

A family record of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers. Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar. Perez was the father of Hezron. Hezron the father of Ram. Ram was the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Salmon. Salmon was the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab. Boaz was the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth. Obed was the father of Jesse. Jesse the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon was the father of Rehoboam. Rehoboam the father of Abiam. Abiam the father of Asa. Asa the father of Jehoshaphat. Jehoshaphat the father of Joram. Joram the father of Uzziah. Uzziah was the father of Jotham. Jotham the father of Ahaz. Ahaz the father of Manasseh. Manasseh the father of Amon. Amon the father of Josiah. Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers at the time of the Babylonian exile. Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel. Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel the father of Abiud. Abiud the father of Eliakim. Eliakim the father of Azor. Azor was the father of Zadok. Zadok the father of Achim. Achim the father of Eliud. Eliud was the father of Eleazar. Eleazar the father of Matthan. Matthan the father of Jacob. Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary. Let us remember that Jesus who is called the Messiah was born. Thus the total number of generations is: from Abraham to David, fourteen generations; from David to the Messiah, fourteen generations. A family record of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers. Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar. Perez was the father of Hezron. Hezron the father of Ram. Ram was the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Salmon. Salmon was the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab. Boaz was the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth. Obed was the father of Jesse. Jesse the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon was the father of Rehoboam. Rehoboam the father of Abiam. Abiam the father of Asa. Asa the father of Jehoshaphat. Jehoshaphat the father of Joram. Joram the father of Uzziah. Uzziah was the father of Jotham. Jotham the father of Ahaz. Ahaz the father of Manasseh. Manasseh the father of Amon. Amon the father of Josiah. Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers at the time of the Babylonian exile. Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel. Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel the father of Abiud. Abiud the father of Eliakim. Eliakim the father of Azor. Azor was the father of Zadok. Zadok the father of Achim. Achim the father of Eliud. Eliud was the father of Eleazar. Eleazar the father of Matthan. Matthan the father of Jacob. Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary. Let us remember that Jesus who is called the Messiah was born. Thus the total number of generations is: from Abraham to David, fourteen generations; from David to the Messiah, fourteen generations.



CNS photos





His name shall be Emmanuel

Caldwell workshop to explore autism, faithful inclusion

CALDWELL—Caldwell College will host “Empowering Faith Communities to Include Individuals with Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities,” a seminar and workshop on Saturday, Jan. 31, 2009, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Academic Building Lecture Hall.

The event, organized by the Caldwell College Department of Theology/Pastoral Ministry, will focus on providing resources and information to help communities of faith welcome individuals with autism. New Jersey, statistically, has the highest rate of autism in the nation, with 1 in 94 people affected.

“Early-bird” registration for the seminar is \$25 per person (\$35 after Jan. 5, 2009). Checks can be mailed to: Pastoral Ministry Program, Caldwell College, 120 Bloomfield Ave., Caldwell, NJ 07006—attention: Sister Barbara A. Moore, O.P., D. Min. Contact Sr. Barbara via e-mail (SBMoore@caldwell.edu) or call the college at (973) 618-3931 for more information. The snow date for the seminar is Saturday, Feb. 7, 2009.

Mary Beth Walsh, Ph.D.—an adjunct professor in the Theology Department at Caldwell College, member of the NJ Coalition for Inclusive Ministries, and parent of a child with autism—will be one of the featured speakers at the conference. According to Walsh, it is crucial for clergy, religious educators and families of individuals with autism to learn how to work together as a faith community.

“Faith communities (inside and outside the Catholic Church) have tremendous potential to make a positive impact on the lives of families of children with autism and individuals with autism themselves,” she said. “Many faith communities want to be inclusive, but don’t know how. This workshop is aimed at showing them how.”

Anne Masters, M.A., director of the Pastoral Ministry with Persons with Disabilities for the Archdiocese of Newark, and board member of the NJ Coalition for Inclusive Ministries—another panelist at the seminar—said that to be a “welcoming parish of people with disabilities” means more than just making spaces in the pews.

Masters said it is important that the Church community accepts the presence of people whose voices and behaviors may be different, but who still have gifts to give to enhance the life of the Church.

“It means affirming their baptism, which calls for their participation in the life and mission of the Church to the extent that each person is able,” Masters said.

Another seminar panelist is Geraldine Gibbia, Ph.D., the executive director and co-founder of The Phoenix Center Inc., Nutley, and a speech-language pathologist with over 30 years experience.

Linda Meyer, Ed.D., the executive director of The NJ Center for Outreach and Services for the Autism Community (COSAC), Ewing (Web site: www.njcosac.org), an educator and behavior analyst with more than 30 years of experience working with individuals with “autism-spectrum” disorders, also will serve as a featured speaker. Meyer recently was appointed to the Governor’s Council for Research and Medical Treatment of Autism.

Jessica Rothschild, M.A., teacher/trainer of an intermediate class for students with autism-spectrum disorders in Bernards Township (the Diocese of Metuchen), also will present information at the seminar. Rothschild’s research interests focus on teaching children with autism to participate in religious activities with their families.



Submitted photo

Anne Masters, Geraldine Gibbia, Linda Meyer and Mary Beth Walsh (left to right)—featured speakers at the Caldwell College “Empowering Faith Communities to Include Individuals with Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities” seminar—serve on the Archdiocese of Newark’s advisory board known as PRAISE (persons recognized, affirmed and included in spirit-filled education). The PRAISE board, formed last year, is designing a certification process for catechists to promote a spirit of inclusion in faith communities for individuals and families with special needs and disabilities. The seminar and workshop will be held Jan. 31, 2009.



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR—Students at Lacordaire Academy, Upper Montclair, held their annual Mission Club bazaar fund-raiser on Dec. 5. Students raised \$4,112.90, which will be donated to the food and clothing pantry at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Jersey City. Last year Lacordaire students collected \$4,021, which was given to Centro Fey Alegria Espiritu Santo—a Catholic school in the Dominican Republic. Lacordaire biology teacher Dolores Grabowski has organized the festivities for 15 years. The annual fund-raising event draws inspiration from the academy’s Dominican tradition. Pictured at the bazaar are members of the school’s mime troupe (top photo, left to right) Ramona Richardson, Gabrielle Lopez, Alexis Martinez and Ciara Mendoza; and colorful balloon merchants Tanya Chopra, Carla Maldonado and Alyssa Andolino. Brian F. Morgan serves as the head of school at Lacordaire Academy (Web site: www.lacordaire.net).

Correction

A page-one story in the Dec. 10 edition of *The Catholic Advocate* on Archbishop John J. Myers’ new duties at the Pontifical North American College in Rome incorrectly listed him solely as president of the college. He was elected as chairman of the board of governors and president. *The Catholic Advocate* regrets the error.

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FREQUENCY FOR THE YEAR
The Catholic Advocate continues to be a bi-weekly publication. Publication dates for 2009 are January 7, 21; February 4, 18; March 11, 25; April 8, 22; May 6, 20; June 10, 24; July 15; August 12, 26; September 9, 23; October 14, 28; November 11, 25; December 9, 23.

Saint Bartholomew students touch hearts at Christmas party for homeless families

Joyful event lifts spirits at Homefirst

SCOTCH PLAINS—Confirmation students at Saint Bartholomew Parish hosted a Christmas party Dec. 12 for local homeless families—a joyful celebration that attracted 80 guests and was part of a service project to demonstrate the true meaning of Christmas.

The families are part of Union County's Homefirst emergency shelter program, which provides transitional and permanent housing. Homefirst (Web site: www.homefirstinc.org), based in Plainfield, is a non-profit organization offering a broad range of critically needed support services to hundreds of low-income families, including those that find themselves homeless (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Dec. 10).

The Saint Bartholomew students were responsible for every facet of the party including set-up, food preparation and service, manning the craft stations, coat checks, cookie stations, Santa's helpers and clean-up. As a part of the initiative, the Homefirst family members—about

200 in number—received personalized gifts based on wish lists coordinated by Homefirst. The students held various fund-raising events to pay for the gifts.

"The true meaning of Christmas is love," Father John J. Paladino, the pastor of Saint Bartholomew, said. "These students are celebrating and demonstrating the extraordinary love of God by giving of themselves in ways that will touch hearts and souls. The students are focusing on giving and receiving with a whole new perspective."

Parishioners Susan D'Apuzzo and Elaine Coupe worked with the students to organize the party. Approximately 98 eighth-grade students, under the direction of Patricia Krema, were involved in the planning of the party since its inception.

"Our primary purpose in this project has been for the students to feel good about community service so that they can continue similar efforts throughout their lives," Coupe explained.

Confirmation instructors, parents and volunteers also helped in the preparation and implementation of this event, including Lina Isolda, Michele Blanck, Paul Raphael, Jeff Ringel, Josephine Walsh, Carolyn Colonna, Dennis VanNatta, David and Connie Boruch, Laura Langner, John Howarth, Andrew Krema and Matt D'Apuzzo.

"It has been wonderful to see these families working together towards a common goal and having fun while achieving it," D'Apuzzo said. "We are truly overwhelmed by their kindness and by the generosity showed by many of the Homefirst support congregations who helped us collect gifts for these families in need."

"The essence of Christmas was brought to life by the eighth-grade confirmation students who arranged a heartfelt and spirit-filled celebration for our families," Ellen McGovern, executive director of Homefirst, said. "I was moved by the genuine outpouring of love and generosity of the students towards our Homefirst families,"

"It was so great to see the interaction the students had with our clients," Susan Oldroyd Laffler, Homefirst director of development and public relations, said. "These kids were living their faith. They really 'got it.'" Oldroyd Laffler is a former Catholic youth minister at Saint Helen Parish, Westfield, where she worked with Fr. Paladino.

(Editor's note: Adrienne P. Robertiello, marketing communications and public relations administrator for Saint Bartholomew Parish, provided most of the information for this article. Todd Laffler submitted the photo.)



Submitted photo
Elise Ringel, Zymir Petrie (sporting authentic reindeer antlers) and Mary Van Natta share an amusing "arts and crafts" moment during the gala Christmas party, which was organized by Saint Bartholomew Parish Confirmation students. Zymir and his family went through the Homefirst Interfaith Hospitality Network and now reside in a Homefirst housing program. Call Homefirst at (908) 753-4001 for more information on the group's community service programs.



CNS photo

Amy Adams stars in a scene from the movie "Doubt." Sister Margaret McEntee, a Sister of Charity, who taught writer-director John Patrick Shanley in grade school, was the inspiration for the character.

Nun advises 'Doubt' director

WASHINGTON (CNS)—For Sister Margaret McEntee, her roles in religious life have ranged from being a teacher to a campus minister to a fan of a former student's work to working for that former student when he directed a film adaptation of his own Pulitzer Prize-winning play. And now the "job" for the Sister of Charity, or "Sister Peggy" as she commonly refers to herself, is giving interviews about that student, John Patrick Shanley, and his new movie, "Doubt." Yet she still finds time to fulfill her current ministry, being a religion teacher and campus minister at the all-girl Notre Dame High School in Manhattan. "The movie's actually better than the play," Sister Peggy said, "and I've seen the play four times." One reason for her avid early interest is

that one of the drama's characters was named after her. Some 50 years ago, Johnny Shanley was a first grader at Saint Anthony School in the Bronx. His teacher was Sister Peggy, known then as Sister James. "Doubt" concerns suspicions harbored by the principal and a teacher at a New York City Catholic grade school, circa 1964, that a parish priest may be molesting the school's first black student. Though sexual misconduct is at the heart of the story, it is the balance between doubt which, as Shanley has said, allows for growth and change, and premature certainty, which only leads to a "dead end" that forms the principal thematic subtext.

Decorations serve as symbols of love

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The traditional decorations of Christmas are reminders that the light and love of Jesus Christ bring new life to all who wait in darkness, Pope Benedict XVI said. The pope spoke about Christmas trees as symbols of new life Dec. 12 when

he met a delegation from Austria, which donated the Christmas tree in Saint Peter's Square, and he spoke about Nativity scenes as reminders of God's love for humanity when he blessed figures of the baby Jesus Dec. 14 before reciting the Angelus.

Vatican marks 2008 as interfaith year

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Benedict XVI will look back on 2008 as an important year for interreligious dialogue, with the inauguration of a major Catholic-Muslim forum, notable meetings with Jews in the United States, and the opening of ecology as a new terrain for interfaith cooperation. At the same time, discrimination and violence against minority Christian communities in Asia and the Middle East clouded the interfaith horizon and pushed human rights to the top of the Vatican's dialogue agenda. The initial meeting at the Vatican of the Catholic-Muslim Forum in November was a milestone in relations between the two faiths, and represented a

remarkable turnaround after a low point in dialogue two years earlier. The theme of the encounter was love of God and neighbor, and the Vatican representatives made sure to highlight respect for human rights—including the rights of minority faith communities—as an essential area of cooperation. In December, another major Catholic-Muslim session took place at the Vatican, this one involving representatives of the World Islamic Call Society. The discussion theme of the three-day meeting was the responsibility of religious leaders in times of crisis. In April, an Iranian Muslim delegation arrived for talks at the Vatican, and participants said in a final statement that "faith and reason are intrinsically nonviolent."

Wisconsin church aids GM workers

MADISON, Wis. (CNS)—The Catholic Church in Wisconsin is reaching out to offer solidarity and hope to the more than 5,000 families who will be affected by the impending closure of a General Motors plant in Janesville and layoffs by other area employers. More than 1,200 hourly GM workers are to be laid off effective Jan. 2 after their holiday vacation. The GM plant was scheduled to stop production Dec. 23. "How do we reach out to our neighbors and find some hope? As people of faith, we trust that God is with us. We hold in prayer so many lives affected," Father Randy Timmerman, pastor of Saint John Vianney Parish in Janesville, told The Catholic Herald, Madison's diocesan newspaper.

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When **Jesus** turned around and noticed them following Him,

He asked them, **"What are you looking for?"**

They said to Him, "Rabbi, where do you stay?"

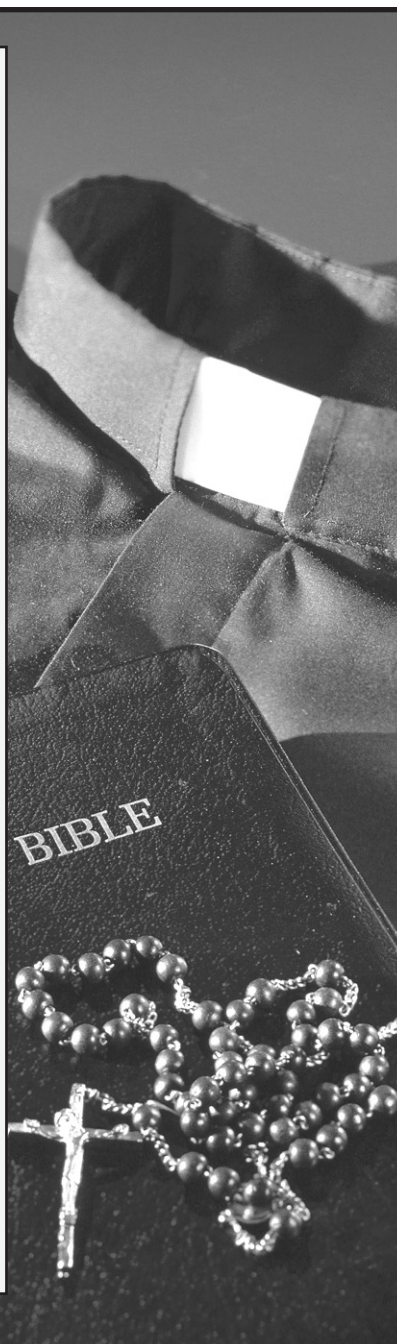
"Come and see," He answered.

John 1:38-39

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"...[I]n Prison and you visited me."
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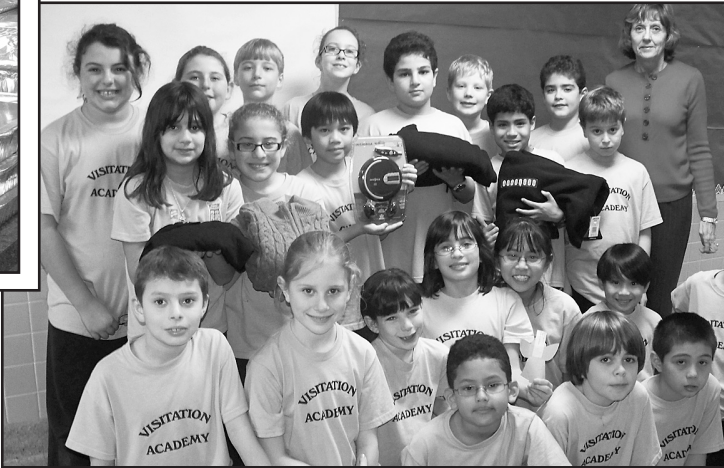




Submitted photos
NATIONAL HONORS—Sister Arline Zurich, O.S.B., Holy Childhood coordinator for the Archdiocese of Newark (left), congratulates Joan Malasig (second from left), a seventh grader at Our Lady of Victories School in Jersey City, for being among 23 national winners in the annual Pontifical Mission Societies' Holy Childhood Association Christmas Artwork Contest. Malasig's artwork was one of 10,000 entries judged in the contest. Her illustration (at left) depicts the Three Wise Men following the star in the east that will lead them to the baby Jesus. All 23 winning entries are on exhibit during the Advent and Christmas season at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. A Mass for the winners and their families was celebrated Dec. 12 at the Shrine. Malasig's religion director Maryann Garone and her religion and art teacher Welinda Tan (left to right) also are pictured.



Submitted photos
ACTS OF KINDNESS, CELEBRATING OUR SAVIOR'S BIRTH—Throughout the Archdiocese of Newark, youngsters and adults experienced the joy of giving to the less fortunate during this special and holy time of year. Starting with the bottom photo, clockwise, the Giving Group at Immaculate Conception High School in Montclair made a delivery to Mary's Pantry, a parish program; student council members at Saint Joseph School in East Rutherford collected food for the Rutherford Food Pantry; some 250 pounds of food donated by members of the Secaucus Knights of Columbus Council No. 12769 and parishioners of Immaculate Conception Parish were given to the Hoboken Homeless Shelter and Saint Lucy's Shelter in Jersey City; at Bergen Catholic High School the Crusaders of Christian Action student group conducted clothing and food drives; and a Christmas Angel Drive was held by fourth graders at Visitation Academy in Paramus.



Beholding the universe permeated by Divine Presence

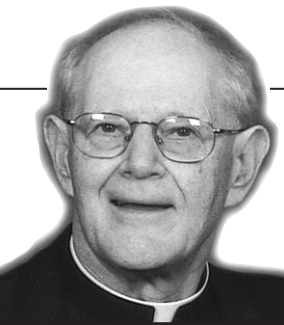
A few weeks ago the news carried the story that the astronomers of our country, through the magic of their telescopes and detecting devices, had managed to take a photo of three new stars never seen before. They are at the very edge of creation far beyond our galaxy, billions of light years away.

That knowledge should cause any thinking person to stop and reflect on our own insignificance in the reality of the entire creation. How vast is the entire universe with its millions of galaxies. How immense is that “before and after” by which we measure time. It is really beyond all comprehension.

And yet how simple it is for us who believe. “In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth...” (Gen 1:1). A child can hear and understand these words. The psalmist made it easy for those who will listen. “By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, by the breath of His mouth all their hosts...For He spoke and it was made: He commanded and it stood forth” (Psalm 33: 3,9).

VOICES

By Rev. Msgr. John Gilchrist



Saint John made the creation story even more clear. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was in God’s presence, and the Word was God...Through Him all things came into being, and apart from Him, nothing came to be” (John 1:1,3).

Saint Paul spoke to the Athenians about this unseen God. “In Him we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:28). This Creator is like the atmosphere that surrounds us; or it is like the “dark matter” that scientists tell us fills the universe? We are actually permeated by the Divine Presence that fills creation and holds it in existence.

And now, at this season, we are faced with the most astounding, most incredible, most awesome and mysterious words ever written. *Et Verbum Caro factum est, et habitavit in nobis* (“and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us”) (John 1:14).

And the children gather at the nativity scene. All is familiar. The beautiful mother, the tiny infant and the protecting father are all so reassuring. The shepherds, animals, the kings and even the angels are a comforting sight.

Jesus is the “Word of God” become man. The words once spoken to Mary by Gabriel become a reality for all who come in faith to the Manger. “For when the peaceful stillness encompassed everything and the night in its swift course was half spent, your all-powerful Word from heaven’s throne bounded” (Wis 18:14). “Be not afraid. All is calm. All is bright.” There is nothing to fear here.

The infinite has become finite. The eternal has stepped into time. The omnipotent has become as weak as a baby. The mighty Word that spoke in a power-filled roar that created the heavens and the earth, can



CNS photo

The Whirlpool galaxy is depicted in this deep-space image taken by the Hubble Space Telescope.

now be heard in a tiny baby’s gurgle and cry.

Yes, this is truly an unbelievable faith. In the face of such a majestic gesture of God’s love we can only kneel, watch and submit to the words of the El Shaddai, the Almighty One. “Be still and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10). The Lord seems to say, I am here among you and we can rest in the peace of God.

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

Countercultural thoughts to defend human dignity

Before tackling *Dignitas Personae* (The Dignity of a Person)—the recent instruction from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith on contemporary bioethical questions—I’d suggest re-reading the first chapter of Aldous Huxley’s “Brave New World.”

Huxley was no great shakes as a stylist, but his depiction of the Central London Hatchery and Conditioning Centre is a strikingly prescient, blood-chilling glance into a future in which manufacture and manipulation have replaced begetting and nurture at the beginnings of human life.

It’s remarkable enough that Huxley imagined all this a generation before the unraveling of the DNA double helix launched the genetic revolution. What’s even more striking is that Huxley’s dystopia (an imaginary, fearful, “anti-utopia” world) is, in fact, upon us.

Be scared. Be very scared. For the question is no longer whether we are on a slippery slope, careening downward toward a world of machine-tooled and stunted humanity—a world in which love is displaced by technique and longing by social planning. We’re on the slope all right and the question is whether the brakes can be applied soon enough. *Dignitas Personae* is a courageous effort to alert us to the present danger, to remind us of the dignity that is inherent in every human life from the moment of conception until the moment of natural death, and to suggest how that dignity is threatened by the false use of our new genetic knowledge, even in good causes.

Thanks to the prejudices of the mass media and the communications incapacities of the Church, Catholic teaching on sexual love and human reproduction is often taken to be a string of prohibitions, in which aloof and nay-saying celibate clergy presume to instruct lay men and women on their moral responsibilities. The truth of that matter, however, is that every

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

By George Weigel



“no” in the Church’s understanding of moral life is premised on a “yes.”

In the first millennium of Christian moral theology, morality was primarily understood as a means to happiness, and the Beatitudes were the “magna carta” of the Christian moral life. Christians didn’t do certain things, not because they were arbitrarily forbidden, but because they didn’t make for our happiness and flourishing.

The Church has begun to recover that positive, beatitude-centered understanding of the moral life, thanks to the work of great moral theologians like the recently deceased Father Servais Pinckaers, O.P., and the magisterium of Pope John Paul II. Because of this work, the Church of the 21st century can appeal to all men and women of good will on the basis of questions that are truly universal in scope: “What makes for human happiness?” “What makes for genuine human flourishing?”

Explicitly or implicitly, alone or with others, everyone asks those questions. Beginning there, we can have a real conversation about what is good and what is evil, what is noble and what is base, what is life-affirming and what is life denying.

In his great encyclical on Christian mission, *Redemptoris Missio*, John Paul II wrote that “The Church proposes; she imposes nothing.” In a cultural climate like our own—in which the question “Will it work?” usually trumps the question “Is it right?”—the Catholic proposals contained in *Dignitas Personae* are inevitably countercultural.

It is countercultural to affirm medical technologies and procedures that assist infertile couples in conceiving through natural means, while proposing that IVF (in vitro fertilization) poses grave moral problems. It is countercultural to embrace and celebrate the possibilities for healing contained in the new genetics, while proposing that embryo-destructive stem-cell research is a grave moral evil. It is countercultural to bring the tools of moral reason to bear on heart-rending issues that most of our fellow-citizens believe can be resolved emotively and technologically, on the basis of compassion wedded to technique.

So, yes, *Dignitas Personae* is countercultural. But it is countercultural precisely in order to lift up, defend, and promote the dignity of the human person, which is at risk when human life becomes commodified.

Knowledge must be complemented by wisdom—moral wisdom—if humanity is to avoid Huxley’s dystopia. Reminding us of that, *Dignitas Personae* does a great, necessary and compassionate service.

(George Weigel is Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.)

Every ‘no’ in the Church’s understanding of moral life is premised on a ‘yes.’

Felician College interfaith luncheon brings Abrahamic faiths to the table

LODI — Felician College's Department of Religious Studies and Angelicum, the Religious Studies Club, hosted an interfaith luncheon Nov. 18—an event sponsored by the Interfaith Dialog Center, Newark.

The theme of the luncheon was "Family in the Abrahamic Religions." The program included presentations by Rabbi Dr. Alan Brill, Seton Hall University; South Orange; Dr. Levent Koc, executive director of the Interfaith Dialog Center; and Professor Dorothy M. Noble, Felician College. Other participants in the event included Sister Maryann Mueller, Felician College; and Brother Kevin Smith, Felician College.

The mission of the Interfaith Dialog Center—a not-for-profit organization founded by Turkish-Americans living in North Jersey—is to contribute to improvements in diversity, pluralism and multiculturalism in our society. The group also maintains an office in Carlstadt.

Noble observed that individuals and faith communities engaged in an inter-



Submitted photo
Rabbi Dr. Alan Brill, Dr. Levent Koc, Professor Dorothy M. Noble, Sister Maryann Mueller, Felician College; and Brother Kevin Smith, Felician College (left to right) share a moment at an interfaith luncheon hosted by Felician College. Founded in 1942 by the Felician Sisters, Felician College is a coeducational, liberal arts, Catholic college with campuses, in Lodi and Rutherford.

religious dialogue are committed to sharing ideas, concerns, understanding, appreciation and enrichment of each others' traditions.

"The subject of family and parenting is a common point for dialogue among Jews, Christians and Muslims," Noble

said. "The Church regards the family as the original cell of social life and the human community is made up of persons. Any exploration of family and parenting issues must include concerns of justice in everyday relationships and life."

Archdiocese salutes outstanding youths

NEWARK—Fifty-two young people from throughout the Archdiocese of Newark were honored with individual awards at the annual Youth Ministry Recognition Mass celebrated Oct. 26 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart by Bishop Manuel A. Cruz (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Nov. 12).

Young people—listed below in alphabetical order along with their respective parish faith communities—who received awards from Bishop Cruz included: Juan Alvarado, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Newark; Cynthia Amaya, Christ the King, Hillside; Julianna Antonucci, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Tenafly; Stephanie Arias, Saint Mary, Elizabeth; Maggie Biedenkapp, Corpus Christi, Hasbrouck Heights; Pawel Borowiec, Saint Ann, Jersey City; Brendan Brito, Saint Catherine of Siena, Cedar Grove; Christine Brock, Saint Peter the Apostle, River Edge; Monica Castillo, Immaculate Conception, Elizabeth; Sujin Cho, Saint Andrew Kim, Maplewood; Christopher Conserve, Holy Spirit/Our Lady Help of Christian, East Orange; Suzanne Crifo, Saint Catharine, Glen Rock; Jennifer Cush, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Washington Township; Gabrielle Dennis, Saint Peter Claver, Montclair; Anthony DiBella, Saint Peter the Apostle, River Edge; Ralph Galvez, Our Lady of Sorrows, Kearny; Kristen Gawlik, Saint Joseph, Oradell; Steven Grabowski, Saint Thomas the Apostle, Bloomfield; Agnes Kalinowski, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Bayonne; Meghan Kiernan, Saint Vincent de Paul,

Bayonne; Lina Kraytem, Assumption, Emerson; Andrew Krema, Saint Bartholomew the Apostle, Scotch Plains; Mary La Riviera, Saint Mary, Nutley; Lilymey Lam, Saint Cecilia, Kearny; Katey Lawlor, Immaculate Conception, Norwood; George Leocata, Immaculate Conception, Norwood; Bryan Lindorff, Saint Stephen, Kearny; Erica LoGiudice, Saint Theresa, Kenilworth; Christina Mastroeni, Holy Family, Nutley; Natalie Millan, Saint John the Evangelist, Leonia; Matthew Cory Miller, Saint John the Apostle, Linden; Rosa Morocho, Holy Trinity, Fort Lee; Robert Mullins, Saint Vincent de Paul, Bayonne; Matthew Murphy, Saint Joseph, Bayonne; Jessie Rose Northgrave, Saint Michael, Bayonne;

Laura Olson, Saint Philomena, Livingston; Sarah Osterkorn, Holy Cross, Harrison; Domenick Panfile, Saint Mary, Dumont; Dillon Patrick, Saint Peter Claver, Montclair; Thomas Plate, Sacred Heart, Bloomfield; Owen Riley, Saint Lucy, Newark; Mary Rizzo, Our Lady of the Visitation, Paramus; Ericka Rodas, Saint Henry, Bayonne; Samantha Romano, Most Blessed Sacrament, Franklin Lakes; Kaitlyn Rossi, Sacred Heart, Bloomfield; Meghan Scarry, Saint Luke, HoHoKus; Alex Sturm, Saint James the Apostle, Springfield; Sara Taeschler, Our Lady of Lourdes, Mountainside; Rachel Tuck, Holy Name of Jesus, East Orange; Brian Whiteside, Saint Genevieve, Elizabeth; and James Zuba, Immaculate Conception, Norwood.



Advocate photo — Ward Miele
Bishop Manuel A. Cruz honored a long line of archdiocesan youth and young adults at the annual Youth Ministry Recognition Mass. Separately, the Archdiocese of Newark will celebrate "Young Adult Month" in January, with various outreach events. Call the office for Youth and Young Adults Ministry and the Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center in Kearny at (201) 998-0088 or visit the Web site (www.newarkoym.org), for a full listing of activities.

THE POPE SPEAKS

Pope reviews ecumenism paths, goals

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Now is the time for a "broad, precise and detailed" reflection on



Pope Benedict XVI


what the ecumenical movement has achieved, where it has stalled and what is needed to move the search for Christian unity forward, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"One could say that we find ourselves 'on the way,' at an intermediate stage, where it appears useful and opportune to examine objectively the results obtained," the pope said Dec. 12 during a meeting with members of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

The pope told council members it was essential to review the past in order to "identify new paths to follow, trying to overcome together the differences that unfortunately still remain in relations among the disciples of Christ." Looking particularly at relations with the Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox churches, Pope Benedict said significant steps forward had been made in the theological dialogue and in the "consolidation and growth of ecclesial fraternity. It is consoling to note how a sincere spirit of friendship between Catholics and Orthodox has been growing in these years," he said.

Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Christian unity council, told the pope that, while council members had identified "many good fruits" produced by the ecumenical dialogues, "we cannot close our eyes to the current situation, to new difficulties and challenges. We have identified new problems and looked for ways to face them," the 75-year-old cardinal said. "We also are convinced that recent difficulties cannot be a motive for slowing down or abandoning our commitment; rather, they must be a stimulus for reinforcing and intensifying it and for seeking new ways and methods to bring it to completion," he said.

Without mentioning any specific ecumenical difficulties, such as the differences with the Anglican Communion over homosexuality and over the ordination of women bishops, Cardinal Kasper said one of the chief barriers to Christian unity is differences in the way Christians interpret the word of God and the weight they give to Christian tradition.



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Submitted photo
NASA astronaut Col. Alvin Drew (center) reconnected with Sister Ursula Butler (right), currently the principal of Blessed Sacrament School in Elizabeth, who was his first-grade teacher. Col. Drew posed with members of the Blessed Sacrament kindergarten class and teacher Ann Fullem.

Astronaut orbits Elizabeth to visit a favorite teacher

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE
Editor

ELIZABETH—It was a celestial, “full-circle” moment for the principal of Blessed Sacrament elementary school and one of her former students, who is now a space traveler.

Students and staff at Blessed Sacrament welcomed NASA astronaut Col. Alvin Drew on Nov. 25. Drew, an Air Force colonel, is based at NASA’s Johnson Space Center in Houston. He was a member of the crew for the August 2007 Endeavor Space Shuttle mission that went into orbit and visited the International Space Station to make repairs and replenish supplies.

Col. Drew was fascinated with NASA’s Apollo missions to the moon during the 1970s, when he was a student at Saint Anthony School in Washington, D.C., which was staffed by the Benedictine Sisters of Elizabeth. His first-grade teacher at the time was Sister Ursula Butler, O.S.B., who is now the principal at Blessed Sacrament.

“He was a very gifted child. He always had an excitement to learn,” Sr. Ursula recalled, sharing her fondest memories of Col. Drew. “As a student he had a great interest in the NASA missions and said he wanted to be an astronaut.”

Last year, prior to his Endeavor mission, Col. Drew contacted Sr. Ursula and discussed plans to see her when his schedule permitted. As it turned out, he was traveling through the metropolitan area last month and made the arrangements.

Col. Drew addressed the Blessed Sacrament students at an assembly and discussed the history of space exploration by the United States. He told the assembly there could be a future astronaut in the room and enjoyed the many engaging questions posed by students. Col. Drew later went to each classroom to pose for photos with students.

Following his stay at Blessed Sacrament School, Col. Drew stopped at Saint Walburga Monastery to visit former teachers he had at Saint Anthony’s in Washington D.C. He visited with Sister Alice Kelly, O.S.B., who was principal when he was a student and Sister Damien Gatti, O.S.B., who taught him language arts.



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File photo

Cardinal Dulles (second from right) celebrated Christmas, Holy Week and Easter with the community of Our Lady of Sorrows, South Orange, annually from 2001 until his illness progressed in 2007. He is seen in this Easter photo with, from left, Deacon John Inguaggiato, Msgr. John Doran, Archdiocesan Vicar General and former pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows, and Fr. Marc A. Vicari.

Cardinal Dulles succumbs at 90; a dear friend of the archdiocese

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Cardinal Avery Dulles, a Jesuit theologian and friend of the Archdiocese of Newark who was made a cardinal in 2001, died Dec. 12 at the Jesuit infirmary in New York, Murray-Weigel Hall. A cause of death was not released but he had been in poor health. He was 90 years old.

A funeral Mass for the cardinal was celebrated Dec. 18 at St. Patrick's Cathedral, followed by burial at the Jesuit Cemetery in Auriesville, N.Y.

Pope Benedict XVI offered his condolences to the Jesuit community and Cardinal Dulles' friends and family. The pope remarked on the cardinal's "deep learning, serene judgment and unfailing love of the Lord and His Church which marked his entire priestly ministry and his long years of teaching and theological research."

Cardinal Dulles' death "brings home to God a great theologian and a totally dedicated servant of the Church," Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago, president of the U.S. bishops, said.

Cardinal Dulles had a long and warm connection with the Archdiocese of Newark and her people, and was a close friend and colleague of Archbishop John J. Myers, Archbishop Emeritus Peter L. Gerety and Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick.

He came to know the archdiocese when he participated first as a speaker in a lecture series at Sacred Heart Cathedral by prominent

theologians of the time that Archbishop Gerety organized. Later, Cardinal Dulles continued to share his gifts as a priest-theologian and teacher on a number of occasions with the seminarians at Immaculate Conception Seminary.

For many in the Archdiocese of Newark, Cardinal Dulles will be remembered for his strong parish link with Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in South Orange. Beginning in 1997, in the years leading up to the Jubilee Year of 2000, Cardinal Dulles helped establish a theological lecture series for interested lay people. He delivered six lectures over the years and helped to attract other theologians to the series.

In 2001, Cardinal Dulles celebrated Easter Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows shortly after he was created a Cardinal by Pope John Paul II that February, and he continued to return to South Orange and celebrate Christmas, Holy Week and Easter with the community of Our Lady of Sorrows annually until his illness progressed in 2007.

"The Catholic Church and the world has lost one of its most inspiring teachers of faith, and strongest moral voices," Archbishop Myers said. "Throughout his entire life, Avery Dulles helped countless people reach a deeper relationship with God, and a stronger understanding of how to live according to the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

"I first came to know him when I was a doctoral student at Catholic University, and we have

remained great friends throughout the years, a friendship that I have always valued beyond measure," the archbishop continued. "Even in his last years, as he met the challenge of physical ailments, he did so with a grace and a serenity that clearly taught

surrender to the will of God."

Cardinal Dulles gave what was described as a farewell address in April, delivering the Laurence J. McGinley lecture at Jesuit-run Fordham University, New York. In the presentation Cardinal Dulles reconfirmed his faith, his orthodoxy, his spirituality and his commitment to the Society of Jesus. He also offered a final word against the materialism, he said is found in modern society.

Later that month he had a private meeting with Pope Benedict XVI during the pontiff's visit to New York. The session was called a significant meeting of "two of the leading Catholic theologians who interpreted Vatican II for a generation," by Father James Massa, executive director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs. Father Massa described Cardinal Dulles as a "reliable and faithful interpreter" of the Second Vatican Council for "a generation of priests, scholars and faithful."

Pope John Paul II, who began the practice of naming as cardinals priest-theologians who were already past age 80 and therefore ineligible to vote in a conclave, included Cardinal Dulles in the group of cardinals created in 2001.

The son of former Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and nephew of onetime CIA director Allen Walsh Dulles—both of whom served in the Eisenhower

administration during the 1950s—Cardinal Dulles, became known for his groundbreaking 1974 work "Models of the Church," one of 22 books published under his name in which he defined the Church as institution, mystical communion, sacrament, herald, servant and community of disciples and critiqued each.

Born Aug. 24, 1918, Cardinal Dulles was the grandson of a Presbyterian minister. He joined the Catholic Church as a young man after he went through a period of unbelief.

"In becoming a Catholic, I felt from the beginning that I was joining the communion of the saints," he said at a 2004 lecture in New York on author C.S. Lewis. "I found great joy at the sense of belonging to a body of believers that stretched across the face of the globe."

He entered the Catholic Church in 1941 while a student at Harvard Law School. He served in the Navy in World War II and then entered the Jesuits after his discharge in 1946. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1956.

Past president of both the Catholic Theological Society of America and the American Theological Society, Cardinal Dulles served on the International Theological Commission and as a member of the U.S. Lutheran-Roman Catholic dialogue. He also served as a consultant to the U.S. bishops' Committee on Doctrine.

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Advocate photo - Ward Miele

TEAM EFFORT—Just in time for Christmas dinner, the National Basketball Players' Association (NBPA) delivered 500 frozen turkeys to the Emergency Food and Nutrition Network (EFNN) of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark. The turkeys were delivered the morning of Dec. 16 and distributed the same day—part of a nationwide NBPA effort in conjunction with Catholic Charities USA and Feed The Children. Overall, Catholic Charities USA distributed 15,000 turkeys to needy families across the nation. "NBA players recognize how the current economy is impacting our fans and families," Derek Fisher, NBPA president, said. EFNN manages 75 emergency food pantries that operate throughout the four counties of the archdiocese. Contact EFNN at (973) 266-7966 to make a donation.



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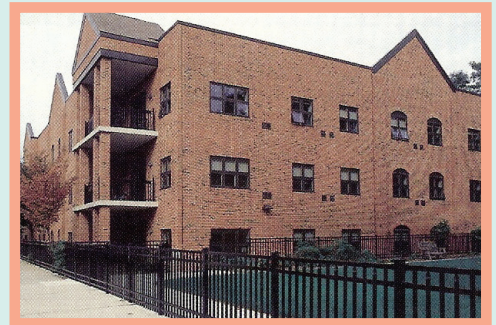
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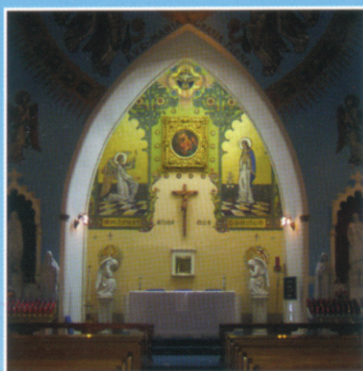
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Ramapo students 'focus' on faith mission

MAHWAH — Ramapo College has become the second college campus in New Jersey to establish a chapter of Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS). Ramapo joins the FOCUS team at Seton Hall University (SHU), South Orange.

Nationwide FOCUS has 39 chapters in 21 states. Including Ramapo College, seven chapters have been added since the start of this academic year. The national headquarters for FOCUS is based in Denver.

FOCUS missionaries typically work alongside the local campus ministries. At Ramapo College, FOCUS has teamed up with Catholics at Ramapo United (CRU).

As a separate prelude to this alliance, Archbishop John J. Myers visited the Ramapo campus last February to celebrate Mass with more than 50 students as well as trumpet a link between CRU and nearby Immaculate Conception Parish (see *The Catholic Advocate*, March 5).

"I have really enjoyed getting to know our FOCUS missionaries. They are very personable men and women of deep conviction," Dan Grassano, CRU president, said. "The FOCUS Bible study that I have attended has been a great way to reflect on Scripture with my fellow Catholics as well as take away practical ways to live our faith."

Bible studies, retreats and missions, along with one-on-one discipleship are part of the overall process of the FOCUS approach to Catholic ministry for college students. According to information provided by a FOCUS spokesman in Denver, the thrust for FOCUS,



Advocate photo—Melissa McNally

Archbishop John J. Myers (center) last month welcomed members of the new Ramapo College chapter of FOCUS to the Archdiocesan Center in Newark. Meeting with the archbishop were, left to right, Maria Parker, Edward Gasiewski, Ronald Roth, Jr., and Jessica Pruemer. Founded in 1998, the mission of FOCUS (www.focusonline.org) is to foster the "fullness of life and truth in the Church" with college students through Bible studies, leadership training and Christian fellowship.

working in conjunction with existing campus ministries, is to create Catholic communities on college and university campuses to share the message of Jesus Christ and His Church. FOCUS missionaries go out to students, meet them where they are in life and work to build genuine friendships, he said.

Earlier this year five FOCUS missionaries from SHU traveled to Texas to participate in the group's annual national conference (see *The Catholic Advocate*, March 5). Traveling with the SHU FOCUS quintet were more than 50 Catholic Campus Ministry students from the Garden State.

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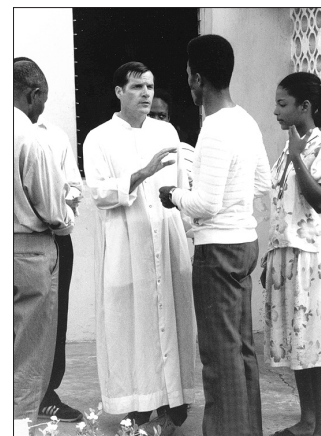
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Christmas and New Year's Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve Midnight High Mass:
Dec. 24, 2008 at 11 p.m.

• **Christmas Day: Thursday, December 25**
• 7:30 a.m.; 9:00 a.m.; 11:00 a.m.

Octave Day of Christmas January 1, 2009
Masses: 9; 11 a.m. (High Mass); 7 p.m.

• Confessions Christmas Eve: 10:00 p.m.
On the other days 1/2 hour before and between Masses.

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The Missionary Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception are currently seeking 2 Administrators (1 full-time, 1 part-time) for their unlicensed Transitional Care Unit in Tenafly, NJ. The Administrators are responsible for fostering the life and spirit of the congregation through the care of the sisters, and for the professional and efficient operation of the facility. Experience in senior health care and employee management would be a plus.

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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 answer. Between 4th and 9th day, you will see arose in magazine, TV picture or receive roses. You can also get a strong scent of roses in home even if no roses present. Must promise publication. Thank you.)

S.C.

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J.B.

NOVENAS

PRAYER TO THE
BLESSED VIRGIN

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

E.D.

PRAYER TO 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.

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C.R.

C.Q.

NOVENA TO THE SACRED HEART

I give thanks for the favor Granted by the powerful Novena made to the Sacred Heart. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, adored and glorified through the whole world forever. Amen. Say this little prayer (6) times a day for (9) consecutive days, your prayer will be answered before the 9th day, no matter how impossible it may seem to you. Don't forget to thank the Sacred Heart. Publication promised. Many favors Received.

J.I.

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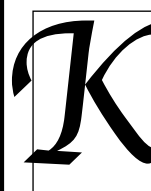


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Official Appointments

Archbishop John J. Myers has announced the following appointments:

ARCHDIOCESAN AGENCY/MINISTRY

Reverend Monsignor Richard J. Arnholz, pastor of Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Bergenfield and Vicar for Pastoral Life for the Archdiocese of Newark, has been reappointed as Vicar for Pastoral Life to another three-year term, effective Jan. 1, 2009.

PASTOR

Reverend John G. Judge, pastor of Saint Cassian Parish, Upper Montclair, has had his pastorate extended, ending Feb. 1, 2013.

Very Reverend Anthony J. Randazzo, V.F., parochial vicar of Notre Dame Parish, North Caldwell, has been appointed pastor of Notre Dame Parish, North Caldwell, effective Feb. 1, 2009.

PAROCHIAL VICAR

Reverend James H. Cho, parochial vicar of Assumption Parish, Emerson, has been appointed parochial vicar of Saint Andrew Kim Parish, Maplewood, effective Jan. 21, 2009.

December 31

Queen of Peace Parish, North Arlington, Eucharistic Adoration, 6 p.m., (201) 997-0700.

January 3

Holy Family Chapel, Convent Station, 200th anniversary of Mother Seton's founding of the Sisters of Charity, Mass at 11 a.m., (973) 290-5472 or (973) 290-5338.

January 4

Holy Cross Parish, Harrison, Chinese Mass, 2 p.m., also on Jan. 18, (973) 484-5678.

January 7

Holy Spirit Parish, Union, Holy Hour for Life, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m., (908) 687-3327.

January 18

Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, Pro-Life Mass and Holy Hour, with celebrant and homilist Most Rev. Manuel A. Cruz, D.D., noon, (973) 484-4600.

Other

Most Blessed Sacrament Friary, Newark. Conference, adoration reconciliation and

Mass on every second Saturday morning, 9 a.m. – noon. Call (973) 684-7260.

St. Joseph School, Bogota. The school is looking for graduates who might be interested in joining a newly formed alumni association. Contact Oksana Bodnar at oksanacharuk@aol.com or call the school at 201-487-8641.

Our Lady Queen of Peace, Maywood. Monthly devotional prayer service to St. Padre Pio on the first Friday of every month at 7:30 p.m. Contact Deacon Joe by e-mail at djoemantaneo@aol.com or call (201) 845-9566.

NJ Blood Services is in need of volunteers to work blood drives. For additional information contact Jan Zepka, manager of community relations at (732) 616-8741.

St. Patrick's, Assumption and All Saints School, Jersey City. In 2009, St. Patrick School will celebrate its 100th anniversary. The school, which merged with Assumption All Saints School in 2004, is looking for any and all former graduates of the three schools. Alumni are being asked to send updated phone and address information. Call (201) 433-4664 or fax (201) 433-0935.



Submitted photo

INCLUSIVE SPIRIT—Eoin Lynn met Santa Claus at festivities following an Advent Inclusive Family Mass at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament in Roseland on Dec. 11. Knights of Columbus Council No. 3533 brought Santa to the event. The Mass was part of the faith-based mother's support group, "And a Child Shall Lead Them," facilitated by Cherie Castellano and Sister Rie Crowley, S.S.J. The group will host a eucharistic retreat for children with developmental disabilities, led by the Salesian Sisters of the Sacred Heart Retreat Center, on Jan. 24, 2009 at the parish center. Call Cathy Gibbons at (973) 226-5251 or Castellano at (973) 228-8908 for details.



Submitted photo

WHEELS WANTED—The Caldwell College Campus Ministry needs a new or slightly used van for its community outreach programs. Campus ministry students pursue volunteer efforts such as the Saint Augustine Parish soup kitchen in Newark (pictured above), which is run by the Missionaries of Charity. Students also travel monthly to New York City to feed and clothe the homeless through the "Midnight Run" program. There are plans to expand the campus ministry's volunteer projects in 2009 and students will need a van to travel to various locations. Call Deacon Gregory Quinn at (973) 618-3302 or Sharon Dwyer at (973) 618-3207 to discuss donations.

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How to report abuse

The Archdiocese of Newark takes very seriously any and all 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.

Trinitas adds to arsenal in battle against cancer

ELIZABETH—Thanks to a generous donation, Trinitas Comprehensive Cancer Center now offers High-Dose Rate (HDR) Brachytherapy.

"We applaud the generosity of Henry Hill 'Hank' Carroll," Nadine Brechner, executive director of the Trinitas Health

Foundation, said. "This is ultimately a gift to the patients who will benefit from being able to have all of their treatments and visits in one location where they already feel comfortable, rather than moving around from one area to another.

"From everything I have heard about Hank, he was always helping our patients. His legacy of caring continues," she said.

HDR Brachytherapy is a form of radiation treatment also known as interstitial irradiation. In brachytherapy, a radiation source is placed directly within or near the tumor site, which allows for a faster and more effective delivery of radiation treatment with the maximum dose given where it is needed most. Through this technique minimal radiation reaches surrounding healthy tissue.

HDR brachytherapy typically is used to treat cancers of the cervix and endometrium, bronchus, esophagus, head and neck, and soft-tissue sarcomas. At the Trinitas Cancer Center, HDR is used for Mammosite, endometrial and cervical cancers, and Endobronchial Radiation.

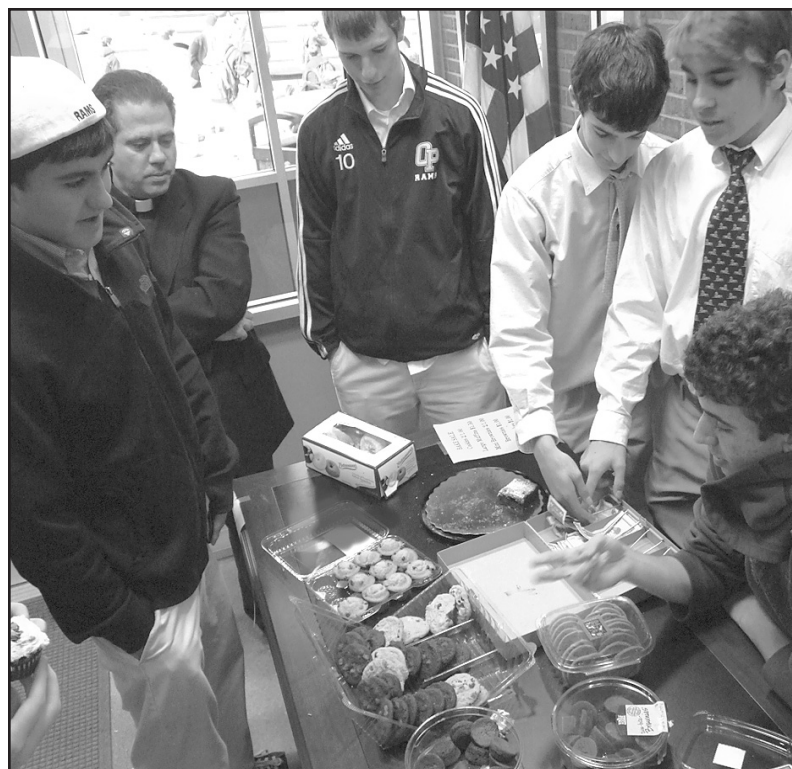
Grads sought for school gala

EAST RUTHERFORD—Graduates, former faculty and members of the Saint Joseph School community are being sought for a 130th anniversary gala celebration on March 27, 2009.

The event will be held at the Fiesta Restaurant in Wood Ridge. Tickets are \$55 per person.

Those associated with the school are encouraged to provide photos and/or other memorabilia that will be on display at the gala.

For additional information contact the school at (201) 939-3193.



Submitted photo

HELPING CHILDREN SMILE—Students at Oratory Prep in Summit recently raised \$250 at a bake sale as part of the school's ongoing support of Operation Smile. The international organization funds medical treatment for children and young adults with cleft lips and palates and other facial deformities. To date some 120,000 successful surgeries have been performed. Oratory senior Jake Keller, managing the money box, traveled to India this month with Operation Smile. Father Paul Prevosto, second from left, is moderator of the school's Operation Smile chapter.

Mass ponders divine patterns of pain, suffering and healing

SOUTH ORANGE—Celebrating the annual healing Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Father Richard Pfannenstiel, parochial vicar, contemplated the

redemptive power of suffering.

In his homily, Fr. Pfannenstiel explained that pain and suffering have always characterized human existence. However, he stressed, a

"deep and abiding" faith can more clearly explain the mystery of suffering and help in enduring pain. That mystery, he noted, involves a realization that one's life is part of the divine pattern of redemption and resurrection.

"God wishes us to foster our own good health and well being and that of society," Fr. Pfannenstiel said, adding that it is through the spiritualization of pain that one can participate in a more meaningful way in the sufferings of Christ and in ultimate redemption and resurrection.

Msgr. Robert E. Emery, the pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows, concelebrated the Mass, while Sister Mary Selina, S.C.C. led the planning committee. Those in attendance were able to receive the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.

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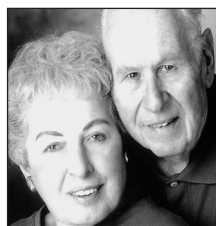
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Retreat eyes 'Beginnings'

BLOOMFIELD — The Ministry for Spiritual Direction at Saint Thomas Apostle Parish, 60 Byrd Ave., will hold a "New Beginnings" retreat on Saturday, Jan. 17, 2009, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the parish center.

New Beginnings retreats focus on spiritual refreshment for the New Year. To register call Anna at (973) 338-9538. A light continental breakfast will be served. Participants should bring a brown bag lunch.

Holy Name gives ‘Mission’ award to Mercado for her heroic deed

TEANECK—Holy Name Hospital presented its “Mission in Action” award Nov. 26 to employee Angelica Mercado for her heroic acts on Nov. 20. Mercado, 24, was driving on the New Jersey Turnpike to her 3–11 p.m. shift as a patient-care technician and secretary on the Holy Name pulmonary unit, when she witnessed the explosion of a tanker truck. She pulled over at the scene of the accident and used her coat to smother the flames that had engulfed the driver. She then helped the injured man into her car and drove him to The University Hospital in Newark, the closest hospital.

A student at Felician College, Mercado is working toward her degree as a registered nurse. Along with the Mission in Action award, Holy Name Hospital gave Mercado a gift card to compensate for the loss of her jacket.

“It doesn’t surprise me.

Angelica is very kind and considerate, responsible, a hard worker,” Lori Fitzsimmons, R.N., unit director and Mercado’s supervisor, said, after hearing the news of Mercado’s heroic act. “She’s a team player. I am very proud of her and honored to have her as part of the 5 Marian team.”

“This was a dangerous situation, one that many people would have run from—not toward,” Michael Maron, Holy Name’s president and chief executive officer said. “For such a young woman to have disregarded her own safety to help another is extraordinary. She’s obviously a very special person. I think I speak for everyone, when I say that I’m so proud Angelica is a member of our staff.”



Submitted photo

GAMES AND GOOD WILL—Students of Saint Peter’s Prep, Jersey City, collected and donated video games for the Pediatric Wing at Hoboken University Medical Center. Students are pictured with members of the nursing staff. Prep junior Keith Cummings, who was hospitalized at the medical center earlier this year, initiated the effort. With help from members of Saint Peter’s chapter of Pax Christi, a social justice club, Cummings donated various video games. “We put flyers throughout the school and got a great response,” said senior Christian Baranok, who serves as president of the club. Founded in 1872, Saint Peter’s Prep (Web site: www.stpetersprep.org) is a Catholic, Jesuit college preparatory school for young men.



Submitted photo

REACHING OUT—Sean Siburn and Michelle Ryngel, sophomores at Union Catholic Regional High School, have established a school chapter of Raising Educated Awareness for the Causes of HIV (REACH). Students and a faculty moderator meet monthly during club periods at the Scotch Plains school to develop programs that raise awareness of AIDS health issues. Organizations benefiting from the efforts of the Union Catholic REACH chapter include Saint Clare homes and programs for children with HIV; Academy Street Firehouse in Newark; and the KAHAMA mission in Shinyanga, Tanzania, East Africa.



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HEAVENLY PEACE—The 38th annual “Candlelight Carol Sing” was held Dec. 17 and 18 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark. Led by John J. Miller, director of music ministries, the Cathedral Choir, Cathedral Chamber Orchestra and the inspired audience performed “O Come All Ye Faithful,” “The First Nowell,” “Joy to the World,” “Silent Night” and “Hark the Herald Angels Sing.” According to notes in the program booklet, the Carol Sing originated as an impromptu event in 1969, when a snowstorm disrupted a scheduled organ recital at the Cathedral. With the organ soloist unable to attend due to the blizzard, John Rose—then the director of music—led the disappointed concert crowd in the singing of Christmas carols. The rest, as they say, is Carol Sing history.

