



The Catholic Advocate



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CELEBRATING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Outstanding students, dedicated teachers and top-notch schools are reasons to cheer!

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Sharing notes on Assisi music festival

Maestro Gregory Scime to travel later this year to the birthplace of St. Francis.

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Archdiocese marks Lourdes sesquicentennial Cathedral Basilica to host evening prayer on Feb. 11

BY CHRISTY GUERRA

Special to The Catholic Advocate

Catholics around the world will join together during the month of February to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Lourdes. To honor the Blessed Virgin Mary on the occasion of this sesquicentennial event, Pope Benedict XVI has granted a Plenary Indulgence to those who honor her in a special way.

On this joyful occasion, all of the faithful of the Archdiocese of Newark are invited to participate in a

celebration of evening prayer on Monday, Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m., at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, 89 Ridge Street, Newark, where, having fulfilled certain conditions, they will have the opportunity to gain the Plenary Indulgence. Archbishop John J. Myers will preside at the evening prayer.

The faithful may gain a Plenary Indulgence (the full or partial remission of temporal punishment due to sin) between Feb. 2-11, by fulfilling the usual conditions of celebrating the Sacrament of Penance, receiving Holy Communion and praying for the intentions of the Holy Father. In

addition, the faithful must participate in a Marian devotion before an image of Our Lady of Lourdes set up for public veneration, concluding with the recitation of "The Lord's Prayer," "The Creed," and an invocation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, such as the "Hail Mary."

Those who attend the Feb. 11 observance at the Cathedral will have the opportunity to join in community with parishioners and faithful from all four counties of the archdiocese. During this special observance, a prayer of re-consecration of the archdiocese to the Blessed Mother under the title of "Immaculate Conception" will take place.

The Archdiocese of Newark, since the very beginning of its establishment, has been devoted to the Blessed Mother under the title

of the Immaculate Conception. The name of Mary under that title is patroness of the archdiocese, Seton Hall University and Immaculate Conception Seminary (both located in South Orange), as well as several parishes throughout Bergen, Hudson, Essex and Union counties. Because of these devotions, the archdiocese continues to hold a special relationship with the Blessed Mother.

The first appearance of the Blessed Mother to Bernadette Soubirous (born Jan. 7, 1844) took place in Lourdes, France—at the grotto of Massabielle—on Feb. 11, 1858. While out collecting firewood with her sister, Tionette, and a schoolmate Jeanne Abadie, Bernadette—who was 14 years old at the time—saw a vision of a lady

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Catholic healthcare to remain in Newark

Saint Michael's becomes hub for the city

BY JAMES GOODNESS

Director of Communications

NEWARK—As part of a comprehensive hospital transition plan designed to preserve a much-needed Catholic healthcare presence in Newark, the boards of Cathedral Healthcare System, Cathedral Health Services, and Columbus Hospital have approved a strategic transaction with Catholic Health East (CHE).

Although this move signals a strong new sponsorship and expansion for Saint Michael's Medical Center, the comprehensive hospital transition plan, which was unveiled on Jan. 10, includes the phasing out of acute-care services at Columbus Hospital and establishing a new healthcare mission for Saint James Hospital—the two smaller hospitals in the Cathedral Healthcare System.

In addition, CHE, which is based

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Saint Michael's Medical Center Inc.—the newly established affiliate of Catholic Health East—will work with Newark officials in addressing healthcare needs of the city's Ironbound and North Ward residents following the phase-out of acute care at Saint James Hospital and closure of Columbus Hospital. Primary care and pre-natal services, as well as walk-in family care centers, are among the services being evaluated to serve the needs of area residents.

Advocate photo – Ward Miele

Catholic Schools— a partner in NJ's educational efforts

BY ARCHBISHOP JOHN J. MYERS

This column about Catholic Schools Week is going to be a little different. As you all know, Catholic schools in New Jersey—indeed, throughout the country—are facing a number of challenges, the largest among them how to ensure their continued viability in the face of lower enrollments and higher costs.

Those of us who sponsor schools, administer and teach in them, and work to ensure their future know that this largest challenge is a classic “Catch-22.” The cost of everything rises and so the cost of educating children increases. When you spread that cost among a group of students, it is higher than some parents can afford. As a result, students leave the school, and that means that the cost per student has to increase again. More students then leave because of cost, and so on.

Even while this is happening, every diocese, and especially this great archdiocese, has much to be proud of and to celebrate during Catholic Schools Week: superior, credentialed teaching staffs—an ever-growing number with advanced degrees—that are committed to the mission of Catholic schools and to the children they serve; curricula that is based on the NJ core curriculum, but that the schools augment and expand upon through innovative approaches and enhancements; an education program centered on the Catholic faith that doesn't stop at one period of “religion” every day, but imbues values and morals throughout the day, in every subject, at every opportunity; a majority of schools that have achieved Middle States certification for excellence; students from all walks of life, from all economic, racial, ethnic and religious backgrounds who enter high school, college and adulthood better prepared, better educated and more motivated to achieve standardized test scores; that demonstrate clearly that parents who choose to send their children to Catholic schools have made the right investment in their children's future.

To sum it up: Catholic school

students are not taught to pass a test. They are taught to succeed in life intellectually, physically and spiritually. The parents of some 140,000 children in this state are well satisfied with the gift of a Catholic education.

Remember, Catholic schools view their role as that of a partner in education with parents. We do not take the place of parents; we work with them to form the whole child academically and morally. This is a major difference between our schools and public schools.

I mention these simple and yet compelling facts because, at this moment in our state's history, the people of New Jersey are again grappling with the same issue: the challenge of maintaining schools of excellence at a time of rising costs.

And, as with Catholic schools, the problem appears to be one of money. The size of the problem is massive. By some estimates, the average cost to educate a child in a New Jersey public school is in the area of \$15,000 per year. In some of the special, or “Abbott” districts, the cost seems to run even higher, approaching \$20,000 or more.

All citizens in the state are suffering from the burdens of the increases in property taxes that seem never to end, even as Trenton promises relief. For parents who send children to Catholic or other nonpublic schools, the financial burden is even higher, because they pay twice—once through taxes to the state, and again to the school of their choice.

Some people have no sympathy for those of you who pay for Catholic schools. “It's your decision,” they say. But as the newspapers tell us almost every day, many of the public schools in our state are not providing our students with the quality education and moral background that they need.

And so, here I come to the point of my column: I firmly believe that school choice is the best solution for education, in general, in New Jersey. There are solid financial and ethical reasons for my belief.

First, the financial reason. The average cost of education in a Catholic elementary school in New Jersey falls somewhere around \$5,000 per child—one-third the cost of the average public school. When the state ac-



Advocate photo — M. Gabriele

Archbishop John J. Myers (front row, center) last fall met with officials from Christ the King Preparatory school—the innovative Cristo Rey facility sponsored by the Archdiocese of Newark and endorsed by The Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth and The Marist Brothers of the Schools. Christ the King, which opened last September and is located at 239 Woodside Ave. in Newark, represents a beacon of opportunity for inner-city students and reflects the archdiocese's commitment to providing families with choices for quality education. Pictured with Archbishop Myers are (front row, left to right) Sister Maureen A. Sullivan, S.C., business manager; Pamela Rauscher, Ph.D., director of admissions; (back row) Father Edward Glynn, S.J., president; Kevin P. Cuddihy, principal; and James Cochran, a social studies instructor.

knowledges that it can save in the area of \$10,000 for every child whose parents elect to take advantage of a Catholic education, then it will be saving taxpayers real dollars, every year, by taking advantage of the open seats that exist in Catholic schools throughout the state.

Here, the savings can be enormous. If we were to double the number of children attending Catholic schools today, the additional 140,000 students who enter Catholic schools could produce a savings to New Jersey taxpayers of almost \$1 billion per year. The savings do not end there, either. The need for additional classroom space would be lessened, because without those students, new construction wouldn't be as necessary. And, with fewer students attending public schools, the state can accomplish its goals of providing smaller classes without the need for new buildings and new staff.

Think of it: the 140,000 Catholic school students in New Jersey alone save New Jersey's taxpayers \$2.1 billion annually. Without Catholic schools, that's how much more the state would need to spend to provide the education that our schools already provide. That's not considering any new construction, nor does it take into account the other religious and private schools in the state.

But there is an equally compelling reason why New Jersey finally needs to recognize that it

cannot achieve real savings or progress in school funding without incorporating parental choice. It is a justice issue. Parents have a right to determine where a child should be educated, so long as the education meets the state's curriculum guidelines. Catholic schools do that and more.

I continue to support parental choice in schools on many fronts. Direct support for all students is one area, and I know that many in Trenton and elsewhere in the state do not like this idea. They have their reasons, but those reasons are prejudicial to Catholic and non-Catholic parents who struggle to meet tuition, household expenses, and property taxes. I continually hear the mantra that “choice” is something everyone should have. If so, then the right to choose where a child can learn his or her ABCs should be equally regarded.

One area where we can demonstrate that school choice can lead to better lives is through the legislation called the Urban Schools Scholarship Act (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Oct. 10, 2007). This is a bill I and the other NJ Catholic bishops have been supporting vigorously and vocally. However the bill still languishes in Trenton because some believe it threatens the status quo.

On a pilot basis, this bill calls for the creation of corporate tax credits to provide funding to parents in seven districts in the state so that they can send their children

to a school of their choice. Rev. Reginald Jackson of the Black Ministers Council and I, along with clergy of other faith groups, and numerous grassroots parents' groups have called for this bill to be posted and enacted, because it will prove to the people of this state that a state's obligation must be to provide the means for parents to select the right educational choice, rather than make the choice for them. This bill is limited in scope—only in seven of the poorest and most educationally deprived communities in the state. But it is a start and it should be passed. A similar program has been operating successfully for a number of years in every school district in Pennsylvania; the states teachers union sup-
pays it financially.

This week, we celebrate the best of Catholic education (see the special section in this edition, beginning on page 19). Among the best elements of Catholic schools is the commitment to justice. In order to ensure that Catholic education and Catholic schools can continue to give our children solid and exceptional academic and moral values, I urge all of us to work toward true school choice, in whatever way we can.

Catholic schools are partners—not only with our parents and students, but with the state as well. With school choice, we will ensure that New Jersey is successful in its goals of educating in the best way possible.

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FREQUENCY FOR THE YEAR

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

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AAA '08 campaign kicks off Feb. 2, 3



Advocate photos – M. Gabriele

FAITHFUL FUND-RAISERS—The 2008 Archbishop's Annual Appeal (AAA) will kick off its initial pledge weekend Feb. 2 and 3 as the 226 parishes throughout the archdiocese launch the fundraising campaign, which has a goal of \$11.75 million. Carla Gonzalez, executive director of the archdiocesan Development Office, which coordinates the AAA, said the theme for this year's campaign will be "Many Faces, One Mission," celebrating the cultural diversity found in Bergen, Essex, Hudson and Union counties. The final tally for the 2007 AAA campaign was \$11.5 million, a 6-percent increase from the previous year. More than \$1.5 million was rebated to parishes that exceeded their goal. AAA funds support Catholic Charities, Catholic schools, the Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministries and the formation of archdiocesan priests. Pictured at the AAA commencement reception, held Jan. 8 at Nanina's in the Park, Belleville, are (above photo, left to right) Father Steven Conner, pastor of Holy Trinity Parish, Fort Lee; Archbishop John J. Myers; Father Fabio Roy de Jesus Brenes Chaves, pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary/Saint Patrick Parish, Elizabeth; and Father Jozef Krajnak, Ph.D., associate pastor of Saint Francis Parish, Hoboken. The three priests received plaques to recognize their respective parishes for surpassing their 2007 goals. In addition, Father John P. McGovern (right), pastor of Saint Michael Parish in Cranford, was lauded as his parish once again registered the highest overall percentage of parishioners (48 percent) to participate in the AAA. Other parishes cited for their high level of participation included Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Ridgewood, and Holy Rosary, Edgewater. Contact the Development Office at (973) 497-4130 or visit the Web site (www.rcan.org/AAA) for details on the 2008 AAA campaign. Gonzalez noted that an unidentified sponsor funded the Jan. 8 kickoff reception.



Archbishop's business and labor reception on March 4 to salute Vanderbeek, Pocino

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE
 Editor

NEWARK—Jeffrey Vanderbeek, chairman and managing partner of the National Hockey League's New Jersey Devils franchise, and Raymond Pocino, vice president and eastern regional manager of the Laborers International Union of North America, will be honored at the 15th annual Archbishop's Business and Labor Recognition Reception on Tuesday, March 4. The event will be held at Mayfair Farms, 481 Eagle Rock Ave., West Orange.

Proceeds from the reception support the archdiocese's Youth and Young Adult Ministries and CYO athletics. To date, the an-

nual event has raised more than \$1.3 million for various youth and young adult programs.

Archbishop John J. Myers, in a letter promoting the reception, praised Vanderbeek and Pocino as "devout Catholics" and respected leaders in northern New Jersey.

William T. Mullen, president, NJ Building and Construction Trades Council, is serving as the reception chairman. The reception begins with cocktails and food stations at 6 p.m.; the program is slated to start at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are priced at \$200 per person. Contact Gerry Ricci-Menegolla, office manager and executive secretary at the archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center, 499 Belgrove Dr., Kearny, at (201) 998-0088, ext. 4154 to reserve tickets.

Chairman of migration committee sees hope for immigration in the U.S.

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The immediate future looks a bit grim for those trying to improve the lot of immigrants in the United States. Presidential candidates are trying to outdo each other in espousing harsher approaches to handling illegal immigration. There's essentially no chance of a comprehensive immigration bill moving through Congress until after the presidential election in November and the public rhetoric about illegal immigrants seems to be getting more and more acidic. But Bishop John C. Wester of Salt Lake City, the new chairman of the U.S.

bishops' migration committee, is optimistic that the Church's faith-based position on aiding immigrants eventually will win the day. "It's about building bridges, not building fences," he said.

Pope tells police: see God in all

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Meeting with the Italian police who ensure his security when he is outside the Vatican, Pope Benedict XVI said humanity will struggle to see itself as one fami-

ly unless people believe in God and recognize all were created by Him. "Without the transcendent foundation, which is God, society...ceases being a community of brothers and sisters called to form one large family," the pope said. He asked the officers to make sure that in all their dealings with the public they consciously seek "the face of a brother or a sister whom God places on your path."

Photos offer peek into Vatican's past

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Scholars, history buffs and the public at large will now be able to peek inside some of the Vatican's

historical black-and-white photograph collection. The written contents of the Vatican photo service's entire Giordani Collection have been transcribed into a searchable Microsoft Word file that can be sent, free of charge, to anyone on request by e-mailing photo@ossrom.va. Thanks to the new resource, some half-million images, mostly black and white and taken between 1933 and 1975, will be available more easily to the public for research and sale. This new electronic file is a modest but significant start to the Vatican photo service's long-term plans of updating and improving how it archives and preserves its collections.



CNS photo
Pope Benedict XVI baptizes a baby during Mass inside the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican Jan. 13. The pope told the parents of the 13 infants he baptized to "be the first witnesses of an authentic faith in God."

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St. Teresa maestro warbles praises of Assisi music festival

BY WARD MIELE
Managing Editor

SUMMIT—Sacred Music is a big part of Gregory S. Scime’s life and since 2001 he has traveled to the medieval town of Assisi, Italy—the birthplace of St. Francis—with the goal of assuring others of the same spiritually uplifting and satisfying experience.

For the past three decades Scime has been director of music at St. Teresa of Avila Parish. He is also an adjunct professor of piano at Seton Hall University and head of the Music Department at Marylawn of the Oranges High School—both in South Orange.

Scime “created” the Assisi music festival, now known as Assisi Musica, as a way of perpetuating the experience of several choir pilgrimages he had made to Europe. Saying he felt “called” to establish an annual program,

Scime emphasized he searched for a “valid reason” to do so. He found it.

After Vatican II, Scime explained that Sacred Music became very important. However, he lamented, many parish positions were being filled by amateurs. That realization was the springboard for the festival, which has as its primary focus to compliment the course of study that a music student would experience at a university or conservatory.

Another driving force for Scime was that at the time music schools were not telling students they could work at parishes.

Through the festival, Scime said he wants to “enlighten” students and professionals alike that parish work is both “important and musically satisfying.”

Why Assisi? Its rich musical heritage was a factor, but so was

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Advocate photo – Ward Miele

Gregory Scime, music director of St. Teresa of Avila Parish in Summit and director of Assisi Musica, warms up his fingers while seated at the piano in the Music Department of Seton Hall University. The spiritual element of Sacred Music “takes you to another place, especially during the liturgy,” Scime explained. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the Manhattan School of Music, a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Boston College, as is an associate and past dean of the American Guild of Organists.

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St. Stephen School, Kearny, John Burland concert, 9:30-10:30 a.m., RSVP with John O'Connor at (877) 506-1459.

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St. Elizabeth Parish, Wyckoff, G.I.F.T. Adult Education program, also on Jan. 31, Feb. 7 and Feb. 14, 7:30- 9 p.m., cost: \$35 per class, (201) 444-5690.

January 26

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Scotch Plains, Mass to honor Father John F. Kennedy's retirement, 5:30 p.m., (908) 889-2100.

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

January 27

St. Cassian School, Upper Montclair, Knights of Columbus' Free Throw Competition, for ages 10-14, 2 p.m., (917) 744- 5700.

January 28

St. Joseph School, East Rutherford, open registration for the 2008-09 school year, through Feb. 1, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., (201) 939-3193.

Holy Family Parish, Nutley, Rosary Society meeting, 7:45 p.m., call Joyce Ritacco at (973) 235-0668.

Knights of Columbus Council 6386, Short Hills, Free Throw Contest, at St. Rose of Lima School, 6-9 p.m., call Vincent Nascone at (973) 379-2561.

February 1

The Sodality of the Children of Mary of St. Teresa, Jersey City, councilor's meeting, 4:15

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Good Shepherd Chapel,
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Gate of Heaven Chapel,
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February 6

Holy Cross Chapel,
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p.m., call Katherine T. Crossan
(201) 689-1471.

Marist High School, Bayonne, Saint Michael College Liturgical Choir performance, 10 a.m., call Marist High School at (201) 437-4544.

February 2

Ascension Parish, New Milford, Mardi Gras Beefsteak/Karaoke Night, 7:30 - 11:30 p.m., cost: \$27, call Marguerite Morris at (201) 385-0159.

St. Margaret of Cortona Parish, Little Ferry, Deacon

Gregory C. Quinn will speak at all masses, also on Feb. 3, (201) 641-2988.

Knights of Columbus Council 2188, Westwood, Beefsteak dinner, 7 p.m., cost: \$20 for adults/ \$11 for children, \$5 surcharge at the door with no reservations, call Keith Dugan at (201) 358-0632.

February 3

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



Submitted photo

SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS DINNER—The 53rd annual Spiritual Directors' Dinner of the Essex-West Hudson Federation of Holy Name Societies was held at The Essex Manor in Bloomfield. Proceeds helped fund \$1,000 annual contributions to both the Vocations Office and the Seminary School Fund of the Archdiocese of Newark. Most Rev. John W. Flesey, Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, was the main celebrant and homilist at a Mass preceding the dinner at St. Valentine Parish in Bloomfield. Bishop Flesey (second from right) received a plaque in recognition of his participation. Making the presentation were, left to right, James P. Hughes, first vice president; Norman S. Karpf, president and Father John J. Laferrera, spiritual director of the federation and pastor of St. Philomena Parish in Livingston.

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Hospitals

Continued from page 1

in Newtown Square, PA, will work with city officials in conducting a needs assessment to determine what health services are needed in neighborhoods city-wide, particularly the North Ward and the Ironbound.

Cathedral Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Rev. Msgr. Ronald J. Rozniak, said that the Cathedral hospitals' chronically poor financial performance, inability to access capital and stagnant utilization prompted the development of the hospital transition plan.

Msgr. Rozniak explained that the regulatory portion of the plan involves filing a Certificate of Need (CN) application for the transfer of Saint Michael's Medical Center to CHE, as well as CN applications for the closure of acute-care services at Columbus Hospital and Saint James Hospital.

"Financial projections show that, without implementation of the plan, all three of our hospitals will fail by mid-March," Msgr. Rozniak stated. "Cathedral simply cannot overcome the tremendous financial hurdles it now faces. Our operating model, which values the availability of 'neighborhood-level' acute care, served the community well for most of the past 140 years, but a variety of changes in recent decades now make the model fundamentally unsupportable.

"The financial condition of Cathedral is critical. Our hospital transition plan embraces the reality that small urban hospitals, with overlapping service areas, simply cannot survive in today's market," Msgr. Rozniak continued.

Columbus Hospital posted losses of almost \$68 million for the period 1999 to year-end 2007. Saint James Hospital's losses total \$38.9 million over the past five years, with its losses in 2008 projected to reach \$14 million. Combined losses at the three hospitals—now growing at the rate of \$6 million per month—are expected to exceed \$134.6 million for the period 2004 through year-end 2007.

Having explored a number of opportunities for potential partnerships with other providers in recent years, Cathedral approached CHE, which sponsors Lourdes Health System in Camden and Willingboro and St. Francis Medical Center in Trenton. CHE proffered a letter of intent in June 2007, and the due-diligence process that followed revealed a poor and deteriorating financial picture of the three-hospital system. Following these legal moves,

the Cathedral hospital transition plan began to develop.

"To ensure the survival of Saint Michael's Medical Center, CHE will borrow approximately \$250 million through a bond sale," CHE Chief Transition Officer Alexander Hatala said. "Approximately \$130 million of the borrowed funds will be devoted to capital and information technology improvements. The balance would be used to refinance existing Cathedral hospital debt and provide working capital."

"From the start, we have known that any agreement would need to address the community's needs and be consistent with the state's healthcare rationalization goals," Hatala explained. "Months of discussions with state officials and other stakeholders led to the understanding that closure of acute-care services at the two community hospitals would be necessary if we were going to take advantage of the New Jersey Health Care Facilities Financing Authority's Hospital Asset Transformation Program (HATP) to complete the transaction. We are now poised to take decisive steps to bring new life to New Jersey's oldest Catholic hospital."

The bond financing will be issued through HATP. This permits the Health Care Facilities Financing Authority to offer the bonds at a lower interest rate than would normally be available to a borrower with the financial track record of Saint Michael's Medical Center and also makes it possible for some principal and interest payments to be forgiven under certain limited circumstances.

In exchange for the use of HATP bond financing—without which this transaction could not happen—the enabling statute requires the borrower to advance healthcare rationalization goals of the state—the closure of acute-care hospitals to reduce excess bed capacity. In this case, the statute requires the continued operation of Saint Michael's Medical Center and the closure of acute-care services at Saint James Hospital and Columbus Hospital.

"Using the essentiality measurement tool included in the Reinhardt Commission's interim report, we believe Saint Michael's Medical Center to be an essential safety-net hospital that must be maintained. The preservation of Catholic healthcare in Greater Newark remains our top priority," Msgr. Rozniak said. "We are very pleased that Saint Michael's Medical Center and its rich tradition of top-quality, compassionate care will continue under the sponsorship of Catholic Health East—a robust organization with a

proven record of commitment to urban Catholic hospitals. Despite the imminent closure of acute-care services at Saint James Hospital and Columbus Hospital, CHE has also agreed to assume responsibility for all three hospitals' liabilities—important news for employees, vendors and bondholders. Funding will be sought through the Hospital Asset Transformation Program for the servicing of the system's bond debts, vendor debts and certain employee expenses that will be incurred during the transition process."

*Financial
projections show
that, without
implementation of
the plan, all three of
our hospitals will
fail by mid-March.
Cathedral simply
cannot overcome
the tremendous
financial hurdles
it now faces.'*

—Cathedral Chairman and
Chief Executive Officer,
Rev. Msgr. Ronald J. Rozniak

The closure of Columbus Hospital originally had been planned to coincide with the March 15 completion and launch of the new healthcare mission for Saint James Hospital. However, Cathedral has committed to delay closure for at least 30 days beyond that date, but not later than June 1, to allow CHE to work with city officials, such as Councilman Anibal Ramos, and Dr. Bart DeGregorio, in a collaborative effort to ensure the smooth transition of healthcare delivery in the North Ward and to determine

what services may remain at the site.

In addition, representatives from CHE, the office of Newark Mayor Cory A. Booker, and the Newark Department of Health will work with Councilman Augusto Amador and Councilman Ramos as members of a healthcare needs-assessment task force for the Garden State's largest city. This task force will solicit public input to help identify what additional health services are needed in neighborhoods citywide, particularly the Ironbound and the North Ward.

"We will be encouraging patients now served by our community hospitals to discover for themselves why Saint Michael's Medical Center has long enjoyed its reputation for patient care and compassionate service," Msgr. Rozniak said. "Doctors associated with Saint James Hospital and Columbus Hospital have been invited to seek expedited privileging at Saint Michael's Medical Center, and employees displaced by the changes at our community hospitals will be given preference in applying for open positions there. Throughout the weeks ahead, we will be keeping all Cathedral employees apprised with respect to the transition schedules and assistance available to affected employees."

Although the Archdiocese of Newark is the religious sponsor of the three Catholic hospitals, Cathedral Healthcare system operates as a separate corporation.

"I am thankful that Cathedral Healthcare and Catholic Health East have been able to make sure that a Catholic hospital remains part of the life of the City of Newark and that the Catholic mission of providing necessary care for the poor will continue," Archbishop John J. Myers said regarding the recent transaction. "I also am grateful that the State of New Jersey and Gov. Jon Corzine have recognized the pivotal role that Saint Michael's plays in this community as a safety net provider of acute care."

CHE (Web site: www.che.org) is a multi-institutional Catholic health system co-sponsored by 12 religious congregations and Hope Ministries. It provides the means to ensure the continuation of the Catholic identity and operational strength of the sponsors' health ministries, which are located in 11 eastern states from Maine to Florida. The system includes 33 acute-care hospitals, four long-term, acute-care hospitals, 36 freestanding and hospital-based long-term care facilities, 12 assisted-living

facilities, five continuing-care retirement communities, seven behavioral-health and rehabilitation facilities, 25 home health/hospice agencies and numerous ambulatory and community-based health services.

The Franciscan Sisters of the Poor established Saint Michael's Medical Center in 1867. It is a 337-bed regional tertiary care, teaching and research center in the heart of the city's business and educational district and is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. It houses state-of-the-art technology, such as the latest diagnostic and therapeutic procedures.

Saint Michael's was the first medical institution in New Jersey to perform open-heart surgery and the first to develop a cardiac catheterization program. It is home to The Heart and Vascular Institute, which offers a comprehensive array of innovative cardiac treatments and procedures. The N.J. Department of Health and Senior Services rates Saint Michael's as one of the leading medical centers in northern New Jersey for open-heart surgery.

The Cathedral Regional Cancer Center, located on the hospital campus, provides patients with world-class cancer treatment. The Connie Dwyer Breast Center at Saint Michael's Medical Center offers innovative diagnostics and procedures for the treatment of breast cancer and other breast diseases. Services include film-screen and digital mammography, high-resolution and screen-breast ultrasounds, CAD (computer-aided detection), breast MRI and stereotactic biopsy. It also houses screening services and a host of educational and support programs.

Saint Michael's has long enjoyed an outstanding reputation as a premier teaching and research institution and remains an international leader in the treatment and study of infectious diseases, such as HIV/AIDS and hepatitis. A major teaching affiliate of the Seton Hall University School of Graduate Medical Education, the New England College of Osteopathic Medicine, and Saint George's University School of Medicine in Grenada, the hospital offers residencies and fellowships in anesthesia, cardiology, emergency medicine, gastroenterology, hematology/oncology, infectious diseases, nephrology, pulmonary/critical care medicine and podiatry.

Resolutions for 2008: life, unity, reconciliation

I was at a birthday party recently. Among the guests were a couple married a little over a year ago. The wife, Jean, was beaming with joy as she shared in words the good news her body was already proclaiming, that she was pregnant.

Her husband, Stephen, was every bit as proud—joyfully letting every guest view on his iPhone recent sonogram exposures of the tiny yet clearly recognizable child.

Modern technology continues to reinforce, with ever-improving clarity, the belief we Catholics hold that life begins at the moment of conception. On this 35th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision, it is hard to imagine that we as a nation will continue to allow the wanton destruction of babies in the womb through legalized abortion very much longer.

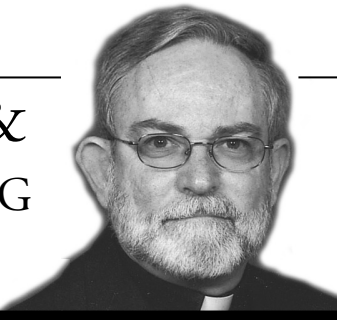
The annual Right to Life marches in Washington, D.C. also have had their effect (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Jan. 9). Legislators have had to take notice. Presidents have spoken in favor of life. Even the “Jane Roe” who precipitated the action of the Supreme Court decision has become a Catholic and now speaks out against abortion (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Oct. 24, 2007).

Nevertheless, much work is yet to be done. More minds

Maybe this Lent will be a time for you to deepen your relationship with God.

SEEING & BELIEVING

By Rev. Msgr.
Richard J. Arnhols



and hearts have to change. Technology can help, but personal conversations and public demonstrations are every bit as important. Equally essential are the Project Rachel ministry and Rachel's Vineyard retreat weekends, offered by our archdiocesan Respect Life Office for people who have undergone abortions and are seeking reconciliation and healing. Father Joseph A. Meagher is the director of the Respect Life Office, which is based in Linden (phone: (732) 388-8211).

This year is also significant because it marks the 100th anniversary of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, established by the Franciscan Friars and Sisters of the Atonement at Graymoor in Garrison, N.Y. These converts from the Anglican and Episcopal Church fervently believed that Jesus truly wanted us all to be one. Their prayers bore more significant fruit after the Second Vatican Council's Decree on Ecumenism. Catholics and Protestants began to set foot in each other's churches for

services of common prayer. Dialogue increased among congregants and theologians.

Some dramatic areas of agreement have been reached, yet much still needs to be reconciled. While not as many ecumenical services are specifically celebrated for unity between Jan. 18 and 25 anymore, many communities have Christian Clergy Associations that sponsor services in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday (Jan. 21), Easter Sunrise and Thanksgiving. Interfaith groups also host seminars to better understand each other's religions, and work together at homeless shelters and food pantries for the less fortunate among us.

Reconciliation and healing, prayer, fasting and almsgiving are all focal points of the season of Lent, which this year begins on Feb. 6. Parishes will offer retreats and recollection days, penance services and Stations of the Cross, faith-sharing programs like “Why Catholic?” and “Disciples in Mission.”

Maybe this Lent will be a time for you to deepen your relationship with God, and to invite someone else to accompany you to whatever spiritual growth opportunity may benefit the both of you. As St. Paul says in his letter to the Thessalonians, “Always seek what is good (both) for each other and for all. Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit.” (1 Th 5: 15b-19).

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

Reflecting on the many names that identify Jesus

Readings: Isaiah 8:23-9:3; Psalm 27; 1 Corinthians 1:10-13 and 17; Matthew 4:12-23.

Are you aware of the story surrounding the choice of your name? Ideally it should edify us to know the reason a personal name is chosen and, in most cases, we have a saint after whom we may strive to model our lives.

For the ancient Hebrews the name of a person declared the inner reality of the individual's life or the goal to which the person was destined. So in the biblical tradition, the name manifests the person and reveals something of the mystery constituted within each individual.

Thus, our prayers begin “in the name of the Father...” in order to alert us to the divine presence in our lives, revealing the inner life of the Triune God.

The name bestowed on the infant Jesus (Yeshua, “The Lord saves”) conveyed faith in His divine mission to save His people from their sins (Matt. 1:21). We note the bond between Jesus and “His people” expressed by the title Emmanuel (Isaiah 7:14), meaning “God is with us.” The Church experiences this healing presence especially when her members are united in prayer

(Matt. 18:20) and respond to her Lord's commission. “Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age” (Matt. 28:20).

St. Paul presented the Gospel to people in Corinth after the year 50, established a Christian community and then moved to Antioch in Syria (Acts 18:1-18). A few years later, when he learned of problems within this church, he composed a lengthy letter to set matters straight.

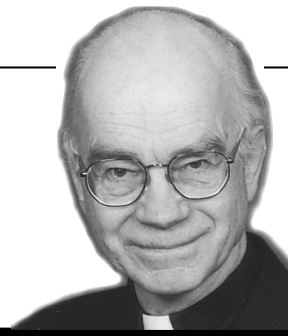
Although serious moral and doctrinal issues have arisen, the first question requiring resolution is the rivalry that has divided the small community into factions. What if some had been impressed by the authority of Cephas (Peter) or the eloquence of Apollos? No Christian leader would want to obscure the central role of Christ in the life of the Church. What folly to mistake the messenger for the Lord who had commissioned him.

“I urge you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ... that there be no divisions among you...” (1 Cor. 1:10). St. Paul thus introduced the discussion by appealing to the common life that these Christians came to share in Baptism. Through this sacrament they were plunged into water to signify their entry into Christ's death and resurrection. As adopted children of the heavenly

SUNDAY READINGS

3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time
(Jan. 27, 2008)

By Rev. Lawrence Frizzell



Father, they became brothers and sisters in the Son.

Invoking the name of our Lord, St. Paul indicated the serious nature of his plea. The name manifests the presence and authority of Jesus as the Christ (Messiah in Hebrew) and Lord. The first title drew attention to the Anointed One—descendant of King David and heir to prophetic promises. The title “Kyrios” may be translated as “Lord,” indicative of power and dominion; for Greek-speaking Jews, this term substituted for the sacred Name of God revealed to Moses (Exodus 3:14). It could imply the divinity of Christ, as in the hymn incorporated into the Epistle to the Philippians. “Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (2:11).

Paradoxically, the glorious titles given to Jesus are linked inextricably to His suffering and death. Indeed, Moses and David

had received the title “Servant” to designate their obedience to God. But who would postulate that the Messiah would be persecuted unto death? The very suggestion by Jesus that His ministry would provoke a violent reaction led Peter to remonstrate with the Master. Jesus took this to be a temptation. “Get behind me, you Satan (adversary)! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do” (Matt. 16:21-23).

The Apostles and other teachers of the Paschal Mystery faced similar objections from both Jews and Greeks. Those preaching the Gospel cannot cater to the rules of our judgment nor merely express human wisdom. Rather St. Paul

proclaimed Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles (1 Cor. 1:23) because he had learned that the Gospel teaches the message recorded in Isaiah the prophet. “My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord” (55:8).

Jesus did not come to snatch the faithful arbitrarily from the world and its sinful alienation from God. Rather, He is Emmanuel, providing the pattern of response to the human vocation and sustaining us as we strive to conform ever more to His image as the first-born Son (see Romans 8:29). The titles of Christ and Lord belong to Jesus by birthright, yet He also won them by His victory over sin and death. Thus did He unite His will to that of the Father, giving His life in service, showing that “God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom and God's weakness is stronger than human strength” (1 Cor. 1:25).

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

Paradoxically, the glorious titles given to Jesus are linked inextricably to His suffering and death.

Lourdes

Continued from page 1

“dressed in white, wearing a white dress, a blue girdle and a yellow rose on each foot, the same color as the chain of her rosary; the beads of the rosary were white.”

Although the Blessed Mother did not speak to Bernadette until their third meeting, they prayed the rosary together. It was not until the 16th apparition that the Blessed Mother identified herself as “the Immaculate Conception.” This was significant because, although Bernadette did not know it at the time, Pope Pius IX had declared belief in Mary as the Immaculate Conception to be a doctrine of the Catholic faith just four years earlier.

On Feb. 26, 1858, the Blessed Mother told Bernadette to drink from a stream, even though none was present. Bernadette scratched at the ground and found water to drink. That stream flows today and many believe its waters provide healing powers. Presently, the apparition site at Lourdes contains the location of the grotto and the stream where the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared.

The 18th and final apparition took place on July 16, 1858. Since then, 6 million people visit Lourdes each year on pilgrimage. Thousands of the faithful have claimed to have been healed by bathing in the waters there.

The Church, in 1862, recognized the apparitions at Lourdes as authentic. Pope Pius XI, on Dec. 8, 1933, named Bernadette a saint. She died on April 16, 1879.

(Editor's note: Father Thomas A. Dente, director of the archdiocesan Office of Divine Worship, contributed to this article.)



Advocate photo — M. Gabriele

The Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart maintains a chapel that houses a permanent statue of Our Lady of Lourdes. Within the chapel, Pope John Paul II prayed before the Blessed Sacrament on Oct. 4, 1995. Parishes and schools throughout the Archdiocese of Newark have long maintained special devotions to the Blessed Mother. There will be evening prayer at the Cathedral on Feb. 11 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Lourdes, France.

‘Great Adventure’ seminar to explore history of the Bible

BY CHRISTY GUERRA

Special to The Catholic Advocate

NEWARK—“Great Adventure—A Journey through the Bible,” a seminar focusing on salvation history and its relationship to the Catholic Church through Scripture study will be held Saturday, March 8, at the archdiocesan Youth and Young Adult Retreat Center, 499 Belgrove Dr., Kearny.

Catholic author, theologian and television commentator Jeff Cavins will lead the seminar, which is sponsored by the Archdiocese of Newark’s Office of Evangelization.

Check-in at the Kearny center begins at 8:30 a.m. and the seminar, which is slated to conclude at 5 p.m. Registration fee (for those who sign up before Feb. 18) is \$30; \$35 after that date. Registration includes seminar materials and lunch.

The seminar is a Catholic Bible learning system

designed to teach the full narrative of the Bible. Developed by Cavins in 1984, the “timeline seminar” identifies the books of the Bible that tells the story of salvation history. It’s designed to provide a foundation for Catholics who want to learn more about Scripture study. The program begins with an overview of “How to Read the Bible,” providing the Catholic approach to Scripture, then takes participants on a tour of God’s miraculous story of salvation history.

The timeline includes education on Genesis and the Early World; the Patriarchs; the Exodus story; the 40-year wandering of the Israelites in the desert; their entrance into and conquest of the Promised Land; the establishment of the Royal Kingdom; the division of Israel and Judah; the Exile in Babylon; and the coming of the Messiah.

After 12 years as a Protestant pastor, Cavins returned to Catholicism and dedicated his life to developing The Great Adventure Bible study system. He is the founding host of EWTN’s (Eternal Word Television Network) show “Life on the Rock,” as well as the author of the “Amazing Grace” series of books.

Contact Liliana Soto-Cabrera, coordinator of the archdiocesan Office of Evangelization, by phone at (973) 497-4353 or via e-mail at sotolili@rcan.org for more information on the March 8 seminar.

Chancery office gives guidelines for Lent

NEWARK—The office of Rev. Msgr. John E. Doran, Vicar General, Moderator of the Curia and Acting Chancellor for the Archdiocese of Newark, has issued guidelines for the 2008 Lenten season.



Msgr. John E. Doran

The days of both fast and abstinence during Lent are Ash Wednesday (Feb. 6) and Good Friday (March 21). The other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence. On a day of fast, only one full meal is permitted. Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast. On a day of abstinence, no meat may be eaten.

Those who have reached the age of 14 are obliged by the law of abstinence. The obligation to observe the laws of fast and abstinence “substantially,” or as a whole, is a serious obligation.

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

The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (“Easter duty”) extends from the First Sunday of Lent, Feb. 10, to the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity, May 18. According to Canon Law, all the faithful, after they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year.

Lent is the time for the faithful to be ever more attentive to the word of God and prayer, to prepare themselves by penance for the renewal of their baptismal promises at Easter. The virtue and practice of penance is a necessary part of the preparation for Easter Sunday (March 23). Penitential practices such as fasting and abstinence are to be encouraged by the Church.

Copies of the archdiocesan Lenten regulations will be published in parish bulletins on Sunday, Feb. 3.

Day of Reflection set for March 1 at SHU

NEWARK—The Women’s Commission of the Archdiocese of Newark will host its annual Day of Reflection on Saturday, March 1, at Seton Hall University, 400 South Orange Ave., South Orange.

The program begins with Mass at 10 a.m. featuring Archbishop John J. Myers as the celebrant and Valerie Sue Muller as the cantor. The forum will feature presentations by radio host, Teresa Tomeo and Janet Morana of the “Silent No More Awareness Campaign.”

Registration for the event is \$30 per person before Feb. 1 (\$35 after Feb. 1) and \$25 for students, seniors and religious. Registration on the day of the event will open at 9:15 a.m. The group rate for 10 or more participants registering together is \$15 per person. Lunch is included for all registrants.

To register, send name, address, telephone number, e-mail address and parish name, along with a check made out to “Women’s Commission, Archdiocese of Newark” to: Women’s Commission, Archdiocese of Newark, Archdiocesan Center, 171 Clifton Ave., Newark, NJ 07104-0500.

Pamela Swartzberg (e-mail: swartzpa@rcan.org). Call the Archdiocesan Center at (973) 497-4008 or visit www.rcan.org/womcom online for details.

Polish hospitality greets new members of faith community

BY MELISSA MCNALLY
Staff Writer

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Bayonne, has only had six pastors since its inauguration in 1898 and dedication on Christmas Day a year later. In 1901, when the demand for a larger space for the growing parish continued, Msgr. Sigismund Swider built the second brick church and the first rectory.

became the second school under the direction of the Felician Sisters. Bishop John J. O'Connor, former Archbishop of Newark, dedicated the third building on Oct. 16, 1917. A complete restoration of the church took place in a half century ago.

In subsequent years, a parking lot, a parish center and a garage were added. After 1983, the school was reconstructed to accommodate safety regulations. In the late 1990s, under Father

Cultural School, run by Barbara Wawioroko.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, which serves elementary school students, is the only the Catholic school in Bayonne with Middle States accreditation. Out of the 170 students enrolled, 90 percent are parishioners. The students, a valuable part of the parish community, prepared decorations for the Advent Giving Tree. The tree is part of the ministry of the Mount Carmel Ladies Guild. The guild distributes almost 800 gifts to the elderly and poor every Christmas.

Encouraging more participation from young parishioners is a central focus of Msgr. Marczewski. "The Youth Group grew in numbers and Young Adult Ministry began," he said. "Some former social events have



Advocate photos — M. Gabriele

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Bayonne

With the completion of the second church in 1903, the original wooden structure was converted to a parish school. In 1910, the present church was erected and the previous church building

Anthony J. Kulig, the church was repaired for the parish centennial in 1998.

Originally founded to serve the needs of Polish immigrants, the Bayonne parish maintains an 85-percent Polish presence. Today almost half of the Polish parishioners are new immigrants from Europe.

Msgr. Ronald J. Marczewski has been pastor for almost three years. "The parish was founded to serve the ministerial needs of the large Polish immigration that took place in the 1900s," he said. "The parish always had a 'Polish' character. Presently, we still have a sizable immigrant population as well as many first-, second- and third-generation Polish-descent parishioners."

Due to the location of the parish, varied ethnic groups are inevitable and also add to the inclusive spirit of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish. "Our immigrant nature makes for tolerance of other cultures. The immigrant foundation makes us special. There is a great pride in Polish culture and Polish cultural accomplishments," Msgr. Marczewski added.

Polish traditions and customs that surround the holidays of Christmas and Easter are observed. Eucharistic adoration and public processions are practiced. The community warmly embraces the Pulaski Day parade and Marian devotions. Active lay ministries, such as the Mount Carmel Guild Ladies and young adult groups, enrich parish life while strengthening the community. On Saturdays, children attend the parish's Polish



reappeared, like the New Year's Eve party and parish picnic. On Nov. 17, we held a youth rally centered on the Thanksgiving season. The youth spent the day in prayer, community-building exercises and sorting food for local food pantries."

Florence Dobies has been a parishioner her entire life, over 70 years. Dobies said she has seen many Polish traditions stay constant in the parish and has seen new traditions emerge. Dobies is an alumna of Our Lady of Mount Carmel School and was involved in the junior

With over 2,000 registered families, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish maintains its traditional Polish character while welcoming new Hispanic and Filipino parishioners. "If you see our 12:15 Sunday Mass, it's like the League of Nations," Florence Dobies, longtime member of the parish community, joyfully observed. Father Robert A. Pachana serves as the religious education director, while Father Jerzy Zaslonka works as the youth minister. Both are parochial vicars.

and senior choir. She held several positions at the parish including secretary for the evening CCD classes, treasurer for the centennial committee and is currently a trustee, Eucharistic minister and lector.

After graduating from the school in 1943, Dobies remained in contact with the instructors that impacted her life. "Msgr. Anthony Tralka, a former pastor, was such a loveable man. I stayed in touch with him until he died. I remember my eighth grade teacher, Sister Mary Sylvina, saying that after graduating, none of her children even gave her a Christmas card. I always remembered that and kept in touch with her for almost 60 years until she died about three years ago," she recalled.

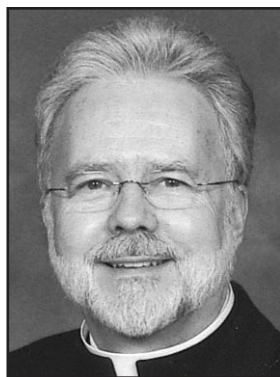
Parish traditions such as the Easter morning Resurrection

Mass and Christmas Midnight Mass are a favorite of the longtime parishioner. "The Easter Mass is done at 5 a.m. and the church is dark except for candles," she said. "The parish starts to light up 10-15 pews at a time starting from the back; it is incredibly beautiful. People from all over come to see our church decorated for Easter and Christmas," Dobies remembered fondly.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish has weekday masses, which Dobies holds in high regard. "We have three masses every day and one is in Polish. Not many parishes have a daily Mass. We also have a May Crowning and a Christmas Eve dinner that celebrates our Polish heritage."

(Our Lady of Mount Carmel is located at 39 East 22nd St., Bayonne. Call the parish at (201) 339-2070 for more information on its activities.)

Meet the Pastor



Rev. Msgr.
Ronald J. Marczewski

Birthday: April 7, 1948

Hometown: Roselle Park

High School: St. Peter's Prep, Jersey City

Seminary: Immaculate Conception Seminary, Mahwah

Undergraduate: Seton Hall University

Graduate School: Immaculate Conception Seminary, Fordham University

Ordination: May 25, 1974

Hero: Pope John Paul II

Favorite Saint: St. Teresa of Avila

Favorite Sport: NY Giants Football

Favorite Food: Peking Duck

Favorite Subject in School: Art

Favorite Movie: Casablanca

Last Book Read: With No One As Witness by Elizabeth George

Occupation if I Weren't a

Priest: Doctor

African Commission installs Kassimou as president

SOUTH ORANGE—Dosso Kassimou, a graduate student at Seton Hall's Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations, has been named president of Newark's newly created African Commission.

A swearing in ceremony for Kassimou and the entire Commission took place Jan. 10 in the Municipal Council Chambers of City Hall.

A South Orange resident and native of Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire (the Ivory Coast), West Africa, Kassimou, will graduate from Seton Hall in May with a dual degree in diplomacy and international relations and public ad-

ministration. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Cocody in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

Last year Kassimou served as president of Seton Hall's African Student Association. Along with other students from the Whitehead School, he helped launch a non-profit organization focused on distributing medical supplies and organizing soccer tournaments to foster peace and unity in Africa.

Kassimou's work with the Newark African Commission is an outgrowth of his interest in bringing people of African descent together to work toward assisting

people living in Africa today.

"I feel great about the opportunity to work with the African Commission," Kassimou said. "The commission will help Africans, African Americans and African diaspora communi-

ties contribute to the development of the City of Newark whether at the economic, cultural or political level."

Created by Mayor Cory A. Booker last summer, the African Commission works to strengthen

the ties between African and African American communities. It promotes policies and awareness about social, economic, political, educational and health issues concerning these communities in Newark.



Submitted photo

FIRST PLACE—Stephanie Senkevich of Washington Township, a student at Westwood Regional High School and a member of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Washington Township, captured first place in the Girls' 14-15 age group category of the annual NFL Pepsi Punt, Pass & Kick contest, sponsored locally by Knights of Columbus Council 5427, held before the recent Jets-Cleveland game at Giants Stadium. Senkevich is now eligible for statewide competition with the winners advancing to the finals at the Super Bowl in February. Two years ago she was the Giants' Tri-State Champion in the girls' 12-13 age group with her sister, Jennifer, capturing the same honors in the 14-15 age group.

Gateways to the Fullness of Life Sixteenth Annual Spirituality Convocation

April 12, 2008

Keynotes:

"The Upside Down Church:
Megatrends in Catholicism"

with John L. Allen Jr.,

Senior Correspondent, *National Catholic Reporter*

"Resurrecting the Body:
Reflections on the Physicality of Spirituality"

with Dr. Colleen Griffith,

Faculty Director of Spirituality Studies at
Boston College's Institute of Religious Education
and Pastoral Ministry

Featuring 18 workshops on prayer, worship,
ministry and spirituality

Two keynote presentations and a choice of
workshops will also be offered for our
Spanish-speaking guests.

Sponsored by the College of Saint Elizabeth's
Center for Theological and Spiritual Development

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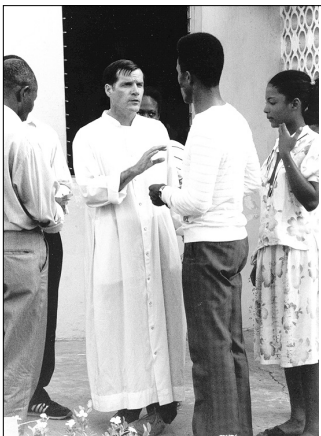


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Assisi Musica

Continued from page 5

the assistance offered by the local pastor and city officials said Scime. Of all the pilgrimages he made to Italy, Assisi consistently provided the best experience, he added.

Music always was a family tradition in the Scime household when he was growing up. Recalling an unusual set of circum-

stances as a soldier in the Army from four decades ago that "only God can explain," Scime initially was in the infantry when he was suddenly reassigned to the band as a pianist. He had never asked for the transfer, Scime stressed. While he enjoys the piano, its main benefit is that it prepared him to play the organ, which is now his primary instrument.

The annual Assisi Musica gath-

ering this year will take place July 1-18 and will include 50 internationally renowned singers and instrumentalists. Not a year goes by, Scime commented with obvious satisfaction, that several participants "change direction" in their musical careers and go into Sacred Music as a result of the festival.

Along with the festival's musical agenda there is also a spiritual retreat. Participants usually attend

religious exercises during the day and a concert at night. There is also plenty of sightseeing. The festival has "made major contributions to the cultural life of Assisi," he said.

Scime is concerned, however, that Assisi has been losing tourists due to the extensive damage of a major earthquake that struck the province of Perugia in September 1997. The earthquake killed 10 people and damaged the Basilica of San Francesco, which was built between 1228 and 1253. St. Francis was born in Assisi in 1182.

Ever since the earthquake, many travel agents removed Assisi from their agendas. That, he stresses, is a big mistake because the major renovations and repairs in the village are now complete. He urges tourists to go to Assisi, citing the fact it is "one

of the most important religious sites in the world." Assisi is located 90 miles north of Rome in the Umbria region.

A delegation representing the mayor of Assisi was in New Jersey earlier this month promoting tourism. Among its stops was St. Teresa of Avila Parish to honor it for its role in establishing Assisi Musica. Msgr. Robert E. Harahan is the pastor of St. Teresa of Avila.

In addition to Scime, festival board members include Dr. Gloria Thurmond, faculty associate in the Seton Hall Department of Art and Music; Estelle Gibbs, a music teacher at St. Peter School in Belleville and Our Lady of Libera School in West New York; and Bobbie Boulware, adjunct professor of music at Seton Hall.

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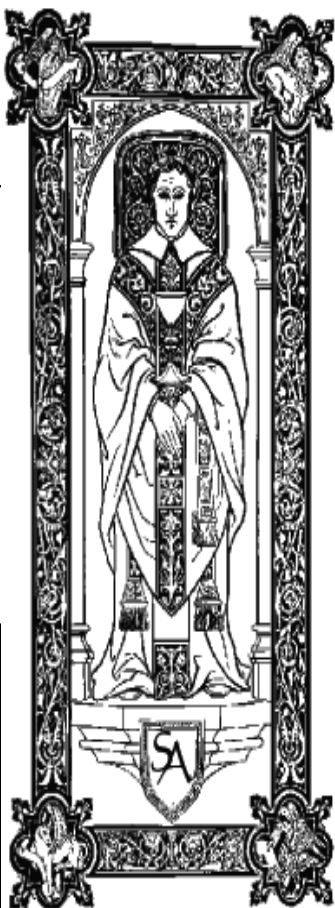
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Knights plan celebration Feb. 5 for Shrove Tuesday

NORTH ARLINGTON—The Queen of Peace Knights of Columbus will hold their second annual Shrove Tuesday celebration on Feb. 5, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Knight's council hall, 194 River Rd. Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday, marking the beginning of Lent.

Donations are \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors and \$4 for children under 12 years of age. Tickets are available at the Queen of Peace rectory, after all masses and at the Council Hall after 4 p.m. Tickets will be sold on an advanced sale basis only and will not be available at the door. Call (201) 991-9606 for more information.

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Seminary sponsors 'Face of God' retreat at Mendham site Feb. 2

SOUTH ORANGE — "Beholding the Face of God," a retreat sponsored by the Parish Partnership Program of the Immaculate Conception Seminary's School of Theology's Institute for Christian Spirituality (ICSST), will be held Saturday, Feb. 2, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Quellen Spiritual Center, 350 Bernardsville Rd., Mendham.

Admission to the retreat is \$35 per person, which includes lunch. Pre-registration is required. Contact Deborah Kurus at ICSST by phone at (973) 313-6329 or via kurusdeb@shu.edu for details.

Jennifer Kaalund, M.H.A., will serve as the keynote speaker for the event, addressing the topic: Beholding the Face of God in Scripture." Other speakers at the retreat will include Marie Harwanko, Stephen Kass and Carol C. Keilp-Tobin.

Before pursuing a career in theology, Kaalund was a healthcare executive, holding various positions at Empire Blue Cross/Blue Shield and John Hopkins Hospital. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in theology with a concentration in biblical studies at ICSST.

"Beholding the Face of God

in People who are Difficult to Love" is the topic for Harwanko, M.A.P.M. She serves at St. Bernard of Clairvaux Parish in Bridgewater as the commission leader for evangelization.

Kass, M.S., will discuss "Beholding the Face of God in the Mirror." He is involved in a variety of adult faith formation ministries, including Rite of

Christian Initiation of Adults and Men's Cornerstone.

The topic for Keilp-Tobin, M.A.T., is "The Face of God at Work—Co-creating in the Vineyard." She received her master's degree in moral theology in 2006 from ICSST. Keilp-Tobin recently helped launch the "Micah Senior Executive Project," a series of Ignatian leadership retreats.



Submitted photo

MAGNIFICAT BREAKFAST—Magnificat, a ministry to Catholic women, recently held a prayer breakfast at Assumption Parish in Emerson. Liliana Soto-Cabrera (center), coordinator of the archdiocesan Office of Evangelization, addressed the group about the Cross and forgiveness. There are Magnificat chapters located throughout the United States. Pictured with Soto-Cabrera at the prayer breakfast are, left to right, Melanie Suter, Patricia Patterman, Elizabeth Tobin and Gail Artola.

Fr. Ken Evans, Pastor of Church of the Assumption, Roselle Park invites you to consider an

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Qualifications: Masters degree in Theology, Pastoral Studies, or a related field with a concentration or certificate in Youth Ministry is required, along with a minimum of five years experience as a full-time, paid, parish coordinator of Youth and Young Adult ministry. Diocesan experience preferred. The position requires outstanding communication, interpersonal and leadership skills, along with proficiency with computers and other technologies. Bilingual skills are a plus. The successful candidate will be a practicing Roman Catholic in good standing, with a demonstrated commitment to the mission of the Catholic Church.

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Applicants should submit a letter of interest, philosophy of Catholic education, resume and the 3 professional references by February 15, 2008 to:

Brother Ralph Darmento, F.S.C.
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171 Clifton Avenue, Newark, NJ 07104-0500

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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 answered. Between 4th and 9th day, you will see roses 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.)

J.M.D.

NOVENA TO ST. JUDE

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. Amen. Say this prayer nine times a day for nine days. Published in gratitude. Thank you, St. Jude.

C.H.M.

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.

R.C.

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.B.

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.

St. Vincent's Hospital Announces the Launch of the Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton Prenatal/Neonatal Supportive Care Program



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St. Vincent's Hospital Manhattan's Department of Neonatology has launched the Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton Prenatal/Neonatal Supportive Care Program, an innovative program that offers medical, psychological and spiritual support to parents who have had, or are expecting, a baby with an increased risk of potential disabilities.

"As prenatal testing becomes more and more sophisticated, more parents are learning the heartbreaking news of an adverse pregnancy," said program director and chief of Neonatology Dr. Mary-Joan Marron-Corwin. "St. Vincent's is moved by this opportunity to provide compassionate and supportive care to families facing such challenging circumstances."

Families receive concrete help, throughout the difficult transitions from pregnancy to parenthood and in some cases to bereavement, from a team of professionals that includes physicians, nurses, medical ethicists, pastoral care workers, bereavement counselors, social workers, and geneticists.

For more information about the Mother Seton Supportive Care Program at St. Vincent's, contact Dr. Marron-Corwin at (212) 604-7862.

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Parish to host career workshop

RIDGEWOOD — The Career Resources Ministry of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, 1 Passaic St., will hold its next career workshop Feb. 10 beginning at noon.

The workshop is open to anyone seeking employment or anticipating possible unemployment; parish membership is not required. Designed to provide jobseekers with the tools to find a new position,

the workshop will make available professionals who are members of the parish ministry.

Workshop leaders will discuss preparations for interviews, evaluating job offers and how to negotiate. A question-and-answer session will follow the formal presentation. Those planning to attend should bring a current resume. Contact Carol Shea at (201) 447-4215 for further information.

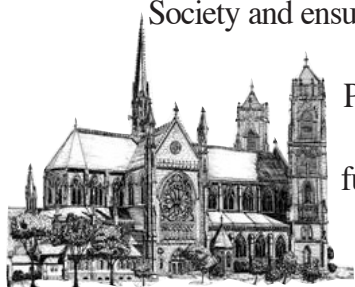
The Legacy Circle Planned Giving Society



The **Legacy Circle** was established to honor the many individuals who believe in the future of the Archdiocese of Newark, and their parish, and want to support the mission of the Church, which they have demonstrated by making a provision in their will, or establishing a gift annuity or trust. Special Archdiocesan functions scheduled throughout the year honor and thank those donors who enable us to continue to serve God's people in this great Archdiocese.

On **Tuesday April 22, 2008 at 2 p.m.**, we will host our annual **Legacy Tea and Prayer** service, beginning with prayer in the Lady Chapel at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, and ending with tea in the Archbishop's residence for the members of the Society.

We would love for you to be a part of it! It is a truly wonderful group of people. If you have designated the Archdiocese or your parish in your will, you are eligible to become a part of the group. All you need to do is notify us so we can enroll you in the Society and ensure you are appropriately recognized.



Please call or e-mail Anne DeVivo DeMesa in the Office of Planned Giving. She would be pleased to talk with you further about your plans and involvement in the Church and also to answer any questions at (973) 497-4048 or e-mail: demesaan@rcan.org

Or simply fill out the form below to request more information and mail to: The Archdiocese of Newark
Planned Giving Office, 171 Clifton Avenue, Newark, New Jersey 07104.

Dear Anne,

- ☐ I (we) have remembered the Archdiocese in my (our) Will. Please enroll me (us) in the Archdiocesan Legacy Circle.
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- ☐ I (we) want to review our Will and would like information to assure that my (our) intentions are recorded correctly.
- ☐ I (we) do not have a Will, but would like to meet with you to learn more about Wills.
- ☐ Please contact me about a personal visit. The best time to call me is: _____.
- ☐ Please send information about the **Legacy Circle Planned Giving Society**.

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Submitted photo

As part of their annual trip to Colombia at Christmas, Varela family members organized a day of fun that included games, live entertainment and lunch. The family distributed Christmas gifts to some 200 needy children and their families, as Sebastian Varela served as a "junior" Santa Claus.

Varela family's outreach sparks smiles in Colombia

WEST NEW YORK—It has become a long-distance family tradition during the Christmas season.

For the past eight years, Sebastian Varela, a third grade student at Our Lady of Libera School, and his family have traveled to their native Cali, Colombia, to bring clothing and toys to indigent children.

Varela family members taking part in the gift giving include an older brother, Brian, mother Maritza Cucalon and father Diego Varela.

"The sense of service these two loving parents have instilled in their sons is truly remarkable; Sebastian is learning at a very young age what the spirit of Christmas really means," Ana Maria Castaneda, principal of Our Lady of Libera, said.



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Advocate photo — M. Gabriele

Benefiting from its fundraising efforts, Seton Hall University recently unveiled two landmark cultural centers: the Joseph A. Unanue Latino Institute and the Charles and Joan Alberto Italian Studies Institute. Pictured here is the Walsh Library dome, one of the familiar symbols of the SHU campus. The fundraising campaign concluded on Dec. 31.

SHU collects \$150M to create a 'bold vision'

SOUTH ORANGE—Seton Hall University (SHU) successfully completed the most ambitious fundraising initiative in its history, raising over \$150 million—more than two and a half times the totals of the university's two previous campaigns combined.

"Achieving the Ever Forward campaign's financial goal enabled Seton Hall to implement a bold vision to transform the campus into a 21st century environment conducive to learning," said Msgr. Robert Sheeran, president of Seton Hall. "From new facilities and programs to improved environments and relationships, Ever Forward has positioned Seton Hall to continue on a path of excellence."

More than half the funds raised through the Ever Forward campaign went toward program enhancements and endowments, which enables the University to attract the best students and faculty. More than 31,000 alumni, parents, faculty, corporations, foundations and other organizations showed their support for Seton Hall and its initiatives through contributions; many more donated their time and energy.

With campaign support, SHU increased its endowment by 400 percent, providing \$40.1 million for scholarships, professorships and university programs. The university boosted its scholarships, financial aid and program support through the combined annual funds; built a new \$35-million science and technology center (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Oct. 24); and renovated various campus landmarks including the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception.

SHU recently began renovating the University Center to provide a welcoming space that brings the university community together. It will build a new home for the John C. Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations, establishing an international presence on campus. SHU also has strengthened its Catholic character by establishing the Center for Catholic Studies and the Center for Vocation and Servant Leadership and established two endowed professorships: the Cooperman-Ross Chair in Jewish-Christian Studies, in honor of Sister Rose Thering, and the LaMotta Endowed Professorship in Italian Studies.

Roselle's Faver gets 'commended'



ROSELLE—Timothy Faver, a senior at Roselle Catholic High School has been named a "Commended Student" in the 2008 National Merit Scholarship program.

Of the over 1.4 million students who took the preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship, only the top 5 percent receive Commended Student status.

Faver is an editor of the school's literary magazine, *Vox Leonis*, and is an assistant to the director of this year's dramatic production "The Miracle Worker." He is a member of the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society.

Brother Owen Ormsby is the principal of Roselle Catholic (Web site: www.rosellecatholic.org), which is part of the Marist tradition of education.

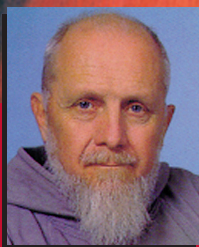
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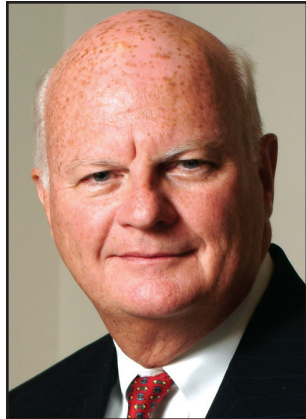


Center for Spiritual
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Medicine academy elects Trinitas executive Horan

ELIZABETH—Gary S. Horan, FACHE, president and chief executive officer of Trinitas Hospital, has been elected a fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine.

Horan joins more than 2,000 New York Academy of Medicine fellows—a distinguished group of physicians, academicians and other health professionals involved in issues relevant to the health of the public.



Gary S. Horan, FACHE

Founded in 1847, the academy is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit institution whose mission is to enhance the health of the public through research, education, community engagement and evidence-based advocacy.

Horan is chairman of the Greater New York Hospital Association and the board of directors of the Hospital Alliance of New Jersey. He is a member of the board of directors of the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce. A former chairman of the Hospital Association of New York State, he was a member of the board of governors of the American College of Health Care Executives and is a fellow (FACHE) of that organization.

He joined Trinitas Hospital in July 2001 a year after consolidation in January, 2000 of Elizabeth's two hospitals: Elizabeth General Medical Center and St. Elizabeth Hospital. Horan earned his bachelor's degree in economics from St. Peter's College, Jersey City, and a master's degree in healthcare administration from The George Washington University, School of Government and Business, Department of Health Care Administration, Washington, DC.

Fellows play an important role in the vibrancy of the New York academy. Today's fellows are leaders in the fields of law, social work, nursing, education and research as well as healthcare and medicine.

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Submitted photo

JULIA'S GIFT FROM THE HEART—Julia Regan (center), a sixth grader at St. Catherine of Siena School in Cedar Grove, last month initiated a project at the school to collect donated gifts for patients at the Oncology Unit of Clara Maass Medical Center, Belleville. Because many patients were too ill to shop for their families during the Christmas season, the hospital created a gift card that allowed them to shop from their beds. Through Regan's efforts, the cart was stacked high with gifts. Pictured with Regan at the hospital are, left to right, Raylene Langish and Roslyn Dilligard.

Pope reflects on needs of elderly

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The elderly who are sick require and have a right to love, understanding and comfort both from Church workers and from their family members, declared Pope Benedict XVI.

"Human life is a gift from God, and we are all called to safeguard it

always," the pope said during a recent meeting with participants in a Vatican conference on the pastoral care of the elderly who are sick.

The Pontifical Council for Health Care Ministry sponsored the conference for chaplains, healthcare providers and theologians, with topics ranging from

new medical treatments to pastoral care for aged priests.

"If it is true that life in each of its phases is worthy of maximum respect, in some ways it is even more true when life is marked by old age and illness," Pope Benedict told conference participants.

"The modern mentality of efficiency frequently tends to marginalize these suffering brothers and sisters of ours, as if they are just a burden and a problem for society," he explained.

Anyone who believes in the dignity of the human person knows that they must be respected and supported as they face the difficulties of the last stage of their lives, the pope continued. In addition to pain relief, he said, the dying have a right to "understanding, comfort and constant encouragement and accompaniment."

Pope Benedict said pastoral workers and family members must help the elderly "prepare serenely for death, which we Christians know is a transition to the embrace of the heavenly Father, who is full of mercy and tenderness."

The pontiff said he wanted to reaffirm a request Pope John Paul II made to scientists and doctors, asking them to discover ways "to prevent and cure the illnesses related to aging without ever giving in to the temptation to resort to practices to shorten a sick and elderly life, practices that would be forms of euthanasia."

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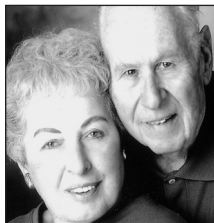
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Proclamation

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WHEREAS, the 345 Catholic schools in the State currently provide over 140,000 students with quality educational programs that also emphasize the formation of moral values and a commitment to community service; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's Catholic schools are dedicated to providing their students the opportunity to develop their intellectual capacities to the fullest;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JON S. CORZINE, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim

JANUARY 27 THROUGH FEBRUARY 2, 2008

AS

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS' WEEK

in New Jersey, and commend their faculties, students, and parents for their dedication and devotion to quality education.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this twenty-seventh day of January in the year two thousand eight, the two hundred thirty-second year of the Independence of the United States.

GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR:

NINA MITCHELL WELLS
SECRETARY OF STATE



Catholic schools 'light the way'



Catholic Schools Week, the annual celebration of Catholic schools and their contribution to their communities and the nation, will be held Jan. 27 through Feb. 2. For more than three decades, the nation's Catholic schools have spent the last week of January recalling what makes Catholic education special.

The celebration is a joint project of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), the world's largest private, professional education association, and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), the national public policy organization of U.S. bishops. Both groups are based in Washington, D.C.

The theme for this year's celebration is "Catholic

Schools Light the Way," which highlights the mission of Catholic schools to provide a faith-based education that supports the whole child academically and spiritually and prepares students for future success.

"As a result of the excellent, multifaceted education they are receiving today, our students will 'light the way' to a brighter future through their leadership in our communities, government, businesses and families," said Dr. Karen M. Ristau, NCEA president.

Across the country, the 7,800 elementary, middle and secondary Catholic schools will observe the week with special masses, community service projects, academic and artistic showcases, and athletic and family events.



Submitted photo

BUDDING ARTIST—Carol Crump (left), art teacher at Trinity Academy in Caldwell, congratulates student Avery Cole at the Art Educators of New Jersey Art Show at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) in Newark for her still life watercolor on display through Feb. 2 at NJPAC's Victoria Theater. Avery did the watercolor as an eighth grader. She is now a freshman at the Academy of St. Elizabeth in Convent Station.



Submitted photo

June Butchko's classes are "an exciting place to be," according to Sister Donna Marie O'Brien, principal of St. John the Apostle School. "She motivates her students to strive to do their best." The National Catholic Educational Association has chosen Butchko, pictured at left with students, as the 2007 Region 3 "Distinguished Teacher" of the year.

NCEA selects June Butchko as 'Distinguished Teacher'

CLARK/LINDEN—June Butchko has worn many hats as a dedicated educator at St. John the Apostle School since 1988.

She is the founder and moderator of the school's chess club and

newspaper, and has served as a math curriculum co-author and technology co-chairperson for the Schools Office of the Archdiocese of Newark. However, none of those jobs has been as rewarding to Butchko than that of being a teacher of eighth grade students.

This year the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) has recognized her dedication, selecting Butchko as the recipient of the 2007 Region 3 (New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware) Distinguished Teacher Award. She will be honored at the NCEA's annual convention, March 25-28, in Indianapolis.

The 105th annual NCEA conference will be held at the Indiana Convention Center. The National Association of Parish Catechetical Directors (NPCD) convocation, sponsored by NCEA's Religious Education Department, meets in conjunction with the convention, bringing together parish catechetical leaders.

The convention will feature 350 sessions and workshops on all levels of Catholic education. Established in 1904, the NCEA (Web site: www.ncea.org) is the largest private professional education organization in the world, representing 200,000 Catholic educators serving 7.6 million students.

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Elementary schools strive for Middle States status

BY MELISSA MCNALLY
Staff Writer

AREA—Catholic elementary schools throughout the four counties of the Archdiocese of Newark continue to raise the bar in education through accreditation by the Middle States Commission on Elementary Schools (MSCES).

All 102 Catholic elementary schools in the diocese are required to go through the accreditation processes by spring of next year. According to Sister Patricia Butler, S.C., associate superintendent for elementary schools, noting that 98

percent of the archdiocesan grammar schools already are accredited or are in the process.

MSCES (www.ces-msa.org), based in Bala Cynwyd, PA, is a nonprofit, membership organization dedicated to evaluation and accreditation. The mission of the organization is to develop and apply standards and protocols, support educational communities, guide school improvement and to encourage innovation.

Accreditation is a collaborative partnership between MSCES and member schools that requires the schools to uphold a uniformed

standard of education. The accreditation process initially can take about two years; after seven years, the school has to apply for re-accreditation to demonstrate the quality standards are embedded in the curriculum.

The first step in the accredita-

tion process is a self-study review by administrators and faculty, where a school evaluates several categories in its curriculum and identifies strategic goals and missions as a learning institution. Following the review, a self-study report is sent to MSCES then a vis-

iting team of peers from other member schools comes to the school for three days.

"The visiting team does not do the accrediting; they are there to just witness and observe," Sister Patricia said. "They make sure that

Continued on page 37

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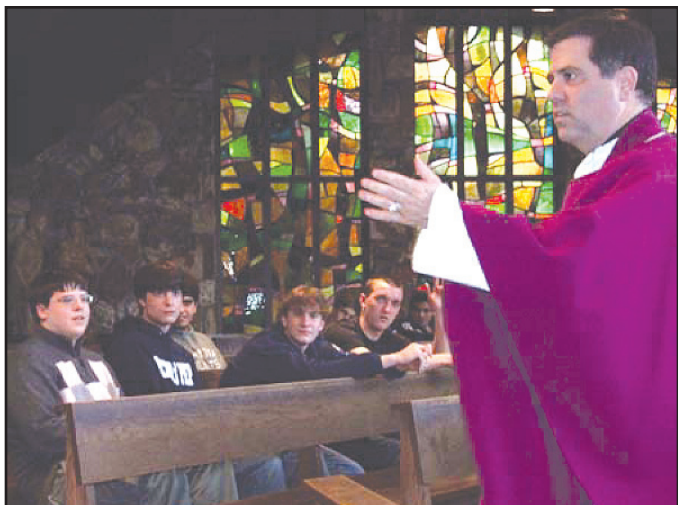
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HIGH SCHOOL



Bergen Catholic honors 8 for loyal school service

ORADELL—Eight prominent Bergen Catholic High School alumni and benefactors were honored recently at the eighth annual Bergen Catholic High School President's Dinner. Brother Lawrence T. Murphy, C.F.C., school president, presented the honorees with the school's Founder's Medals.

The 2007 honorees include 37-year faculty member and former wrestling coach John Direnzo; Janet and Jim Donaghy, golf coach Jim Jacobsen (Class of 1966); and a pair of prominent alumni and their wives: Jim (Class of 1969) and Ann Ganley; and Robert (Class of 1959) and Cynthia Hoehl.

Direnzo started the school's wrestling program in 1975—initially as a club sport—then helped to grow it as a varsity sport in 1977 to become a wrestling powerhouse. Direnzo, who arrived at Bergen Catholic as a physical education and health teacher in 1972, remains on the faculty. He led the

Crusaders to eight Northern New Jersey Interscholastic League (NNJIL) titles in a nine-season span from 1989-90 to 1997-98, spearheaded by nine consecutive District 7 championships (through 1998).

His teams also won six Bergen County Coaches Association Holiday Tournament crowns in seven seasons. The success carried over to state tournaments, where his squads brought home six Parochial "A" North championships (1990-92 and 1994-96) and three State Parochial "A" titles (1991, 1994, and 1995). He retired after the 1997-98 season.

Three years ago Janet Donaghy was elected as president of the Parents' Club, a position she held during her son Brian's sophomore, junior and senior years. The Donaghys, parishioners of Assumption Parish in Emerson, helped to raise thousands of dollars for the Parents' Club. Janet was also a member of the Bergen Catholic Principal Search Team.

Continued on page 24



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Advocate photo — Laura Cristiano

A well-attended HS Expo was held last fall at the Archdiocesan Center in Newark, as parents and students met with high school administrators. Expos aren't designed to replace a school's open house or student-for-a-day experience. Rather, they provide a preliminary tool to help parents and students begin the long process of selecting a Catholic high school. Tanya Craig (right), admissions director of Marylawn of the Oranges, met with parents at the expo.

Expos help to begin discussion on selection of a high school

BY LAURA CRISTIANO
Special to The Catholic Advocate

AREA—One of the biggest concerns of any parent's life is their child's education. This is especially true when it comes to high school. These days parental concerns are not merely limited to seeing that their child receives a solid academic background. Today things like the integration of technology in the curriculum, the accessibility of a wide array of extra-curricular activities and the values exposed by potential classmates and their parents also come into play.

Fortunately for parents, the high schools in the Archdiocese of Newark have responded to their

needs by presenting "High School (HS) Expos." Spring 2008 will mark the ninth anniversary of this successful program.

High school admissions personnel, at the start of the school year in 1999, recognized that time was a precious commodity in lives of prospective parents and students. It was simply impossible for families to attend every open house, or for students to spend a shadow day at every school.

"The High School Expos provide an incredible opportunity for families to discover schools they may not have previously considered," John Irvine, director of admissions at St. Peter's Preparatory School in Jersey City, said. "A student, who may initially have only one or two schools in mind, can leave the expo with a new school on his or her list which turns out to be the best possible match."

Continued on page 25

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8 honored

Continued from page 22

Ann and Jim Ganley have been generous benefactors for two decades. Shortly after the untimely death of their only son in 2004, they established The Ganley Foundation to commemorate his life. The Ganley Foundation created "Crusade for Awareness," a movement that seeks to promote mental health awareness and to

educate teens and their parents about the signs of depression. The objective of the crusade is for teenagers to recognize the signs of depression in themselves and in their peers. Through education, the program will provide the factual information and thereby reduce the stigma associated with depression and other related neurological disorders.

The Ganleys, who now reside in Florida after spending many years in Wyckoff, have committed

\$500,000 for financial aid endowment to Bergen Catholic students and their families in memory of their son. Jim Ganley is a member of the Class of 1969.

Robert Hoehl, a member of Bergen Catholic's first graduating class in 1959, earned a basketball scholarship to Saint Michael's College in Vermont after a stellar scholastic career during which he scored 743 points and earned second-team, all-county honors.

In 1969, after two years at

IBM, he co-founded a small computer services company. In the 1970s, the company began specializing in software, services, and technologies for the healthcare industry. The company grew exponentially in the 1980s and early 1990s, and in 1995, IDX, as the organization came to be named, went public. Hoehl is vice chairman of the IDX board and also serves on the board of Saint Michael's College.

The Hoehl family has been generous to the Bergen Catholic community, providing the lead gift to the "Campaign for the Second Half-Century." This represents an investment of \$1 million and the largest gift in school history. Their donations to Bergen Catholic also have endowed the Robert H. and Cynthia K. Hoehl Financial Aid Fund and supported the major portion of the recently renovated cafeteria, which has been named Hoehl Hall.

Jacobsen saw the opportunity

to assist his alma mater as coach of the golf team in 1983. His overall record over a quarter century is 758-24-1, a .969 winning percentage. His teams won seven state championships, 18 NNJIL titles, and 19 Bergen County Golf League championships.

He was named as the state's "coach of the decade" for the 1990's and the 2004 New Jersey "coach of the year" by *The Star-Ledger*, and earned the New Jersey Scholastic Coaches Association "golf coach of the year" award in 1995. He also was named Bergen County "coach of the year" three times (1987, 1988 and 1991).

"Jake" has received numerous additional honors for his coaching expertise, including The Special Sports Award from the NJSIAA in 2000 and the YMCA Special Achievement Award in 2005. He has also been inducted in two Halls of Fame—the Bergen Catholic Hall of Fame in 1992; and the NJSIAA Hall of Fame in 2003.

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HS Expos

Continued from page 23

With over 30 Catholic high schools to choose from in the archdiocese, the expos offer an easy way for parents and students to wade through the vast field to narrow down the choices of what school would best suit their needs.

The HS Expo program essentially runs like a college fair. The individual high schools each have a table in a large room such as a cafeteria or gym containing a visual display and literature about their institution. Staffing each table are teachers, admissions personnel, principals and current students. This way, with many schools in one central location, parents have the opportunity for what has been dubbed by the media as "one-stop-shopping." Furthermore, families don't have to travel far to attend an evening as there is at least one expo in each of the archdiocese's four counties.

The thing that makes the expos

unique is that they allow for meaningful contact between administrators, parents and potential students. Parents can have an opportunity to have an informal, personalized discussion about things such as tuition plans, transportation and college acceptances with admission directors.

"The HS Expo experience is an excellent opportunity to showcase Catholic education as well as each of our unique schools in the archdiocese," Joan Barron, assistant principal at Mother Seton Regional High School, Clark, said. While parents speak with the admission director, their children often can chat with a current student about joining the basketball team, the kinds of electives offered, or what to expect in a school that might be three times as large as the one they currently attend. This experience does a lot to waylay the fears of students apprehensive about transitioning to high school.

This spring expos will take place in the following locations: April 8, Visitation Academy,

Paramus; April 9, St. Aloysius, Jersey City; April 10, Queen of Peace High, North Arlington; April 15, Our Lady of Sorrows, South Orange; April 16, St. John the Apostle School, Clark; and April 17 at the Archdiocesan

Center, 171 Clifton Ave., Newark.

All expos will begin at 7 p.m. and run for 90 minutes. Brochures on the various events will be distributed in February to all students in grades 6 and 7 who are currently registered in a Catholic school

or in a religious education program. Contact Laura Cristiano, director of marketing and public relations for the archdiocesan Schools Office, for more information on the HS Expo program at (973) 497-4258.



Submitted photo

STUDENTS TOUR JEWISH CENTER—Senior boys from Oratory Preparatory School, Summit, visited the nearby Jewish Community Center Dec. 11. Students viewed a Torah (pictured here) and met with Rabbi Avi Friedman. As part of senior religion classes, Oratory seniors learn the tenets of other religions. Rabbi Friedman explained there are three main branches of Judaism: reform, orthodox and conservative. "The more we know about other religions, the more we can understand and appreciate of our own beliefs," Mike St. Pierre, Oratory dean of students, said.

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Schools find blogging provides a cool connection

BY BETSY THORNTON
Special to The Catholic Advocate

SCOTCH PLAINS—There are numerous ways to communicate with the media-savvy 21st century student: e-mail,

cell phones, text messaging and now blogging.

In today's fast-paced world of staying in touch and "instant" messages, blogging has become a popular, effective way to communicate with and attract prospec-

tive high school students.

Recruiting potential students for high school has become a greater challenge in recent years. There are so many choices for the discerning middle-school student to consider and the constant need

to provide as much information as possible.

For example, with the number of students expressing an interest in attending Union Catholic High School, there is only so much information that can be gained by reading the school brochure, Web site or attending an open house.

Considering the competition to connect with prospective students, the staff at Union Catholic wanted to find a way to stay in touch with their potential "customers" and help them get a true sense of what it is like within the school walls of Union Catholic on a day-to-day basis.

Unlike school tours and print material, our weekly blogs give an inside look to what life is like at Union Catholic. The blogs (we have several) are weekly journals, written by staff and students reporting on the day-to-day happenings at the school,

from the writers own perspective. This live, local reporting gives prospective students a real sense of what it must be like to be in the school that week.

From Kevin reporting on ball games and tests, to DJ on the annual Christmas dance, to Jeanette on the school play and forensics, our blogs (and bloggers) allow the readers to feel as if they are walking the Union Catholic hallways as well.

As reported in a recent *New York Times* article, blogging is a low-cost, high-return tool that can build a brand. It gives people a behind-the-scenes look at the business.

(Editor's note: Betsy Thornton is the director of admissions at Union Catholic High School, located at 1600 Martine Ave. For more information call (908) 889-1600 or visit the school's Web site (www.unioncatholic.org)

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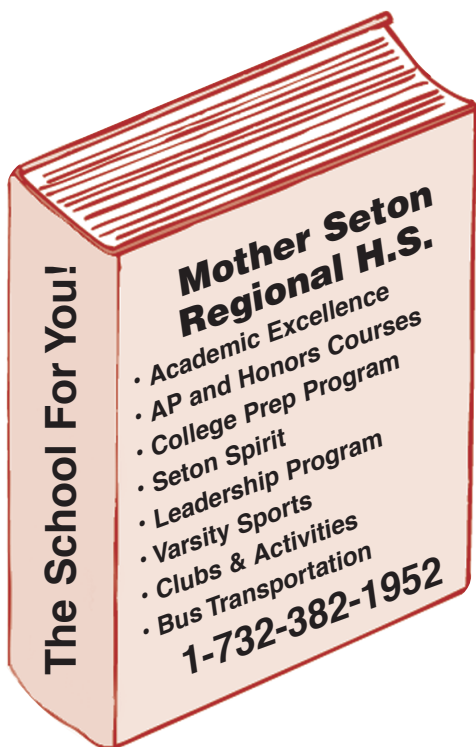
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There's no debate: forensics strengthens minds of students

Oration arts help boost self-esteem

BY WARD MIELE
Managing Editor

AREA—They practice and play hard. The competition is intense. No one wears a uniform or helmet. There are no rainouts and highly prized trophies are awarded to the winners.

Welcome to the rough-and-tumble world of the Catholic Forensics League.

At both the elementary and high school levels, students throughout the Archdiocese of Newark are excelling in forensics that in its most basic form is various public speaking formats.

Categories vary from the elementary and high school levels but not the preparation, degree of competition and the thrills of success. But there is more, as education experts say the benefits of forensics last well beyond the classroom and often affect a lifetime of learning.

In the elementary schools, explains Sharon Osnato, forensics moderator at St. John the Apostle School in Clark/Linden the past decade, it is "a league of a public speaking that encourages the art of oration at the middle-school level." As a league, she continues, "we encourage in grades five through eight participation as a means of

strengthening the lifelong skills of presentation and communication."

At the elementary level, she said individual schools hold try-outs in specific categories such as reading (oral interpretation of literature), declamation or speech, drama, humor and interpretation of literature.

Individual school teams practice twice weekly with their moderator. They then compete approximately every three months on a new category within the league. Schools throughout the archdiocese who are league members volunteer to host the tournaments. It is not unusual for a school to compete in other tournaments hosted by high schools outside the League.

Sister Mary Agnes Sullivan, principal of Our Lady of the Lake School in Verona, who has been with the school two decades, says a Junior Forensics League team was in place before her arrival.

Sister Mary Agnes is convinced that forensics increases the self-esteem of students and calls it a perfect opportunity for parental involvement.

She cites the specific benefits of forensics as helping hone critical, reflective and creative thinking capacities, improvement of public speaking and language arts skills, sharpening research ability, personal sophistication, new friendships, a greater familiarity with current events and controversies and solid preparation for high school and professional careers.

Another principal, Sister Louise Lauretti at St. Bartholomew Academy in Scotch Plains, says

her school is involved because forensics "enhances our Language Arts program which integrates reading, writing, spelling and speaking."

As Osnato sees it, forensics "benefits students by building confidence in the public speaking arena, a lifelong skill. In addition, it enhances fluency, diction and comprehension levels. As a result, our students are not only prepared to compete at the very rigorous high school levels, but build confidence and character inside and

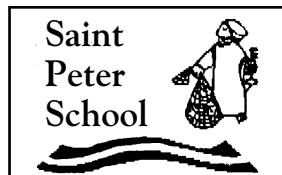
Continued on page 28



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St. Anthony High School students have been accepted into the Junior Statesmen Summer Program at Princeton University, the Governor's School at Monmouth University, the HOBY Leadership seminar at Georgian Court University, the leadership conference at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the Mosaic Weekend at Vanderbilt University and the summer Japan exchange program of the Japan-America Friendship Scholars Program.

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Pictured from left to right, Bloustein scholars are Tabinda Riaz, Megan Marti, and Cynthia Pozo

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Forensics

Continued from page 27

outside of the classroom.”

As for the competition itself, explains Osnato, each student orates a selection from two to five minutes in length. Two categories, declamation and drama/humor, are memorized. Students are judged on a 25-point scale with 25 being a perfect score on such presentation skills as poise, diction, gestures,

variety in approach and attitude and memorization.

Top scores from the two rounds are calculated and forwarded to a control room for finalists to compete in front of the entire school. Judges from participating schools rate the finalists in a score from one to six with one being the best performance.

At the elementary level, topics always begin with reading and then declamation. The last competition of the year can vary.

Students, meanwhile, consult with their moderator as to the appropriate topic for each category.


“Often times the selection of the student’s piece is just as important as their oration,” Osnato stresses. “There is a tremendous sense of satisfaction in seeing and hearing a student speak with enthusiasm and proper diction during their oration. Our school has a group of very dedicated and professional students who work long and hard to attain a spot on our team, as is the case with most schools.

“We at St. John’s are very for-

tunate to have prepared many of our elementary competitors with the confidence it takes to succeed on the high school level,” Osnato says. “Much like sports, the earlier a student is exposed to a competitive environment, they are much better prepared for the high school experience. Several of these students have become finalists in high school in their respective categories and have even gone on to compete at the national level. Recent research has shown that many colleges rate forensics as one of the top activi-

ties for a student to have as part of their repertoire. These colleges, such as Yale University, encourage the ability to communicate and speak effectively as a priority in the business world.”

Sister Joan Amelia, who has been elementary forensics coordinator the past 16 years, says the endeavor “encourages” public speaking and, she adds, is an element in developing “Catholic leaders.” Touching on the judging elements involved, Sister Joan cites diction, poise, elocution in speech and good stage presence.



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Submitted photo


Admiring their recent Newark Catholic Forensics League trophy are Seton Hall Prep students, left to right, Brian Abedy, Brendan Leigh, Cameron Stowell, Coach Justin Kiczek, Kyle Fleming, Alex Staikos, Adrian Perry, John DiMiri, Michael Kane and Nick Petrow. Missing from the photo is Coach Lynn Hart.

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Forensics

In fact, she notes, judges even take into consideration whether a youngster is wearing braces.

Some participants, says Sister Joan, are nervous when they begin with forensics, but teachers are always offering encouragement and the program has been "very successful." She sees the benefits of forensics as providing a "good

sense of public speaking, good presence before an audience and being able to be more at ease when asked to say something." Some of the declamation selections that stick in her mind are students' rendition of the speeches of President Kennedy and Civil Rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Reflecting much of what his colleagues at the elementary school level said, David Lucciano from Union Catholic High School

in Scotch Plains, was a participant in forensics in his school days and has been involved at Union Catholic the past dozen years as both a judge and coach.

Forensics at the high school level, he stresses, is very competitive and provides immense enjoyment to the students who take part.

There is, he points out, "a different kind of debate" at the high school level with topics centering on current events and issues such as the political scene. In high school forensics focuses on public speaking, debate, interpretative acting, declamation, extemporaneous presentations in which participants are given a half hour to prepare, Lincoln-Douglas debates and public forum debating, which Lucciano describes as "not as in-

tense" when it comes to the topics that are selected.

Forensics, he has found, "attracts all kinds of students from across the board." Those taking part, he adds, are often "outspoken and outgoing but there are also numerous examples of young people who 'come out of their shells.'" As an example, Lucciano remembers a senior from last year who had been "quiet" and after the first round of competition told him he was not sure if he won that round, but considered it a personal victory that he took part at all.

Looking back as his involvement as a student, Lucciano is convinced forensics played a part in

his career path as recruitment director. As a recruitment director, Lucciano explains, when parents ask what sort of activities their child should become involved with "one of the first" recommendations he makes is forensics. It prepares students for college and the Catholic competition, he notes, produces "wholesome" topics.

He was attracted to forensics through friends and his sister who were involved. It is, he emphasizes, as competitive as sports and taken just as seriously by the participants. Participating in the Catholic Forensics League, he adds, can lead to advancement to national competition.

Scholar organization taps Marist's Jalisa Boykein

BAYONNE—Jalisa Boykein, a senior at Marist High School, has been selected for membership in the Atlanta-based National Honor Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS).

The society (Web site: www.nshss.org) recognizes top scholars in the nation and invites only those students who have achieved superior academic excellence.

NSHSS founder and chairman Claes Nobel, senior member of the Nobel Prize family, made the announcement on the selection of Boykein. "On behalf of NSHSS, I am honored to recognize hard work, sacrifice and commitment that Jalisa has demonstrated to achieve this exceptional level of academic excellence," Nobel said. "Jalisa is now a member of a unique community of scholars, a community that represents our very best hope for the future."

Brother Steve Schlitte is the principal of Marist (Web site: www.marist.org), a co-educational Catholic high school.

Membership in the NSHSS entitles qualified students to enjoy a wide variety of benefits, including scholarship opportunities, academic competitions, free events, member-only resources, publications, participation in programs offered by educational partners, online forums, personalized recognition items and publicity honors.

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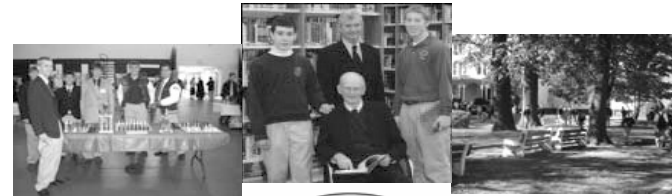
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A collegial process yields new academy in Bayonne

BY LAURA CRISTIANO

Special to The Catholic Advocate

An old proverb states: "Change is the essence of life. Be willing to surrender what you are for what you could become." Catholic schools in Bayonne recognized three years ago that such change would be upon them.

Pastors in all eight parishes in Bayonne—both those that cur-

rently have Catholic schools and those that did not—decided that they needed to band together in order to ensure that Catholic education continued within the city. Changes in demographics meant there was a moment to be seized in this Hudson County community. Staying with the status quo of four traditionally funded, parish-based Catholic elementary schools simply was no longer economically viable.

The decision was made to

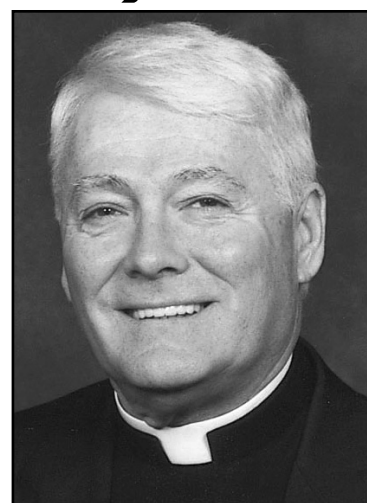
launch a new 21st century academy in Bayonne, which will be called All Saints Academy. The name offers a clear Catholic identity and reflects the collaborative spirit upon which the academy was founded.

The site for the academy will be the former St. Mary Star of the Sea School located at 19 West 13th St. The facility will open its doors in September 2009 and will house grades Pre-K to 8. It's anticipated the academy will at-

tract more than 400 students.

As reported earlier this year, the Archdiocese of Newark announced it would merge Bayonne's four remaining Catholic elementary schools into a single school, due to a 10-year trend of declining enrollment numbers. "Bayonne was once a town heavily populated by practicing Roman Catholics," Father Kevin M. Hanbury, archdiocesan vicar for education and superintendent of schools, said. "However, the makeup of the community has changed quite a bit over the years."

The creation of All Saints Academy reflects a collaborative, three-year process to faithfully engineer a new learning facility. Starting in 2005 Bayonne pastors, principals and community



Father Kevin Hanbury

residents met with archdiocesan representatives to form a committee and come up with what would be the best solution for the children of Bayonne.

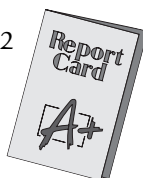
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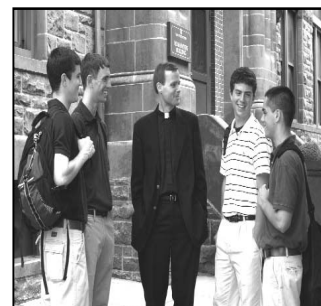
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Academy

The most refreshing element in these meetings was that all of the parishes in Bayonne wanted to participate. The funding of a new Catholic education facility was not seen as just the problem of the parishes that currently had schools. Every parish in the city was willing to seek a solution and to be a part of the process.

Along the way, the collegial dialogue begat good will and innovative ideas. Sister Marie Gagliano M.P.F., assistant superintendent for Hudson County, felt privileged to be a part of the committee. "I think it was just wonderful that so many people: parents, pastors, principal, parishioners wanted to come together and to really listen to each other," Sister Marie said. "It was obvious that everyone involved truly cared about the children and wanted what was best for their future."

The committee explored a variety of options over the years, carefully exploring the pro's and con's of each one. They contacted other dioceses such as the Diocese of Washington, to learn what steps other city-based Catholic schools had tried. They also wanted to know if those measures had proved to be successful in the long run.

Systems such as a consortium model were explored, but then discarded as not being appropriate for a city such as Bayonne. Patience became the guiding virtue. "The process was a long but a necessary one that couldn't be rushed," Father Hanbury said. "It was important that everyone was heard and that it was a collaborative effort amongst all the parishes."

The site selection for the academy—the former St. Mary Star of the Sea School—was chosen for its central location in the community as well as its modern facilities. The structure houses a full-sized gym, science lab, library, and cafeteria.

To fully inform parents of Catholic elementary school students in Bayonne about the changes, meetings were held last fall at each parish that currently has a school. Pastors and archdiocesan officials were on hand at each location to explain the academy guidelines and to respond to parental questions and concerns.

In the end, the committee decided that the best approach was to combine the four schools and to reformulate them into an academy.

"Academy designation implies that special skills and subjects are taught," Brother Ralph Darmento, F.S.C., archdiocesan deputy superintendent of Schools, stated. Brother Ralph is the administrator who authored the guidelines for academy status in the archdiocese. It is not merely a merging of schools and inserting the word 'academy' into the school's new name. There are very specific academic standards and enrichment programs that academies should have in order to earn that name.

Academic hallmarks of an academy can include world language instruction given throughout the curriculum (grades 1-4 at least a weekly basis; grades 5-8 more frequently); mathematics programs to consist of the regular courses as well as a full year of a standard algebra course; science laboratory courses integrated throughout the curriculum; art and music courses; and religious education and formation programs addressing the academic, sacramental and spiritual preparation of students.

An academy starts with an early childhood program that engages students in age-appropriate learning. All of the instruction given grades Pre-K to 8 utilizes a wide variety of presenta-

tion techniques. There will still be the traditional direct instruction from the teacher, but there will also be more opportunity for group/project learning, cooperative learning, and inquiry learning. Much of this is also integrated with technology such as classroom computers.

Another advantage of an academy is that a program for "gifted and talented" students must be in place. In such a program students are challenged to stretch beyond their previous academic bounds.

The students' extracurricular lives also are addressed in the academy. Programs will cover athletics and the arts. Students will continue to have quality athletic programs such as boys and girls basketball. They also may participate in forensics contests (see article on page 27), science olympiads and academic challenge bowls.

An advisory board is generally in place to establish policies for the academy. Once academic programs are in place, this board to assist the academy to apply for Middle States Accreditation (see article on page 21).

(Editor's note: Cristiano is the director of marketing and public relations for the archdiocesan Schools Office.)

There are very specific academic standards and enrichment programs that academies must have in order to earn that name.

—Brother Ralph Darmento



Submitted photo

GLOBAL WARMING DEBATED—Sixth graders at Visitation Academy, Paramus, debated the scientific evidence of global warming, utilizing debating techniques they learned in language arts class. Students in science class were shown former Vice President Al Gore's film about the environment, "An Inconvenient Truth," and learned how to analyze scientific evidence. After doing their own research, the students were divided into opposing teams to discuss issues raised in the movie.

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ST. STEPHEN SCHOLARS—A candlelight ceremony was held on Dec. 11 at St. Stephen's Parish, Kearny, as 10 new members were inducted into the St. Stephen School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. The 2007 inductees included Stephen Allan, Michael Cavalier, Faith D'Isa, Maximo Grano De Oro, Shawn McEntee, Khalia Rabain, Samantha Sawh, Timothy Sweeney, Nicko Tolentino, and Devin Wason. They join current St. Stephen School NJHS members Melissa Bannon, Jeffrey Barco, Rowena Dolot, Evan Downey, Teresa Drew, Connor Flatley, Wyatt Marciniak, Margaret Massett, Colin McNamara, Emily Ann Rodrigues, Nicole Ruivo, Matthew Schirm, Dermot Sullivan, Sean Sullivan, Sarah Vargas and Kathryn Zubicki. Guests of honor at the ceremony included Father Kevin M. Hanbury Ed.D, vicar of education and superintendent of schools for the Archdiocese of Newark, and Brother Ralph J. Darmento, F.S.C, deputy superintendent of schools for the Archdiocese of Newark, who served as the keynote speaker.

Benedictine graduate earns recognition as AP Scholar

ELIZABETH—Gabriela Rebelo, a June graduate of Benedictine Academy, has been named an Advanced Placement (AP) Scholar by the College Board in recognition of her college-level AP exam results.

A Newark resident, Rebelo is a freshman at Rutgers University. She qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three AP exams with grades of 3 or higher (on a 5-point scale). Students took the AP exams last May after completing challenging college-level courses at their high schools.

While at Benedictine Academy, Rebelo was a member of the National Honor Society; was selected as an Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholar and was salutatorian of her class, earning the second-highest academic average in her class.

She served as senior class president at the academy and earned several honors including the President's Award for Academic Excellence (2005) and the New Jersey Institute of Technology's Women in Technology Leadership Award (2005). She is a Young Science Achievers Program grant recipient and a Benedictine Academy Scholarship Award Recipient for Academic Excellence (2005 and 2006). She served as the school's yearbook editor and was president of the Portuguese Club.

Rebelo also was a peer tutor to fellow students and worked part-time at the Benedictine Sisters' St. Walburga Monastery.



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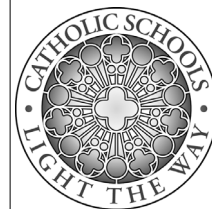


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Ellis Island seminar draws NJ educators

CLARK—Katherine Sullivan and Victoria Walker, two teachers at Mother Seton Regional High School, were among eight Garden State educators who participated in the first science-based seminar held at Ellis Island.

Sullivan and Walker recently worked with educators from Columbia University, New York, on the science of historic preservation at Island No. 3—also known as Ellis Island's staff house.

"It opened my eyes to the study of historic restoration from a scientific viewpoint," Walker, a science instructor, explained. "Ellis Island is no longer just a historical site for me," Sullivan, a physics teacher, declared. "The original planning, design and operation of the island as well as the current restoration is all based on scientific principles, practices and processes."

Ellis Island, from 1892 to 1954, served as the United States' main immigration station and was the gateway to more than 12 million immigrants. It opened as a museum in September 1990.

Both teachers said they would incorporate their experiences at Ellis Island into their lesson plans in conjunction with the social studies department at Mother Seton. "Interdepartmental articulation is a key component of the curriculum at Mother Seton," Joan Barron, assistant principal and chair of the social studies department, said.

Founded in 1963, Mother Seton (www.motherseton.org) is a girls' Catholic regional high school.

Schools slate open-house events

AREA—Catholic schools throughout the Archdiocese of Newark are planning open-house programs in the coming days to welcome prospective students.

Marist High School (Web site:

www.marist.org), 1241 Kennedy Blvd., Bayonne, will have an open house Thursday, Jan. 24, beginning at 7 p.m. for fifth through eighth grade students. Call the school at (201) 437-4544 for details.

Parents and students will be

able to acquaint themselves with information on the school's college preparatory curriculum, computer labs, advancement-placement courses, honors courses, accelerated-honors programs, independent-study courses, online

learning and other examples of Marist's academic life. Visitors will also have the opportunity to view the school's new online library/media center.

Marist stresses that extra-curricular activities play an important role in the school's development of the "whole" student through offerings such as athletics, photography and campus ministry.

Hillside Catholic Academy (Web site: www.hillsidecatholicacademy.org), 397 Columbia Ave., Hillside, will host an open house Saturday, Jan. 26 from 2 to 4 p.m. In addition, information sessions will take place Sunday, Jan. 27, noon to 2 p.m., and Jan. 29 and Jan. 30 from 10 to 11 a.m.

Since opening four years ago, Hillside Catholic Academy—a co-educational elementary school for grades Pre-K through eighth—has been awarded over \$100,000 for students. For additional information or to make an appointment call (908) 686-6740.

Saint Joseph of the Palisades High School (Web site: www.saintjoseph-wny.com), 5400 Broadway, West New York, also

will host an open house on Saturday, Jan. 26, from 10 a.m. to noon.

Area seventh and eighth graders and their families can tour the school, meet students and faculty members and learn about St. Joseph's educational program. For additional information call (201) 864-9700.

Immaculate Conception High School (Web site: www.ichspride.org), 33 Cottage Pl., Montclair, will host two open-house dates during Catholic Schools Week: Sunday, Jan. 27, from 1 to 3 p.m.; and Thursday, Jan. 31, 5 to 7 p.m. Call Immaculate Conception at (973) 744-7445 for details.

Financial-aid workshops will be available at both open-house events. The co-educational college preparatory school is administered by the Sisters of Charity.

Registration for the Class of 2012 at **Mother Seton Regional High School**, 1 Valley Rd., Clark, takes place on Saturday, Feb. 9 at 9 a.m. Eighth grade students who have not yet applied must do so immediately by calling (732) 382-1952.



Submitted photo

SPIRITED SOCCER CHAMPS—Seton Hall Prep, West Orange, defeated Christian Brothers Academy 2-0 on Nov. 13 to win the 2007 New Jersey Interscholastic Athletic Non-Public A State Soccer Championship. Seton Hall Prep, with the championship victory, closed out an impressive 22-1 season and set school records for wins, shutouts (16) and goals (95). Head Coach Marty Berman notched Seton Hall Prep's first state soccer championship, having finished as the runner-up team three previous times. Seton Hall Prep's scoring leader, C.J. Crooks, scored both goals in the championship game. In their run to the championship, Seton Hall Prep defeated two top-ranked schools in the state—Don Bosco Prep and Delbarton—with both wins by the score of 3-2.



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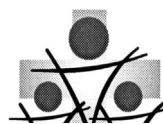
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CSE to explore Six Sigma concept

MORRISTOWN—A free introductory seminar for “Six Sigma Black Belt,” a process-improvement method used extensively by Fortune 500 companies, will be held on Saturday, Jan. 26, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at the College of Saint Elizabeth (CSE), 2 Convent Rd.

Master Black Belt Lou Gorga of Six Sigma Solutions, a consulting group based in Lighthouse Point, FL, will conduct the workshop.

Six Sigma Black Belt certification, a disciplined, data-driven approach and methodology to

improve corporate efficiency and boost the quality of products and services, covers many areas, including change management, communication, critical thinking, teamwork and statistical analysis.

Classes for the full Six Sigma certification program will begin in

the spring. Classes over a 25-week period will meet a few days during one week of each month; the remaining time will be spent on an actual workplace project. A maximum of six college credits may be awarded for taking the classes. Contact Amy Kmetz, director of non-credit and special programs at

CSE, at (973) 290-4601 for details on the program.

Last fall the college (Web site: www.cse.edu), which counts many residents from the Archdiocese of Newark among its student body of 2,000, launched wireless Internet service throughout the campus.

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SCHOLASTIC STANDOUTS—Two eighth grade students at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, Tenafly, placed second in the subject of history at the ninth annual Scholastic Olympics at St. Joseph Regional High School, Montvale. St. Joseph's Principal Barry Donnelly (center) congratulates Devin Bergstein (left) and Ally Urquiotay. Overall 23 schools took part in the competition.

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Sacred Heart to celebrate

JERSEY CITY—Sacred Heart School, 183 Bayview Ave., is making plans to celebrate its 95th anniversary in November. In preparation for the anniversary, a search is under way to reach out to alumni and friends of the school. Those interested in participating in plans for the celebration should call Maureen Bell Broglia at (201) 445-7508 or Claire Cranwell Mullen at (201) 835-3826.

Our Lady Help plans events

EAST ORANGE—Our Lady Help of Christians School, 23 North Clinton St., will host various events during Catholic Schools Week. Among the activities, there will be a Mass at 9 a.m. on Jan. 27; an open house on Jan. 29; poetry readings on Jan. 30; a family “creative day” on Jan. 31; and a First Friday Mass and teacher appreciation luncheon on Feb. 1. Contact the school at (973) 677-1546 for details.



Submitted photo

MEDALLION AWARD WINNERS— Sister Theresa Mary Martin (center), president of Felician College, Lodi and Rutherford, awarded the annual President's Medallion to Sister Mary Alan Barszczewski (left) and Terrence M. Murphy during a luncheon ceremony in December. The award acknowledges those who have gone “above and beyond” to serve the Felician Community. Sister Mary Alan has been a staff member at St. Anthony High School in Jersey City where she has served for 30 years as teacher, administrator and athletic director. Murphy, co-chair of the annual Felician College Golf Classic, has worked with the Felician development staff to expand the event that benefits the college's scholarship fund.



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ICHS outlines events to mark special week



LODI—Immaculate Conception High School (ICHS), 258 South Main Street, has planned a full schedule to celebrate its spirit during Catholic Schools Week (Jan. 27-Feb. 2).

Sunday of that week (Jan. 27) there will be a 9 a.m. Mass for administrators, faculty, staff and students in the Convent Chapel. A continental breakfast will follow.

Another Mass in the Convent Chapel will be celebrated at 10:45 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 28. There will be a half-day schedule on Tuesday, Jan. 29 and members of the school's Parents' Guild will treat students to dessert during lunch and a movie in the auditorium.

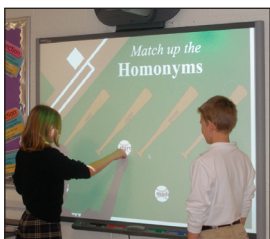
Class Spirit is the theme on Wednesday, Jan. 30. Each class will dress in its class color and create a poster in those colors during lunch. Teachers are the focus on Thursday, Jan. 31, with seniors and juniors participating in a "Teacher for a Day" program. The Parents' Guild will provide lunch for the faculty. ICBS will host games and other activities for students and teachers on Friday, Feb. 1.

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Wednesday • January 30, 2008

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Cynthia Ritter and Allison Whitefleet

UC seniors honored as 'commended' scholars

SCOTCH PLAINS—Union Catholic Regional High School seniors Cynthia Ritter, and Allison Whitefleet recently received the prestigious title of 2007 National Merit Scholarship "commended students."

Ritter and Whitefleet are two of 34,000 commended students throughout the United States lauded for their exceptional academic achievement and potential.

Although they did not continue in the 2007 competition for Merit Scholarship awards, commended students placed among the 5 percent of more than 1 million students who entered the 2007 competition by taking the 2006 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

"It is important to acknowledge the attainments of the academically talented students and to credit schools for the key role they play in their development," a spokesperson for the National Merit Scholarship program said.

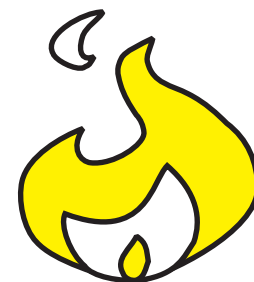
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Middle States

Continued from page 21

what the school is actually doing agrees with what they say they are doing (in the self-study report).” The visiting team’s report is sent back to MSCES where both the report and the self-study are read and the accreditation is decided.

Undergoing the first stage of the process is Hoboken Catholic Academy. Opened three years ago, the school is co-sponsored by the parishes of St. Ann’s, Our Lady of Grace, St. Francis, St. Joseph and SS. Peter & Paul in Hoboken and St. Lawrence in Weehawken. The academy has an enrollment of about 325 students with an average class size of 25 students.

All permanent faculty members, including Principal Barbara Dolan, met on Jan. 4 to share ideas for their self-study review. “We re-

flected on our mission statement, who we serve, what we do, and how do it. The meeting surfaced a sense of what we, as a school, are about,” Dolan said.

Brainstorming as a group of 17, the results of the meeting surprised Dolan. “It was a very energizing experience and was a great way of starting the New Year. It all flowed so easily and we spoke from our hearts. The whole meeting was empowering and uplifting. Everyone thought ‘wow—that is what I think too.’ It was a re-affirmation that we are all in this together.”

Dolan views the accreditation process as a way to evaluate Hoboken Catholic as a school and reflect on its strengths and weaknesses. “Being accredited shows parents that we have a good product. We have a strong desire to give students the best academically, morally and spiritually.”

However, while identifying an

inventory of good points, the administration at Hoboken Catholic Academy admits there is room for improvement. “I gave everyone a homework assignment. Each person should take in what they heard from the last meeting and construct a three- to four-sentence statement about the mission of the school,” Dolan said.

Sister Patricia believes the accreditation process ultimately strengthens the quality and integrity of the education program. “The overarching reason for accreditation is to reaffirm mission and philosophy, validate quality and improve the school’s academic curriculum for the advancement of the teaching learning process,” she said.



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Hoboken Catholic Academy students proudly display a “fishy” art project. Opened three years ago, the academy is in the first stage of the accreditation process by the Middle States Commission on Elementary Schools.



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TEACHING TOOL FOR TOLERANCE—The winter play at Saint Joseph Regional High School (Web site: www.saintjosephregional.org), 40 Chestnut Ridge Rd, Montvale will be the classic Broadway musical “West Side Story,” but with a twist. The 1950s love story and tragedy set on the streets of New York has been developed into a special educational package to encourage discussion on the impacts of diversity of race, ethnicity, social class, religion and gender upon the world today. Director John Asselta, along with Robin Irwin and Susan Van Buskirk, assistant directors, are working with parents and alumni to create this learning program, which will focus on the love Christ has for all His children. Students from various grammar schools—including St. Anthony’s in Hawthorne, St. Paul’s in Ramsey, Holy Trinity in Hackensack, St. John’s Academy in Hillsdale, St. Leo’s in Elmwood Park, and Assumption Academy in Emerson—will attend a special matinee performance of the musical on Jan. 23. Other performances be held on Jan. 25, 26, 27, 31, and Feb. 1 and 2. Pictured are student performers J.C. Record, Taylor Popielarz, Kevin White, Matthew Periera, Ross Gardner, Frank Outslay, Nick Palumbo and Sean Roe. Call the school at (201) 391-3300 for reservations.

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St. Mary’s robot rockers learn teamwork technology

ELIZABETH—The Robotics Club at St. Mary of the Assumption High School recently captured fourth place in the New Jersey Center for Advanced Technology Education’s “Robo Rocks” competition held at Middlesex Community College.



Club members Christian Camacho, Kelly Komar, Roselyn Reino, Stephanie Trivino, Adler Desrosiers, Gerard Simbert, Jose Conde, Bryan Johnson, Michael Turner and Wendell Etienne learned to build and program a robot as well as appreciate the importance of working as a team.

Sixteen teams involved in the competition were given seven weeks to build and program a robot that could weave through a maze and pop a balloon in less than three minutes.



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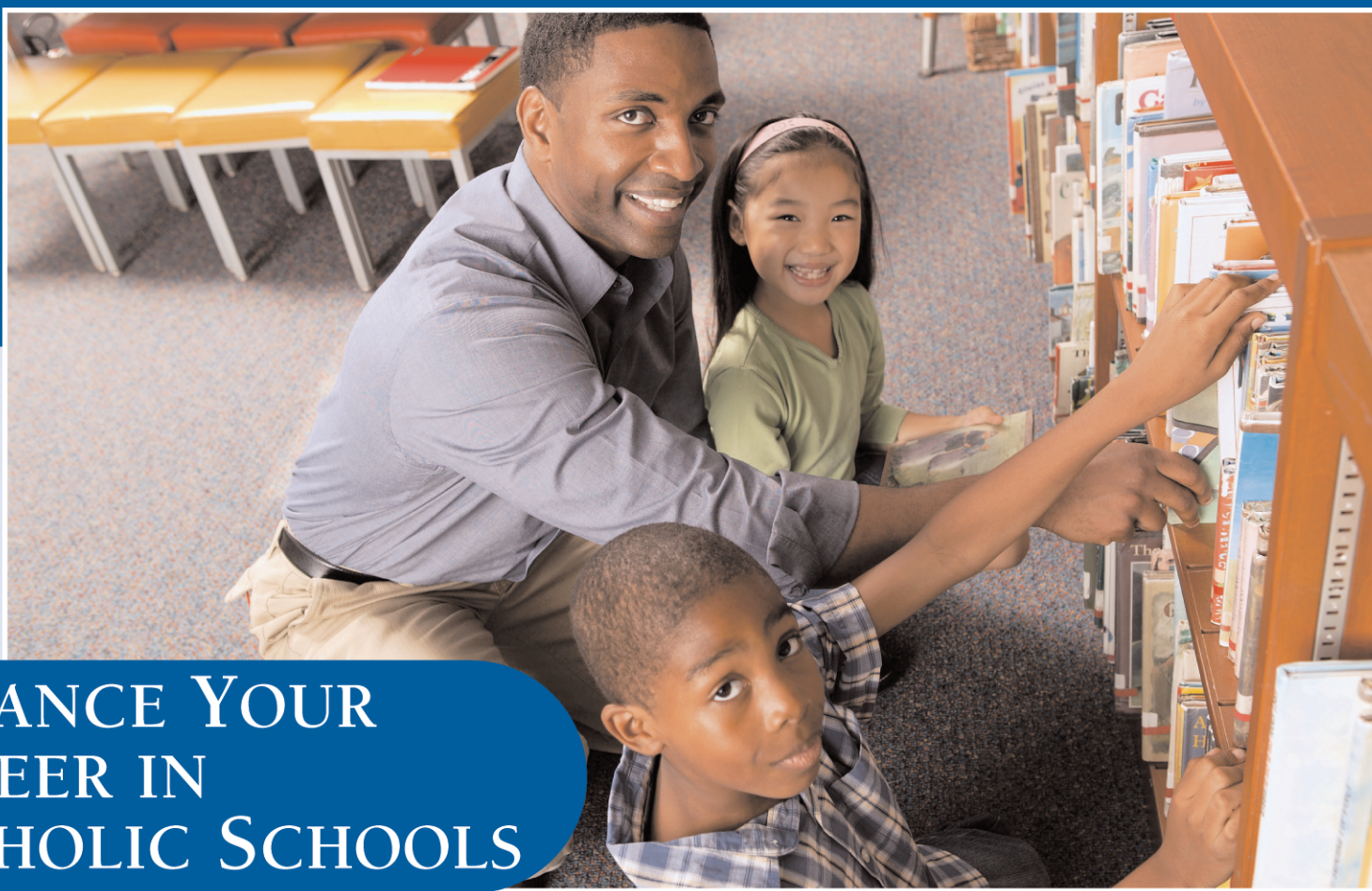
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