



Resurrection and  
remembrances:  
a special report  
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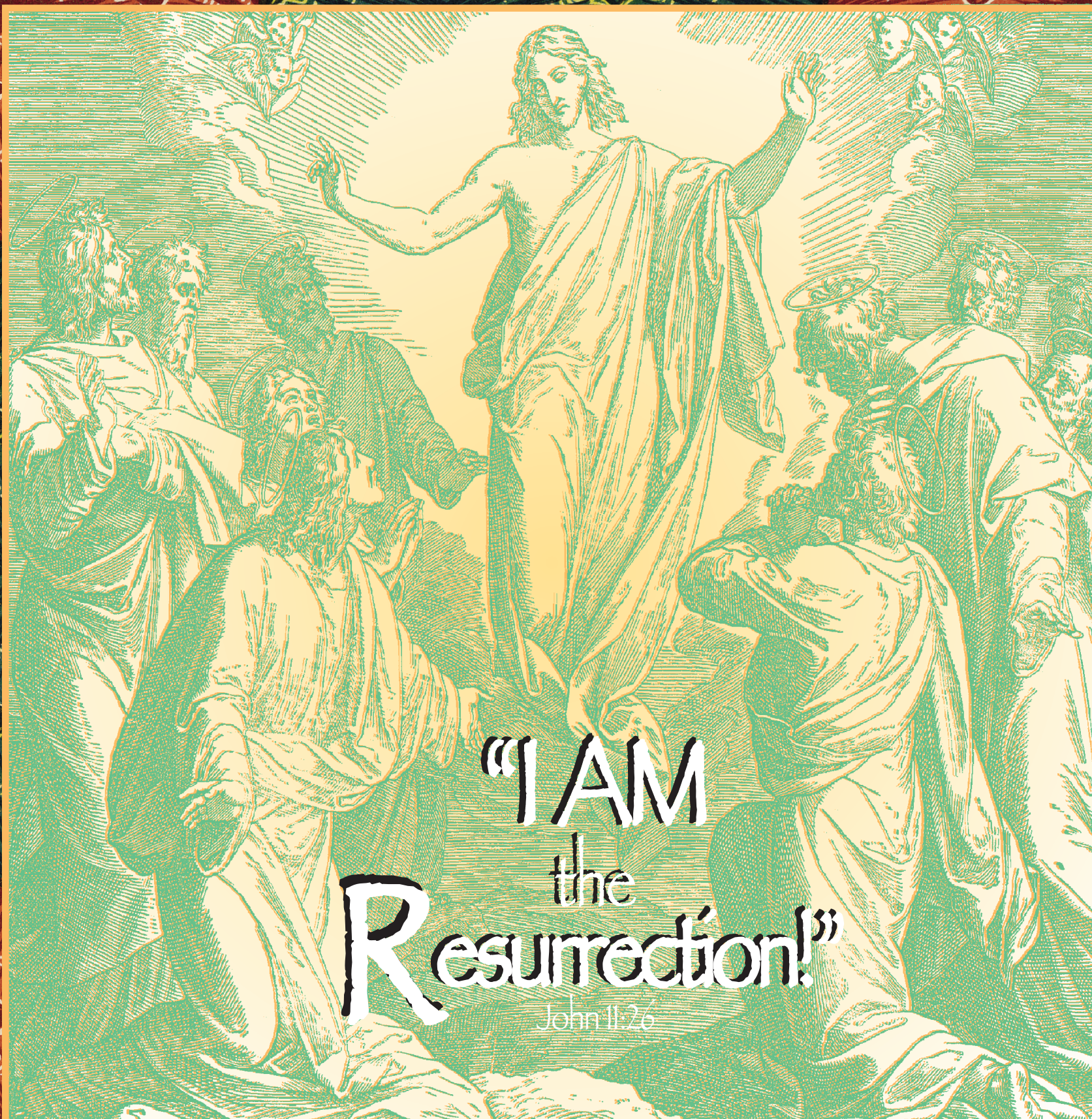


# The Catholic Advocate

Vol. 56, No. 7

CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Wednesday, April 4, 2007



"I AM  
the  
Resurrection!"  
John 11:26



‘A time to be born and a time to die; to seek and lose;  
to rend and sew; tear down and build; mourn and dance’



**A TIME FOR EVERY AFFAIR  
UNDER THE HEAVENS AS LENT  
DRAWS TO AN END—**

“Vanity of vanities! All things are vanity! What profit has man from all the labor which he toils at under the sun? One generation passes and another comes, but the world forever stays.

The sun rises and the sun goes down; then it presses on to the place where it rises. Blowing now toward the south, then toward the north, the wind turns again and again, resuming its rounds. All rivers go to the sea, yet never does the sea become full...Whatever God does will endure; there is no adding to it or taking from it...When the clouds are full they pour out rain upon the earth. Whether a tree falls to the south or to the north, wherever it falls, there shall it lie. One who pays heed to the wind will not sow, and one who watches the clouds will never reap. Just as you know not how the breath of life fashions the human frame in the mother’s womb, so you know not the work of God, which he is accomplishing in the universe.” *The passages come from the Book of Ecclesiastes. The scene is a field in Newark’s Branch Brook Park, near Heller Parkway.*





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# The Catholic Advocate

*"Inspires Our World...One Spirit at a Time."*

President and Publisher  
Most Reverend John J. Myers

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**FREQUENCY FOR THE YEAR**

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

NJPA



ISSN# 1084-3213

# Mourning the lives lost to abortion



**SOLEMN PROCESSION**—The tragedy of 48 million lives lost to abortion during the past 34 years was mourned by the faith community of Queen of Peace Parish, North Arlington, which marked the International Day of the Unborn on March 25. In cooperation with the Knights of Columbus Council 3428, noontime Mass at Queen of Peace preceded a solemn procession to nearby Holy Cross Cemetery. At the cemetery mausoleum chapel, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament was followed by rededication of the Rachel's Monument to the Unborn, a statue installation located near the entrance to the cemetery. Led by a Fourth-Degree Honor Guard of the local Knights of Columbus, participants prayed the rosary during the four-block walk to the cemetery (pictured above) from the parish, carrying blue, white and pink candles that represented the victims of abortion. Most Rev. Charles McDonnell (bottom photo, far right), Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Newark and the state chaplain of the K of C, celebrated the Mass, presided at the exposition and blessed Rachel's Monument. Speaking briefly at the event was Marie Tasy (bottom photo, left), the executive director of Cranford-based New Jersey Right to Life (Web site: [www.njrtl.org](http://www.njrtl.org)). Msgr. William J. Fadrowski is the pastor of Queen of Peace.







Advocate photo—Melissa McNally

**SILVER ANNIVERSARY**—Most Rev. Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, celebrated the 25th anniversary of his ordination on March 25 at St. Michael Parish in Newark, his former parish. Archbishop John J. Myers and Archbishop Emeritus Rev. Peter L. Gerety joined in the celebration. "It is so good having you all here. My life has been enriched by your faith and love," Bishop da Cunha said to the congregation. He also serves as the archdiocesan vicar for evangelization.

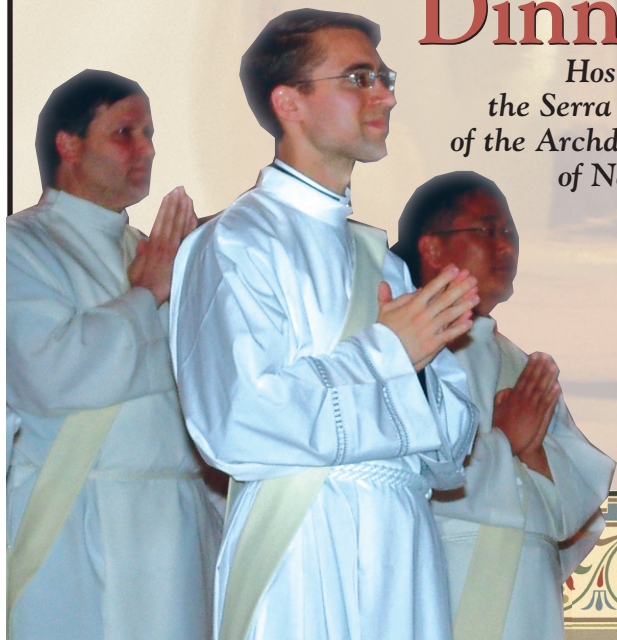


Advocate photos Ward Miele

**FOSTERING VOCATIONS**—Archbishop John J. Myers presided last month at the semiannual vocation awareness evening prayer service for men considering the possibility of a vocation. The service was held in Marian Chapel in the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark. Following the service, Archbishop Myers greeted each young man prior to dinner at his residence. Father Brian Plate is the archdiocesan director of vocations.

## The Fifty-Third Annual Archbishop's Vocations Fund Dinner

Hosted by  
the Serra Clubs  
of the Archdiocese  
of Newark



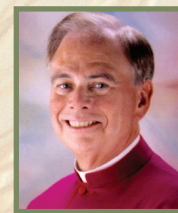
Wednesday, May 2, 2007 • 6 p.m.-8:30 p.m.  
Mayfair Farms - West Orange, NJ



His Grace, The Most Reverend John J. Myers  
would like to invite all parishes and parishioners  
throughout the Archdiocese to join him in attending  
the annual Vocations Fund Dinner

**Honorees:**  
Rev. Msgr. Donald E. Guenther  
Vincent Russo  
Barbara Kelly

**Guest Speaker:**  
Rev. Msgr. John E. Doran  
Vicar General



Donation of \$75.00 per person is requested.

Please make checks payable to: Mr. Joseph Scibetta, 6 Ferncliff Road, Jersey City, NJ 07305

For more information call: Joe Pagano at: 201-424-6773 or Rosemarie Deehan 973-762-6180

Please consider attending this affair supporting our seminarians studying for our Archdiocese.





Photo courtesy of Serra Club

**PRESIDENTIAL VISIT**—Robert Wright, right, president of Serra International (Web site: [www.serraus.org](http://www.serraus.org)), recently addressed the Serra Club of the Oranges. Members of Serra clubs from Bergen, Hudson and Union counties as well as the West Essex area attended the event. Pictured with Wright are, left to right, Msgr. Thomas Nydegger, chaplain, Joseph Pagano, governor of District 22 and Rose Marie Deehan, president of the Serra Club of the Oranges. The Serra clubs of the Archdiocese of Newark plan to honor Archbishop John J. Myers on May 2 at their annual Archbishop's Vocation Fund Dinner at Mayfair Farms in West Orange.

## Parish in Glen Rock prepares to mark Divine Mercy Sunday

GLEN ROCK—The parish of Saint Catharine will mark its 18th anniversary in celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday on April 15.

Led by Louise Pacos, worshipers are invited gather at 3 p.m. at the chapel at the Divine Mercy shrine on parish grounds. There will be adoration before the Blessed Sacrament from 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. Adoration will be followed by a closing benediction and veneration of the first relic of Saint Faustina Kowalska.

Father Dennis J. Cohan is the pastor of Saint Catharine, which is located at 905 South Maple Ave. Contact the rectory at (201) 445-3703 for additional information on the parish's celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday.

The Church offers a plenary indulgence on Divine Mercy Sunday to draw the attention of the faithful to God's love and mercy (see *The Catholic Advocate*, March 21 and Feb. 21).

## Heritage Tour hits the road April 14 to visit 4 churches in Hudson County

AREA—The Archdiocese of Newark will host its semiannual Heritage Tour on Saturday, April 14, an all-day bus excursion that will visit four treasured churches in Hoboken, Jersey City and Bayonne.

The tour program includes stops at Saint Michael Parish, Jersey City; Our Lady of Grace Parish, Hoboken; and two parishes in Bayonne: Saint Vincent de Paul and Saint Henry. The final stop at St. Henry will feature Mass (at approximately 3:45 p.m.) with Bishop Thomas A. Donato.

Troy Simmons, architectural historian and pat-

rimony manager for the Archdiocese of Newark, will lead the tour and provide expert commentary.

Tickets for the tour are \$45 per person. Contact Theresa Lynch at (973) 497-4042 to register.

The day begins with a continental breakfast and check-in, 7:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m., at the Archdiocesan Center, 171 Clifton Ave., Newark, where secure parking will be provided. Climate-controlled tour buses will depart promptly from the Archdiocesan Center at 9 a.m. and return at around 5 p.m.

## Traditional Latin Mass

**Saint Anthony of Padua Chapel**  
Archdiocese of Newark

1360 Pleasant Valley Way, West Orange, NJ 07052

Tel: (973) 325-2233

**Directions:** Exit 7 from I-280, then south for 1 1/2 miles on Pleasant Valley Way

*Come to St. Anthony's!*

Designated by the Archdiocese of Newark for the exclusive celebration of the Traditional Latin Mass and Sacraments

### Mass Schedule

Sunday: 7:30 a.m. • 9:00 a.m. • 11:00 a.m. (sung Mass)

Weekdays: Monday and Saturday: 9:00 a.m.

**Confessions 1/2 hour before each Mass on Sunday**



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**Friday, May 4 through Sunday, May 6, 2007**

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**(973) 566-0117**



## STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH IN AMERICA

Catholic dioceses throughout the United States and its dependencies work hard to meet the faith needs of their parishes, but they need your help.

Your gift to the Catholic Home Missions Appeal supports mission parishes and dioceses in ministries like the following:

Evangelization • Religious Education • Education of Future Priests  
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Youth Ministry • Multicultural Ministry • Ministry with Disabled Persons

Please support those communities where the Church is striving to take hold and to grow.  
Please give generously when the Catholic Home Missions Appeal is taken up in your parish.



HomeMissions@usccb.org  
[www.usccb.org/HM](http://www.usccb.org/HM)  
(202) 541-3450







## April 6

**United Way of Essex and West Hudson and Agape Family Worship Center;** United Way Parking Lot, 303 Washington Street, Newark; 10 a.m.-noon. Volunteers will distribute food, clothing and personal items to the needy. On-site cell phone: (973) 868-2447.

## April 11

**Seton Hall University,** South Orange, Pro-Life Day, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., (973) 761-9489.

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

**Seton Hall Law,** Newark, Distinguished Practitioner Award ceremony, The Newark Club, 6-9 p.m., cost: \$65, call Calvin Souder at (201) 889-7661.

**St. Theresa Parish,** Kenilworth, annulment information meeting, 7:30 p.m., (973) 497-4327.

**Seton Hall University,** South Orange, Steve Gehrke and Nadine Meyer Poetry-in-the-Round, 7 p.m., (973) 761-5105.

## April 12

**St. Elizabeth Parish,** Wyckoff, bereavement support group, 7:30-9 p.m., (201) 891-6708.

**Felician College,** Rutherford and Lodi, blood drive, 11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., 1-866-968-2265.

**St. James Hospital,** Newark, blood drive, 7 a.m. - 3 p.m., 1-866-968-2265.

## April 13

**Sodality of the Children of Mary of St. Teresa,** Jersey City, recitation of "Little Office," 3:15, call Katherine Crossan at (201) 689-1471.

## April 14

**Knights of Columbus Council 5427,** Washington Township, honor ceremony, 7 p.m., call Ken Kaphammer at (201) 664-0097.

**St. Aloysius Rosary Altar Society,** Caldwell, Spring Luncheon, Victor's Chateau, Little Falls, cost: \$35, Little Falls, call Marjule Drury at (973) 226-0048.

**Lumen Center,** Caldwell, "Where are you? Are You or is God Asking the Question?," 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., cost: \$20, (973) 403-3331 ext. 25.

**St. Andrew Parish,** Westwood, Bereavement Mass, noon, (201) 666-1100.

## April 15

**Knights of Columbus Council 4066,** Maplewood, blood drive, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., 1-866-968-2265.

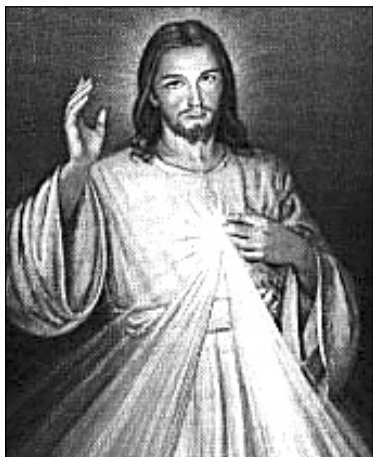
**Marylawn of the Oranges Alumnae Association,** West Orange, Rock Spring Club, 11:30 a.m., call Mary Clare Vogt at (973) 762-9222 ext. 24.

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

**St. Thomas More Parish,** Fairfield, Divine Mercy celebration, noon, call Rosemary Horkay (973) 882-0880.

**St. Paul Parish,** Ramsey, Divine Mercy Sunday prayer service, 3 p.m., (201) 327-0976.

**St. John the Apostle Parish,** Clark/Linden, Divine Mercy Sunday celebration, 2 p.m., (908) 486-6363.



## ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH

Bloomfield Avenue at North Eighth Street  
Newark, NJ

For information call (973) 482-8410

*Welcomes everyone for*

# NOVENA DIVINE MERCY!

*Starting on GOOD FRIDAY, April 16 at 3:00 PM  
and closes on*

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY, April 15.**

**Monday, April 9 at 3:00 pm - Children**

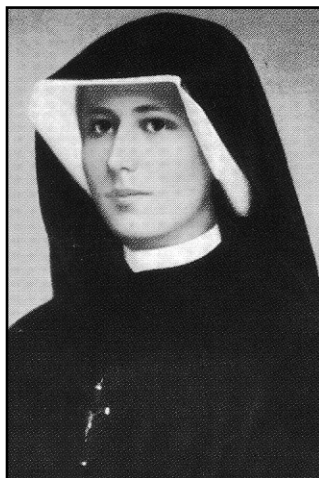
**Tuesday, April 10 to Thursday, April 12 at 7:00 pm - Everyone**

**Friday, April 13 at 3:00 pm - Service for the sick with confession and blessing by the Blessed Sacrament**

**Saturday, April 14 at 5:00 pm - Healing Mass**

**Sunday, April 15 at 3:00 pm - Solemn Mass with Bishop Edgar da Cunha and procession of the Blessed Sacrament.**

*Everyday Veneration and Blessing by  
FIRST CLASS RELIC of SR. FAUSTINA*



## April 19

**Felician College,** Lodi, Health Fair, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., (201) 355-1309.

**Notre Dame Club of Northern New Jersey,** Lyndhurst, Universal Notre Dame Night celebration, San Carlo Restaurant, cost: \$75, call Joe Macdonell at (201) 248-0235.

## April 21

**Holy Family Parish,** Nutley, dinner dance, San Carlo Restaurant, 6:30 - 11:30 p.m., cost: \$60, call Elaine Mangano at (973) 235-1477.

**Queen of Peace High School,** North Arlington, flea market, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., call Vincent McMahon at (201) 998-8235.

# Maplewood interfaith service to honor Holocaust survivors

MAPLEWOOD—Saint Joseph Parish, 767 Prospect St., will host the 30th annual Maplewood/South Orange Interfaith Holocaust Remembrance Service on Sunday April 15 at 6:30 p.m.

The interfaith service will memorialize the lives of the millions murdered by the Nazis as well as honor Holocaust survivors and their liberators. This year's program, titled "Remember and Tell," will present David Gewirtzman, a survivor of the Shoah in Europe, and Jacqueline Murkatete, a survivor of the Rwandan genocide. David Brancaccio, host of the Public Broadcasting System (PBS) TV program "Now," will serve as moderator.

The service will include the lighting of 18 memorial candles commemorating the 11 million Jews, Gypsies, people from Slavic countries and others murdered at the hands of the Nazis during the 1930s and 1940s. The candles symbolize the word "chai," which translated from Hebrew means "life" and consists of two letters that are the numeric equivalent of 18. Contact St. Joseph's Parish at (973) 761-5933, or visit rememberandtell@yahoo.com for more information.

The service will be preceded by the traditional "March of Remembrance," which will start at 5:45 p.m. at the municipal parking lot at Springfield Avenue and Indiana Street. The march will continue on Springfield Avenue to the church.

This year's interfaith service, representing nearly 20 houses of worship in Maplewood and South Orange, will feature liturgy and music prepared by several South Orange/Maplewood clergy, led by Father Michael A. Saporito, the pastor of St. Joseph Parish. Father Saporito will share the altar with other spiritual leaders in the community, including Reverend Sandye A. Wilson, St. Andrew and Holy Communion Episcopal Church; Cantor Perry Fine, Congregation Beth-El; Rabbi Daniel Cohen, Temple Sharey Tefilo-Israel and Rabbi Jehiel Orenstein, Rabbi Emeritus, Congregation Beth-El.

In addition to the liturgical readings and prayer, cellist Martin Steinberg and the "Voices in Harmony" combined children's choir, led by Cantor Erica Lippitz, Oheb Shalom Congregation and accompanied by Dugan McGinley, St. Joseph Parish, will present the evening's music.

## DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

**April 15, 2007**



## ST. LUCY'S CHURCH

118 7th Ave., Newark, NJ

*(2 blocks from the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart)*

1:30 PM Exposition & Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament. The Divine Mercy Chaplet at 2 PM, 3 PM, 4 PM  
1:30PM-4:00PM Confessions will be heard  
3:45 PM Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament  
4:00 PM Sunday Mass

**After Mass:** *Kissing of the first class relic of St. Faustina  
All Invited!*





# Holy Week Schedule

Archbishop John J. Myers and his bishops have released their schedules for Holy Week

**Most Rev. John J. Myers**  
Archbishop of Newark

**Holy Thursday**, April 5—Mass, 7:30 p.m., Sacred Heart Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Newark. Guest homilist Msgr. Stewart Sweetland from Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburgh, MD.

**Good Friday**, April 6—9:30 a.m., participate in Living Rosary, Englewood, 3 p.m. Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, Good Friday Service

**Holy Saturday** (Easter Vigil), April 7—8:15 p.m., Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark

**Easter Sunday**, April 8—noon Mass, Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark

**Most Rev. Peter L. Gerety**  
Archbishop Emeritus of Newark

(All at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Cedar Grove)

**Holy Thursday**, April 5—7:30 p.m., Mass of the Lord's Supper

**Good Friday**, April 6—3 p.m., Liturgy of the Passion

**Holy Saturday** (Easter Vigil), April 7—8 p.m., Vigil of the Resurrection

**Most Rev. Edgar da Cunha**  
Auxiliary Bishop of Newark

**Holy Thursday**, April 5—7:30 p.m., Mass, St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Hillside

**Good Friday**, April 6—3 p.m., Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, West Orange

**Holy Saturday** (Easter Vigil), April 7—8 p.m., Mass, Saint Francis deSales Parish, Lodi (bilingual)

**Easter Sunday**, April 8—11 a.m., Mass, St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Elizabeth

**Most. Rev. Thomas A. Donato**  
Auxiliary Bishop of Newark

(All at St. Henry Parish, Bayonne)

**Holy Thursday**, April 5—7:30 p.m. Mass, will preside at but not celebrate Mass

**Good Friday**, April 6—7:30 p.m. will preside at Good Friday Service

**Holy Saturday**—(Easter Vigil), April 7—7:30 p.m. Mass

**Easter Sunday**, April 8—8 a.m. Mass

**Most Rev. John W. Flesey**  
Auxiliary Bishop of Newark

(All at Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, Franklin Lakes)

**Holy Saturday** (Easter Vigil), April 7—7:30 p.m. Mass

**Easter Sunday**, April 8—noon Mass

**Most Rev. Charles McDonnell**  
Auxiliary Bishop of Newark Emeritus

(All at Holy Trinity Parish, Hackensack)

**Holy Thursday**, April 5—7:30 p.m., Mass of the Lord's Supper

**Good Friday**, April 6—3 p.m., Liturgy of the Passion

**Holy Saturday**, (Easter Vigil), April 7—Mass at 8:30 p.m.

**Most Rev. Dominic A. Marconi**  
Auxiliary Bishop of Newark Emeritus

**Holy Thursday**, April 5—7:30 p.m., Mass, St. Anne Parish, Garwood

**Good Friday**, April 6—7:30 p.m., Celebration of the Lord's Passion, St. Margaret of Cortona Parish, Little Ferry

**Holy Saturday**, April 7—noon, Blessing of Easter food at St. Theresa Parish, Linden

**Holy Saturday** (Easter Vigil), April 7—8 p.m. Mass, St. Vincent DePaul Parish, Bayonne

**Easter Sunday**, April 8—9 a.m. Mass, St. Theresa Parish, Kenilworth

**Most Rev. David Arias**  
Auxiliary Bishop of Newark Emeritus

**Holy Thursday**, April 5—11 a.m., Priests' Holy Hour, St. Henry Parish, Bayonne; 9 p.m., Last Supper Mass, St. Augustine Parish, Union City

**Good Friday**, April 6—3 p.m., Living Stations of the Cross; 4:30 p.m., Liturgical Services, Holy Rosary/St. Michael Parish, Elizabeth.

**Easter Sunday**, April 8—10:30 a.m., Easter Mass, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Newark.

# Reader inspired by Fr. Raniero

Editor,

Nietzsche was wrong. The Living God was at Seton Hall University on the evening of Ash Wednesday.

I went to hear Father Raniero Cantalamessa, the “preacher to the pope.” He shared how in the 1970s he was invited on a charismatic retreat. He said he was skeptical but went to listen, pray and criticize. His heart was changed by their sorrow for sin and radiant joy in accepting forgive-

ness in the sacrament of Reconciliation.

He said he also had a vision of himself in a chariot holding the reins. Jesus appeared and asked: “Who will hold the reigns of your life, Raniero—Me or you?” He handed the reins over to Jesus and has never been the same.

To witness people embracing Father Cantalamessa’s message filled me with great joy. Pope John Paul II prophesied a new springtime for the Church. Yes—on Ash Wednesday many new sprouts came bursting through the soil. Praise God!

Mark J. Mattheiss  
Maplewood

# Catholic schools: ‘a job well done’

Editor,

Recently, Catholic Schools across the country celebrated Catholic Schools Week. As alumni of Bayonne Catholic schools—Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, Holy Family and Marist High School—we congratulate Catholic schools on a job well done.

We especially congratulate our elementary alma mater, Mount Carmel, for

achieving the coveted Middle States accreditation—the only Catholic elementary school in Bayonne to be so designated.

A lot of hard work on the part of the principal, faculty, parents and students went into completing the necessary accreditation process. Another job well done by all involved.

In the years to come, we hope that parents and students are given the opportunity to benefit from a Catholic education in Bayonne and that parishes and the archdiocese continue to support them.

Leonard and Diane Bajor  
Middletown

# A march to protect the unborn

The sorrow was palpable during last month’s moving observance of International Day of the Unborn at Queen of Peace Parish in North Arlington.

In cooperation with the local Knights of Columbus, the almost unfathomable loss of 48 million innocent lives to the horror of abortion was mourned in profound and powerful services at the church and nearby Holy Cross Cemetery. Most Rev. Charles McDonnell, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Newark, celebrated the noontime Mass and presided at the cemetery services.

Several times during Mass the word “murder” was used in reference to the unborn killed by abortion; tough language, but appropriate language. Abortion is murder.

A particularly poignant moment took place right after Mass when an infant and her mother—who chose life over abortion—suddenly appeared on the altar. A noticeable gasp of joy at the new life before them that had not been aborted brought the congregation spontaneously to its feet in a standing ovation.

Following Mass, the faithful gathered outside the church for a prayerful procession to Holy Cross Cemetery. Led by a Fourth-Degree Honor Guard of the Knights of Columbus, they prayed the rosary. In the line of march were Bishop McDonnell, parish clergy carrying the Blessed Sacrament and Rev. Msgr. William Fadrowski, pastor. Given the honor of carrying blue, white and pink candles, signifying the lives lost to abortion since the horrific procedure was legalized by the U.S. Supreme Court, were expectant mothers, mothers and grandmothers.

At the cemetery mausoleum chapel, with almost everyone holding lit candles in silent remembrance, Bishop McDonnell presided at Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

The slaughter performed in the nation’s abortion mills hit home with the blessing and rededication of the Rachel’s Monument to the Unborn. It was through the efforts of the Knights of Columbus throughout the Archdiocese of Newark that the monument was built in 2000 and we thank them for their magnificent effort.

Sorrow permeated the services, but so did the determination to never give up the fight to overturn the monstrous and unholy U.S. Supreme Court decision, which was rendered on Jan. 22, 1973. The message was clear: no more lives lost to the evil of abortion.



Advocate photo Ward Niele

Rachel’s Monument to the Unborn at Holy Cross Cemetery in North Arlington.



# Spring ahead and renew faith during Easter season

Although spring arrived officially on March 21, for most people, regardless of the date, the sense that it is really spring comes with Easter. In fact, the word “Eastre,” from the Old English, actually means “spring.”

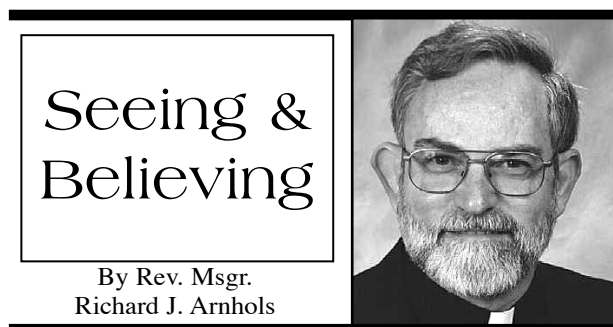
Spring is the time, at least in our part of the world, where the seemingly dead comes back to life. The tiny crocus peeks through the thawing soil. Lawns turn green again and flowers and trees form their first buds of the season.

Having come through a curious winter of two months much warmer than average followed by two months much colder, we welcome the promise of more pleasant temperatures and increasing daylight.

This year’s Academy Award for best documentary went to Al Gore’s “An Inconvenient Truth.” While some have questioned Mr. Gore’s motives in producing the film, we shouldn’t kill the message because of the messenger. Indeed, even Gov. Jon Corzine has announced the beginning of serious initiatives to address the issue of global warming.

Although the film clearly demonstrates that, over the eons of the world’s existence, there have been some natural patterns of global warming and cooling, it is incontrovertible that our generation is accelerating the natural trends at breakneck speed.

Some people have the attitude that our generation really won’t suffer that greatly from our careless lifestyle, although its legacy will greatly affect our children and grandchildren. Happily, individuals,



corporations, and countries are taking this more seriously. Much, of course, remains to be done.

Some say the simple ways in which the average person can help will make little difference in the outcome, yet won’t God be asking us what we have done and what we have failed to do?

Among the suggestions in the film are: change a light (from incandescent to fluorescent), drive less, recycle more, check our tires, use less hot water, avoid products with a lot of packaging, adjust your thermostat, plant a tree (Earth Day is April 22), turn off electronic devices when not in use, be part of the solution. (Learn more at the Web site: [ClimateCrisis.net](http://ClimateCrisis.net).)



*Any challenge to our faith gives us the opportunity to rethink what we truly believe and why we believe it.*

Not every documentary, however, deserves our support. Last month’s TV presentation on the purported “Tomb of Jesus” is pure conjecture based on illogical leaps from certain seeming coincidences to fully outrageous conclusions. Nonetheless, any challenge to our faith gives us the opportunity to rethink what we truly believe and why we believe it.

St. Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 15:14: “And if Christ has not been raised, then empty (too) is our preaching; empty, too, your faith.”

Eyewitness accounts recorded in the Scriptures, coupled with sadistic martyrdoms of countless believers, reaffirm that Jesus truly lived, truly died, and truly rose to life again. Death is swallowed up in Christ’s victory over it. Sin is forgiven. For the believer, life begins anew.

As we celebrate the Sacred Triduum culminating in

the glory of Easter, may we leave behind us whatever weighs us down or separates us from God or others and let Jesus transform us more fully into people who love as He did and whose hope blossoms in lives so spiritually renewed.

Happy Easter!

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

## Celebrating Easter and the Resurrection of Jesus

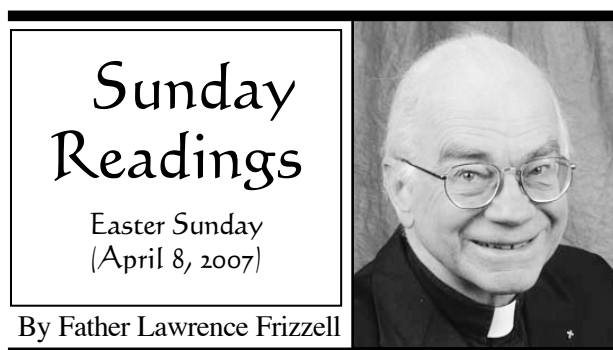
**Readings: Acts 10:34, 37-43; Ps 118; Col 3:1-4 (or 1 Cor 5:6-8) Jn 20:1-9 (or Lk 24:1-12).**

The Paschal festival, known in English as Easter, is the most solemn of all the Church’s feasts (Vatican Council II, Sacred Liturgy No. 102). The mystery of God’s mercy, manifested in myriad ways throughout creation and history, is focused ultimately on Jesus. With special gratitude the Church commemorates His death as the unique sacrifice that brings humanity back to the heavenly Father.

The first generations of Christians recognized a profound continuity from the time of Moses and the Exodus to the work of Jesus. The Israelites were liberated from a political enslavement that tried to stifle conscience. In the passing of Jesus through death to new life, humanity was offered freedom from the even more pervasive servitude to sin and Satan.

Although the Passover (Pascha in Aramaic) does not exhaust Christian efforts to understand Jesus’ death and resurrection, its symbols are primary. Thus St. Paul drew the attention of Corinthian Christians to the unleavened bread and lamb of the Jewish feast. A thorough house cleaning and use of unleavened bread pointed to the high moral life demanded of Jews and Christians. The latter rejoiced that “Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed!” (1 Cor 5:7).

After participating in the drama of Holy Week, Christians rightly celebrate Easter as the triumph of Jesus over death. The resurrection is the heavenly Father’s seal of approval on the work and especially the obedient death of Jesus. The Church wants us to rejoice as well in



the way in which Baptism unites us with Jesus in His suffering and death, His resurrection and ascension (see Romans 6:3-5). For the full impact of our worship as a vehicle to understand the Paschal Mystery and our Baptism we should celebrate the Easter Vigil.

Yet even in the less elaborate Sunday Mass, we use the water blessed in the Vigil and renew our baptismal promises. We are challenged to make our faith active in the fabric of our lives. “Since you have been raised up in company with Christ, set your hearts on what pertains to higher realms where Christ is seated at God’s

right hand” (Col 3:1). Our entire existence is now centered on Jesus. As St. Paul told the Galatians: “The life I live now is not my own; Christ is living in me” (Gal 2:20). Rooted in His death and resurrection through Baptism, we look forward to His return as judge (see Acts 10:42). “When Christ our life appears, then you shall appear with Him in glory” (Col 3:4).

*Christians rightly celebrate Easter as the triumph of Jesus over death. The resurrection is the heavenly Father’s seal of approval on the work and especially the obedient death of Jesus.*

As we read the Gospel narratives about the risen Lord, we cannot fail to note small discrepancies among the traditions. These are probably indications of oral accounts in different communities of Christians. What is important is the consistent witness to a paradox: this is the same Jesus whom they knew, yet He is now in a totally new situation.

The Gospels also note that women were the first witnesses to the resurrection. Because the legislation of the Jewish society in which the early Christians lived usually did not allow women to testify as witnesses, the evangelists would have been stupid to fabricate such accounts. Rather, they are describing the transformation of life by the risen Lord. The women’s devotion to Jesus gave them courage to stand near the cross and to visit the tomb; their piety was rewarded.

The Fourth Gospel reports that Peter and the beloved disciple (representing the typical Christian) hastened to the tomb; the latter “saw and believed” (Jn 20:8,) yet they soon departed. Mary Magdalene was not so hasty to go home. She had alerted the Apostles about the empty tomb, but now she wanted to find the Master’s body. She perceived the New Adam and thought him to be a gardener. This is the Good Shepherd who knows his sheep and calls his own by name (Jn 10:3, 14). Mary recognized His voice and addresses him by the familiar title “Rabbouni” (Teacher).

It is the privilege of Christians to know Jesus by many names and titles and to savor a relationship with Him that is intensely personal and yet within a community of believers. “O Christ our God, you spoke clearly to the myrrh-bearing women; you bestowed peace on your apostles, and to the fallen you have brought resurrection” (Liturgy of the Byzantine rite). Knowing what He has done for us and for all people, we ask to know the mission that we are to accomplish in His Name.

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



# Exhortation by pope reflects on Eucharist, liturgy devotion

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Catholics must believe in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, celebrate the liturgy with devotion and live in a way that demonstrates their faith, according to Pope Benedict XVI.

"The celebration and worship of the Eucharist enables us to draw near to God's love and to persevere in that love," the pope said in his apostolic exhortation, "*Sacramentum Caritatis*" ("The Sacrament of Charity").

Last month the Vatican released the 131-page document, a papal reflection on the discussions and suggestions made during the 2005 world Synod of Bishops on the Eucharist.

When Jesus instituted the Eucharist at the Last Supper, He did not simply thank God for the ways He had acted throughout history to save people, the pope said. Rather, Jesus revealed that He was the sacrifice that would bring salvation to fulfillment.

"The institution of the Eucharist demonstrates how Jesus' death, for all its violence and absurdity, became in Him a supreme act of love and mankind's definitive deliverance from evil," Pope Benedict wrote. Celebrating the Eucharist, he said, "the Church is able to celebrate and adore the mystery of Christ" who is present in the bread and wine through the power of the Holy Spirit.

In addition to offering a spiritual reflection on the meaning of the Eucharist, the liturgy and eucharistic adoration, Pope Benedict made several concrete suggestions for further study and for celebrating the Mass in the Latin rite. While he encouraged wider knowledge and use of the Mass prayers in Latin and of Gregorian chant, he also repeated the synod's affirmation of the "beneficial influence" of the liturgical changes made by the Second Vatican Council on the life of the Church.

However, he also endorsed the synod's suggestion that at masses with a large, international congregation, the liturgy be celebrated in Latin "with the exception of the readings, the homily and the prayer of the faithful."

In addition, the pope encouraged bishops' conferences, in collaboration with the Vatican, to examine their practices for the order and timing of the sacraments of Christian initiation: baptism, confirmation and Eucharist.

While expressing his concern for the number of Catholics unable to receive Communion because of irregular marital situations, Pope Benedict confirmed Church teaching that those who have been divorced and civilly remarried without having obtained an annulment are not to receive Communion. However, the pope encouraged bishops to ensure they have fully trained and staffed marriage tribunals to deal with annulment requests "in an expeditious manner."

Pope Benedict said the traditional sign of peace at Mass "has great value," especially in demonstrating the Church's responsibility to pray for peace and unity in a world too often troubled by division, violence and hatred. While Catholics at Mass should exchange a sign of peace with those near them, he also called for "greater restraint" to ensure the moment does not become one of irreparable distraction.

"I have asked the competent curial offices to study the possibility of moving the sign of peace to another place (in the Mass), such as before the presentation of the gifts at the altar," the pope said.

The Church should consider providing new texts for the rite of dismissal at the end of Mass so Catholics would understand better the connection between what they have just celebrated and the fact that they are sent out in a mission to bring God's love and truth to the world, the pope said. In order to help Catholics "believe, celebrate and live ever more fully the mystery of the Eucharist," several Vatican offices are preparing a compendium of texts, prayers and explanations of the Church teaching on the Eucharist and of the eucharistic prayers used at Mass.

The pope called for a general improvement in the quality of homilies and said bishops have a particular responsibility to ensure that the liturgies they celebrate provide an example for the whole diocese of a liturgy celebrated with

dignity, beauty and fidelity to the approved rites. He asked that Catholics pay more attention to how their postures and gestures at Mass communicate their faith in the Eucharist, particularly by kneeling during the central moments of the eucharistic prayer.

"Amid the legitimate diversity of signs used in the context of different cultures, everyone should be able to experience and express the awareness that at each celebration we stand before the infinite majesty of God, who comes to us in the lowliness of the sacramental signs," he said.

As for Church design and architecture, Pope Benedict encouraged parishes to ensure their facilities are fully accessible to people with disabilities and that the tabernacle containing the Blessed

Sacrament is readily visible to everyone entering the church. "In churches which do not have a Blessed Sacrament chapel and where the high altar with its tabernacle is still in place, it is appropriate to continue to use this structure for the reservation and adoration of the Eucharist," he said. "In new churches, it is good to position the Blessed Sacrament chapel close to the sanctuary; where this is not possible, it is preferable to locate the tabernacle in the sanctuary, in a sufficiently elevated place." However, the final judgment on these matters belongs to the diocesan bishop, he said.

In the letter, Pope Benedict also formally reaffirmed the obligation of celibacy for priests in the Latin rite and the fact that, in most cases, Catholics and other Christians should not share the Eucharist, which is a sign of full unity in faith. He reminded Catholics of the obligation to be in a "state of grace," free from serious sin, before receiving Communion, and of the fact that by receiving Communion they are publicly proclaiming their unity with the teaching of the Church.

"Respect for human life, its defense from conception to natural death, the family built upon marriage between a man and a woman, the freedom to educate one's children and the promotion of the common good in all its forms...are not negotiable," he said.

Politicians and lawmakers must introduce and support laws inspired by those values, the pope said. Bishops are bound to reaffirm constantly these values as part of their responsibility to the flock entrusted to them. However, the pope did not mention his position on whether or not bishops should declare publicly that they would withhold Communion from a politician who did not fully accept Church teaching.



Pope Benedict XVI waves to the crowd as he arrives to lead his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican late last month.

CNS photo

## The Pope Speaks

Pope Benedict XVI



## The 'rule of faith'

Dear brothers and sisters,

Continuing our catechesis on the Church fathers, we turn now to St. Irenaeus of Lyon, a great theologian and bishop at the end of the second century.

In his writings, Irenaeus clearly sets forth the contents of the apostolic faith and appeals to the Church's living tradition in order to defend that faith from false teachings. He thus emphasizes the "*regula fidei*": the "rule of faith" contained in the Apostles' Creed and in the Gospel proclaimed by the Church's bishops.

The Gospel Irenaeus preached was the Gospel preached by his teacher, Polycarp, who in turn received it from the apostle John in an unbroken line of succession going back to Christ Himself. Irenaeus also writes of the unique authority of the Church of Rome as founded on the apostles.

This zealous pastor illustrates for us three important characteristics of the apostolic tradition: It is "public," because it is available to all through the teaching of the bishops; it is "one," because its content remains the same despite the variety of languages and cultures; and it is "pneumatic," because, through it, the Holy Spirit continues to enliven and renew the Church even today.

## Pontiff cites theology as a key to unlock the deepest questions

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Theology is not a specialized discipline earmarked for a few; rather, it is a valuable guide to life and can answer humanity's deepest questions, Pope Benedict XVI declared.

Theology, or the study of the nature of God and religious truth, is a great endeavor, he told a group of theology professors from the University of Tübingen, Germany, during a March 21 private audience at the Vatican.

Pope Benedict taught dogmatic theology at Tübingen from 1966 to 1969. During this special audience, he told the 18-person delegation that their meeting reminded him of those earlier times and made him feel young again.

The pope stressed he had always felt teaching was his vocation. "However, the will of God wanted something else," he said, but noted that teaching theology and his own pastoral duties as pope are linked.

The pope said theologians must always make sure that what he or she writes reflects the truth and has importance for the modern world. Theology must courageously ask the questions that are of fundamental importance to people today, but it must also faithfully listen to the answers from Christian faith, he added.

Theology offers the answers to the questions posed by all of humanity as well as clarifying what is truth, he stated. This is the reason, the pope continued, that theology must not remain inside universities, but play a larger role on the outside helping people live.

While the text of the pope's improvised remarks in German was not immediately made available, Vatican Radio gave a summary of his talk later that day.



# 'Little Church' opens its big heart in small town

BY MELISSA MCNALLY  
Staff Writer

Originally founded to provide for the spiritual needs of area Polish parishioners, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish was established in Nutley on March 4, 1925. Archbishop John J. O'Connor appointed Rev. John Alexius Ivanow as the first pastor.

Father Ivanow was the retired pastor of St. Valentine's, Bloomfield and stepped down from that post in 1921 due to health problems. However, in 1925 Father Ivanow had become tired of the inactive life and was longing to do parish work again. Bishop O'Connor granted his request by appointing him pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Therefore, at the age of 69, Father Ivanow began a new endeavor.

The parishioners who worshiped in the original church on Franklin Avenue recall that it

was small. It contained only 11 pews on one side and nine on the other, seating about 120 people. After a heavy rainstorm, water would frequently find its way into the church basement, which was not unexpected because the structure was built adjacent to the Third River, which runs through Belleville and Nutley.

## Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Nutley

In spite of the church's size, the parish provided for the spiritual and social life of some 170 families and the parish flourished. The parish celebrated traditional Polish services and observed Polish customs. There was Pasterka, at midnight of Christmas, Kolenda after the Feast of the Epiphany, the Joyful Procession on Easter morning, the Swienconka and Paschal meal, devotions to the Blessed Mother in May and October and many other liturgical celebrations.

In 1944, at the age of 88, Father Ivanow passed away. His former assistant, Rev. Walter Niedzwieck was appointed temporary administrator. Father Niedzwieck purchased a nearby tract of land in 1949 at the corner of Harrison Avenue and Prospect Street from the Township of Nutley for one dollar. Rev. Francis Czechowski was appointed as the second pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in 1948.

Sunday Mass attendance increased dramatically at this time while the church was still on Franklin Avenue. Each week, an average of 300 people came to the little church that could only accommodate less than half that number. When the parish was founded, there were 170 families; by 1950, the roles had increased to 250.

Less than a year after groundbreaking, on Dec. 10, 1950, Archbishop Thomas Walsh laid the cornerstone and dedicated the new church. There were 40 pews of solid oak that could accommodate 230 people, less than the 300 proposed. This new church would come to be known affectionately as "The Little Church on the Hill."

In 1979, Rev. Edward A. Haber became pastor. Previous pastor Rev. Henry Junczewicz had maintained that only individuals of Polish extraction could be parishioners. By 1980, the Nutley

population had grown substantially and had become more diverse. Father Haber changed Father Junczewicz's policy and by 1996 the parish had over 600 registered families. He also believed there was no need for three Sunday masses in Polish and offered only one.

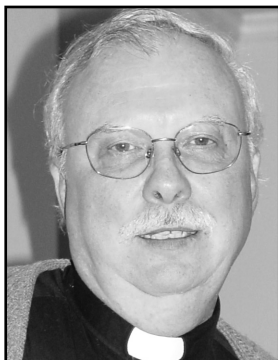
On July 1, 1997, then-Archbishop Theodore McCarrick appointed Rev. Thomas J. Ciba as pastor. Although being third-generation Polish, Father Ciba never learned to speak Polish. However, having served in two Polish parishes, he was very familiar with Polish customs and practices.

Father Ciba, looking to boost funds for the parish, formed a capital campaign committee, an architectural committee and a building committee. The capital campaign rose over \$575,000 in pledges to improve the church building. A larger sanctuary area, a handicap ramp, a new shrine



Founded in 1925 in the historic village of Nutley, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish originally was established for the faithful Polish community. Today, the congregation also includes those with Italian, Irish, Vietnamese and Filipino heritage.

### Meet the Pastor



Rev. Thomas J. Ciba

**Birthday:** Sept. 4, 1947

**Hometown:** Jersey City

**High School:** St. Anthony High School, Jersey City

**Seminary:** Immaculate Conception, Mahwah

**Undergraduate:** Seton Hall University

**Graduate School:** Seton Hall, Masters in Public Administration (MPA)

**Ordination:** May 25, 1974

**Heroes:** I am very proud of my father and his brothers who were all wonderful role models for me.

**Favorite Saint:** St. Anthony

**Favorite Sport:** Weightlifting

**Favorite Food:** Beef—big hamburgers, steak, meatballs, meatloaf, etc.

**Favorite Subject in School:** History

**Favorite Movie:** Moonstruck

**Last Book Read:** Haven't read a book in a long time I read mostly magazines and articles from journals

**Occupation If I Were Not a Priest:** An occupation whereby I could help people. I often thought of being a dentist.



Advocate photos — M. Gabriele

The current church in Nutley, which was dedicated in 1950, features beautiful stained glass windows representing the life of Jesus and saints.

area, a new confessional, a handicap restroom and additional seating were constructed.

Today, the parish has 925 families but only a small percentage of parishioners have a Polish heritage. Ethnically diverse, there is a mixture of Italian, Irish and some Vietnamese members. There is also an increasing number of Filipinos, celebrating with feasts such as Simbang Gabi as well as a monthly Tagalog Mass. The majority of the congregation is in the 30-to-65 age bracket. Parish membership has increased 50 percent in nine years.

"Our parishioners and visitors enjoy a small church that creates an atmosphere of warmth and to-

getherness. We are open and inviting. Our Mass schedule is convenient and we strive to serve the needs of the parishioners. Visitors and newcomers of all races and ethnic backgrounds are made to feel like another member of the family," Father Ciba said.

Father Ciba describes his parish as a close-knit community. "I have been blessed to be pastor of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. I have so many good, generous and supportive parishioners. We have many parishioners, ready and eager to volunteer whenever there is a need. Additionally, I have an excellent parish staff. Our full-time and part-time secretaries work very hard and often

give more of themselves than one can ask."

The parish has a spirit of volunteerism that organizes a fully stocked food pantry, winter coat drives and a Giving Tree program. Bereavement ministry YANA (You Are Not Alone), Ladies Auxiliary and an involved youth ministry are all trademarks of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish. Most of these ministries flourished when Father Ciba became pastor.

"We had a dearth of ministers and ministries. I needed to recruit additional lectors and extra-ordinary ministers of the Eucharist. I felt it was necessary to introduce a variety of musical motifs to the Sunday liturgies. I also wanted to introduce new ministries. Most of all, I wanted to maintain a comfortable and welcoming atmosphere in which people could worship," Father Ciba explained.

The youth ministry program, headed by Denise Roman, was established in 1999 and is source of pride for the parish (see *The Catholic Advocate*, July 19, 2006). The youth group, with 12 members, exemplifies the parish's strong communal spirit. Whether organizing food drives for the local Red Cross, sponsoring a winter coat drive or organizing a pro-life baby shower for the Gateway Pregnancy Center, the youth ministry program is an example of the congregation's spirit.

(Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish is located at 120 Prospect St., Nutley.)



# Shutterbugs capture images of faith



“Angel in Light” by Mandouh Csintalan, 16, a parishioner at the Church of the Epiphany in Cliffside Park, was among the first-place winners in a photo contest organized by the Institute for Christian Spirituality, part of Immaculate Conception Seminary.

SOUTH ORANGE—What do you see as “the True, the Good and the Beautiful?”

That is what the Parish Partnership Program of the Institute for Christian Spirituality, part of Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology at Seton Hall University (SHU), encouraged high school and college students to consider in a new photo contest.

The contest was promoted in parishes and Catholic schools across New Jersey. Students set out to capture images of faith in their Catholic parish communities—from October to January.

Last month the institute hosted an awards ceremony at Walsh Gallery at SHU, honoring the contest winners. Photos were placed on display (through May 2) at the National Museum of Catholic Art and History, New York. The winners also will travel to the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center, Washington, D.C.

The institute drew its inspiration for the contest from the Church’s ancient teaching of a unity between truth, goodness and beauty with regard to the various ways and places God may be found. Since truth, goodness and beauty are each characteristics of God, they are, in essence, one. The Church teaches that when one finds beauty, one finds God, and therefore also finds truth and goodness. As Pope John Paul II said in his Letter to Artists: “Beauty is the visible form of the Good.”

## Divine Mercy Sunday

Sunday April 15, 2007

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3:00 PM - Chaplet at The Divine Mercy Shrine on church grounds. Led by Louise Pacos. Please gather at Shrine on time.

3:15 - 4:15 PM - Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament.

Followed by closing Benediction and The Veneration of The First Class Relic of Saint Faustina Kowalska to the public.



The Divine Mercy

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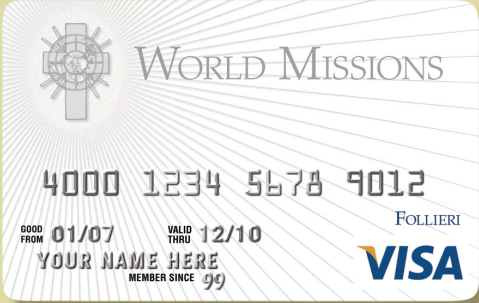


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**Holy Week 2007 Schedule**

**Saturday Vigil, March 31st**  
5:30 pm—Procession and Blessing of Palms

**Passion Sunday, April 1st**  
7:30, 9:00, 10:30am and Noon

**Chrism Mass: Monday, April 2nd**  
Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark—8:00pm


**Confessions: 6:30-7:30pm**  
Monday, April 2nd • Tuesday, April 3rd

**Holy Thursday, April 5th**  
Morning Prayer: 9:15am • Mass of the Lord's Supper: 7:30pm  
Adoration until Midnight

**Good Friday, April 6th**  
Morning Prayer: 9:15am • Solemn Liturgical Service: 3:00pm

**Holy Saturday, April 7th**  
Morning Prayer: 9:15am • Blessing of Food: 9:30am  
No 5:30pm Mass • Easter Vigil: 7:30pm

**Easter Sunday, April 8th**  
7:30, 9:00, 10:30 am and 12:00 Noon




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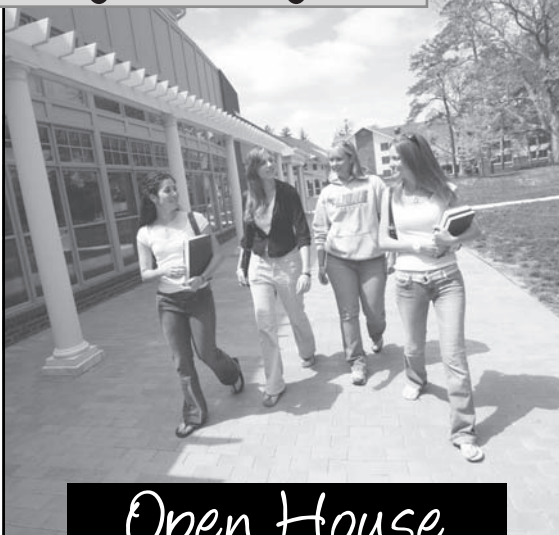
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*The angel said, "Do not be afraid!*

*I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified.*

*He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said."*

—Matthew 28:5-6

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**St. Vincent de Paul  
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**Our Lady of Czestochowa  
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**St. Michael's Church**  
Palisades Park

**Little Flower Church**  
Berkeley Heights

**St. John the Baptist  
Church**  
Jersey City

**St. Nicholas Church**  
Palisades Park

**Holy Spirit & Our Lady  
Help of Christians Church**  
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*Easter blessings to all!*

## Students prepare for Easter



Photo courtesy of Saint James the Apostle School

**LENTEN REFLECTIONS**—Every Friday during the Lenten season students at Saint James the Apostle School in Springfield read aloud the Stations of the Cross as part of reflective prayer in preparation for Easter. Pictured at one of the recent student prayer sessions are, left to right, Jennifer Abbondante, Allison Carbonell, Caleb Starzynski, Brendan Cross and Msgr. William Hatcher, the pastor of Saint James the Apostle Parish.

## Annual Right to Life Banquet welcomes guests on April 20

**ISELIN**—The annual New Jersey Right to Life Banquet will be held here Friday, April 20, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Sheraton at Woodbridge Place, 515 Route One South.

Featured speakers at the banquet include presidential candidate Sen. Sam Brownback (R-KS); Chris Godfrey, president of Athletes for Life; Congressman Chris Smith (D-NJ); Star Parker, founder and president of the Coalition on Urban Renewal and Education, Washington, D.C.; and author and commentator Ann Coulter.

VIP packages are available for the event, which include a photo and private reception with the speakers. Call (908) 276-6620 for registration information. There will be no registration at the door. Seating is limited on a first-come/first-served basis and will be assigned prior to the banquet. Visit the New Jersey Right to Life Web site at [www.njrtl.org](http://www.njrtl.org) for details.

Traude Barbiero is the president of Cranford-based New Jersey Right to Life. The pro-life organization, founded in 1972, represents over 150,000 families. The group's mission, according to its Web site, is to build a culture where the life of every human being is valued and protected.



Photo courtesy of Saint Joseph School

**WEARING RED, EARNING GREEN**—Students at Saint Joseph School in Oradell participated in a special project in honor of Valentine's Day called "The Red Thing." As a colorful symbol for the holiday, students wore red clothes rather than their standard school uniforms and paid a heartfelt "fee" to the school to do so. As a result, students were able to raise over \$700. Colette Vail, the principal of Saint Joseph School, said the money is being donated to the United Nations Global Fund in the effort to help fight AIDS and disease in Africa.



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Along with skilled and dedicated people Holy Name offered a level of technical care Bjorg knew was critical to her recovery. To Bjorg, it is both sides of caring that makes Holy Name Hospital special. "It's not just the technology that heals, but the compassion that affects everyone who is touched by it."

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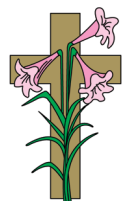


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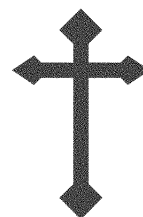
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Advocate photo - M. Gabriele

**BENEDICTINE CELEBRATION**—Abbot Melvin Valvano, O.S.B., (left) and Abbot Giles Hayes, O.S.B., took part in a celebration at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart on March 24. The Mass marked the 150th anniversary of Benedictine service to the people of New Jersey. The first Benedictines came to Newark in 1857. Abbot Valvano is the abbot at the Newark Abbey, while Abbot Hayes is the abbot of St. Mary's Abbey in Morristown. Archbishop John J. Myers, who gave the homily and served as the main celebrant, Archbishop Emeritus Peter Leo Gerety, and Cardinal Theodore McCarrick concelebrated with the monks.



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# ‘Champions of Faith’ shows spiritual side of baseball players

BY REBECCA BOSTIC  
*Catholic News Service*

PHOENIX (CNS)—Baseball is filled with champions who perform well on the field. It is also packed with what Tom Allen and Jose Morales have dubbed “champions of faith.”

Allen, president and editor in chief of *Catholic Exchange*, and Morales, host of the “Catholic Exchange Today” radio program, decided to seek out Catholics in baseball a few years ago. The result is “Champions of Faith: Baseball Edition.” The movie premiered here on March 25 and the DVD was released at the beginning of the 2007 baseball season on April 1.

“We wanted to make a film that would appeal to the lukewarm Catholics—the ones that are out

there more intent on watching ESPN and Fox Sports than on going to confession regularly or going to Mass,” Allen said at the premiere. “We’re honoring God, we’re honoring the Catholic Church and we’re also honoring these amazing guys who speak so courageously, beautifully, eloquently and powerfully about their Catholic faith.”

Major League Baseball players Mike Piazza of the Oakland Athletics, Jeff Suppan of the Milwaukee Brewers and Mike Sweeney of the Kansas City Royals attended the premiere of “Champions of Faith.”

“We are all going to be in heaven someday because of Jesus Christ and this is a tool we can use to give to our loved ones so that we can share eternity with them,” Sweeney said of the film. “We

have to be proud of our faith.”

The 60-minute DVD highlights personal and professional difficulties faced by Major League Baseball players and coaches and discusses how their faith helped them to manage their problems. These stories are presented with spiritually themed montages of quotes from players regarding baseball and their faith.

Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted of Phoenix said he enjoyed the film and hopes it will help Catholics overcome the too-common gap between their faith and daily life.

“I was especially impressed by the witness to their Catholic faith given by Mike Sweeney, Mike Piazza, Jeff Suppan and others,” Bishop Olmsted said. “As an avid baseball fan, it was fun to get an

inside story on some of my favorite players. And as a bishop, it was heartening to see such great athletes speaking candidly about their love of Christ.”

Allen and Morales hope that people are sufficiently inspired by “Champions of Faith: Baseball Edition” to support a possible second movie in the “Champions of Faith” series.

## Ortiz gets acolyte ministry

ROME—Roberto Ortiz, a seminarian of the Archdiocese of Newark now in his second year of theological studies, was among 37 seminarians of the Pontifical North American College instituted as acolytes on March 11 during a celebration of the Eucharist.

Ortiz received the ministry of lector and acolyte in anticipation of his diaconal and then priestly ordination. Acolytes are instituted to assist the deacon and the priest during the Sacred Liturgy and are also given the responsibility of bringing Holy Communion to the sick.

Founded in 1859, the Pontifical North American College is the American house of studies here, where priests are formed near the heart of the Church for service in dioceses located throughout the United States and Australia.

## ‘YouthFest 2007’ rocks in Kearny



Advocate photo – M. Gabrièle

**SMILES AT THE CENTER**—The Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center, located in Kearny, hosted “YouthFest 2007” on March 24, featuring the joyful sounds of singer/song writer Steve Angrisano. Spirit-filled teens and young adults were reelin’ and rockin’ and rollin’ at the break of dawn, led by Angrisano’s music. Next up on the center’s schedule of events is the ninth-annual “Rejoice” prayer festival, which will be held April 20-22. Rejoice is a co-ed event geared for young people over the age of 15. The cost of registration for the weekend retreat is \$45 per person, which includes food and lodging. Go to the center’s Web site ([www.newarkoym.org](http://www.newarkoym.org)) or contact Judy Furka, at (201) 998-0088, ext. 4148 for details. The Kearny center is located at 499 Belgrove Ave.

NOVENAS							
<p><b>ST. THERESA</b></p> <p>Oh Glorious Saint Theresa, whom almighty God has raised up to aid and counsel mankind. I invite your miraculous intercession. So powerful are you obtaining every need of body and soul, our Holy Mother Church proclaims you a "Prodigy of Miracles." Now fervent 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 picture or receive roses. You can also get a strong scent of roses in home even if no roses present. Must promise publication. Thank you.)</p> <p><b>L.M.V.</b></p>	<p><b>PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN</b></p> <p>Oh most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the Sea, help me and show me that you are my mother. Oh Holy Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to secure me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. I place this cause in your hands. Amen. Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. Novena is published in gratitude. Thank you.</p> <p><b>E.D.</b></p>	<p><b>PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN</b></p> <p>Oh most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the Sea, help me and show me that you are my mother. Oh Holy Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to secure me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. I place this cause in your hands. Amen. Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. Novena is published in gratitude. Thank you.</p> <p><b>M.T.</b></p>	<p><b>PRAYER TO ST. CLAIRE</b></p> <p>Ask St. Claire for three favors; one Business and two impossible. Say nine Hail Mary's for nine days with a lighted candle. Published the ninth day "May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, adored, and glorified today and every day. Requests will be granted no matter how impossible they seem. Publication must be promised. Published in gratitude.</p> <p><b>R.Z.</b></p>	<p><b>PRAYER TO ST. JUDE</b></p> <p>Oh, Holy St. Jude, Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near Kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and urgent petition (make request). In return I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. Say three Our Fathers, three Hail Marys and Glorias. St. Jude, pray for us all who invoke your aid. Amen. This Novena must be said for 9 consecutive days. Thank you for answering my prayer.</p> <p><b>J.S.</b></p>	<p><b>PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN</b></p> <p>Oh most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the Sea, help me and show me that you are my mother. Oh Holy Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to secure me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. I place this cause in your hands. Amen. Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. Novena is published in gratitude. Thank you.</p> <p><b>M.F.B.</b></p>	<p><b>PRAYER TO ST. JUDE</b></p> <p>Oh, Holy St. Jude, Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near Kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and urgent petition (make request). In return I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. Say three Our Fathers, three Hail Marys and Glorias. St. Jude, pray for us all who invoke your aid. Amen. 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Thank you.)</p> <p><b>K.W.</b></p>
	<p><b>PRAYER TO ST. CLAIRE</b></p> <p>Ask St. Claire for three favors; one Business and two impossible. Say nine Hail Mary's for nine days with a lighted candle. Published the ninth day "May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, adored, and glorified today and every day. Requests will be granted no matter how impossible they seem. Publication must be promised. Published in gratitude.</p> <p><b>J.A.L.</b></p>				<p><b>PRAYER TO ST. CLAIRE</b></p> <p>Ask St. Claire for three favors; one Business and two impossible. Say nine Hail Mary's for nine days with a lighted candle. Published the ninth day "May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, adored, and glorified today and every day. Requests will be granted no matter how impossible they seem. Publication must be promised. Published in gratitude.</p> <p><b>C.J.M.</b></p>		



# St. Peter's senior achieves a perfect SAT score

JERSEY CITY—Michael Rogers, a senior at St. Peter's Preparatory School, can now add "perfect SAT score" to his long list

of impressive academic accomplishments.

Rogers earned the maximum score of 2400 on the Scholastic

Aptitude Test (SAT), a national exam administered by the College Board, New York, which is widely used as essential entrance criteria

for college-bound seniors. The exam is divided into three sections—critical reading, math and writing—each eligible for a score of 800 points.

In addition, Rogers recently was named as a finalist in the National Merit Scholarship Competition, placing him among the top 8,300 high school students (of over 1.4 million total nationwide) who took the preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test last spring.

"Mike is a credit to his family and to this school. He provides a great example of a young man who tries to live out the Ignatian principles of competence, conscience and compassion in everything he does," Marie Curry, history teacher and dean of faculty at the Jesuit school, said.

Curry praised Roger's overall intellectual abilities, explaining that "he's excellent at grasping the subtext of an author's argument and putting it in the context of its time, and at making connections between topics we've studied before and the new material we're covering."

A resident of Roseland, Rogers, during his four years at Saint Peter's Prep, has served as the president of the McNally-Sinnott chapter of the National Honors Society. He also has been involved with the school's forensics program, Model United Nations, Quiz Bowl team, intramural basketball program, math team, Anti-Sweatshop Community, Emmaus Retreat Team, the Freshman Ambassadors Program, Jesuit Jubilee Year Planning Committee, the Big Brothers Program and the Student Council.



Michael Rogers

In the Jesuit tradition of being a "man for others," school administrators said Rogers strives to use his many talents to serve others—whether he is participating in a week-long service trip to help the underprivileged of Ohio, volunteering at the Morris County Interfaith Hospitality Network for Women and Families, or helping at the food pantry at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament in Newark.

An independent Catholic school for young men, St. Peter's Prep (Web site: [www.stpetersprep.org](http://www.stpetersprep.org)), 144 Grand St., was founded in 1872 and is sponsored by the Society of Jesus. Kevin Cuddihy is the principal of the school.

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**Cheryl Riley** (Project Rachel Speaker)  
2:30 pm—My Post-Abortion Experience



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Tues. July 17 6:30 p.m. Alumni Theatre  
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##### GRADUATE

Sat. Apr 21 10:00 a.m. Academic Building  
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Photo courtesy of Don Bosco Prep

Members of the Don Bosco Prep Varsity Dance team include (left to right, front row), Senior Assistant Captain Vanessa Sanjuan, Senior Captain Kara Halligan and Senior Captain Kyle McKinney; (middle row) sophomore Rachel Pincus; senior Kate Daniels; junior Natalie DiLella; sophomore Emily Krukliniski; senior Samara Pallo and junior Melanie Weismiller; (back row) sophomore Katey Lawlor, freshman Theresa Sedlacek, freshman Elizabeth Kowalski, freshman Caitlin Gallagher; Coach Rick DeLillo; sophomore Kristen Cebulski; sophomore Meghan O'Connell; freshman Cassandra Bendana; and sophomore Felicia McEnroe.

## Varsity dancers of Don Bosco stepping out in right direction

RAMSEY—This year's Don Bosco Prep Varsity Dance team, comprised of 17 students from Academy of the Holy Angels in Demarest, placed sixth nationally in both the pom and hip-hop categories at the National Dance Championships at DisneyWorld in Orlando, FL.

The event is the largest, most prestigious and competitive dance team program of its kind. The Don Bosco team, a consistent finalist at the event, had the best combined scores of both routines of all teams from the Northeast. Overall over 75 teams from across the country in each category of dance.

Part of both routines will be shown on ESPN2 on Sunday, April 29 from 3 to 4 p.m. It will be repeated during the year until next February.

In a separate competition, Don Bosco Prep captured the New Jersey State Championship at David Brearley High School

in Kenilworth. To date, with 15 state titles, Don Bosco Prep leads the Garden State in total New Jersey State Cheerleading and Dance Coaches Association championships.

Rick DeLillo, who has coached the team the past 27 years, is also director of the cheer program and a math teacher at the school. He attributes the girls' continued success to "hard work, disciplined work habits, tremendous spirit and advanced skill levels." He also cites the efforts of choreographer Jenny Sweet and her "unique style and dedication to the program." The coach also expressed his "highest regards" for the dancers' parents.

Tryouts for the 2007-2008 team are being planned. Any student at the Academy of the Holy Angels or anyone who will be a student this fall can request information by calling DeLillo at (201) 327-8003.

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## SDA participates in program to boost student SAT scores

JERSEY CITY—St. Dominic Academy (SDA) is participating in a pilot SAT preparation program, "SAT Real Solutions," which is designed to increase SAT scores.

"This program differs from other SAT-prep programs because it was written and designed by teachers," explained Principal Deborah Egan.

Twenty-six SDA students are participating in the program, the

first lesson of which began in February. They will take part in 45 sessions each lasting 45 minutes and including assessment tests. Eighteen SDA English and math teachers have been trained in the SAT Real Solutions method.

Egan noted that, pending the program's success, it will be formally implemented in SDA's sophomore-year "SAT Prep" course beginning next year.



# Brother James Dries tapped as Hudson Catholic principal

JERSEY CITY — Brother James Dries, F.S.C., currently serving as associate principal of student affairs at Christian Brothers Academy (CBA) in Lincroft, will become the new principal of Hudson Catholic Regional High School on July 1.

The appointment was made in consultation with the Archdiocese of Newark and the De La Salle Christian Brothers of the Baltimore District, who have staffed the school since its founding in 1964.

Dr. Paul Ward will continue to serve as full-time president of Hudson Catholic, one of the Archdiocese of Newark's seven regional high schools.

Brother James has served at CBA the past three years overseeing student discipline and behavior, coordinating student activities, and implementing all school policies that effect student life.

Before joining the staff of Christian Brothers Academy, Brother James served as principal of Mwangaza Centre, a mission of the Christian Brothers in Kenya, East Africa, and as headmaster of a Brothers school in St. Vincent, British West Indies. Brother James has served in teaching and administrative posts for the Brothers in the United States, including Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and New York.

"The appointment of Brother James as principal will allow Hudson Catholic to strengthen the president and principal model," said Ward.

"The Christian Brothers have a tremendous commitment to



Brother James Dries

Hudson Catholic as one of their premier ministries in the Baltimore District," he added. "We are grateful that a Brother with Brother James' varied academic background and skills will join the nine Brothers currently on Hudson Catholic's staff.

"I am looking forward to sharing in the Lasallian mission at Hudson Catholic. I am excited to have the opportunity of building on the school's 43-year tradition in Jersey City and throughout Hudson County," Brother James said in accepting the appointment.

Hudson Catholic (Web site: [www.hudsoncatholic.org](http://www.hudsoncatholic.org)) has educated the young men of Jersey City and other Hudson County communities in the Lasallian tradition since 1964. As one of the regional high schools in the Archdiocese of Newark, Hudson Catholic provides a college preparatory education for students in grades 9-12. Approximately 500 young men currently are enrolled in the school.

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## (COOP) Admissions Exam

Friday, Nov. 9, 2007 for Sept. 2008 admission.

Monday, April 16  
Archdiocesan Center  
Newark

Tuesday, April 17  
Marist High School  
Bayonne

Wednesday, April 18  
St. Michael School  
Union

Monday, April 23  
Our Lady of Sorrows School  
South Orange

Tuesday, April 24  
Annunciation Parish  
Paramus

Wednesday, April 25  
Queen of Peace  
Elementary School  
North Arlington

For directions see:

[www.rcan.org/schools](http://www.rcan.org/schools)

Or call:  
(973) 497-4258

All Sessions from  
7 PM to 8:30 pm

	Archdiocesan Center Newark	Marist High School Bayonne	St. Michael's School Union	Our Lady of Sorrows School South Orange	Annunciation Parish Hall Paramus	Queen of Peace Elementary North Arlington
	16-Apr	17-Apr	18-Apr	23-Apr	24-Apr	25-Apr
Academy of the Holy Angels	X				X	X
Benedictine Academy	X		X	X		
Bergen Catholic High School	X				X	X
Caritas Academy	X	X	X	X	X	X
Christ the King Preparatory School	X	X	X	X		
Don Bosco Preparatory High School	X				X	
Holy Family Academy	X	X				X
Hudson Catholic Regional High School	X	X	X	X	X	X
Immac. Conception High School, Lodi					X	X
Immac. Concept. High School, Montclair	X	X	X	X		X
Immaculate Heart Academy					X	
Lacordaire Academy						
Marist High School	X	X		X		
Marylawn of the Oranges Academy	X			X		
Mother Seton High School	X		X	X		
Mount St. Dominic Academy	X		X	X		X
Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child				X		
Oratory Preparatory School	X		X	X		
Paramus Catholic Regional High School	X				X	X
Queen of Peace High School	X	X		X	X	X
Roselle Catholic Regional High School	X		X	X		
Seton Hall Preparatory School	X		X	X		X
St. Anthony High School		X				
St. Benedict's Preparatory School	X					
St. Dominic Academy	X	X				X
St. Joseph Regional High School	X				X	
St. Joseph of the Palisades High School		X				
St. Mary of the Assumption High School	X		X			
St. Mary High School, Jersey City		X				
St. Mary High School, Rutherford	X					X
St. Patrick High School	X					
St. Peter's Preparatory School	X	X	X	X	X	X
St. Vincent Academy	X		X	X		X
Union Catholic Regional High School	X		X	X		



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[www.hcakids.org](http://www.hcakids.org) [www.givetothemissions.org](http://www.givetothemissions.org)

## Father Degnan; former SPC president

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated March 21 at St. Aedan Parish, Jersey City, for Father Daniel A. Degnan, S.J., 80, the 20th president of St. Peter's College (SPC) in Jersey City from 1990-95, who died March 16.

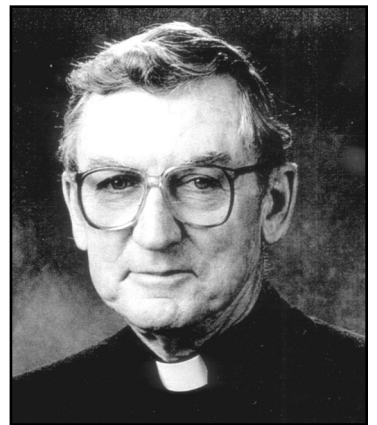
Born in West Orange, Father Degnan graduated from Seton Hall Prep and served in the United States Navy from 1944-1946.

He earned a B.S. degree, cum laude, in history and government from Seton Hall University.

Father Degnan was ordained to the priesthood in 1966.

During his nearly 50 years of service in the Society of Jesus, he held teaching positions at Harvard Law School (1970-1975) and Georgetown University Law Center. He received his LL.M. from Harvard Law School in 1974.

Prior to coming to SPC, Father Degnan taught law at Seton Hall University and served as the dean of the law school and as associate provost for five years.



Father Daniel A. Degnan, S.J.

## Sister Mary, educator, 89

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated March 6 at Our Lady of Lourdes Hall Chapel, Lodi, for Sister Mary Marcella Eglentowicz, C.S.S.F., 89, who died March 2.

A Felician Sister for 69 years, the former Stella Mary Eglentowicz was born in Jersey City and received a B.S. degree in elementary education from

Seton Hall University, in South Orange.

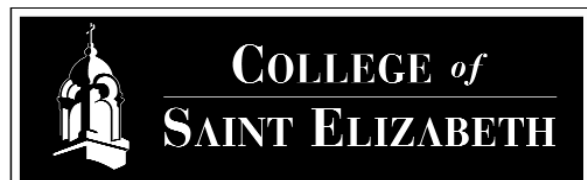
Sister Mary Marcella's assignments in the archdiocese included St. Adalbert, Elizabeth; Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Bayonne; St. Ann, Jersey City; St. Valentine, Bloomfield; St. Michael, Bloomfield; St. Anthony, Jersey City; Sacred Heart, Irvington; St. Francis De Sales, Lodi.

## Fr. DiPeri, 76

A Memorial Mass was celebrated March 12 at Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish, Garfield, for Father Joseph B. DiPeri, 76, who died March 1.

Ordained on May 26, 1956, Father DiPeri's assignments in the archdiocese included Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Jersey City; St. Anthony Parish, Newark; St. Lucy, Newark; Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish, Garfield.

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## Pro-life youth rally to be held on April 19

SOUTH ORANGE—The fourth annual New Jersey Pro-Life Youth Rally, sponsored by the Salesians of Don Bosco, will be held Thursday, April 19 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the campus of Seton Hall University.

Specially designed for high school students, the event is open to young adults from the Archdiocese of Newark as well as neighboring dioceses.

Sal Solo, a former punk rocker, will be the keynote speaker at the rally. The program includes prayer, confession, Mass and educational forums on chastity and pro-life issues. Last year more than 1,100 people attended the event (see *The Catholic Advocate*, April 26, 2006 and Feb. 8, 2006).

Performing at the rally will be a group from Immaculate Conception High School in Lodi with skits on chastity and pro-life issues. The rally is slated to close with Mass celebrated by Most Rev. Arthur Serratelli, the Bishop of the Diocese of Paterson.

The registration fee for the April 19 rally is \$10. Contact Father Steve Ryan, S.D.B., director of youth and vocations for the Salesian Eastern Province or Liz Jarocki at (973) 761-0201 or go online (Web site [www.salesianym.com](http://www.salesianym.com)) for more information.

## Archdiocese will salute EMS workers

NEWARK—The Archdiocese of Newark will salute Emergency Medical Services (EMS) workers with a noon Mass celebrated by Archbishop John J. Myers at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart on Sunday, April 29.

The homilist at the fifth annual EMS Mass will be Rev. Msgr. Richard J. Arnholz, Pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Bergenfield. Family and friends of EMS workers are encouraged to attend.

All who plan to attend the Mass are asked to be seated by 11:45 a.m. for the Presentation of Colors.

For more information about the Mass, visit the Archdiocese of Newark's Web site, [www.rcan.org](http://www.rcan.org) or call (973) 497-4013.



Immaculee Ilibagiza

## Survivor to recall horrors of Rwanda

CALDWELL—Caldwell College will host a lecture by Immaculee Ilibagiza, the author of "Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust," on Wednesday, April 18, 7:30 p.m. in the campus student center.

Ilibagiza will share her story of survival, faith and forgiveness. She lived through the 1994

Rwandan Genocide, which claimed the lives of nearly one million Rwandans including most of her family. Ilibagiza hid in a cramped bathroom for 91 days with seven other women, while machete-wielding killers hunted them down.

She tells a powerful story of living through the darkness of

genocide and ultimately discovering the meaning of unconditional love and forgiveness.

General admission is \$10, with free admission for college faculty, staff and students. To make a reservation, which is required, call (973) 618-3357 or submit an e-mail at [lecture@caldwell.edu](mailto:lecture@caldwell.edu).



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## HELP WANTED

*St. Rose of Lima parish in Short Hills, NJ, a community of 2,200 families is currently seeking a full-time Director of Religious Education and a full-time Coordinator for 7th and 8th Grade Religious Education & Confirmation.*

**Director of Religious Education**

We have an established comprehensive religious education program for approximately 500 youth in grades K-6. We are seeking an experienced, dynamic and faith-filled person who is committed to fostering the total personal and spiritual development of each young person. Must be an effective communicator and be willing to work collaboratively with pastoral staff and lay leaders. Responsibilities include overseeing the K-6th grade Religious Education program, sacramental preparation for First Eucharist and catechist formation. We require a Bachelor's Degree in Religious Education, Theology or Education (Masters preferred) and related experience in a Catholic parish.

**Coordinator for 7th and 8th Grade Religious Education & Confirmation**

We are seeking a creative and faith-filled person who is able to develop a nurturing educational environment to foster the moral, intellectual and spiritual development of each student. The Coordinator would oversee the development and delivery of the 7th and 8th Grade Religious Education program for approximately 150 students and recruit, train and supervise volunteer catechists. In addition, the candidate would be responsible for preparing approximately 85 students for Confirmation. We require a Bachelor's Degree in Religious Education, Theology or Education (Masters preferred) and related experience in a Catholic parish.

Salary for both positions is commensurate with education and experience. Interested candidates should send a résumé and cover letter to: Joan Schultz, St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, 50 Short Hills Avenue, Short Hills, NJ 07078 or email to jschultz\_strose@yahoo.com

**PRO-LIFE OPENINGS-** The Several Sources Shelters, our non-profit, non-sectarian shelters for pregnant women are in need of kind, compassionate individuals to fill the following openings: LIVE-IN ASSISTANT HOUSEMOTHER, \$13,500-\$16,500/year- with 3 weeks vacation/year. Driver's license required. To receive a specific job description please call K. Wrona (201) 818-9334.

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Please submit resume by April 11, 2007 to: Principal Search Committee, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, 10 County Road, Tenafly, New Jersey 07670 or e-mail: [carmelites@olmc.us](mailto:carmelites@olmc.us)

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**Search Committee, c/o Sister Ann Taylor, CSJP**

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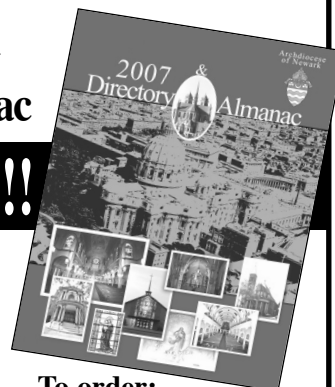
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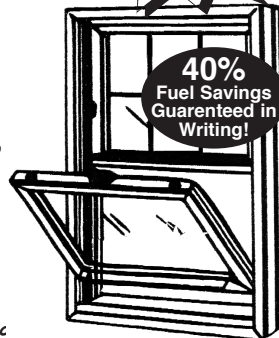
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# Parish to display Vocations Monstrance

ORANGE—The Monstrance for Vocations, blessed by Pope John Paul II, will be showcased here at Our Lady of the Valley Parish April 11-17.

The monstrance is part of a worldwide initiative to increase prayers for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. It is one of six blessed by the late pope in November 2004 to promote Eucharistic Adoration during the 2004-2005 Year of the Eucharist.

Most Rev. Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D., Auxiliary Bishop

for Essex County, will celebrate noon Mass on April 15, the Feast of Divine Mercy. At the conclusion of Mass, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will begin and will last until 3 p.m. when a Holy Hour for Vocations takes place. The Holy Hour will include Liturgy of the Word; the Chaplet of Divine Mercy; intercessions; Litany of the Holy Eucharist and benediction.

The monstrance will be available for adoration beginning at Holy Hour on Wednesday, April 11, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. and continuing on April 12, 13 and 14, from 10 to 11 a.m. and April 16 and 17, from 10 to 11 a.m. Contact the rectory at (973) 674-7500 for more information.



CNS photo

Pope Benedict XVI raised the Eucharist during Mass at St. Felicity Parish in Rome on March 25. The Holy Father used the occasion to address the importance of divine love.

## Holy Father gives warning on sin, hell

ROME (CNS)—God's mercy and love are great, but those who reject him should know that hell "exists and is eternal," Pope Benedict XVI cautioned.

The pope made the comments during a visit March 25 to a Rome parish that serves a predominantly immigrant population, including the city's Filipino community.

In a sermon, the pope focused on what has become a running theme of his pontificate: the importance of divine love.

"Only God's love can change from within the existence of the person and, consequently, the existence of every society, because only His infinite love liberates from sin—the root of every evil," the pope said.

That same love is reflected in the sacrifice of Christ, who came with the concrete goal of saving souls, he noted.

"Christ came to tell us that He desires all of us in heaven and that hell, which isn't spoken about much in our time, exists and is eternal for those who close their hearts to His love," the pope stressed.

The important thing is to understand that "the true enemy is attachment to sin, which can lead us to the failure of our own existence," he explained.

The pope emphasized that God also offers mercy and forgiveness for sinners. While it's true that God represents justice, He is first of all love. "If He hates sin, it's because He loves each person infinitely," the pope said.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines hell as "the state of definitive self-exclusion from communion with God and the blessed."

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## FOCUS students meet Archbishop Myers



Advocate photo - Ward Miele

**IN FOCUS**—Members of the 2006-2007 Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) at Seton Hall University met recently with Archbishop John J. Myers, seated, center, in his office at the Archdiocesan Center in Newark. Accompanied by Father James Spera, priest director of FOCUS, (seated at left), the students included (left to right) Margot Capocci, Jeff Ossinger, Campus Director Kate Ebeler, Andy Day and Renee Burke-Dracba. The national FOCUS program (Web site: [www.focusonline.org](http://www.focusonline.org)), based in Colorado, sponsors campus Bible study groups and organizes student leadership-training seminars.

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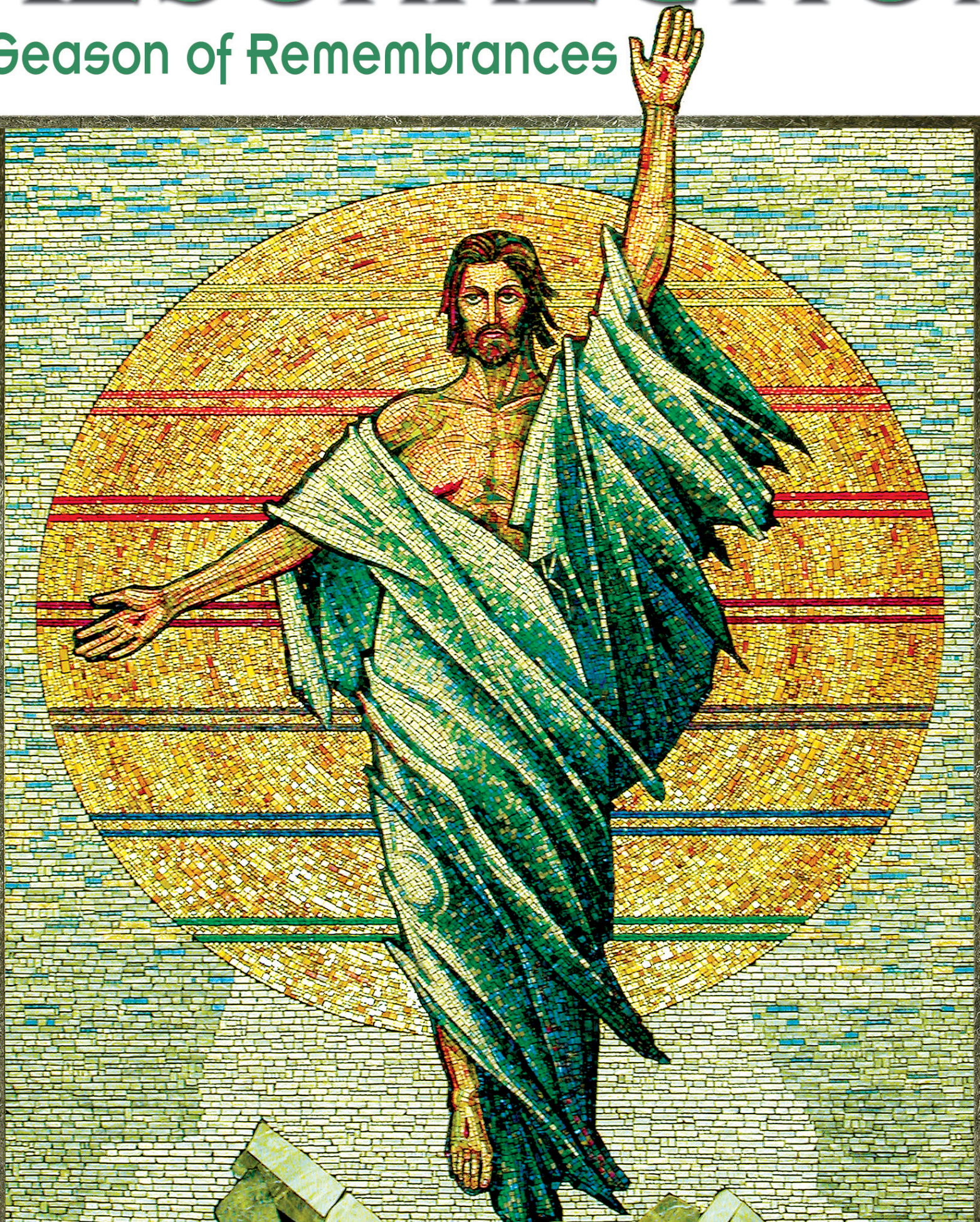
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# RESURRECTION

A Season of Remembrances



A supplement to  
**The Catholic  
Advocate**  
April 4, 2007

*"I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."*

*John 11:25*



# Insidious 'quicksand of facts' lures us from truth

I have been reading and viewing, as I am sure many of you have, the recent media reports about finding "The Lost Tomb of Jesus."

Sadly, the zeal with which media tend to latch on to such events says much about us as a society.

Also during this same time period, we have endured a similar media extravaganza over the death of one-time "celebrity" Anna Nicole Smith, and the subsequent legal escapades that have arisen. Again television, the Internet, newspapers and magazines have been there to make sure that all of us experience every unseemly moment, and "learn from it."

But what have we, indeed, learned?

If we look at the "lost tomb" mini-mania, there are two obvious lessons. The first, of course, is that if we do not concentrate on the truth, we can be lured into the quicksand of purported or so-called facts. For example, the press coverage—and certainly the presentation by the film's producers—has led some to believe that the discovery of this tomb is something new.

However, biblical archeology experts have known about this particular burial place for close to 30 years. At that time, competent experts in biblical and Judaic archeology examined carefully all of the elements that we know today. The Israeli archaeologist who wrote the original excavation report has called the claims of the producers of the television special "nonsense."

The people who made this film also claim that, by using "new technology and DNA studies," they have determined that among the 10 ossuaries—the burial boxes used in biblical times to house the

## Sincerely in the Lord



BY ARCHBISHOP JOHN J. MYERS

bones of the dead—are the ossuaries of Jesus, His brothers, His mother, Mary, another Mary (whom they claim to be Mary Magdalene), and a child, named "Judah, son of Jesus."

Here again, the experts tell us there is much to doubt. To begin with, the DNA studies that were performed can tell us only that the bones in the ossuaries were human. According to Father Jerome Murphy O'Connor, a biblical archaeologist and expert, the DNA tests conducted certainly did not provide any familial connections.

What's more, the names Jesus, Judah, Mary (and their variations), were among the most com-

mon names given to people in Judea at the time Jesus lived. And, according to some of the media reports that have appeared, there is even dispute about what names are, indeed, inscribed on the burial boxes.

The claims of the film's producers also come under challenge by biblical experts for a very basic reason: because Jesus came from Galilee, His family had no ties to Jerusalem. This fact clearly casts doubt about any burial cave in the Jerusalem area.

In addition, Catholic teaching and tradition holds that Mary, the mother of God, was "assumed into heaven, body and soul." Our tradition also holds

that her last days, lived with St. John, were in Ephesus.

Most important of all, Jesus rose from the dead, and ascended into heaven. The eyewitnesses to Easter all speak with one voice to the fact that the tomb was empty. Remember the words of the angel who greeted the women on Easter Morning: "He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said." (Matthew: 28:6).

Why do I bring this up in a column written as part of our archdiocesan paper's special focus on Easter, Remembrance and Bereavement?

That brings me to the second obvious lesson. At no time during the hype that has been creat-

*As Catholics, we believe that those who have died remain part of the community, part of the body of Christ. Our liturgy, our funeral practices, and our commitment as Church to maintaining places of final rest for all who have died in Christ are a sincere and solid expression of this respect and reverence. We hope that all of our family members who have gone before us are, indeed, now part of the Communion of Saints, and that we too will one day join them.*

ed by this "event" has legitimate media expressed any concern for the deceased men and women who were buried in the cave. Fortunately, at the time of the discovery, Israeli authorities, acting with all due reverence and care, reburied the remains according to the practice of their faith, and as part of the protocol that archaeologists follow when excavating in the Holy Land. In the minds of the Israeli people, these first century inhabitants of Jerusalem are as much a part of the present-day Jewish community, and as deserving of continued respect and reverence, as anyone now living in the city.

As Catholics, we believe that those who have died remain part of the community, part of the Body of Christ. Our liturgy, our funeral practices, and our commitment as Church to maintaining places of final rest for all who have died in Christ are a sincere and solid expression of this respect and reverence. We hope that all of our family members who have gone before us are, indeed, now part of the Communion of Saints, and that we too will one day join them.

There are some extremely unsettling similarities between the lost tomb and the mayhem surrounding the death of Anna Nicole Smith—similarities that contrast starkly with our Christian nature.

Throughout the archdiocese, and in parishes throughout the country, everyday Catholic people take on a ministry of helping those who have experienced loss to see beyond the grief, to understand that death is part of our human nature. I saw none of this in any aspect of the lost tomb event or the Smith funeral circus. I saw only a concern for show, for spectacle—a single-minded disregard for the dignity of every human, even in death.

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We are committed to encouraging Catholic prayer and devotion for our deceased brothers and sisters especially in our cemeteries.

We will oppose any effort to minimize or destroy any of the Catholic teachings that relate to death, burial and devotion to the departed souls.

We will proclaim through our words, work and example the sacredness of the Human Body, the Belief in the Resurrection and the Christian Virtue of Hope.



# Understanding death through the eyes of a child

BY MELISSA MCNALLY  
Staff Writer

Celebrating Mass at such a painful time as a funeral can be trying for any priest. However, Father Joseph Ferraro, who administers homilies at Holy Cross Mausoleum, North Arlington, relies on Scripture and his own personal experiences to both enlighten and comfort those who have lost someone.

Also the pastor of St. Anthony Parish, Belleville, Father Ferraro has concelebrated the Memorial Mass at Gate of Heaven Mausoleum in East Hanover and Holy Name, Jersey City, and has been administering homilies at Holy Cross for eight years.

Although he said there is no real difference between a daily Mass homily and a funeral homily, as they are both based on Scripture passages, Father Ferraro has a deep connection to the East Hanover mausoleum. His father is buried there.

Father Ferraro, after the death of his father, recalled how children view death through the eyes of AJ, his three-year-old nephew. "He wanted to come and see where 'Poppi' was sleeping. My brother and his wife were a little apprehensive because of his age and because he was attached to his grandfather."

Although concerned with AJ's ability to understand where his grandfather was, Father Ferraro

brought his young nephew to the mausoleum. "We explained to AJ that he would not physically see him, but rather only (his grandfather's) name on the marble crypt. When we arrived, we showed AJ where 'Poppi' was resting and as he looked up, he spotted the name 'Ferraro' and immediately said 'He has the same name as me!'"

The little boy's family explained that he could say anything he wanted to his grandfather. "AJ paused a moment and with his eyes welled up with tears began to tell his grandfather how much we all missed him. We were all taken back with the innocence of his words as he finally told his 'Poppi' that he loved him. After that day, when visiting the cemetery, whether to preside at a committal or visit family members, I would be reminded of my nephew's first adventure to the mausoleum."

At funerals, along with his nephew's story, Father Ferraro remembers Scripture, especially the passage about the Transfiguration of the Lord as source of strength. He visited the Mount Tabor in the Holy Land—the site where it is believed the Lord was transfigured.

"The awesome experience of being on that mountaintop made the words of St. Paul become so vivid and alive in my mind," Father Ferraro recalled. "The awesome feeling of peace and tranquility. The awesome wonder of the beauty of the creation in all of its magnificence. It was truly good



Father Joseph Ferraro

Advocate photo—M. Gabriele

and peaceful to be there. As I reflect on death, resurrection and remembrance, as difficult as it might seem to bid farewell to loved ones, the inner peace and love continues in our hearts. It is through love and remembrance that we are able to go on as we await our own time to be called home to the Father."

Given his own personal connection to the mausoleum, Father Ferraro tries to infuse a personal touch into his funeral homilies. "I try to take part of the deceased's biography and tie it in to the Scripture. Whether they are a po-

liceman or teacher, I comment that they worked for all of us and although I do not know them personally, they are here."

Father Ferraro tries to emphasize that every person was put on this earth to be learned from and each person's life is a learning experience. "Memories of our beloved dead are so important for our continued growth. We learn from the many experiences in life, the positives and the negatives, the strengths as well as the weaknesses. It is through these experiences that we learn from the failure and challenges ourselves as we open new doors in life's journey."

Some cases are particularly trying as when Father Ferraro had to celebrate a funeral Mass and deliver a homily at Holy Cross for his cousin, who died suddenly in his sleep at the age of 41. "As hard it was, I knew he would be at peace. He spoke about death and resurrection and was very faithful. His fear was of illness, not of death."

Another difficult homily was delivered to a 35-year-old that also died unexpectedly. "He was a family oriented man who wanted to take care of the members of his family. I tried to tell them not to be troubled and that all will be OK. Even though this is the physical end, he was going to experience more than we can imagine. I like to use the Gospel of John when Jesus said He was preparing a place for us in heaven. I try to explain to the family members that He is also preparing for them. They will be

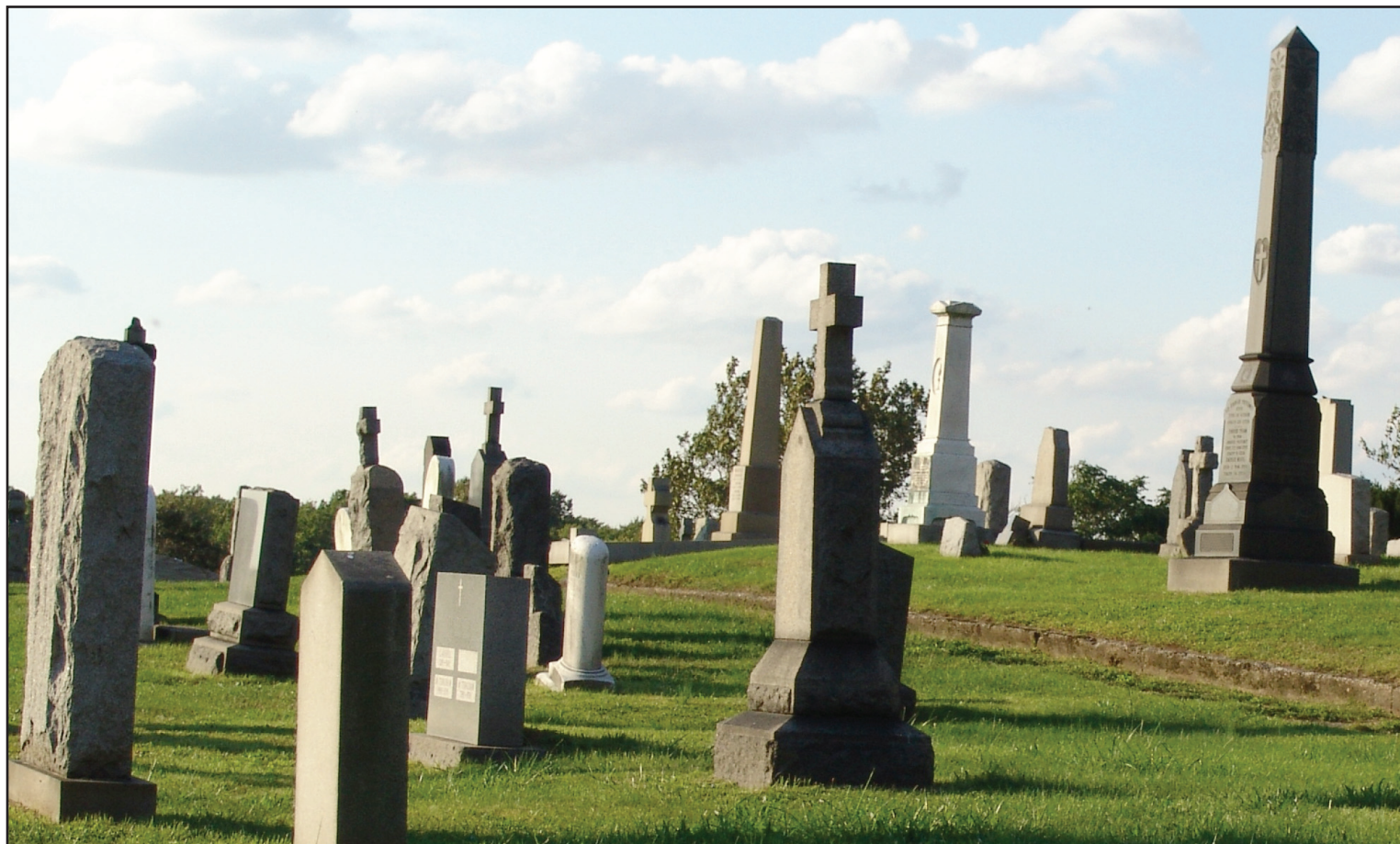
together again. We on earth aspire for a glimpse of what heaven is."

The most rewarding part of his job, Father Ferraro claimed, is when he unknowingly touches the lives of the grieving. "I feel like I didn't even say anything special, but there is a sense of fulfillment when I get feedback. They say I hit certain aspects of that person or I touched them. I try to just make the situation better."

Even when around the Holy Cross Mausoleum or waiting for a service to begin, Father Ferraro tries to visit plots that seem to be forgotten—a practice that he saw older priests do.

"I say a prayer for a person or family and even wonder how they had left their mark in this world. At times on All Soul's Day, I would see senior priests, walking through the cemetery praying the office of the dead and occasionally stopping at a grave that seemed not to have been visited in a while."

Through all of the heightened emotions of celebrating Mass at Holy Cross, those he serves constantly inspire Father Ferraro. "Each time is so special as I am able to witness in awe the great faith of people who come to honor and remember their loved ones," he said. "As you look into the eyes and faces of the faithful who come, there are so many mixed emotions as they come together to celebrate, to remember and to believe in the promises of the resurrection which Jesus made to us."



*'As I reflect on death, resurrection and remembrance, as difficult as it might seem to bid farewell to loved ones, the inner peace and love continues in our hearts. It is through love and remembrance that we are able to go on as we await our own time to be called home to the Father.'*

—Father Joseph Ferraro



# Faded letter reveals an enduring memory of warm brotherly love

BY WARD MIELE  
Managing Editor

HACKENSACK—It was a suggestion from a member of the bereavement ministry at Our Lady of Peace Parish in May-

wood that the family of the late Gerald Bartoldus deemed most appropriate.

During his funeral-planning visit to the Bartoldus family in January, James Moran, a four-year veteran of his parish's be-

reavement ministry, noticed a son-in-law "jump up" and leave the room returning with a time-worn, yellowed letter.

Dated May 30, 1935, the letter was from Gerald's older brother Raymond—a Capuchin priest on missionary duty on the Pacific island of Okinawa, sent on the eve of his younger brother's First Communion.

The text of the letter reads as follows:

"The last time I wrote to you separately I didn't use much paper. But now I am giving you a whole letter because it is for your First Communion Day. You don't even have to show this letter to anybody because it's your own. But I know

*...you are a special friend of Jesus and if you ask Him to help your family He will do it.*

*Well, Gerald, I hope I haven't bored you with those confounded big words. If I did, then just remember that I meant well and don't forget what I told you.*

*Your loving brother,*

*Ray*

*(known at large by Fr. Alban, O.M. Cap.)*

you will let mother and daddy and the children see it—and both grandmas and "your godmother"—or anybody you feel like showing it to because it is yours.

"I am putting a little picture in this letter for you as my 'present' for your First Communion Day. It's the best I have and if I had one better than it, I would give you them both, because there won't be another day in your life, which will

deserve so well the best present that I could give you.

"There's one thing I hope you remember when you go up to receive God for the first time (Gerald, if you are going to keep this letter for a long time as a remembrance, when you read it over again—say when you are 20 or more years old—just consider the words 'receive God' as having been written in bright gold letters, 10 feet high and set into the path of blinding spotlights that they shine like steady lightning and then the glorious significance of Holy Communion might be a little more realizable for you—and even such an extravagant outburst as this doesn't come within a million miles of expressing the reality) that one thing you should remember is to pray for all us—mother, daddy and the children in particular—because on your First Communion Day you are a special friend of Jesus and if you ask Him to help your family He will do it.

"Well, Gerald, I hope I haven't bored you with those confounded big words. If I did, then just remember that I meant well and don't forget what I told you.

Your loving brother,

Ray (known at large by Fr. Alban, O.M. Cap.)"

When he saw the letter, Moran explained "thinking it was a wonderful family remembrance, I encouraged them to make a copy and display it during the visitation period."

Moran sees the letter as an inspirational message to all preparing children for their First Communion. He was struck by two points in the letter: the writer's efforts to explain to a child "the magnificence of this sacramental privilege; and the opportunity to share this "Christ-bearing state by praying for others." Moran stressed it is also "a beautiful example of brotherly love."

Seeing part of his ministry as "encouraging the family on the small things they can do," Moran said his work in bereavement ministry is "terribly rewarding." It is so, he explained, because he helps a family "plan a very important day in their lives" with the emphasis on maximum participation.

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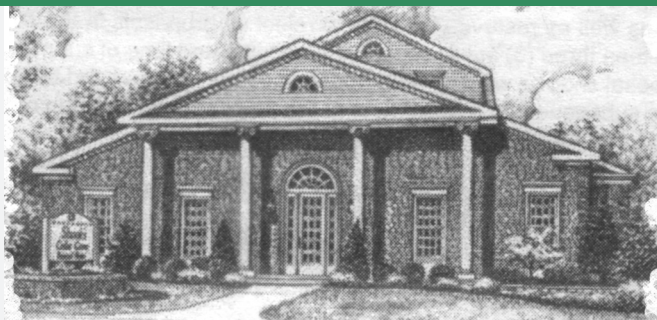
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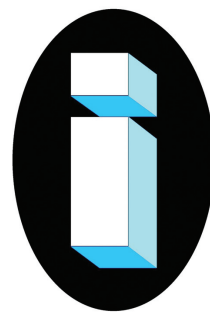
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# 'Gathering the clan' offers aid in grief recovery

BY JANET MCCORMACK

Special to The Catholic Advocate

**T**he death of a loved one, regardless of culture or ethnicity, seems to set in motion a flurry of activity that usually results in what is termed "the gathering of the clan."

As humans, we are social beings who yearn for connection. We wish to give and receive support. It is no wonder, then, that relatives, friends, neighbors and parish staff draw together in support of griever, hoping to meet their practical, emotional and spiritual needs. Some will fulfill those requirements, others will not.

One of the key predictors of the successful resolution of grief is the presence of a functional, healthy and appropriate support system. It is fair to say, however, that not all family members or friends have the "gift of listening."

Although friends and family generally form the nucleus of those ready to help following a

death, appropriate support can come in many guises. Bereavement support groups have long been recognized as a valuable tool in grief recovery. They can, in fact, be another way of "gathering the clan." Groups can provide connection and understanding in a non-judgmental, confidential setting. They offer information and education about the grief process and understand the challenges of daily life following the death of a loved one.

*In support groups, griever have the opportunity to place their losses in a spiritual context.*

In support groups, griever have the opportunity to place their losses in a spiritual context. Mourners are offered respite and are provided glimmerings of hope. Groups allow silence for those not yet ready to give voice to their grief, yet they also permit members to understand that their intense, never-felt-before emotions are indeed normal.

Support-group participants can learn about individual grieving styles and share common experiences and concerns. They can receive emotional support and encouragement and learn new coping skills.

Some may find the support group environment to be a sounding board for their worries and fears while others feel relief from the isolation of grief, taking comfort in those who acknowledge their losses. A wonderful byprod-

uct of participation in a bereavement support group is the opportunity to forge lasting friendships that will translate into ongoing support and connection.

Support groups for the grieving generally have several formats: Closed (limited), Open (drop-in) and Defined (specific loss). Closed groups are time limited but more intensive, meeting weekly for a specified number of weeks. New groups are formed at several different points in the year and participation is limited to those who have registered beforehand. Most parish bereavement

groups adopt this format.

Open-ended groups are usually less formal and structured with longer periods of time between meetings. Open groups often meet bi-weekly or monthly year round. Grieving persons may "drop in" to the group whenever they need to. Defined groups limit their participation to those who have suffered a specific type of loss—such as suicide, death of a child, spouse, homicide, etc.—and usually are open-ended.

It should also be mentioned that online bereavement support groups have become an alternative option for some.

The usual online precautions should be taken, however, to find a documented, reputable site hosted by a trained professional. Regardless of format, bereavement support group participants should always be heard, cared for, understood, respected and encouraged within a confidential setting. It is also best to attend a support group facilitated by either a trained professional or a non-professional who has had formal facilitator training.

A bereavement support group is



Janet McCormack

Advocate photo—M. Gabriele

just one option for outreach. Many griever will benefit from, or will require, counseling to process their losses and will find a knowledgeable, objective listener in the trained professional. Many mental health professionals regard support groups as an adjunct to counseling.

Resources are available for those who have suffered the death of a loved one. A clan is ready to gather in support, but it might just look and sound a little different than you expected.

(Editor's note: Janet McCormack, M.A., is the associate director for Archdiocese of Newark's Family Life Ministries. She can be reached at (973) 497-4327.)



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May	Mothers' Memorial Mass	1	2	4
June	Fathers' Memorial Mass	5	6	1
July	Independence Day Mass	10	11	6
August	Parents' Memorial Mass	7	1	3
September	Memorial Mass	4	5	7
	in Honor of Sept. 11, 2001			
October	Grandparents' Memorial Mass	2	3	5
November	All Souls Mass	6	7	2
December	Children's Memorial Mass	4	5	7

## Our Mission



**Vision** Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Newark exists to meet the needs of the individuals and families before, at the time of death and burial, and throughout bereavement.

By setting aside a holy place for burial, we provide a fitting environment for the full liturgical celebrations.

Just as in life, we believe that in death the human body deserves to be treated with *respect* and *dignity*. We also foster a type of remembering that is enlightened by faith and sees death as a bridge to the Communion of Saints. Our bond with the believing is not broken by death.

**Significance** Catholic Cemeteries encourages frequent visitation and prayer for the dead. We seek to foster an environment in which *love is remembered, hope is rekindled, and faith is awakened and strengthened*.

We serve families best when we help them anticipate needs that are part of the reality of death.

In the Archdiocese of Newark, we look upon the arrangement of burial space not as a business transaction, but as a teaching moment, an opportunity for growth in faith.

When individuals and families acknowledge the issues surrounding mortality and begin to make burial plans, it is a *graced moment* in which our faith can and must be integrated if we are to be true to the service we render.

In our contact with families, we represent the larger Church; we represent the pastors and parish communities to people who vary widely in the degree of their involvement in Church life.

Our work must be marked with *welcoming, caring and healing*. In the valuable record keeping that we do, we serve as archives of the community of God's people.

**Service** The services offered by Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Newark must always be seen as putting faith into action.

Care for the burial needs of the Catholic community is a *sacred trust*, a service to the community on behalf of the community. In the name of the People of God, those who labor in our cemeteries must be committed to support a deepening faith in the families who experience a death.

*Trust, Respect and Dignity will guide our every action.*



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Holy Cross Chapel Mausoleum, North Arlington

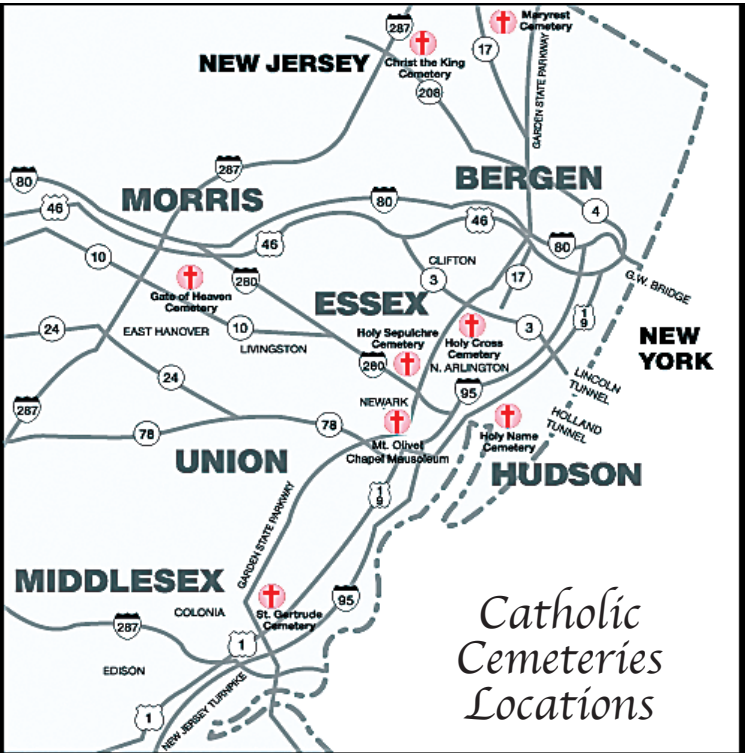


Good Shepherd Chapel Mausoleum, Colonia

## Special Memorial Day Masses

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<b>Gate of Heaven Cemetery</b> East Hanover 973-887-0286	<b>Holy Sepulchre Cemetery</b> East Orange 973-678-3757	<b>Holy Name Cemetery</b> Jersey City 201-433-0342
<b>Saint Gertrude Cemetery</b> Colonia 732-388-0311	<b>Christ the King Cemetery</b> Franklin Lakes 201-891-9191	<b>Saint Peter Cemetery</b> Jersey City 201-433-0342



# Funeral rites commend dead to God's merciful love

BY REV. MSGR. RICHARD J. ARNHOLS  
Columnist for *The Catholic Advocate*

**B**ack in the 1990's, when I was pastor of St. Patrick's Church in Elizabeth and administrator of its Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Newark, I was blessed to be able to attend the annual gathering of the National Catholic Cemetery Conference.

Catholic cemeterians from the United States and Canada were able to learn of the latest rules, regulations, products and services, to help them in fulfilling the corporal work of mercy to bury the dead. These reunions also enabled a wonderful exchange of ideas, practices and trends in this ministry across the country.

At that time, Catholic Cemeteries on the West Coast were experiencing a 15- to 25-percent raise in cremations. It was predicted that this trend would grow across the country, and so it has. Fully 18 percent of our funerals here at St. John's in the last 18 months have involved cremation, mostly after (but sometimes prior to) the funeral liturgy.

Liturgical guidelines favor the former, but permit the latter for valid reasons. In either case, the "ashes" (human cremated remains) are always to be buried in a cemetery or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium, never to be scattered, stored on a shelf at home, or made into jewelry as one company now offers.

Funeral directors frequently

tell of countless boxes of unclaimed human cremated remains stored in their establishments. It is troubling to realize how little attention some surviving family members give to their responsibility to see to a proper Christian burial for the human cremated remains of their deceased kin.

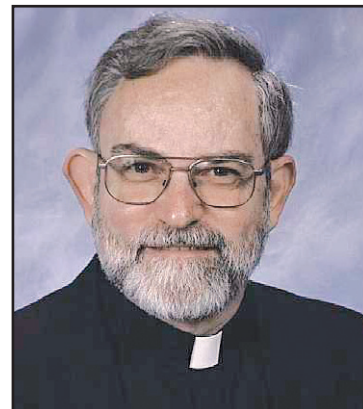
Of equal concern, in the last few years especially, is the growing tendency (more than 25 percent) for family members to opt for a simple ceremony at the funeral home or graveside instead of the funeral Mass to which the deceased is entitled. It often happens that the deceased had been an active churchgoer for many years, but those making the arrangements are not practitioners and therefore see no need for it.

There is a certain wisdom in the contemporary practice of planning your own funeral well

ahead of time, leaving specific instructions for a funeral Mass, so you will not be deprived of this spiritual help when the hour of death arrives.

As the introduction to the Order of Christian Funerals states: "At the death of a Christian, whose life of faith was begun in the waters of baptism and strengthened at the eucharistic table, the Church intercedes on behalf of the deceased because of its confident belief that death is not the end nor does it break the bonds forged in life. The Church also ministers to the sorrowing and consoles them in the funeral rites with the comforting word of God and the sacrament of the Eucharist.

"Christians celebrate the funeral rites to offer worship, praise and thanksgiving to God for the gift of life which has now been returned to God, the author of



Msgr. Richard J. Arnholds

life and the hope of the just. The Mass, the memorial of Christ's death and resurrection, is the principal celebration of the Christian funeral. The Church, through its funeral rites, commends the dead to God's merciful love and pleads for the forgiveness of their sins.

"At the funeral rites, especially at the celebration of the eucharistic sacrifice, the Christian community affirms and expresses the union of the Church on earth with the Church in heaven in the one great communion of saints."

*(Editor's note: This article originally appeared in the Nov. 8, 2006 edition of The Catholic Advocate. Rev. Msgr. Richard J. Arnholds is pastor of St. John the Evangelist parish in Bergenfield, and archdiocesan vicar for Pastoral Life.)*

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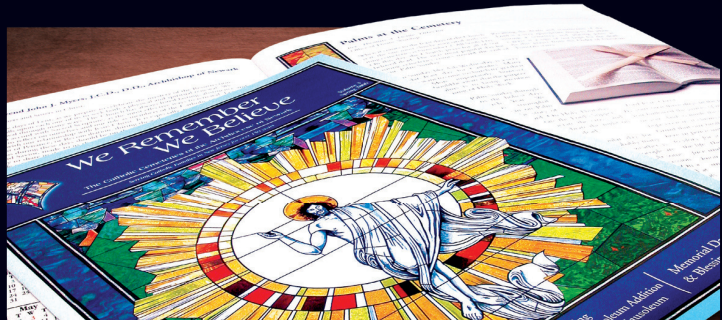
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# As Easter approaches, faithful hearts help to reveal love of our Risen Lord

BY MARK R. LAZAROSKI  
Special to The Catholic Advocate

Two thousand years ago, something happened. We do not know exactly what happened; all we have is the testimony of those who saw evidence of this something three days later.

A wandering rabbi by the name of Jesus had been executed by the Romans for the crime of treason. They said he claimed to be the King of Jews. Three days later, His tomb was open and empty.

His followers told others they had seen Him alive again. They were quick to spread the message: "He is risen!"

Most were not sure what all this meant exactly, but one thing was sure—the One they loved, the One they had mourned, somehow, once again appeared in their midst.

As time progressed, this event became the definitive moment in the faith tradition known as Christianity. It came to be understood that we are no longer held captive by our fear of death. Jesus taught us through His resurrection how not to fear death.

In the Gospel, the Risen Christ tells us: "Do not be afraid." As Easter approaches, let us remember not that He was tortured and put to death on a cross, but rather "He is risen." His resurrection is witness to our everyday belief that He will

come to resurrect all those who will be seated with Him in heaven.

As we were baptized and filled with the living spirit of God, each one of us is a living sacrament, and so we should represent the risen Christ to one another. The way we view our relationship with Christ is to view our relationships with each other. It is Christianity is its most basic form.

It is time for us to hear our Risen Lord saying: "Do not be afraid." It is time to place our faith and belief in God.

Christ is risen and He is in our midst. How do I know? I have encountered the Risen Christ in the hearts of many people. I see Christ being made manifest in the love He offers me in people I meet every day.

"Do not be afraid. He is risen. Alleluia!"

*(Editor's note: Mark R. Lazaroski, C.C.C.E., is the president of the Catholic Cemetery Conference, Des Plaines, IL. Established more than 50 years ago by a group of dedicated clergy and laity, the Catholic Cemetery Conference provides services to the more than 7,000 Catholic cemeteries throughout North America. The organization recognizes the deep religious significance of the Corporal Work of Mercy and is dedicated to the respectful care of the deceased and the sacredness of the cemeteries in which their bodies rest.)*

Advocate photo — M. Gabriele



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# Catholic funerals reflect deep respect for human body and the immortal soul

BY ROBERT C. MOORE, IV  
Special to *The Catholic Advocate*

**A**s funeral directors go about their ministry of caring for families and the loved ones they have lost, the focus of our work becomes even clearer as Lent resolves into the holy days of the triduum and Easter.

The Passion and Easter Gospels recounted every year remind us that the rites of Catholic funerals are founded in a deep respect for the human body that holds our immortal soul. The care and tenderness shown to Jesus by His family and friends after His crucifixion and death is central

in our Catholic Liturgy today.

The way they prepared His body to be placed in the tomb and the need to spend time with Him is still reflected in our funeral rituals. A chance to visit with family in the presence of the body can be the foundation of the road to grief recovery as the reality of the death becomes apparent.

The funeral Mass that is celebrated offers families a chance to consider Scripture and music that also reflects the themes of death and resurrection. Several churches in our area, along with the office of Catholic Cemeteries of Archdiocese of Newark, offer their families a guidebook of Scripture and music selections to

pick from to use for the funeral Mass. They feel that this not only involves the family deeper into the planning process but also reinforces the value of the mass as the central part of our Catholic beliefs. Coming to the table of the Lord in remembrance of the last supper at this life event is as important as any wedding, baptism or anniversary.

Catholic families often inquire about types of final disposition for their loved ones.

While burial or entombment are more common, the misconception of Catholics not being able to choose cremation is not true.

In 1963, the Vatican lifted the ban on cremation for Catholics. In doing so, the Church allowed cremation in certain circumstances, provided the reasons for choosing it did not counter Christian belief.

This meant that all funeral rites were to occur in the presence of the body, with cremation taking place afterward. Catholic Cemeteries Archdiocese of Newark offer places for either the body or the human cremated remains so the final Rite of Commitment can take place.

The Church season of Lent is rich with the symbolism of death and resurrection. From the sparsely decorated altars during Lent to the amazing displays of new life on Easter, we are shown the cycle of life, death and resurrection again in Christ. The Season of Remembrance that we are in can remind all of us about this teaching. Catholic funerals offer this amazing lesson at any time of year. Funeral directors can be a valuable resource to help you remember this too.

*(Editor's note: Robert C. Moore, IV, is the president of the New Jersey State Funeral Directors Association, Wall Township (Web site: www.njsfda.org).)*



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# Carrara marble statue from Italy serves as a gift of love, devotion

BY MELISSA MCNALLY  
Staff Writer

COLONIA—Since his wife Rose's death five years ago, Onofrio Lella has always wanted to express his devotion and love for his wife and his Catholic faith at Saint Gertrude Cemetery.

Working with officials from the office of Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Newark, a statue of Saint Anthony was hand-carved in Vincenza, Italy, and recently installed at the cemetery. The statue was crafted from Carrara marble—the legendary, decorative stone that Michelangelo used to carve the "Pieta" and "David."

Lella wanted a fitting memori-

al for his beloved wife. "I think it is beautiful. My wife and I have always had a devotion to St. Anthony," he explained.

Father Frank Rose, Lella's pastor from Saint Bernard of Clairvaux and Saint Stanislaus Kostka Parish in Plainfield, was the liaison between Lella and Catholic Cemeteries to make the arrangements to commission and install the statue.

"I got together with (representatives from the) Catholic Cemeteries office and asked what we could do and what would look good in the mausoleum. It was very easily done and Catholic Cemeteries was very amiable," Father Rose noted.

The entire process took six months, including shipping the

statue by boat to Newark from Italy. Lella's family was present at the March 26 blessing and was in awe of the statue's beauty.

"(Onofrio) always wanted to donate a statue and he was very close to his wife," Antonio, Lella's nephew, said. "She was devoted to Mary and today, I believe, she got what she wanted."

Andrew P. Schafer, executive director of Catholic Cemeteries, which operates the site here, believes donating artwork at a cemetery or mausoleum is an excellent way to memorialize the beloved deceased while expressing faith. "We are trying to bring artwork into these places to spread the Gospel," Schafer said.

"When families donate art, it brings this type of evangelization to the community," he continued. "There are many pieces of stained glass, mosaics and statues throughout the archdiocese for families to donate."

Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Newark recently launched a Memorialization Program. Call (800) 582-1718 to contact a counselor for more information.



Advocate photo — Melissa McNally

Father Frank Rose, pastor of St. Bernard of Clairvaux and St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish in Plainfield, Onofrio Lella and Rev. Msgr. William B. Naedele (left to right) are pictured with the statue of St. Anthony at Saint Gertrude Cemetery in Colonia.

## Bereavement support groups

NEWARK—The office of Family Life Ministries of the Archdiocese of Newark is committed to the emotional and spiritual support of those who mourn. It maintains three support groups for parents grieving the death of a child; one designated solely for fathers.

The office provides listings of the parish-based bereavement support groups within the four counties of the archdiocese, and offers a bereavement support group facilitator training course each fall and spring.

Judith Miller is the director of Family Life Ministries while Janet McCormack serves as the associate director. The Family Life Ministries office is located here at the Archdiocesan Center, 171 Clifton Ave. Call (973) 497-4327 for further assistance.

**Support groups for parents grieving the death of a child.** Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month: St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, (St. Thomas Parish Center); 60 Byrd Ave., Bloomfield; 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Information: Jack and Ann Muller (201) 358-8752.

**Support group for parents grieving the death of a child.** Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month: St. Peter the Apostle Parish (rectory); 445 Fifth Ave.; River Edge; 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Information: Mary Davis (201) 265-3688 or (201) 261-5400.

**Support group for fathers whose children have died:** Notre Dame Parish (parish center); 359 Central Ave.; North Caldwell; April 21 and June 16,

10 a.m.; Information: Family Life Office (973) 497-4327.

**The 20th Annual Liturgy for those whose children have died:** Notre Dame Parish; 359 Central Ave.; North Caldwell May 11, 7:30 p.m.; Information: Family Life Office (973) 497-4327.

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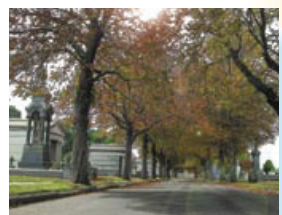


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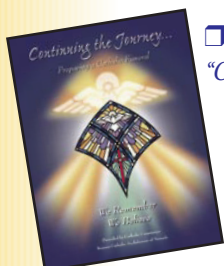
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