

Reported abuse victims declining

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The number of people who said they are victims of clergy child sex abuse has dropped 34 percent since 2004, according to a national survey of dioceses and religious orders. The survey was conducted by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University in conjunction with the 2006 audit on U.S. Church compliance with child protection policies. The annual report on the survey and audit showed the same drop since 2004 in the number of credible allegations made and a 40-percent drop in the number of reported offenders. The report collected data on credible allegations and costs related to child sex abuse in 2006 and compared them to the figures gathered in 2004 and 2005. Lawyers' fees continued to skyrocket in 2006, but the amount of money paid out in settlements dropped by nearly \$122 million from 2005, the survey said. Lawyers' fees totaled \$75.1 million in 2006, an 82-percent rise from the 2005 figure of \$41.2 million. Also on a major upswing was the amount of money paid for living expenses, therapy and other support of offenders.

Child protection audit released

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Twenty-seven of 29 Catholic dioceses and eparchies audited in 2006 complied with the Church's

national standards for child protection programs and the prevention of and response to sexual abuse, according to a report released April 11. However, four dioceses that were not found in compliance in 2005 refused to participate in the 2006 audit. "The overall results of the 2006 audit are encouraging," said Patricia O'Donnell Ewers, chairwoman of the bishops' all-lay national review board. But she described the refusal of four dioceses to participate as "discouraging news." Two—the Diocese of Lincoln, NB, and the Melkite Eparchy of Newton, MA—had refused to participate in the 2005 audits as well and were supposed to undergo full audits. The Diocese of Baker, OR, and the Eparchy of Our Lady of Deliverance of Newark, NJ, for Syriacs refused partial audits that would have focused on those areas where they did not meet compliance standards in 2005. "It is most unfortunate," Ewers said, "that the bishops and eparchs of these dioceses/eparchies are unwilling to participate in the one measure of public scrutiny that assures the Catholic lay faithful that the Church is taking every means possible to reach out to those who have been harmed by individuals in the service of the church and to promote the safety and well-being of the children entrusted to its care."

Learning to bring God to battlefield

FORT JACKSON, SC (CNS)—As dusk fell on a crisp night in late March, soldiers gath-

ered in a pine clearing at Fort Jackson near Columbia. They stood around a "sand table," a map of combat zones drawn out in the dirt, and received briefings on a fictional anti-insurgent mission in Iraq. Some of the details had a distinctly biblical tone. The mission's name: "Operation Preacher." Terrorist command bases were "Jezebel" and "Beelzebub." A main supply line was "Hezekiah." Welcome to combat training at the U.S. Army Chaplain School and Center, where men and women who want to bring the comfort of God to soldiers around the world learn how to be chaplains. The chaplain school has been at Fort Jackson since 1995, when it moved from Fort Monmouth, N.J. At any given time, the chaplain school serves more than 100 students studying to become chaplains or completing more extensive officer training. The school also trains chaplain assistants, non-ordained soldiers who serve with chaplains on Unit Ministry Teams in combat and in peacetime.

Focus on diocesan newspapers needed

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Diocesan newspapers deserve new emphasis as a means of spreading the Gospel and connecting Catholics to one another and their church, said the board of directors of the Catholic Press Association (CPA) of the United States and Canada. "Diocesan publications can light the fire of faith that warms hearts to action for the good of all," the CPA board said in a statement released



STAMP OF APPROVAL—Archbishop Edmond Farhat, apostolic nuncio to Austria, admires a special-edition Austrian stamp released in Vienna on April 12 for the occasion of Pope Benedict XVI's 80th birthday.

CNS photo

April 10. "Recently, the Italian Federation of Catholic Weeklies announced a bold initiative, the opening of 76 new diocesan newspapers. The goal...was that each of Italy's 226 dioceses would have at least one publication to serve its members," the board said. "That same type of emphasis is needed in the United States and Canada." CPA members include a wide range of national and international Catholic newspapers, magazines and newsletters, but the 173 diocesan newspapers of the United States and Canada that belong to the association form nearly half of its member publications. Helen Osman, CPA president, told Catholic News Service on April 10 that the board statement was sparked by the strong support Pope Benedict XVI expressed for the diocesan press at a meeting with the Italian federation last November.

Pope to meet Brazilian youths

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Benedict XVI will meet with young people, recovering drug addicts and political leaders before opening a major assembly of Latin American bishops in Brazil next month. The pope will also canonize a Brazilian Franciscan—Blessed Antonio Galvao—during his May 9-13 visit. The Vatican released the complete schedule for the papal trip on April 11. It will be his first papal trip to the Western Hemisphere, and the main purpose is to inaugurate the fifth general conference of bishops from Latin America and the Caribbean. The pope will celebrate an opening Mass on May 13 and presides over the first session of the conference later in the day.

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Archdiocese of Newark

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

March 23, 2007

Dear Men of the Newark Archdiocese:

I would like to take this opportunity to bring to your attention the various activities of the Knights of Columbus in our area.

I have been a Knight both in the Third Degree and the Fourth Degree over 34 years. Over those years, I became aware of how deeply the Knights love our Church and their communities.

Through the Fourth Degree Assemblies, the Knights show their commitment to our Country in many ways and have always supported all that we hold dear.

The insurance program currently has over 40 billion dollars in coverage protecting the families of their members, which was the vision of their Founder, Father Michael J. McGivney back in 1882.

The Knights of Columbus have 1.7 million members all over the world and, in fact, have recently opened Councils in Poland. Here in the Archdiocese of Newark, there are over 21,000 Knights in 95 Councils.

Pope John Paul II has called the Knights of Columbus "the right arm of the church." Through their various programs, the Knights have supported the Holy Father in his efforts to promote our faith.

Their programs for their communities provide financial help to many agencies especially for citizens with developmental disabilities, Alzheimer's, Deborah Hospital and many youth activities.

The Knights of Columbus would like each Catholic man to have this "experience of a lifetime."

They will be conducting recruitment drives throughout the Archdiocese. I encourage you to consider joining these men and grow in the knowledge of our Catholic Faith.

God bless you.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely in the Lord,

✠Most Reverend John J. Myers
Archbishop of Newark

pr

Archdiocesan Center

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April 19

Corpus Christi Parish, Hasbrouck Heights, "Life in the Spirit" seminar, 7-9 p.m., through April 21, call Bob at (201) 288-9304.

April 20

St. Nicholas Holy Rosary Society, Palisades Park, spring auction, 6-7:30 p.m., cost: \$10, (201) 947-0027.

April 21

Marist High School, Bayonne, Haiti Sodality Network of the Northeast's Human Rights Award Ceremony, 8 p.m., call Judy Reilly at (201) 784-0008.

Immaculate Conception High School, Montclair, Casino Night, 7-11 p.m., cost: \$30, (973) 744-7445 ext. 11.

St. Phil's Singles, Livingston, dinner at T.G.I. Friday's, East Hanover, 7 p.m., RSVP by April 20, (973) 560-9728.

April 22

Blessed Sacrament Parish, Elizabeth, Grand Car Raffle, 3 p.m., cost: \$5, call Marilyn at (908) 354-6925.

Carmel Retreat, Mahwah, directed retreat, through April 27, cost: \$300, (201) 327-7090.

St. Philip the Apostle Parish, Saddle Brook, "Drums from Heaven: World Youth Day Benefit," 3-7 p.m., cost: \$10, call Tommy at (201) 952-1969.

Saint Peter's Prep, Jersey City, open house, 2-4 p.m., call Ryan Heffernan at (201) 547-6418.

April 23

Lourdes Adult Academy, West Orange, "Civilization of Love: Papal Messages of Our Times," 7:30 p.m., (973) 731-4580.

St. Thomas More Parish, Fairfield, mission talks, through April 25, following 9 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Mass, (973) 227-0055.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Scotch Plains, bereavement group meetings, Mondays at 7-8:30 p.m., through May 22, (908) 889-2100.

April 24

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Bloomfield, "The Secret" viewing and discussion, 7:30-9:30 p.m., (973) 338-9190.

April 25

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark, Kearny, adoption information meeting, Engelhard Hall, 7-9 p.m., (201) 246-7378.

St. Antoninus Parish, Newark, "Life in the Spirit" seminar, through May 30, call George and MaryAnn at (201) 933-5983.

Seton Hall University, South Orange, "Aquinas and Lonergan on the Meaning of Grace," 4 p.m., (973) 275-2525.

**April 26**

Queen of Peace Parish, North Arlington, bereavement support group, Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., for six weeks, call Father Gerry at (201) 997-0700.

Knights of Columbus Council 5427, Washington Township, fundraising for the developmentally disabled, at key locations throughout Washington Township, through April 29, call Bob Hibler at (201) 666-2454.

April 27

Our Lady of Lourdes, West Orange, spring festival auction, 6:30 p.m., cost: \$15, RSVP by April 23, call Pat Paxton at (973) 325-1343.

April 28

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

Carmel Retreat, Mahwah, "Reading, Writing and Sharing Poetry in the Christian Tradition," 9:30 a.m.- 3 p.m., cost: \$35, (201) 327-7090.

Our Lady of Peace Parish, New Providence, Mass and Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick and Elderly, 2 p.m., (908) 464-7600.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Orange, Feast of Maria Santissima Incononata, 11 a.m., call Antoinetta Di Iura at (973) 731-7324.

April 29

Felician College Child Care Center, Lodi, 20th anniversary reunion celebration, 1-5 p.m., RSVP at (973) 778-0093.

May 2

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

Carmel Retreat, Mahwah, "Prayer Demons," 9:30 a.m.- 4 p.m., cost: \$50, (201) 327-7090.

May 5

Carmel Retreat, Mahwah, "Tending the Dream: Attending the Holy Saturday," 9:30-4 p.m., cost: \$50, (201) 327-7090.

The Shrine of Saint Joseph, Stirling, spring jewelry sale, 9-5 p.m., also on May 6, (908) 647-0208.

Marist High School, Bayonne, St. Dominic Academy Mother's Club Tricky Tray, 6 p.m., cost: \$12, (201)-434-5938.

Knights of Columbus Council 3962, Ramsey, Cinco de Mayo party, 7:30-midnight, cost: \$40, call Eileen Damato at (201) 236-2229.

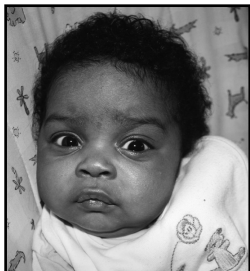
St. Phil's Singles, Livingston, dinner at Houlihans, 7 p.m., RSVP by May 4, call Judith at (973) 560-9728.

May 6

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

May 8

Holy Trinity Parish, Hackensack, carnival, 6-11 p.m., through May 12, (201) 343-5170.

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Photo by Roy Groething

The Planned Giving Office of the Archdiocese of Newark organized the annual prayer service and tea for members of the Legacy Circle. Archbishop John J. Myers (second from right) addressed the circle members and unveiled the new insignia of the Legacy Circle, which features the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Planned Giving Office hosts annual tea for Legacy Circle

NEWARK—The Archdiocese of Newark held its annual prayer service and tea for members of the Legacy Circle Planned Giving Society on March 7.

Archbishop John J. Myers presided over the event that was held in recognition of the members of the Archdiocesan Legacy Circle. The circle was established to honor the many individuals who have remembered the archdiocese or their parish through a planned gift or in their wills.

More than 30 people attended this year’s event, which began with the prayer service in Our Lady’s Chapel of the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart and was then followed by afternoon tea in the archbishop’s residence. In addition to Archbishop Myers, the day featured a special appearance by Archbishop Emeritus Peter L. Gerety.

Both Archbishop Myers and Archbishop Gerety, in a strong showing of their personal dedication to supporting the charitable mission of the Church of Newark, are themselves members of the Legacy Circle having made planned gift commitments to the archdiocese.

Each member of the Legacy Circle was presented with a special recognition pin and commemorative medal featuring the new insignia of the Legacy Circle. Legacy Circle members who were recognized at this year’s event included: Rosemarie Brodeur, St. James Parish, Springfield; Pauline Buckley, St. Aloysius Parish, Caldwell; Marylane Burry, St. Rose of Lima Parish, Short Hills; Eileen J. Connolly, Our Lady of Good Counsel

Parish; Frank E. Dascenza, Our Lady of Grace Parish, Fairview; Most Rev. Peter L. Gerety, D.D., St. John Vianney Residence; Dot Hagemann, Our Lady of Peace, New Providence; Dr. and Mrs. Ervin E. and Judith Lepko, St. Cecilia Parish, Englewood; Mary Rogers, Our Lady of the Visitation Parish, Paramus; Joseph and Carol Trovato, Holy Spirit Parish, Union; Michael Zdanis, St. Paul Parish, Ramsey; and John Salvato, Holy Trinity Parish, Westfield.

Archbishop Myers told those gathered that the annual event “is held in gratitude and recognition of all those people who have a strong Catholic faith, who believe in the future of the Archdiocese and who want to pass that legacy of Catholic faith to future generations.”

The tea was organized by the Planned Giving Office of the Archdiocese of Newark, which hosts other events throughout the year. A growing number of parishioners and friends have made planned gifts in support of the many services and programs of the archdiocese. Many of these gift opportunities, such as charitable gift annuities which provide lifetime payments in exchange for a charitable gift, offer significant financial benefits and tax savings not available with other forms of financial planning.

Contact Bill Evans, archdiocesan executive director of major gifts, at 973-497-4584 or evanswil@rcan.org for more information about the Legacy Circle or to learn more about planned giving options at the Archdiocese of Newark.

Schools learn meaning of ‘green’

Unofficially at least, green is the new school color at Our Lady of the Lake in Verona, Jersey City’s Resurrection School and Academy of the Holy Angels in Demarest.

The two elementary schools and high school respectively are true pioneers in a statewide pilot project designed to foster environmental leadership among young people. A commendable pursuit indeed.

It is an environmental effort, however, with a unique twist. Green Flag/Green Faith is a yearlong collaborative, interfaith coalition designed to mobilize people of diverse spiritual backgrounds in a deepening of their relationship with the sacred in nature while restoring the environment for future generations.

From among the many schools throughout the Garden State that applied for Green Flag/Green Faith, only six were selected. The criterion were lofty and challenging. According to Stacey Kennealy, project coordinator, they included level of commitment, the ability to be successful and potential to become role models for other schools. It says a lot that half of the schools selected are from the Archdiocese of Newark.

The schools are taking their responsibilities to the pilot project quite seriously. In an impressive cooperative effort between students and staff, the environmental message is loud and clear. Recycling and the use of non-toxic materials are being emphasized in conjunction with ongoing environmental educational programs.

Arguably their parents’ generation dropped the environmental ball. The young people of Green Flag/Green Faith don’t intend to make the same mistake. They know too much is at stake and are willing now in their young lives to do something about it. Good for them!

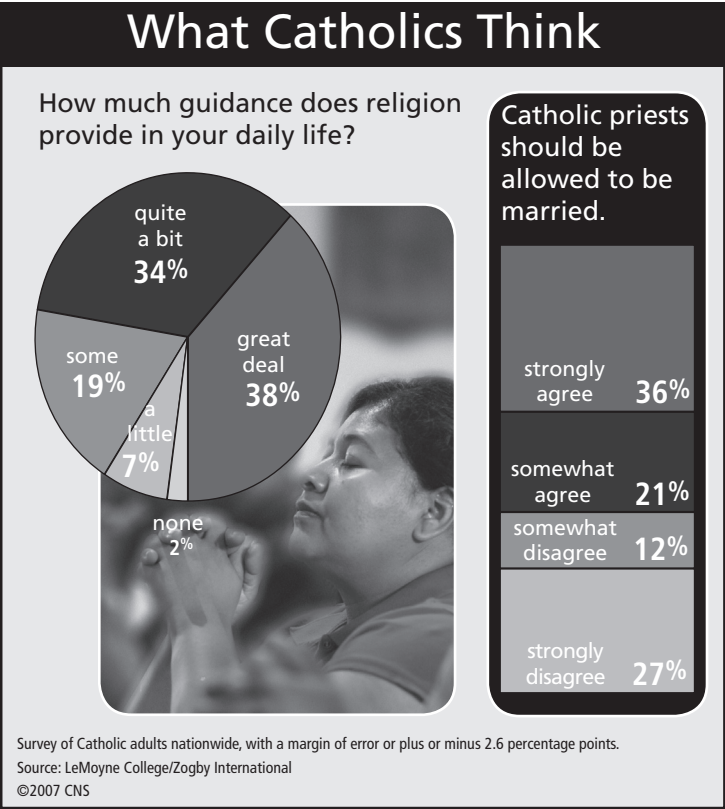
Consider Home Missions Appeal

It may be difficult for some to imagine, but in certain sections of the United States many parishes are in dire straits. A vital lifeline for our fellow Catholics enduring difficult circumstances is the annual Catholic Home Missions Appeal.

Scheduled for the weekend of April 28-29 in the Archdiocese of Newark and nationwide, the appeal is deserving of everyone’s generosity.

Primarily the funds raised that weekend will go to rural America where the Church is fragile and Catholics are a distinct minority. Catholics from the Deep South to the Mountain West need and deserve the help.

In essence, Catholic Home Mission Appeal funnels the resources of the nation’s more prosperous Catholics to lend a helping hand to poorer, sometimes much poorer, parishes. What a privilege to be able to do so.



A recent LeMoyne College/Zogby International survey shows Catholics’ views on different questions regarding their faith. Respondents were asked their opinion on the amount of guidance religion provides in their daily lives and if Catholic priests should be allowed to marry. The survey has a margin of error of plus or minus 2.6 percent.

CNS graphic

Papa Ratzinger celebrates his 80th birthday



Pope Benedict XVI greets the faithful as he leads his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican April 11.

On April 16, 2005, the staff of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith hosted a small party for the congregation's prefect, Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger. Cardinal Ratzinger turned 78 that day. The conclave to choose a new pope would be sealed on April 18, so a combination birthday/bon voyage party seemed in order.

It was, some of those present told me, an emotional moment; Cardinal Ratzinger's way of handling his office had won him the intense loyalty of his subordinates and more than a few of them wanted to see him elected pope.

But if there was any wish farthest from Joseph Ratzinger's mind as he marked his 78th birthday, it was that he might spend future birthdays in Rome.

He and his older brother Georg—a priest and distin-

The Catholic Difference

By George Weigel



guished musician—had acquired a small property in their native Bavaria where they could keep house together. The cardinal had every intention of offering his resignation as prefect of CDF to the new pope and every hope that John Paul II's successor would do what John Paul had three times refused to do—accept that resignation.

The conclave had other ideas, of course. So Joseph Ratzinger will indeed spend his 80th birthday in Rome as Pope Benedict XVI.

When he stepped out onto the loggia of St. Peter's on April 19, 2005, to meet and bless "the city and the world" according to the ancient tradition, I couldn't help feeling sorry for the new pontiff, with whom I had been in conversation since 1988 and for whom I felt gratitude, affection and respect. One doesn't wish impossible jobs on those one admires. But somebody has to do the impossible job of the papacy and, on further reflection, I felt rather happy for Joseph Ratzinger, the man. His election as pope had, I thought, freed him to be himself. No longer would he stand in the giant shadow of John Paul the Great; no longer would he be confined to a disciplinary role. The world could now see, unfiltered, the man whom I had come to know over 17

years: a Christian gentleman of remarkable intelligence, genuine modesty, spiritual depth and good humor.

Some of that does, indeed, seem to have happened. While too much of the world media still has its Ratzingerian default positions set on "enforcer," a lot of people have discovered that Joseph Ratzinger is a master catechist, able to distill the most difficult points of Christian doctrine into language and imagery that can be grasped by anyone. That, I am convinced, is why the crowds at Pope Benedict's general audiences continue to be the largest in history. Tired of the soul-withering allures of secularism and the thin gruel of "spirituality," people are coming to be fed solid food—food for the journey, food that nourishes mind and spirit.

Thoughtful observers have also figured out that Joseph Ratzinger—by reason of his personal gifts and his office—can do what no president, prime minister, king, queen, chancellor, mullah, or secretary-general can do: put the really urgent questions on the global agenda in a way that can't be ignored. While I wish that some of my journalistic friends would honor the pope's 80th birthday by repeating, a few thousand times, "the pope did not make a gaffe at Regensburg," others have already figured that out.

The September 2006 Regensburg lecture put two grave problems on the world agenda—the danger of irrational faith, and the danger of a loss of faith in reason—in a way that no other world figure could have managed. If the later 21st century finds a way to engage genuine interreligious dialogue through a rediscovery of the arts of reason, the seeds for that flowering will be seen to have been planted in Regensburg.

Prior to his election as pope, Joseph Ratzinger worried that he was not a man of "governance," and the effects of his governance on the Church remain to be seen. That he has established himself as a master teacher for the world, as he enters his ninth decade, no one can now doubt.

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

Spiritual cycles: spring breezes refresh the soul

The winter of our dreary days is finally over. Daylight Savings has lengthened our hours of light. The dark cold days of wind and snow are behind us.

Sunshine now creeps into dark corners of our homes and while the wind is still chilly it has a fresh fragrance that fills the very center of our being as we breathe.

Yesterday, I saw the first crocus break forth on a field. The branches on the trees are beginning to become tender with buds that will soon be leaves. Down by the river there were hundreds of robin red breasts feeding on the grass. They have just arrived in a flock from their winter home. Out on the river, the ice has disappeared.

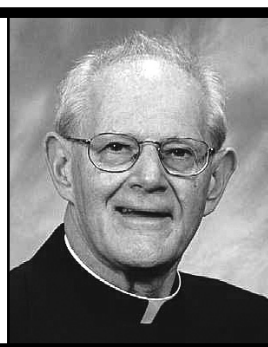
In my mother's yard, I can hear the sound of the birds. Each has its own call. They will be building nests in the next few weeks. As they chirp, trill and coo I recognize their voices from the years gone by. I am happy that they have returned to grace our land.

We will know that spring has broken out in all its fullness when the cherry blossoms fill Branch Brook Park with a white and pink blanket of flowers and the yellow forsythia covers the bank of Mill Street brook with a yellow hue. The final announcement of spring's rebirth will arrive when the great white egrets arrive on the bays and meadowlands of our State to take up their positions beside the rushes.

Each year the earth undergoes a rebirth, a resurrection. Each year all of nature envelops us with signs of new life and new beginnings. The old folks just want to feel the sun warm upon their faces. Youngsters want to run and shout and expend energy. They hardly realize that they are a part of nature's cycle. Young adults begin to feel a romantic call.

Voices

By Rev. Msgr. John Gilchrist

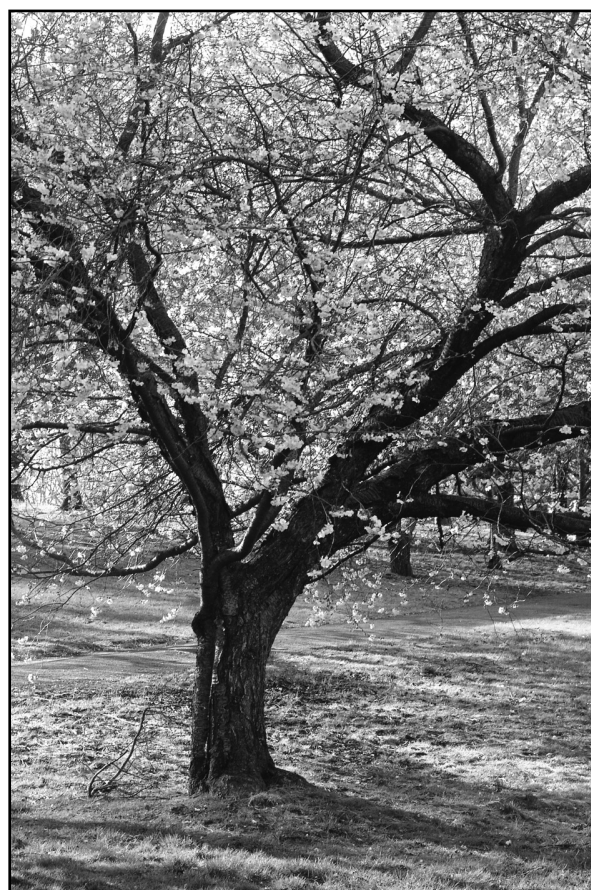


How fitting that Easter is here. How fortunate that while we consent intellectually to the creed that our Lord has risen and that death and sorrow have been defeated, we still have all of creation crying out to us that life is forever and that darkness and death pass.

There is no time on earth like Easter as the flowers begin to blossom and lilies scent the air and when all that we see, hear, feel, smell and touch reinforces our faith and cries out with new birth.

Alleluia! Rejoice, my friends. Be happy that you have the faith. Be grateful for Easter morning. It is the foretaste of our resurrection and of eternal life. All of nature is whispering of God's love.

(Msgr. John Gilchrist is the pastor of Holy Cross Parish, Harrison. Next month he will celebrate 50 years in the priesthood.)



Cherry blossoms, Branch Brook Park

First World Congress on Mercy will highlight the core of Gospel

VIENNA—The first World Congress on Mercy will be held April 2-6, 2008, at the Vatican's Paul VI Hall, marking the third anniversary of the death of Pope John Paul II.

Cardinal Christoph Schonborn, the Archbishop of Vienna, earlier this month announced plans for the event during a press conference. He said that the opening date of the congress was chosen purposely to coincide with the anniversary of the death of John Paul II as the call to be "witnesses of mercy" was an essential message of the late pontiff.

"The congress will concern the whole Church, indeed, the whole world," said Father Patrice Chocholski of Lyon, France, the general secretary of the congress and the personal representative of Cardinal Schonborn.

During the recent press conference, Cardinal Schonborn repeated the words of Pope John Paul II at the consecration of the Shrine of Divine Mercy in Krakow, Lagiewniki in 2002: "Apart from the mercy of God there is no other source of hope for humanity."

Lagiewniki is where the nun and mystic Sister Faustina Kowalska (1905-1938) lived with her congregation. John Paul II canonized the Polish religious April 30, 2000, and announced on the same day that "throughout the world, the second Sunday of Easter will receive the name of Divine Mercy Sunday."

The congress will include keynote speakers on biblical, theological, and pastoral themes; testimonies; apostolic workshops; evening festivals in churches; and liturgical celebrations. Information on the event can be obtained online (Web site: www.worldcongressmercy.org).

The event will also have an interreligious component through the participation of Jews, Muslims and Buddhists. Cardinal Schonborn said the congress will be

"a bridge to other religions, but also reaching out to agnostics and atheists." He added that the Church is often criticized for its "doctrinal narrowness." That is why, the cardinal said, the first World Congress on Mercy is intended to give a "very radical encouragement" to rediscover the core of the Gospel, that is to say, mercy.

The Marians of the Immaculate Conception, who have played a key role in spreading the message and devotion of Divine Mercy throughout the world, have been asked to help organize and promote the congress. Organizers say that the World Congress will be modeled after the International Eucharistic Congresses, which have been called every few years since 1881. Clergy and laity around the world will be encouraged to give paramount importance to the spirituality and message and devotion of The Divine Mercy.

Divine Mercy Sunday (April 15) was celebrated throughout the Archdiocese of Newark (see *The Catholic Advocate*, March 21 and Feb. 21). Thanks to the generosity of the Marians of the Immaculate Conception, a 130-page guide on Divine Mercy Sunday was mailed to every parish in the archdiocese, along with a cover letter from Bishop Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D., the archdiocesan vicar for evangelization.

The Church in China: two faces, one faith

Continued from page 2

stance by referring to the "Eight-Point Directive on Dealings with China," issued in 1988 by Cardinal Josef Tomko, then prefect of the Vatican's Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

"No Church authority has ever contradicted this document, so relatively few underground Catholics responded positively to the repeated calls of Pope John Paul II for reconciliation," he said. Many anticipate the papal letter will address these directives and put the issue to rest.

He also said the Catholic Church in China could best be compared to the apostles. "Each apostle reacted in his own way when the Lord Jesus was arrested, condemned and crucified," said Father Heyndrickx. "Some probably continued to believe in him in their hearts. Others doubted and were certainly not proud that they ran away."

He referred to Pentecost, when the apostles and Mary prayed together as they awaited the Holy Spirit. "Only the Spirit could unite them and empower them to pass beyond their own past weaknesses," he said. "Thus they emerged on Pentecost as a united church, preaching, full of energy and faith. Peter, who admitted being weakest in faith during the time of trial, became their leader."

Precious Blood Father Robert Schreiter of the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago said that at the very heart of the Christian understanding of reconciliation lie two important insights: "that reconciliation is the work of God in our lives, not something we achieve on our own; and that reconciliation brings all parties to a new place."

"Where God will lead Catholics in the underground and official Church cannot be predetermined by either party," he said March 28 in a statement issued in anticipation of the pope's letter. "They must remain open to the working of the risen Lord. That path will be one that does not forget the suffering of the past, but also will make of both parties a new creation. The deep love of the Church and loyalty to the Holy Father that all Catholics in China hold dear should bring them to place their trust and hope in how God will speak to them through the Holy Father."

The Pope Speaks

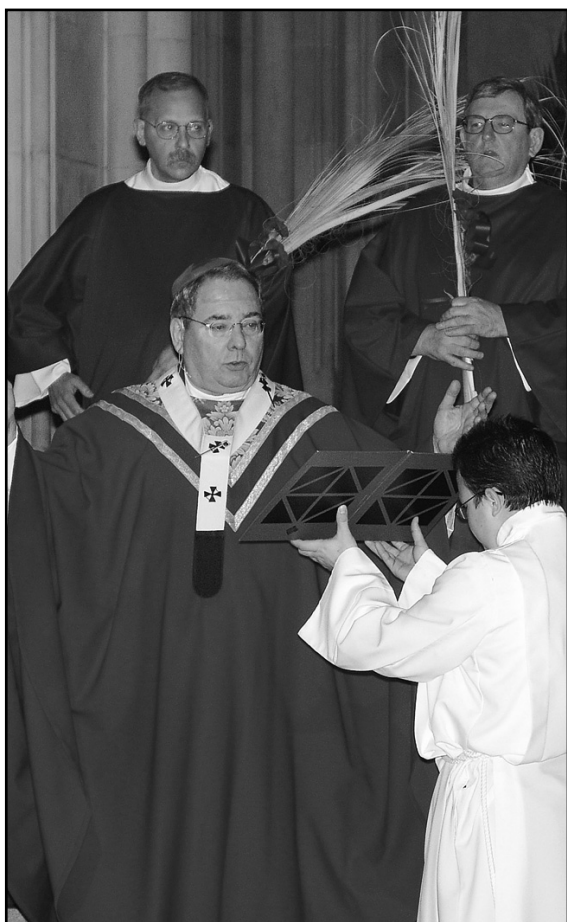
Pope Benedict XVI



Victory over death

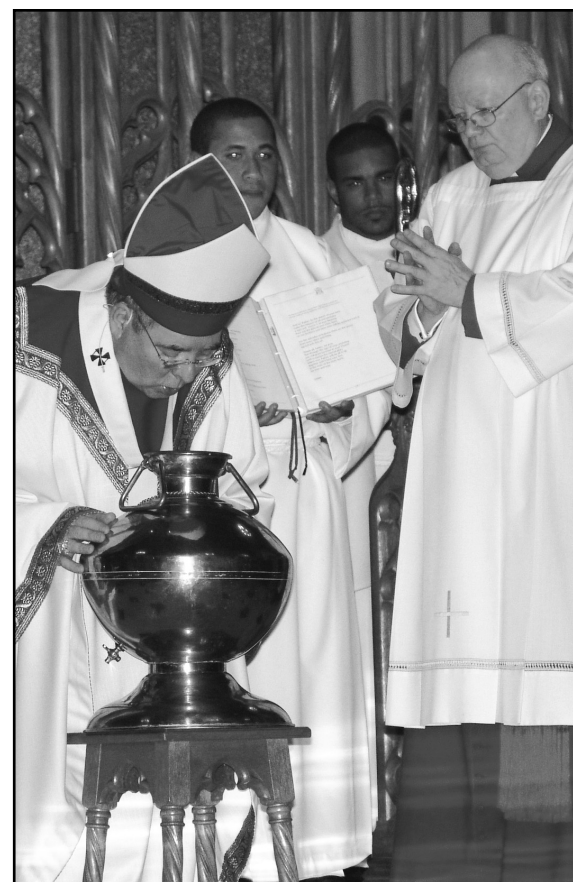
Dear brothers and sisters,

In this Easter octave, the liturgy speaks to us of the appearances of the risen Lord to the disciples. The Fathers of the Church give us many valuable insights into these stories, which help us to understand more profoundly the great truth of the Resurrection. When Peter and John go running to the tomb, each trying to arrive there first, they show us the one form of competition that is legitimate between believers: zeal in the search for Christ. The disciples on the road to Emmaus recognize the Lord because they see Him at (the) table with them. We recognize Him, because we are granted an even more intimate encounter with Him: We see Him in our hearts. To Mary Magdalene, the Lord says, Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. This is surprising, since to Thomas, he actually says, "Put your finger here, place your hand in my side." But there is an important difference here. Mary Magdalene wanted to embrace the Lord as if nothing had happened, as if He had returned to the same life that He had lived before. No, He has passed through death to a new life, and the wounds of His Passion are the sign of that definitive victory over death.



Advocate photo—Ward Miele

PALM SUNDAY BLESSING—Archbishop John J. Myers prepares to bless the faithful before Palm Sunday Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark.



Advocate photo—Melissa McNally

OILS BLESSED—Archbishop John J. Myers consecrated the Chrism at the annual Chrism Mass on April 2 in the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark. Over 300 priests and 100 deacons attended the Mass, where Archbishop Myers blessed the oils used in the Sacraments of Anointing the Sick and Confirmation. During his homily, Archbishop Myers called the Mass "one of the most important liturgies of the year."

Father D'Amico inspires fresh sense of stewardship

BY MELISSA MCNALLY
Staff Writer

The first Mass was celebrated in St. Leo's Memorial Chapel on Nov. 24, 1910. The chapel was dedicated on June 25, 1911 and was staffed by Franciscan priests. In the fall of 1912, St. Leo's School opened. It was housed on the bottom floor of the church building.

During World War II, the Elmwood Park area was designated as a defense industrial zone. The population quickly grew due to the arrival of large numbers of workers. After the war, many stayed on in the town and the chapel could not accommodate the increased population. Funds were raised and in 1949 the present church building was erected.

When the baby boomer generation began attending school, it quickly became apparent that the existing school facilities were inadequate. Once again funds were raised and in 1959 a new school was built.

Today, the Franciscans have left. However, almost 100 years later, there is still an excellent school and a vibrant, growing parish. Under an energetic stewardship program there are many ministries such as Social Concerns, Holy Name Society, youth group, choir, Spanish Ministry, and Rosary Society, with many other ministries continuing to be added.

St. Leo Parish underwent structural changes two years ago when the Franciscan Friars left the parish and an archdiocesan priest—Father Joseph A. D'Amico—was installed as pastor.

"The Franciscan Friars of the Holy Name province established the community here almost 100 years ago. The archdiocesan personnel board, along with the provincial administration, sought to have a transition period where I would live with the friars and serve the people of St. Leo's for three months before their departure," Father D'Amico explained.

After growing accustomed to the parish while living with the Franciscans, Father D'Amico felt confident that he could provide spiritual guidance to his new parish family. "It was a great way to meet the parish and also make friends of the friars who had the responsibility of handing over the parish to the archdiocese," he said. "I immediately felt warmly accepted and



Photo courtesy of St. Leo Parish

The Franciscan Friars ran St. Leo Parish for almost 100 years before the archdiocese installed Father Joseph D'Amico as pastor two years ago. A renewed interest in stewardship and increase in community outreach is now a staple at the parish. The parish community of St. Leo is composed of 1,617 registered families with Italian, Spanish, Polish and Filipino heritage.

embraced by the parish family."

Parish registration has grown in the past few years and stewardship has increased with the help of the archdiocese. There are 1,617 registered families with Italian, Spanish, Polish and Filipino heritage—a mixture of long-time and new parishioners. The parish's diversity and com-

the spirit of stewardship with 339 students in grades K-8 along with 25 Pre-K students. Approximately 74 percent of students are parishioners at the Middle-States accredited school. St. Leo's School excels at basketball with both boys' and girls' teams winning tournaments.

Saint Leo, Elmwood Park

munal spirit is a source of pride for Father D'Amico.

"St. Leo's is a faith-filled, warm, embracing and accepting community. My first impression of the parish was how enjoyable and fun Sunday worship is. We have many happy, joyful and upbeat people who enjoy coming and celebrating the Eucharist with us every Sunday. They continue to inspire and sustain me by their prayers, faithful worship and friendship. I am blessed to be able to share life and ministry with them," Father D'Amico explained.

St. Leo's School continues

Religious education is also valuable to the parish community. Under the guidance of William Schulenburg, pastoral associate and director of religious education, and 12 catechists, 175 students focus on faith development while adhering to a foundation of basic doctrine.

As co-chairs of the Social Concerns committee at St. Leo Parish, Carol Cole and her husband Jerry have seen the generosity and Christian spirit of the community first-hand. "We are a warm, caring and united parish. Everyone here wants to do things and get involved," Carol Cole said.

After the much-loved Franciscan Friars left, Cole saw a difference in parish activity. "The parish has completely changed since Father D'Amico became pastor. I think because we have some new blood in the parish, the community became more active."

Cole often cooks for people at a soup kitchen or creates baskets for the less fortunate. Even people outside of the St. Leo Parish community are witness to their good deeds. "I always go to Costco to be more economical when preparing food for baskets. One of the men who works at the front door asked me 'What are you doing today?' He said we always have something going on and that we have great programs. We are doing more stewardship and it shows."

Cole and her husband joined in renewing their vows a few weeks ago at the parish. These activities foster communal bonding and engage older and newer parishioners alike. "About 50 couples renewed their vows. Everyone had a wonderful time. The parish is much closer now and we are getting more young people in the parish. Older people are pillars of the Church, but a younger generation is now helping more with stewardship."

Cole and the 35-40 members of the parish's Social Concerns committee deliver food baskets at holiday times, such as Easter, to surrounding areas such as Saddle Brook, Garfield and Lodi. Parishioners jump at the chance to aid Cole in gathering essential items for her food pantry.

"The pantry could be down to its bare walls and like magic, the food just arrives. It is really overwhelming that people keep contributing. It is a nice little community. It seems like everyone is working for the betterment of the souls of people and for the Church. We do the work that a church is supposed to do."

As president of the pastoral council, John Duffy has been a parishioner at St. Leo Parish for 10 years. Duffy "runs the gamut" of parish activities and is the chair of the children's liturgy committee, participates in the choir and is a eucharistic minister. "Being at St. Leo's is a tremendous experience," he said. "I love the sense of community and new parishioners join all of the time."

Like Cole, Duffy has seen a change in the parish since Father

D'Amico took over, even though the parishioners felt a close bond with the Franciscans.

"There was an outdoor Mass as an official send-off for the friars two years ago. There was a large attendance and an outpouring of support from the community. Father D'Amico kept the Franciscan spirit alive and the parish didn't lose that. There was no spiritual difference when Father Joe came," Duffy noted.

St. Leo Parish did take advantage of the new resources the archdiocese had to offer. "When Father Joe came, the floods gate opened to stewardship and collections improved." Once every six to eight weeks, the parish has New Parishioner Sunday where new members are introduced to ministries of the parish and other community activities.

All of the outreach and stewardship strengthens Duffy and the current parishioners' love for their place of worship. "I could brag all day about St. Leo Parish. When I walk onto that complex, I just feel at peace. I feel at home."

(St. Leo Parish is located at 324 Market St., Elmwood Park. The parish Web site is: www.stleosep.net.)

Meet the Pastor



Rev. Joseph D'Amico

Birthday: Sept. 8, 1964
Hometown: Brooklyn, NY
High School: St. Francis Prep, Lafayette
Seminary: Immaculate Conception Seminary at Seton Hall University
Undergraduate: Don Bosco College, Newton
Ordination: 1995
Hero: Mother Theresa of Calcutta
Favorite Saint: St. Francis of Assisi
Favorite Sport: Running
Favorite Food: Italian
Favorite Subject in School: Languages
Favorite Movie: *The Mission*
Last Book Read: *The Da Vinci Code*
Occupation if I Weren't a Priest: Teacher

Official Appointments

Archbishop John J. Myers has announced the following appointments:



ARCHDIOCESAN/ AGENCY MINISTRY

Reverend Monsignor Joseph F. Ambrosio, V.F., pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Newark, has also been appointed to the Commission for Ecclesiastical Patrimony for a period of five years, effective March 28.

PASTOR

Reverend Monsignor Joseph P. Masiello, pastor of Holy Trinity Parish, Westfield, has been appointed to a third six-year term ending June 30, 2013.

PAROCHIAL VICAR

Reverend Ranulfo D. Docabo, parochial vicar of Sacred Heart Parish, Bloomfield, has had his appointment extended to December 2008.

DEAN

Reverend Monsignor Joseph F. Ambrosio, V.F., pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Newark, has been reappointed dean of the Ironbound Deanery, Deanery 21 for a period of five years ending April 22, 2012.

Very Reverend Michael M. Walters, V.F., pastor of Holy Spirit/Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, East Orange, has been reappointed dean of the Central Essex Deanery, Deanery 17 for a period of five years, effective immediately and ending March 1, 2012.

CHAPLAIN

Reverend Richard J. Kelly, Pastor of St. Aloysius Parish, Jersey

City, has been appointed chaplain of the Hudson County Serra Club.

IN RESIDENCE

Reverend Arokiasamy Irudayanathan, chaplain at St. James Hospital, Newark, has been appointed to residence at St. Anthony Rectory, East Newark.

RELEASE

Reverend Peter West has been released for another three-year service with Priests for Life, effective April 1.

RETIREMENT

Reverend Monsignor John J. Gilchrist, pastor of Holy Cross Parish, Harrison, has been granted retirement, effective July 1.

Reverend Monsignor Charles G. Stengel, pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish, Jersey City, has been granted retirement, effective July 1.

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Ridgewood parish plans career workshop

RIDGEWOOD—The Career Resources Ministry at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, 1 Passaic St., will hold a workshop at noon on Sunday, April 22 in the lower church.

Those planning to attend should bring a current re-

sume. Call Carol Shea at (201) 447-4215 for details.

The workshop is designed to assist those who are unemployed or seeking a career change. Professional advisors will be on hand to address the topic "Get Your Message Out: Networking."

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✠ June 4 - June 14

Christian Ethics I

MTWR 5:30 - 9:15 p.m.

✠ June 4 - June 14

Spirituality and the Arts

MTWR 5:30 - 9:15 p.m.

✠ June 4 - June 21

Confessions of Saint Augustine

MTWR 5:30 - 8 p.m.

✠ June 18 - June 28

Biblical Call Narratives

MTWR 9 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

✠ June 18 - June 28

The Spirituality of Disability

MTWR 9 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

✠ June 18 - June 28

Theology of the Body

MTWR 5:30 - 9:15 p.m.

✠ June 25 - July 9

Popes and the Papacy

MTWR 9 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

✠ July 9 - July 19

Spirituality of John

MTWR 5:30 - 9:15 p.m.

✠ Ridgewood: June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Spirituality of the Old Testament

Saturday, 12:30 - 6:30 p.m.

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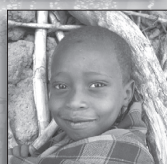
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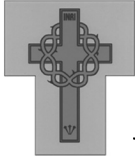


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Sisters of Mercy celebrate a renewal

WATCHUNG — The 241 Sisters of Mercy in New Jersey recently blessed a new Mid-Atlantic community and renewed their vows of obedience, poverty, celibacy and service at a eucharistic liturgy in the Chapel at Mt. Saint Mary.

At the same service, the 154 local Associates of Mercy—lay women and men who share in the spirit and mission of Mercy—renewed their commitment to Mercy.

“This year’s annual liturgy was poignant because it marked the

merging of the New Jersey Regional Community with four other regional communities into the new Mid-Atlantic community” explained Christine McCann, R.S.M., president of the Mid-Atlantic community. “The Sisters of Mercy feel called to make contributions to the well-being of the world,” she added.

As of January, the five regional communities of Brooklyn, NY; Dallas, PA; Merion, PA; New Jersey; and New York united to form the Mid-Atlantic Community of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. The realigned community consists of over 1,100 Sisters, 732 associates, and 22 sponsored ministries throughout the Tri-State area.

Sisters of Mercy will continue to minister in education, health-care, social services and pastoral ministries in nearby schools, parishes, hospitals, long-term care facilities and other programs.

The Sisters of Mercy in the Mid-Atlantic community decided to reorganize after a three-year planning process.

For more information, visit www.mercymidatlantic.org.



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first of all to change our hearts.”*

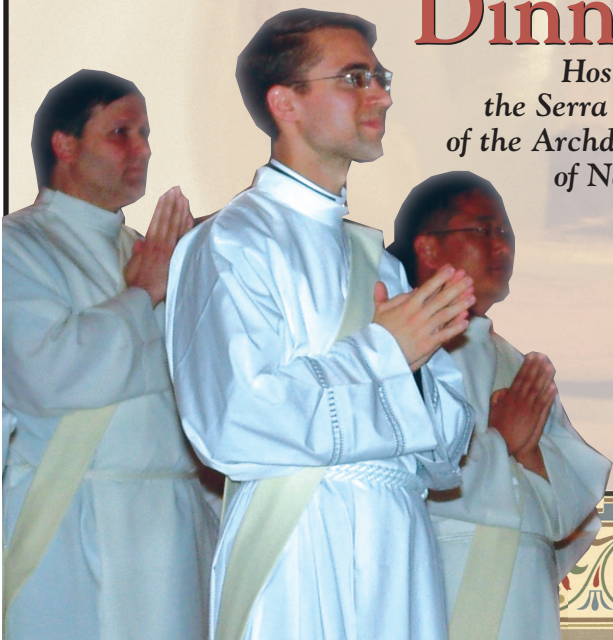
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—Pope John Paul II

The Fifty-Third Annual Archbishop's Vocations Fund Dinner

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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

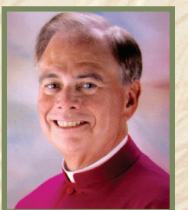
would like to invite all parishes and parishioners
throughout the Archdiocese to join him in attending
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Honorees:

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.

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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 the Knights of Columbus

BISHOPS' NIGHT—The Knights of Columbus State Council recently hosted a dinner in support of and to show appreciation to the state's bishops. Taking time out for the camera were (left to right, seated) Most Rev. Edgar M. da Cunha, Newark Auxiliary Bishop of Essex County; Most Rev. David Arias, Bishop Emeritus of Newark; Most Rev. John M. Smith of the Trenton Diocese; Archbishop Emeritus Peter L. Gerety; Archbishop John J. Myers; Most Rev. Paul G. Bootkoski of the Metuchen Diocese and Most Rev. Charles J. McDonnell, Bishop Emeritus of Newark and the Knights' State Chaplain. Pictured in the back row (left to right) are State Warden Daniel Rossi; Most Rev. Dominic Marconi; Bishop Emeritus of Newark; State Treasurer Herb Meyer; Supreme Director and Past Supreme Director Jim White; State Deputy Reginald F. Beckett; State Secretary Thomas Ciborski; Most Rev. Joseph Younan (Syrian Rite); State Advocate Wayne McCormack.

The Sisters of Charity picks team of new leaders

CONVENT STATION—The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth has elected a new leadership team that will serve from July 1 through June 30, 2011.

Official installation of the newly elected general superior and council for the Sisters of Charity will take place July 1 during a Mass at Holy Family Chapel.

The newly elected leaders include:

Sister Maureen Shaughnessy, General Superior; Sister Rosemary Smith, Assistant General Superior; and Councilors Sister Janet Lehmann, Sister Barbara Garland, Sister Ellen Dauwer, Sister Elizabeth Cahill and Sister Margaret Welch.

The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth is engaged in over 100 education, healthcare, pastoral and social service ministries in 14 New Jersey counties and 18 states.

In addition to their work in the United States, the Sisters also serve in the U.S. Virgin Islands, El Salvador, Central America and Haiti. The congregation currently numbers 480 vowed members with a Seton Associate program of 293 affiliated lay and religious women and men.

The motherhouse for the Sisters of Charity is located here. Visit the group's Web site (www.scnj.org) for more information.

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Program for Mary set for May

NEWARK—St. Antoninus Parish will hold its annual Mary, Spouse of the Holy Spirit program May 4-6.

Returning as guest speaker is Father John Hampsch, C.M.F. Grammy nominee Marty Rotella will provide music. Call the rectory for additional information at (973) 623-0258 or contact Esmyrna Garth at (212) 388-1757.

On Sunday, May 6, the rosary will be recited at 9:30 a.m. A Charismatic Mass will be celebrated from 10 a.m. to noon.

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NEW SEMINARIANS—Archbishop John J. Myers, center, met recently at his office in the Archdiocesan Center in Newark with the young men he has accepted as seminarians for the Church in Newark. Accompanied by Father Brian Plate, left, the archdiocesan director of vocations, the group included (left to right) Joseph Pavone, Fredy Sanchez, Durate Aguir, Thomas Quinn and John Job. The five men will begin studies in the fall at either Immaculate Conception Seminary or St. Andrew's College Seminary.



Advocate photo — Ward Miele



**The Franciscans
Immaculate Conception Province
(OFM)**

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Br. Charles Gingerich, ofm
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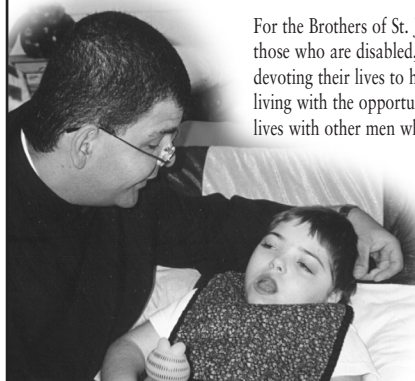
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e-mail: sjogvocationsnj@aol.com

Sisters elect new leaders

SPARKILL, NY — The Franciscan Sisters of Peace recently held chapter elections.

Sister Jeanne Gilligan, congregational minister, is a former faculty member and administrator at St. Peter's College. Her assistant, Sister Elaine Sullivan, at Most Holy Trinity School in Hackensack, is a former principal of St. Leo School, Elmwood Park. Sister Ellen Byrnes, congregation councilor, is a former principal of St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Cedar Grove.

Provincial House
South Orange, NJ

Bishop Eustace Preparatory School
Pennsauken, NJ

Our Lady of Grace Church
Fairview, NJ

Our Lady of the Rosary of Pompeii
Brooklyn, NY

Saint Jude Shrine
Baltimore, MD

Pallottine Center for Apostolic Causes
Baltimore, MD

Saint Leo the Great Church
Baltimore, MD

Pallottine Seminary at Green Hill
West Hyattsville, MD



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vocation@sacapostles.org



Photo courtesy of Benedictine Academy

Using Young Science Achievers program grant money for research on science projects, Benedictine Academy students Gabriella Bacchus, Yvonne Okereke and Gloria Okereke (left to right, standing), will study the harmful effects of lead in children’s costume jewelry. Monique Fletcher (seated), along with Ravyn Thomas of Newark (missing from photo), will perform experiments to test their environmental hypothesis regarding the harmful effects of ground ozone in the atmosphere. They will use an ozone meter to measure and test how ground ozone affects the breathing of children and older adults. The five students at the archdiocesan high school in Elizabeth high received over \$850 to conduct experiments to test their hypotheses.

Benedictine Academy lauds 5 ‘Young Science Achievers’

ELIZABETH—Five students at Benedictine Academy have been accepted into the Young Science Achievers program that will provide grants to carry out research on science projects.

Those selected for the Young Science Achievers program receive financial and organizational support from AT&T Foundation; Lucent Technologies Foundation; The Karma Foundation; The African American Fund of NJ; The Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation Inc.; Merrill Lynch; and the NJ Science Teachers Association (NJST).

The program is open to students in grades 9-12 in public and private high schools in New Jersey and New York City.

Young Science Achievers program targets, among other under-represented groups, young women, with the goal of increasing their numbers in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields. Projects are funded up to \$500 each.

Working together, students, mentors and teachers spend the winter and spring semesters designing and conducting experiments from a wide variety of science and engineering fields.

The Benedictine Academy students, in two separate groups, were granted cash awards totaling over \$800 for equipment and supplies needed to conduct experiments in two areas.

Junior Ravyn Thomas and senior Monique Fletcher will perform experiments to test their environmental hypothesis regarding the harmful effects of ground ozone in the atmosphere. They will use an ozone meter to measure and test how ground ozone affects the breathing of children and older adults.

Sisters Yvonne and Gloria Okereke—a junior and senior respectively—and junior Gabriella Bacchus will study the harmful effects of lead in children’s costume jewelry.

All five students participate in science classes taught by Sister Genevieve Prendergast, S.S.J. The girls have to document whatever equipment they will use, as well as include a description of their experiments, according to Sister Genevieve.

“They then must report their results and show how they compare with their initial hypotheses,” she said. “The students must also include a budget for their project.”

A Young Science Achievers awards ceremony will be held in June.

You are cordially invited to attend

The Fourteenth Annual

EVENING OF ROSES

A benefit for
The Sister Rose Thering Endowment for Jewish-Christian Studies
Seton Hall University

The Sister Rose Thering Endowment was established in 1993 to perpetuate and extend the inter-religious education work of Sister Rose Thering in funding graduate scholarship assistance for teachers in Jewish-Christian and Holocaust Studies, developing teaching resource materials and presenting workshops for teachers in public, private and parochial schools.

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Mother Seton and Benedictine Academy announce plans for open house events

AREA — Mother Seton Regional High School in Clark and Benedictine Academy in Elizabeth have scheduled open house events during the month of April.

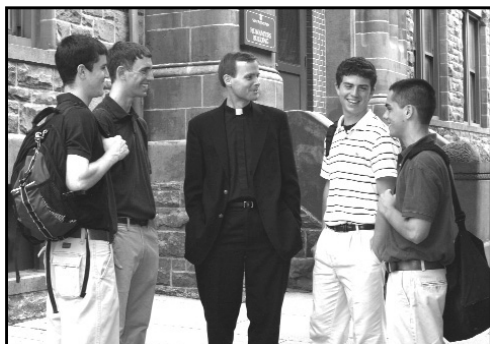
Mother Seton, located at 1 Valley Rd. (Web site: www.motherseton.org), will hold an open house for sixth through eighth graders and their parents on April 26 from 7:30 to 9:15 p.m.

Designed primarily for those interested in attending Mother Seton in the fall, the open house will prove the opportunity to tour the school, examine

curricular and co-curricular programs, investigate transportation options and meet with administrators. Busing from surrounding areas will be available.

It is imperative that eighth grade students who intend to apply do so as soon as possible by calling (732) 382-1952.

Fifth through eighth grade students and their parents can attend an open house at Benedictine Academy, located at 840 North Broad St., on April 24 at 6:30 p.m. Call the school for additional information at (908) 352-0670, ext. 104.



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Sat. Apr 21 10:00 a.m. Student Center
Tues. May 1 6:30 p.m. Alumni Theater
Tues. July 17 6:30 p.m. Alumni Theater
R.S.V.P.: 973-618-3413 ContinEd@caldwell.edu

GRADUATE

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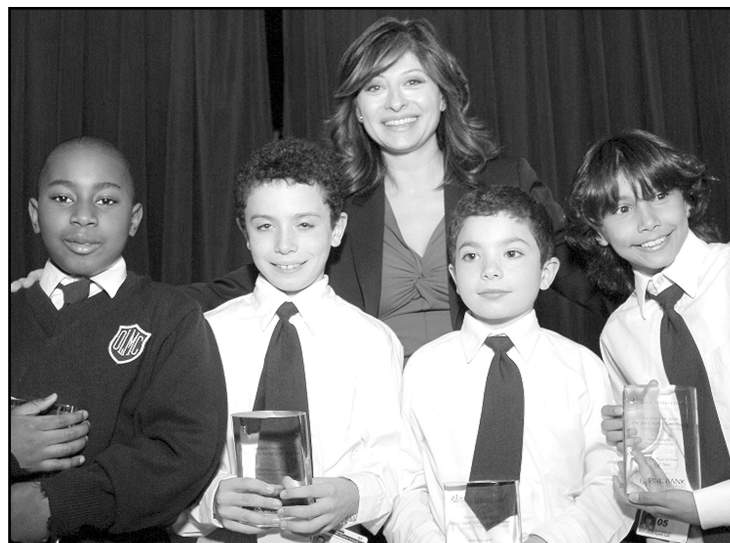


Photo courtesy of Guy Brown, GH Brown Communications

CNBC's Maria Bartiromo (center) congratulates first-place winners from Our Lady of Mount Carmel (OLMC) in The Stock Market Game in the Elementary School Division: (left to right) George Leconte, Jack Campbell, Sal Campbell, and Syam Lafi. OLMC captured first, second and third place in the Elementary School Division for the second year in a row and second place in the Middle School Division.

OLMC students display savvy on ins, outs of stock market

TENAFLY—Look out Wall Street!

Seventeen students from Our Lady of Mount Carmel (OLMC) School recently won big in the stock market—The Stock Market Game, that is.

For a 10-week period, more than 1,300 students from fourth grade through high school at North Jersey schools participated in the online Stock Market Game sponsored by PNC Bank, The New Jersey Council on Economic Education and *The Record's* Education Program.

The students experienced the ups and downs of the stock market as they worked with their portfolio equities.

OLMC captured first, second and third place in the Elementary School Division for the second year in a row and second place in the Middle School Division. The winners, whose portfolios ranged from \$124,500 to \$145,200, ranked in the top 1 percent in the country.

At the recent awards presentation at the school, students met CNBC's Maria Bartiromo, of "Closing Bell with Maria Bartiromo" and host and managing editor of the nationally syndicated "Wall Street Journal Report with Maria Bartiromo."

Bartiromo spoke with the students about the importance of saving and investing for the future, was on hand to present trophies to the winning students.

The winning OLMC students included: Elementary Division, first place, equity: \$141,434.05, Jack Campbell (fourth grade), Sal Campbell (third grade), Syam Lafi

(fifth grade and Georges Leconte (third grade); second place, equity: \$141,176.10, Alexa Cabrera (fifth grade), Robyn Felton (third grade) and Imani Harris (fourth grade); third place, equity: \$124,535.45.

Matthew Bagdat (fourth grade) and Kyle Torosian (third grade); Middle School Division, second place, equity: \$145,236.28, John Justin Balancio (seventh grade), Austin Cabrera (eighth grade), Brianna Figueroa (sixth), Kyra Forte (seventh grade), Timothy (seventh grade), Spencer Heitman, (seventh grade), Kayla Lafi (sixth grade) and Sharon Okechukwa, (sixth grade).

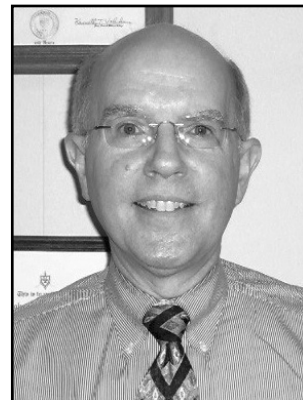


Photo courtesy of Marist High School

MARIST APPOINTMENT—

Marist High School in Bayonne has named Stephen Vlasac as its director of development. He has held positions as director of seminary development for Seton Hall University and most recently, annual fund director for Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Hamilton Foundation. Vlasac will work as part of the external affairs team, which includes the president, director of alumni affairs and director of marketing and admissions.



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Green Flag

Continued from page 1

fostering an understanding of the universe and its universality throughout creation.

"The Earth has a lot to teach us about living in harmony," Sister Jeanne pointed out.

OLL has a Green Flag committee of school personnel and several students. Committee members meet regularly with Stacey Kennealy, Green Flag/Green Faith's project coordinator. Discussions center on environmental issues and what direction a school should move in based on its progress. The

priority now at OLL is non-toxic cleaning materials. Last month the school held a "green cleaners vendor fair" for home and industrial users.

Student members of the OLL Green Flag Committee have definite opinions on their environmental future. Seventh grader Amanda Inacio feels it is important to "keep the environment safe." Stressing "trees keep us alive," she emphasized the need to recycle. "Now is the future," declared eighth grade student Julia Prout. Sixth grade committee member Kerry Murphy was concerned that if action is not taken now the Earth "will be ruined."



Photo courtesy of OLL

With their Green Flag Award banner hanging prominently at Our Lady of the Lake School (OLL) in Verona, students, left to right, Kerry Murphy, Brandon Abad, Danielle Watkins and Chris Ehrich display efforts under way at their school to protect the environment.

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Sister Eleanor Uhl, O.P. of the administrative team at Resurrection School, along with Sister Barbara Nesbihal, S.C., is impressed with the environmental interest and savvy of the students. Stressing that Resurrection School is a "peaceable school," the Green Faith project fit in "beautifully," she noted. At Resurrection School there are bins for reusable and recyclable paper.

The program at Resurrection School has two student representatives. Part of their responsibility is to chart the recycling efforts of each class and rate their performance. Reaching beyond the school, a bulletin is sent out that contains a "Green Tip" for families and the home.

Becoming part of the Green Flag program, explained Academy of the Holy Angels coordinator Kate Chambers, gave the school the "impetus" to implement steps "we wanted to do all along." Recycling was reinstituted at the high school for paper, glass, aluminum and plastic. Green Flag officials lent their expertise by conducting a waste audit.

What Chambers described as "educational efforts" are also under way. Environmental messages are sent out over the public address system and members of the school's Environmental Club provide information to all the classes. Last month an Awareness Day program was held featuring 16 workshops.

Academy of the Holy Angels has also gone "green" with the use of non-toxic floor stripper and floor waxing materials. On another front, parents and school bus drivers were asked and have agreed not to let their engines idle when dropping off and picking up students.

When reviewing applications for the pilot project in the Garden State, according to Kennealy, criterion included "level of commitment, the ability to be successful and potential to become a role model for other schools."

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Father Ernesto Tibay takes the helm as coordinator of Filipino Apostolate

BY CHRISTINA A. ZAREJKO
Special to *The Catholic Advocate*

BERGENFIELD—Father Ernesto Tibay, parochial vicar at

Saint John the Evangelist Parish who for the past decade has been spiritual director of the Filipino Apostolate at his parish and of Bergen County, is the

new coordinator of the Filipino Apostolate of the Archdiocese of Newark (FAAN).

The first spring fund-raiser for the FAAN will be a performance by the Philippine Choral Society of Mississauga, Canada, which will be held at Saint John the Evangelist Parish on April 28 in Conlon Hall at 7 p.m.

In his new position, Father Tibay's mission is to support and coordinate the various Filipino religious organizations, movements and groups helping them enhance their ministry and take a more active role in their respective parishes. It is Father Tibay's belief that every Filipino religious activity should be linked to the local parish as a means of strengthening parish life.

Tickets for the concert, priced at \$10, are available from Sam Magalong (973) 759-3438; Gilda Sapaden (908) 322-8846; Jess Trivino (201) 692-9439 or Tina Zarejko (201) 216-0140.



Interim officers of FAAN include (standing, left to right), Jessie Trivino, treasurer; Alex Soriano, president and Sam Magalong, first vice president, (seated, left to right) Tina Zarejko, secretary; Father Ernest Tibay, coordinator and Gilda Sapaden, second vice president.

Annual Vocations Fund Dinner slated May 2 in West Orange

AREA—The 53rd annual Archbishop's Vocations Fund Dinner, hosted by the Serra clubs of the Archdiocese of Newark, will be held Wednesday, May 2, 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Mayfair Farms, 481 Eagle Rock Ave., West Orange.

The clubs will honor Archbishop John J. Myers at the event. Msgr. John E. Doran, the archdiocesan vicar general and moderator of the curia, will serve as the keynote speaker. Earlier this year Msgr. Doran, who previously served as the pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows, South Orange, was tapped by Archbishop Myers for the vicar general post (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Jan. 24).

Honorees at the dinner include Msgr. Donald E. Guenther, the pastor of Saint Elizabeth Parish in Wyckoff; Vincent Russo, past president of the West Essex Serra Club; and Barbara Kelly, the executive secretary of the archdiocesan Vocations Office.

A donation of \$75 per person is requested for those attending the event. Funds go to support archdiocesan seminarians. Checks can be sent to Joseph Scibetta, 6 Ferncliff Road, Jersey City, NJ 07305. Contact Joe Pagano, Serra governor of NJ District 22 at (201) 424-6773 or Rosemarie Deehan, president of the Serra Club of the Oranges, at (973) 762-6180 for more information.

Since it was founded in 1935, Chicago-based Serra International (Web site: www.serraus.org) has grown as a global association with over 19,000 individuals in 36 countries. There are over 12,000 Serrans in 332 Serra clubs in the United States.

The mission of Serra is to foster vocations to the ordained priesthood and vowed religious life. Robert Wright, president of Serra International, recently was hosted by the Serra Club of the Oranges (see *The Catholic Advocate*, April 4).

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Part-time

Archdiocese of Newark
COOK
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Education

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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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DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Saint Anthony High School in Jersey City seeks a full-time development professional experienced in identifying, cultivating, soliciting and stewarding donors. An acute understanding of annual funds, alumni relations, and major gift programs is critical. The position requires creativity, independent and strategic thinking, solid writing skills, and excellent communications abilities. In-depth knowledge of Raiser's Edge is required. Experience with development in education, a plus. Submit resume preferably via email, to: devdirsa@jmail.com

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Summer 2007

Queen of Peace High School, a private, Catholic secondary school, is accepting resumes for all academic areas from outstanding individuals who seek to join our mission. Forward resumes/covers to Fax (201) 998-3040 and/or email: geolinke@juno.com or regular mail, QPHS, 191 Rutherford Place, North Arlington, NJ 07031 attention Mr. George Linke.

Education

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Our Lady of Sorrows School, South Orange, founded in 1890, is accredited by Middle States Association and has an enrollment of nearly 220 students, from pre-K to 8th grade. We are seeking a dynamic, faith-filled leader as our principal. The successful candidate must possess the following minimum qualifications: A practicing Catholic, committed to the values of Catholic education. At least 5 years classroom teaching experience and/or successful administrative experience. A master's degree and New Jersey state principal certification, its equivalent or imminent completion. Excellent oral and written communication skills. Excellent collaborative skills, ability to work with faculty, parents, consultative board and pastor. Please submit a letter of interest, resume and three educational references to Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Attn: Rev. Msgr. Robert Emery, Pastor, 217 Prospect Street, South Orange, NJ 07079. Visit the school's website at www.ourladyofsorrowschool.org

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NOVENAS

PRAYER TO ST. JUDE

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

K.C.

PRAYER TO ST. CLAIRE

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

C.B.

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

Oh most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the Sea, help me and show me that you are my mother. Oh Holy Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to secure me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. I place this cause in your hands. Amen. Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. Novena is published in gratitude. Thank you.

E.D.

PRAYER TO ST. JUDE

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

P.L.

PRAYER TO ST. CLAIRE

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

A.C.

PRAYER TO ST. JUDE

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J.S.

PRAYER TO ST. CLAIRE

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K.C.

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L.B.Z.

PRAYER TO ST. CLAIRE

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

M.D.

PRAYER TO ST. CLAIRE

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

N.A.

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

Oh most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the Sea, help me and show me that you are my mother. Oh Holy Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to secure me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. I place this cause in your hands. Amen. Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. Novena is published in gratitude. Thank you.

J.D.

ST. THERESA

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 fervently I beseech you to answer my petition (mention here) and carry out your promise of doing good upon earth of letting fall from heaven a shower of roses. Henceforth, Dear little flower, I will fulfill your plea to be made known everywhere and I will never cease to lead others to Jesus through you. Amen. (Say prayer everyday for 9 days. By 4th day, ask for a sign. If prayers are to be answer. Between 4th and 9th day, you will see arose in magazine, TV 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.)

N.G.

PRAYER TO ST. JUDE

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

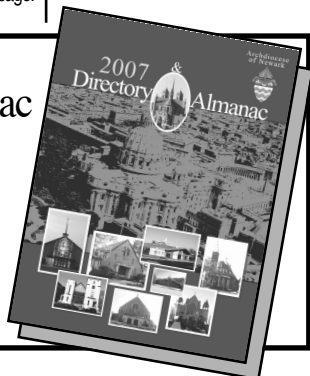
C.S.P.

PRAYER TO ST. JUDE

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Felician College dinner on April 26 to honor Sister Theresa Mary Martin

LODI—Sister Theresa Mary Martin, the president of Felician College, will be honored with the Franciscan Legacy Award at the 25th annual Founder's Day Dinner Dance on April 26 at The Venetian in Garfield.

Contact Lauren Ryan at (201) 355-1308 for details. The black-tie

optional event begins at 6 p.m. followed by dinner and dancing at 7:30 p.m.

Proceeds benefit the college's Student Scholarship Fund and the New Jersey Food Council Scholarship Fund at Felician College, which provides an annual full-tuition, four-year academic

scholarship to a food industry employee or member of an employee's immediate family.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for businesses and individuals through ads in a commemorative journal, underwriting support or attendance at the dinner.

Felician (Web site: www.felician.edu) is an independent co-educational college.



Sister Theresa Mary Martin

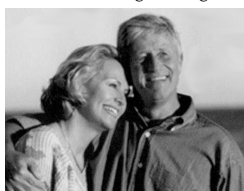
'Game Night'

KEARNY—The Rosary Altar Society of Saint Stephen's Parish, 676 Kearny Ave., will host its "Game Night" fund-raiser on Monday, April 23, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are priced at \$5 per person and will be sold at the door. Contact the parish rectory at (201) 998-3314 for more information.

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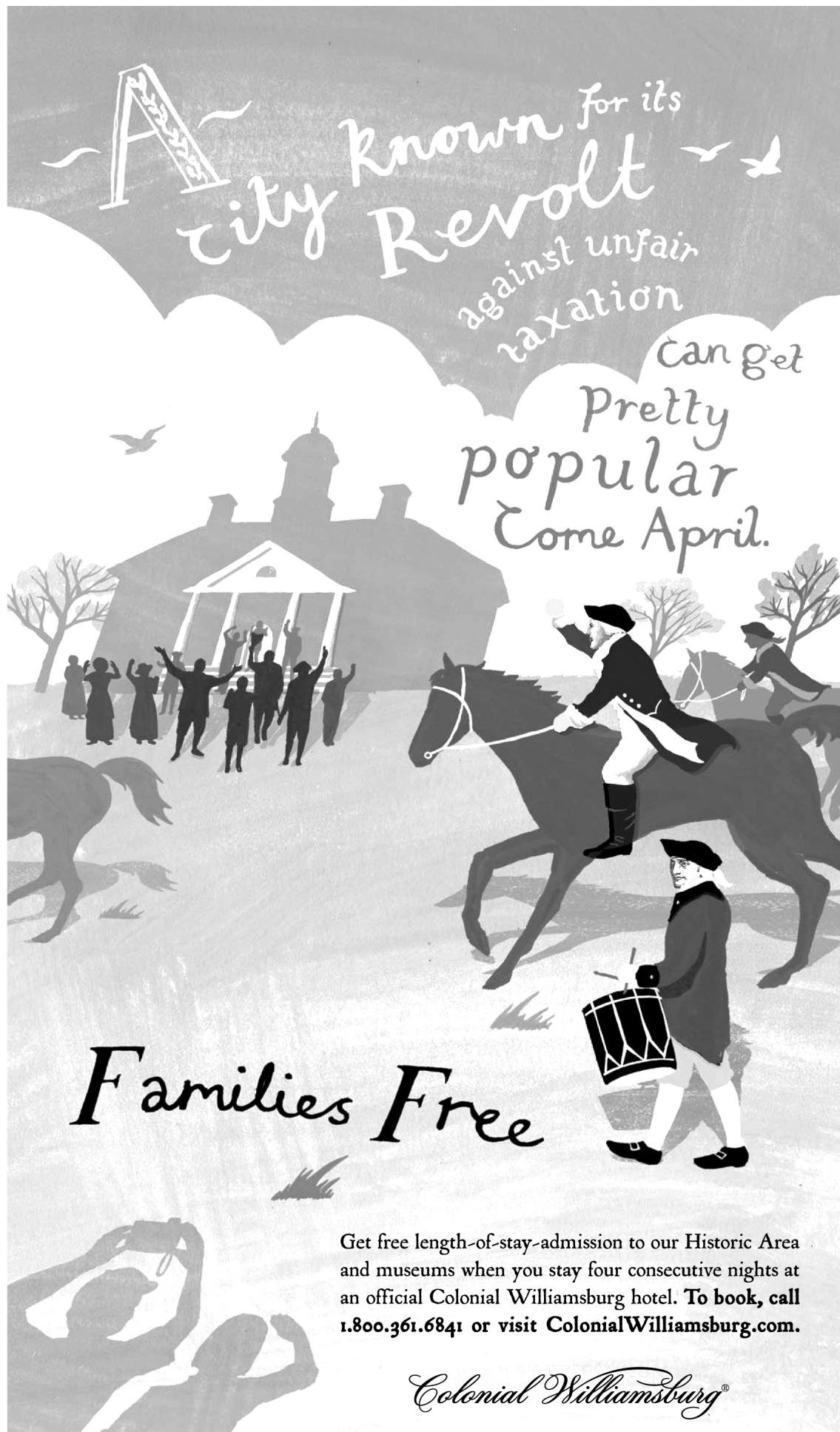
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SHU hosts a 'Relay for Life' to support cancer survivors



Photo courtesy of SHU

Led by a bagpiper, Seton Hall University (SHU) students, faculty and administrators participated recently in the American Cancer Society's "Relay for Life," which was held at the university's South Orange campus. Members of the SHU community raised over \$36,000 for cancer research and support programs.

SOUTH ORANGE—Seton Hall University (SHU) students, faculty and staff recently joined more than 4,800 other communities across the United States in celebrating cancer survivors and remembering those who lost their battles at the American Cancer Society's "Relay for Life."

Participants set up camp, made new friends, caught up with old ones, entertained each other, shared experiences and walked to fight cancer.

In teams of eight to 12 people, they walked to symbolize the struggle against cancer. A survivor spoke at the opening ceremonies and all cancer survivors were invited to walk the first lap.

The idea to hold a Relay for Life event at SHU was proposed by freshman Michael Jacobson after his aunt was diagnosed with ovarian cancer.



Photo courtesy of Visitation Academy

Five William Paterson University nursing students recently gave a presentation at Visitation Academy on the benefits of exercise and good nutrition. The program was part of an effort to educate youngsters on the dangers of childhood obesity.

Visitation students receive coaching on exercise and healthy eating habits

PARAMUS—For their senior project, five William Paterson University nursing students went to Visitation Academy to do a presentation on the rising rate of childhood obesity.

"Today 10 percent of two to five year olds and more than 15 percent of children between the ages of six and 19 are over-

weight," one of the nursing students explained.

The William Paterson University nursing students emphasized the importance of exercise and healthy eating. The nursing students held a program for the fourth grade students during their physical education class. It included different stations such as jump rope, Frisbee, ball toss, Skip-It and hula hoop.

During the presentation, the children at Visitation Academy learned fun facts at each station about healthy eating and exercising, along with participation in the activity.

Recent national studies have cited the long-term health risks of childhood obesity, suggesting that families focus on healthier diets and exercise.

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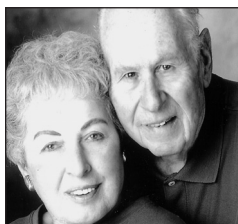
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Second row: **John Rundback, MD**, Director, Interventional Institute • **Beata Pieczara, MD**, Medical Oncologist and Hematologist • **Jacqueline Brunetti, MD**, Medical Director, Diagnostic Imaging Services | *Third row:* **Lewis Attas, MD**, Director, Medical Oncology • **Charles Vialotti, MD**, Director, Radiation Oncology | *Bottom row:* **Josh Gross, MD**, Director, The Breast Center • **Giuseppe Condemi, MD**, Medical Oncologist • **Jean Emond, MD**, Director, Hepatobiliary Surgery

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