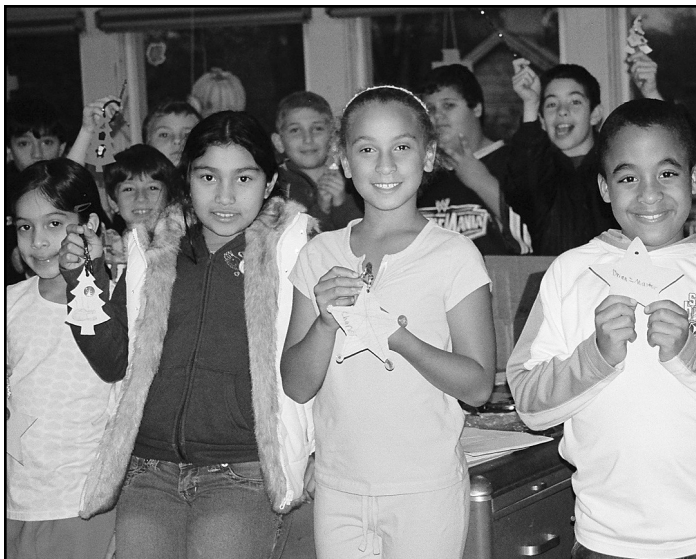
RETIREMENT

Reverend Kevin P. Ashe, executive director of the Park Performing Arts Center, Union City, has been granted retirement, effective Feb. 1, 2008.

Reverend John P. Holian, Chaplain of Overlook Hospital, Summit, has been granted retirement, effective Feb. 1, 2008.

Reverend John F. Kennedy, Pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Scotch Plains, has been granted retirement, effective Feb. 1, 2008.

Reverend John P. Ryan, Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Mahwah, has been granted retirement, effective Feb. 1, 2008.



Submitted photo

GIVING TREE—Fourth grade members of the religious education program at St. Mary School, Rahway, proudly displaying their construction paper ornaments for the parish's Advent giving tree.

Forum eyes 'journey to Jesus'

ORANGE—Steve Trombecky, founder of The Sons and Daughters of St. Joseph, will speak on Sunday, Jan. 6, from 2-3 p.m. at Our Lady of the Valley Parish, 510 Valley Rd.

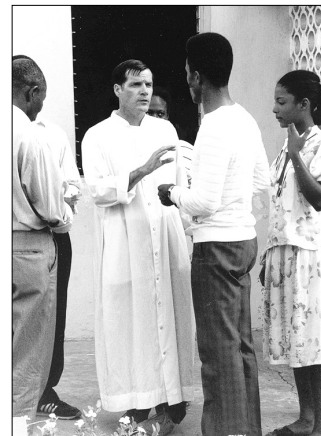
Trombecky will address the topic "How Far Would You Journey to Search for the Baby Jesus? How Much Would You Give to Follow Jesus?"

Born to a Catholic father and Jewish mother, Trombecky was raised in the Jewish faith. At the age of 24 he left Judaism and studied Buddhism for two years. Ultimately he was baptized in the Catholic Church.

Call the rectory at (973) 674-7500 or visit the Web site www.olvcorange.org for additional information on the program.

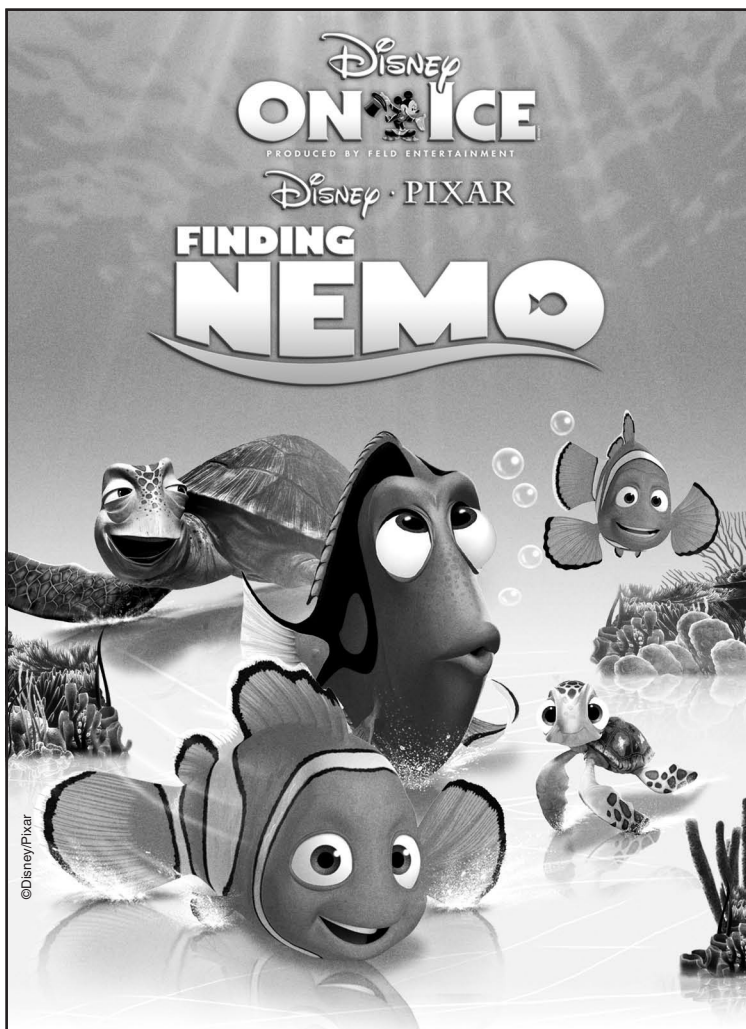
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JAN. 18 - 27



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December 31

St. John the Apostle Parish, Linden, New Year's Eve celebration, with Eucharistic Adoration, confessions and Charismatic Praise and Worship, 9 p.m., Mass at 10:30 p.m., (908) 486-6363.



January 2

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

January 4

Sodality of the Children of Mary of St. Teresa, Jersey City, recitation of the "Little Office" followed by Mass, 3:15 p.m., call Katherine T. Crossan (201) 689-1471.

January 9

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Bloomfield, annulment information evening, 7:30 p.m., (973) 497-4327.

Other

Archdiocesan Center, Newark. Begin the New Year in a spirit of prayer and reflection to learn more about your own spirituality. Register for an eight-week course offered by the Archdiocese at a parish near you. Classes begin the week of Jan. 7. Choose a course on the Gospel, on Liturgy or on Evangelization. Call (973) 497-4350 or e-mail stantovi@rcan.org.

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.

Catholic Cemeteries masses

All masses are at 9:30 a.m.
For more information call
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January 2

Holy Cross Chapel,
North Arlington

January 4

Good Shepherd Chapel,
Colonia

January 8

Gate of Heaven Chapel,
East Hanover

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.

Archbishop Myers, auxiliary bishops provide Christmas Mass schedules

Archbishop Myers will celebrate Christmas Eve Midnight Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, 89 Ridge St., Newark.

Archbishop Emeritus Peter L. Gerety will celebrate Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve at Christ the King Parish, 768 Ocean Ave., Jersey City.

Bishop Edgar da Cunha will celebrate Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve at St. Michael Parish, 172 Broadway, Newark, and Christmas Day Mass, 10:30 a.m., Our Lady of the Lake Parish, 32 Lakeside Ave., Verona.

Bishop Thomas Donato will celebrate Christmas Eve Mass at 4:30 p.m. and Christmas Day Mass, 8 a.m., both at St. Henry Parish, 82 West 29th St., Bayonne, and Christmas Day Mass, 10:30 a.m., Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, 113 Chiego Pl., Roselle Park.

Bishop John Flesey will celebrate the Christmas Eve Midnight Mass at Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, 787 Franklin Lake Rd., Franklin Lakes.

Bishop Emeritus Dominic Marconi will preside at the blessing of a live crib scene at St. Theresa Parish, 541 Washington Ave., Kenilworth, from 1 to 1:30 p.m. Christmas Eve. Later in the day he will celebrate Midnight Mass at St. Anne Parish, 325 Second Ave., Garwood. Christmas Day he will celebrate the 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Theresa Parish.

Bishop Emeritus Charles J. McDonnell will celebrate Christmas Eve Mass at 9:30 p.m. and Christmas Day Mass at 9:45 a.m. both at Holy Trinity Parish, 34 Maple Ave., Hackensack.

NJADP director applauds story

Editor,

Thank you for your front-page story (*The Catholic Advocate*, Nov. 21) on Sister Helen Prejean's recent trip to New Jersey. As you note, her visit comes at a time when the New Jersey Legislature is considering a bill that would replace the death penalty with the strong and more certain punishment of life without any possibility of parole.

In her talk, Sister Helen mentioned Lorry Post, the founder of New Jerseyans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (NJADP; Web site: www.njadp.org) and his extraordinary work to end capital punishment since the loss of his beautiful daughter to murder.

Thanks in large part to Post's generosity of spirit and willingness to share his personal story, and to the

Counting blessings at Christmas

The true gifts of Christmas, a joyous celebration of the birth of Our Lord and Savior, are not found under the tree.

Christmas is first and foremost a profoundly spiritual time of year. Catholics around the globe pause as one faith community to humbly and with deep appreciation commemorate the arrival of Jesus Christ on this earth. What greater gift is there?

The "Christmas Spirit" is palpable in the days before Dec. 25. It is a busy but happy time of year when the faithful are reminded of what really matters—their Catholic faith, family and friends.

Throughout the Archdiocese of Newark parishes are working hard to ensure that Christmas is just as special for the forgotten, neglected and poverty-stricken. Through clothing and food drives, visiting the sick and imprisoned and simply remembering the lonely, Christmas will be a fulfilling experience for all of God's children.

Gift giving has its place on Christmas Day. It is hard to equal the joy of a youngster who rips open a present to discover that "must-have" gift he or she wanted. Still such material things are fleeting. What really matters is God's love for us manifest in His Son's birth.

The Catholic Advocate wishes its readers a happy and holy Christmas and blessed New Year.

very public discussion that our state has been having over the last few years about New Jersey's failed death penalty system, more and more family members of murder victims have begun to speak out against executions.

Celeste Fitzgerald
Director
NJADP
Trenton

(Editor's note: Readers can visit the NJADP's Web site and the Web site of the New Jersey Catholic Conference (www.njcathconf.com) for additional information. At press time Gov. Jon S. Corzine was expected to sign into law a bill abolishing capital punishment and replacing it with life in prison without the possibility of parole. The State Senate and Assembly last week approved the legislation, moving it to the governor's desk.)

Pondering the God of love with an infant's face

As my too-cute-to-be-true grandson, Master William Joseph Susil, careened around the house over Thanksgiving, exercising his rapidly expanding vocabulary and wrecking havoc on unsecured objects in his path, I couldn't help but imagine possible futures for him: The guy who breaks Alex Rodriguez's major league record for career home runs? Author of the Great American Novel? Victor over Chelsea Clinton in the 2048 presidential campaign? The first American pope? (No, one shouldn't wish that job on anyone.) Inventor of morally-sound genetic therapies? (With two M.D. parents, one of whom does big-time medical research and both of whom are gung-ho pro-lifers, that sounds reasonable enough...)

Reveries aside, William's presence in the family these past 20 months has been a happy reminder that nothing so sweetly pulls us out of ourselves as a baby. Infants and toddlers are human magnets drawing the rusty metal of self-absorption out of the members of the species who fancy themselves grown up while leading us into the bright, sometimes frightening, but never cynical world of childhood. Which prompted a further thought: this special capacity of babies to drain the rest of us of egocentricity and cynicism helps explain why God decided to enter the world as a newborn.

Because we certainly would have done it differently, wouldn't we? If any of us were God, I doubt we'd have chosen to be born in less-than-optimal obstetrical circumstances in a ramshackle village on the far edge of the civilized world. Indeed, were any of us God, would we have chosen to go through the normal human drill of growing up, with its seemingly endless frustrations and alarms? Why not just arrive on the scene full-grown, at the height of our divine/human powers?

That, however, is not how Emmanuel, whom Pope

The Catholic Difference

by George Weigel



Benedict XVI calls the "God who has a human face," chose to make his entrance onto the stage. By coming into the world and its history as a newborn, Emmanuel, from the beginning, begins to draw the lives He touches out of themselves and into self-giving love.

Mary, Joseph, shepherds, Magi, the rest of the familiar cast of characters: they don't know the Chalcedonian confession of "two natures in one divine person," but they do know that this is a baby, beautiful as all babies are.

And whatever the hymns of the angelic choir add by way of identifying this baby as Someone Special, the characters we place around our crèches are already being drawn out of themselves and into self-giving love by...well, by a baby.

In an interview on German television before his return

home in the autumn of 2006, Pope Benedict suggested that "it's become more difficult to believe because the world in which we find ourselves is completely made up of ourselves." That's a crowded place, that world in which there is only us, which, primarily, means, "only me." A world made up of me, myself, and I and those few others I occasionally deign to let into my "space" is a closed and claustrophobic world. And one of the goods that's shut out of such a world is love.

In that same interview, the Holy Father noted that "Christianity, Catholicism, isn't a collection of prohibitions: it's a positive option." It's an option for love, for that radical self-giving and receptivity in which both giver and receiver are mysteriously enhanced. It's an option for losing oneself in order to find the truth about each of us: that

our human and spiritual fulfillment comes through making ourselves into the gifts for others that our lives are to us.

Christianity isn't about our search for God. Like its parent, Judaism, Christianity is about God's search for us, and our learning to take the same path through history that God does. The God with a human face began the climactic portion of His salvific journey through history as a baby, calling

others out of themselves as only babies can do. Every year, the crèche calls us to ponder the Law of the Gift written on the human heart by the God who is love.

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

By coming into the world and its history as a newborn, Emmanuel, from the beginning, begins to draw the lives He touches out of themselves and into self-giving love.

A time for all families to reaffirm devotion and love

Last month I had the privilege of joining with the priests and parishioners of Holy Family Church in Union City as they celebrated the parish's 150th anniversary.

Holy Family was my first assignment as a priest 34 years ago. I started the Spanish Mass there, which has grown substantially through the years. After all that time, most parishioners whom I served (both English-speaking and Spanish-speaking) have moved on to other parishes or passed on to eternity, but it was good to see the few I still recognized as well as the restored church and rectory.

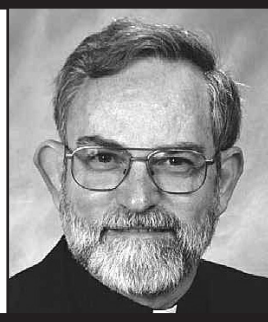
The school, long closed, now serves as a source of adult education and spiritual formation called Centro Guadalupe. The Augustinian Recollects now ably staff both parish and centro.

Time marches on. Much of the buildings' appearances remain the same. Some of the interiors have been updated to more effectively serve the needs of the current participants. Families, young and old, especially living in the current climate of shifting moral and life values, also need plenty of attention. Aging buildings generally can be repaired with brick and mortar, wood and sheetrock, steel and PVC. Broken homes are not as easily made whole.

This is always a challenge, but perhaps more dramatically so during the Christmas season. Given their particular situations, as well as those with relatives in

Seeing & Believing

By Rev. Msgr.
Richard J. Arnhols



military service overseas, many families can feel a greater emptiness of spirit, whether there are few or many presents around the Christmas tree.

Liturgically, there is further emphasis on the Sunday after Christmas as the Church specifically observes the Feast of the Holy Family. By presenting us with the image of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph as the ideal family, it reaffirms values of mutual dedication, support, and love, which any family should reflect.

Without question, these days, families come in all shapes, sizes, and configurations. While the traditional family unit still exists and is to be fostered, God offers His grace to anyone who strives to create a holy home. With all the turmoil created in breaking and broken re-

lationships, not to mention more recent irregular situations, children most especially need our prayers and encouragement.

Our Archdiocesan Family Life Ministries office strives to offer assistance, to parishes and to people—from marriage preparation and enrichment to programs for those suffering the pain of dysfunction, separation, divorce and bereavement.

Ably guided for many years by Judy Miller, the current team of Janet McCormack, Reina Basualdo, Linda Alexander, Nancy DelliSanti, and Damon Owens continue their effective and compassionate outreach under the pastoral direction of Father Marc Vicari (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Oct. 24). Visit the Web site at www.rcan.org/famlife or call (973) 497-4324 for information on outreach programs.

As Christmas comes and goes, and the New Year begins, we recognize that assaults on the institution of marriage will continue to be made. These will have critical ramifications for the life of the Church and its people.

When you are asked in your parishes to express your support for marriage and family via letter, phone call, and e-mail, I pray that you will make your voices heard, as many did recently to defeat the state stem-cell referendum. Together, as members of God's family, we can make a difference for families throughout our state.

I wish you a Holy Christmas and a joyful New Year. May God bless us everyone!

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

Aging buildings can be repaired with brick and mortar, wood and sheetrock. Broken homes are not as easily made whole.

Contemplating anguish, joy in the service of God

Readings; Is 7:10-14; Ps 24; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24.

"O let thy sacred will
All thy delight in me fulfill
Let me not think an action mine own way,
But as thy love shall sway,
Resigning up the rudder to thy skill"
(George Herbert, Obedience).

This prayer might be on the lips of any adult who recognizes the overwhelming demands of responsibility in the face of adversity. It echoes biblical themes (see Ps 40:6-8) and thus its message links us with the past.

Ahaz, king of Judah from 735-715 B.C., was a young ruler in Jerusalem when enemies in Aram (Syria) and the Northern Kingdom of Israel conspired against him. Did he recall that the Davidic dynasty was but the viceroy of God? A prayer acknowledging dependence would have been appropriate at the beginning of every day, but especially in time of danger. Resignation need not imply mere passivity, but the ship of state should not depend merely on human wisdom and prowess.

Ahaz might have used thoughts attributed to David: "In my distress I called upon the Lord and cried out to my God. From his temple he heard my voice and my cry reached his ears" (Ps 18:7).

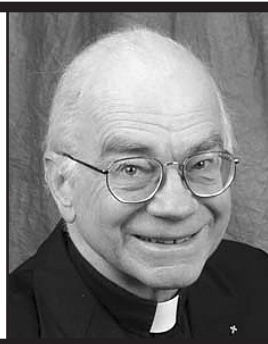
Joseph Conrad considered that "the captain of the ship at sea is a remote, inaccessible creature," but the kings of Judah were approached by God's messengers, often in spite of themselves. The aristocratic prophet Isaiah was sent to Ahaz with divine assurance. "Take care that you remain tranquil and do not fear; let not your courage fail before these two stumps of smoldering firebrands...Unless your faith is firm, you shall not be firm" (Is 7:4 and 9).

Although faith in many ways illuminates human understanding, there are situations when child-like trust in a time

Sunday Readings

4th Reading
of Advent
(Dec. 23, 2007)

By Rev. Lawrence Frizzell



of darkness is fundamental to our relationship with God. However, Ahaz was offered a sign to bolster his strength. "The young woman shall be with child and bear a son and shall name him Immanuel (God is with us)." Rather than the proclamation of a distant Messiah, the original message responded to an urgent need. A new wife of Ahaz would produce an heir; before he would reach the age of reason the two enemies would disappear (Is 7:14-16).

Because of the significant title "Immanuel" (see Isa. 8:10) and writings of Isaiah describing a marvelously effective successor to David (9:5-6; 11:1-10), Jews reflected upon deeper dimensions of this passage. A century or so before Jesus, translators in Alexandria, Egypt, rendered the Hebrew word for "young woman" into Greek as parthenos or "virgin." This heightened the implications of the text for the Jews of the Dispersion, who were well aware that the Davidic dynasty no longer ruled in Jerusalem.

However, the God who protected His people in the time

of Ahaz was indeed always present with them. Like the Exodus, the sign of "Immanuel" was recognized as a type or foreshadowing of greater wonders in the future.

As the early Church learned about the preparation for the Paschal Mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection, the faithful came to know the mystery of the Incarnation. Jesus, Son of God descended from David according to the flesh (human nature) was conceived of a virgin. Saints Matthew and Luke, familiar with the Bible in Greek, recognized that this text of Isaiah was singularly appropriate for reinforcing faith in the unique birth and nature of Jesus. Indeed He is Immanuel, giving this title a new fullness of meaning.

Popular piety has tended to idealize the Christmas crib scene, but the Gospel emphasizes that Mary and Joseph came to the peace of Bethlehem by persevering through a cloud of suspicion and doubt. How Mary can empathize with the misunderstood wife! Kind as Joseph was, his very uprightness seemed to demand that he not take paternal responsibility that was not his. Did Mary protest her innocence? Probably she reflected silently: "Let me not think out a solution in my own way."

Finally, Joseph was reminded of his Davidic pedigree and told that the child was conceived by the intervention of the Holy Spirit. Mary thus became the sign of the Church giving new life to the world when people are born from above of water and

the Spirit (see Jn 3:5-8). Unlike Ahaz, she exhibited a faith that blossomed into loving obedience, letting God's will fulfill all divine delight in her.

(Father Lawrence Frizzell is director of the Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies at Seton Hall University.)

Like the Exodus, the sign of 'Immanuel' was recognized as a type or foreshadowing of greater wonders in the future.

Board to offer inclusive 'praise' for families with special needs

Outreach to assist catechist ministry

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE
Editor

AREA—Geraldine Gibbia, Linda Meyer and Mary Beth Walsh, three award-winning educators who live and work in the Archdiocese of Newark, have been named to a new advisory board—the PRAISE Board—to work with the Archdiocesan Office for Pastoral Ministry with Persons with Disabilities and the Archdiocesan Catechetical Office as well as develop a certification process for special-learning needs in catechesis.

The acronym PRAISE stands for “persons recognized, affirmed, included in spirit-filled education.” It will teach catechists strategies for sharing and teaching the Catholic faith in a way that is meaningful and accessible for people with developmental and learning disabilities. This instruction will result in a distinct certification for catechists and directors of religious education.

The thrust of this education initiative will be to affirm the spiritual gifts of all people, regardless of ability or disability, as well as the value, need and right to celebrate God’s presence in his or her life and participate in a community of faith, according to Anne Masters, the archdiocesan director for Pastoral Ministry with Persons with Disabilities. Masters addressed this “spirit-of-inclusion” theme in a guest article for *The Catholic Advocate* (see the Feb. 21 edition.)

Rev. Msgr. Richard J. Arnhols, the archdiocesan Vicar for Pastoral Life, the pastor of Saint John the Evangelist, Bergenfield, and a regular columnist for *The Catholic Advocate*, oversees programs for families and individuals with disabilities and special needs.

“The PRAISE project is really an important one at this point in the life of the Church and its families in New Jersey,” Msgr. Arnhols said.

He noted that opportunities for keeping families with special needs more closely bound to Jesus through the Church “calls for a pro-active approach on our part. This can benefit not only the individuals and their families, but also the Catholic community at large, all of whom can identify that ‘Catholic’ truly means ‘universal’ and Jesus really does care.”

Ron Pihokker, the director of the archdiocesan Catechetical Office, welcomes “the enthusiasm and assistance of these specialists to this very necessary part of the catechetical ministry. Special-needs catechesis is not an option or simply an act of charity; it is an obligation,” he said.

“All baptized persons have a right to be catechized, and it is our responsibility to provide the special assistance and skills for catechists of persons with disabilities to proclaim the Gospel effectively and share the wisdom and compassion of the Church with those who have special needs. The assistance of professionals in this area is a great help to the catechetical ministry and their unique skills and insight are welcomed and deeply appreciated.”

The PRAISE trio brings a wealth of experience and varied perspectives to the new executive advisory board. Gibbia, Ph.D., C.C.C.-S.L.P., is a language specialist and a founding director of The Phoenix Center in Nutley—a school for people with developmental disabilities, ages 5 through 21.

“For me, it’s the perfect marriage between two of the most important things in my life: my faith and my profession,” Gibbia said. “Working with PRAISE gives me an opportunity to use the gifts God has given me to build communication bridges for and understanding of all those with disabilities and for those who work and live with them.”

Walsh, a Ph.D. who teaches in the Pastoral Ministry Program at Caldwell College, is a pastoral associate at St. Joseph Parish in Maplewood. A theologian and the mother of a nine-year-old son with autism, Walsh said this work has brought a unity back to her life that had slipped away.

“Working to include individuals with autism in faith communities has allowed me to bring back together the first and second halves of my life,” Walsh recalled. “It helped me remember what has always most engaged

me about Christian theology and faith: our Christ-centered commitment to the poor and dispossessed, lived out in the Catholic tradition to social justice” Walsh said, noting that this realization inspired her to become an advocate for

those with autism within the Church.

Meyer, Ed.D., MPA, is a behaviorist and educator who serves as the executive director of The New Jersey Center for Outreach and Services for the Autism Community Inc. (COSAC), based in Ewing. Meyer also is the founding director of The Alpine Learning Group, Paramus. Masters described Meyer as being “fiercely committed to community-based behavioral supports for people with autism.”

PRAISE is seeking men and women of faith with skills in the areas of inclusive education, psychology, developmental disabilities and behavior analysis to join the advisory board. Contact Masters by phone at (973) 497-4309 or via e-mail at masteran@rcan.org for more information.

The Pope Speaks

Pope Benedict XVI



Pope honors families to mark Peace Day

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Anything that threatens the traditional family threatens peace, because the family “is the first and indispensable teacher of peace,” Pope Benedict XVI said.

In his annual message for the Jan. 1 celebration of the World Day of Peace, the pope also said the responsibilities learned and the joys and struggles shared within individual families must be mirrored on a global level because everyone is part of one human family.

The pope chose “The Human Family, A Community of Peace” as the theme for 2008, the 40th anniversary of the Catholic Church’s celebration of World Peace Day.

“The first form of communion between persons is that born of the love of a man and a woman who decide to enter a stable union in order to build together a new family,” the pope wrote. “But the peoples of the earth, too, are called to build relationships of solidarity and cooperation among themselves, as befits members of the one human family.”

War and violence, exploitation of the weak, rampant poverty and underdevelopment, destruction of the environment and the arms race are all threatening signs that individuals and nations have not learned to live together in harmony and mutual responsibility, the pope said.

“Humanity today is unfortunately experiencing great division and sharp conflicts which cast dark shadows on its future,” he said.



Anne Masters (far left), the archdiocesan director for Pastoral Ministry with Persons with Disabilities, introduced Geraldine Gibbia, Linda Meyer and Mary Beth Walsh (left to right) as members of the new archdiocesan “PRAISE” executive advisory board. The New Jersey Coalition for Inclusive Ministries—an interfaith group—honored Gibbia and Meyer on Nov. 8 for the contributions they are making to the inclusion of people with disabilities in the life of the Church. Last year the same group recognized Walsh for her contributions in this field.

Submitted photo

Schafer garners exec certification

NEWARK — Andrew P. Schafer, executive director of the Catholic Cemeteries office of the Archdiocese of Newark, has earned a Certified Catholic Cemetery Executive (CCCE) designation.

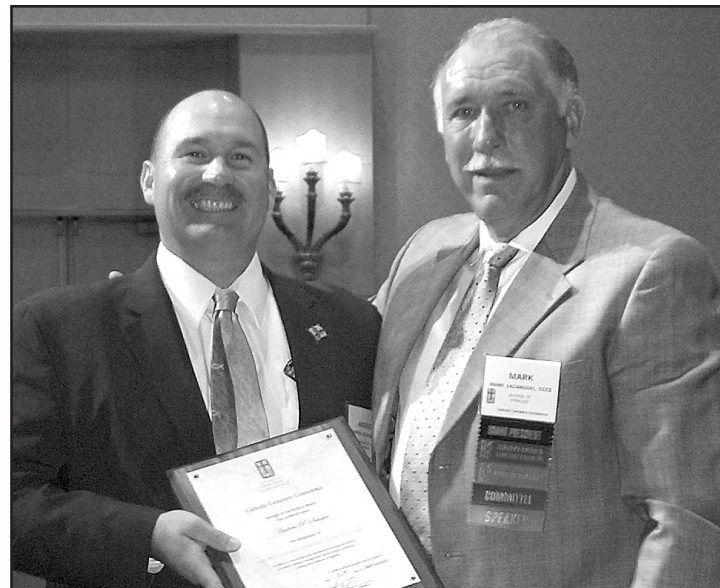
The Catholic Cemetery Conference, Des Plaines, IL, bestowed the designation on Schafer at the group's 58th annual convention and exposition, which was held in September at the JW

Marriott Desert Ridge & Resort Spa in Phoenix.

The prestigious CCCE designation is awarded only to those Catholic cemeterians who have demonstrated accomplishments in the bereavement ministry as well as significant contributions to the Church. *Catholic Cemetery Magazine*, the official publication of the organization, formally announced Schafer's award in its December edition.

Schafer has been the executive director of the archdiocesan Cemeteries office for seven years and has been employed at the Archdiocese of Newark for more than 20 years. His responsibilities include overseeing more than 170 employees and 7,000 interments each year.

The chairman of the Catholic Cemetery Conference's Disaster Response and Preparedness Committee, Schafer has completed courses in the theology and psychology of death and dying at John Carroll University's School of Leadership and Management, Cleveland.



Submitted photo

Mark Lazaroski (right), president of the Catholic Cemetery Conference, presents the CCCE award to Andrew Schafer, executive director of the Catholic Cemeteries office of the Archdiocese of Newark.



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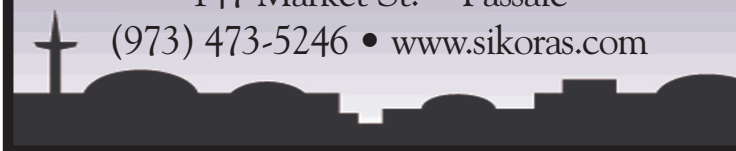
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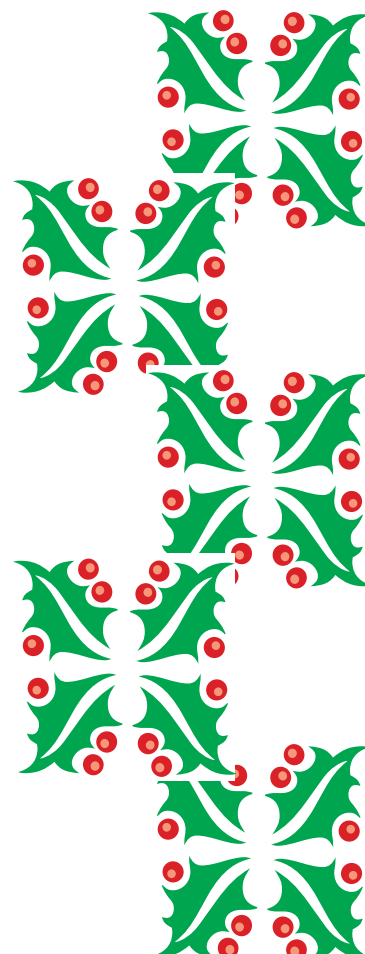
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CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS—

The Christmas Shop at St. James the Apostle School in Springfield is open for business. Stopping in recently to make purchases at the festive boutique were (left to right) second graders Lucia Alaimo and Camille Martinez. Patricia Dolansky is the principal of the school.



Submitted photo

CNS editors review books for children

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The following children’s books are recommended for Christmas giving:
The Aurora County All-Stars by Deborah Wiles (Harcourt, \$16) features baseball, friendship and boys vs. girls issues. Wiles weaves the tale of a 12-year-old who tries to work out reasons for the death of a family friend.
The Twelve Days of Christmas by Betty Ann Schwartz, illustrated by Judith Moffatt (HarperFestival, \$12.99) is geared for preschoolers, who will enjoy this colorful book that illustrates Christmas carols.
Annie’s War by Jacqueline Levering Sullivan (Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, \$15) deals with emotions at the end of World War II. Young Annie Leigh, hoping her father can be found alive, meets a young woman who helps her learn about love, bigotry and courage.



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Help of Christians
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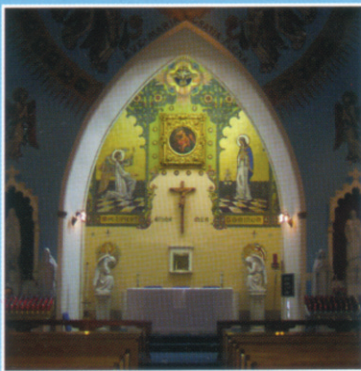
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Young Adult Month to spotlight faith-filled programs and events

BY CHRISTY GUERRA
Special to The Catholic Advocate

AREA—The Archdiocesan Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, based at the Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center, 499 Belgrove Dr., Kearny, is coordinating an assortment of activities to mark the third annual “Young Adult Month” celebration.

The following is a partial listing of events, with dates, times, locations and contact information. Zip codes have been provided to help locate events via the Internet.

Updates and information on additional events can be found on the Web site (www.newarkoym.org) or by calling Sister Loretta DeDomenicis, director of parish outreach and training, at (201) 998-0088, ext. 4147. Sister DeDomenicis also can be reached via e-mail at: dedomelo@rcan.org.

Monday, Dec. 31

Youth and young adult New Year’s Eve Party; a fun-filled social event to usher in 2008; party starts 6 p.m. at the Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center, Kearny; sponsored by Spirit and Truth, a Eucharist-centered young-adult community based at St. John the Apostle Parish, Linden. Cost is \$20.

Friday, Jan. 4

Coffee House; 8 p.m.; Spiritual

Formation Center, sponsored and hosted by Saint Mary’s Parish, 280 Washington Ave., Dumont, 07628; RSVP by calling (201) 385-2859.

Friday, Jan. 11

The Spirit and Truth community will host praise, worship and eucharistic adoration; 8 to 10 p.m., St. John the Apostle Parish, 1805 Penbrook Terr., Linden 07036.

Saturday, Jan. 12

Young Adult Outreach Day; Sponsored by BLD (Bukas Loob sa Diyos—“Open to the Spirit of God”); 7:30 a.m., Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center, Kearny 07032; pray, eat breakfast, then off to serve at Forest Hills Nursing Home and other agencies.

Tuesday, Jan. 15

Theology on Tap; “What’s Love Got To Do With It?” A discussion on applying love in everyday relationships, led by Bob McLaughlin (a seminarian at Immaculate Conception, formerly the director of retreats and spirituality at the Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center); 7:30 p.m. at Grasshopper Off The Green 41-43 Morris St., Morristown 07960 (no cover charge).

Wednesday, Jan. 16

Theology on Tap; Bergen County, Paramus (location and

topics to be announced; contact Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center, Kearny, for details).

Sunday, Jan. 20

Respect Life Mass and Prayer; noon, Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, 89 Ridge St., Newark 07104, followed by Holy Hour and Rosary with young adults leading the “Prayer for Life.”

Theology on Tap; “Marriage: Is This For You?” at 7:30 p.m.; discussion led by Tommy and Enza Cerami; The Office, 619 Bloomfield Ave., Montclair 07044.

Continued on page 23



Advocate photo — M. Gabriele

Bob McLaughlin, a seminarian at Immaculate Conception, South Orange, will lead a Theology on Tap session on Jan. 15 in Morristown. Pictured with McLaughlin is (left to right) Gina Marie Alala, youth group leader at Saint Elizabeth Parish, Wyckoff, Lauren Roy and Tamara Pallone. The quartet posed for the camera earlier this year at the “Noodle Nite” party, held at the Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center in Kearny.

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Diaconate

Continued from page 5

prison outreach, bereavement programs, the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) and baptisms.

Earlier this year a major revamping of the program got under way (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Feb. 21). One of the major changes is expansion of the preparation period to five years (previously four years). The first year in this process is for discernment while the remaining time focuses on classroom instruction coordinated through the School of Theology at Immaculate Conception Seminary on the campus of SHU.

Several years ago the archdiocese began updating its program, following an edict issued by the Washington, D.C.-based United States Conference of

Catholic Bishops: "New Norms for Formation, Ministry and Life of the Permanent Deacon in the United States."

Father John J. Hughes, a retired priest in the Diocese of St. Louis, served as the keynote speaker for the convocation and discussed the vital role of deacons in the Church, as well as the need to focus on the Eucharist.

Meanwhile, speaking to the deacon's wives, Dr. Dianne M. Traflet, J.D., S.T.D.—the associate dean and assistant professor of Pastoral Theology at Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology—said "you are here today as spouses to your husbands—deacons in the Church. You are women in profound relationship. Have you ever considered your unique relationship to the Church? To the Body of Christ? To the Word of God? To the entire Trinity?"

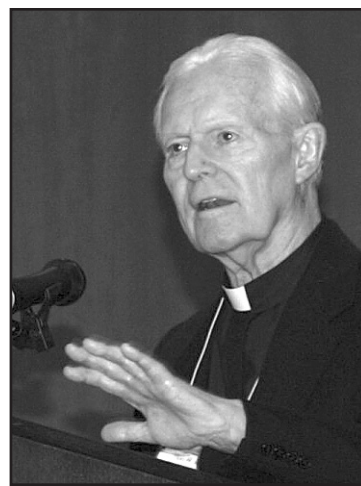
The founder of the Institute for Christian Spirituality at Immaculate Conception, Traflet cited Mary's relationship with the Body of Christ, particularly her Son's hidden life within the womb.

"What can we learn from her intimacy with the Son of God?" Traflet asked. "What was her relationship to the Word? What was her relationship to the preacher, St. John the Baptist? What can we learn from the Mother of the Word and from the Aunt of the Voice of the one who would prepare the way for her Son? What can we learn

from St. John's Aunt Mary?"

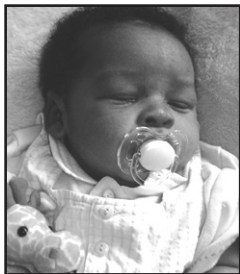
Deacon McKenna said the participants' reaction to the convocation was positive and plans are to have another gathering within the next three years. Father James V. Teti, parochial vicar at St. Teresa of Avila Parish, Summit, serves as the director of selection and formation.

Additional information on the permanent diaconate in the Archdiocese of Newark is available on line (Web site: www.rcan.org). Click on "Ministries and Offices" and then find the "Permanent Diaconate" link in the list.



Father John J. Hughes

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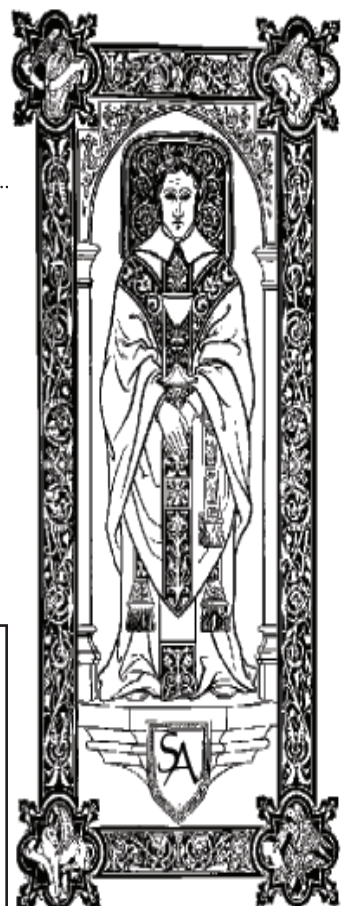
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Council 13678

Continued from page 3

After hearing Sgt. Delgado's moving testimony, the parishioners were even more inclined to give, Tony de Nicola, past grand

knight and trustee for Council 13678, observed. "Sgt. Delgado appreciated the money we gave him. He received a standing ovation at every Mass he attended and all the parishioners had tears in their eyes when he spoke," de Nicola recalled.

A friend of de Nicola is a colonel in Afghanistan whose soldiers are one of the groups that receive the Knights' packages. "We are in touch through e-mail with the people we send the packages to. The soldiers tell us what they want. The Knights use

the money donated by parishioners and buy the supplies in bulk. This makes it easier for people to contribute. There were 35 Knights that helped out in a meaningful way. We all got together at Joe's house to assemble and get the boxes ready for shipping," de Nicola said.

Volunteering and leading a collection for the troops is an expression of the values essential to the Knights of Columbus organization. "The ideals of the Knights of Columbus are charity, fraternity, unity and patriotism," de Nicola said. "You try to run every council in a way that would best help others. Through sending these packages to the soldiers, it is charity and patriotism coming together. These soldiers are giving up their Christmas for us and this is our way of giving Christmas back to them."

Along with DeVita, de Nicola thought of the idea four years ago when the war in Iraq was just underway. "I don't know if any other council in the archdiocese is sending packages, but the concept is not something we thought of," he said. "We are just helping the people who help us and are showing them that we appreciate what they, as soldiers, do for us."

The response from the soldiers who receive the packages has been overwhelming. The Knights receive e-mails and thank-you notes from soldiers who appreciate the small comforts of home sent to them overseas.

"I am humbled when we get thank-you notes from the troops," de Nicola said. "We give so much less than they give to us. They are in a dangerous place and to receive some comforts from home is the least we can do."

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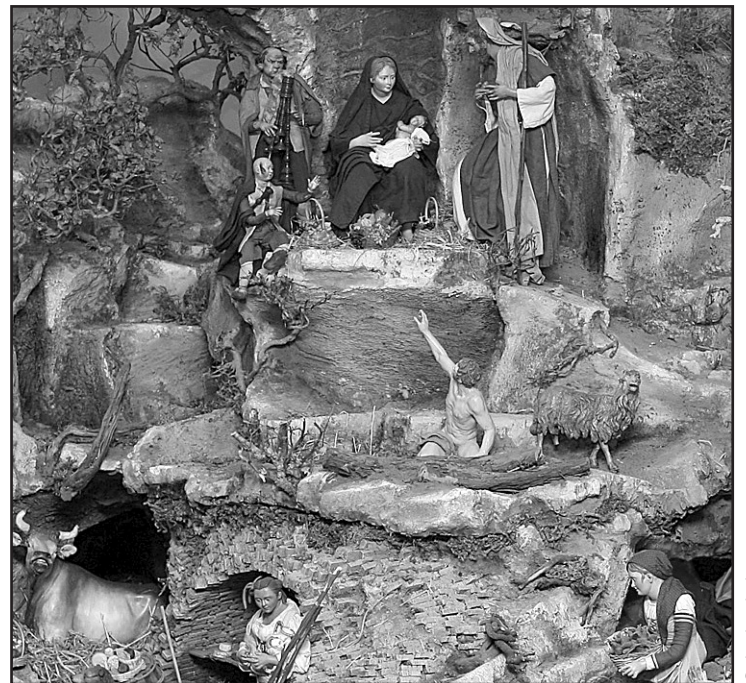
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Submitted photo

World-renowned nativity scenes or crèches created by Italian craftsmen are on display through Feb. 3, 2008 at Knights of Columbus Museum in "the Elm City," New Haven, CT. Since opening in 2001, the museum has hosted numerous exhibitions of religious art. The fraternal society, established in New Haven on March 29, 1882, is currently celebrating its 125th anniversary. The organization has more than 13,000 councils and 1.7 million members throughout the world.

Display at K of C museum showcases Italian creches

NEW HAVEN, CT—The Knights of Columbus Museum is hosting its third annual exhibition of crèches or nativity scenes. This year's display features world-famous Italian crèches renowned for their workmanship and artistry.

The dioramas, exclusive to the Knights of Columbus Museum, are being shown for the first time in America. The exhibition includes 17 crèches, including a massive, 18th century Neapolitan crèche. In many of the nativity scenes, artists used materials common to their region of Italy. For example, the Sicilian crèche features clay, stone, wood, red terra cotta and black lava stone from the island's Mount Etna volcano.

The exhibit opened in November and runs through Feb. 3, 2008. The Knights of Columbus Museum is located at 1 State St., just off Interstate 95. The museum is open Wednesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission and parking are free. Call (203) 865-0400 for details or visit the museum's Web site (www.kofc.org/museum).

SHU grad Routhier-Labadie wins Rhodes Scholarship

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE
Editor

SOUTH ORANGE—Seton Hall University (SHU) graduate Annick Routhier-Labadie has been named a Rhodes Scholar—the first ever in the 150-year history of SHU.

A resident of Quebec City, Canada, Routhier-Labadie said she plans to use her Rhodes Scholarship at Oxford University, England, for an applied study of prosthetics and joint surgery. She currently is earning a graduate diploma in applied ethics at Laval University, also located in Quebec City, and will head to Oxford in October 2008. Initially, she will take part in a 12-month “taught masters” program in biomedical engineering and eventually will pursue a Ph.D.



Annick Routhier-Labadie

Routhier-Labadie was a finalist in the rigorous selection process and was interviewed by the Canadian Rhodes Trust committee on Nov. 23 as part of the final level of competition. She was asked a variety of questions during the bilingual session (speaking in English and French) that pertained to her academic expertise as well as her personal views. She recalled one question in particular, when she was asked to name three people in history with whom she would like to have dinner; her answer: Jesus, Mother Teresa and Albert Einstein.

During her years at SHU Routhier-Labadie played women's varsity basketball while completing her undergraduate coursework as a Physics major in three years, maintaining a 4.0 grade point average. She completed her undergraduate degree last August and will participate in SHU's commencement ceremony in May 2008.

A university spokesman described her as a solid contributor

to the SHU women's basketball program; a “classic” point guard who created scoring opportunities for teammates. One of her highlight games came during the 2005/06 season, when she scored 17 points against Wright State in Dayton, OH.

Basketball, in fact, was a key factor that led her to SHU. In a recent phone interview, Routhier-Labadie said she grew up playing basketball (at Rochebelle High School) and would watch Big East basketball games on TV. She applied at SHU and was offered a scholarship, which fulfilled her dream to play in the Big East conference.

Athletics were always a big part of her family life in Canada, she said. Her father is the founder of Laval University football team; her mother worked for many years as a college athletic director and her grandfather was a professional hockey player in the NHL.

She said she is looking forward to the world-class academic environment at Oxford as well as the education and cultural opportunities that will come from traveling throughout Europe. “I think you learn more when you are exposed to a different environment,” she said. “It helps you to see things from a new perspective.”

Regarding her near-term career goals following her studies at Oxford, she said at this point in her life she is keeping all doors open. “I can see myself doing research impacting athletes in terms of injury rehab and prosthetics,” she said. “I also could see myself teaching and doing research work at a university.”

“I have known Annick since her freshman year and have always seen her demonstrate academic excellence in all of her work,” Dr. Sedong Kim, chair of Seton Hall's Physics Department, said. “Annick is a role model not only for physics students but for all Seton Hall students.”

James J. Kimble, Seton Hall's fellowships advisor, said Routhier-Labadie was not only a star in the classroom, she was also active in tutoring her fellow students and participated in a number of campus honorary organizations. “Her record shows an amazing level of accomplishment, both as a student and as a person,” Kimble added.

Among her long list of accomplishments and service activities while at SHU, Routhier-Labadie was involved with the campus chapters of the Chi Alpha Sigma Student Athlete Society, the Sigma Pi Sigma Physics Honor Society, the National Society of Collegiate

Scholars and the National Society of Physics Students. She spent time working with youth in area basketball activities and was an active member of *The Setonian* staff, the SHU newspaper.

Routhier-Labadie is being honored as one of Canada's 11 Rhodes

Scholarship winners this year. Established in 1902, the Rhodes Trust is an internationally prestigious competition allows elite students from across the globe to complete graduate coursework at Oxford University. Previous Rhodes scholars have included

former President Bill Clinton, astronomer Edwin Hubble, U.S. Supreme Court Justice David Souter and Bill Bradley, a former U.S. Senator from New Jersey and a star basketball player with Princeton University and the New York Knicks.

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strengthened me in my need. I
thank God and I thank you. Accept
this prayer and my serious resolve
which I now renew, to live always in
the love of Jesus and of my neigh-
bor. Continue to shield me by your
protection and pray to God for the
final grace of one day entering the
Kingdom of heaven to sing with you
the everlasting mercies of God.
Amen

M.L.C.

ST. THERESA

Oh Glorious Saint Theresa, whom
almighty God has raised up to aid
and counsel mankind. I invite your
miraculous intercession. So pow-
erful are you obtaining every
need of body and soul, our Holy
Mother Church proclaims you a "
Prodigy of Miracles. " Now fer-
vently I beseech you to answer
my petition (mention here) and
carry out your promise of doing
good upon earth of letting fall
from heaven a shower of roses.
Henceforth, Dear little flower, I will
fulfill your plea to be made known
everywhere and I will never cease
to lead others to Jesus through
you. Amen.
(Say prayer everyday for 9 days.
By 4th day, ask for a sign. If
prayers are to be answer.
Between 4th and 9th day, you will
see arose in magazine, TV pic-
ture or receive roses. You can
also get a strong scent of roses in
home even if no roses present.
Must promise publication. Thank
you.)

E.M.

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, work-
er 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.

THANK YOU ST. JOSEPH

For all you have given, Thank You
God. For all you have withheld,
Thank You God. For all you have
withdrawn, Thank You God. For all
you have permitted, Thank You
God. For all you have prevented,
Thank You God. For all you have
forgiven me, Thank You God. For all
you have prepared for me, Thank
You God. For the death you have
chosen for me, Thank You God. For
the place you are keeping for me in
heaven, Thank You God. For having
created me to love you for eternity,
Thank You God. Amen.

M.L.C.

THANK YOU ST. JUDE

A special prayer of thanksgiving to
St. Jude for answering my prayer.
All glory to God for His mercy and
grace in the lives of His faithful.
Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us.
Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy
Spirit—pray for us. St. Jude, worker
of miracles, continue to pray for us.
St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, al-
ways pray for us. May we be forev-
er grateful for the intercession of St.
Jude in our times of need. Amen.
Published in a true spirit of grati-
tude to Almighty God. Thank you,
St. Jude.

M.L.C.

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BLESSED VIRGIN

Oh most beautiful flower of Mount
Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of
Heaven, Blessed Mother of the
Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, as-
sist 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 se-
cure me in my necessity (make re-
quest). There are none that can
withstand your power. Oh Mary,
conceived without sin, pray for us
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ANTHONY R. RISSI, AIA
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Young adults

Continued from page 17

Tuesday, Jan. 22

Young Adult Right to Life March, bus ride to Trenton; (contact Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center, Kearny, for details).

Theology on Tap; "What Is a Just War?" The Catholic Church's View on War; 7:30 p.m.; program led by Father Matthew Pawlikowski, Army chaplain; Grasshopper Off The Green, Morristown; (no cover charge).

Wednesday, Jan. 23

Theology on Tap, Bergen County, Paramus (location and topics to be announced; contact Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center, Kearny, for details).

Weekend, Jan. 25-27

Sons and Daughters of the Light Weekend Retreat; Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center, Kearny; retreat will include speaker presentations, workshops, praise and worship, music, faith-sharing groups, rosary and Taize prayer; download registration forms from the Web site: www.newarkoym.org; contact Tracey Vieira, archdiocesan associate director of retreats and spirituality, (201) 998-0088, ext. 4153.

Tuesday, Jan. 29

Theology on Tap; "Evangelization 101—Sharing Your Faith;" 7:30 p.m.; discussion led by Bill Donaghy, founder of Mission Moment, an online (www.missionmoment.org) teaching ministry; Grasshopper Off The Green, Morristown (no cover charge); Donaghy is a theology teacher and resides in Lansdowne, PA.

Wednesday, Jan. 30

Theology on Tap; Bergen County, Paramus (location and topics to be announced; contact Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center, Kearny, for details).

Saturday, Feb. 9

"Festival of Praise" (FOP); culmination of Young Adult Month; an evening of celebration with dancing, community, leading into praise and worship with eucharistic adoration led by Franciscan Friars of the Renewal of Newark; 7 to 10 p.m.; Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center, Kearny.

Young Adult FOP will continue on the following dates:

March 8, hosted and held at St. Joseph Parish, 40 Spring St., Lodi.

April 12, hosted and held at the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, 375 13th Ave., Newark 07103; call (973) 622-6622.

May 10, hosted by Spirit and Truth and held at St. John the Apostle Parish, Linden.

July 12, hosted by BLD and held at St. Mary's Parish, 232 Central Ave., Rahway 07065.

Other Events

"Small Christian Communities," a Scripture study offshoot of Theology on Tap, will be held in each of the four counties of the archdiocese during Lent; locations

and dates to be announced.

April 4 to 6

Rejoice 2008; annual eucharistic prayer festival for youth and young adults, held at the Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center, Kearny.

Saturday, June 14

New Jersey Young Adult Conference, Seton Hall University, 400 South Orange Ave., South Orange 07079.

Caldwell College program provides ministry support

CALDWELL—The Department of Theology and Pastoral Ministry at Caldwell College is offering a new graduate certificate program in Pastoral Ministry to better educate lay men and women to support their spiritual journeys and ministries.

The 18-credit certificate program offers a foundation in Scripture and theology with the option to take a course related to a specific ministerial focus such as parish administration, youth ministry, bereavement counseling and catechetics.

The program is offered for six Saturdays each semester spread out over the fall or spring seasons. Graduate credits also can be applied to a master's degree program in pastoral ministry. Sister Barbara Moore, O.P., is the coordinator of the pastoral ministry program. Contact her by phone (973) 618-3251 or online at sbmoore@caldwell.edu for details.

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

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SFIC Basketball Festival to rattle the rims Jan. 5

NEWARK—St. Patrick and St. Anthony high schools, two basketball programs ranked in the Top 10 in many national pre-season polls, will highlight the Archdiocese of Newark's fifth annual Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children (SFIC) Basketball Festival.

The festival, presented by *The Star-Ledger* newspaper, will be held Saturday, Jan. 5, 2008 at Harwood Arena on the campus of Kean University in Union.

The first game of the doubleheader matches St. Patrick's (Elizabeth) against Monmouth Academy at 1 p.m. followed by St. Anthony's (Jersey City), vs. Bergen Catholic at 3 p.m. St. Patrick's was the top team in New Jersey last season and St. Anthony finished second when the Celtics won the Tournament of Champions title.

"I am again extremely thankful to have a great group of schools, players and coaches supporting the scholarship fund," explained Bill Fitzpatrick, the event director of the festival and a SFIC trustee.

Proceeds from the festival will go to the SFIC, which was founded in 1983 and has raised over \$30 million to provide need-based scholarships to inner-city youngsters so that they may attend private or parochial schools in Essex, Union, Hudson and Bergen counties.

SFIC Executive Director Lorraine Cunningham appreciates the strong support that comes from this event. "We are very thankful that we can provide much-needed scholarships to inner-city families who desperately want their children to receive a high-quality education," she said.

For additional information about the SFIC Basketball Festival, visit www.BasketballFestival.com. Call (877) 748-HOOP to reserve tickets.

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Sheehy to manage Cusack Center

JERSEY CITY—Thomas P. Sheehy, MBA, LNHA, has been appointed chief executive officer of the Margaret Anna Cusack Care Center at St. Joseph's Home for the Blind.

Sheehy comes to the Cusack Care Center with 30 years experience in healthcare, most of which was in the field of long-term care.

"I can think of no better person to build on what has been, to keep the mission ever before us, and to enable the center to continue to provide what we are

well known for: quality care with love, dignity and respect," commented Sister Ann Taylor, C.S.I.P., retiring administrator.

Prior to assuming an administrative position with Genesis Health Care, Sheehy was the administrator of St. Vincent's Nursing Home in Cedar Grove, a division of St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center in Paterson.

Born in Union City, Sheehy was an administrator at Ridgewood Care Inc., Ridgewood, in the 1980's. This nursing facility was corporately affiliated

with Christ Hospital. Before that he was director of project review at another Jersey City organization, Hudson Health Systems Agency.

Sheehy's appointment is a first at Cusack Care Center, a ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace. He will be the first non-Sister in the top executive office in the center's 115-year history. He will join with Michael Maron at Holy Name Hospital, Gerald Kitzhoffer at St. Joseph's School for the Blind, and Peter Baker, president of the C.S.J.P. Health System board—other ministries of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace.

The Cusack Care Center is a 139-bed long-term skilled nursing care facility for blind and sighted older adults.



Submitted photo

CELEBRATING 101 YEARS—Virginia Lawrence (center), a participant in the Senior Care and Activities Center program in Montclair, recently celebrated her 101st birthday. On hand for the occasion were (front row, left to right) Lindamary Postighone, Senior Care board member; Lawrence; Copeland Bertsche, board president; (back row) Deborah Perelmutter, first vice president; and staff nurse Diane McNally, RN. Lawrence lives in Newark and attends the Montclair center twice a week.

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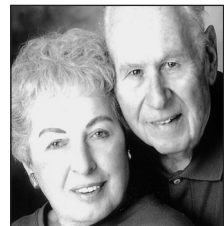
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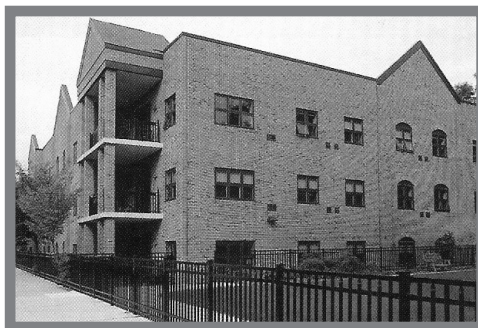
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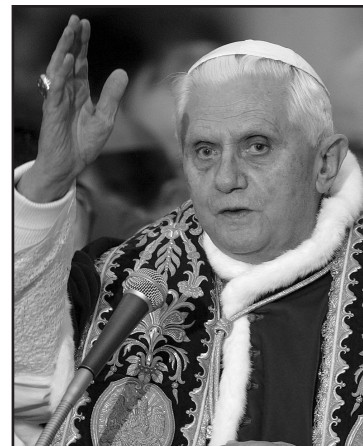
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Pope seeks 'open hearts' in healthcare



Pope Benedict XV

ROME (CNS)—Pope Benedict XVI urged hospitals and healthcare workers to welcome patients with love and safeguard their dignity.

"Let us open our hearts to everybody, especially if they are in difficulty, because helping those in need prepares us to welcome Jesus who comes to us" through those who are sick and suffering, he said Dec. 2.

The pope made his remarks during his first visit to a Rome hospital run by the Knights of Malta. In his homily, the pope said the mission of hospitals and care centers was "the loving and skilled welcome of patients, the protection of their dignity and the commitment to improve their quality of life."

Doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers are called "to provide an important service to the sick and to society, a service that demands self-abnegation and a spirit of sacrifice," he added.

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Dean of Trinitas nursing earns honor from academy

ELIZABETH — Mary Elizabeth Lebreck Kelley, MSN, MEd, RN, CNE, the dean of the Trinitas School of Nursing, is among 41 nursing educators named a fellow of the National League of Nursing/Academy of Nursing Education, New York.

Kelley has been in the academic leadership position at the Trinitas School of Nursing for 37 years. Her induction among the inaugural class of Academy of Nursing Education fellows is based on her "enduring and substantial contributions to nursing education that are viewed as above and beyond the responsibilities of the position."

The National League of Nursing also cited the Trinitas School as the first in the United States to have its entire eligible faculty to qualify for the Certification in Nursing Education (CNE) credential.

In addition to Kelley, faculty members who have attained this achievement are: Rosemary Byrne, Karen Joho, Janine Graf-Kirk; Marithely Morales-Allen; Anne Ormsby; Teresita Proctor, Virginia Villaneuva, Nancy Napoliello and Assistant

Dean Rose Santee. Santee and Kelley were the first from the Trinitas School of Nursing staff to become certified.

Kelley serves as co-director of a Robert Wood Johnson grant, Transcultural Leadership Continuum (access, retention and mobility of minority students in nursing).



Beverly Malone, PhD, RN, the chief executive officer of the National League for Nursing (left), and L. Antoinette Bargagliotti, DNSc, RN, Outgoing President of the NLN (right), congratulate Mary Beth Kelley, MSN, MEd, CNE, the dean of Trinitas School of Nursing, upon her recognition as a National League of Nursing Academy Nursing Education Fellow. During Kelley's tenure, the Trinitas School of Nursing has achieved outstanding academic results, with one of the highest pass rates experienced among its students who take The National Council Licensing Exam (NCLEX) for registered nurse licensure.

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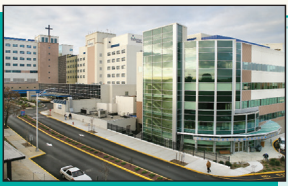


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Trinitas Hospital's Behavioral Health services are among the most comprehensive in the state. Trinitas provides a full range of inpatient and outpatient psychiatric care for seniors, adults, adolescents and children. Pictured are staff members of the new Dually Diagnosed Inpatient Unit, which is unique in New Jersey. For information call: (908) 994-7556.



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.



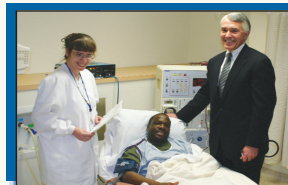
CARDIOLOGY

Trinitas maintains a full-service cardiac facility for the intensive care of patients with heart disease. Patients in need of elective angioplasty services can now undergo this procedure at Trinitas. The hospital has provided emergency angioplasty surgery for several years with superior outcomes. For more information call (908) 994-5695.



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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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The Trinitas School of Nursing, affiliated with Union County College, has been supplying the community with highly qualified nurses since 1891. This innovative program also boasts one of the state's highest success rates among its graduates who take the NCLEX registered nurse licensing exam and a faculty that is first in the U.S. to be 100% certified in Nursing Education. For information call (908) 659-5200.



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SHU names Kellett for scholarship

SOUTH ORANGE — The Seton Hall University (SHU) College of Nursing has awarded its Dr. Ruth Hutchison Scholarship to Elizabeth F. Kellett of Cranford.

A substitute school nurse in the Scotch Plains/Fanwood, Cranford and Mountainside school districts, and a member of the National Association of School Nurses, Kellett is pursuing her school nurse certification at SHU.

Kellett has a Master of Science in Nursing degree in public health administration from Catholic University of America, as well as a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Georgetown University.

Now in its third year, the Hutchison scholarship is named after the College of Nursing professor emeritus, who last year was named SHU's Woman of the Year. Hutchison has been teaching school nursing since 1969 and has received a variety of awards both from SHU as well as in the professions of nursing and public health statewide, nationally and internationally.

Report cites progress, challenges to heal 'abuse'

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Although the Church has taken positive steps in its response to the clergy-abuse crisis, more needs to be done, according to a five-year report on the crisis released Dec. 13 by the National Review Board, the lay group that oversees the U.S. Catholic bishops' compliance with child protection policies.

The report, addressed to U.S. Catholics on the fifth anniversary of the board's establishment, called the Church's response to the abuse crisis "impressive" but also noted that its "work is only beginning."

It said Church officials must do a better job of providing victims with the help they need and should also help Catholics at the parish level understand how best to re-

spond to victims and their families. It also recommended Church leaders provide "protection and restoration" for priests accused of abuse who are later found innocent and called for "greater speed" in investigating and responding to abuse allegations.

The report gave high marks to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' audit process, which monitors how dioceses are complying with the Church's national standards for child protection programs, prevention of sexual abuse and response to abuse allegations (see Archbishop John J. Myers' column on page two of this edition).

"Those audits provide substantial evidence of the bishops' efforts to protect children and respond to the abuses of the past and present," the report said. It noted that, as of 2006, 98 percent of dioceses and eparchies (the name for dioceses in the Eastern Catholic churches) have participated in the audits and have been found to be in full compliance.

Although the review board commended the audit process, it also said the audits were not enough and suggested that they be expanded to measure the "quality of the work that the dioceses and parishes are doing." To that end, the report recommended that the USCCB conduct random audits of parishes, which could help establish "best practices in educational programs, victim care, background checks and investigation of allegations."

In its section on the Church's accomplishments, the report noted that more than 6 million children have participated in education

programs and 1.6 million background investigations have taken place as part of diocesan safe-environment programs.

The report also mentioned two studies on clerical sexual abuse commissioned by the U.S. bishops in their "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People," which were conducted by the New York-based John Jay College of Criminal Justice. The first study, completed in 2004, looked at the nature and scope of the abuse crisis in the Church. The second study, set for completion in 2009, will look at the causes and context of clerical sexual abuse.

In citing future challenges the Church will face as it continues to respond to the abuse crisis, the report said some issues are "not easily resolved" because they are so complex. "One of the most significant issues is the need for greater understanding of victimization and its consequences," the report said. "Discussions with victims provide evidence of serious needs that still need to be addressed in order for victims and their families to find the healing that they need."

Another challenge highlighted in the report is the relationship of the Church to its priests, "the vast majority of whom," it pointed out, "are not involved in scandal, but

many of whom feel alienated from both the bishops and the laity." The report also stressed that the Church needs to "provide appropriate protection and restoration for those accused but later found innocent."

Judge Michael R. Merz, chairman of the National Review Board, said the Church's response to the abuse crisis will be ongoing. "Church efforts for prevention, healing and vigilance will be demanded for the rest of our days," he said in a Dec. 13 statement. "The price of this crime is steep, both in the pain felt by victims and the shadow cast on the reputation of innocent Catholic priests."

Parishes plan music events for Epiphany

AREA—An Epiphany concert, featuring the St. Michael's Singers, will be held on Sunday, Jan. 6 beginning at 4 p.m. at St. Michael's Parish/Parish of the Resurrection, 252 Ninth St., Jersey City. Call (201) 653-7328 for details.

In a separate venue, Assumption of Our Blessed Lady Parish, Wood Ridge, 143 First St., will hold its third annual Epiphany of Music celebration on Saturday, Jan. 5 at 6:30 p.m. Angie Rotella-Suarez is the director of music for the parish. Prior to the concert, a Vigil Mass will be celebrated at 5:30 p.m. Call (201) 438-5555 for more information.

Recalling words of St. Paulinus, pope says Christ provides unity

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Being united in Christ makes friends even out of complete strangers, Pope Benedict XVI said at his weekly general audience.

"Without having met, we know each other because we are members of one body," the body of Christ and the Church, he said quoting a letter by St. Paulinus to St. Augustine.

During his Dec. 12 general audience in the Vatican's Paul VI hall, the pope continued a series of talks on the teachers of the early Church with a catechesis on St. Paulinus, the bishop of Nola in southern Italy. Born in southern France in 354, the saint converted to Christianity as an adult. After the death of their first child, he and his wife lived a life of chastity, prayer and dedication to the poor.

In a letter to St. Augustine, St. Paulinus wrote it was not surprising that the two of them should feel intimately close as brothers even though they had never met because "we are members of one body, we have one head, we are bathed by the same grace, we live by the same bread, walk the same path, and dwell in the same home." The pope said this was a "beautiful description of what it means to be Christians—to be the body of Christ, living in Catholic communion of the Church."

St. Paulinus' concept of communion helps people understand the teachings of the Second Vatican Council concerning the Church "as sacrament of the intimate union with God and therefore of our unity, and finally (the unity) of all humankind," the pope said.



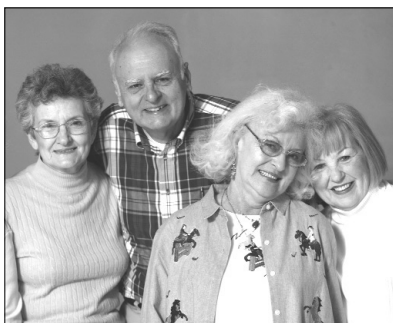
CNS photo

St. Paulinus of Nola is depicted in a stained-glass window at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark. St. Paulinus lived from 354 to 431 and is recognized as one of the foremost Christian Latin poets of the Patristic Period—the years 100 to 450—considered a critical time in early-Church history. He is the author of a body of extant works that includes 51 letters, 32 poems, and several prose pieces. His feast day is celebrated on June 22.

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"Come let us adore him"*

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Merry Christmas!

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