



The Catholic Advocate



PAGES 12-15



Celebrating the call to vocations

Archdiocesan leaders cite families, parishes as the keys to raising religious awareness.

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Bishop Marconi to lead four 'quiet' forums

Centering Prayer seminars will be held at Saint Philomena's Parish in Livingston.

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Faithful journeys converge to end abortion

Riley inspires young adults to value life

BY MELISSA MCNALLY
Staff Writer

NORTH ARLINGTON—Thousands of pro-life supporters will travel to Washington D.C. for the 35th annual March for Life on Jan. 22—each with a mission, a journey and a story to tell.

In addition to the march in the nation's capital, a separate rally in Trenton will take place the same day.

As one of the major participants in the demonstrations, youth and young adults in the Archdiocese of Newark and nationwide are making their pro-life voice heard in increasing numbers.

Cheryl Riley, special events coordinator and administrative assistant for the athletic department at Queen of Peace High School will lead a group of about 50 teenagers as they journey to Washington.

The abortion issue is not only a political and spiritual cause to Riley—it is personal. After having an abortion at the age of 19, Riley has served as a post-abortion minister and gives her testimony to young people throughout the archdiocese. She participates in Rachel's Vineyard, a weekend retreat for post-abortion men and women organized by the archdiocesan Respect Life Office, located in Linden.

"I just go out and give witness to educate others on what really happens after an abortion. I was 19-years-old and in a crisis situation," Riley explained.

Her ministry to young people is especially important due to her firsthand knowledge of the pressures they face. "When I speak to the kids, they are always wonderful. They ask questions and participate. The young people always hear about what to do before an abortion. I don't think they

Continued on page 11



Submitted photo

Cheryl Riley (left), a post-abortion minister who also works at Queen of Peace High School in North Arlington, will chaperone a group of archdiocesan teenagers attending the 35th March for Life in Washington D.C. on Jan. 22. Queen of Peace students pictured with Riley are (left to right) Gage Roman, Lauren Rocha, Kimberly Feliciano and Siraz Ali.

Ordinations, stem cells highlight '07

BY WARD MIELE
Managing Editor

Propelled by the core tenants of their faith, parishioners and Religious throughout the Archdiocese of Newark joined forces during 2007 to foster God's love in the service of His people. The early years of the new millennium, however, continued to produce issues, challenges and the unexpected no one in the Church could have imagined even just a generation ago.

With steadfast determination, local Church officials stood firm against abortion, embryonic stem-cell research and the death penalty.

Continued on page 18



Advocate photo – Ward Miele

Last May Archbishop John J. Myers (left) recited the rosary in the garden of the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart with 13 newly ordained priests. The ordination class of 2007 reflected the rich cultural and ethnic diversity found in the archdiocese.

Pakistan's Catholic leaders mourn death of Bhutto



Benazir Bhutto

THRISSUR, India (CNS)—Catholic leaders in Pakistan have condemned the assassination at an election rally of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, leader of the opposition Pakistan People's Party.

"We condemn this dastardly act. It is a terrible tragedy for Pakistan," said Bishop Anthony Lobo of Islamabad-Rawalpindi, secretary-general of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Pakistan, in a Dec. 27 telephone interview with Catholic News Service from Rawalpindi, where Bhutto was assassinated.

According to reports, Bhutto, 54, and at least 20 others were killed Dec. 27 in a suicide attack.

"Obviously, this is a setback for democracy," he said. "The forces that were opposed to it have succeeded this time."

Describing Bhutto as "an extraordinary, brave woman," Bishop Lobo said that "she was aware of the great danger to her life. Yet, she went around to assert democracy

and laid down her life in the process."

Peter Jacob, executive secretary of the National Commission for Justice and Peace of the Pakistani bishops' conference, told CNS "the people are stunned and angry." Jacob, who was on his way to Lahore from Multan, said he could see angry people gathering along the streets and setting up road blocks as the news of the assassination spread.

He expressed hope that the government would postpone the elections. The Church's commission already has called off all its election advocacy and monitoring work, he noted.

Meanwhile, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman, said the "tragic news" of Bhutto's murder "is a cause of sadness in itself and because it is another sign of continuing violence, which makes it difficult to see how the Pakistani people, already suffering, will be able to find peace." He told CNS Dec. 27 that Pope Benedict XVI is informed immediately

when such tragedies occur in the world.

Bhutto's death came amid recent political turmoil in Pakistan in the run-up to parliamentary elections that had been planned for Jan. 8. Islamic militant groups had threatened to target Bhutto for declaring that if her party was voted into power, she would not hesitate to allow U.S. forces to enter Pakistan to chase Taliban and al-Qaida cadres if Pakistani forces failed to do so.

Bhutto served as Pakistan's prime minister twice between 1988 and 1996. In mid-October, she returned to Pakistan after an eight-year exile. A suicide attacker killed more than 140 people during her homecoming celebration.

Gen. Pervez Musharraf, Pakistan's president, had declared a national emergency in early November. The emergency was lifted under domestic and international pressure in mid-December. Musharraf blamed Islamic extremists for Bhutto's death and said he would work to fight them, the Associated Press reported.

Tickets will be scarce for Papal Mass in the Bronx

Small allotment provided to archdiocesan parishes

BY JAMES GOODNESS
Director of Communications

NEWARK—Pope Benedict's choice to celebrate the Eucharist with the Catholic people of the tri-state area at Yankee Stadium on Sunday, April 20, during the Easter season, makes this first Papal Visit to the United States a special blessing.

When the announcement of this visit was made in November, many in the Newark Archdiocese immediately began to think back to 1995 and the exciting memories of the visit of Pope John Paul II to Newark's Sacred Heart Cathedral, which he then raised to the dignity of a Basilica, and the Papal Mass at Giants Stadium.

In the weeks since the November announcement of the papal visit (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Nov. 21), the Archdiocesan Center has received a number of calls from parishioners seeking information about how to obtain tickets to the Mass at Yankee Stadium.

Unfortunately, the New York Archdiocese has had to limit the number of seats available for surrounding dioceses because of the size constraints of the stadium.

Because the field area will be unavailable for use as a seating area, only 58,000 people will be able to attend the Mass on April 20 rather than the 80,000 or more who packed Yankee Stadium during the two previous Papal

Masses in 1965 and 1979. The majority of those seats will be allotted to parishioners in the New York Archdiocese.

Despite these limitations, Archbishop John J. Myers was able to obtain enough tickets for five people from each parish of the archdiocese to attend the Yankee Stadium Mass. Pastors were advised of this allotment at the end of December by mail, as well as the procedure for obtaining the tickets allotted to the parish.

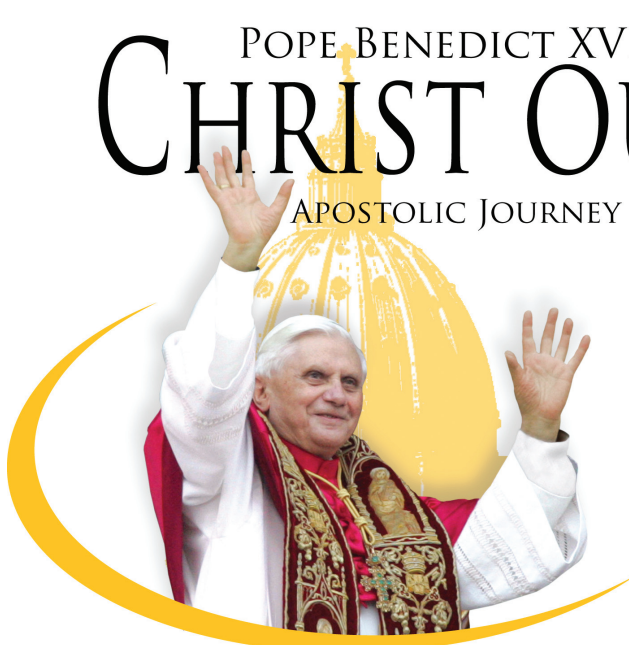
Because of the increased security concerns in the post-Sept. 11 era, pastors must provide the Archdiocesan Center with the names and other personal information of the five individuals in order to secure these tickets for the Mass and to comply with the necessary restrictions of the U.S. Secret Service and New York City Police Department. As a result of these additional security procedures, all tickets are nontransferable.

Upon entering Yankee Stadium, each ticket holder will have to show his or her admission ticket and some form of government-issued photo identification (e.g., U.S. Passport, state driver's license). Ticket holders also may be subject to a search by security staff.

No other tickets are available from any other source in the Archdiocese of Newark or elsewhere. At the time this story was being prepared, the New York

POPE BENEDICT XVI CHRIST OUR HOPE

APOSTOLIC JOURNEY TO THE UNITED STATES 2008



Archdiocese had not yet set a definite time for the start of Mass at Yankee Stadium. However, ticket holders can expect that, no matter when the Mass is scheduled to

begin, this will be a daylong affair.

The Newark Archdiocese also is awaiting further information concerning transportation requirements or options. That informa-

tion will be provided to the parishes as soon as it is available.

The Papal Mass at Yankee Stadium will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience, both historically and spiritually. Even though the opportunity for Catholics from the Archdiocese to attend is limited, the presence of parishioners representing the faithful from every parish of the Archdiocese of Newark is sure to add to the fitting and enthusiastic welcome to His Holiness as the Church celebrates its holiest of times.

Pope to avoid political fray in U.S.

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Even though Pope Benedict XVI will be visiting the United States when the 2008 presidential campaign will be in full swing, he will keep himself above the political fray, according to the Vatican's secretary of state.

Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone told the Italian Catholic magazine *Famiglia Cristiana* that "someone said there's always an electoral campaign under way in the United States" no matter what time of year it is. "The pope is nonpartisan," the cardinal said in the magazine's Jan. 6 issue. However, "one certainly cannot control eventual exploitation" by people who might use the pope's visit to gain political advantage, he added.

The April 15-20 trip, Pope Benedict's first visit as pontiff to the United States and the United

Nations, will include visits to the White House to meet President George W. Bush and to ground zero in lower Manhattan, the site of the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Nov. 21). In addition, the pope is slated to celebrate Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral and Yankee Stadium.

Cardinal Bertone said the pope's address to the United Nations "will reassert the need to focus on the values that underline historic international declarations even amid concerns over the difficulties of holding together one global consensus" among nearly 200 different nation-states.

In his much-anticipated speech, the pope "will confirm the irreplaceable nature of the United Nations," the cardinal said.

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President and Publisher
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OFFICE HOURS:
MONDAY THRU FRIDAY
8:45 AM TO 4:45 PM
TEL: (973) 497-4200
FAX: (973) 497-4192
WEB: www.rcan.org/advocate

EDITORIAL TEAM

Michael C. Gabriele
Editor & Associate Publisher
gabriemi@rcan.org

Ward Miele
Managing Editor
mielejos@rcan.org

Melissa McNally
Staff Writer
mcnallme@rcan.org

ADVERTISING TEAM

Marge Pearson-McCue
Director of Advertising & Operations
pearsoma@rcan.org

Ramona Westbrooks
Classified/Account Representative
westbrra@rcan.org

Anita Bethea
Account Representative
betheaan@rcan.org

PRODUCTION TEAM

Marilyn Smith
Production Supervisor
smithmai@rcan.org

Paula Blackman
Graphic Artist
blackmpa@rcan.org

Carolyn Martins-Reitz
Graphic Artist
reitzcar@rcan.org

**CIRCULATION/
BUSINESS TEAM**

Kelly Gallegos
Administrative Asst/Bkpr.
gallegke@rcan.org

Mark Chrisco
Circulation Coordinator
chrisma@rcan.org

PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT

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FREQUENCY FOR THE YEAR

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Interfaith cooperation helps create blueprint for Abraham House project

Home to build trust, good will in Newark area

BY WARD MIELE

Managing Editor

NEWARK—The real foundation of a new Habitat for Humanity home on South 6th Street just off South Orange Avenue will be the area's diverse faith traditions.

"Abraham House" will be built on a lot across the street from Habitat for Humanity's Newark headquarters. A project in collaboration with spiritually and ethically based organizations in the state's largest city as well as Irvington, Millburn, Maplewood and South Orange, the two-story, one-family home will represent Habitat for Humanity's first collaborative efforts of different religions communities in and around Newark.

Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in South Orange and its nearby Maplewood neighbor, St. Joseph Parish are among the key participants in the project. Both parishes also are partners in the Archdiocese of Newark's New Energies program.

Retired magazine publisher T. Peter Sullivan, a board member of Habitat for Humanity Newark, stressed that families who qualify for the housing "are anything but deadbeats, they are good hardworking people." Among the qualifications are that a family must have a minimum income of \$25,000 and qualify for a mortgage.

Important too, he emphasized, is that the family must put in a minimum of 400 hours of "sweat equity" working on their future home. Abraham House will, Sullivan declared, "improve the community and the neighborhood."

The demand for such housing in Newark is growing. More than 50 families applied for the three-bedroom, 1.5-bath, 1,600-square-foot home. Expectations are that the foundation will be laid in January with the home occupied sometime before Thanksgiving.

In addition to the work and materials involved to build the structure, Sullivan pointed to the importance of the ecumenical aspect of the project. In addition to the two parishes of the Archdiocese of Newark, the faith traditions taking part include Protestant, Jewish, Buddhist, Muslim and members of the Ethical Culture Society of Essex County.

"With the world as messed up as it is with religious differences and strife, the coming together of the diverse religious traditions in the Newark area in a common cause to help improve the lives of a family is something you don't see much of today," Sullivan commented. Such collaborative efforts, he is convinced, promote a "better understanding of each other." The name of the house reflects that, he added, citing



Advocate photo Ward Miele

Father Michael Saporito (left) and Rev. Msgr. Robert Emery, the pastors of St. Joseph Parish in Maplewood and Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in South Orange, respectively, review plans for Abraham House, which will be constructed in Newark. Abraham House represents interfaith cooperation between Catholic, Muslim and Jewish groups and individuals. Visit the Habitat for Humanity Newark's Web site (www.habitatnewark.org) or call the group at (973) 624-3330 for details on its many projects.

Abraham's role in the Bible, Torah and Koran.

Evidence of that ecumenical spirit abounds. An anonymous benefactor from Ahavas Shalom Jewish Congregation, the last temple in Newark, provided the land. Prospect Presbyterian Church of Maplewood donated \$33,000 in seed money from its renovation capital campaign and St. Joseph Parish parishioners raised \$8,300. Overall, the house will cost \$90,000.

Margaret Prentice, chair of Habitat for Humanity Newark's Faith Relations Committee, called the ecumenical aspect of Abraham House "absolutely wonderful." Such a concept in this post-9/11 world, she explained, the coming together of Christians, Muslims, Jews and others, can only result in the "betterment of us as a society and all of us as a people."

Citing the "diverse" communities that comprise the Newark area, Very Rev. Michael A. Saporito, V.F., the pastor of St. Joseph's Parish, said there is "a lot of interest" in undertaking such projects among those of differ-

ent faiths. His parish is no stranger to Habitat for Humanity. Every six weeks, the pastor explained, a group of volunteers takes part in the organization's Women's Build undertaking. The St. Joseph's contingent has worked on three houses.

The "opportunity" for such ecumenical efforts during "times of war and peace issues," is a "great thing," Father Saporito went on to say, adding that it fosters "good feelings." The money donated to Abraham House, the pastor was proud to say, came after a presentation during a scheduled stewardship session. Following remarks from the parish's Habitat for Humanity volunteers, a special collection netted the \$8,300.

Under the watchful eye of coordinator Russell Pace, the youth group from Our Lady of Sorrows Parish will work on Abraham House. Rev. Msgr. Robert E. Emery, the pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows, said such endeavors are and represent a coming together of different faith conditions "for the good of the community."

Agency cites Church workers who made ultimate sacrifice

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—From the war-torn lands of Iraq and Sri Lanka to violence-ridden neighborhoods around the world, at least 20 Catholic Church workers were murdered or sacrificed their lives for others in 2007, the Vatican's Fides agency said. Each year, Fides, the news agency of the Congregation for

the Evangelization of Peoples, publishes a list of pastoral workers who died violently. The 2007 list was released Dec. 29. The Fides report included a priest whose death was found most likely to be self-induced and accidental. While Fides does not refer to the missionaries as martyrs—technically a term reserved for those the

Church formally recognizes as having given their lives for the faith—it said it was important to remember their sacrifices and to recognize that “each one of them, in a different way, contributed to the growth of the Church in various parts of the world.” Besides the four killed in Iraq, two died in Mexico, three died in the Philippines, two died in Colombia, two in Spain, two in South Africa and one each in Brazil, Guatemala, Kenya, Rwanda and Sri Lanka.



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Pontiff marks passage of year

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Marking the end of a year, Christians turn to God who is eternal, thanking Him for the blessings He has given and asking for His help and protection, Pope Benedict XVI said. Presiding over a Dec. 31 evening prayer service in St. Peter's Basilica, Pope Benedict said that marking the passage from one year to the next “leads us to turn our gaze with intimate recognition to the one who is eternal, to the Lord of time.” The prayer service, in which officials from the Rome city government participated, ended with the singing of the “Te Deum” hymn of thanksgiving to God. While the civil calendar changes, the pope said, the Church is still in Christmastime, which should help Catholics remember that the first thing for which they give thanks is the incarnation of Jesus Christ. “The fact that the Son assumed a human nature opens the prospect

for a radical change in the human condition,” he said. Jesus, he added, “became like us in order to make us like Him”—children of God freed from the power of sin. “Isn't this a fundamental reason for raising our thanks to God?” he asked.

Homeless told to remove tents

BALTIMORE (CNS)—As 2008 begins, the pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Baltimore is ordering all makeshift tents used by the homeless in the park adjacent to the church to come down. It's not a new order by any means; it's one that Father Richard T. Lawrence has been enforcing for years. Every January Father Lawrence tells the occupants of the tents made of tarps, blankets and discarded furniture to dismantle the do-it-yourself shelters. But by the next Christmas, the land next to the downtown church is once again littered with improvised campsites, he said. However, Father Lawrence waits until after the holidays to enforce the “no-tent” rule on the church property that some of Baltimore's homeless refer to as “tent city” or “bum park.” The priest said he doesn't want to force the homeless away from the park, but rather hopes to discourage drug dealing and prostitution that is believed to be taking place inside some of those tents.

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2007 TOP NEWS

STORIES

1. IMMIGRATION

Catholic bishops call for just treatment of immigrants while Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids at workplaces leave families separated and in need of church assistance.

2. WAR IN IRAQ

3. STEM CELLS

4. INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

5. TRIDENTINE MASS



NEWSMAKERS

1. POPE BENEDICT XVI

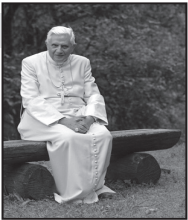
The pope allows for wider use of Tridentine Mass, names 23 cardinals, visits Brazil and Austria, publishes second encyclical, issues letter to the church in China.

2. U.S. PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

3. BLESSED MOTHER TERESA

4. CARDINAL DANIEL N. DINARDO

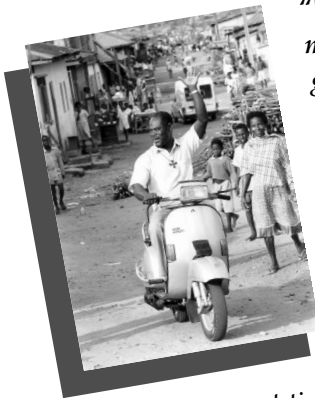
5. VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT HUGO CHAVEZ



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Pope Benedict XVI's activities as head of the Catholic Church made him the top newsmaker of 2007. The top stories and newsmakers were selected in Catholic News Service's annual poll of Catholic newspaper and magazine editors.

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Order of Malta taps Habba, Wilson

NEW YORK—The Archdiocese of Newark was well represented at the annual Order of Malta American Division's Installation Mass, held recently at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Janan Habba of St. Teresa of Avila Parish, Summit, and Carol A. Wilson from Our Lady of Grace Parish, Hoboken, were installed during the

Mass and invested as "Dames of Magistral Grace."

Edward Cardinal Egan, Archbishop of New York, and principal chaplain of the American Association, was the main celebrant and presided over the installation ceremony. The Order of Malta is one of the oldest lay Catholic orders in the Church, founded in 1099.

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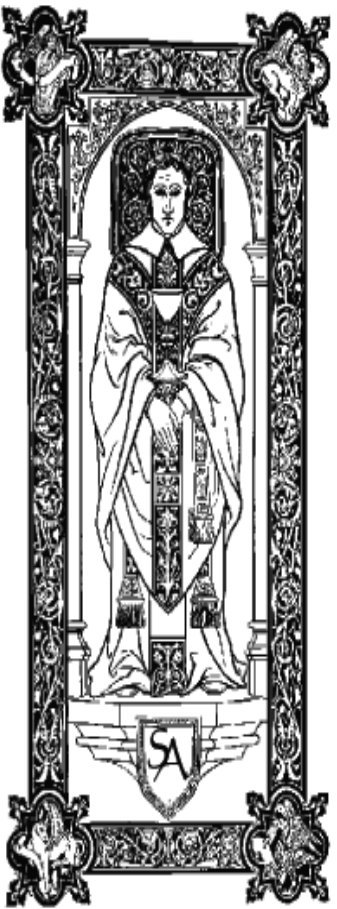
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Tuesday: 7:00 p.m. (with devotions to St. Anthony)
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. (with Miraculous Medal Novena)
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Official Appointments

Archbishop John J. Myers has announced the following appointments:

PASTOR

Reverend Joseph F. Barbone, Pastor of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Bayonne, has been reappointed to a second six-year term, ending Feb. 1, 2012.

Reverend Kevin E. Carter, Pastor of St. Nicholas Parish, Jersey City, has been reappointed to a second six-year term, ending Feb. 1, 2012.

Reverend Victor E. Paloma, Pastor of Our Lady of Victories Parish, Jersey City has been reappointed to a second six-year term, ending July 1, 2012.

Reverend Michael C. Santoro, Pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Jersey City, has been reappointed to a second six-year term, ending Feb. 1, 2012.

Reverend Joseph Urban, Pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Jersey City, has been reappointed to a second six-year term, ending Feb. 1, 2013.

Reverend William T. Morris, Pastor of St. Mark Parish, Rahway, has had his pastorate extended for one year.

Very Reverend John E. Wassell, V.F., Pastor of Holy Rosary/St. Michael Parish, Elizabeth, has been reappointed to a second six-year term, ending Feb. 1, 2013.

Reverend Joseph A. Ferraro, Pastor of St. Anthony Parish (Belleville), Newark, has been reappointed to a second six-year term, ending Feb. 1, 2013.

Reverend Joseph A. Petrillo, Pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, West Orange, has been reappointed to a second six-year term, ending Feb. 1, 2013.

Reverend Tadeusz Trela, Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Irvington, has been reappointed to a second six-year term, ending Feb. 1, 2013.

Reverend Monsignor Lawrence Cull, Pastor of St. Paul Parish, Ramsey, has been reappointed to a second six-year term, ending Feb. 1, 2013.

Reverend Michael E. Gubernat, Pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish, Fairview, has been reappointed to a second six-year term, ending Feb. 1, 2013.

Reverend Norbert F. Laskowski, Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Rochelle Park, has been reappointed to a second six-year term, ending Feb. 1, 2013.

Reverend Lewis V. Papera, Pastor of Corpus Christi Parish, Hasbrouck Heights, has been reappointed to a second six-year term, ending Feb. 1, 2013.



PAROCHIAL VICAR

Reverend Yuniur Almonte, Parochial Vicar of Resurrection Parish, Jersey City, has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Ridgefield Park, effective Jan. 23.

Reverend Eric W. Fuchs, Parochial Vicar of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, South Orange, has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Henry Parish, Bayonne, effective Jan. 23.

Reverend James M. Moran, Chaplain at Pascack Valley Hospital, Westwood, has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Leo Parish, Elmwood Park, effective Jan. 23.

Reverend Jose M. Parcon has been appointed parochial vicar of Resurrection Parish, Jersey City, effective Jan. 23.

Reverend John Z. Radwan, Parochial Vicar of St. Henry Parish, Bayonne, has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Mary, Closter, effective Jan. 23.

Reverend William C. Reed, Chaplain at Rahway Hospital, Rahway,

has been appointed parochial vicar of Sacred Heart Parish (Vailsburg), Newark, effective Jan. 23.

Reverend Narciso G. Minon has been appointed parochial vicar of Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish, Garfield, through Sept. 30, 2008.

Reverend Claude M. Perera, OMI has been appointed parochial vicar of Holy Trinity Parish, Fort Lee, through March 25, 2008.

Reverend Anthony Onyekwelu, parochial vicar of St. Michael Parish, Union, has been appointed Chaplain at Overlook Hospital, Summit, effective Feb. 1.

OTHER

Reverend Nicholas G. Figurelli has been appointed Campus Minister at Seton Hall University, South Orange, effective Jan. 23.

Reverend Robert S. Meyer has been released for service in the President's Office at St. Vincent Catholic Medical Center, New York, for a period of three years, effective Jan. 14.

Our Lady of Divine Vocations:

Shrine & Retreat Center

A Day of Spiritual Renewal

Schedule

- 9:00 Arrival: Coffee, Tea, Muffins
- 9:30 Welcoming: Brief History of Vocationist Fathers & Sisters, Opening Prayer, 1st Conference
- 10:10 Private Meditation
- 10:25 Rosary (Group Lead in Chapel or outside in Rosary Garden) Quiet free time
- 11:15 Adoration, Confessions, Benediction
- 12:00 Full Lunch
- 1:00 2nd Conference
- 1:30 Quiet or free time for reflection. Outdoor Stations of the Cross
- 2:20 Mass & Final Blessings
- 3:00 Departure



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Faithful meal set for Feb. 18

TEANECK—The Interfaith Brotherhood/Sisterhood Committee of Bergen County will host its 22nd annual interfaith breakfast Monday, Feb. 18 at the Marriott Glenpointe.

Rabbi David Saperstein, director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, Washington D.C., will be the featured speaker. The topic of his talk will be "Shared Dimension of Social Justice: Tough Moral Choices of Our Time." Rabbi Saperstein, in 1999, was elected the first chair of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, which was created by a unanimous vote of Congress.

Most Rev. John W. Flesey, S.T.D., D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, served as the keynote speaker at last year's interfaith event.

Tickets for the interfaith gathering, priced at \$30 per person, are available by contacting Father Donald Sheehan, pastor of St. Matthew's Parish, Ridgefield, at (201) 945-3500.

St. Agnes plans open house

CLARK—St. Agnes School, 342 Madison Hill Rd., will hold an open house Jan. 17 at 7 p.m. Prospective students and their parents are invited to tour the school, speak with faculty and meet school board, sports committee and Home and School Association members.

The Pre-K through eighth grade school was established in 1963. Sister Claire Ouimet, who recently celebrated 50 years as a religious Sister Filipini, serves as the principal.

Class size is designed for individual attention through the use of a conducive student-teacher ratio. St. Agnes' curriculum features computer technology, art and music, Spanish language courses and an extensive sports program. New construction at the school and parish include a junior high school wing, student lockers, a state-of-the-art computer room, multimedia library and new staff and faculty offices.

Call (732) 381-0850 during school hours for more information.

How to report abuse

The Archdiocese of Newark takes very seriously any and all credible complaints of sexual misconduct by members of the clergy, Religious and lay staff of the archdiocese. We encourage anyone with knowledge of an act of sexual misconduct to inform the archdiocese immediately so that we may take appropriate action to protect others and provide support to victims of sexual abuse.

Individuals who wish to report an allegation of sexual misconduct may do so by calling the Archdiocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection at (201) 407-3256.



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	March 1-9	Father Eric Fuchs
	October 26-Nov. 7	Father Amilcar Prado
IRELAND.....	June 5-15	Father Bob Colaresi, O. Carm.
ITALY.....	March 24-April 1	The Sisters of Mercy
	April 13-24	Father Joseph Mancini
POLAND & PRAGUE.....	September 4-14	Father Ron Sordillo
SPAIN.....	April 13-26	Father Bob Colaresi, O. Carm.
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Garden State eliminates the death penalty

Opponents of the death penalty in New Jersey, fortified by the staunch support of the state's Catholic bishops, are truly "life savers."

History was made last month when Gov. Jon S. Corzine signed into law legislation abolishing the death penalty in favor of life in prison without the

possibility of parole. New Jersey is the first state to legislatively do away with capital punishment.

The bishops called life imprisonment without the possibility of parole a viable alternative to the death penalty and that is just what it is. Our judicial system is not perfect and there is always the possibility

of executing an innocent person. An execution, after all, is a decision that cannot be appealed.

Through all of this, the bishops never lost sight of the incredible pain of the families of murder victims. It is a loss that changes lives forever and calls out for justice and harsh punishment.

New Jersey is a significant victory in the battle against the death penalty but no one should be satisfied until all 50 states do likewise.

Marking 35 years of infamy, 48 million abortions

I am writing this article on Dec. 28, the Feast of the Holy Innocent Martyrs. There is such a paradox here because this feast comes in the midst of the joyful celebration of Christmas within the Christmas Octave. Yet, we are reminded in this that the Baby Jesus, born in Bethlehem, came to suffer and die on the hill of Calvary for our salvation.

The deaths of these little Holy Innocents Martyrs 2,000 years ago were due to the sin and fear of one man—King Herod. Although they were not capable of understanding, they witnessed to Christ through the shedding of their blood.

Now from heaven, where they are eternally rejoicing with all the saints, they pray to the One for whom they died and with whom they rein. They pray for us!

They pray with the Holy Innocents of our day and for the Herod's of our day who let pride and fear and selfishness and greed and an unquenchable thirst for power cause the death of so many millions of our unborn brothers and sisters. They pray for the millions of their mothers (over 33,000 every year in New Jersey alone*), whose hearts continue to be gaping wounds, as they long for their babies, once safe in their wombs, but now lost to the holocaust of abortion.

They pray for us in our battle with indifference, selfishness, the pursuit of pleasure and comfort, wealth and honor. They pray for us for courage in the battle with the forces of darkness and death. They pray for us that we may have the love and compassion for all the unseen victims (the babies, their mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters) of this culture of death. They pray for us to have faith and hope beyond what the human eye can see—to see the truth of Jesus' word as He says: "I have conquered death."

Tuesday, Jan. 22 sadly marks the 35th anniversary of the legalization of abortion in America, and scandalously, the proliferation of the distortion of "choice" and "reproductive rights" throughout the world through our influence.

Since 1973 there have been over 48 million reported "legal" surgical abortions in the United States alone; that is about 3,700 babies aborted every day, and 1.4 million annually. That is one every 24 seconds. For every 100 births in the United States, there are 31 abortions—one-third of a generation gone. This is a holocaust!

Upcoming Pro-Life events

Sunday, Jan. 20, noon; Pro-Life Mass and Holy Hour at Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, 89 Ridge St., and St. Lucy's Parish, 118 Seventh Ave.—both located in Newark.

Most Rev. Thomas A. Donato, Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, will celebrate Mass at the Cathedral. Following Mass there will be a Eucharistic Holy Hour for Life at St. Lucy's—a short walk from the Cathedral. Parking is available at both locations. Prayers and music at this Holy Hour will be lead by the archdiocesan Young Adult Ministries.

Tuesday, Jan. 22; March on Washington, D.C., and the Rally for Life, Trenton.

See story on page one of this edition for more information on these two events. For a list of busses going to Washington from various points within the archdiocese, visit the Web site www.rcan.org/life.

The Trenton rally, sponsored by NJ Right to Life, will be held on the steps of the NJ State House, 125 West State St., 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Visit the Web site www.NJRTL.org or call the Respect Life Office in Linden at (732) 388-8211 for more information.

RESPECT LIFE

By Rev. Joseph A. Meagher



In addition, prior to the Trenton rally, there will be a special Mass celebrated that day at 8:30 a.m. at St. John the Apostle Parish, 1805 Penbrook Terrace, Linden (visit the Web site www.SJANJ.net). Following Mass, car pools for the Trenton rally will be organized in the parish parking lot.

We will join with all the heavenly witnesses interceding for a culture of life to replace our too often promiscuous and confused culture of death. We join in a particular way, in mourning, with all those mothers and fathers who have participated in the horror of abortion.

We are grateful to God for those among them who have

come to know in Christ Jesus the healing grace of faith and repentance and reconciliation with God and their babies. These men and women are, by the witness of their lives and their words, the clearest proclamation of the folly of abortion, the sacredness of all human life and the power and mercy of God.

We continue to thank God for the faithful few veterans in the pro-life movement and the energy and enthusiasm of the youth and young adults of our archdiocese in communicating the Gospel of life. Let us approach this deplorable anniversary with prayer and penance and with profound hope in the triumph of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, as we continue to ask the Lord to receive our prayer and to send us and other workers into the vineyard proclaiming and living the Gospel of life.

(* Note: According to the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, only hospitals and licensed ambulatory care facilities are mandated to report the number of abortions to the state. Private physicians, unlicensed clinics, and women's centers (broadly defined as a place where women can receive gynecological services including induced terminations) are not included in this mandate. Therefore, the number of abortions reported is approximately half the actual number performed in the state.)

Praise for stem-cell education effort in NJ

New Jersey voters on Nov. 6 defeated a proposal that would have authorized \$450 million in bonds for stem-cell research projects.

Bishops in the five New Jersey dioceses had urged rejection of this measure and launched an educational campaign to help Catholic voters distinguish between adult stem-cell research, which the Church supports, and stem-cell research involving the destruction of human embryos, which the Church strongly opposes.

Although an article in the Nov. 21 edition of *The Catholic Advocate* was not able to list the parishes that participated in the stem-cell education effort during Respect Life Month (October), here we would like to commend by name all those parishes that took part in this statewide effort, according to feedback from pastors.

The following parishes showed the DVD documentary ("The Science of Stem Cells: Finding Cures and Protecting Life") during each of their Sunday masses:

Community of God's Love, Rutherford; Corpus Christi, Hasbrouck Heights; Most Blessed Sacrament, Franklin Lakes; Nativity, Midland Park; Our Lady of Czestochowa, Harrison; Our Lady of Victories, Harrington Park; Sacred Heart, Lyndhurst; St. Andrew, Bayonne; St. Anne, Garwood; St. John the Apostle, Linden; St. John the Evangelist, Bergenfield; St. Leo, Elmwood Park; St. Michael, Cranford; and St. Matthew, Ridgefield.

The following parishes did one or more of the following to communicate the message: showed the DVD to a smaller group in another location, had printed in the bulletin the archbishop's letter or another educational piece, and/or the priests preached on the topic: Church of the Presentation, Upper Saddle River;

Epiphany Church, Cliffside Park; Guardian Angel, Allendale; Holy Rosary/St. Michael's, Elizabeth; Holy Spirit, Union; Holy Trinity, Hackensack; Holy Trinity, Westfield; Immaculate Conception, Elizabeth; Immaculate Conception, Norwood; Immaculate Conception, Secaucus; Notre Dame, North Caldwell; Our Lady of Good Counsel, Newark; Our Lady of Grace, Fairview; Our Lady of Libera, West New York; Our Lady of Lourdes, Mountainside; Our Lady of Lourdes, West Orange; Our Lady of Mercy, Park Ridge; Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Orange; Our Lady of Sorrows, Garfield; Our Lady of Sorrows, Kearny; Our Lady of Sorrows, Jersey City; Sacred Heart, Lyndhurst; Sacred Heart, Vailsburg, Newark; St. Agnes, Clark; St. Aloysius, Caldwell; SS. Bernard and Stanislaus; St. Cassian, Upper Montclair; St. Catherine of Siena, Cedar Grove; St. Catharine, Glen Rock; St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Linden; St. Elizabeth, Wyckoff; St. Gabriel, Saddle River; St. Genevieve, Elizabeth; St. Hedwig, Elizabeth; St. James the Apostle, Springfield; St. Joseph, Demarest; St. Joseph, Maplewood; St. Joseph, New Milford; St. Joseph of the Palisades, West New York; St. Lucy's, Newark; St. Luke's Ho-Ho-Kus; St. Margaret of Cortona, Little Ferry; St. Mary, Closter; St. Mary, Nutley; St. Michael, Lyndhurst; St. Peter, Belleville; St. Philomena, Livingston; St. Rose of Lima, Short Hills; St. Thomas the Apostle, Bloomfield; and St. Thomas More, Fairfield.

For all those who participated, this was a job well done! If your parish did something to communicate this vital message and was not mentioned here, then please contact the Respect Life office by phone at (732) 388-8211 or via e-mail at arnewrespect@sanjanet.net.

Identifying the flaws of arrogance among leaders

The *Wall Street Journal* in its Dec. 1, 2007 edition ran a column written by a professor of management at Clemson University. It was under the heading of “leadership” and had the title: “Keys to spotting a flawed C.E.O. (chief executive officer) before it’s too late.”

While his observations pertain to business and Wall Street, where a chief executive can earn hundreds of millions of dollars each year, it struck me that his words of wisdom apply to most organizations.

There are so many bloated egos in the world. In life no one escapes meeting characters who have inflated ideas of their own importance. Who would wish to be subjected to a mayor of a town, a pastor of a church, a president of a club or society who runs roughshod over everyone else in a desire to be “numero uno?”

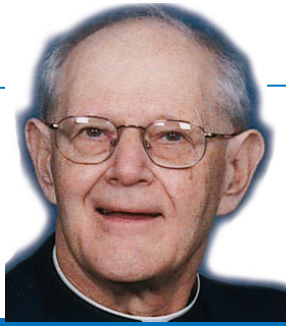
I remember a priest who was so filled with himself that his sermons were primarily the “gospel according to me” and very little about the person named Jesus. One day another priest looked at him meaningfully, after hearing a long tirade from the pulpit, and remarked: “I have a suggestion for you. Why not consider resigning from the papacy?”

Here are some of Professor Leap’s depictions adapted for us little people so that we can identify and cate-

No one escapes meeting characters who have inflated ideas of their own importance.

VOICES

By Rev. Msgr. John Gilchrist



gorize some of these overbearing characters:

People who desire prestige, power and wealth. They are certainly the exact opposite of the humble, the meek, and the poor. They are the “climbers.” They have to be “the boss.”

People who always seek publicity and recognition. There was an author who spoke incessantly about her books. In one conversation she said: “But enough about me. Tell me how did you like my latest book?”

People who have great ideas for someone else to work on. A lady once kept a society in session for hours on end planning an event. Then at the end, when asked what she personally would do, she answered: “Oh, I can’t work on the project. I am too busy. I am an ‘idea’ person. I plan. Others do the ‘nitty gritty.’”

People who force their ideas on others. For them it is “my way or the highway.” “If I can’t be in charge, I will take my ball and go home.”

People who cut down other people. They have a “great line of gab” but they can ridicule anyone who contradicts them. Thus they often win a debate because no one wants to incur their wrath or disdain.

People who monopolize a conversation. No one else gets a chance to speak. They are addicted to the “sound of their own voice.”

People whose conversation is dominated by the words, “I,” “Me,” and “Mine.” They love to recount to others what they have done, what they own, and who they know. They love to “drop names” to emphasize a sense of their own importance.

Lastly, there are those who are the first to take credit for success—even if they had little part in it—and also the last to take blame for anything that goes wrong. The fault always lies with someone else. “After all, I did all that I could...”

There is much more that the professor handles in his topic better than I. But I am sure you get the idea.

Jesus gave us a different value system. He gave Christians another model for success. We can see that, in the world scheme, “the paths of glory lead but to the grave.” But for the Christian the humble roadway leads to eternal life.

Shakespeare wrote: “In peace there is nothing so becomes a man as modest stillness and humility.” (Henry V, Act III, Scene I). Even in business people can appreciate true quality of soul. It shines through dignity and silence.

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

Cardinal Kasper helps clarify state of ecumenism

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Chair of Unity Octave, which has evolved into an annual pan-Christian week of prayer running from Jan. 18-25.

Prayer, it seems, is what is most required in the early 21st century quest for Christian unity, a quest that reached a peak of euphoria in the mid-1960s and that has suffered many disappointments ever since.

Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, briefed his brother cardinals on the current state of the ecumenical enterprise, at the consistory last November. Kasper made several important points in the course of his ecumenical overview:

1) The recovery of Christian fraternity is “the most significant, and most gratifying, result of ecumenism over the past few decades.” Documents and agreements are important, but “the fact that we have rediscovered that we are brothers and sisters in Christ, that we have learned to appreciate one another,” is the crucial accomplishment of the recent past. One important, and perhaps unanticipated, part of this rediscovery of Christian fraternity is that other Christian communities have seen in the See of Peter, the papacy, “an increasingly important point of reference” for everyone.

2) After 1,500 years of separation, contact has been re-established between the universal Church and the churches which separated from Rome because of the Council of Ephesus (in the year 381) and the Chalcedon (in the year 456).

3) The dialogue with Orthodoxy has begun to recognize that 1054—the year of mutual excommunications between Constantinople and Rome—was not a discrete moment but the culmination of “a long process of estrangement and alienation,” such that the necessary path today is “a reverse process of mutual reconciliation.” This is going to take time. Still, important achievements have

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

By George Weigel



been realized, including the regular exchange of visits and messages between the pope and the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, a process of fraternal communication that had lain fallow for 900 years.

A breakthrough of potentially great consequence took place in October 2007 in Ravenna, when Catholicism’s Orthodox dialogue partners “recognized a universal level of the Church” (that is, the “Church” is not simply a federation of patriarchates). Moreover, the Orthodox dialogue partners agreed that, at this universal level, there is a primate “who can only be the bishop of Rome, according to the hierarchy of the early Church.” This important step will, of course, have to be developed in future theological conversation, but it is nonetheless a key move in the path toward full communion between Rome and the Christian East.

4) The real logjams ecumenically are in the dialogues with liberal Protestantism. Different understandings of Church, different understandings of the ministry and different understandings of how apostolic authority binds (or doesn’t bind) the community of Christ today have made agreement on key issues very difficult. Add to that “new divergences in the ethical field” (nature of marriage; sex-

ual ethics; abortion; homosexuality) and the picture becomes even more complicated, and more difficult. In other words, it is very difficult to engage a fruitful theological conversation with dialogue partners who keep moving the goal posts.

5) At the same time as the dialogues with the Anglican, Lutheran, and Reformed communities have hit the skids, a new dialogue has opened up with those evangelical Protestant communities that hold fast to classic Christian convictions about Christ, the Trinity, and the moral life.

Kasper didn’t mention it, but the “Evangelicals and Catholics Together” initiative led by Father Richard John Neuhaus and Charles Colson is the most developed of these dialogues. There are difficulties in the Catholic/evangelical dialogue because of aggressive proselytization by Pentecostals in Latin America. But as Kasper said, on this front, “we should begin by asking ourselves, not what is wrong with the Pentecostals, but what our (Catholic) pastoral shortcomings are.”

Ecumenical progress, Kasper concluded, must rest on “rediscovering...the foundations of our faith.” Everything becomes “unstable and empty of meaning” if we do not have a “firm faith in the living God, Triune and One, in the divinity of Christ, in the saving power of the cross and resurrection,” which would seem to be as true within the Catholic Church as in ecumenism.

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

Ecumenical progress must rest on rediscovering the foundations of our faith.

Bishop Marconi to lead seminars on sharing 'quiet time' with God

Four sessions to be held in Livingston

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE
Editor

LIVINGSTON—Most Rev. Dominic A. Marconi, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Newark, will lead four Centering Prayer seminars in February and March at Saint Philomena's Parish, 386 South Livingston Ave.

Bishop Marconi, who this year will celebrate 55 years in the priesthood, will conduct the seminars Feb. 12, 19, 26 and March 4 (all Tuesday dates). Each session begins at 8 p.m. and runs for 90 minutes.

There is no fee to attend any or all of the programs, however those planning to participate must register in advance. To register, call Bishop Marconi's residence in Chatham no later than Jan. 29 at (973) 635-8777—9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

While the program dates are open as individual sessions, it's recommended that participants attend all four workshops in order to gain the full benefit of the spiritual instruction. During the sessions Bishop Marconi will describe Centering Prayer and encourage participants to experience it.

"There are many ways that a Christian can be in touch with God," Bishop Marconi wrote in a prepared statement. He said Centering or Contemplative Prayer allows a person to seek God in an open, quiet and loving



Bishop Dominic Marconi

manner. "You use Centering Prayer to bring yourself to a deeper relationship with the Lord," Bishop Marconi said, noting that while the Eucharist is the greatest prayer experience, priests and bishops still need to teach people how to pray. "My task as a priest is to connect you to your calling."

Bishop Marconi also led Centering Prayer workshops at Saint Philomena's Parish two years ago. Like all prayer, Centering Prayer is an invitation from God to explore a deeper level of faith, he explained. He has been a practitioner of Centering Prayer ever since the mid-1970s, when he first encountered Father Thomas Keating, O.C.S.O.—a noted author on the subject and founder of Contemplative Outreach Ltd. in Snowmass, CO—and his religious brothers at St. Joseph, a Trappist Abbey in Spencer, MA. Here in the Archdiocese of Newark, the Centering Prayer tradition became popular more than 20 years ago at St. Helen's Parish in Westfield.

Centering Prayer is based in the most ancient traditions of the Catholic faith. It traces its roots to Matthew 6:6 ("But when you pray, go into your inner room, close the door and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.")

While there are obvious parallels with Eastern meditative practices, Bishop Marconi said Centering Prayer in fact is a Christian faith-based tradition, which was lost by the Church during the Protestant Reformation in the 1500s and 1600s.

"This is spending 'quiet time' with the Lord," he said. "This is prayer that is not 'task oriented.' But people must experience it to know what it is about." He said Centering Prayer is not meant to replace the rosary or regular Mass attendance.

The Centering Prayer tradition also is connected with "the Desert Fathers," among the earliest Christian monks who lived in the Egyptian desert in the Second Century, as well as the writings of Johannes Cassianus (St. John Cassian), born about 356 AD. It also draws upon the writings of The Cloud of Unknowing, a 14th Century text that explained contemplative meditation as a spiritual process to achieve a union with God. Scholars point out that this ancient text, from a long-lost, anonymous author, was written in Middle English, not Latin, meaning it most likely was intended for lay people. More recently, books by Father Keating ("Open Mind, Open Heart," and "Intimacy with God") have described Centering Prayer.

THE POPE SPEAKS

Family values linked to world peace



Pope Benedict XVI

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Ushering in the new year, Pope Benedict XVI said attempts to weaken the traditional family inevitably undermine social harmony and world peace.

"The natural family, founded on marriage between a man and a woman, is the cradle of life and love and the first and indispensable teacher of peace," the pope said at a Mass Jan. 1, which the church marks as the World Day of Peace.

The family thus constitutes the primary agency of peace, and attempts to deny or restrict family rights "threaten the very foundations of peace," he said.

Later, at a noon blessing, the pope returned to the theme of the family and what he called its "strict connection" to social peace. He quoted from his World Peace Day message on the theme "The Human Family, a Community of Peace."

"Whoever, even unknowingly, circumvents the institution of the family undermines peace in the entire community, national and international, since he weakens what is in effect the primary agency of peace," he said. The pope was not specific about efforts to weaken the family, but in the past he has spoken out against gay marriage and laws that give full legal recognition to cohabiting couples.

Prayers for peace were offered in five languages; in Arabic, the prayer asked that the world's populations would "overcome suggestions of violence and war and commit all their energy and resources to building a stable peace." The pope said people should recognize that true peace is not merely the result of human efforts or political agreements. Above all, he said, peace is a divine gift that people need to continually implore.

Marist Brothers go online in search for new members

BAYONNE—The Marist Brothers, an order of teaching brothers, are trying to capitalize on an increase in the number of religious vocations with a new online marketing campaign.

The program ("Real Brothers. Real Stories. A Real difference") features personal stories told by Marist Brothers. Unlike traditional religious marketing, the Marists' campaign doesn't use "religious speak" and doesn't present the brothers as distant and formal. Instead, the tone is honest, direct and down to earth.

Its stories feature brothers as regular men with real doubts who, on occasion, even question their calling. But in the stories, their commitment to and fulfillment from Marist life is always a clear and solid message.

The Web site (www.maristbr.com) offers answers to the "most frequently asked" questions about Marist life, and lists upcoming events and activities for those interested in learning more. Site visitors can also communicate directly with the Marists by way of an e-mail link on the site.

The Marist campaign will depend mostly on online marketing vehicles to deliver this message to the young men they are targeting. In fact, two-thirds of their marketing dollars will be spent online.

The Marist life has been in existence for 190 years and today includes more than 200 Brothers and 14 Marist schools in the United States alone. The order is dedicated to educating young people, especially those most in need. However, like many other religious orders, the Marists have seen a steady decline in new vocations. Now, it hopes to join other religious communities who are seeing a reversal in the decline.

Sons, daughters to shine Jan. 25-27

KEARNY—The second annual "Sons and Daughters of the Light" retreat will be held Jan. 25-27 at the archdiocesan Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry and Youth Retreat Center, 499 Belgrove Dr.

The event is considered to be the culmination of Young Adult Month (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Dec. 19) and is geared for young women and men between the ages of 18 and 39.

The retreat will include speaker presentations, praise and worship, music, faith-sharing groups, scriptural rosary and Taizé prayer. According to information found on the Internet, Taizé involves meditative, candlelit services that include simple chants sung repeatedly; rich silence; and prayers of praise and intercession. Taizé prayer emerged from an ecumenical community of monks in Taizé, France, during the 1940s and is a sign of reconciliation.

The registration cost to attend the weekend retreat is \$75 per person. Visit the Web site www.newarkoym.org to download registration forms or call Tracey Vieira, associate director of retreats and spirituality, for more information at (201) 998-0088, ext. 4153.

"Festival of Praise" (FOP), another major event in the Young Adult Month schedule, will be held at the Youth Retreat Center on Saturday, Feb. 9, 7 to 10 p.m. FOP will feature an evening of celebration with music, praise and worship, along with eucharistic adoration led by Franciscan Friars of the Renewal of Newark.

Contact Sister Loretta DeDomenicis, director of parish outreach and training, at (201) 998-0088, ext. 4147 for information on events for teens and young adults. Sister DeDomenicis also can be reached via e-mail at: dedomelo@rcan.org.

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Carol C. Keilp-Tobin, M.A.T.: "The Face of God at Work – Co-creating in the Vineyard"

Cost: \$35 per person, including lunch

Please make checks payable to Immaculate Conception Seminary, 400 South Orange Avenue, South Orange, NJ 07079.

Pre-registration is required by **January 25**
 to Deborah Kurus at (973) 313-6329
 or kurusdeb@shu.edu



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January 12

St. John the Evangelist Parish, Bergenfield, Filipino Apostolate of Archdiocese of Newark (FAAN) presents "Faith, Music and Culture: Expressing Our Identity in Christ," 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., cost: \$10, call Jessie Trivino at (201) 692-9439 or Sam Magalong at (973) 759-3438.

St. John the Apostle Parish, Bloomfield, one day directed retreat, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., cost: \$25, call Anna Graziano at (973) 338-9538.

January 13

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Irvington, bilingual Mass (Polish/English) followed by traditional dinner/Christmas pageant (Jaselka), 11 a.m., cost: \$25, \$30 at the door, call Stefania at (732) 499-0389.

January 14

Blessed Sacrament Parish, Elizabeth, "New Age and How it Can Affect Your Loved Ones," three-week long course, 7:30 p.m., cost: \$25, call Reina at (973) 497-4326.

Trinitas Hospital, Elizabeth, "Home Helpers: The Experts in Non-Medical, Personal Care," 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., (908) 994-5138.

January 17

Seton Hall University, South Orange, "Painting Process" opening reception, Walsh Library Gallery, 5-9 p.m., exhibit lasts through Feb. 15, call Jeanne Brasile at (973) 275-2033.

January 18

Pius X Retreat House, Blackwood, Diocese of Camden, Charismatic Retreat Weekend, through Jan. 20, cost: from \$135 to \$165, call Pat at (609) 602-0395 or Elaine at (856) 227-7681.

January 19

The Shrine of St. Joseph, Stirling, guided meditation and prayer, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., cost: \$35, (908) 647-0208.

The Hillside Café, Nutley, Chris Colepaugh and Christine DeLeon performance, 8 p.m., cost: \$10, call Linda DeSimon at (973) 743-8111.

Knights of Columbus Council 5427, Washington Township, Basketball Free Throw Championship, at Brookside Upper Elementary School in Westwood, contest open to children ages 10-14, call Ed Garland at (201) 664-1371.

January 20

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

January 21

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Scotch Plains, bereavement support group meeting, also on Jan. 28, runs through March, 7-8:30 p.m., (908) 889-2100 for additional information.

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Life journeys

Continued from page 1

have listened to what happens to someone after they leave the clinic. The Holy Spirit just works with me to reach out to the kids." Following her procedure, Riley suffered from post-abortion syndrome, which is similar to post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Symptoms of the disorder include nightmares, feelings of guilt, suicidal thoughts, a disconnection from God and can lead to drug and alcohol abuse.

The repercussions following abortion are rarely discussed, Riley argues. "I suffered for 12 years. I want to raise awareness to the kids of the effects of abortion. I want to make it known that you do suffer afterwards."

The trauma of her abortion stayed with Riley for years and she was unaware of what could heal her mental and spiritual wounds. "I knew I needed help. I went from psychiatric counselor to psychiatric counselor and they said that the abortion was not the cause of my problems. I read a church bulletin at Queen of Peace Parish and saw the announcement about Rachel's Vineyard—that is where the healing started. I thought there was nothing that could help me and I was just so disconnected from God. I feel like I made the first step to the healing at Rachel's Vineyard," Riley recalled.

By regularly attending Queen of Peace Parish and going to Rachel's Vineyard, she learned to address her issues and further understand her faith's message about abortion. "I now have a relationship with my unborn daughter," she said. "When I give my testimony, I read a letter to my child. I was given the advice to memorialize and name my daughter. I named her Christine."

Today, Riley has three children and is open about her experiences. "My children know they have a sister in heaven watching over them." Discussing her abortion and the journey to find peace was difficult for Riley in the beginning of her ministry. "It was painful at first to speak about my experiences. However, I feel that God has given me the grace to do this. It is not easy to do what I do—there is no anonymity and few people do this kind of ministry. I feel blessed and, in a way, I feel that educating others is a way of giving back to my unborn child."

Riley has been attending the March for Life in Washington D.C. for almost 10 years, but this is her first year as a chaperone for the Youth for Life group at Queen of Peace. As a regular attendee of the rally, Riley is continually impressed by the amount of young people who are making their voice heard in support of life.

"I feel like I have a connection with young people," she

said. "Sex and drugs are difficult issues for parents to talk about. I never had anyone talk to me about it," Riley lamented. "If just one person sees the march and has a change of heart about abortion, it is all worth it."

One of the students attending the March for Life along with Riley is Kimberly Feliciano, 17, president of the Youth for Life. "This is my second time attending the march and I strongly feel the need to attend," Feliciano said. "One-third of our generation has been aborted. Every life is valuable."

Seventeen-year-old Lauren Rocha, who serves as vice-president of her school's Youth for Life group, also attended the rally last year. "Our country is about freedom and justice but we continue to take the life of innocent children."

Not only are young women passionate about the cause, but young men involved in Youth for Life also plan on attending the march. "Everyone deserves a chance to live," Gage Roman, 16, said. Siraz Ali, 17, previously has attended the March for Life and as a Muslim feels that the issue of abortion unites people of all faiths. "As Muslims, we don't support abortion," Ali said. "I hope to meet new people at the rally and hear their opinions on the issue."

The large number of students and young people going to Washington D.C. is a positive

sign for the pro-life movement according to Jim Sondey, chairman of the archdiocesan Pro-Life Commission. Sondey has attended the March for Life for the past 18 years and notices the commitment of the youth.

"Some young people and high

school students travel a long way to get to the march," he said. "I see families with strollers walking. It is so inspiring when you are walking to the Supreme Court building and look back to the sea of people behind you. It shows that you are not alone."

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John 1:38-39

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Archdiocesan leaders reflect on 'call,' commitment to God

BY WARD MIELE
Managing Editor

AREA—The "call" to religious life triggers a discernment process unique to each person who believes he or she may have been selected by God to serve His Church and its people.

Former vocations director for the Archdiocese of Newark, Msgr. Thomas P. Nydegger, vice rector the past eight years of Immaculate Conception Seminary on the South Orange campus of Seton Hall University, makes an absolute distinction between discerning a vocation and deciding upon the lifelong commitment.

Discernment, he explained, can be either a "complex dynamic" or a "simple" process depending on the individual. In its complex form, the vice rector said, "the tools God uses to speak" to a person are often "unique and varied."

That "inkling" within oneself, the monsignor stressed, is "usually not enough" because a person has to go beyond just curiosity and a peaked interest in a vocation.

The more direct, simple reaction to a perceived calling, Msgr. Nydegger noted, is to "crystallize" the answer to the question "What is God calling me to do?" That answer, said the vice rector, "defines" the call and "supersedes all other realities."

Among the first things someone should do who detects a call to religious life, he recommended, is "seek out someone you trust and get a reaction."

As Most Rev. Edgar da Cunha, Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, sees it, a vocation is "a call to service." God, he explained, "calls us through our gifts." A person should discern those gifts by asking themselves what they are good at, the bishop continued.



Bishop Edgar da Cunha

Discernment in his view is "discovering what you need to do with your life." If one feels called, Bishop da Cunha continued, they should immerse themselves in prayer, reflection and find the guidance of a trusted "spiritual leader" such as a priest. He feels it is important as well to "explore" the "lifestyle" and ministry itself, and ask oneself if they "like" it and "Is it for me?"

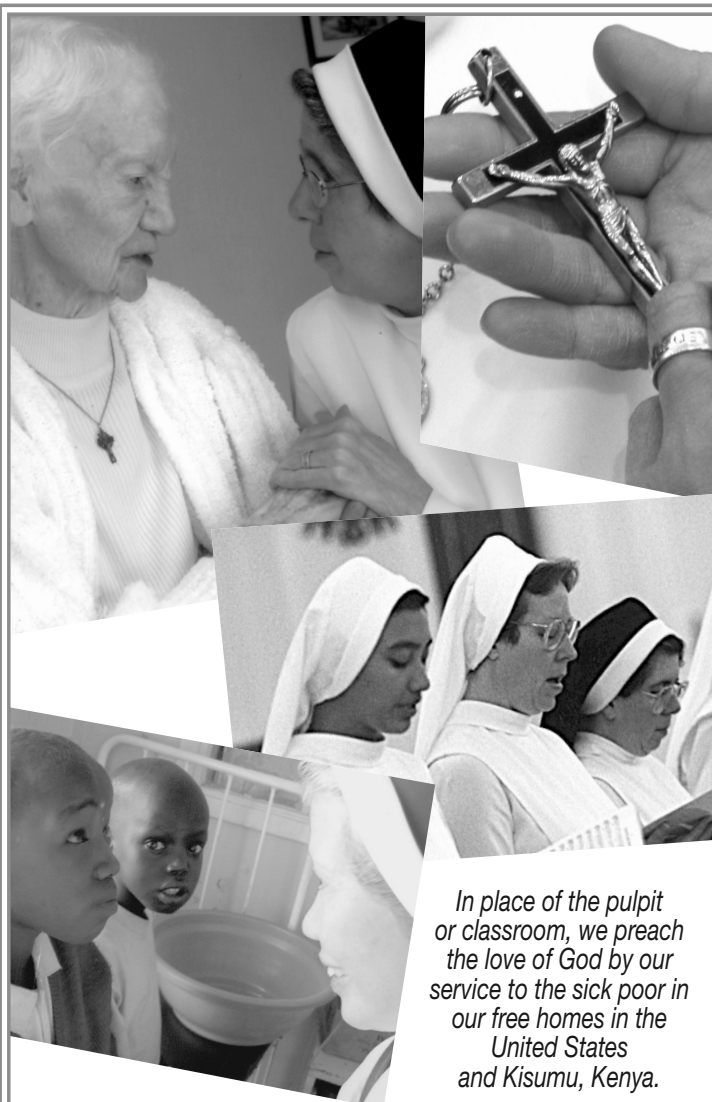
One can never fully know the complete discernment process as is the case with a mathematical equation, Bishop da Cunha cautioned. But if a person feels "comfortable" with a call to a vocation, "if you feel it," then it should be pursued, he added.



Father Joseph Mancini

Father Joseph A. Mancini, director since August of Emmaus House in Newark and executive director of the CYO and Young Adult Ministries for the Archdiocese of Newark (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Oct. 24, 2007), considers a vocation as "a call of God to serve the Church." That call, Father Mancini said, can come from different directions such as parish involvement, attendance at a retreat, being "moved" at a spiritual event or even, sometimes, following a tragedy.

Continued on page 14



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Vast cultural mosaic fuels archdiocesan vocations

Parishes, families inspire commitment to priesthood

BY FATHER BRIAN G. PLATE
Special to The Catholic Advocate

“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”
Luke 10:2

NEWARK—As the Church in the United States prepares for the pastoral visit of Pope Benedict XVI in April, one can expect that among the many talks he will give during his visit, he will—much like John Paul the Great did on each of his pastoral visits—challenge young people to consider committing their lives to Christ and the Church as religious or priests.

The papal visit will be a time of immeasurable grace for the Church in America—may we begin now to pray to be open to that grace—and let us pray especially that young people will respond to Christ’s call to the religious life and ministerial priesthood, which will undoubtedly come forth from the mouth of Christ’s Vicar during those days.

In our archdiocese, we have reason to be grateful to God that

there are presently 126 seminarians preparing to serve the Church of Newark as priests—a number which stands among the highest number of seminarians in the country.

We have been blessed with a steady flow of priestly ordination and the ordination classes of the past two years have been the largest in the nation (see *The Catholic Advocate*, June 6 and May 23, 2007).

The stability and growth of priestly vocations enjoyed by the archdiocese is due to the personal leadership and support provided by Archbishop John J. Myers, the efforts of priests, the work of our archdiocesan seminary, the support of lay organization such as the Knights of Columbus and Serrans, the prayerful support and concern of the faithful of the Church of Newark. Ultimately, however, it is the goodness of the Lord who continually invites men into priestly service and the generosity of those men who have said “yes” to the Lord’s invitation.

The Archdiocese of Newark is a beautiful mosaic of immigrants—some who recently have arrived and seek a new home in this great nation—as well as those with deep roots in the life

and culture of America. At the foundation of the archdiocese are groups of immigrants that came from Ireland, Italy, Poland, Germany and Latin America. Many of these various Catholic countries have experienced difficult periods in their recent histories. In response, the Archdiocese of Newark turned to the Church in Europe to provide priests for the various ethnic groups.

The priestly vocations fostered in the archdiocese are no different. Today’s demographic reports remind us that immigration in the archdiocese remains a constant influence in both the lay population and the clergy. In response to this immigrant population, the archdiocesan Vocations Office has used innovative and proactive means to meet the spiritual needs of our ethnically diverse native-born and immigrant Catholic population.

While a significant portion of seminarians studying for the archdiocese have come from our parishes, the numbers of priestly vocations from our parishes are not sufficient to meet the needs of the archdiocese, which consists of 226 parishes serving 1.3 million Catholics.

In order to provide a sufficient number of future priests to meet the ministerial needs of all the faithful of the Church of Newark,

the Vocations Office has been fortunate to be able to welcome a number of young men as seminarians from other countries such as Columbia, Poland, and the Philippines. While welcoming vocations from other countries is a great blessing, a diocese should and must bring forth vocations from among its own faithful.


Serving as the vocations director, I am occasionally asked what is being done to promote priestly vocations. Often the more specific underlying question is: what programs are being used to promote vocations? Though vocational programs are useful, I am not one to pin my hopes to any given program. I prefer to pin my hopes for the future of priestly vocations on the providential care of God, the prayers and faith of the people of the archdiocese, my brother priests’ passion for vocations, and the generosity and desire of young men to respond to the call of Christ.

While many factors contribute to the promotion of vocations, studies and personal testimonies have shown that

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Father Brian Plate

three factors play a decisive role in the promotion and fostering of priestly vocations. First is the all-important influence of the “domestic church” (the family) in encouraging and providing a

Continued on page 15

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Submitted photo

Robert Whiteley, welfare officer of Catholic War Veterans Post 1710, recently presented a \$500 check to Msgr. Thomas Nydegger, vice rector of Immaculate Conception Seminary. The money will be used to help support a seminarian in the archdiocese.

Discernment

Continued from page 12

What “captures the essence” of a vocation, Father Mancini believes, can be found in St. Augustine’s description of it as “a gentle tugging of the heart strings.”

Discernment, Father Mancini stressed, is “personal” adding “what works for one person might not work for the next.” One should approach a vocation, he went on, as “a whole individual.” A vocation, Father Mancini is convinced, is “what God wants a person to do not what he or she wants to do.”

Once a person has made a commitment to serve God and His Church, Msgr. Nydegger said, a “sense of peace” is palpable. Still, he went on, the discernment process is not over. The time frame for discernment depends on the individual. Msgr. Nydegger com-

mented adding “God asks differently with different people.” At times, he added, discernment can become “a tug of war.”

As he looks at the vocations going forward, Bishop da Cunha sees Newark as better off than other dioceses in the country and even worldwide. A primary reason for that, he pointed out, is “effective recruiting” outside of the archdiocese.

Commenting on a call to the priesthood, Bishop da Cunha said “if it is God’s call by all means follow that call.” Being a priest, he said, will make a man a happy and fulfilled person making a difference in people’s lives.”

From his perspective at Emmaus House, Father Mancini said the usually one-year stay is a time of both discernment and formation. While at Emmaus House, it is a time of prayer, which includes daily Mass and

meeting with a spiritual director.

A former spiritual director, Father Mancini explained that he used to tell those who met with him that it was not his job to do all the talking but to listen. Through a spiritual director one deciding on a religious life can determine “where the Spirit is” in the overall process, Father Mancini noted. A spiritual director is there, he continued, “to sort things out” for someone “who is aware of a calling but not quite sure.”

Helping to foster vocations are Serra Clubs nationwide. Rose Marie Deehan is president of the Serra Club of the Oranges. Noting that Pope John Paul II called Serra Clubs the “vocations arm” of the Church, Deehan said there are 11,500 Serrans in the United States in 327 clubs.

Serrans, the local club president stressed, “love and respect the clergy” and do everything then can do “promote” vocations.

Archdiocesan Salesians mark jubilees

STONEY POINT, NY—Twenty-two Salesian priests and brothers of the New Rochelle Province, including four in or from the Archdiocese of Newark, recently celebrated jubilees.

Jubilarians with ties to the Church of Newark include Father Mario Balbi, S.D.B., of Orange, 60 years ordained; Father John Trisolini, S.D.B., raised in Jersey City, 40 years ordained; Father Thomas Brennan, S.D.B., and Father James Horan, S.D.B., both of Ramsey, 25 years ordained.

Father Balbi was ordained on Dec. 8, 1947, in Brazil, his native country. On Jan. 28 he will reach his 70th anniversary of religious profession as a Salesian. In 1991 he took on port ministry in Newark where is still serves part time.

Father Trisolini was ordained April 15, 1967. He was born in Hoboken on March 2, 1937, and lived in Jersey City until he entered the formation program at Don Bosco College in Newton in 1956.

Father Brennan was ordained on May 22, 1982, at Columbus, OH. He recently became a member of the Salesian community at Don Bosco Prep in Ramsey where he serves as chaplain of the Salesian Sisters in North Haledon and continues his work as Salesian liaison at the U.N.

Father Horan was ordained in Columbus, OH, on May 22, 1982. This past summer he became coordinator of youth ministry at Don Bosco Prep.

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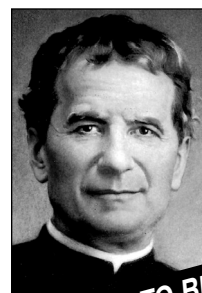
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Submitted photo

PERPETUAL VOWS—Pictured in the photo at left, Sister Mary Christine Ford, O.P. (center) recently professed perpetual vows becoming the newest member of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Caldwell. She was congratulated by Most Rev. Thomas A. Donato, D.D. (right), Auxiliary Bishop of Newark. Sister Arlene Antczak, O.P. (left), Caldwell Prioress, reflected on the similarity of Sister Mary Christine's life journey with that of Mother Catherine Muth, foundress of the Caldwell congregation. Sister Mary Christine enjoyed many years as a member of the Dominican Nuns at the monastery in Newark. When the decision to close the Newark monastery was made in 2003, Sister Mary Christine coordinated the transfer of the Newark nuns to other Dominican monasteries and convents. She was accepted as a member of the Caldwell congregation and ministers as a member of the Pastoral Care Staff at St. Joseph's Hospital in Paterson.



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CALLED TO BE A RELIGIOUS?

Commitment

Continued from page 13

faith-filled family environment, which enables a young man to be open to the call to the ministerial priesthood.

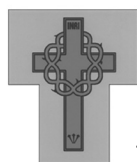
Second is the parish setting. Any Christian vocation is in essence a personal response to the Lord's call to holiness rooted in Baptism—a call which is echoed and nourished in our parishes through the proclamation of the Word of God, the celebration of the Eucharist, the sacraments, homilies and other means of faith formation.

Third is the personal and daily witness given by priests to the wonder and privilege that is to be found in Christ's call to the ministerial priesthood. It has been my experience that almost without exception men who seek to enter the seminary have come from homes where the faith is a lived reality.

These men come from parishes where the Eucharist is celebrated with reverence and the faith is preached in its fullness with enthusiasm and conviction. They come speaking of the influence of a priest who demonstrated his pride and love for his own priestly vocation.

Faith-filled families, continually nourished and sanctified in parishes of vibrant faith, served by joyful and holy priests. Now that sounds like a plan that will bring about an increase in priestly vocations—and then some!

(Editor's note: As stated in the article, Father Plate serves as the director of vocations for the Archdiocese of Newark. He can be reached at (973) 497-4365).



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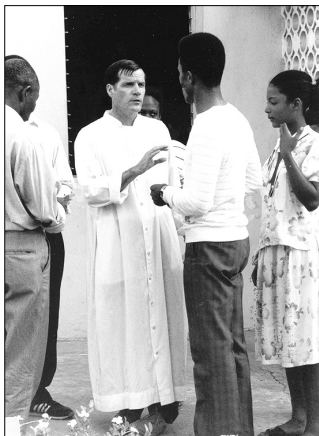
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R.M.F.

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January 25 – 26, 2008

January 25, 8 p.m. – Dramatic reading of Canon Sheehan's *My New Curate*, adapted by John Dandona. Commentary by Dr. Dermot Quinn and Monsignor Robert Emery.

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'07 Review

Continued from page 1

While the momentum against the evil of abortion continued to gain strength, victory in the voting booth came with the defeat of a referendum to fund stem-cell research in the Garden State.

A clear victory for the sanctity of life in a battle the Church will continue to wage. Gov. Jon S. Corzine on Dec. 17 signed legislation abolishing the death penalty in favor of imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

Highlights of the year that just became history follow:

January

For the 34th year, busloads of the faithful from parishes throughout the archdiocese travel to Washington D.C. to protest the infamous Roe v. Wade decision of the U.S. Supreme Court legalizing abortion.

The accomplishments of men and women throughout the Church of Newark working with the faithful of all ages challenged by disabilities are recognized by the New Jersey Coalition for Incisive Ministries.

Students from the Schola Cantorum at Queen of Peace High School in North Arlington travel to Italy and while there perform for Pope Benedict XVI at his first papal audience of the year.

February

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

March

As part of the "Question of Clarity" series at Seton Hall University, the issue of science and the ethics of stem cells and cloning are explored.

The first stage of a strategic healthcare initiative to encourage the state's Catholic hospitals to donate umbilical cord and placenta blood to further adult stem cell research reaches a milestone with announcement of an alliance with 10 hospitals that provide obstetrical services. At the same time the nation's bishops express concern lack of funding could jeopardize therapeutic advances made in using umbilical cord blood for curing diseases.

April

Addressing the annual Women's Day of Reflection, keynote speaker Mary Jo Anderson reflects on the Virgin Mary's importance in Church history and her role as a model for contemporary women.

Students at three archdiocesan schools are active participants in the Green Flag/Green Faith project designed to foster environmental awareness and leadership.

May

Speaking to a crowd of 600 people at Caldwell College, Immaculee Ilibagiza, a survivor of the 1994 Rwandan Genocide, tells her harrowing story.

Once again the Archdiocese of Newark is a national leader with 13 men ordained to the priesthood.

The archdiocese's Permanent Diaconate program announces the addition of two assistant directors for deacon personnel.

June

Bishops, priests, Brothers and Sisters celebrating their jubilees are saluted by the Archdiocese of Newark. Meanwhile, Archbishop Emeritus Peter L. Gerety marks his 95th birthday by celebrating a special Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark.

July

Five thousand Catholics from throughout North America meet at the Meadowlands Exposition Center for the 40th annual Conference of Charismatic Renewal.

August

Marking a major success in its efforts to combat human trafficking, the archdiocese's Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement and Human Trafficking program reunites a victim with her nine-year-old son after more than four years of forced separation.

Parishioners of St. Cecilia Parish in Kearny, which has a large Peruvian population, rally around to help family and friends struggling in the wake of a devastating magnitude-8 earthquake in their native country.

September

The sixth anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks are marked throughout the archdiocese.

The Archdiocese of Newark awards its annual stewardship grants to five schools and six parishes—the third consecutive year that funds have been made available for much-needed maintenance and capital improvement projects.

October

More than a dozen priests and bishops from the Archdiocese of Newark and the Paterson Diocese meet along with Protestant and Jewish leaders to discuss grass roots advocacy of the proposed Urban School Scholarship Act which would provide funding for children to attend non-public and public schools in seven poor performing urban districts.

Archbishop Myers blesses and dedicates the Msgr. Robert Egan Rosary Prayer Garden at the archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center in Kearny.

Norma McCorvey, the plaintiff in the landmark Roe v Wade U.S. Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion, speaks of her deep regret and apologizes for her actions 34 years ago at a Life Issues Seminar at St. John the Apostle Parish in Linden.

November

Sister Helen Prejean, longtime opponent of the death penalty, tells a forum at St. Peter Claver Parish in Montclair that there is a "real chance" New Jersey could become the first state to legislatively abolish the death penalty (see related news item in December).

December

A statewide effort by the Anti-Poverty Network of New Jersey, to raise welfare grants in the Garden State by 10 percent, culminates at the organization's eighth annual convention.

The state's bishops issue a formal statement calling on Trenton to abolish the death penalty. The year ends with Gov. Jon S. Corzine signing legislation to make the New Jersey the first state in the nation to legislatively abolish the death penalty in favor of life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.



Submitted photo
Accompanied by a string orchestra, the new choir performed at a Solemn High Holy Mass on Christmas Eve.

St. John's choir showcases young voices

ORANGE—St. John Parish has a new children's choir already 54 members strong. The choir, under the direction of Domecq Smith, made its debut recently at the Canterbury Village for Assisted Living in West Orange. That was followed by a special Christmas Eve concert at the parish. The choir is for youngsters in grades four through eight and rehearses each Wednesday afternoon after school. Smith and his family are re-

cent converts to the Catholic faith. Smith teaches music theory, rhythm training and music history along with a wide repertoire of music ranging from medieval to contemporary. The choir's goal is to not only teach choral works but primarily to be able to sing within the Liturgy of the Mass and in a concert series beginning at the parish. At the Solemn High Holy Mass on Christmas Eve, the choir was accompanied by a string orchestra.



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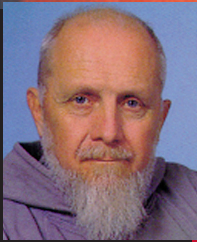
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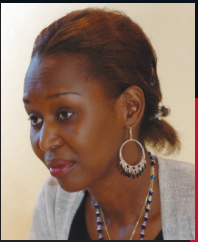
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Success marks Knights' annual food drive

WASHINGTON TWP—Mother Seton Council 5427 of the Knights of Columbus last month held its annual community food drive.

"This was another successful drive. The townspeople were their usual generous selves, and as a result, my brother Knights picked up hundreds of bags of food and non-perishable items. In addition, some monetary donations made. The parcels were delivered to the Helping

Hands Food Pantry in Hillsdale. My sincere thanks to all who donated and to the Immaculate Heart Academy students who helped distribute the flyers the week before and to my brother Knights who worked on the drive," noted drive chairman James Duthie.

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Submitted photo

STOCKINGS FOR THE POOR—Kerriane Masucci and Alex Campbell, seventh grade students at St. Catherine of Siena School in Cedar Grove, helped gather stockings handmade by their classmates and stuffed with donated toys for the poor. Teacher Carol Scalo started the tradition a decade ago. The stockings were sent to the Religious Education programs at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, St. Patrick's Pro Cathedral and St. Rose of Lima Parish all in Newark.



Submitted photo

ENSURING CHRISTMAS SMILES—The Student Council at Immaculate Conception High School in Montclair organized a fund drive for Smile Train, an organization that helps youngsters born with cleft palates. The money was raised by selling an ornament for the school Christmas tree for one dollar. Coordinating the effort were, left to right, senior Ebony Joseph, council vice president, council president Brandon Harris and council vice president Stephanie Peaks.

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