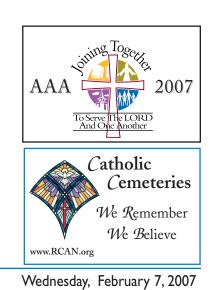


Catholic troubadours enjoy the hip scene at Jersey City café See page 9

Vol. 56, No. 3



CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Catholic Vicate

docate photos—Melisa mcMali

Francisco and Yolanda Ramirez, married for 38 years, at their home in Bloomfield. Emigrating from the Philippines in 1970 and 1972 respectively, the former Jersey City residents faithfully attend the Filipino Mass.

Fortified by faith, Filipinos weave their way into tapestry

Communities thrive, but feel culture clash

BY MELISSA MCNALLY Staff Writer

s one of the fastest growing minority groups in the archdiocese, the Filipino community blends devout traditions and unique cultural celebrations to create a distinct niche in the Catholic community.

According to the Asian American Federation Web site at http://www.aafny.org, New Jersey's Asian American population nearly doubled from 1990 to 2000, making it the fifth-largest Asian population at the state level. As 18 percent of the New Jersey's Asian population, Filipinos bring fervent Catholic faith to the Archdiocese of Newark while emphasizing family values and community spirit. Maribel Fajardo, co-director of the Filipino Society of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Secaucus, has been a leader in the Filipino community for almost 20 years. "I see the change and increased presence of Filipinos. There has been a big increase in the community at my parish, Immaculate Conception. Filipinos are very family oriented and bring that aspect to the Church. Family life is usually centered around the Church."

The Philippines is one of only two majority Christian countries in Asia. According to the 2000 Census of Population and Housing conducted by the National Statistics Office in Manila, (Web site: www.census.gov.ph) about 90 percent of Filipinos are Christians and 81 percent are Catholic. "Each town in the Philippines celebrates a saint and feasts of the Blessed Virgin are very important," Fajardo explained.

As a way of uniting the burgeoning Filipino community in her area, Fajardo felt it was important to continue celebrating



A shy but curious youngster finds her own unique vantage point in the pews during the Filipino Mass. Passing on Catholic traditions to American-born children is important in the Filipino community.

Catholic traditions."By making Immaculate Conception Parish the center of all the Filipino community's activities, we appeal to a Continued on page 4

Young adults provide energy to spark March for Life rally

BY MELISSA MCNALLY Staff Writer

NEWARK—Pro-life supporters from throughout the Archdiocese of Newark, including many young people, braved winter's cold on Jan. 22 to join thousands of anti-abortion protestors at the 34th annual March for Life in Washington, D.C.

As chairman of the archdiocesan Pro-Life Commission, Jim Sondey has marched on Washington in support of overturning Roe v. Wade for over a decade. "This was my 16th or 17th time attending the march; I lost count," he said with a laugh.

A recent trend that Sondey has noticed among the crowd was an increased presence of young people. "I saw more high-school aged young adults and families with young children. More and more people are becoming pro-life. We need to make a stand and show support for life."

Attending year after year and not seeing a change in government policy regarding abortion can make being pro-life seem like an uphill battle. However, participating in the march serves as a constant reminder to politicians that the pro-life mission will not waver. "We need to show congressmen and senators that we love life. It shows persistence (that we march every year.) If we don't speak up against evil, evil will triumph," Sondey stressed.

Continued on page 19

SHU students aid orphans in El Salvador

BY WARD MIELE Managing Editor

SOUTH ORANGE—It is far from the typical spring break.

During the last three years, student volunteers from Seton Hall University (SHU) have traveled to El Salvador, helping where needed at a Catholic and public orphanage, a government facility for troubled teenage girls and a nursing home run by nuns. Circumstance resulted in the first trip. Back in 2003 Michelle Sheridan, director of the Division of Volunteer Efforts at SHU, was a student in the School of Theology with seminarian and now Father Esterminio Chica. Father Chica, ordained to the priesthood last May, was born in El Salvador. While studying at SHU he received the Global Servant Leader Award for his participation with the Division of Volunteer Effort (DOVE) that organizes mission trips to his native country.

Sheridan approached Father Chica about an international community service project for university students. He helped arrange the first trip to El Salvador in March 2004. That initial group had 17 volunteers; this spring some 27 are expected to go.

Community service is in Sheridan's blood. She has been to Mexico as both a student and then administrator. At the age of 16 she traveled to Tijuana, Mexico, as part of contingent with the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Such service is part of her family tradition. Sheridan's mother worked with the disabled and brought her daughter up performing community service projects.

The first goal of such efforts, Sheridan explained, is to "stand in solidarity" with the people, experience their situation and simply do whatever can be done to help. As examples she cited cleaning and painting at the nursing home and doing chores while "providing hope" at the facility for troubled teenage girls.

The "most profound" experiences, Sheridan said, occur at the orphanages. In a country where abortion is illegal, she noted, there is poverty, early pregnancies and many children are simply unwanted and abandoned. Many remember the students who make return trips to the orphanage. La Aldea Infantil San Antonio (Saint Anthony's Infants' Village) is the Catholic orphanage that provides superior accommodations.

Through community service Sheridan is convinced she is brought "closest" to God and her faith. It also makes her realize the "gifts" He has given her as well as guidance as to how best use those gifts. That, she declared, brings her "the most joy in life." Meanwhile, from the students' perspective, the director of volunteers gets satisfaction out of seeing the young people receive a "realization of the world."

2 Advocate

Our Archdiocese

A priest, sailor and 'happiest guy in the world'

BY REV. MSGR. JOHN J. GILCHRIST

e recently celebrated two "Liturgies of the Resurrection" at Holy Cross Parish, Harrison. They were both for Father Charles H. McTague or "Charlie Chaplain" as he called himself; or "Father Charlie" as everyone else knew him.

Even Albert Einstein.

Archbishop John J. Myers celebrated a Mass of Christian Burial for Father Charlie here on Jan. 18 (see The Catholic Advocate, Jan. 24). Father Charlie, 87, died on Jan. 13.

He had lived in our house for 11 years. Before that Father Charlie had become famous. He was a legendary character and there are literally thousands of stories about him. In fact, two biographies of his life have been published.

Father Charlie was a combination of Saint Francis of Assisi, St. John Bosco and Brother Juniper. He was by nature a jokester, a jester and a teller of tales. Father Charlie had a huge reservoir of stories about his exploits-and they were all true!

Wherever he served—in three parishes, the Port of Newark, or on the "Peace Ship"—Father Charlie touched hundreds of lives and launched dozens of programs and initiatives that had come out of his restless mind. He put most of his schemes and dreams into action. One of his most famous adventures was the Peace Ship.

He had been a sailor before he became a priest. The sea was his life and his love. As a priest, Father Charlie never gave up his union card in the Seafarers Union or his membership in the Apostolate of the Sea

So, Father Charlie jumped at the chance to sail with Abie

Nathan when the occasion arose. Abie Nathan was a famous Israeli peacenick. Abie had a boat that he wanted to take to the Mediterranean and Egypt.

Father Charlie had all the credentials to be a captain on a maritime vessel. In fact, we buried him with his officer's cap. He was perfect for the project. He had himself assigned to the Peace Ship. The

Father Charlie

walked up to the

door, rang the bell

and introduced

himself to Albert

Einstein. Father

Charlie explained

that he wanted to

discuss the Catholic

faith with the great

genius. Einstein

priest and they

discussed the Trinity

and the Eucharist

for an hour.

ship was to sail off the coast of Israel. From 1969 to 1972 Abie and Father Charlie broadcast messages of peace in Arabic and Hebrew.

What people don't know is that the boat was a bucket of bolts. It almost sank twice on the way out of New York when the ship hit a storm. On one occasion it began to leak. Father Charlie stopped up the leak with cement bags. The ship was listing in a storm. Father Charlie invoked the holy man

Pierre Toussaint and threw a small bag of dirt from Toussaint's grave into the ocean. Almost miraculously, a point of light appeared in the storm. It was a lighthouse in Bermuda.

Early on, Father Charlie had a devotion to Pierre Toussaint. His mother had helped establish Saint Peter Claver Church for African Americans in Montclair. Father Charlie always had a predilection for people of color.

Father Charlie is famous because he was the one who found the body of Pierre Toussaint when no one else could. Toussaint had been buried in Old Saint Patrick's Cemetery in New York. The records of the cemetery were later destroyed in a fire. The gravesites in the cemetery were old and worn. No one

could read them. Therefore no one knew where the body of the saint lay.

One day Father Charlie took his mother to the cemetery. Like a detective, he had a large mirror and a camera. It was raining and muddy according to Charlie. Charlie had his mother kneel in the mud and hold the mirror perpendicular to welcomed the jovial the headstone. He took two pictures of the reflection in the mirror. Surely enough, the let-ters "SAINT" appeared on the film. He had dis-

covered the body of the saint.

Above all else in his charm and character, Father Charlie was always impetuous. He once read that Albert Einstein, then living in Princeton, had become an atheist. Father Charlie took a bus to Princeton and a taxi to Einstein's home.

Einstein (born March 14, 1897; died April 18, 1955)-then



Father Charles H. McTague (left), pictured in February 1992, received the "For God Award" of the Essex County Chapter of the Catholic War Veterans. Leon Rygiel, commander of the chapter, made the presentation 15 years ago. Father Charlie was a member of the Seafarers Union and the Apostolate of the Sea.

and now-is considered one of the greatest physicists and geniuses of all time. Best known for the theory of relativity, Einstein was awarded the 1921 Nobel Prize in Physics.

Unfazed by the fame of the great scientist, Father Charlie walked up to the door, rang the bell, and introduced himself to Einstein. Father Charlie explained that he wanted to discuss the Catholic faith with the great genius. Einstein, intrigued by this jovial priest, welcomed him and they discussed the Trinity and the Eucharist for an hour.

Einstein enjoyed his time with Father Charlie. He said that he would like to think more about the matter. Later, Father Charlie returned to Princeton with six volumes of Catholic theology in the German language. Einstein was grateful. He even had Father Charlie sign the books. A simple priest and an authentic genius had discussed the invisible world. Both had profited.

No doubt, Father Charlie was a character. But he was saintly and totally sincere. Father Charlie announced every day to anyone he met: "I am the happiest guy in the world." It was the theme of his life and literally described the man of God. He was absolutely unique. We were lucky to have him. May he rest in peace.

(Rev. Msgr. Gilchrist, the pastor of Holy Cross Parish, is a long-time contributor and columnist for The Catholic Advocate.)

AAA AWARD WINNERS-A gala reception for pastors and lay leaders to launch Pledge Week for the 2007 Archbishop's Annual Appeal (AAA) was held Jan. 18 at Nanina's in the Park, Belleville. Several parishes were recognized for going above and beyond their 2006 AAA goals. Pictured here are award winners (left to right) Father Steven Connor, pastor of Holy Trinity, Fort Lee; Peggy Frazza, a member of the administrative staff of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Ridgewood; Archbishop John J. Myers; Father Fabio R. Brenes, pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary/Saint Patrick, Elizabeth; and Carla Gonzalez, executive director of the archdiocesan Development Office. which oversees the AAA program. Other parishes cited for their special efforts in the 2006 AAA campaign were Saint Francis Parish, Hoboken (Father Michael Guglielmelli, pastor); and Saint Gabriel the Archangel Parish, Saddle River (Msgr. Robert Fuhrman, pastor). Pledge Week kicked off Feb. 3 and 4.





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FREQUENCY FOR THE YEAR

The Catholic Advocate continues to be a bi-weekly publication. Publication dates for 2007 are: February 21; March 7, 21; April 4, 18; May 9, 23; June 6, 20; July 18; August 8, 22; September 5, 19; October 10, 24; November 7, 21; December 5, 19.



ISSN# 1084-3213

Our Archdiocese

Magazine's mission looks to nullify negative noise aimed at 'True Girls' **BY BRANDI LEE**

Special to The Catholic Advocate

ttractive, intelligent, athletic, popular: society expects teenage girls to be a lot of things. Cell phones, iPods, gaming systems, laptops: society expects girls to own a lot of things. Stylish hair, flawless skin, perfect teeth, toned bodies: society expects young women to have and achieve a lot of things.

How can they ever measure up in a world that expects so much?

If you listen to the secular media, it's hard to believe you'll ever have enough or be enough to be accepted. And it's hard not to listen! Society "sells" the idea that people, especially teenage girls, are unworthy. But not to worry-they not only tear you down, they also can fix you! All you have to do is buy their products for shinier hair, whiter teeth, a flatter stomach and suddenly you'll be popular, you'll be beautiful, you'll

be loved. Maybe some of these products will help you conform to society's standards of perfection. But no shampoo, toothpaste, or diet pill will counteract the damage the media does to your self-esteem. If vou don't learn

how to tune out these negative messages while you're young, you'll never have the strength you will need to navigate adulthood. Young and old alike, we all feel the pressure to conform.

True Girl is a magazine of faith, life and fashion, written for Catholic teenage girls. Our goal is to provide a resource that encourages young women in their love of God and of His Church.

The magazine, which is published six times a year and based in LaPorte, IN, features photos of real girls, not models, in an effort to offer an alternative to the onedimensional icons that saturate popular culture. By inspiring young women to be "true" to God and to themselves, our faith-based editorial mission is to create a new generation of counter-cultural thinkers who will stand firm in their beliefs, despite the temptations of the secular world.

The content of the magazine offers decidedly Catholic features like a "Rosary Reflection" and a "True Girl Saint," but also includes all the fun things girls love: entertainment reviews, beauty and health tips, quizzes, trivia and modest fashion.

Each issue also includes a "freebie" that readers can register to win on the magazine's Web site, www.truegirlonline.com. The Web site features the True Girl Bulletin Board, a safe place for subscribers to talk with other "true girls" from across the country.

As teenage girls make the transition from adolescence to adulthood, they inevitably will encounter new expectations: to drive a luxury vehicle; to hold a high-paying job; to have a perfect marriage; to own a designer home. However, very few adults ever fully meet these lofty demands. Even if you are one of the lucky few with everything society says you should have, acquiring these material and physical status symbols does not guarantee happiness.

The truth is that happiness lies in acquiring a rich spiritual life. As Catholics and members of the body of Christ, we know a secret that the media doesn't want us to know. Society tells us we're not good enough, but the truth is that we are good enough because each one of us is created in the image and likeness of God.

How is that possible? Each of us is unique-in

appearance,

personality

and spirit. It

may seem odd that we

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truth, our

goodness and

our beauty

The Cat-

image.

As members of the body of Christ, we know a secret that the media doesn't want us to know. Society tells us we're not good enough, but the truth is that we are good enough because each one of us is created in the image and likeness of God.

> "all reflect the infinite perfection of God" (CCC 41). How awesome! While you may be tempted to find fault in the hand life dealt you or even in the genes you received from your parents, you can't find fault in God's creation. You will see that beautiful creation every time you look in the mirror. The truth is that you are inherently beautiful!

> Together, your body and soul are intended to become, in the body of Christ, a temple of the Holy Spirit (CCC 364). How can a temple of the Holy Spirit be anything less than wonderful? If you look at yourself through God's eyes, you will focus on all the gifts you have been given; in recognizing what makes you special and unique, you will learn to love yourself as Christ loves you. However, if you look at yourself through society's eyes, you will focus on all that you don't have, believing and perpetuating the media's lies.

> So on those inevitable days when you feel unattractive, untalented, and altogether unworthy, take a step back and look again. If you focus on what others expect, then you will always come up short. You never can make enough, own enough, or be enough to be perfect in the secular world. But in God's eyes, you are already beautiful and nothing you do or don't do can ever change the perfect way He loves you.



Pictured here is the February/March cover of True Girl. The magazine (Web site: www.truegirlonline.com), which is published six times a year and based in LaPorte, IN, offers an alternative to the negative messages that saturate popular culture, aimed at teenage girls. The editorial mission of the magazine is to connect with Catholic "True Girls" and inspire them to be true to God and to themselves.

(Editor's note: Brandi Lee, editor-inchief of True Girl, graduated from Rosary High School, Aurora, IL, in 1995; and the University of Memphis, Memphis, TN, in 1999 with a B.A. in English. Lee taught high school English and Spanish at Catholic schools for five years before "retiring" to start a family. Her son, Benjamin, was born three months ago. Lee launched True Girl in 2005 with business partner and friend Stephanie Murphy, the publisher of the magazine. True Girl, now in its second year, has subscribers that hail from throughout the United States as well as Canada and Australia.)



Brandi Lee

February 7, 2007

Filipinos

Continued from page 1

larger cross-section of people. Every activity of the Filipino society was associated with a religious celebration; that drew people to our church. Filipinos became more comfortable with participating in the mainstream."

Through the Church, those newly emigrated felt they had a strong connection to their new home in America through their faith. "As immigrants, we felt like outsiders in the Church and were sometimes treated that way by the established community. I always encouraged people to become eucharistic ministers, lectors and readers. I encouraged parents to let their children become altar servers. Now more than half of the altar servers are Filipino," Fajardo remarked with a laugh.

Fajardo came to America from the Philippines in 1974 and at first did not participate in parish activities. "I was never really active. I just attended Mass and didn't feel as though I could contribute. I felt as though (my parish) didn't need me. Its hard severing ties to your home in the Philippines, but that is the benefit of having a close-knit community-you feel as though you belong here and you do not feel so lonely."

Celebrations such as the Advent novena of Simbang Gabi (See The Catholic Advocate Dec. 6, 2006) drew large Filipino crowds back to the Church. As her community increased its visibility, longtime parishioners began to accept the new members.

One of the issues facing the Filipino community is a clash of cultures as traditional, Catholic parents raise first-generation American children. "We want our kids to practice the same values that we were raised with," Fajardo said.

Father Ernesto M. Tibay, the coordinator for the archdiocesan Filipino Apostolate, develops events and programs for the Filipino community. Father Tibay, who also serves as parochial vicar at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Bergenfield, tries to create activities for his community that enrich and celebrate the faith of the growing group.

"Out of 25,000 residents in Bergenfield, around 5,000 are Filipinos," Father Tibay estimated. "I try to form a structure and work with the community and facilitate ways they can become more active. Filipinos are very devout and have a lot of practices and rituals they want to continue."

Ordained in the Philippines, he served in his country's diocese for 10 years before coming to the United States in 1958. "There is a difference in culture here in America. In the Philippines, the culture is centered on the family; here, the culture, as a whole, is more individualistic. Children who are born here have a different outlook. They are more independent."

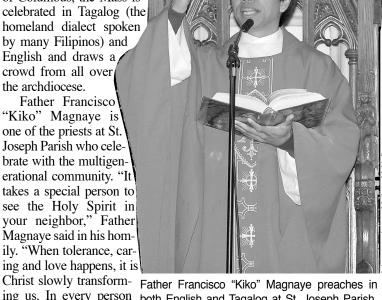
Jersey City, like Bergenfield, also has a large and growing number of Filipino faithful who are making their presence known. Every third Sunday, St. Joseph Parish in Jersey City hosts a Filipino Mass. Originated by the Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Council Knights of Columbus, the Mass is celebrated in Tagalog (the homeland dialect spoken by many Filipinos) and English and draws a crowd from all over the archdiocese.

Father Francisco "Kiko" Magnaye is one of the priests at St. Joseph Parish who celebrate with the multigenerational community. "It takes a special person to see the Holy Spirit in your neighbor," Father Magnaye said in his homily. "When tolerance, caring and love happens, it is

see Christ in others. In the

past, people didn't see the Christ in others because of the color of their skin or their accent. We have to look beyond the surface and find the Christ in everyone."

A Filipino Knights of Columbus Council that saw a need for it in the community established the Filipino Mass. Francisco Ramirez was one of the founding members of Our Lady of the Most Holy



ing us. In every person both English and Tagalog at St. Joseph Parish. the Holy Spirit dwells. If "In the past, people didn't see the Christ in others we don't wage a battle because of the color of their skin or their accent. against prejudice and We have to look beyond the surface and find the intolerance, we will not Christ in everyone," Father Magnaye said.

> Rosary Council No. 7648 a quarter century ago. Ramirez, along with his wife Yolanda, moved from Jersey City to Bloomfield in 1998, but still attended the Filipino Mass every month.

> "Filipinos are flocking to Jersey City and even Bloomfield has a growing number as well," Ramirez said. "During the celebration of Simbang Gabi last holiday season, I saw people from different sections of the archdiocese at all of the masses."

> Now a parishioner at St. Thomas the Apostle in Bloomfield, Ramirez recalls that when he first came to New Jersey, there was not a large Filipino population attending Mass at St. Joseph's. "In 1980, I became the first Eucharistic minister over there. Now, about 75 percent of the congregation is Filipino."

> Ramirez came to the United States in 1970 and his wife Yolanda followed in 1972. The religious traditions of their homeland continued after their move to Jersey City.

> "Filipinos are known for their deep devotion to Mary," Ramirez said. "Novenas for Our Lady of Perpetual Help and anything connected to the Infant Jesus (Santo Nino) are celebrated with masses and special feasts. The first Filipino saint, St. Lorenzo Ruiz, is celebrated in September with a novena and it is a big feast day. We also focus on saying rosary and there are groups that say the rosary from house to house. A group of people will gather their money together and buy a statue of the Blessed Mother and rotate it in different

houses every week and gather for prayer." Ramirez said.

Ramirez believes all the work he has done for the Filipino community could be considered a mission. "A priest once said that so many Filipinos migrate to America. He asked us: 'Why do you think vou are here?' The priest challenged us and said it was our mission to help our community. Jesus did not bring us (to America) for nothing. By perpetuating the Filipino Mass, we show the community that we are devoted. We are a community that wants to show how grateful we are for God's presence."

Coming from a poorer and politically turbulent country, Ramirez is especially grateful for his good fortune. "(Filipinos who live in America) are better off than we were at home. We appreciate that within our community and praise Him for what He has given to us. The Philippines have natural calamities, from typhoons to mudslides and earthquakes. Politically there is always fighting and there is a threat of rebellion to overthrow the government. The economic situations keep getting worse. Despite all of these problems, we are a people who are still standing proud and are faithful to our religion. The more problems we have, the more faith we have."

Two of the Ramirez's children were born in the Philippines and two were born in America. The generational and cultural gap is something the parents continually have to deal with, even now that they have become grandparents. "You want your children to go to Mass and you want them to know about tradition and their roots. Once in a while our kids will come with us to the Filipino Mass. But now they have their own families and it is getting harder for them,' Yolanda Ramirez said. "I tell my children to at least go to Mass every Sunday.'

While taking care of her grandchildren, Yolanda seizes the opportunity to instill religious values and Filipino tradition. "I tell my grandson every night before he goes to bed that he has to say his prayers. He goes to public school, he attends CCD and knows how to recite the Our Father and Hail Mary. There are little ways we teach the children, from the statues and crosses on the wall in our house to prayers. You have to mold kids when they are young."

Explaining religious figures and retelling stories of their life in the Philippines is one way the Ramirez family ensures that their children and grandchildren never forget their heritage. "In the back of the children's minds, they remember these little things," Francisco Ramirez said. "That is the inheritance we would like to leave them.'

INSTITUTE FOR CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

The Great Spiritual Books Program presents Rabbi David G. Dalin Author of The Myth of Hitler's Pope: How Pope Pius XII Rescued Jews From The Nazis

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All are welcome. Admission is free.



INSTITUTE FOR CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

Advectate 5

St. Teresa of Avila forum explores immigration issues, social justice

SUMMIT—The "JustFaith" Community of St. Teresa of Avila Parish last month sponsored a forum that explored immigration issues and Catholic teaching on social justice.

JustFaith is a group of parishioners who have completed a 30week program to learn how to advocate for social justice through their faith.

The event—the first of its kind ever held at the parish—attracted over 60 parishioners. Keynote speaker Father Eugene Squeo of Saint Patrick and Assumption/All Saints Parish in Jersey City—a lawyer representing the Jubilee Interfaith Immigration Rights Task Force—introduced the United States Conference of Catholic Bishop's "Justice for Immigrants" campaign. (More details about this campaign can be found on the following Web sites: (www.justiceforimmigrants.org and www.usccb.org/mrs). The evening also included a video and discussion of immigration topics as they relate to Catholic social teaching.

Because half of the attendees represented St. Teresa's Spanishspeaking community, efforts were made to accommodate them. The video included Spanish subtitles and a bilingual translator was called forward for the question and answer period.

Father Squeo explained that Catholic social teaching contains several principles in dealing with immigration: persons have a right to migrate to support themselves and their families; refugees and asylum seekers should be afforded protection; and the human dignity and human rights of undocumented migrants should be respected. He noted too that persons have a right to find opportunities in their homeland and sovereign nations the right to control their borders.

During the discussion segment of the program is was evident that some Catholics struggle with how to balance these principles with personal concerns about the political, economic, security and social interests of the nation. Spanishspeaking parishioners, many of whom are immigrants, expressed concern that they have needs and issues that are not being me.

"I am delighted with the turnout for our first event," Pastoral Associate Sister Guadalupe Nieto, M.S.B.T., said at the program. She noted that the forum was related to the parish's first observance of National Migration Week. "Interaction between Spanish and non-Spanish speakers persons of our parish has been limited," Sister Guadalupe continued. "This was an excellent opportunity for these two groups to engage in dialogue and better understand the needs of one another."

Contact St. Teresa of Avila at (908) 277-3700 for more information on the JustFaith organization.

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St. Teresa of Avila parishioners Julian Silva and Johana Gonzalez listen to the presentation of keynote speaker Father Eugene Squeo. The forum, held last month at the Summit parish, was related to the observance of National Migration Week.



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'Thank God It's Monday' explores career coaching SOUTH ORANGE—"Thank God It's Monday," a radio program

that airs every Saturday at 8:30 a.m. over Seton Hall University's WSOU, 89.5 FM, helps listeners to take personal responsibility for their professional development and satisfaction, while providing insights into the personal coaching process.

Recent programs have discussed interviewing, contracting, working globally and returning to school. Future shows are scheduled to discuss religious vocations, team-building tools, part-time versus fulltime employment and college enrollment and professional/personal coaching techniques.

Upcoming guests include Brother Louis Miritello, vocation director for Franciscan Brothers of Brooklyn, N.Y., and life-skills coach, Glen Rivera.

Visit WSOU's Web site (www.wsou.net) for more information.



Around the Archdiocese

February 7

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

February 8

Queen of Peace High School, North Arlington, "Dead Man Walking" screening, 7:30 p.m., (201) 998-8227 ext. 28.

St. Elizabeth Parish, Wyckoff, men's bereavement support group, meets every Thursday for eight weeks, 7:30-9 p.m., (201) 891-6708.

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Bloomfield, Spirituality and Psychodrama program: Working Through Difficult Issues, 7:30 -9:30 p.m., call Anna at (973) 338-9538.

St.Vincent's Nursing Home Auxiliary, Cedar Grove, Valentine's Day luncheon, Victor's Chateau, Little Falls, 11:30 p.m., cost:\$25, RSVP by Feb.5, call Jeannie Battista at (973) 239-7928.

February 9

avis

Mary Help of Christian Academy, North Haledon, "Celebrate: A Taste of Mary Help," featuring 20 local restaurants including Oakland and Mahwah, 6- 8:30 p.m., cost: \$8 for adults, \$5 for children, (973) 790-6200 ext. 140.

St. Bernard and St. Stanislaus Parish, Plainfield, Black history celebration, 7 p.m. RSVP at (908) 756-3393.

February 10

St. Phil's Singles, Livingston, Valentine's Day dance, 7:30 p.m., (973) 340-4001.

The Shrine of St. Joseph, Sterling, Valentine's jewelry sale, 9 a.m.- 5 p.m., also on Feb. 11, (908) 647-0208.

Archdiocesan Center, Newark, "Models of the Eucharist," 9 a.m.- 4 p.m., respond ASAP, cost: \$85 or \$95 at the door, (973) 484-2400.

St. Mary Parish, Rutherford, Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, 3:45, (201) 438-2200.

Assumption of Our Blessed Lady Parish, Wood-Ridge, overnight Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 6:30 p.m.-7:30 a.m., (201) 438-5555.

Knights of Columbus Council #4504, Union, Valentine dinner dance, 7 p.m.- midnight, cost: \$60, RSVP by Feb. 7, (908) 686-5271 or (908) 686-3839.



February 11

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

St. Cassian Parish, Upper Montclair, The Kaiser Quintet, 4 p.m., cost: \$15, (973) 744-2850.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Nutley, Healing Mass, 3 p.m., (973) 661-1623.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Ridgewood, employment workshop, call Carol Shea at (201) 447-4215.

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Mountainside, Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and 7th anniversary of Perpetual Adoration Chapel, 7:30 p.m., (908) 232-1162.

February 12

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Nutley, defensive driving review, 1:30 p.m., (973) 661-1623.

St Paul Parish, Ramsey, Senior Ministry's Sweetheart Luncheon, noon, cost: \$5, (201) 327-0976.

February 14

Archdiocesan Center, Newark, annulment information evening, 7:30 p.m., (973) 497-4327.



Holy Family Parish, Nutley, St. Lucy Filippini Sodality meeting, 8 p.m., call Jo-Ann Brown at (973) 667-2633.

Caldwell College, Gramercy Brass Orchestra of New York, 8 p.m., cost: \$10, (973) 618-3520 or (973) 618-3326.

February 16

St. Aloysius Parish, Caldwell, discussion on Christian marriage, 7:30 p.m., (973) 226-0221.

February 17

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

Knights of Columbus Council #835, Belleville, St. Valentine's Karaoke Dance, 7-11 p.m., cost: \$30, (973) 759-9656.

February 18

St. Andrew Parish, Westwood, pancake breakfast, 8 a.m.- noon, cost: \$5, (201) 666-1100.

Knights of Columbus Council #5427, Township of Washington, NASCAR Daytona 500 party, 2:15 p.m., cost: \$20, (201) 664-0422.

February 21

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Bloomfield, Praying the Passion of Jesus, every Wednesday during Lent, 7:30 -9:15 p.m., call Anna at (973) 338-9538.

Other

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Nutley, Misang Pilipino (Filipino Mass), the first Sunday of each month at 3 p.m., (973) 661-1623.

The Shrine of St. Joseph, Sterling, First Communion requirements, such as dresses, ties and gifts, available at Shrine of St. Joseph Gift Shop, open Monday-Friday 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. and Sundays II a.m.- 3p.m., (908) 647-0766.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Parish, Nutley, YANA (You Are Not Alone), bereavement support group, meets the second Wednesday of each month from 7:30- 9 p.m., (973) 661-1623.

Our Policy

To publicize an upcoming event at your parish, school or organization on the "Around the Archdiocese" page, please note: • Submissions must include the name of the sponsoring organization, a phone number for the contact person and event specifics, including the date, place and time. • Deadline for submission is 10 days prior to publication date. The Catholic Advocate publishes submissions as space allows and cannot print an item more than once.

more than once.

• Contact by **email:** mielejos@rcan.org, **fax:** 973-497-4192, or **mail:** The Catholic Advocate, Around the Archdiocese, P.O. Box 9500, Newark, NJ 07104

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FDIC



February 7, 2007

Church offers Lenten regulations

The Archdiocese of Newark has released Lenten regulations for 2007. The days of both fast and abstinence during Lent are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence.

On a day of fast, only one full meal is permitted. Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast. On a day of abstinence, no meat may be eaten. Those who have reached the age of 14 are obliged by the law of abstinence. The obligation to observe the laws of fast and abstinence "substantially" or as a whole is a serious obligation.

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

The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty^{*}) extends from the First Sunday of Lent, Feb. 25, to the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity, June 3. (*Canon 920:All the faithful, after they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year.)

Reader feels inspired by QPHS student

Editor,

Your Jan. 10th article highlighting P.J. Pimpinelli's battle with Type I diabetes could not have come at a better time.

My nine-year-old son, Scott, was diagnosed with Type I diabetes less than a month ago. While we are still adjusting to life with this disease, we found P.J's attitude to be helpful and hopeful.

Chatham resident praises findings on death penalty

Editor

The bipartisan death penalty study just released, which calls for replacing the death penalty with life without parole, is a tremendous boost to the pro-life movement. I am delighted to see this day in New Jersey.

My Catholic education and the values my parents instilled in me as a young boy left me with a deep and unwavering respect for life—from conception to natural death. The death penalty has long been unnecessary, as Pope John Paul II so eloquently reminded us whenever an execution was scheduled during his papacy.

It is divisive as it draws out anger over violent crime—justifiable, of course, but not to the level where we strike back with more violence even as other means are available to both punish and defend.

I see the potential end of the death penalty in New Jersey as a new beginning. I hope my fellow pro-life Catholics will too, especially pro-life legislators.

We will advance the pro-life cause if we are consistent. We will reach new people, who will be reminded that life is a precious gift from God and something to deeply respect, without exception.

Let us rejoice in this news, but let us also take action. A handful of legislators are working to keep the death penalty, using inflammatory language. All of usScott now wants to participate in the 2007 Walk to Cure Diabetes. I hope that he, like P.J., will "talk to God" when the challenges of diabetes get to be too much. Thank you P.J. and may God bless you!

Sandra Kaufman Rutherford

(Editor's note: As reported last month, Pimpinelli is a 16-year-old junior at Queen of Peace High School, North Arlington. He has battled Type 1 diabetes for most of his life. Last year he raised over \$6,000 in pledges for research for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and this year hopes to top \$7,000.)

lay Catholics and clergy—must speak up now. We must tell political leaders who respect life that life is too important to sacrifice for the sake of a good political sound bite. We must also use the opportunity to tell all legislators, no matter what their position on the death penalty or abortion, that life is an issue about which we care deeply.

In New Jersey, we have not had too many opportunities like this to celebrate life. I hope the Catholic Church takes the lead on this issue—and that means all of us.

Harry A. Olmsted Chatham

(Editor's note: As reported in the Jan. 24 edition of The Catholic Advocate, the Trenton-based New Jersey Catholic Conference (NJCC) urged Trenton lawmakers to adopt the findings of the New Jersey Death Penalty Study Commission, which called for the abolition of the state's death penalty. The commission issued its executive report on Jan. 2. Archbishop John J. Myers is the president of the NJCC, while Patrick R. Brannigan serves as executive director.)

The Catholic Advocate welcomes letters from readers. Due to space and time limits, there is no guarantee that a letter will run. Readers' opinions do not necessarily represent the opinion of the newspaper or the Archdiocese. All letters must be typed, and are subject to editing. Include name, address and daytime telephone number.

Send to: The Catholic Advocate, P.O. Box 9500, Newark, NJ 07104-0500 or email mielejos@rcan.org

Help support our editorial mission and celebrate Catholic Press Month

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE

T he Catholic Advocate, the flagship newspaper of the Advocate Publishing Corp., is proud to trumpet its editorial mission as part of the celebration of Catholic Press Month in February.

This national campaign is a time for publishers, advertisers and readers to take stock of the many noteworthy Catholic newspapers, broadcasters, magazines, books, Web sites and newsletters throughout North America. We are proud to be part of this journalism sector.

Since it was founded more than 50 years ago, the mandate for this newspaper has been to educate, evangelize and inform its readers. The editorial mission includes conveying the

teachings of the Church as well as the ministry of Archbishop John J. Myers, who recently marked the 40th year of his priesthood, his 20th year as a bishop and his fifth year as the leader of the Archdiocese of Newark.

The editorial mission also involves serving our readers as a community newspaper, reaching out to the people of Bergen, Hudson, Essex and Union counties to report on their Catholic experience and how that faith-based dynamic plays out in the various aspects of their lives. These are important stories to tell. It's why we drive to work every morning.

Along with *The Catholic* Advocate, the Advocate Publishing Corp.

serves readers in the Archdiocese of Newark through other print products, such as the annual *Directory and Almanac*, our monthly Spanish-language newspaper *New Jersey Catolico*, an assortment of newspaper special sections and supplements, as well as various internal publications that support offices within the archdiocese.

However, in order for us to sustain this mission, we need the support of our readers and advertisers. Catholic Press Month is our one opportunity during the year to hoist this flag and signal the importance of this campaign.

Unlike many diocesan newspapers, The Catholic Advocate is not a "mandated" publi-



cation. Today, more than ever, we need the financial support of our readers to fortify our business plan, as printing, paper and mailing costs continue to soar. As such, we ask that you become a paid subscriber to this publication. It is a vote of confidence that

helps us in more ways than you can imagine. Subscription revenues represent a key part of our current business plan.

In order to hold up our end of the bargain, we've re-engineered the newspaper during the last 18 months with expanded coverage of local events and people, bigger and better photographs, and improved graphics and page layouts.

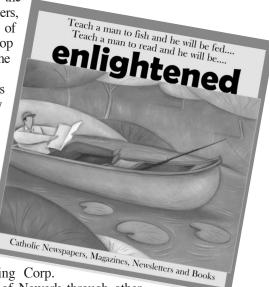
Have we been successful? This is a tough, time-sensitive, subjective business and, as they say, journalistic beauty is in the eye of the beholder. If nothing else, the deadlines, reader feedback and business challenges keep us honest, humble and remind us that there always is room for improvement.

We hope our supporters and critics, at the very least, respect the effort and spirit that goes into putting out this publication. We do have a dedicated, hard-working staff committed to the mission. We also hope the fruits of our labor reflect the respect we have for our readers.

There are two yardsticks that help us to measure our progress. The first is a steady increase in the number of paid subscribers during the last two fiscal years (thank you!); the second is the judgment our peers. Last year, *The Catholic Advocate, New Jersey Catolico,* and the *Directory and Almanac* brought home seven awards from the annual Catholic Press Association conference, which was held in Nashville, TN (see *The Catholic Advocate,* June 7). The highlights included first place for "best regular special supplement" and second place in the category of "general excellence" for North American diocesan newspapers with a circulation in excess of 40,000.

In addition, throughout the year, we have more than a fair share of our stories picked up by the prestigious Catholic News Service.

We ask that you support *The Catholic Advocate* and the Advocate Publishing Corp. as we celebrate Catholic Press Month. Please give us a call at (973) 497-4200 or e-mail us at advoads@rcan.org. We greatly appreciate your interest and your business. Thank you.



8 Advocate

Commentary

Orienting our world toward the service of the Lord

Readings: Jer 17:5-8; Ps 1; 1 Cor 15:12, 16-20; Lk 6:17, 20-26.

P eople turn to the Scriptures for solace and consolation. We are familiar with beautiful texts giving comfort to the mourners and the afflicted.

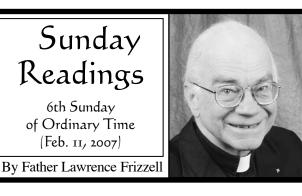
Perhaps some are going to be shocked on Sunday when they hear the opening sentence of the passage from Jeremiah the prophet, who taught in Jerusalem from 627 B.C. until after the city was destroyed in 586.

"Cursed is the man who trusts in human beings, who seeks his strength in flesh (human nature), whose heart turns away from the Lord" (17:5).

Jeremiah did not pronounce a condemnation of all human relationships, which must be founded on trust. Rather, in strong terms, he drew attention to the fundamental need in all situations: a single-hearted devotion to God. The person who ignores God and thinks that all can be accomplished through human effort and alliances will miss the essential perspective to all creative activity: whatever is valuable eternally must be grounded in charity.

Without judging the eternal destiny of entrepreneurs whose life is ruined as their "empire" crumbles, one cannot but think of this misplaced energy and talent as a waste of gifts divinely bestowed for the purpose of building a world oriented toward the service of the Lord.

The link between Jeremiah's poem and Psalm 1 was noted long ago, so this gem is our response to the first reading. The Psalmist answers our query: "How does one keep the human heart steadfast in fidelity to God?" The truly blessed or happy person not only avoids bad company; the individual "delights in the Torah (Law) of the Lord and meditates on his Torah day and night"



The person who ignores God and thinks that all can be accomplished through human effort and alliances will miss the essential perspective to all creative activity: whatever is valuable eternally must be grounded in charity.

(Ps 1:2). It was from such intimacy with the heavenly Father's will that Jesus gained the profound insights that His teachings convey.

Like the prophets and psalmists, Jesus proclaimed that God would bring a reversal to human standards for

evaluating happiness and success in life. The poor should indeed strive by all honest means to better their lot, so that they will sense their innate dignity. However, rather than envy the rich, they should allow God to fill the vacuum of their lives with the divine presence. This perspective of faith will make them appreciate their intimacy with the King and share in His reign.

The last of St. Luke's beatitudes presents the paradox that Jesus' message will provoke strong negative reactions. Persecution may well come upon those who live and teach His message. The pattern was known from ancient times. "Thus it was that your fathers treated the prophets" (Lk 6:23).

Certainly Jeremiah was both ostracized and persecuted for his proclamation of God's Word. Later tradition maintained that he was stoned to death by the rebels who dragged him off to Egypt.

Quite naturally we hope to get along with our neighbor, and not only do we want to be at peace, we'd also like to be popular! On tour during their heyday in the 1960s, the Beatles exulted: "We're more popular than Jesus!" People who knew the Gospel were slightly amused because the Lord never sought cheap acclaim or the "rewards" it brings. Rather, He faithfully pursued the path of fidelity to His Father's will, no matter what the cost.

If we wish to share in His promise of the Kingdom, we must reflect on the ways in which the Gospel contradicts aspects of our culture and then ask for the strength to be witnesses to that teaching.

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

CFM puts the love of evangelization into practice

White Valentine's Day right around the corner, we naturally turn our thoughts to the romantic side of love. Valentine cards and gifts are frequently exchanged among those united in love or who wish to be.

The Church even celebrates World Marriage Day this weekend, to emphasize the importance of selfless love between husband and wife.

Not far behind, this year, is the season of Lent. This time of penitence, prayer and almsgiving reminds us of the love of God for us as well as the call of God to us to love Him above all things and our neighbors as ourselves.

When we live our faith in loving service, we evangelize; we bring God's message of mercy, care, and salvation to life in the here and now. Most parishes offer Lenten faith-sharing groups, devotions, and confessions to get us in deeper touch with the call to evangelize. More focused programs like "Disciples in Mission" and "Why Catholic?" have already helped many parish communities to grow in their appreciation of what it means to evangelize.

Since 1983, however, our archdiocese has been preparing committed Catholics for more dedicated service in the Church. Our Ministerial Development Center has prepared over 2,000 men and women through its outstanding three-year process: Christian Foundations for Ministry (CFM).

With accreditation from the Washington, D.C.based United States Catholic Conference of Bishops (Web site: www.usccb.org) CFM offers a basic overview, through prayer, instruction, discussion and reflection, on topics such as Scripture, sacraments,



liturgy, morality, Church history, spirituality, evangelization, and community—all in the context of the Documents of Vatican II, the Code of Canon Law, and the Catechism of the

Ghristian Foundations for

Ministry offers an overview

on topics such as Scripture,

sacraments, liturgy, spirituality

and Church history.

The process engages participants

and instructors in lively dialogue.

Catholic Church.

Far from being a dry series of lectures, the CFM process engages participants and instructors in lively dialogue. One of the superb features of the winter cycle of the third year, currently under way, is the challenge for each member or group of members to plan an evangelization project and then put it into practice. This helps concretize

in real ways all that they have learned.

Last year's "graduates" came up with projects as varied as discussion series on social concerns issues

and scriptural themes, outreach to those in nursing homes or shut-ins needing assistance in their own homes, linking adults, youth and young adults, hosting a movie afternoon with pertinent sharing afterwards, conducting a reflection day for all parish ministers, arranging a First Friday Eucharistic Devotion, and establishing support groups for single mothers and for people who recently lost a loved one to death.

Lessons learned include all the little details necessary to start something new as well as the challenges of getting permissions, assistance, and participants. On the other hand, it also reinforces the truth that each of us, either alone or with others, can do something to bring the Good News of God's love to somebody else.

CFM meets in many parishes throughout the archdiocese.

Currently over 300 men and women are participating. The Spring Cycle will begin in April. Contact Sister Virginia Stanton at 973-497-4350, or online at stantovi@rcan.org for more information about the upcoming possibilities.

Be it Valentine's Day, Ash Wednesday, today, or any- day, may we never let even one pass us by without our having said or done something to bring Christ's love to life anew.

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

Faith & Spirituality

Advocate 9



ICS to host 'hero' retreat

SOUTH ORANGE—"How to Become a Spiritual Hero," a retreat sponsored by the Great Spiritual Books Program of the Institute for Christian Spirituality, Immaculate Conception Seminary (ICS), Seton Hall University, will be held Saturday, Feb. 10.

Featured will be Father Dwight Longenecker, founder of the "Ordinary Hero" program used by chaplains and leadership trainers to enhance team building and inspire decision-making.

The retreat will run from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Lewis Hall. The \$15 cost includes lunch. To register or for more information contact Gregory Glazov, D. Phil., ICS Great Spiritual Books program coordinator, or Deborah Kurus, Institute for Christian Spirituality, at kurusdeb@shu.edu or (973) 313-6329.

Father Longenecker graduated from Bob Jones University with a degree in Speech and English before continuing to Oxford University, where he studied theology. He became ordained as an Anglican priest in England. He and his family later converted to Catholicism and moved back to the United States, where he worked in Catholic television and as a freelance writer for Catholic magazines, papers and journals.

His experiences led him to develop the Ordinary Hero program to help prisoners in resettlement programs. Others became interested in Ordinary Hero and with their help, Father Longenecker developed another program: "Working Hero." He was ordained as a Catholic priest and now writes, speaks and consults. Father Longenecker has written articles for publications in the United States, England and Ireland. His best-selling book, The Path to Rome: Modern Journeys to the Catholic Faith, is about modern day conversions to Catholicism.

Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology started the Institute for Christian Spirituality in order to provide a center where those already in ministry or those considering a vocation to ministry may obtain a solid foundation in their faith, learn effective skills in pastoral ministry and leadership, and be given tools for discernment and spiritual growth.

Cool city café offers 'soul food'

JERSEY CITY—In the basement of St. Mary Parish, past the long rows of cafeteria tables and a stage, is a non-descript door. Behind it is the Catholic Café where art, music and spirituality nurture the soul.

Founded recently by artist/songwriter Theresa Rivezzo, Catholic Café is meant "to be a sort of haven for local Catholics to congregate, perform, engage in conversation and share in the arts."

The next program at the café, slated for Saturday, Feb. 10 at 7:30 p.m., will feature a guest speaker and Christian music will revolve around the theme "Facing the Truth About Valentine's Day."

The venue debuted on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in December. Michael Pfeiffer played a set of original steel guitar selections. Others read original poetry, video artist Delmira Valladares made a presentation, artwork was on display and original music was played—all to a packed house.

Michael Armstrong serves as graphic artist for Catholic Café. Local documentary filmmaker Justin Strawhand is organizing a film series. A lecture series is planned that will address such topics as environmental and social justice and Catholicism and the arts.

The Catholic Café is located at 219 3rd St. next to the parish rectory. St. Mary has been merged into the Parish of the Resurrection.



Marco Crincoli, singer/songwriter/producer, performs with singer/songwriter and Catholic Café founder Theresa Rivezzo.

"Although the Catholic Café is a great place to lounge, more is in the works. In keeping with the spirit of engaging the community through the arts and a reengagement of Catholicism with the arts, multiple events are being organized," Rivezzo said. The Pope Speaks



Pope Benedict XVI

Spreading the Gospel

Dear brothers and sisters,

In today's catechesis, we consider three of the most important companions of St. Paul in his missionary preaching of the Gospel: Barnabas, Silas and Apollos. Barnabas, a native of Cyprus, was among the first to accept the Gospel, and he defended before the Jerusalem community the sincerity of Paul's conversion. He accompanied Paul on his first missionary journey, took part in the Council of Jerusalem (cf. Acts 15) and later, after separating from Paul, accompanied the young John Mark to preach in Cyprus.

Silas, also known as Silvanus, was a Jew from Jerusalem and a respected member of the early community, entrusted with communicating the decisions of the Council of Jerusalem to the Christians of Antioch. He was of great help to Paul on his second missionary journey, both in Macedonia and in Corinth.

Apollos, despite his pagan name, was a devout Jew from Alexandria and known as a powerful preacher and teacher in the communities of Ephesus and Corinth.

Reflecting on the example of these three great co-workers of the apostle Paul, dedicated to the Lord and his good news, may we be inspired to a deeper faith in Christ and an evermore-generous commitment to the spread of the Gospel.

'Pope's preacher' to lead SHU forum on Ash Wednesday

SOUTH ORANGE—Renowned Capuchin Friar Raniero Cantalamessa, the preacher to the papal household, will lead "An Evening of Spiritual Renewal" on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 21, 7:30 p.m. at Seton Hall University (SHU), Walsh Gymnasium. Doors open at 6:45 p.m.

Co-sponsored by People of Hope, a Catholic charismatic community (Web site: www.peopleofhope.net) the event is open to the public, but seating is limited. Call (973) 378-2600 for information.

In addition to the SHU forum, Father Cantalamessa will lead "A Morning of Spiritual Renewal for Priests" on Thursday morning, Feb. 22, at St. Philomena Parish, Livingston. Archbishop John J. Myers will meet with him that day.

Widely considered one of the world's pre-eminent speakers on Catholic spiritual life, Father Cantalamessa has served as preacher to the pope and "the papal household" since 1980. He delivers a weekly meditation during Advent and Lent, in the presence of the Holy Father, cardinals and bishops of the Roman Curia, and the general superiors of religious orders. He also hosts a weekly television program in Italy.

The author of many books and articles, Father Cantalamessa was formerly a professor of early Christian history and director of the Religious Sciences Department of the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan. In addition to being a scholar of international renown, Father Cantalamessa is a deeply spiritual priest who has for decades guided numerous spiritual formation sessions and retreats.

He experienced a spiritual reawakening in 1977, "the grace of a new Pentecost," at a People of Hope conference in Convent Station.

_ocal News

Advocate

SHU volunteers

Continued from page 1

Father Chica, parochial vicar at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Elizabeth, sees the spring break trips as "an opportunity to make a difference; an opportunity to give one's whole self without reservation" to a cause. Reflecting on the trips to his native country, he has been struck by the relationships that are established. That is especially so with the children who, he said, "are given hope." It is important too, Father Chica continued, to realize that the young volunteers gain a "different perspective on their lives and the future."

Father Joseph Chapel, associate dean of the Immaculate Conception School of Theology on the SHU campus, has made every El Salvador trip. The experience, he explained, is valuable because for "the first time" it exposes the students to "hardship and the unfairness in the world" while empowering them to realize "they can do something instead of doing nothing."

El Salvador, the smallest nation in Central America with a population of 7 million, saw its share of political instability, military dictators, assassinations and death squads in the second half of the 20th century. Many of the country's troubles today are a direct legacy of that turmoil.

Community service, Father Chapel said, "springs from faith." Going to El Salvador, he continued, is tangible "engagement" with the volunteers' Catholic faith. Encountering suffering people Father Chapel went on, gives the students the unique chance to "experience their innerspirit." Such volunteer service "avoids the pitfalls of cynicism and indifference," Father Chapel concluded.

One of those students was SHU senior Katie Rauch-Sasseen who worked at the Catholic orphanage. She called it "the best experience of my life. I



Children play at the La Aldea Infantil San Antonio orphanage. Katie Rauch-Sasseen said working at the Catholic orphanage was "the best experience of my life. The kids gave me more than I gave them."

left a piece of myself there."

She decided to go to El Salvador, because "I wanted to experience something new. Community service gives me a better understanding of the world. It has definitely strengthened my faith."

Another senior, Michael Loeven, has been to El Salvador twice. He went in 2004 and again last year. "A powerful experience" is how he described it. Loeven worked at the public orphanage, saying that living conditions were "not the greatest" and often resulting in an emotional "roller-coaster."

Whenever the Seton Hall volunteers are in El Salvador, Sheridan pointed out, they inquire about imme-

diate needs. The first trip resulted in the students raising funds to fix a bus for the Catholic orphanage. The next time the SHU visitors were told the nursing home residents sitting near the back of the dining area always got cold food because there was no way to keep it warm, so the SHU group obtained heating trays. The third time, Sister Dora, who runs the Catholic orphanage said there was a need for roofing and food cabinets. Once again that need was met.

An especially touching situation developed when Sister Dora expressed serious concern over the psychological welfare of the orphans. The youngsters, she explained initially to Sheridan, don't know love, are affected by their surroundings and have "a huge sense" of abandonment. The cost for a professional to come to the orphanage was \$3 a day that the Sisters could not afford, plus there was no building for the treatment to take place.

Hearing that, the SHU volunteers swung into action. Last summer they raised the \$10,000 needed for a building and more so that the psychological profession's fee would be covered. In November a two-story structure was built. In recognition of all that the SHU visitors have done the new building was named the Mother Seton Psychological Center.

Two months ago Sheridan along with Father Chica and Father Chapel went to El Salvador for the ribbon cutting that took place Dec. 8—the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Officiating at the ceremony was Most Rev. Luis Morao, the auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Santa Ana, and "overseer" of the orphanage.

Sister Dora, she added, came up to her "with tears in her eyes" to express gratitude. The impact of such a facility, in Sheridan's estimation, "will never be able to be measured."

Father Chica, who celebrated Mass prior to the ribbon cutting, called the Seton Hall program "the Catholic faith in action." The students, he added, "learn from each other and learn from the poor."



Music teacher nurtures her love of music with students

ORADELL—For the past nine years, Saint Joseph School music teacher Linda Mason has shared her love of music with the entire student body in the classroom and at Christmas pageants and spring concerts.

Her mother, Dorothy Stewart, gave her the opportunity to learn the piano at an early age. Not only did she play hymns for her mother's Sunday school classes, she also played for the different youth services. Mason continues to play at parish Masses and various school celebrations.

She purchased hand chimes and primary level hand bells for the music program in memory of her mother. She wanted to pass along to her students the gift her mother had given her.

The students have been perfecting their skills and play beautifully. A club was formed and its members practice during their lunchtime.

"Having the Chime Choir present at our spiritual and musical programs has enriched our lives," explained colleague Fran Fudali. "The entire school community at Saint Joseph School is blessed to be the recipient of two generations of music lovers," added Vice Principal Sylvia Cosentino.



Music teacher Linda Mason leads a practice session of the chime choir.

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Black History Month

SMA traces its service to Black Catholic community

BY DEACON KEITH MCKNIGHT Special to The Catholic Advocate

symposium on Black Catholics, part of a yearlong commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Society of African Missions (SMA Fathers), was held last November at Saint Peter's College in Jersey City (see The Catholic Advocate, Dec. 20, 2006).

The event featured talks by three priests: Rev. Abu Cole, SMA; Rev. Cyprian Davis, O.S.B.; and Rev. Giles Conwill from the Archdiocese of Atlanta. The conference also marked SMA's 100-year anniversary of the establishment of the Catholic Church in the African nation of Liberia and the 100 years of service to the Black Catholic community in the United States.

Father Cole, a SMA priest from Liberia living in Tenafly, discussed the formation of the society in Lyon, France, by Bishop Melchior de Marion-Bresillac during a mission assignment to Sierre Leone in West Africa.

The missionaries faced many trials, he said, noting that Bishop de Marion-Bresillac and his initial six companions all died of yellow fever.

Father Cole also discussed the Church's desire to form a ministry to Blacks in the United States. The SMA-under the leadership of Father Ignatius Lissner and at the invitation of the Holy See-accepted this challenge. From 1908-1913, with the help of Saint

Our prayerful salute`

Katherine Drexel, the society opened and maintained six parishes and schools at various sites in the diocese of Savannah, GA.

The SMA also was active in establishing parishes in East St. Louis, California and Arizona, along with a seminary in Tenafly, which serves as the current location of the SMA's American Provincial headquarters. The SMA's American Province was formally established in 1941 with Father Lissner as its first provincial superior. The goal in establishing the Tenafly seminary was to prepare both indigenous and nonindigenous priests to work on the missions to Blacks in the south.

Father Davis, a professor of Church History at St. Meinrads Abby, IN, and the author of many books, including the critically acclaimed History of Black Catholics In The United *States*, focused on three women of African descent-Mother Theodore Williams, Mathilda Beasley and Mother Emma Lewis ("Three Women Against All Odds").

Mother Theodore was the first superior of "the Handmaids of the Most Pure Heart of Mary," a community of African-American

Deacon Keith McKnight

Sisters that was established in Georgia by Father Lissner.

Father Davis explained that this community, under the direction of Mother Williams, grew slowly and suffered because of racism and political backlash. He said the situation became so bad that the sisters were forced to move to their current home, which is in the Harlem section of New York City.

The second woman Father Davis discussed was a Mathilda Beasley, who died in Savannah before the arrival of Father Lissner. 'She was a leader and a guide. Like Mother Theodore she

worked in Georgia, but unlike Mother Theodore, her work failed." Mother Beasley suffered financial hardships that were too great for her to overcome and she died in 1903 without truly realizing her dream, Father Davis said.

The last woman that Father Davis discussed was Emma Lewis, a lay African-American woman who converted to Catholicism. Mother Lewis worked among Black Catholics in Philadelphia and eventually moved to Atlantic City where she helped to establish the mission of St. Monica and also the Knights of Saint John.

Father Conwill, a professor of History at Morehouse College in Atlanta, discussed the spirituality that can be found among peoples of African descent. He described the African Diaspora (the slave trade) and how the transplanted Africans brought their culture with them to the Americas.

He said many of the African styles of worship still exist. Father Conwill cited the cathartic shout (Alleluia); the call and response pattern in songs and preaching; the emphasis on percussive rhythm; possession by the Holy Spirit; and choreographed choir singing (swaying side to side), all of which can be found in many African-American Catholic Churches.

(Editor's note: Deacon Keith McKnight is the vocation director for the SMA Fathers, American Province; Web site: www.smafa thers.org/smahtml/usprovince.html. Located at 23 Bliss Ave., Tenafly, Father Thomas Wright serves as the provincial superior. The SMA American Province has 34 priests and more than a dozen lay missionaries in the African nations of Liberia, Ghana, Kenya, and Tanzania, as well as throughout the United States. Deacon McKnight, who serves at Christ The King Parish in Jersey City, organized and moderated the November forum at Saint Peter's College.)





and the

with street children in Nairobi, Kenya where he currently studies and lives the missionary life.

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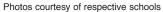


February 7, 2007

Black History Month



PROUD OF OUR HERITAGE-Students at Sacred Heart Vailsburg School, 24 Hazelwood Ave.. Newark, performed in a special "Proud of Our Heritage" assembly program on Jan. 30, which kicked off the school's celebration of Black History Month, Students also created artistic posters that highlighted the accomplishments of African-American leaders. Brother Patrick Byrne, O.A.R., is the principal of Sacred Heart School, which has served the Greater Newark community for more than 110 years.





BLESSED SACRAMENT EVENTS-Blessed Sacrament School, Newark, will hold a Black History Program for students and parents on Feb. 23, 6 p.m. In other events celebrating Black History Month, the school will host an ethnic luncheon on Feb. 16, and a dinner for parents and the community on Feb. 19 at 6 p.m. Students this month will create a "Power Point" presentation on famous African-American leaders and inventors. Alice Terrell is the principal of Blessed Sacrament. Contact the school, located on 600 Clinton Ave., at (973) 824-5859 for more information on the various events.

St. Mary Star of the Sea Church Bayonne

St. Vincent De Paul Church Bayonne

Church of St. Mary Closter

Holy Spirit & Our Lady Help of Christian Church East Orange

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Holy Trinity Church Fort Lee

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Black History Month



Piscataway workshop, slated March 9, will examine childhood trauma, abuse

PISCATAWAY — The Archdiocese of Newark, in conjunction with three other NJ dioceses, is co-sponsoring a special trauma recovery program known as "A Faith-Based Response to Childhood Abuse and Neglect."

The program, sponsored by the Archdiocese of Newark and the dioceses of Camden, Metuchen and Trenton, will be held here on Friday, March 9, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center of the Diocese of Metuchen, 146 Metlars Lane.

Sharon G. Froom, MA, LLP, and Rev. Kenneth W. Schmidt, JCD, MA, LLPC, co-founders of a trauma recovery program in the Diocese of Kalamazoo, MI, will be the featured speakers at the event.

A trauma recovery program encourages effective living in the present rather than recovery from repressed memories, according to event organizers. The program's goal is to help individuals improve their functioning by helping them

Collection set Feb. 21 to aid special fund

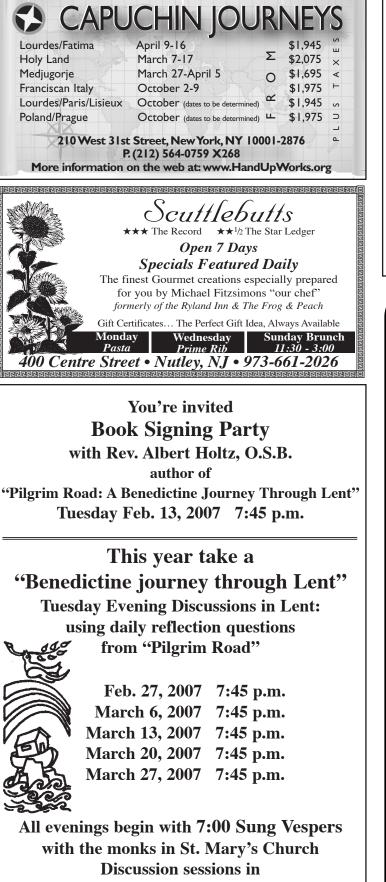
AREA—The Archdiocese of Newark, on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 21, will conduct a special collection at all masses to support the Archdiocesan Priests' Retirement Fund.

Archbishop John J. Myers has authorized the collection to support the fund, which helps provides a modest retirement benefit to archdiocesan priests.

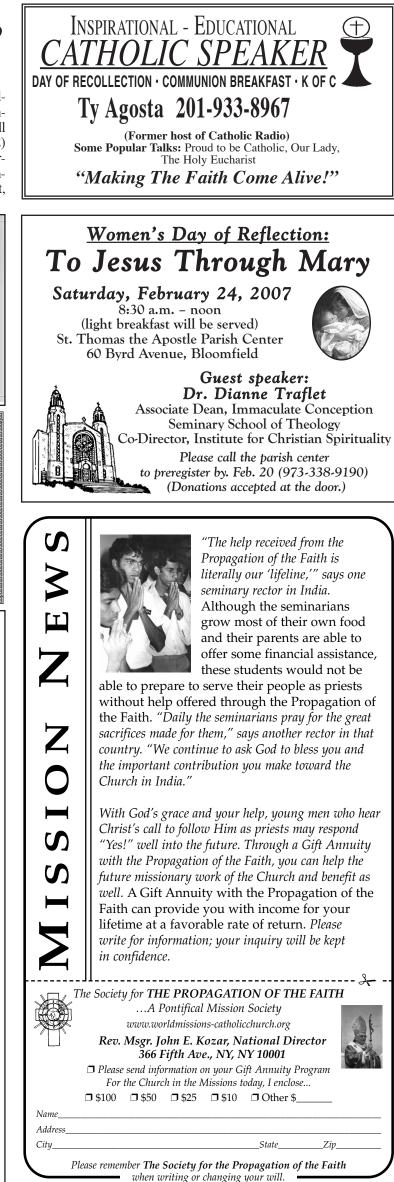
Pastors will read a letter from the archbishop to parishioners at masses during the weekend of Feb. 17 and 18, which will explain the importance of the fund.

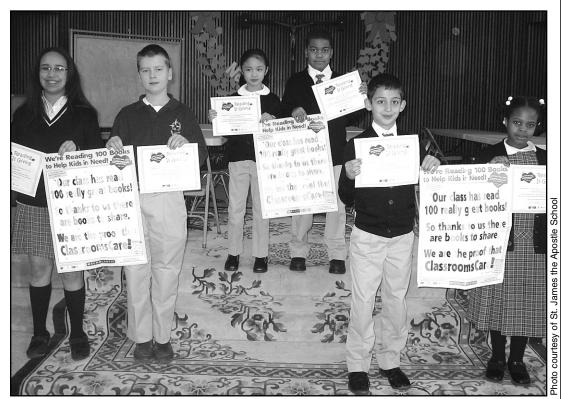


to stabilize using new tools learned in a group setting. This therapy model helps identify conflicts and unlearn specific distortions related to the affects of trauma. The model also teaches the importance of understanding the effects of trama and why it continues. Registration details are available online at www.dioceseoftrenton.org (click on "events"), or call Maureen Fitzsimmons at (732) 747-9660, ext. 110 for more information. The registration fee includes a continental breakfast, lunch and the workshop manual.



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'CLASSROOM CARES'-Third, fourth and sixth grade students at St. James the Apostle School in Springfield read over 300 books as part of "Classroom Cares," a competition sponsored by The Scholastic Foundation. The foundation will donate 300 books to youngsters in need in honor of St. James' student readers. Representatives from each class (left to right), Amanda Torres, Drew Casey, Christina Sanciangco, Justin McCoy, Antonio Trapani and Vanessa Jules, proudly display their individual certificate of achievement and giving.

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Archdiocese to laud labor, business leaders March 6

NEWARK-August and Gary LoBue, co-principals of FAPS Inc. of Port Newark, and Thomas J. Manning, president of the New Jersey State Association of Pipe Trades and business manager of the Steamfitters, Pipefitters and Apprentices Local No. 475, will be honored at the Newark Archdiocese's 14th annual Business and Labor Recognition Reception on Tuesday, March 6 at Mayfair Farms in West Orange.

"Each year the archbishop's reception honors leaders from business and labor who exemplify the finest example of integrity and service in their communities," William T. Mullen, reception chairman and president of the New Jersey Building Trades Council, explained.

Proceeds from the event help support the Catholic Youth Organization's Youth and Young Adult Ministries and CYO Athletics. To date, the annual event has raised more than \$1.3 million.

"The LoBue brothers and Mr. Manning are people who know the meaning of hard work, family values and a commitment to making their communities better places in which to live," Archbishop John J. Myers said in announcing this year's honorees.

FAPS Inc. is North America's leading family-owned and operated automotive port processing company. Founded in 1956 by the LoBues' father, John, as Foreign Auto Preparation Service Inc., its roots were in shops in and around the New York waterfront. Growing up in and around the car business and the port continued for both brothers as they spent weekends, holidays and summer vacation working with their father.

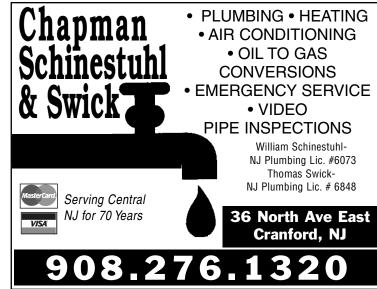
Gary graduated from Middlesex County College and Augie graduated from St. John's University. Both returned to the family business, which today employs more than 350 International Longshoreman Association (ILA) personnel and handles more than 400,000 import and export vehicles annually under contract from the world's leading automakers, steamship companies and railroads.

Two years ago the LoBues received the distinguished honor from the Church as Knights of St. Gregory for their civic support in the Archdiocese of Newark. They are recognized for the continuation of a tradition their father started in maintaining the Port Chapel and inspiration with the construction of the permanent location of the Stella Maris Chapel, Apostolate of the Sea and Catholic ministry to the Maritime Industry Community of the great Port of Newark and Elizabeth.

As president of the New Jersey State Association of Pipe Trades, Manning represents some 11,000 plumbers, pipefitters, sprinklefitters and heating, ventilating and air-conditioning (HVAC) service mechanics. He also serves as business manager of Steamfitters, Pipefitters and Apprentices Local 475, which has some 1,400 members in Essex, Union and Somerset counties.

Manning is a vice president of the New Jersey State Building and Construction Trades, vice president of the Mechanical Allied Crafts and an executive board member of the New Jersey State AFL-CIO. He recently served on Gov. Jon Corzine's Economic Development Transition Team and serves on Congressman Frank Pallone's Labor Advisory Committee and on the School Construction Corporation Board of Directors.

Contact Gerry Ricci-Menegolla, office manager at the Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center at (201) 998-0088, ext. 4154, for more information on the reception or to order tickets. Mayfair Farms is located at 481 Eagle Rock Ave.



March for Life rally

Continued from page 1

The passion and persistence of the younger generation was evident to Sister Marilyn Minter, campus minister at Immaculate Conception High School in Lodi. Traveling with 28 girls, Sister Marilyn experienced first-hand the fire in the hearts of young people for life.

"This was my second time going to the march with the school. There were so many youth and young adults that are committed to life. The power of life and the belief that God is life was impressive.'

Sister Marilyn believes that the philosophies of Pope John Paul II encouraged youth to participate in the pro-life cause. "John Paul II's Gospel of life and the energy of the new evangelization and reverence and passion for life still resonates with young people."

The group of young women all wrote letters to New Jersey's senators in support of life. "We went to the senators' offices and dropped off the letters. The people in their offices were very kind." Along with letters, the group prayed an international rosary and sang "We are One Body" while walking to Capitol Hill.

"It really touched my soul and it was wonderful that we could do this as Catholics. We don't stand up enough for life. Our bishops are doing an incredible job in New

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Jersey. When (people) say young people don't care, it makes a statement that they are here marching. I think it's cool to be Catholic right now. Our archdiocese should be proud," Sister Marilyn said.

Immaculate Conception High School senior Kelly Roleson, 17, one of the young people from the archdiocese who attended the march, saw a newfound energy at the rally. "This was my second time going and people seemed more into it this year. It was very upbeat and the march had a great spirit. People were holding banners and chanting and singing. People love life and know that it is a gift from God."

forefront of the Right to Life

issue. "I am very pro-life and I believe abortion is not the right thing to do. I feel that one person can make a difference." While at the rally, Roleson and her friends came up with a phrase that summed up their beliefs on abortion; "It's not about you; it's not about me-it's about life."

abortion survivors. There are enough people that have bought the lie of choice and are suffering the consequences and are saying 'that was a lie."

Although the march drew a large crowd, Father Meagherwho also serves as a columnist for *The Catholic Advocate*—noticed a

"The news did not cover it because in the heart of Americans, the tide is changing. The march is an encouragement for those on the front line. To see so many people of faith coming out and saying that they are not giving up on God's little ones and that we



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About Christopher West

CHRISTOPHER WEST is a fellow of the Theology of the Body Institute and holds visiting faculty appointments at Creighton University in Omaha and the John Paul II Institute for Marriage and Family in Melbourne, Australia. His books include Good News about Sex & Marriage, Theology of the Body Explained, and Theology of the Body for Beginners. Christopher's ability to present John Paul II's profound insights in a language everyone can understand has helped create an international groundswell of interest in the theology of the body and made Christopher one of the most sought after speakers in the Church today. He and his wife, Wendy, have four children and live in Pennsylvania.

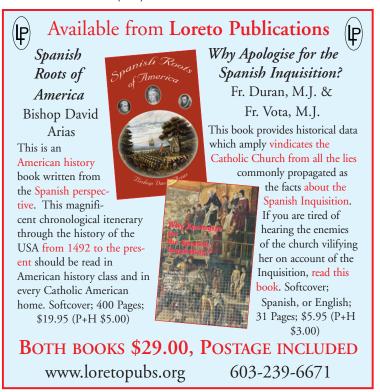
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atholic theologian and wideh acclaimed expert on Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body

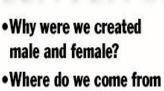
Two Jersey City schools mark merger anniversary



STUDENTS STUDY PEACE-St. Patrick and Assumption/All Saints School, Jersey City, recently celebrated the first anniversary of the merger of the two schools. The student body, which includes children (Pre-K through eight grade) who have emigrated from various African nations, took part in the school's Peace Program. Seventh and eighth grade students enjoyed a trip to Ellis Island where they were able to reflect on the similarities between early immigrants and their own experiences. They then shared their individual cultural backgrounds and their goals for the future. Students also contributed artwork to a huge banner, which displayed these words: "Brothers and Sisters, We Are All Part of One World." The Peace Program is based on the principle that God loves each student. As part of this program, a poetry contest on multiculturalism and peace is planned for the spring. In addition, classes focus on a virtue or moral value each month. In January, students discussed the moral characteristic of "responsibility." Michele Link and Sister Maeve McDermott are the co-principals of St. Patrick and Assumption/All Saints School, which is located at 509 Bramhall Ave. Contact the school at (201) 433-4664 for more information.



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Wanted: criminal justice students

LODI—In the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, an increasing number of students have been drawn to the criminal justice program at Felician College, which in turn has responded to the demand.

Originally offered as a concentration for history and social sciences majors, Felician College (Web site: www.felician.edu) now offers a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice. The program mixes theory and practice to prepare students for the challenges of law enforcement and community involvement.

Dr. Gina Robertiello, associate professor and coordinator of

the criminal justice major, developed the curriculum for the college. Beginning in fall 2005, Robertiello wrote the course syllabi, reviewed faculty needs and prepared the program application for the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education. The program, approved in June of last year, currently has an enrollment of 31 students.

The program was designed with a focus on restorative justice, a values-based approach with emphasis on the repair of harm caused by criminal behavior. Students study cooperative processes such as victim-offender mediation, restitution and ex-of-

<image>

Felician College offers a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice. Pictured here, examining a "crime scene," are (left to right), Yomari Segarra and Halszka Oczkos. Students learn hands-on analysis in the forensic science class.

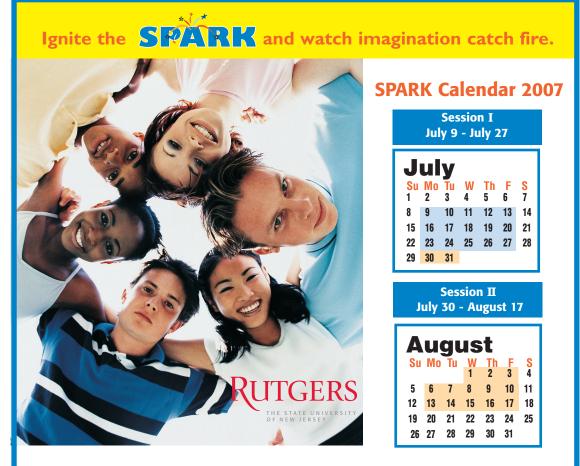




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The Financial Center Eileen H. Fritz 626 Raritan Road Clark, NJ 07066 732.669.0460 www.fritz4tax.com fender assistance programs. The teachings are consistent with the Franciscan values of service to others and respect for all creation, and students are able to explore the religious dimensions of criminal justice, such as the death penalty. Graduates will find a variety of opportunities in the three subsections of the criminal justice system, including law enforcement, corrections and the court system. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment opportunities in this field are increasing at a greater rate than average. In addition, students can continue to law school or graduate education.

"Through our program, students will acquire and use the skills necessary to become effective agents for the improvement—indeed, the transformation of our criminal justice system," Robertiello said.



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