



# The Catholic Advocate



Vol. 57, No. 22

Official newspaper of the Archdiocese of Newark

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## Plans in place to captivate young adults

Sister Loretta DeDomenicis and others have developed a slate of inspirational activities for the month of January.

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## Saint James deacon works to aid homeless

Deacon Jerry Bongiovanni, a member of a Plainfield organization named Homefirst, offers help through a 'community of believers.'

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## College in Rome taps archbishop to serve as president

ROME—Archbishop John J. Myers has been elected president of the Pontifical North American College in Rome, it was announced last week.

He will hold this post for a term of three years as he continues to serve as Archbishop of Newark. Archbishop Myers is an alumnus (class of 1967) of North American College.

Founded by the American bishops in 1859 at the request of Pope Pius IX, North American College serves as a residence and house of formation for U.S. seminarians and graduate students. Students pursue theological and related studies principally at the Pontifical Gregorian University and at the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas (the Angelicum).

North American College is home to roughly 160 Roman Catholic seminarians, as well as numerous faculty members and graduate students from across the United States, Canada and Australia.

Archbishop Myers was installed as Archbishop of Newark Oct. 9, 2001. Two years ago he celebrated the 40th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.



Archbishop John J. Myers

## NJCC urges lawmakers to pass stalled urban scholarship bills

BY CHRIS DONAHUE

Special to The Catholic Advocate

PISCATAWAY — The New Jersey Catholic Conference (NJCC), Trenton, is encouraging a renewed effort from the public to get the state legislature to schedule a vote on bills that would provide scholarships for eligible low-income children to attend participating public or non-public schools.

Senate Bill 1607 and its identical Assembly version, 2897—known as the Urban Enterprise Zone Jobs Scholarship Act—would establish a five-year pilot program in the state Department of the Treasury to provide tax credits for companies that offer tuition scholarships for children

in certain urban enterprise zone municipalities.

The bills have been stalled in committees in the Senate and Assembly as of Nov. 11, George V. Corwell, director of the Office of Education for the NJCC, reported. Public support is needed, he said, because sometimes legislators "will take a bill so far and then they will take a breather."

"It is very important for every taxpayer and we would like to get movement on it," he said. "We want to prevent the old saying 'out of sight, out of mind.' We want legislators to continue to care about it."

Last May, Most Rev. Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., Auxiliary Bishop of Newark and the Regional Bishop of

Essex County, appeared at a hearing held by the State Senate Economic Growth Committee and spoke in favor of the legislation, urging elected officials to pass the bills (see *The Catholic Advocate*, May 21).

The bills reflect the Church's teaching on social justice because they would provide low-income families with an equal opportunity to succeed, according to Corwell, adding that an estimated 20,000 students will become beneficiaries of the scholarship program over its five-year pilot phase.

"The children who attend non-public schools and come from middle-class backgrounds can move to a different school," Corwell explained.

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## 'Giving' aids Church, eases angst caused by meltdown

BY WARD MIELE

Managing Editor

NUTLEY—"Procrastination is the real culprit," financial expert Sal Salvo cautioned last month at an archdiocesan-sponsored estate-planning seminar held at Saint Mary's Parish.

Salvo, co-founder of the Institute for Family Wealth Counseling in Parsippany (Web site: [www.thefamilywealthinstitute.com](http://www.thefamilywealthinstitute.com)), focused on income tax reduction, elimination of estate tax and estate planning from a Catholic perspective during the seminar. His warning on procrastination regarding individual estate planning is all the more urgent these days, given the uncertainty created by the unfolding global financial meltdown.

The seminar was part of a county-by-county series sponsored by the archdiocese that begins each September. Parishes interested in scheduling similar sessions can contact Anne DeVivo DeMesa, archdiocesan director of gift planning, at (973) 497-4048 or [demesaan@rcan.org](mailto:demesaan@rcan.org) (Web site: [www.rcan.org/plannedgiving](http://www.rcan.org/plannedgiving)). The seminars, DeVivo DeMesa pointed out, have been well attended and well received by parishioners.

The main goal of the seminar series, according to DeVivo DeMesa, is "to encourage parishioners to consider including their parish and the Church in their estate plans while providing information about the importance of a will and unlocking a person's giving potential as well as learning how to pay less estate and income tax through planned giving strategies."

DeVivo DeMesa explained that planned giving "opens up possibilities" by allowing the donor to help support local Church organiza-

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# Online SHU course to study tales of transformation

## Retreat to launch 'Spiritual Books'

SOUTH ORANGE—Seton Hall University's Institute for Christian Spirituality will kick off its "Great Spiritual Books" course by hosting a retreat on Saturday, Jan. 17, 2009 at Quellen Spiritual Center, 350 Bernardsville Rd., Mendham, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The retreat will introduce the new online Great Spiritual Books graduate certificate course—The Spiritual Journey in Christian Fiction—being unveiled by SHU in January 2009. Religion teachers, catechists, counselors, pastors, chaplains, mentors, motivation and leadership trainers all stand to benefit from the retreat.

Titled "Becoming a Spiritual Hero: A Journey for Story Lovers who Thirst for Spiritual Adventure," the retreat is open to the public and will feature best-selling author and broadcaster Father Dwight Longenecker, the founder of the "Ordinary Hero Program." Known for his many books and

articles on Christian themes, Fr. Longenecker seeks through this program to help enthusiasts discover how stories present "magic" keys to unlocking people's heroic and spiritual potential.

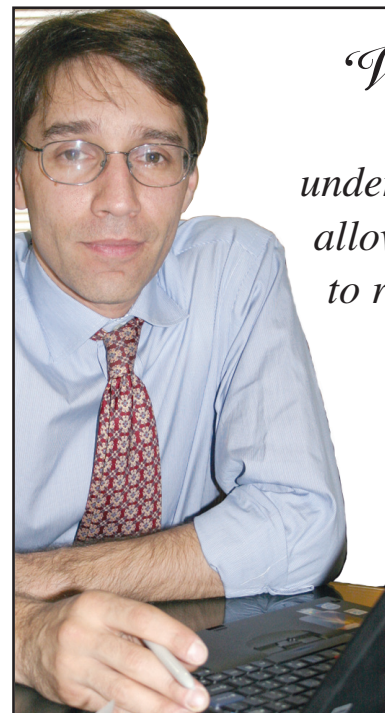
SHU's Spiritual Journey in Christian Fiction is the first of seven classes in the Great Spiritual Books program, which will focus on spiritual themes in world literature from various Christian traditions—Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Aug. 6). It is a three-credit online graduate course that may be taken individually or—like the other courses in the 21-credit online graduate certificate program—can be applied toward a Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry or a Master of Arts in Theology degree. SHU's Institute for Christian Spirituality is part of Immaculate Conception Seminary.

Program organizers at SHU said the Great Spiritual Books

course is designed to show how Christian spiritual literature can help people build friendships, stir up zeal for spiritual adventure and invigorate their professional lives and ministries. The online program will seek to engage people from a wide array of professional and life experiences—religious and lay.

"Books are gateways into other worlds," Gregory Glazov, D. Phil, Great Spiritual Books program coordinator and associate professor of Biblical Studies at Seton Hall, said. "This program allows people the chance to recognize the exciting possibilities of this world by showing how the story of our lives connects with stories of the great spiritual classics, especially *The Greatest Story Ever Told*."

Glazov explained that in developing the program he was looking for stories in great literature that dealt with a character's journey of spiritual transforma-



*"Wisdom dwells in the hearts of those who understand. This program allows people the chance to recognize the exciting possibilities of this world by showing how the story of our lives connects with stories of the great spiritual classics."*

— Gregory Glazov

tion. The quest, he said, is for enlightenment and understanding—profound themes that hopefully will resonate in the lives of those who sign up for the course.

"Understanding is the key to everything," Glazov said. "Wisdom dwells in the hearts of those who understand."

Offering an example of the curriculum, Glazov said the online program will compare and contrast the spiritual journeys of characters in classic myths and fairy tales with those seen in Dante's

"Divine Comedy," Bunyan's "The Pilgrim's Regress," Shakespeare's "King Lear," and the well-known fiction of C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien.

To make a reservation for the "Becoming a Spiritual Hero" retreat, contact Deborah Kuras by phone at (973) 313-6329 or via e-mail at [kurasdeb@shu.edu](mailto:kurasdeb@shu.edu). For information about the online Great Spiritual Books graduate certificate program or to request an application, e-mail request to: [theology@shu.edu](mailto:theology@shu.edu).

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**HARK, THE HERALD ANGELS WILL SING ON TWO NIGHTS!**—The 38th annual "Candlelight Carol Sing" will be presented in two performances—Wednesday, Dec. 17 and Thursday, Dec. 18—at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, 89 Ridge St., Newark. Doors open at 7 p.m. for both nights with music slated to begin at 8 p.m. Due to popular demand, a second concert has been added this year to accommodate the many enthusiastic Carol Sing fans. John J. Miller, cathedral director of music ministries, will conduct the event, which features the dazzling Cathedral Choir and Orchestra.



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FREQUENCY FOR THE YEAR  
The Catholic Advocate continues to be a bi-weekly publication. Final publication date for 2008 is December 24.

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# 'Relax, do nothing' rarely part of plan as priests weigh options for retirement

## Issues include healthcare and where to reside

BY WARD MIELE  
Managing Editor

Although life beyond active ministry has unique challenges and opportunities, priests of the Archdiocese of Newark, like anyone else, must plan in advance for retirement. Rev. Msgr. Edward G. Bradley, archdiocesan director of the Ministry to Retired Priests, stressed that a retiree once told him there are three vital elements to be considered: a place to call home; people to love you; and something to look forward to.

Right now there are 201 retired archdiocesan priests. Those who will soon join those ranks, along with colleagues for whom retirement is several years away, attended a retirement planning seminar held Nov. 11 at the Archdiocesan Center in Newark.

The seminar offered information on the archdiocese's retirement process, long-term care insurance, financial planning and planned giving. The thrust, explained Father Joseph Petrillo, executive director of the Office of Clergy Personnel, was to let priests of the archdiocese know of the assistance and services available to them.

A priest is entitled to retire at the age of 70 with the effective date being either Feb. 1 or July 1 after his 70th birthday. At the age of 75 he must submit his retirement request to



Advocate photo — Ward Miele

Reviewing materials handed out at the November retirement workshop are, left to right, Rev. Msgr. Timothy J. Shugrue, pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Montclair; Father Thomas P. Conheeney, parochial vicar at Saint Mary Star of the Sea Parish, Bayonne; and Father John P. McGovern, pastor of Saint Michael Parish, Cranford.

Archbishop John J. Myers, who may or may not accept it. Priests also can retire at an earlier age due to health-related issues.

The basic options for a priest contemplating retirement, explained Fr. Petrillo, are "what and where." Most priests, he emphasized, do not retire completely. "Doing nothing is very rare," he said, considering the wealth of knowledge and experience priests acquire over the years.

Many retired priests remain active, Msgr. Bradley pointed out, through week-end assistance at parishes, retreat work, working with Catholic Relief Services, individual counseling and visiting nursing homes. Essentially, Msgr. Bradley explained, retirement for a priest means being free of administrative responsibilities and "doing things at his own pace."

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# Young Adult Month activities to feature 'Theology on Tap', March for Life rally

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE  
Editor

AREA—The fourth annual archdiocesan "Young Adult Month" celebration, sponsored and organized by the Archdiocesan office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries and Youth Retreat Center, 499 Belgrove Dr., Kearny, will kick off the New Year with a slate of events to be held throughout January 2009.

Various activities planned in Bergen, Hudson, Essex and Union counties, and outside of the archdiocese, such as an assortment of topics in the popular "Theology on Tap" series, will look to socially and spiritually engage young adults—twenty- and thirty-something women and men, married or single. Reflections on the life of Saint Paul, in honor of "The Year of Saint Paul" as declared by Pope Benedict XVI, are a featured theme in several activities.

Highlights for the month include the annual "Sons and Daughters of the Light" weekend retreat and the two-day bus pilgrimage to Washington D.C. to participate in the 36th annual March for Life demonstration.

The following list represents the Young Adult Month schedule as of Dec. 10, however activity dates, speakers and locations are subject to change. It's strongly advised that those seeking more information or looking to confirm a particular event should contact Sister Loretta DeDomenicis, director of parish outreach and training, at (201) 998-0088, ext. 4147. Sister Loretta also can be reached via e-mail at: dedomelo@rcan.org.

In addition, updated information on Young Adult Month activities will be posted on the Kearny center's Web site (www.newarkoym.org), such as speakers and topics for several Theology on Tap sessions that were not final at presstime.

## Young Adult Month January 2009

Jan. 8

Theology on Tap—"Googling God: Connecting with the Divine in a Busy World;" Mike Hayes, managing editor, Busted Halo.com and author of "Googling God"; 7 p.m.; \$10 per person for an all-inclusive supper at the Cloverleaf Tavern, 395 Bloomfield Ave., Caldwell

Jan. 10

Young Adult Month Festival of Praise and Celebration; eucharistic adoration followed by food, fun and festivities; 8-10 p.m.; Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center, 499 Belgrove Drive, Kearny

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## Pontiff condemns Mumbai terror plot

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Benedict XVI condemned the wave of terrorist attacks in India as acts of “cruel and senseless violence,” and led prayers for the nearly 200 people who died and the hundreds injured in the bloodshed. The pope asked for prayers for the victims of the attacks in Mumbai, the Indian financial capital, where suspected Islamic militants assaulted at least 10 targets in a three-day siege that began Nov. 26. Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, said the terrorists clearly had chosen India, a place of tensions and conflicts, as a “critical point at which to try to ignite an even more frightening conflagration, whose consequences are difficult to imagine, given the demographic dimensions of southern Asia and its role in world development.”

## Pope begins Advent with an eye on hope

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—In their prayers and through their actions in Advent, Christians are called to be signs of hope for a world marked by holiness and jus-

tice, Pope Benedict XVI said. “Advent is the spiritual season of hope par excellence, when the whole Church is called to become hope for itself and for the world,” the pope said Nov. 29 as he celebrated vespers on the eve of the first Sunday of Advent. Advent hope, he said, is a recognition of the ongoing need for salvation. “We do not await the Lord as some beautiful decoration for a world already saved,” he said, but as the only one who can bring to completion the work begun with his incarnation, death and resurrection. The pope said Advent is a time when Christians prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ by making sure they welcome Him fully into their hearts and lives.

## Orthodox patriarch praises Saint Paul

HUNTINGTON, N.Y. (CNS)—Saint Paul the Apostle’s writings and ministry have a daily impact on people almost 2,000 years later and “an ocean away,” and the Pauline year is not long enough to fully appreciate his legacy, Archbishop Demetrios told an audience in Huntington. The patriarch of the Greek Orthodox Church in the United States said

Saint Paul’s influence is apparent if often unnoticed today and pointed out how often Saint Paul is quoted, not just in church circles, but in everyday life. “Fight the good fight,” “labor of love,” “the wages of sin” and “suffer fools gladly” are among the common expressions from the 13 letters in the New Testament attributed to Saint Paul, Archbishop Demetrios said. Catholics and Orthodox Christians are celebrating a Pauline year from June 28, 2008, to June 29, 2009. In his lecture Archbishop Demetrios spoke of Saint Paul’s “pastoral genius” in taking the Gospel of Christ to the larger world and establishing a body of thought that has endured so long.

## Cardinal ponders risks of dialogue

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Interreligious dialogue carries some risks, but the benefits it promises to all believers and to a world yearning for peace make it a risk Christians must be willing to take, a leading Vatican official said. “We are ‘condemned’ to dialogue,” said French Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, president of the Pontifical Council for Inter-

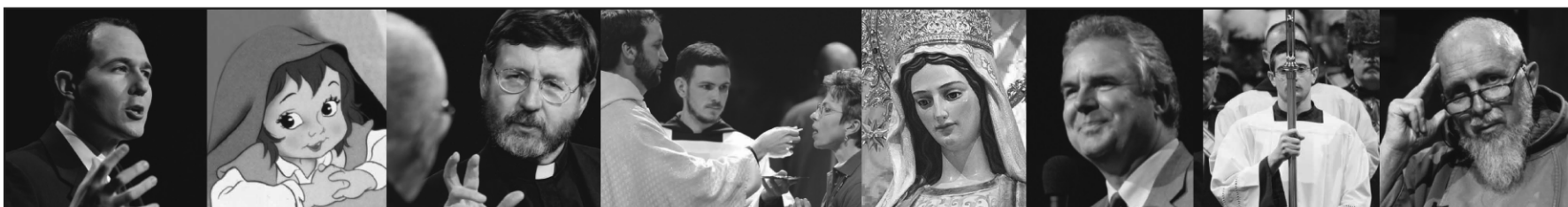


CNS photo

The national Christmas tree arrives on a horse-drawn carriage at the White House in Washington D.C. Nov. 30. A Fraser fir from North Carolina, it will be on display in the Blue Room during the holiday season.

religious Dialogue, in a talk titled “Interreligious Dialogue: A Grace or a Risk?” “How has God returned to our societies? Thanks to Muslims,” he said. “Muslims, who have become a significant minority in Europe, have asked for room for God in society.” Dialogue carries risks, including one of syncretism, which is an inappropriate mixing of elements from

different religious traditions, the cardinal said. In opening oneself to dialogue, he said, “I am willing to consider arguments different from my own and those of my community. The aim is to know one another, to consider the religion of the other with kindness and to allow myself to be enriched by positive aspects discovered in his religion.”



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## Christmas Mass schedules for bishops

**AREA**—The following is a list of Christmas Mass schedules for Archbishop John J. Myers and the auxiliary bishops of the Archdiocese of Newark.

- **Archbishop Myers** will celebrate Christmas Eve Midnight Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, 89 Ridge St., Newark

- **Archbishop Emeritus Peter L. Gerety** will celebrate a 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass at Sacred Heart Parish, 481 Sanford Ave. (located in the Vailsburg section of Newark)

- **Bishop Manuel A. Cruz** will celebrate six masses between Dec. 22 and Christmas Day. He will celebrate Mass Dec. 22, 11:15 a.m., at the Monastery of Our Lady of the Rosary, 543 Springfield Ave., Summit; Dec. 23, 7:30 a.m., Mass with the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, 375 13th Ave., Newark; an 8 p.m., Simbang Gabi Mass at Saint Mary of the Assumption Parish, 155 Washington Ave., Elizabeth; Christmas Eve masses at 9 p.m., in Spanish at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, 1 Passaic St., Ridgewood, and Midnight Mass, also in Spanish, at Saint Augustine Parish, 3900 New York Ave., Union City; and Christmas Day Mass, 10:30 a.m., at Saint Bartholomew Parish, 2032



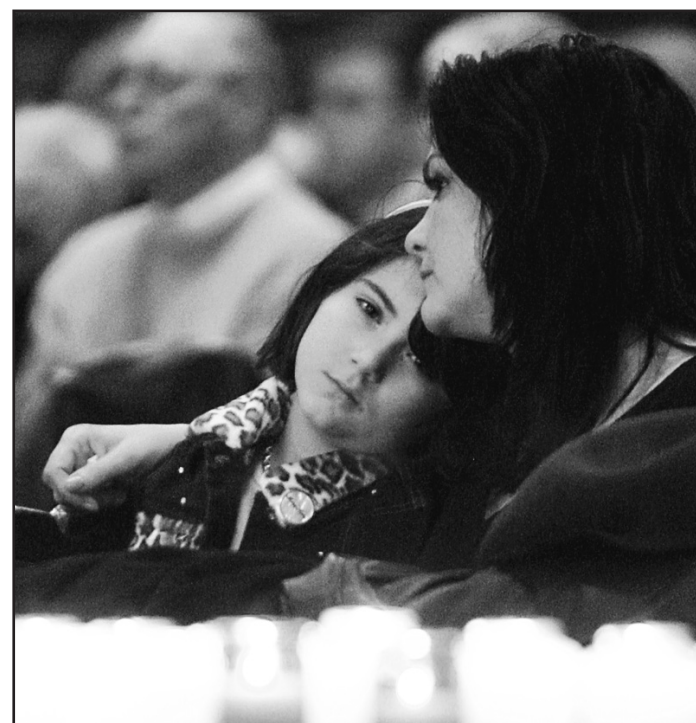
Westfield Ave., Scotch Plains, and 1:30 p.m., at Saint Teresa of Avila Parish, 306 Morris Ave., Summit, also in Spanish

- **Bishop Edgar M. da Cunha** will celebrate Christmas Eve Midnight Mass at Saint Michael Parish, 172 Broadway, Newark, and Christmas Day Mass, 10:30 a.m., SS. Peter and Paul Parish, 404 Hudson St., Hoboken

- **Bishop Thomas A. Donato** will celebrate Christmas Eve Mass at 10 p.m. and celebrate Christmas Day Mass at 8 a.m.—both at Saint Henry Parish, 82 West 29th St., Bayonne

- **Bishop John W. Flesey** will celebrate Christmas Eve Midnight Mass at Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, 787 Franklin Lake Rd., Franklin Lakes

- **Bishop Emeritus Dominic A. Marconi** will preside at the blessing of a live crib scene at Saint Theresa Parish, 541 Washington Ave., Kenilworth, 1 p.m., on Christmas Eve. Later in the day he will celebrate Midnight Mass at Saint Theresa Parish
- **Bishop Emeritus Charles J. McDonnell** will celebrate a Midnight Mass Liturgy, 9:30 p.m., on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Mass at 11 a.m.—both at Holy Trinity Parish, 34 Maple Ave., Hackensack.



CNS photo

**REMEMBERING TRAGEDY IN CHICAGO**—Theresa Romano holds her daughter Katrina Cicero, 8, as names of victims are read Nov. 30 during the 50th anniversary memorial Mass celebrated at Holy Family Church in Chicago to commemorate the Our Lady of the Angels School fire. Romano lost her uncle, Lawrence Grasso Jr., in the fire, which occurred on Dec. 1, 1958. Ninety-two children and three women religious died in the tragedy.

## A pure, upright conscience engenders order, peace

One recurrent theme in bioethical discussions is the idea that each of us possesses a basic awareness of the moral law. This distinctly human faculty, which Western culture has referred to as “conscience,” helps us to choose correctly when confronted with basic moral decisions.

Even children, when taught about right and wrong, instinctively seem to recognize a law higher than themselves. Deep within his conscience man discovers that law which he has not laid upon himself but which he must obey. Conscience has been aptly described as man’s most secret core and his sanctuary.

As creatures of conscience, then, we are moved to pursue good and to avoid evil. Yet, in our fallen nature, we are also drawn, mysteriously, towards wrong and harmful choices. The dictates of conscience may become muted or drowned out by other voices around us.

*Certain kinds of personal choices touch us at the very core of our being. It is our moral choices that define who we are and what we become.*

As we grow older we may even acquire a certain fineness in justifying personal choices that are not good, choices strongly contrary to the law of our own being. The inner sanctuary of conscience is delicate and easily transgressed, requiring great attentiveness on our part if we are to remain faithful to it.

I recall a powerful story about conscience involving a young couple who cohabitated for many years. Neither of them were thinking much about marriage, and one day the fellow learned that his girlfriend was pregnant. Being Catholic, he approached his priest. All three of them met one afternoon, had rather lengthy

### MAKING SENSE OUT OF BIOETHICS

By Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk



discussions and finally reached a decision together. They decided that abortion was not an option. They talked about the possibility of marriage at some time in the near future.

Later the same day, the parents of the young woman came by the couple’s house. They had been fairly open and accepting of this “live-in” situation. Over dinner it came out that she was pregnant. Things changed as a result of this revelation. After the meal, the mother pulled her daughter aside saying: “Look, you’ve got a life to live. You don’t want to spend the rest of your life with this guy. C’mon, dear, you’ve got to get an abortion.”

The next day, the young man and the young woman ran into the priest again. The fellow brought up the discussion with the mother and said they were reconsidering the abortion option. The priest replied: “We reached a decision on that already.” The young man quickly answered “what do you mean? If I make a decision today, I can change it tomorrow.” The priest responded simply “for certain kinds of decisions, you can’t change your mind. If you go back on your decision now, I won’t know who you are anymore.”

The young man was shaken by this answer, but when he reflected on it later, he understood that the priest was right. Certain kinds of personal choices touch us at the very core of our being. Accepting or rejecting a temptation to serious wrongdoing, like abortion, involves our hearts in a far deeper way than many of the lesser decisions we have to

make each day, so that in the end, it is our moral choices that define who we are and what we become.

By acting against an upright conscience, we violate and disfigure who we are and become less human. That’s why the priest told the young man that he would not know who he was anymore.

I recall another true story about the gentle proddings of conscience that involved a mom with three children. When she found out she was pregnant yet again, she became fearful and began telling herself she couldn’t support the burden of another child. She finally decided it would be necessary to have an abortion.

She arrived at her decision just before going in for her next checkup. The doctor, unaware of her plans, began a routine ultrasound to find out how the pregnancy was progressing. She had brought along her three children, and they were busy playing together on the floor of the examination room. As the doctor ran the scanner over her belly, her little son glanced up from his toy airplanes, pointed to the screen and said: “Look, Mommy—a baby!” She left the doctor’s office that afternoon with a new awareness that she couldn’t end the growing life within her.

Through the eyes and heart of a child we are often reminded of what a pure and upright conscience ought to look like. To form our conscience as adults means to learn virtue, by repetitively and determinately choosing what is good, true and moral. Doing so brings order to our lives and engenders peace in our hearts. Ultimately, we discover how to be fully human only to the extent that we faithfully follow that delicate voice of a properly formed conscience.

(Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He was a featured speaker at the Life Issues Seminar held Oct. 4 at Saint John the Apostle Parish, Linden (see The Catholic Advocate, Oct. 22). Father “Tad” is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center, Philadelphia—Web site: [www.ncbcenter.org](http://www.ncbcenter.org).)



## December 11

**Ascension Parish**, New Milford, St. Peter by the Sea Orchestra concert, at Bergen Academies Auditorium in Hackensack, cost: \$50 for patrons/ \$30 general admission/ \$15 for children, (201) 836-8961.

**The Shrine of St. Joseph**, Stirling, "Welcoming the Prince of Peace" Advent program, 7:30 p.m., (908) 647-0208.

**Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish**, Roseland, Advent Inclusive Family Mass, 7 p.m., (973) 497-4309.

## Official Appointments



Archbishop John J. Myers has announced the following appointments:

## PAROCHIAL VICAR

**Reverend Shamas Simon**, has been appointed parochial vicar of Saint Paul of the Cross Parish, Jersey City, effective Dec. 1 through Jan. 31, 2009.

## CHAPLAIN

**Reverend William A. Mahon**, Pastor of Our Lady of Peace Parish, New Providence, has also been appointed chaplain of the Knights of Columbus, Summit Council No. 783, Berkeley Heights-Summit-New Providence, effective immediately.

**Reverend Rudolf Zubik**, Pastor of Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish, Harrison, has also been appointed chaplain of the Knights of Columbus, Hudson County Columbus Chapter, effective immediately.

## RETIREMENT

**Reverend Monsignor Ronald A. Newland**, was granted retirement effective Nov. 15.

**Reverend Monsignor Cajetan P. Salemi**, pastor of Our Lady Mother of the Church Parish, Woodcliff Lake, has been granted retirement effective Feb. 1, 2009.

## December 12

**New Jersey Blood Services**, blood drive at St. Henry Parish in Bayonne, 1:30-7 p.m., call Marie Forrestal at (732) 616-0798.

**St. Rose of Lima Parish**, Short Hills, St. Peter by the Sea Orchestra concert, 8 p.m., cost: \$50, call Vincent Ricci at (973) 376-8629.

**Knights of Columbus Council 5427**, Washington Township, beefsteak dinner, 7 p.m. - midnight, cost: \$75, (201) 664-0422.

## December 14

**The Shrine of St. Joseph**, Stirling, Advent Retreat Day, 2 p.m., (908) 647-0208.

**New Jersey Blood Services**, blood drive at St. Bartholomew Parish in Scotch Plains, 8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., call Marie Forrestal at (732) 616-0798.

**Knights of Columbus Council 5427**, Washington Township, Christmas party, 1-5 p.m., (201) 664-0422.

**St. Margaret of Cortona Parish**, Little Ferry, Festivals of Lessons and Carols, 3 p.m., call Eileen Ballone at (201) 843-1097.

**Camp Fatima of New Jersey**, Christmas party at Knights of Columbus Hall in Union, 1-4 p.m., RSVP at (908) 686-5271 ext. 110.

**Seton Hall University**, South Orange, World War II era mail and documents on display, in the Beck rooms of Walsh Library, 1-4 p.m., (973) 761-9006.

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish**, Nutley, children's Christmas party, 2:30 - 5 p.m., (973) 667-2580.

**Our Lady of Lourdes Parish**, Mountainside, luncheon holiday dinner dance, for the Widowed Persons Group, at Gran Centurians in Clark, cost: \$25, (908) 272-9017.

## December 15

**New Jersey Blood Services**, blood drive at Holy Name Hospital lot in Teaneck, 1-6:30 p.m., call Marie Forrestal at (732) 616-0798.

**St. Thomas More Parish**, Fairfield, Holy Hour for Our Lady of Guadalupe, 7 p.m., call Rosemary at (973) 882-0880.

**Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish**, Scotch Plains, Simbang Gabi Novena, through Dec. 23, 7 p.m., (908) 889-2100.

## December 16

**Seton Hall University**, South Orange, The Joseph A. Unanue Latino Institute inaugural celebration, at the South Orange Performing Arts Center (SOPAC), concert at 7:30 p.m., cost: \$65, (973) 761-9422.

**New Jersey Blood Services**, blood drive at Union Catholic High School in Scotch Plains, 8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., call Marie Forrestal at (732) 616-0798.

## December 17

**St. John The Apostle Parish**, Linden, Healing Mass, 7:45 p.m.; (908) 486-6363.

## December 19

**Trinitas Regional Medical Center**, Elizabeth, "Advance Care Planning: Your Decision Counts," 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., call Theresa Thomas at (908) 994-5192.

## December 21

**New Jersey Blood Services**, blood drive at St. Mary Parish in Rahway, 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., call Marie Forrestal at (732) 616-0798.

**Notre Dame Parish**, North Caldwell, St. Peter by the Sea Orchestra concert, 7:30 p.m., cost: \$30, (973) 226-0979.

## Other

**National Children's Memorial Day and Candle Lighting**. On Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. in every time zone, candles will be lit in memory of children who have died, call Janet McCormack in the Office of Family Life Ministries at (973) 497-4327.

# Traditional Latin Mass

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Monday, Wednesday-Saturday (except First Friday): 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday: 7:00 p.m. (with devotions to St. Anthony)

First Friday: 7:00 pm followed by Benediction

Holy Days: 9:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

• **Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration: Thursday 7:00 p.m.** •  
• **Confessions daily 1/2 hour before each Mass, after Holy Hour & upon request**

## 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.

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"...[I]n Prison and you visited me."  
MT 25:36





# Elizabeth pastors and principals focus on 'future'

BY JAMES GOODNESS  
Director of Communication

ELIZABETH—Over the past year, the pastors and principals of the city's parishes and schools have been meeting to address the issue of ensuring quality Catholic school education for its children and families—now and in the future.

Elemental in their analysis was the desire to continue the mission of Catholic elementary school education while balancing their obligations, as stewards of parish resources, to meet the dual challenges of increasing costs and decreasing enrollments occurring in their schools in recent years.

As a result of studying demographic and financial data, the pastors and principals have put forth the following plan—"For Now and For the Future"—for implementation in July 2009:

- Saint Genevieve School in Elmora will continue as a parish elementary school
- Saint Patrick High School

will continue its academy program for students in grades 5-8 to serve those families in the Elizabethport area

- A new academy will open in the central area of Elizabeth. The academy will be located at the present site of Saint Mary of the Assumption School and will be co-sponsored by the nine parishes without schools of their own. The pastors and principals have recommended a name for the new academy, to be approved by Archbishop John J. Myers

- The educational program for the school will be expanded and feature enhanced technological education and differentiated instruction.

- Financial assistance will be available to qualifying families through the Scholarship Fund for Inner City Children and two philanthropic foundations committed to the success of the academy.

Representatives of the archdiocesan Schools Office and the pastors and principals of the three schools that will form

the new academy met with parents on Dec. 4 to relate the findings of the decision about the future of Catholic schools in Elizabeth. Parishioners in all of parishes in Elizabeth were informed of the announcement at all masses over the weekend of Dec. 6-7.

The announcement asked all to join in greeting this new

venture with renewed enthusiasm and hopeful promise for the current students in the elementary schools, as well as for those who would join the new school configuration in the future.

"Change is never easy," the announcement stated.

"However, we all must recognize that our goal is to contin-

ue to provide quality and affordable Catholic elementary school education for the children of the City of Elizabeth."

In the announcement, the pastors and principals committed themselves to do all that is possible to keep parishioners and school families informed of the transition to ensure the success of the new academy.

## Gifts sustain life for those in need

COCONUT CREEK, FL—Food For The Poor, a leading relief organization in the Caribbean and Latin America, offers an opportunity to make a difference this Christmas season. The organization's holiday catalog helps to answer that age-old question: What do you give the person who has everything?

The catalog is filled with creative gift ideas that enable poor communities to sustain themselves. There are a wide variety of gifts—from a fruit tree for \$10, to a donkey for \$150, to providing a community with a life-saving water pump for \$205.

"When a gift is given from Food For The Poor's gift catalog, many lives are forever changed—including yours," Angel Aloma, Food For The Poor's executive director, said,



noting that the gifts "are intended for those who need them so desperately." For example, she said many families in Haiti, already struggling with soaring food prices, were completely devastated by four storms this hurricane season.

All gifts are tax-deductible. The catalog can be accessed through the charity's secure Web site at [www.foodforthe poor.org/giftcatalog](http://www.foodforthe poor.org/giftcatalog). A printed version of the catalog is available by calling (800) 427-9104.

How do you see God in your family?

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Images of God in My Family Life A Photo Contest

Presented by

The Catholic Center for Family Spirituality of  
Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology  
in its Inaugural Event

Submission Deadline: January 31, 2009

Open to Young Adults

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Group 2: Ages 17-20

Group 3: Ages 21-24

Each age group will be

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IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SEMINARY  
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY  
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# Time out, amid all the bustle, to reflect on a dream

Soon it will be Christmas day; not soon enough, some may say. Although we only started Advent last week, the seasonal music, decorations and store ads have been assaulting our senses since early November.

The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade used to be the official harbinger of Christmas shopping, with Santa "ho-ho-ing" at the end of the marchers, floats and balloons. Now Santa already appears in store windows once the Halloween pumpkins are discarded. Who knows, in a few more years we may just see a "Santa-lantern" with his rosy cheeks appearing somewhat jaundiced, by mid-October!

The current economy, of course, has both retailers and consumers worried. Most stores do the bulk of their annual business at Christmas. Fewer dollars mean fewer sales. Family expectations fuel anxiety about what to get and can even lead to depression, when we can't fulfill our dreams, or the dreams of others.

Last year, loads of European tourists came here with empty suitcases to make major purchases here with their strong euro and our weaker dollar. This year, world currencies are down. One British woman said she would go gift buying in Dubai this year instead of the United States.

*I had the strangest feeling that if our Son had gone to this celebration He would have been intruding.'*

by mall or the bargain online Web site, we marvel at the excesses of the well-off. But haven't most of us overspent, trying to measure and demonstrate our love by the value and variety of holiday gifts?

Maybe this is a time to get back to a simpler way of life. The call of John the Baptist to repentance and renewal reminds us of the priority of the gifts of the Spirit over the latest electronic gadgets. Sure, there should be something under the tree on Christmas morning, but a family gathered together making cookies or stringing popcorn in the days leading up to Christmas, or praying before the family crèche on the 12 days thereafter, would find even greater joy.

A Christmas meditation popular several years ago, by an unknown author, seems somehow more apt this year. It is entitled "Mary's Christmas Dream."

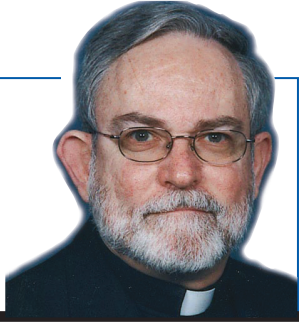
"I had a dream, Joseph. I don't understand it, not really, but I think it was about a birthday celebration for our Son. I think that was what it was all about. The people had been preparing for it for about six weeks.

"They had decorated the house and bought new clothes. They'd gone shopping many times and bought elaborate gifts. It was peculiar, though, because the presents weren't for our Son. They wrapped them in beautiful paper and tied them with lovely bows and stacked them under a tree. Yes, a tree, Joseph, right in their house. They'd decorated the tree also. The branches were full of flowing balls and sparkling ornaments.

"There was a figure on the top of the tree. It looked like an angel might look. Oh, it was beautiful. Everyone was laughing and happy. They were all excited about the

## SEEING & BELIEVING

By Rev. Msgr.  
Richard J. Arnhols



gifts. They gave the gifts to each other, Joseph, not to our Son. I don't think they even knew Him. They never mentioned His name. Doesn't it seem odd for people to go to all that trouble to celebrate someone's birthday if they don't know Him?

"I had the strangest feeling that if our Son had gone to this celebration He would have been intruding. Everything was so beautiful, Joseph, and everyone so joyful, but it made me want to cry. How sad for Jesus—not to be wanted at His own birthday party.

"I'm glad it was only a dream. How terrible, Joseph, if it had been real."

May these days before Christmas and the days that will follow provide all of us with countless opportunities to bring ourselves to Jesus and Jesus to others.

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

# God's anointed Servant—a teacher, healer, mediator

Readings: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11; Luke 1:46-54; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28.

When we read weekly columns about science or food in the newspapers, we find a common concern for personal well being. Preventive medicine is given a justifiable high place in essays about health. But do any of these writers discuss the relation between personal wholeness and the mission of human life?

When we express gratitude for good health or petitions to overcome illness or affliction, do we consider that this mission is to serve God and neighbor? Saint Paul's prayer for the Christians of Thessalonica placed this universal human concern in an even more profound perspective. "May you be preserved whole and entire, spirit, soul and body, irreproachable at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thes 5:23). To grasp the meaning of life we must consider our ultimate destination.

Sometimes the ancient hopes in Israel for deliverance and a better life were couched in political terms. The coming of God's kingdom and of an Anointed Servant to lead the chosen people were expectations that seemed to demand the conquest of social evil. Thus, some documents depicted the promised scion of the Davidic dynasty to be a warrior like his illustrious ancestor.

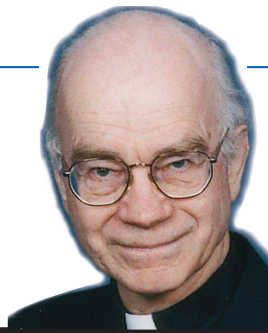
The disciples of Isaiah realized that this model did not exhaust the mystery of God's care for His creatures. The Servant anointed by God's Spirit would be a teacher, a healer and a mediator. The passage from Isaiah 61 is familiar to us because of the quotation from the second reading by Jesus in the Nazareth synagogue (Lk 4:18-19). The evangelist epitomized the Master's homily with one sentence. "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing" (4:21).

One of the great tasks of this Servant would be a message of hope to the poor, unappreciated members of society. Those crushed by any of the burdens of life

## SUNDAY READINGS

3rd Sunday of Advent  
(Dec. 14, 2008)

By Rev. Lawrence Frizzell



would be healed. Those unjustly imprisoned would be freed. As Jesus conducted His ministry of teaching and healing, He insisted that these people be integrated back into the spiritual and social life of their community. Their lives were transformed so that they could minister to the needs of others. When people acknowledge that health and freedom place this onus upon them, they will cooperate with God to "make justice and praise spring up before all the nations" (Is 61:11).

As in our own day, a number of people in the time of Jesus claimed to be God's instruments of instruction and healing. It was the duty of the religious authorities ("the Jews" in John's coded phrase) to investigate the credentials of these "upstarts." So priests and Levites from Jerusalem examined John the Baptist. He had no Messianic pretensions, nor was he Elijah or the new Moses (promised in Mal 3:23 and Dt 18:15 and 18 respectively).

Probably relieved by these responses, the interrogators still required an answer concerning John's identity and activities. John described his commission by quoting Isaiah 40:3 (proclaimed last Sunday). He plunged people into water in order to prepare his contemporaries for the coming of "Another" more important

than himself. John acknowledges being unworthy to conduct this ministry or even the menial task of removing the Master's sandals.

In the midst of many conflicting messages about God's plan for humanity and all creation, people today desperately need numerous leaders with humility of John the Baptizer. Indeed those who search for healing and freedom should discern authentic religious leaders from charlatans. The authentic teacher points beyond himself or herself to God the Father and His anointed Servant.

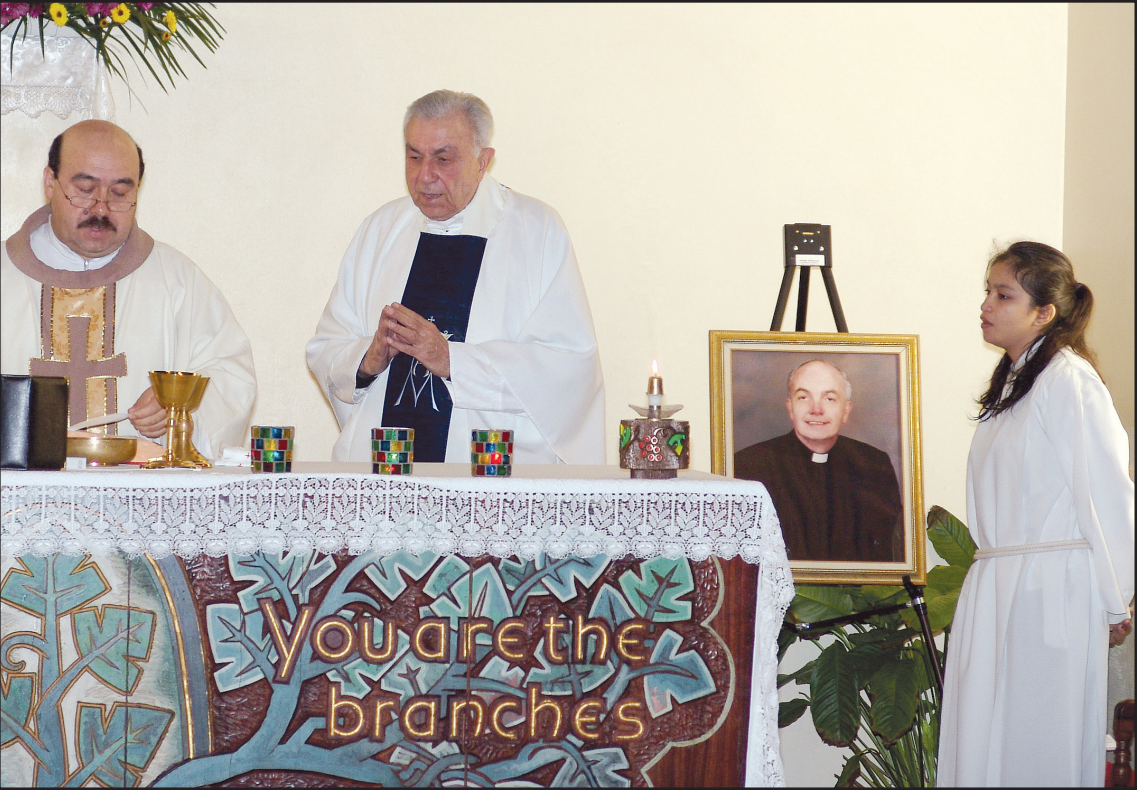
Saint Paul gives practical advice to ordinary people of goodwill in every age. "Do not stifle the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test everything; retain what is good" (1 Thes 5:19-21).

Like John the Baptizer, every Christian teacher must say of Jesus, the Bridegroom: "He must increase, I must decrease" (Jn 3:29). Then the person will have something of the dispositions found in Mary's prayer, the Magnificat, part of which is used in response to the first reading.

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

*Those who search for healing and freedom should discern authentic religious leaders from charlatans. The authentic teacher points beyond himself or herself to God the Father and His anointed Servant.*





Advocate photo – Ward Miele

**BELOVED PASTOR MOURNED**—The faith community of Saint Peter Claver Parish in Montclair gathered Nov. 11 for a special evening Memorial Mass of Remembrance for their pastor emeritus, Father John P. Nickas who died Oct. 9 at the age of 68 (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Nov. 12). Fr. Nickas was pastor of the Montclair parish from 1996 to 2004 and his framed portrait was displayed during the Mass. Celebrating the Mass was the current pastor, Father Jose I. Gamba, left. Father Joseph Fiorino, center, the concelebrant and homilist, said compassion was a dominant characteristic of Fr. Nickas as was “tremendous love for the sick.” Carolina Noguera, pictured at the far right, was the altar server.

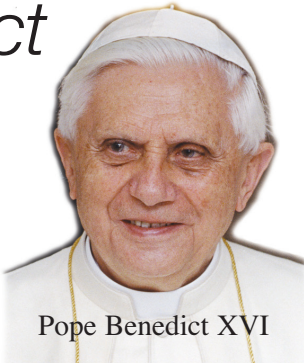


Advocate photos – M. Gabriele

**GRATITUDE AND SERVICE**—The annual archdiocesan Catechist Convocation was held Nov. 15, at Paramus Catholic Regional High School. Organized and hosted by the Catechetical Office of the Archdiocese of Newark, the all-day forum welcomed catechetical leaders, teachers, eucharistic and youth ministers, parents, liturgists, clergy and adult faith-formation teams. Dr. Jose Planas, associate director of the Catechetical office; Father Kevin M. Hanbury, archdiocesan vicar for education and superintendent of schools; Most Rev. Manuel A. Cruz, Auxiliary Bishop of Newark; and Ronald L. Pihokker, director of the Catechetical Office (photo above), led an assembly of over 700 attendees in opening prayer. Bishop Cruz spoke passionately about his own faith journey, which began as a lad in Cuba. He told the story of returning to his homeland to reconnect with Sister Monica, “the Sister who taught me my catechism; the person who, by her example, taught me to love God. I went back after 30 years because of gratitude. Today we celebrate an opportunity—the gift to serve God through the ministry of catechists. Ultimately, everything is about service.” Among the many faces in the crowd who were inspired by Bishop Cruz’s remarks were (right photo) Angela Olivos (left) and Janet Melendez, who serve as catechists at Saint Joseph of the Palisades Parish, West New York.

## THE POPE SPEAKS

### *Dialogue must include cultural impact of religion*



Pope Benedict XVI

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Interreligious dialogue can and must be about the cultural consequences of one’s faith, not about the basic fundamentals of one’s religious convictions, Pope Benedict XVI said.

True interreligious dialogue “is not possible without putting one’s own faith in parentheses,” the pope said in a foreword to an upcoming book by an Italian politician.

Instead, dialogue that discusses “the cultural consequences” of one’s religious beliefs and allows for “mutual correction and reciprocal enrichment” is “possible and necessary,” the pope wrote.

The pope’s comments were part of a private letter to Marcello Pera, a philosophy professor, politician and former president of the Italian senate. Pera has published the letter as a foreword to his forthcoming book, “Why We Must Call Ourselves Christians.” The undated letter detailed the pope’s positive appraisal of and reaction to Pera’s new book.

“You explain with great clarity that interreligious dialogue in the strict sense of the word is not possible, while you urge greater intercultural dialogue” in order to discuss the cultural consequences of one’s own basic religious beliefs, the pope wrote.

Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, told *The New York Times* Nov. 24 that the pope’s comments were not meant to call into question the Vatican’s dedication to interreligious dialogue. “He has a papacy known for religious dialogue; he went to a mosque, he’s been to synagogues,” Father Lombardi told the *Times*. “This means that he thinks we can meet and talk to the others and have a positive relationship,” he said.

Last month Pope Benedict met at the Vatican with members of a new Catholic-Muslim forum (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Nov. 12). The pope told members of the forum that the commandments of love of God and love of neighbor are at “the heart of Islam and Christianity alike.” Therefore, professing faith in one God obliges Catholics and Muslims to respect one another and to work together to defend human rights and help those who are suffering, he said.





# Saint James deacon answers call to assist homeless

## United interfaith spirit aids Homefirst outreach

BY DANIEL PETERSON  
Special to The Catholic Advocate

SPRINGFIELD — When it comes to the daunting problems of homelessness, Deacon Jerry Bongiovanni's ministry is both local and universal, his focus is streetwise and candid and his approach to offer solutions is driven by a heartfelt interfaith perspective, proudly working among a "community of believers."

"What people do not realize is that anyone at any time can become homeless. It can happen anywhere," warned Deacon Bon-

giovanni, a member of the faith community of Saint James Parish.

As part of his various ministries, Deacon Bongiovanni is a longtime supporter of a group known as Homefirst, an organization that raises awareness and supports homeless families and individuals. Headquartered in Plainfield, Homefirst (Web site: [www.homefirstinc.org](http://www.homefirstinc.org)) is a non-profit organization that seeks to improve the quality of life for the homeless and to unite all levels of society to bring about change, community unity, personal growth and development.

Last month Homefirst held its annual fund-raiser breakfast, which was attended by Deacon Bongiovanni, and the group is planning other outreach events in 2009. He has served as a member of the Homefirst board of directors for five years.

According to recent estimates, there are nearly 4 million homeless people in the United States—an estimated 17,000 in New Jersey. The average age of a homeless person in the United States is nine. Nearly 40 percent of the total number of homeless are children.

"People recognize that global

poverty is an issue, but they do not see the grave need that exists in their own communities," Susan Laffler, Homefirst's director of development, said. "There is homelessness all around us, even where you would least expect it."

Homefirst has developed a holistic approach to addressing the plight of the homeless. The group offers a temporary shelter program and transitional and permanent housing. In addition, they provide professional services such as counseling and therapy for those who need it and they continually provide support for their clients in transition by helping them find better work, or helping them go back to school to earn degrees.

The temporary shelter program is a coordinated effort designed to give those people who are suffering from homelessness a temporary place to stay. Congregations throughout Union County take turns in hosting clients, while other congregations provide food and volunteers.

Saint James, along with more than 70 interfaith congregations throughout central and northern New Jersey, participate in the Homefirst shelter program.

"The blessing of this program is that it unites the community of believers," Deacon Bongiovanni said. "It doesn't matter what faith you are because this is God's work. Jesus told us 'feed my



Deacon Jerry Bongiovanni

sheep' and so we are responding to what the Lord called us to do.

"What makes this organization special is that everyone who works here really wants to be here," he continued. "It all comes from the heart. Everyone here is dedicated. I have never worked with such a committed and capable group of people."

The case managers at  
Continued on page 18

### Krowicki McCracken Funeral Home

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Tel: (908) 352-9190 • Fax: (908) 925-2144

The Krowicki McCracken Funeral Home, located at 2124 East St. Georges Avenue, Linden, has again offered their families a *personalized glass angel keepsake ornament* in memory of their loved one. The deceased's name, date of birth and date of death has been placed on each ornament. The funeral home has sent letters to families that reads as follows: "During Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Baby Jesus, Let us not be sad when reminded of a love one's absence, but celebrate their birth into eternal life."



Our *Christmas Tree of Remembrance* is dedicated to everyone we have served during the past year and will be displayed in the funeral home during the month of December. We invite our families to come in and accept their ornament.

If you would like further information please call us at (908) 352-9190.

*Wishing you a Blessed Holiday Season  
The Krowicki Family*



## Celebrate the Joy of Christmas!



### St. Theresa's 6th Annual Christmas Bazaar

Saturday, December 13, 2008

9 am till 7:30 pm—McVeigh Hall

Food, Fun, Gifts, Games, Prizes, Pictures and more!

A Fun Day for the Whole Family • Come for an hour...spend the whole day!

### The 15th Annual Christmas Concert The Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea Conducted by the Rev. Alphonse Stephenson

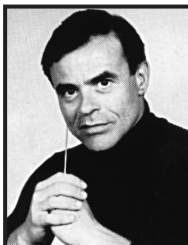
December 17, 2008, 7:30pm

Featuring the Jersey Shore's favorite orchestra. Energetically led by the must-see maestro, Father Alphonse Stephenson. This event has become a staple here in our parish. See and hear the orchestra that has filled the church at St. Theresa's in previous years!

Tickets: \$15, \$25, \$50. All seats are reserved for your convenience.

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March 5, 2009

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## Young Adult Month

Continued from page 3

### Jan. 12

Theology on Tap—"Decoding the Mass;" Father Dan Murphy, pastor, Our Lady of the Valley Parish, Wayne; 7:30 p.m.; Riddles Restaurant, 300 Wanaque Ave., Pompton Lakes

### Jan. 13

Theology on Tap—"Faith-Filled Friendships in the Age of Face Book;" Dr. Linda Baratte, director of the Center for Theological and Spiritual Development at the College of Saint Elizabeth, Convent Station; 7:30 p.m.; Grasshopper Off the Green Restaurant, 41-43 Morris St.; Morristown

### Jan. 14

Theology on Tap; (topic and speaker to be announced on the Kearny center's Web site); 7:30 p.m.; On the Border; Garden State Plaza, State Route 17, Paramus

### Jan. 18

Theology on Tap—"Love is Patient, Love is Kind—the Love Letters of Saint Paul;" Father Bill Halbing, pastor of Saint Antoninus Parish, Newark; 7:30 p.m.; Cloverleaf Tavern

### Jan. 19

Theology on Tap—"Reaching Out and Putting Faith into Action;" Linda Ward, Social Justice Ministry, Saint Mary's

Parish, Pompton Lakes; 7:30 p.m.; Riddles Restaurant

### Jan. 20

Theology on Tap—"Why Do We Do That? A Basic Guide to Catholicism;" Deacon Alfredo Fanelli, Notre Dame Parish, Cedar Knolls; 7:30 p.m.; Grasshopper Off the Green Restaurant

### Jan. 21-22

Overnight pilgrimage and Right To Life Mass, rally and march; the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C.; buses leave from the Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center Jan. 21 at 11:30 a.m. and return Jan. 22 at 11 p.m.; seating is limited and early registration is recommended; Call Sr. Loretta for trip details

### Jan. 21

Theology on Tap; (topic and speaker to be announced on the Kearny center's Web site); 7:30 p.m.; On the Border, Garden State Plaza

### Jan. 23-25

Annual "Sons and Daughters of the Light" weekend retreat; theme is: "Saint Paul on the Road to Damascus;" Jan. 23, 7 p.m. to Jan. 25, 1 p.m.; Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center; Contact Sr. Loretta to register

### Jan. 25

Theology on Tap—"No Rules! Lessons from Saint Paul's Conversion;" Father Tom Wisniewski, the pastor of Saint Catharine Parish, Glen Rock, and adjunct professor, College of Saint Elizabeth; 7 p.m.; \$10 per person for an all-inclusive supper at the Cloverleaf Tavern

### Jan. 26

Theology on Tap—"The Gospel on Fire: Evangelization in the 21st Century;" Father Francis Gunn, parochial vicar, Saint

Mary's Parish, Pompton Lakes; 7:30 p.m.; Riddles Restaurant

### Jan. 27

Theology on Tap—"Theology of the Body Intro;" Dan Konkel, member of the Morris Young Adults core team; 7:30 p.m.; Grasshopper Off the Green Restaurant

### Jan. 28

Theology on Tap; (topic and speaker to be announced on the Kearny center's Web site); 7:30 p.m.; On the Border; Garden State Plaza



Sister Loretta DeDomenicis

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## 5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL

## CHRISTMAS FOOD COLLECTION

We will once again be accepting any non-perishable food items for distribution to food pantries for those less fortunate people in the Archdiocese.

Your donations may be dropped off during business hours in the office of all Archdiocesan Cemeteries and Mausoleums between

**Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup> thru Monday, January 5, 2009**

The ministry of Catholic Cemeteries operates under the auspices of the Catholic Church.

It is important to recognize that the burial of the dead is only one of the Corporal Works of Mercy.

The Church encourages frequent cemetery visits and prayers for the dead.

Visiting the sick, clothing the naked, feeding the hungry are also works of mercy to also be encouraged.

Performing them on behalf of our deceased loved ones are Mitzvah (*wonderful gifts that cannot be repaid*)

and truly honor the memory of the deceased in a tangible way.





The Cathedral Concert Series under the direction of John J. Miller, with organist Vincent Carr invites you to the Thirty-Eighth Annual

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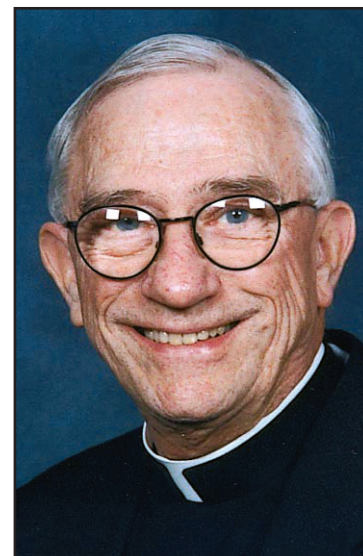
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## Retirement

Continued from page 3

Speaking at the seminar were Michael Newman who addressed long-term care insurance; William Logue, who explained financial planning; and Anne DeVivo DeMesa, director of gift planning for the Archdiocese of Newark.

Of the 201 retired archdiocesan priests, the vast majority (181) continue to call the Garden State home. A total of 22 live in 19 different towns with family and friends. Thirty-seven live in rectories with nine in Bergen County, seven in Essex County and 10 in both Hudson and Union counties. One retiree lives in a rectory outside of the archdiocese. A dozen now live in educational and other institutions; seven at Seton Hall University in South Orange; two at Seton Hall Prep in West Orange; and three in various religious institutions.



**Msgr. Edward G. Bradley**

facilities. Twenty-five retired priests live in other states.

In general terms, noted Msgr. Bradley, the basic challenges faced by retired priests include the inevitable "change of pace" in their lives, loneliness after a lifetime of helping other people and health issues. On that last item, he added, priests "have to pay bills like anyone else." Archdiocesan priests receive a pension, get Social Security and are reimbursed by the archdiocese for Medicare Part B coverage.

Father Donald Hummel, director of archdiocesan Continuing Education and Formation, noted the archdiocese does not provide long-term healthcare "per se." When it comes to estate planning, he said, "although the Church is tax-exempt, priests are not."

Fr. Hummel sees the challenges of a retiring priests as "where and how to live" along with deciding on how active they want to be in ministry. After all, he added, a priest "does not retire from pastoral ministry."

*Three vital elements  
to be considered: a  
place to call home;  
people to love you;  
and something to  
look forward to.*

A significant number (35) live at the two retirement residences operated by the Church of Newark: 23 at Saint John Vianney in Rutherford and the remainder at the Msgr. James F. Kelly residence in Caldwell. Seventeen are in residential, assisted-living or nursing home

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## Sal Salvo

Continued from page 1

tions, such as their own parish or school, Catholic Charities, Youth Ministry programs and Immaculate Conception Seminary in South Orange. She also stressed the financial strategy offers benefits to donors by producing income. "I encourage you to plan good stewardship of what God has given you."

Salvo said his goal in the traveling seminar series is to provide information on planning a financial future that maximizes income in conjunction with charitable contributions. He warned his audience that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) "automatically cuts themselves in" at the distribution of any estate funds. He said a person's hard-earned money generally goes to three places: the IRS, family and charity. Without proper planning, Salvo lamented, "taxpayers become involuntary philanthropists."

Salvo cited several pitfalls in the present turbulent financial climate. Many people, he said, are worried they might out live their money. Other factors in planning what to do with one's estate include the impact of lawsuits, divorce, health issues and what he described generally as "bad decisions" when it comes to money.

When it comes to financial planning Salvo pressed his audience to avoid delay.

Following his appearance at Saint Mary's, Salvo expounded on his presentation, citing the angst from the staggering economic cri-

*A person's hard-earned money generally goes to three places: the IRS, family and charity. Without proper planning, taxpayers become involuntary philanthropists.*

— Sal Salvo

sis gripping the nation and the world. He said typical financial fears expressed by Catholic audiences include worries over outliving their retirement money and what to do with the assets currently on hand.

Some Americans fell into the trap of not being "prudent" with their assets and/or living beyond their means, such as the now-infamous "toxic" sub-prime mort-

gages, he said. In urging the faithful to consider a planned gift, Salvo pointed out that the Church, in order to do its good work, needs to build endowments.

The financial strategy of planned giving, Salvo said, is a "bridge" between "keeping the Church strong" and easing the worries over depleting one's funds. Income derived from such charitable donations, he emphasized, generates income that one cannot outlive. There are also income tax advantages, he added.

A particularly effective and productive option, according to DeVivo DeMesa, is a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA). Such a move, she explained, "offers a way to further causes a person believes in" while benefiting them in several ways, such as lifetime payments that may be partially tax free or taxed at lower rates than other income, management of as-

sets, tax savings and "favorable treatment" of capital gains.

"The gift annuity meets the needs of many who wish to give but want to make certain they have first provided for their financial needs and those of their loved ones," DeVivo DeMesa said. She noted too that if people find themselves in a higher federal income tax bracket in a particular year, charitable gifts, including gift annuities "may help reduce or eliminate new tax liability."

Another option is joining The Legacy Circle of the Archdiocese of Newark. "By virtue of having a CGA, trust or a will naming your parish or the archdiocese, you would be eligible for membership," explained DeVivo DeMesa. A CGA pays a guaranteed income for life, beginning at age 65, in exchange for a charitable gift while designating the remainder to the archdiocese and/or one of its



Sal Salvo

parishes after death. Establishing a trust—a formal financial entity managed by a trustee and created to hold assets for the benefit of a certain person or organization—represents an attractive way to participate in this program, she added.

The Monks of Newark Abbey  
invite you to start the New Year  
with Thanks and Praise.

**Thursday, Dec. 25, 2008**

**Solemn Vespers of the Nativity**

Join the Benedictine monks of Newark Abbey

In singing Christmas Vespers at 4:00 p.m.

Christmas afternoon in St. Mary's Church

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**New Year's Eve, Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2008**

**All-Night Prayer Vigil**

Welcome the New Year in an atmosphere of praise, thanksgiving and petition with the monks of Newark Abbey and the parishioners of St. Mary's, Newark.

Each hour will be marked by prayer for a special intention.

**Our church will be open all night.  
Stop by any time!**

**Wednesday night, Dec. 31, 2008**

9:30 p.m.

Church is open for prayer

11:15 p.m.

Annual Parish Vigil followed by  
New Year's Mass

**Thursday, January 1, 2009**

Exposition of Blessed Sacrament after Mass till 7:00 a.m.

2:00 a.m.- 6:00 a.m. Quiet adoration and brief hourly services

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10:30 a.m. Mass

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## Saint John to host benefit concert

ORANGE — A Christmas Concert to benefit Saint John Parish will be held at the historic Gothic Revival church, located at 94 Ridge St., on Sunday, Dec. 21, 5 p.m.

Preferred seating for the concert is \$50, regular seating \$30 and

children under 18 will be admitted for \$15. Call the parish at (973) 674-0110, ext. 3, for more information. Secure parking will be provided and the church sanctuary is handicapped accessible.

Two prominent New Jersey soloists—mezzo-soprano Betsy Mackenzie-Stubbs, and lyric-soprano Maureen Monroe—will be featured performers, accompanied by a professional orchestra as well as the parish's children's choir (pictured at left) and adult choir.

Domecq Smith, a published composer and recipient of National Endowment for the Arts

grants, will conduct the concert. His daughter, AnnaLotte, age 12, will perform a Bach harpsichord concerto.

Musical selections for the concert will include J.S. Bach's "Piano Concerto in G Minor;" Mozart's "Exsultate Jubilate;" and Vivaldi's "Gloria."

Father George Faour is the pastor of Saint John Parish, which features a vintage oak altar screen or "reredos" hand carved by Belgian craftsmen in 1892. Jeremiah O'Rourke, New Jersey's most celebrated architect, designed the church.

## Benefits of Year-End Giving... Even in Troubled Economic Times

*This year we wanted to thank the many supporters of the charitable programs of this great Archdiocese and for your ongoing commitment to the ministry of Jesus Christ.*

Your 2008 year-end gift can significantly reduce your income taxes while making a meaningful difference for your parish or favorite Archdiocesan program.



*In these troubled economic times, please consider a smarter way to give an end of year charitable gift:*

**Donate IRA distributions** - You can take advantage of the recent extension of a tax-free distribution of up to \$100,000 from your IRA for charitable purposes.

**Paid-up insurance policies** - Designate your parish or the Archdiocese as beneficiary.

**Stocks** - Are your existing investments covering your expenses? If not, why not consider using a portion of your portfolio to work smarter by converting some of your assets into a charitable gift annuity.

**Life Income Gifts** - Charitable Gift Annuities and Trusts provide a dependable source of income in exchange for your charitable gift.

**Bequests** - Consider the long-term tax savings of advance planning and avoid having the government take 40 - 50% of your estate at the end of life.

**Please contact Anne DeVivo DeMesa today at (973) 497-4048 for more information or to speak about your plans and to answer any questions.**

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# Scholarship fund festival features top cager teams

NEWARK—Next month’s sixth annual Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children’s (SFIC) Basketball Festival will again feature two of the top high school teams in the country.

Saint Patrick’s High School, Elizabeth, will face Lakewood High School in the first game on Saturday, Jan. 3 at Kean University starting at 12:30 p.m. followed by Saint Anthony High School, Jersey City, battling Monsignor Donovan High School, Toms River.

Tickets for the SFIC Basketball Festival are priced at \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and may be purchased by logging onto [www.basketballfestival.com](http://www.basketballfestival.com) or calling (201) 939-8601.

The festival raises money to help the SFIC assist inner-city students by enabling them to attend private and parochial schools in Bergen, Essex, Hudson and Union counties with scholarships. Since 1983, the SFIC has generated over \$30 million for scholarships. Gerard T. O’Connor recently was selected as the executive director of the SFIC (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Nov. 26).

“We are extremely privileged to have both Saint Anthony and Saint Patrick’s again playing in the SFIC Basketball Festival,” explained Festival Executive Director Bill Fitzpatrick. “These two teams continually support the SFIC year after year. It gives our fans a chance to see outstanding high school basketball.



Advocate photo – Ward Miele

**BISHOP FRANCIS HONORED**—The Office of Black Catholic Ministry honored the late Most Rev. Joseph A. Francis, Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, on Nov. 15. Most Rev. Edgar da Cunha, Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, who was ordained a deacon and priest by Bishop Francis, celebrated a noontime Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart. Bishop da Cunha noted in his homily that 150 years ago the U.S. Supreme Court held that African-Americans could not become citizens and now Barack Obama has been elected president. His comment brought spontaneous applause from the congregation. Bishop da Cunha also cited Bishop Francis’ “love” for the Church. Following Mass an awards luncheon was held in the Archdiocesan Center. Sister Patricia Lucas, D.H.M., director of the Office of Black Catholic Ministry, third from the right, offered congratulations to the awards winners, left to right, Brother Patrick Winbush, O.S.B.; Sister Brenda Motte, O.S.P., representing the Oblate Sisters of Providence; Father Lawrence Lucas; Kathleen Francis representing her brother and Brother Tyrone Davis, C.F.C.

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## NOVENAS

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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 peti-  
tion (make request). In return I  
promise to make your name  
known and cause you to be in-  
voked. 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.A.P.

**ST. THERESA**  
Oh Glorious Saint Theresa,  
whom almighty God has raised  
up to aid and counsel mankind. I  
invite your miraculous interces-  
sion. So powerful are you obtain-  
ing every need of body and soul,  
our Holy Mother Church pro-  
claims you a "Prodigy of  
Miracles." Now fervently I be-  
sech you to answer my petition  
(mention here) and carry out your  
promise of doing good upon earth  
of letting fall from heaven a show-  
er 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 be-  
tween 4th and 9th day, you will  
see a rose in magazine, TV pic-  
ture or receive roses. You can  
also get a strong scent of roses in  
home even if no roses present.  
Must promise publication. Thank  
you.)

T.M.

**ST. THERESA**  
Oh Glorious Saint Theresa,  
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up to aid and counsel mankind. I  
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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 a rose in magazine, TV pic-  
ture or receive roses. You can  
also get a strong scent of roses in  
home even if no roses present.  
Must promise publication. Thank  
you.)

C.A.P.

**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 ne-  
cessity (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.

**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 glo-  
rified 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.

N.R.G.

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# Paper Mill to host annual Nutcracker Suite, Ballet

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Call the Paper Mill box office for reservations at (973) 376-4343 or visit the Paper Mill's Web site at [www.papermill.org](http://www.papermill.org) for ticket information and performance details.

Tom Helm, the master of music of the Paper Mill Orchestra, will serve as the conductor for the performances. Carolyn Clarke is the director of the New Jersey Ballet. The Paper Mill Playhouse marked its 70th anniversary season in September.

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## Stalled bills

Continued from page 1

"The less fortunate are trapped in the inner city. If we are supposed to feed the poor it is also important to educate them so they have an opportunity to lead productive lives in this state.

"Take Camden High," he continued. "There have to be

people on the honor roll. They will not want to leave. The kids who want to leave are the kids hiding in the bathroom and want to get out but may not have sufficient funds to attend a private school."

To qualify for a scholarship, low-income students must reside in the pilot district. Low-income is defined as no more than two and a half times the current federal poverty level, based on family size. For a family of four to participate, its income could not exceed \$53,000 annually.

According to provisions spelled out in the bills, money would be distributed to nonprofit organizations that provide scholarships to help low-income children residing in Camden, Elizabeth, Jersey City, Lakewood, Newark, Orange, Paterson and Trenton pay tuition at out-of-district public schools or in-district or out-of-district nonpublic schools located in the state.

The above-mentioned pilot districts (four of which are located in the Archdiocese of Newark) are characterized by high dropout

rates and academic achievement well below state averages, according to a statement by the Newark-based New Jersey School Choice Alliance (NJSCA) (Web site: [www.schoolchoicealliance.org](http://www.schoolchoicealliance.org)).

The New Jersey Education Association—the state's influential teachers union—has been a staunch opponent of the bill, dismissing it as a taxpayer giveaway and saying it would further compound the state's mounting fiscal problems. However, the NJSCA, responding to those claims, pointed out that public school funding would not be affected because the program is funded by tax credits given to contributing businesses.

Gov. Jon S. Corzine's recently legislated school funding formula includes a "hold-harmless" clause, ensuring that no school district in New Jersey will receive less money for at least the next three years.

The Urban Enterprise Zone Jobs Scholarship Act is modeled after the "highly successful" Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program in Pennsylvania, the NJSCA said. The bill passed the Senate Economic Growth Committee May 8 and was given a hearing (without a vote) by the Budget and Appropriations Committee June 16. Corwell said the Assembly's Education

Committee has not as yet been heard the bill and no date has been set for further action.

The NJCC indicated Catholic leaders throughout New Jersey are mobilizing to seek support for Senate and Assembly bills. The NJCC said that, to promote action, citizens should contact Sen. Joseph F. Vitale at (732) 855-7441; Sen. Barbara Buono at (732) 205-1372; Assemblyman Patrick J. Deignan Jr. at (908) 757-1677; and Assemblyman Joseph Vas at (732) 324-5955.

*(Editor's note: Chris Donahue is a staff writer with The Catholic Spirit, the official newspaper for the Diocese of Metuchen.)*

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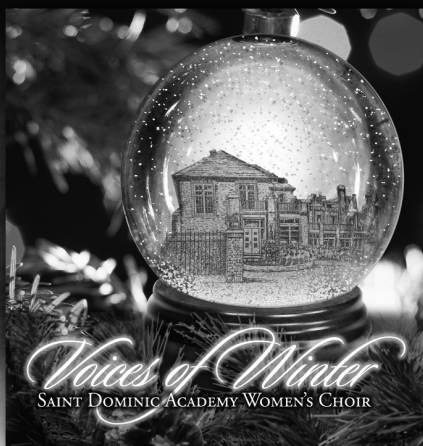
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## Homefirst

Continued from page 10

Homefirst try to "graduate" the clients in the shelter program into transitional homes. "Shelter programs do not solve the homelessness issue," said Deacon Bongiovanni. "You have to get to the roots of the problem and go from there."

"Last year one of our clients' daughters got a scholarship and is going to study in London for six months," Laffler said. "This is what it is all about—to see a child be able to follow their dreams."

In 2007 a middle-class family in Springfield became homeless. They entered the shelter program and shortly thereafter, Homefirst provided them with an apartment. "Let this be a wakeup call—homelessness exists," Deacon Bongiovanni said.

The organization, as part of its mission, seeks full integration and participation within communities to address the issue of homelessness. "We are building

connections in the community," Ellen McGovern, executive director of Homefirst, said. "Through all our services, we are providing long-term and stable living situations. With our investments, property value has increased, the streets are safer and the neighborhoods are more community friendly."

Originally known as the Interfaith Council for the Homeless of Union County, Homefirst's origins date back to 1986 when a group of Union County religious leaders and lay people, responding to the crisis of family homelessness, created an emergency shelter called the Interfaith Hospitality Network.

According to information found on the group's Web site, Homefirst's three-point vision of service is to provide safe, affordable housing for disadvantaged people; to provide services to disadvantaged families which empower and promote personal development, independence, self-sufficiency and community building; and to be a leader in eliminating homelessness through education, advocacy and affordable housing.

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# Retreats to build faith on Cornerstone principles

## Presentation creates time for renewal

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE  
Editor

UPPER SADDLE RIVER — Church of the Presentation Parish, 271 W. Saddle River Rd., will serve as a hub for archdiocesan retreats for men and women in the coming weeks.

The parish will host a Cornerstone retreat for men Jan. 30-31, 2009. Cornerstone is a 26-hour weekend experience that builds community and provides an opportunity for spiritual reflection and renewal faith while sharing life experiences with other men.

Parishioners who have experienced past Cornerstone weekends serve as hosts and facilitators. The Cornerstone retreat begins Friday, Jan. 30 at 6:30 p.m. at the Church of the Presentation. All meals, including supper that evening, are provided. The retreat will conclude on Saturday evening, Jan. 31 (supper included). Contact Mark Cron at (201) 444-3451 or Jim Kenny (201) 505-2463 for details. Information also can be obtained on the Web site ([www.menscornerstone.org](http://www.menscornerstone.org)).

A follow-up and extension to the Cornerstone experience is the "Men's Journey" weekend retreat, which builds on the principles of Cornerstone. The Men's Journey retreat will be held March 6-8, 2009 at Marian Shrine, 174 Filors Lane, Stony Point, NY.

Vincent Montini serves as the point person for the Men's Journey retreat. Men's Journey challenges men to continue their spiritual growth through personal talks, group sharing, prayer and the sacraments.

The weekend Men's Journey retreat is open to all men who have attended a Cornerstone weekend at any parish. The Men's Journey weekend schedule is structured at a relaxed pace, allowing time for personal reflection and prayer as well as one-on-one interaction between men. Those men attending the retreat will be encouraged to apply the experiences of the weekend for their own individual spiritual journeys.

The cost of the Men's Journey weekend retreat, which includes two nights lodging and meals, is \$175 for a double room or \$195



Church of the Presentation

for a single. Arrangements can be made to cover the cost of your attendance if necessary. Call Church of the Presentation at (201) 327-1313 or visit the Web site ([www.mensjourney.org](http://www.mensjourney.org)) for more information.

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also will sponsor a Women's Cornerstone Retreat March 27-28, 2009. Contact Mary Ellen Kenny at (201) 505-2463 for more information. In addition, there will be a Women's Journey retreat Feb. 6-8, 2009 at San Alfonso Retreat House, Long Branch. Call Michelle Baron at Church of the Presentation at (201) 327-1313 for details.

"Celebrate the Dance," a renewal weekend retreat for married couples will be held on Feb. 27 to March 1, 2009, at Mount Saint Alphonsus Redemptorist

Pastoral Center 1001 Broadway (Route 9W), Esopus, NY. The retreat consists of a mixture of quiet time for couples, talks given by team presenters and a number of services and activities centered on the sacrament of marriage. A Mass is celebrated on Saturday evening of the weekend.

The cost of the retreat is \$310 per couple, which includes two nights lodging and five meals. Contact Eric and Liz Koch by phone (201-236-1046) or via e-mail ([emagkoch@optonline.net](mailto:emagkoch@optonline.net)) for details.



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*Springtime Directed Prayer Weekend*

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December 10, 2008 - 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

"Hildegard of Bingen" with Sr. Helen Beairst

December 13, 2008 - 9:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. Liturgy: 4:00

"Zechariah: An Advent Adventure" with

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## Convent honors jubilarians

MENDHAM—Six members of the Sisters of Christian Charity's Mallinckrodt Convent from the Archdiocese of Newark were among 24 jubilarians honored at a celebration of the order's 159th anniversary.

Honorees included Sister Joanna Pappicco, Sister M. Pierre Koesters, Sister Helen Marie Cronin, Sister Theresa Bower, Sister Lucille Turville and Sister Mary Annette Engel. Sister Adalberta Mette, superior general, attended the celebration.

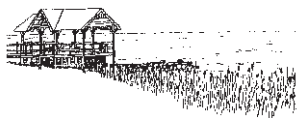
In the Archdiocese of Newark, Sisters of Christian Charity minister at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, South Orange; Saint Nicholas School, Jersey City; Hudson County Community College, Jersey City and Catholic Charities in Newark.



Bethany Spirituality Center, Highland Mills, NY announces winter/spring '09 retreats:  
 "Lord, Teach Us to Pray", with Sr. Stella Herrera, RJM, January 16-18;  
 "Perceiving the Spirit", with Ray Boswell, pottery retreat director, February 24;  
 "Listening to God through the Words of St. Paul", with Judith LoGerfo, March 7; Easter Triduum Retreat, April 9-12;  
 "From Calvary to Emmaus-Renewed Hope", with Sr. Ann Billard, OLM, April 19 to 23.

Located in the Hudson Valley, Bethany is approximately fifty miles from the city of Newark. For details, visit [www.bethanyspiritualitycenter.org](http://www.bethanyspiritualitycenter.org) or call (845)460-3061.

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**Feb. 13-20**

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**Margaret Ellen Burke, SC, Carol Marozzi, SSJ, Doris Mical, CSJP**

**Seascape in Winter**

**Feb. 23-26**

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Call Marilyn Riley (732-229-0602) to register Mon.-Fri. 9am to 2:30 pm



Submitted photo

**COMMISSIONED MINISTERS**—Msgr. Michael E. Kelly, headmaster of Seton Hall Prep in West Orange, recently commissioned 14 Extraordinary Ministers of Communion. Gathering in the Chapel of Saint Michael following a Mass of the Holy Spirit are (left to right, front row) Daniel Grimes, Matthew Bruno, Liford Pasteur, Campus Ministry Adviser Deacon Richard O'Hara, Campus Ministry Director Sharon Rondinella, Msgr. Kelly, Father Bill Melillo, Stephen Gallo, Patrick Bishop and Santiago Bauza, (back row) Denny Gonzalez, Jack Glasbrenner, William Fitzsimons, Matthew Berka, Ryan Getz, Michael Minio, Matthew Millea and Ryan DeCoursey.

## Vineyard retreat heals abortion pain

LINDEN—The Archdiocese of Newark's Respect Life office will host the 46th Rachel's Vineyard retreat—a weekend of healing and reconciliation for those who have been hurt by abortion—Jan. 16-18, 2009 at

the McGuinness Center of Saint John the Apostle Parish, 1805 Penbrook Terr.

Call Michelle Krystofik, associate director of the Respect Life office, at (732) 388-8211 to register. All calls are confidential. Father Joseph Meagher is the director of the Archdiocese of Newark Respect Life office.

Krystofik described the retreat as a psychological and spiritual journey of healing for post-

abortive men and women—anyone has struggled with the emotional or spiritual pain of an abortion. Those who attend the weekend retreat focus on God's forgiveness, compassion and mercy, Krystofik said.

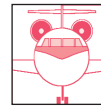
According to information on Rachel's Vineyard Ministries Web site ([www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org)). Rachel is an Old Testament figure mentioned in the book of Jeremiah (31:15).

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Aug. 7-14, 2009

March 14-26, 2009

March 20-29, 2009

July 5-17, 2009

May 15-24, 2009

Oct. 22-30, 2009

May 18-27, 2009

Nov. 7-15, 2009

Apr. 18-27, 2009

Apr. 24-May 3, 2009

Nov. 6-15, 2009

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**Triduum** - April 8-12

**Sabbath Morning for Women & Sunday Night Movies:**

Dec. 14; Jan. 11; Feb. 8; Mar. 15; Apr. 19.

**Desert day for Women** - March 7.

Call For Information and Reservations (201) 327-7090

Please call for our calendar. **Reservations & Deposit required.**

Email: [mail@carmelretreat.com](mailto:mail@carmelretreat.com)

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