



# The Catholic Advocate



## Adding up the tragic cost of poverty

Column, article and editorial urge an awareness to help those in need during season of Lent.



## Tower of faith looms large in Elizabeth

St. Mary of Assumption, the oldest parish in Union County, shares its history.

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# The spiritual union of one man, one woman

## NJ bishops call on faithful to guard marriage

BY JAMES GOODNESS  
Director of Communications

NEWARK—When the people of the Archdiocese of Newark join with others from around the world on the weekend of Feb. 16 and 17 to celebrate World Marriage Day, they will be doing much more than honoring the lifelong commitment of husband and wife and the openness to life.

They will be taking a stand, along with hundreds of thousands of people of all faiths across the state, to defend the definition of marriage as a union of one man and one woman at a time when the

very meaning of marriage itself is being challenged by a society more focused on individual satisfaction than on God's plan for married couples as seen in the Old Testament and the Gospel. They also will continue to recognize that while traditional marriages may not always be perfect, they are by far the best setting for a child to grow and learn while exercising his or her natural right to know, love and be loved by his or her natural parents.

These challenges are many: from divorce and cohabitation, which cause some to think of marriage as a temporary or disposable convenience; to civil unions and same-sex marriage, which seek to discard not only human tradition and history, but also natural law, which transcends all man-made law.

In a letter to all Catholics to be read and distributed at all masses on Feb. 16 and 17, the Catholic

Bishops of New Jersey will salute all husbands and wives, and ask God to bless them with the strength to persevere in their vocation so that each day they and their families will grow in love. The bishops also will speak to the meaning and importance of marriage to society, starting with its role as the foundation of the family, which, in itself, is the basic unit

of all societies. They will remind Catholics that God Himself is the author of marriage and that from the opening of the Book of Genesis, to the wedding feast at Cana, to the present day, God has blessed the holy covenant of marriage between a man and a woman, making it an institution whereby children flourish.

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## Ryan repairs Bibles to help restore souls



Advocate photo—Ward Miele

A typical collection basket contains all types of Bibles in need of tender loving care. Once refurbished, Tom Ryan distributes the Bibles to prisons, nursing homes, rehab centers and shelters. Those interested in lending a hand in any phase can call Ryan at (201) 797-8677.

BY WARD MIELE  
Managing Editor

AREA—Sometimes you actually can judge a book by its cover, particularly when it happens to be the Bible. You also can judge a compassionate commitment by the fruits of its labor, especially when it's a faith mission that donates restored Bibles to those in need.

"This is about bringing people to Jesus," Tom Ryan declared, discussing his one-man effort to repair worn, wizened Bibles and then distribute them to the downtrodden and forgotten.

Now in its third year, Ryan's work—known as Free Bibles for the Homeless and Needy—collects, refurbishes and delivers Bibles to an ever-expanding number of homeless shelters, drug rehab facilities and nursing homes. Begun in the Paterson Diocese, Ryan recently expanded into the Archdiocese of Newark and hopes to eventually cover the entire Garden State.

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## Priest aims to build cultural connections

BY MELISSA MCNALLY  
Staff Writer

NEWARK—For priests and religious who are recent immigrants from Africa, adapting to the culture and practices of the Catholic Church in America can be a difficult experience. The African Conference of Catholic Clergy and Religious in the United States (ACCCRUS) seeks to help African clergy adjust to their new life in America.

"Immigration can be disruptive," Father Anselm I. Nwaorgu, former president of ACCRUS, said. The pastor of Blessed Sacrament/St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Father Nwaorgu recently stepped down from the national organization as its first president. Father Martins Emeh from the Diocese of Rockford, IL is the current president of ACCRUS, which has 650 registered priests and religious.

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Father Anselm I. Nwaorgu



# Sharing hope, extending hands and hearts for Lent

**T**he season of Lent is upon us today. It is a time of conversion and of self-reflection. It is a period of time in which we are called to search within ourselves, to hold up the light of God's truth to those dark places that exist within us, that we might be illuminated by the light of mercy the Lord provides in Himself.

Through this intense time of prayerful introspection, we gain insights—not only about ourselves, but about the Lord who created us, loves us, and, as we remember solemnly each Good Friday, died so we might have eternal life.

Throughout these 40 days, it is expected that a great majority of us might find some level of spiritual poverty within, but there is comfort in knowing the season of Lent will provide a chance for us to set ourselves to rights, through prayer and fasting with God, and through almsgiving with our neighbors.

However, there is another type of poverty that needs to be addressed: the physical poverty that often creates and sustains a deep level of spiritual poverty for those living with such difficulty. Currently, 36 million people in the United States struggle to afford the basic necessities of survival. Here in our archdiocese, Newark has been named one of the country's top-10 cities with the highest poverty rate: 24 percent.

During the season of Lent, we are called to “turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel.” The Scriptures have much to say about poverty. God, our Father, hears the cries of the poor (Exodus 22:21). Jesus implores that we give help to the poor in secret, that we shall be rewarded by our Father, who sees all in secret (Matthew 6:2-4). John writes that he who has no pity for the poor does not know God, for His love is not in him (1 John 3:17).

The poor among us are not so easily identifiable. Like those who cry out “But when, Lord, did we see you hungry

## Sincerely in the Lord



BY ARCHBISHOP  
JOHN J. MYERS

*As faithful Catholics, we have a responsibility to care for, uplift and to help each other on the road to holiness, regardless of social status or financial situation.*

or thirsty and did not help you?” we hear of numbers of poverty levels not easily understandable. But in all four counties of the Archdiocese of Newark poverty exists. The “working poor”—those members of our communities who work full-time jobs but have difficulty meeting their daily needs due to low levels of pay or rising costs of basic expenses—are growing in numbers.

They might live next door and attend our parishes and schools. Often, they must make a difficult choice, such as

deciding whether to provide adequate food for their families or pay an important utility bill on time. Although they might seem happy, their pride and the shame they feel for being in such a situation prevents them from asking for help.

As faithful Catholics, we have a responsibility to care for, uplift and to help each other on the road to holiness, regardless of social status or financial situation. In doing so, we rely on God's every grace and blessing, giving our lives in service for the good of our brothers and sisters.

Work on this issue is underway. Currently, the Archdiocese of Newark's Office of Human Concerns, working in tandem with Catholic Charities and parish social ministries is spearheading a campaign to provide education about the overwhelming poverty issue that exists in our archdiocese, along with concrete steps that can be taken to help eradicate this mournful problem.

In Wichita, KA (a short 10-hour car ride from Ottawa, IL, where I was born) stands the Mid-America All-Indian Center Museum—home to a dazzling collection of teepees, tent-like structures utilized by Native Americans as a principal means of shelter. I mention them because traditionally, a teepee is constructed using three poles as its base, each of which is fashioned to a point at its top. After the tripod is made secure, surrounding poles are added to the structure; and the finished product is a roomy, durable dwelling that provides stability, even against the fiercest of prairie winds.

This Lent, let us employ the “tripod” of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as a base to provide for ourselves and our communities a sturdy shelter, creating a place that will stand strong against injustice.

When we pray, let us remember those among us who are the most needful. When we fast, let us join in solidarity with their hunger, which is not a willful decision. And when we give, let it be with the hands of Christ—hands that never reject, hands that reflect His grace, mercy, and forgiveness.

# Face of poverty revealed in Archdiocese of Newark

BY CHRISTY GUERRA

*Special to The Catholic Advocate*

NEWARK—Pope Benedict XVI, during his first Lenten message in 2005, addressed the faithful with these words: “In the face of the terrible challenge of poverty afflicting so much of the world's population, indifference and self-centered isolation stand in stark contrast to the ‘gaze’ of Christ.”

Nearly three years later, the message is just as relevant and hits home: the challenge of poverty still exists, and is still a terrible affliction—one seen just as keenly on a local scale as on a global one.

In the Archdiocese of Newark, the face of poverty is gazing steadily; this Lent, the faithful are challenged not only to gaze back, but to also take action in fighting it.

Some 36 million Americans, including one in six children, currently live below the official federal poverty line, which in 2006 was \$20,000 for a family of four. In New Jersey, the city of Newark is on the top-10 list of poorest cities in the country.

However, poverty does not only exist in large cities. Many people in the four counties of the Archdiocese of Newark also fall into the category of the “working poor”—those who work full time yet struggle daily to provide basic needs for their families.

“We very frequently see the working

poor in families who live in suburban neighborhoods,” Sharon Reilly-Tobin, project manager for the Emergency Food and Nutrition Network (EFNN), said. EFNN is a unit of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark and Reilly-Tobin's job description puts her on the front lines of assisting people who struggle to make ends meet.

“People are spending a disproportionate amount on housing and cannot provide essential things, like food for their families. It's very disheartening,” she lamented. “Since its inception in 1984, EFNN has served the poor and marginalized through a network of 75 food pantries in Bergen, Essex Hudson and Union counties, providing food and other basic essentials to those in dire need. In 2007 alone, EFNN distributed 115 tons of food to over 45,000 men, women and children. What is troubling is that in the last few years there are more working people coming for emergency assistance. These families live paycheck to paycheck. When they experience a medical crisis or need an emergency repair for their car, there is nothing to fall back on. Because of the high cost of living in New Jersey, a family needs more than twice the income of the federal poverty level of \$20,000 for a family of four to be self-sufficient. Families are hard pressed to feed their families and must turn to a church pantry for help.

Unfortunately, having a job in New Jersey doesn't guarantee food on the table.”

The rights and dignity for every person in the world, no matter their financial standing, also dictate that everyone should have food and clothing; and the faithful, especially, are called to provide what they can out of solidarity.

“While Jesus said the poor would always be with us, the level of poverty that is seen today is truly a scandal,” said Kay Furlani, director of the Office of Human Concerns for the Archdiocese of Newark. “As Catholics, we are mandated by Jesus to bring the good news to everyone and our help in reducing poverty is truly good news for those who are forced to live in poverty each and every day.”

In an effort to bring the good news to the poor and to fulfill the tenets of Catholic stewardship, the Office of Human Concerns is working with Catholic Charities towards a major national goal: reducing poverty 50 percent in America by the year 2020. This goal, they believe, can be achieved by partnering with organizations in both the private and public sectors and the non-profit world to create policy changes on the federal level that will alleviate the weight of poverty nationwide.

“As people of faith, we have a special ability to use the gift of stewardship, our time, our talent, and our treasure, to help those around us,” Furlani

stressed. “And the Lenten season gives us a chance to look deep within ourselves, to find that strength to act as Jesus would, and do what we can to help those around who are poor.”

To help, Catholics are encouraged to participate in Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl program (see editorial on page seven of this edition). Beginning Ash Wednesday, parishioners are encouraged to use the materials given to collect money throughout Lent, with the proceeds generally collected during Holy Week.

The Operation Rice Bowl program also supplies a “Home Calendar guide,” featuring daily reflections on prayer and solidarity with the poor, to be used as a reminder not only of the sacrifices made in donating, but a reinforcement of the good an individual donation can do.

Along with participation in the Operation Rice Bowl program, the faithful also are urged to pray and become educated on the poverty issue—its depth, its scope, and its reality. Doing so will provide clearer understanding on the issue, and can also eliminate stereotypes that might hinder someone's inclination to help.

For more information on the Operation Rice Bowl program, visit the Web site <http://orb.crs.org>. To find out more about the effort to reduce poverty in America, visit [www.catholiccharitiesusa.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org).



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NJPA



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# 'Faith Quest' strives to nurture spiritual connection with God

BY CHRISTY GUERRA

Special to The Catholic Advocate

**T**his year, nearly 45 percent of Americans will resolve to make significant changes to their lives; and although the most popular resolutions tend to revolve around a person's physical well-being, the spiritual is never far behind.

In the Archdiocese of Newark, one group of parishes is preparing to offer a program that fulfills many of those same spiritual resolutions people strive to achieve: closeness to God, education of their Catholic faith, and a newfound sense of community.

Soon to be offered this Lenten season, Faith Quest 2008 is a four-week adult faith formation program focusing three tracks of formation opportunities. Over the course of those four weeks, participants will discuss the topics of lenten scriptures, morality, and spirituality.

Faith Quest is an effort borne from the West Essex Parish Cluster, working in tandem with the New Energies project as a way to connect the parish communities of St. Thomas More, Fairfield; St. Aloysius, Caldwell; Notre Dame, North Caldwell, and Blessed Sacrament, Roseland.

"When it was recommended to us to find ways to connect activities between our parishes, one of the first things we thought we'd do was a joint Lenten prayer service," said Peg



Peg Johnston

Johnston, member of St. Thomas More Parish and Faith Quest committee chair. "And although we had a good turnout, we noticed that so many adults wanted more: to be educated about their faith, as well as find a greater sense of community; and so Faith Quest became an expansion of that little prayer service, our own 'Lenten University.'"

That journey from idea to actuality, however, took a lot of dedicated effort. Each parish in the cluster appointed two people to be a part of the Faith Quest committee, and its members took their positions very seriously, committing

to many long nights and a good amount of prayer. "It was quite a labor-intensive project," Johnston said. "We created a mission statement and came up with a survey: what did each parish feel was important? Once we had a sense of what parishioners were looking for, we were able to move forward."

The result was Faith Quest, which made its debut in 2007. "There was a wonderful turnout, with over 200 people at each session," she continued. "We advertised heavily for it, but we were still floored by the response. It was a success. We were thrilled with it, and we're so much looking forward to 2008's event."

Faith Quest has also been a great encouragement and testimony to the New Energies initiative as a whole. "We were anticipating, of course, some difficulties having to work through different opinions while planning the event," Johnston said, "but there was such a great openness among all of us. Prayer was a large part of that. Every idea was freely put on the table and there were no hard feelings when one wasn't accepted. Everything was done in a beautiful way; it was great to see."

Rosemary Azzaro, coordinator of young adult ministry for the West Essex Parish Cluster, agrees. "The Faith Quest planning process is a good model of how parishes can undergo their own New Energies initiatives," she said.

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## Extremist attacks in India evoke deep concern in archdiocese

BY MELISSA MCNALLY

Staff Writer

**AREA**—In India's Orissa state, extremists have burned Christian churches and homes in recent weeks, resulting in almost \$700,000 in damages and five deaths.

Half a world away, those violent acts have registered deep concern in the diverse mosaic of the Archdiocese of Newark, especially for more than 10,000 Indian Catholics who reside in this corner of New Jersey.

Father Thomas Thottungal, the coordinator of the Indian Apostolate for the archdiocese and administrator at Holy Cross Parish, Harrison, believes the government in India should be doing more to aid the Christians affected.

"The people in these villages,

including the Religious, were forced into living in forests because their homes and churches were burned and they are scared to return," Father Thottungal said. "There is hardly any communication with the government. The Indian army is there to protect the people now before it gets worse."

The Orissa violence began on Christmas Eve after 500 Hindu radicals attacked a tent displaying a Nativity scene. Extremists attacked and burned five parish churches, at least 50 village churches, six convents, three presbyteries, six hostels, two seminaries and a vocational training center.

Located on the east coast of India, Orissa is ruled by a coalition that includes a regional party and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the political wing of groups trying to make India a



Advocate photo — M. Gabriele

Father Thomas Thottungal (left), the coordinator of the Indian Apostolate for the archdiocese, and Msgr. Venantius Fernando (right), pastor of Christ the King Parish, Hillside, keep informed about the recent attacks on Christians in their homeland through connections with family members and friends. About 2.3 percent of India's more than 1 billion people are Christians.

Hindu theocratic state.

This is not the first time Hindu radicals have waged attacks against Christians. In 1999, a Christian missionary was killed in Orissa. Violent attacks against Christians also have taken place in

Madhya Pradesh since the BJP took control of the state government in December 2003.

"These attacks are more serious than before. The fundamentalists blame the Church for convert-

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CNS photo  
Pope Benedict XVI watches a dove fly from his apartment window at the end of the Angelus prayer Jan. 27 at the Vatican. With two Italian children by his side, the pope released two white doves as a symbol of peace.

## Military selects new archbishop

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The many worlds of Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio came together at his Jan. 25 installation Mass as the fourth head of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services. There were military chaplains and members of the armed forces, representing his new post; bishops, priests and lay Catholics from the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico, where he served until recently as the

papal representative; friends from his days at the Pontifical North American College in Rome and his 11 years working in the Vatican Secretariat of State; and fellow priests from the Diocese of Cleveland, his home diocese, and couples from St. Margaret Mary Parish in South Euclid, OH. In his homily for the installation Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, Archbishop Broglio pledged to “offer the best that I have to the faithful who have been entrusted to my pastoral care.”

ued Jan. 28, the personnel from the Diocese of Nakuru worked to evacuate church workers trapped in the violence, reported the Catholic Information Service for Africa, a missionary news agency in Africa.

## Patriarch decries chaos in Lebanon

BEIRUT, Lebanon (CNS)—Lebanese Cardinal Nasrallah P. Sfeir, Maronite patriarch, said the country’s political dilemma cannot be solved on the streets after several people were killed in riots. “Problems cannot be solved through street protests, but rather inside constitutional institutions,” said Cardinal Sfeir Jan. 28. At least eight people were killed and more than 20 wounded in riots in Beirut Jan. 27, raising tensions in Lebanon amid a presidential crisis and recent car bombings. The violence began as a protest against electricity power cuts. Schools and universities in Lebanon were closed Jan. 28 in observance of a national day of mourning.

## Violence claims priest in Kenya

NAIROBI, Kenya (CNS)—A mob brutally killed a priest of the Diocese of Nakuru in Kenya’s Rift Valley amid continuing post-election violence, which has pitted rival ethnic gangs against each other. Father Michael Kamau, 42, was killed on a Rift Valley road Jan. 26 because the mob reportedly was avenging a death in their community. As the violence contin-



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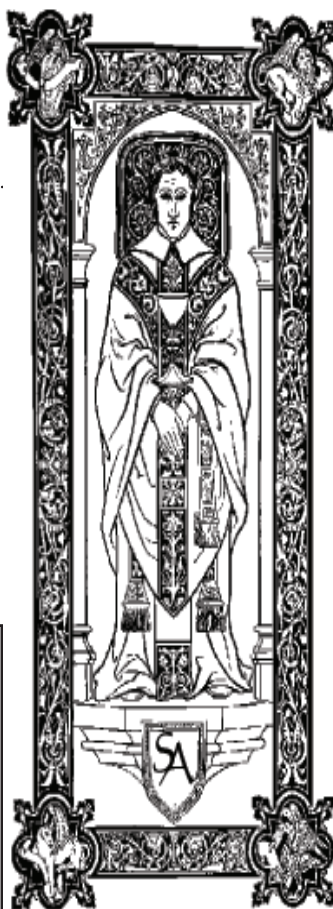
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**Retrouvaille for Married Couples Retreat** - February 8-10th in the Family Life Center. Reservations are confidential and made through Retrouvaille at 1-800-470-2230 If you are on the brink of separation or divorce, this retreat is for you. Also, if your marriage is stressed, this retreat will help you rediscover your love.

**AA Couples** - February 15-17th- Hosted in the Family Life Center, this is a life-changing retreat for couples affected by addiction. Register at 610-644-0400.

**Women Afire Retreat** - March 15th and 16th - w/Anna Iatesta, Kathleen McCarthy, Anne McGlone and June Piola, along with Fr. Chris Rogers and music by Marty Rotella. Hosted in the Family Life Center. Healing, private prayer, teaching and inspirational music. \$94.00 per person (double occupancy)

**Divine Mercy Retreat** - March 28th-30th- with Fr. Pablo Straub, CSsR and Fr. Stephen DeLacy. A weekend dedicated to the Divine Mercy devotion.

**Women of Grace** - May 2-4th - Third Annual Retreat with Johnnette Benkovic and Fr. Edmund Sylvia, CSC. Powerful conferences, teachings, prayer time, Rosary walk, private adoration and so much more.

**Kathleen McCarthy** - May 30th-June 1st- The 1st Annual Healing Weekend hosted by In His Sign Radio Network. This will be a weekend of life-changing teachings, prayer, inspirational music and a surprise guest speaker. Don't miss it!

**Light Weigh** - June 20-22nd- with Suzanne Fowler, Founder of Light Weigh. “Make peace with food” whether you are overweight, underweight or want to maintain your weight.” Teachings, prayer, social time and group sessions.

**Sacred Heart Apostolate Retreat** - August 1-3rd- with Fr. Bill Gaffney, CSsR and Gloria Anson. This is a retreat for men and women in which families will experience the blessings of the Sacred Heart (teachings, adoration, private time)

**Fr. Mitch Pacwa, SJ Retreat** - August 15-17th- By His Stripes You are Healed is the theme. Directed by Fr. Mitch Pacwa, SJ, this retreat is for men and women focusing on the Sacred Scriptures. Hosted in the Family Life Center.

**Mother Nadine Brown** - October 3-5th-Spiritual Warfare. Mother Nadine is the Foundress of the Intercessors of the Lamb, Omaha, Nebraska. Men and women. This is hosted in the Main retreat house. Marty Rotella-music.



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**February 6**

**St. Thomas the Apostle Parish,** Bloomfield, "Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius: Praying the Passion of Jesus," Wednesdays during Lent, 7:30-9:30 p.m., call Anna Graziano at (973) 338-9538.

**February 7**

**Center for Hope Hospice and Palliative Care,** Scotch Plains, support seminar for caregivers, 7-9 p.m., RSVP with Laura Bradley at (908) 288-9136.

**St. Mary Parish,** Closter, Taize Prayer service, 7:30-8 p.m., (201) 768-7565.

**February 8**

**St. Rose of Lima Parish,** Short Hills, leading death penalty opponent Sister Helen Prejean will speak at 7:30 p.m. for the first time since the state abolished the death penalty. A book signing will follow.

**February 9**

**The Shrine of Saint Joseph,** Stirling, Valentine's Jewelry sale, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., also on Feb. 10, (908) 647-0208.

**Knights of Columbus Council 4504,** Union, Valentine Dinner Dance, benefiting Camp Fatima, 7 p.m.-12 a.m., cost: \$60 per couple RSVP ASAP to Sister Ann Dominic at (908) 686-5271.

**St. Anthony of Padua Parish,** Hightstown, Diocese of Trenton's Office of Black Apostolate presents "Sisters of Selma: Bearing Witness for Change," 1-4 p.m., (609) 406-7400 ext. 5541.

**Lumen Center,** Caldwell, "Musings on Nature: Henry David Thoreau, John Muir, Thomas Merton," 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., cost: \$25, (973) 403-3331 ext. 25.

**St. Phil's Singles,** Livingston, Valentine's Day Dance, 7:30 p.m., (973) 340-4001.

**Our Lady of the Visitation Parish,** Paramus, bus transportation to the third annual Divine Mercy Conference, at Cardinal Spellman High School, Bronx, NY, 9-5 p.m., cost: \$10 per person for bus, (201) 967-8442.

**February 11**

**Knights of Columbus Council 3428,** North Arlington, family night dinner, benefiting Lucy Servino, an eight-year-old suffering from leukemia, 6 p.m., cost: \$35 for adults/ \$15 for children under 11, call Marie Gomes at (201) 456-9403.

**St. Margaret of Cortona Parish,** Little Ferry, bereavement support group, six-session program, 7:45 p.m., call Helen at (973) 471-5473 or Mary at (201) 641-5093.

**February 12**

**Xavier Retreat Center,** Convent Station, "Labyrinth," through Feb. 16, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., freewill offering, (973) 290-5100.

**February 13**

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

**Archdiocesan Center,** 171 Clifton Ave., Newark, annulment information evening, 7:30 p.m., (973) 497-4327.

**February 14**

**St. Vincent's Nursing Home Auxiliary,** Cedar Grove, St. Valentine's Day Luncheon, at Victor's Chateau, call Connie Love at (973) 509-3943.

**February 17**

**Christ the King Parish,** Jersey City, Mardi Gras Jazz Concert featuring the Greg Servance Quartet, 12:30-5 p.m., cost: \$20, call Verdena Johnson at (201) 970-3942.

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

**February 18**

**Knights of Columbus Council 3428,** North Arlington, "Giving Direction to Your Life," 7:30 p.m., call Bill Mackey at (201) 997-2086.

**February 19**

**Lumen Center,** Caldwell, "Taize: That Little Springtime," 5-7 p.m., (973) 403-3331 ext. 25.

**February 23**

**Knights of Columbus Council 3428,** North Arlington, night at the Devil's game, 1 p.m., cost: \$40, RSVP by Feb. 15, (201) 747-3582.

**Felician College,** Lodi, "Magic Moments" auction, at The Graycliff in Moonachie, 5 p.m., cost: \$70 per person, RSVP by Feb. 11, call Lori Walker at (201) 355-1308.

**February 24**

**Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish,** Wallington, "Souper Sunday," 1:30-6 p.m., cost: \$6, RSVP by Feb. 17, call Deacon Vic at (800) 834-8882.

**Other**

**Sacred Heart School,** Vailsburg, is seeking all alumni to help celebrate the 120th Anniversary of the parish and school. Cocktail party to be held as kick-off event to be held on Sunday, March 30, from 2-5 p.m. at Seton Hall University, South Orange. For further information, contact the school at (973) 372-4441 or email at heartvailsburg@yahoo.com.

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish,** Nutley, Misang Pilipino (Filipino Mass), 3 p.m., first Sunday of every month, (973) 667-2580.

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## How to report abuse

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

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

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## Seeking support and subscribers during Catholic Press Month

*The Catholic Advocate* has been the voice to educate, evangelize and inform readers in the Archdiocese of Newark since 1951. Our editorial mission involves conveying the teachings of the Church as well as the ministry of Archbishop John J. Myers.

We also reach out to the people of Bergen, Hudson, Essex and Union counties to report on their Catholic experience and how that faith-based dynamic plays out in their lives. And, as demonstrated by the special report in our Jan. 23 edition, we are espe-



cially interested in the good news about our Catholic schools.

The Advocate Publishing Corp. serves readers in the Archdiocese of Newark through *The Catholic Advocate*, the annual *Directory and Almanac* and the monthly Spanish-language newspaper *New Jersey Católico*.

Catholic Press Month (February), organized by the Catholic Press Association, is our opportunity to ask for your support. We hope you will consider becoming a paid subscriber to this publication. It is a much-appreciated vote of confidence as subscription revenues represent a key part of our business plan.

Please support the Advocate Publishing Corp. as we celebrate Catholic Press Month. Give us a call at (973) 497-4200 or e-mail us at [advoads@rcan.org](mailto:advoads@rcan.org). Thank you for your interest and your business.

—Michael C. Gabriele

## Support Operation Rice Bowl

**“I’m starving.”** Just about everyone at one time or another has uttered that rather melodramatic phrase after simply missing breakfast or sitting down to a late dinner.

Fortunately, most of us have never known real hunger, but many of God’s children do right here in the Archdiocese of Newark and around the world.

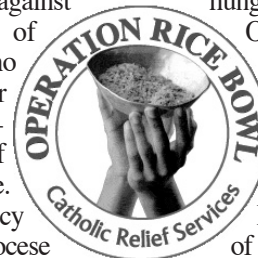
With the Lenten season, Catholic Relief Service (CRS) launches Operation Rice Bowl, a real weapon in the battle against hunger and malnutrition.

There are four tenants of fasting in solidarity with those who are hungry, learning about both the joys and challenges of our worldwide and sacrificial contri-

effective approach to the plight of Just look at the Garden State. Tobin, director of the Emergency Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese

Jersey residents don’t have enough to eat. That is a staggering statistic in a society that abounds in weight-loss programs from diets to radical surgery. To meet that need, the Emergency Food and Nutrition Network works with 75 pantry programs and seven kitchen/shelter operations. Last year some 45,000 persons were helped through Operation Rice Bowl donations and other resources.

The value of Operation Rice Bowl speaks for itself. Keep in mind that a full 25 percent of donations are returned to the local diocese. During this special time of year leading up to Easter, please make it a priority to participate in Operation Rice Bowl.



## A loyal Newark teacher recalls her many blessings

**T**he Legacy Circle Planned Giving Society (The Legacy Society) is a source of great inspiration to all of us here at the Archdiocesan Center in Newark. Members of the society—people who have named their parish or the archdiocese in their wills—are witnesses to the profound effect of faith in their lives.

When we are invited into a Legacy Society member’s home and are privileged to hear their stories about what their faith has meant to them and learn how it has shaped them over the course of a lifetime, it makes sense that they would take an extra step in planning beyond their own lives in a way that will profoundly effect the lives of those who will come after them.

One such person is Rosemarie Brodeur. Rosemarie is a longstanding member of the Legacy Society and a person who knows the archdiocese and the community here in Newark very well—not only from years of going to Catholic school (taught by the Sisters of Charity), and being a parishioner, but also as a teacher and volunteer at two institutions within the archdiocese, the Mt. Carmel Guild and *The Catholic Advocate*.

Rosemarie worked at the guild and the newspaper during the tenure of the late Msgr. John J. Kiley (the founder of *The Catholic Advocate*), whom she admired greatly. Among her other influences are the Sisters of the Cenacle (especially Mother Cordeau) and Archbishop Thomas J. Walsh (the first archbishop of Newark), who presided over her confirmation ceremony.

The moments vividly recalled by Rosemarie from the morning of her

confirmation so many years ago are an amazing testimony to the real presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

The story she related involved a fellow confirmation student struggling with the lengthy answer to a question

that Archbishop Walsh had asked her. As Rosemarie described it, the entire confirmation class and congregation froze in communal silence, awaiting the response they all believed would never come.

Archbishop Walsh sensed this doubt in the crowd and in a heroic showing of his own great faith simply put his hands over the little girl’s head and asked the Holy Spirit to help her recall the answer. After a moment, the answer came—completely and perfectly to everyone’s surprise! From that moment on, Rosemarie has always believed in that unseen, but strongly felt, power.

Her story of faith begins, as she tells it, through a volunteer position at the Newark Eye and Ear Infirmary at age 12. This led her to other jobs and encouragement from a friend of hers, a Sister of Charity, who believed that Rosemarie should become a teacher. At the time, her mother worked during World War II as a “Rosie the Riveter” at a local factory.

She was fortunate enough to attend both the College of St. Elizabeth and Seton Hall, working at a harmonica factory in Newark to help pay the tuition. Credits were \$13.50 each, but it was still a struggle for her to find the money to cover her expenses.

After working as a typist for *The Catholic Advocate* during college, Rosemarie went onto graduate studies, to prepare for a teaching career in Newark in the 1960s. The Newark riots did not discourage her from remaining in the city. Although other teachers were leaving, she remained in Newark for her entire teaching and administrative career, from 1968 until

1997. She also celebrated her 65th year in the Girl Scouts this year; an organization that has also been very important to her throughout her life.

Rosemarie’s life in retirement now involves volunteer work in a wonderful organization called the Interfaith Council for the Homeless or “Home First,” in Union County and at the Villa at St. Elizabeth’s in Convent Station.

When asked, Rosemarie says her faith is strong and she credits the Sisters of Charity—the women who were always there for her to listen. Their exemplary prayer life, kindness

and helpfulness sustained her throughout her life. She now gains such great joy through volunteering at the villa with the retired sisters. She wants to help these women because they have given their whole lives to God. She also believes it is her turn to give back since being a member of the Catholic Church has been a great help throughout her life.

Rosemarie is a member of the Legacy Society because she has made future plans for the Church by making a provision in her will, or a bequest, that will go to the Church after her death. A benefit of being a member of the Legacy Circle Planned Giving Society is a standing invitation to special archdiocesan functions scheduled throughout the year that thank donors who help ensure the future of the Catholic faith for the next generation.

Rosemarie’s life story is a fascinating combination of the struggles of the everyday world and the spiritual world intermingling to create the wonderful person and spirit that she has become. We thank Rosemarie and all the other members of the Legacy Society for their generosity and thoughtfulness.

What is your story of faith? What will your legacy be? Please write to us and share it. Or, if you have remembered your parish or the archdiocese in your will, please let us know, so that we can include you as a member of the Legacy Circle Planned Giving Society.

If you would like to leave a bequest to benefit your parish, the archdiocese or an archdiocesan entity, please contact Anne DeMesa in the Office of Planned Giving at (973) 497-4048 or visit ([www.rcan.org/plannedgiving](http://www.rcan.org/plannedgiving)) for more information.



Rosemarie Brodeur



# Managing the emotions of idiosyncratic responses

“Idiosyncratic” is an unusual word. It is not used very often. It means “a tendency or characteristic peculiar to a person.” It has come to mean some idea or action that belongs to someone that is all his own. It can also mean opinions or attitudes that are out of the ordinary. They cannot be anticipated. It often means that you simply can’t figure out why certain people believe what they believe, or do what they do. That is until you get a clue to their thought.

There was to be a wedding. The girl and boy seemed perfect for each other. Yet, the mother of the bride was adamantly opposed to the boy and to the marriage. The priest could not reconcile the woman to this union.

Finally, in desperation, the priest took the woman aside. “Tell me the truth,” the priest said. “We know each other for a while. What is the matter with him? Why are you opposing the wedding?”

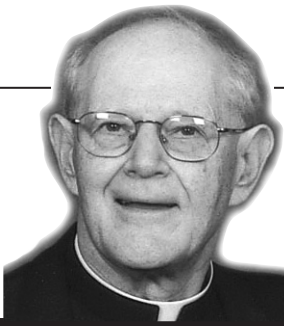
She looked at the priest and blurted out: “He’s too short.”

The mother had dreamed of her daughter marrying a tall handsome man. This fellow was five feet six. He did not fit the image of her ideal son-in-law.

*You say some innocuous harmless thing. Suddenly the person to whom you are speaking goes ballistic.*

## VOICES

By Rev. Msgr. John Gilchrist



Once the priest had the reason for her opposition he could deal with it. The wedding went on. The couple lived together in happiness for many years.

How many times have we met an ex-Catholic who hates the Church and says that he or she doesn’t believe in anything the Church teaches? Then we discover that some priest many years ago said or did something that made the person angry. Or it could be that some religious said or did something in a classroom 30 years ago. The person still holds a grudge.

So the personal bias against just one representative of the Church caused the person to abandon the whole Church or even faith in Jesus all together.

It happens even more broadly in life itself. In politics it is often not issues or positions that influence people. Voting can be a beauty contest. Turn out negative ads and they will turn against a policy or a candidate for office.

People vote with emotions, not with their intellect.

It happens in business, in social life and in families or anywhere where human beings gather. Madison Avenue, Hollywood, television and the world of fashion operate on the same psychological principles. Emotions trump intellect. Make people feel good, they will buy. There is no use in arguing about religion, politics, sports, or tastes. As the sage of Jersey City, Father John Merity, used to say: “That’s why they make chocolate and vanilla ice cream.”

Most commonly it occurs when you are holding a conversation with someone. You say some innocuous harmless thing. Suddenly the person to whom you are speaking goes ballistic. Without realizing how you did it, you have touched a nerve. You have an idiosyncratic response that you cannot understand.

Jesus “knew what was in man.” He knew on Palm Sunday that the same crowd cheering Him could be the same crowd jeering Him on Good Friday. But that was Jesus. Shakespeare said: “This alone—to thine own self be true.” Sometimes the best we can do is examine our own conscience.

To be true to yourself first analyze your own opinions, then leave others to their own preferences, especially if their own idiosyncrasies are different from your own. To agree to disagree is sometimes the best policy. At least it can leave your spirit at peace, even if someone else is fuming and steaming inside.

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

# The ‘study’ aiming to hijack traditional marriage

BY IAN DORIS

*Special to The Catholic Advocate*

The future of marriage in the State of New Jersey is in a precarious position. The truth will shock you.

A legislative commission composed primarily of gay-rights activists and proponents of same-sex marriage is currently conducting a very biased review of whether civil unions should be continued or be replaced with same-sex marriage.

The activists and same-sex marriage proponents have near-exclusive control of the commission and there is no room at the table for those who support marriage between a man and a woman.

The institution of marriage, so sacred to many of us, is in the hands of a very motivated minority who have taken over the democratic process for their own selfish interests through a combination of misuse of the political system and our acquiescence.

This is not about equal rights; the civil union law already provides for that. This is about changing the definition of marriage, which will have far-reaching consequences for society. That type of change should not occur without proper debate and consideration.

The Civil Union Review Commission (“CURC”) was created by the legislature in the wake of the N.J. Supreme Court decision that paved the way for civil unions. Although the court stopped short of finding that same-sex couples have a fundamental right to marry protected by the New Jersey Constitution, the court gave the legislature the option of amending the marriage statutes to include same-sex couples, or create another statutory scheme. Our legislature created civil unions and established the CURC to “study” all aspects of the civil union law.

Make no mistake—this commission is not “studying” anything; rather, it is advocating for same-sex marriage.

The CURC as presently constituted has 12 members. There are six automatic members from various government departments and six public members. The governor, senate president and assembly speaker appoint the public members. Every single public member is involved in either a gay-rights organization or has received awards from gay and lesbian organizations.

There is not one public member who supports the traditional marriage perspective. The CURC’s inherent bias is trou-

bling because it will report to Gov. Jon S. Corzine and recommend whether civil unions should continue or be replaced with same-sex marriage.

What is even more troubling is the outright advocacy by some CURC members creating an absolute conflict because they are using the CURC as a public out-



let for the private advocacy groups to which they belong. As commissioners, their duty is to study objectively the effects of civil unions by conducting hearings and essentially acting as neutral fact finders. However, in practice many of the commissioners are anything but neutral or objective, and are actually strong advocates for same-sex marriage.

This amounts to a hijacking of the democratic process to further the narrow interests of a few powerful people with political connections. For example the CURC’s co-chairman is the president of the

state’s largest lesbian and gay-rights organization and has on numerous occasions mentioned how he is aggressively encouraging people to complain about the civil union law. These efforts are meant to demonstrate that same-sex marriage is preferable to civil unions.

Additionally, in a recent CURC meeting, the co-chair discussed how pleased he was about a poll his private gay rights organization conducted that presumably demonstrated that opponents of same-sex marriage don’t feel that intensely about it. He went on to say that when the poll includes language related to same-sex marriage being a threat to the institution of marriage, New Jerseyans giggle. These are not the comments of an objective fact-finder.

No matter where you stand on this issue one thing is clear: the process is unfair and biased and we must not allow this unjust process to erode forever our sacred tradition and fundamental right to marriage between a man and a woman. Without justice in the process, we cannot have justice in the result.

The CURC has three years to conduct its “study” and make its recommendations to the governor. However, sensing strength in their own polling numbers and weakness in the opposition, the same-sex marriage advocates are pushing to speed up the timetable. We must not allow this to occur without our input on this important issue.

Take the time to become educated about this issue. Visit the CURC Web site ([www.nj.gov/org/dcr/curc.html](http://www.nj.gov/org/dcr/curc.html)) and e-mail your testimony; better yet, show up to their public meetings and respectfully support marriage between a man and a woman. We have a right, even an obligation, to make our voices heard. Unless both viewpoints are considered and debated the legislature cannot make an informed choice.

The threat to marriage is real and it is imminent. Unless we speak up now, we are destined to lose this most-important issue.

*(Editor’s note: Ian Doris, a Bergen county-based attorney, is a member of St. Peter The Apostle Parish in River Edge.)*

*Make no mistake—this commission is not ‘studying’ anything; rather, it is advocating for same-sex marriage.*



## Marriage

Continued from page 1

Finally, the bishops will urge all Catholics not to stand silent when marriage is in crisis. Among the steps they will ask the faithful to take are to pledge support to all family members, including those who choose to remain single, and reach out with the special compassion of Christ to those married couples and families experiencing

difficulties, anxiety and illness. They also will urge the faithful to communicate to the state's legislators that the definition of marriage should now and always remain that of a union between one man and one woman.

All masses on Feb. 16 and 17 will include special intercessions for married couples, and parishioners will be asked to pray a special marriage prayer, acknowledging that our future depends on the nurturing love of a man and woman in marriage, and on God's providential care.



Submitted photo

Participants at the "Look Before You Leap" workshop at SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Hoboken reflect on the presentations regarding the importance of preparing for marriage and its sacramental role—not only in the life of the Church, but in the lives of the men and women who commit themselves to a lifetime of faith and openness to life.

## Workshop advises couples to 'Look Before You Leap'

It is well known in contemporary society that the institution of marriage is in trouble. Statistics about divorce and cohabitation continue to show that far too many couples living together separate after only a short time, and that a large number of married couples divorce.

Although Catholic marriages are not immune to the pressures and prejudices of a society that values personal freedom and convenience over commitment, it is generally held that the divorce rate for Catholics is lower than that of other faith groups.

Many believe that the Church's marriage preparation programs, which center on the sacramental nature of marriage, the need for maturity in the men and women contemplating marriage, the idea of understanding and accepting the struggles that married couples face, and guided spiritual direction of a trained parish staff member, all contribute to the openness of couples to willingly enter and support the vocation of married life. Some faith groups have even begun to incorporate such preparation programs and personal guidance in their own congregations.

The annual observance of World Marriage Day in Catholic parishes across the world also provides a visible sign of support for couples as they make the daily decision to love one another, as does the availability of marriage encounter weekends, which enable married couples to rediscover the sacramental nature of their union.

The traditional parish pre-Cana and Engaged Encounter programs are cornerstones of most marriage preparation efforts at parishes, but they are not the only ways that the Church is

seeking to educate and inform young people considering becoming man and wife.

"I liked the coming together of the couples and the priests showing support of those interested in marriage. I liked the fact that the workshop was positive. I liked the information about the differences between a wedding Mass and a ceremony, and I liked the cost-saving ideas."

Those comments appeared on one of the evaluations submitted by the 23 engaged and hope-to-be-engaged couples that attended the first "Look Before You Leap" workshop on Jan. 26. The workshop was created and jointly sponsored by SS. Peter & Paul Parish in Hoboken and Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish in Jersey City. The two parishes have been working in partnership for the past two years as a result of the New Energies Transition Project.

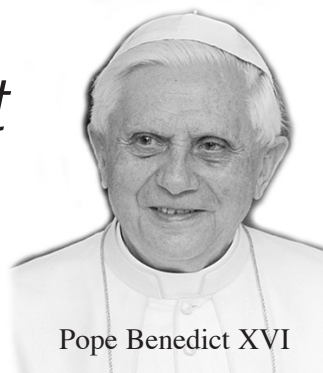
The two-and-a-half-hour workshop was presented by five recently married couples and by staff members from both parishes: Msgr. Frank Del Prete, Father Benny Prado and Lou Scarpa from SS. Peter & Paul; and Father Tom Iwanowski, Kathy Church, and Jim Harrold from Our Lady of Czestochowa.

The workshop covered every aspect involved with planning a wedding, including marriage preparation, pre-marriage counseling, civil and ecclesiastical requirements, marriage celebrations between two Catholics and celebrations involving those of different faiths, choosing appropriate music, preparing programs, rehearsals, wedding receptions, flowers, photographers, cost-saving suggestions and ways to make the whole preparation period more joyful and less stressful.

—James Goodness

## THE POPE SPEAKS

### Church law frees people to follow Christ



Pope Benedict XVI

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Far from being a list of restrictions, Church law frees people to follow Christ, Pope Benedict XVI told participants in a congress on canon law.

The Church recognizes that the nature and function of its laws are to pursue its aim of achieving the salvation of people's souls, he explained.

Therefore, the pope said, it is important "that such laws be loved and observed by all the faithful."

The pope made his remarks during a Jan. 25 audience with some 700 participants in an international congress on canon law. The Jan. 24-25 congress, organized by the Pontifical Council for Legislative Texts, marked the 25th anniversary of the promulgation of the new Code of Canon Law in 1983.

But Church law must also be flexible and "adhere to the changeable circumstances of the historical experiences of the people of God," he said. In order for canon law to remain in harmony with the Church's other laws, outdated norms must be abrogated, articles in need of correction must be modified, unclear norms must be reinterpreted in the light of the Church's living magisterium, and any gaps in the law must be filled.

## Cathedral prayer service offers Plenary Indulgence

NEWARK—This year marks the 150th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady to Saint Bernadette Soubirous at Lourdes, France.

In observance of the occasion, the Archdiocese of Newark will host a special celebration of evening prayer on Monday, Feb. 11, at 7:30 p.m. in the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark. The evening prayer, presided over by Archbishop John J. Myers, will not only provide an opportunity for prayer with faithful Catholics from all four counties of the archdiocese, but also an opportunity to gain the Plenary Indulgence, which Pope Benedict XVI has granted for those who honor the Blessed Virgin Mary during this special time of celebration.

Indulgences have been a longstanding part of Church history. In 1967, Pope Paul VI issued the apostolic constitution *The Doctrine and Practice of Indulgences*, outlining the conditions by which indulgences can be earned. In the early days of the Church, indulgences were designated in terms of days and years; in this more contemporary time, such terms are no longer used.

For the Plenary Indulgence offered for the sesquicentennial of Our Lady of Lourdes, set between Feb. 2-11, the faithful are required to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (usually within a month), be free from all attachment to sin, receive Communion, pray for the intentions of the Holy Father, and participate in a Marian devotion before an image of Our Lady of Lourdes set up for public veneration. The customary prayers recited for the intention of the Holy Father are The Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and an invocation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, traditionally the Hail Mary.

For those who desire to fulfill the conditions necessary to gain the Plenary Indulgence, participating in the celebration of Evening Prayer in the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart on Feb. 11 will provide the necessary condition of participating in the Marian devotion. The Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart maintains a chapel that displays a permanent statue of Our Lady of Lourdes, which depicts the Blessed Virgin as she appeared to Saint Bernadette in February 1858.



## Marylawn celebrates its religious heritage

SOUTH ORANGE—Marylawn of the Oranges Academy recently celebrated its religious heritage during Mother Seton Week.



The week began with students encouraged to learn through Mother Seton's example by being a "Teacher for a Day." During the week, an informational table detailing the good works of Mother Seton was on display. Students also decorated posters that were hung on all of the school doors. Morning prayers were ded-

icated to the spirit of Mother Seton. The week's finale was a Freshman Class performance of prayer, dance, poetry and song in honor of Mother Seton.

"The effect was electric. The enthusiasm of the girls, expressed in dance and word, was the most beautiful gift one could give to Mother Seton. During her lifetime she was very fond of song, poetry and dance," commented Sister Kathy Quigley, S.C., the campus minister.



*The Archdiocese  
of Newark  
The Right Time to Give  
Consider a Bequest*



You may be thinking, "I'm not comfortable making a gift of assets during my lifetime that I may need in the future." This is a genuine and legitimate concern for many people. They want to help the charitable programs of the Archdiocese of Newark and/or their parish, but they are also not in position to commit assets they may need in the coming years.

### Here are Five Ideas for How you can Help the Charitable Programs of the Archdiocese and/or Your Parish through a Bequest:

- Make a bequest using retirement assets and gain a tax advantage.
- Make a provision in your Will for an Archdiocesan ministry of your choice, for example, Catholic education.
- Avoid excess taxes by giving certain appreciated securities, art, and coin/stamp collections to the Church. This is a very attractive and substantial way to make a gift.
- Consider using a paid-up life insurance policy naming the Archdiocese or your parish as beneficiary.
- Give a gift of real estate. Many families have willed their homes, vacation homes or other real estate to their parish or Archdiocese. Some with the provision of living in those homes until death.

### Here are Five Reasons for Having a Will:

- A valid Will insures that your final wishes will be carried out.
- A valid Will can remove anxiety and worries for your family at a time of emotional stress.
- Unless you have a valid Will, New Jersey state law will direct to whom and how your assets will be distributed.
- With a valid Will, your estate can avoid unnecessary tax and expenses.
- With a valid Will, you can direct a special gift to the Archdiocese of Newark or to your parish.

*If you already have a Will and decide that you would like to include a provision for a charitable bequest to the Archdiocese or your parish, you need not redo your entire Will. Simply prepare a Codicil (a written change or addition), have it witnessed and attached to your Will.*

For a free information packet and sample language for creating a Catholic Will, call or email Anne DeVivo DeMesa at The Office of Planned Giving, (973) 497-4048 • Email: demesaan@rcan.org Or go to [www.rcan.org/plannedgiving](http://www.rcan.org/plannedgiving). Or complete and mail the coupon to: Archdiocese of Newark, The Office of Planned Giving P.O. Box 9500, 171 Clifton Avenue, Newark, New Jersey 07104

Dear Anne,

Please send me information about Wills and bequests.

\_\_\_ Please contact me about a personal visit. The best time to call me is: \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_ I have already provided for the Archdiocese of Newark/my parish or in my will or other estate-plan.

\_\_\_ Please send information about the *Legacy Circle Planned Giving Society*.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

CA 2-6-08



Submitted photo

Students are all smiles at this year's Mission Bazaar. Proceeds this year went to Lacordaire's sister school in the Dominican Republic.

## Lacordaire Academy bazaar assists Dominican 'sister'

UPPER MONTCLAIR—The annual Mission Bazaar has become a tradition of helping at Lacordaire Academy.



Held in the gym of the school's Secondary Division, the freshmen through senior classes compete to raise the most money for the missions. The 2007 proceeds of \$4,000 went to Lacordaire's sister school, Fe y Alegria School, in the Dominican Republic. Its principal, Sister Pat Stringer, O.P., came to Lacordaire Academy to speak with the students about her school of over 800 students which had recently added a high school division.

At the Mission Bazaar, each grade selects a theme and decorates a designated section of the gym to reflect that theme. Bazaar attractions include selling gifts, food, games, face painting and hair and nail treatments. The students of the elementary division also participate.

## AHA's Park hits high note

DEMAREST—Amy Park, a sophomore at Academy of the Holy Angels (AHA), has been accepted into the Region I Senior High School Honors Orchestra.



She is one of a select few from Region I North Jersey School Music Association, which covers Sussex County down through Essex County, who qualified. Amy was one of 40 violin students to be accepted out of 133 who auditioned.

AHA music teacher Mariann Annetchino commented, "It was a grueling all-day affair and I am extremely proud of Amy."

The concert is scheduled for Feb. 10, at 3 p.m., at the Bergen County Academies in Hackensack. Hans Dietrich, professor of music at Lebanon Valley College in Pennsylvania, will conduct the orchestra as it performs "The Fledermaus Overture" by Johann Strauss, Mendelssohn's "Italian Symphony" and Moussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition."



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Advocate photo – Christy Guerra

Faith Quest 2008, the adult faith-formation program, will be offered during the Lenten Season. Members of the program planning committee include (back row, left to right) Rosemary Azzaro, coordinator of young adult ministry, West Essex Parish Cluster; Anna Dallavalle, Notre Dame Parish, North Caldwell; Maureen Pollock, St. Aloysius Parish, Caldwell; (front row) Sister Agnes Bernard O.P., pastoral associate, St. Thomas More Parish, Fairfield; Peg Johnston, Faith Quest committee chair; and Jacqueline Demoreuille, Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish, Roseland.

# Faith Quest

Continued from page 3

The Faith Quest sessions will take place on Wednesdays (Feb. 20 and 27; March 5 and 12) from 7:30-9 p.m. at St. Thomas More Parish, 12 Hollywood Ave., Fairfield. The cost is \$3 per session or \$10 for all four. Topics include: "Prayer and

Spirituality: Christ the Teacher, Christ the Healer," "Understanding Sacred Scripture: Themes of this year's Lenten Gospels" and "Daily Dilemmas, Making Good Choices: Understanding & Living Christian Morality." To register, contact Ed Karpinski, St. Aloysius, Caldwell, at (973) 226-0209 or edkarpinski@msn.com.

# Extremist attacks

Continued from page 3

ing the people in the area. The Church is always there to protect and help the poor people, and the (ruling party) doesn't like that," Father Thottungal said.

Hindu radicals in Orissa accuse the Christian minority of unfair recruitment tactics and the lower castes of Hindu society in Orissa have been converting to Christianity. "The Hindu nationalists (known as the Hindutva) have always been against other religions. There is hardly any protection for the Christians there. These are poor, innocent people with no place to go," Father Thottungal recalled.

Like Father Thottungal, Msgr. Venantius Fernando, pastor of Christ the King Parish, Hillside, and former coordinator of the Indian Apostolate, is from southern India. Msgr. Fernando noted there are distinct differences in the religious and political climate between southern and northern India.

"In the South, it is very much a Christian world," Msgr. Fernando said. "Most missionaries initially came to the South because it is a coastal area that was easy to ac-

cess by water. There are many Christian colleges and schools and Christians are well established. In the North, there are practically no Christians. There are very staunch Hindus and very few conversions. All the politicians and ministers are deeply invested in their Hindu faith."

The Hindutva, who are involved in the BJP, abuse their power in Orissa against the helpless, according to Msgr. Fernando. "They are against Christianity and the poor people and churches are easy to attack," he said. "No one listens to the complaints of the poor. The Indian bishops are asking the central federal government for help. The government is usually unable to do anything because the (crimes) occur in secluded places with poor farmers and people in the lower caste."

The attacks on Christians in Orissa have political implications, Msgr. Fernando argued. "The BJP's idea that India should be Hindu is not stated publicly because it is against our secular constitution," he said. "The BJP have attacked other religions as well. These attacks in India have been

happening for 10-20 years. The government can only help temporarily; there cannot always be security or police to protect the people. The BJP is getting stronger."

One thing that could help the people of Orissa, Msgr. Fernando believes, is intervention by the American government. "When the governments of America and India work together, something can be done," he said.

The National Association of Asian Indian Christians (NAAIC) held a rally in front of the Indian Consulate in New York City on Jan. 11 to protest the violence in Orissa.

(Editor's note: This article used information provided by Catholic News Service.)

# Fencer makes her point

DEMAREST—Kathryn Palazzoto, a junior at Academy of the Holy Angels, will attend the U.S. Fencing Junior Olympics in Charlotte, NC Feb. 14-18.

She qualified in the Cadet (under 17) and the Junior (under 20) competitions for Women's Sabre.

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# SMA priest prepares for trip to Africa

BY DEACON KEITH MCKNIGHT  
Special to The Catholic Advocate

TENAFLY—Brooklyn native Dermot Roache was ordained a priest for the American province of the Society of African Missions (SMA) Dec. 29, 2007—the first ordination in 15 years for the organization.

Father Roache, 36, brings to his priestly ministry the experience of having taken his theology studies in Africa. He said this has prepared him well for the diffi-

cult situations he may have to face in ministry in Africa.

“The Church is getting stronger but needs continuous support as it is rapidly growing,” he said. “The parish has an increasing number of outstations (micro parishes) in the busy areas and mountain regions located on the outskirts of the city limits. All of the communities need to be looked after in order for them to grow and become self-sufficient. It is a big challenge, but I trust in God’s guidance.”

Even with the growing number of diocesan priests in Africa, Father Roache feels there will be plenty of work to keep the SMAs busy for a long time. “Our main charism (gifts from God) is to found, develop and empower parishes in underdeveloped rural areas,” he said. “We encourage local vocations to continue the work. When a parish has been established and functions as self-sufficient, we (SMA) give it to a local diocesan priest to take over.”

As he looks forward to his first priestly assignment in Africa, he plans to utilize the SMA approach of learning the local languages, traditions and ways of the people. “We continu-

ously apply our studies to the current and rapidly changing pastoral situations,” he said. “We are forced to make difficult decisions at times; we have no choice but to slow down, be patient and sometimes accept things as they are.”

According to Father Roache, the approach to evangelization in Africa must be done “in the frame of mind of the African people. I had to learn that. You cannot bring a Brooklyn style of teaching, preaching and of saying Mass to a very rural African community. It just won’t work,” he said.

Life as a student at Tangaza College, located in a suburb of Nairobi, Kenya, has also given



Submitted photo

In his first priestly assignment, Father Dermot Roache will serve in Nairobi, the capital city of Kenya. The East African nation, in recent weeks, has been the site of violent political demonstrations.

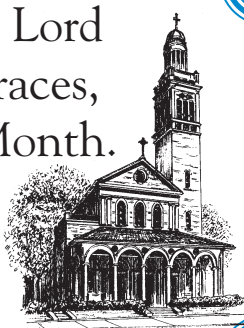
him the opportunity to work and grow with the future leaders of the Church of Africa. During his training, he has had several internships.

His parents have been the foundation and inspiration of his vocation. “They are a tremendous witness of Christian living, a beautiful example of love, sacrifice, perseverance and faith,” he said. Father Roache’s family also includes three brothers, Thomas, Patrick and John, and a sister, Maureen.

(Editor’s note: Deacon Keith McKnight is the vocation director for the SMA. The acronym actually stands for the Latin phrase “Societas Missionum ad Afros.” Deacon McKnight also serves at Christ the King Parish, Jersey City. The SMA provincial house is located at 23 Bliss Ave., Tenafly. He can be reached by phone (201) 401-4658 or via e-mail at DeaconKM1@aol.com.)

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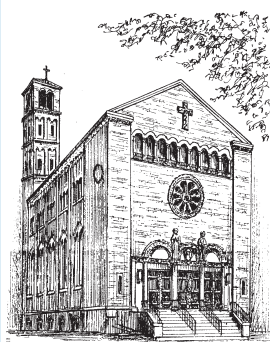
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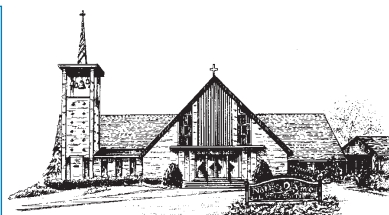
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## McKnight

Continued from page 13

greatest prayer was for her son and grandchildren that they remember their faith, for they knew from

whom they were taught. She presented her children to the temple of God encouraging them and raising them in the ways of the Lord.

Authentically black and truly Catholic as proven by her witness in faith and her encouragement,

Rita challenged the Black Catholics of the Archdiocese of Newark to get involved in the National Black Catholic Congress. She was the fire that set our souls ablaze and propelled our participation not only in the National Black

Catholic Congress but also in the annual parish workshops for ministry in the African-American community. Rita was the coordinator for the New Jersey Gathering of Black Catholic Women, which was held at Seton Hall University, South Orange.

I owe my certification as a graduate and master catechist to Rita. She was instrumental in my attending the National Black Catholic Congress of 1997.

Let us follow her as she follows Christ. For she truly loved the Lord and the Name of Jesus was sweetness to her lips. Alleluia Alleluia. All praise and glory be to God in the name of Jesus. Rest in peace my sister until we meet again. Amen.

(Editor's note: Valerie D. Lewis-Mosley, R.N., M.S.J., is a master catechist and director of catechetics and Youth Ministry at Christ the King Parish, Jersey City.)

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- 11:15 Adoration, Confessions, Benediction
- 12:00 Full Lunch
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Submitted photo

**SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT**—The archdiocesan Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children (SFIC) recently introduced Newark resident Samaad Bennett (second from right), as one of the recipients of the 9/11 Inner-City High Schools Scholarship Fund in memory of Patrick S. Murphy. Family and friends of Murphy donated funds to assist high school students with tuition. Bennett is a 10th grader at Immaculate Conception High School, Montclair. Pictured with Bennett (left to right) are Tony Scarfo, Lori-Jean Murphy and Dominic Profaci—representatives of the Murphy family.

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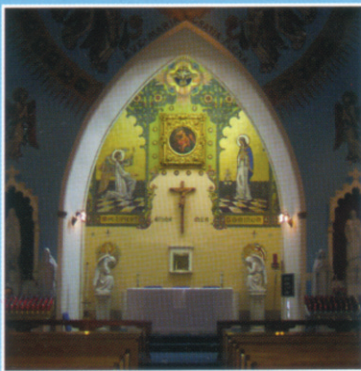
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# Summer picnics connect a diverse faith community

BY MELISSA MCNALLY  
Staff Writer

As the oldest parish in Elizabeth and in Union County, St. Mary of Assumption has been home to an influx of many different ethnic groups for almost 165 years.

In the 1840s, the number of Catholics in the area began to grow due to the increase of laborers building the New Jersey and Central railroads. The workers and their families traveled to St. John Parish, Newark, for Mass and the pastor, Father Patrick Moran, ministered to all the Catholics. In 1842, Mass was occasionally celebrated in Elizabeth by a priest from Staten Island, Father Ildephonsus Medrano. He used a tavern on the outskirts of town for his services.

One year later, the Catholics in Elizabeth petitioned the archbishop of New York to provide a pastor for the community. On Palm Sunday, 1844, 25 people gathered in a house on Rahway Avenue and DeHart Place to celebrate Mass with the parish's first pastor, Father Isaac Howell. With sup-

port from friends in Philadelphia and New York, and contributions from laborers on the Morris Canal, Father Howell established the parish registers and purchased land on Washington Avenue for a church building.

By spring 1885, construction had begun on the original church—a plain, unpainted, 50-square-foot structure. The first Mass was celebrated on the first Sunday in Advent. St. Mary of Assumption remained the only church in the city until 1847, when St. Michael Parish was organized on Smith and East Jersey streets.

In 1849, Father Howell purchased land for “burial grounds” at Washington and Lidgerwood avenues. The cemetery would be used for 2,285 burials from 1849-1899. In 1851, a two-story brick school was built alongside the church. The expanding parish found a need for a larger building and a rectory. In the spring of 1862, the new church (133 by 66 feet) and rectory on Race Street were completed.

During the pastorate of Father Michel Kane (1867-1872) the distinctive parish was added. At the same time a bell was installed in the belfry and the original frescoes were painted in the interior walls.

By 1945, the church and rectory were in need of repair. Under the direction of Rev. Msgr. John Edward Kiernan, the parish committed itself to the reconstruction project. The primary goal was to maintain the integrity of the old church and tower, since they were so expressive of the devotion of past parishioners. Ultimately, the reconstruction was to be thorough and extensive.

During the pastorate of Rev. Msgr. William F. Furlong (1961-1976) the spiritual life of the parish was greatly enhanced by his presence, especially with the institution of a perpetual adoration program. Msgr. Furlong also established a free bus service to assist parishioners unable to drive to Sunday and Holy Day masses.

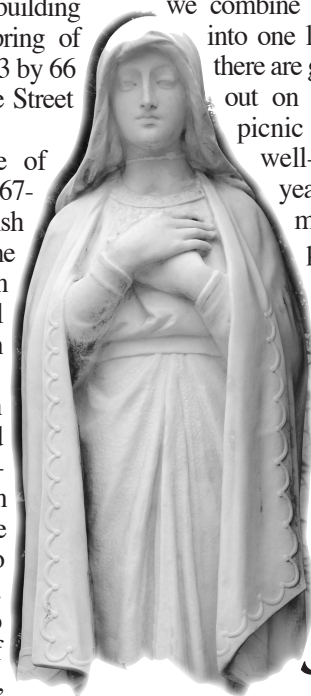
An architect's plan to build a permanent wall to create the daily Mass chapel, while being sensitive to the history and integrity of the original church, was completed during the pastorate of Rev. Msgr. Paul G. Bootkoski (1983-1990), who currently serves as the bishop of the Diocese of Metuchen. The renovation of the

worship space incorporated all the elements of the old church in a new design. The renovation met the church's need for a welcoming worship space, a small daily chapel and a more private area for eucharistic devotion. The re-dedication of “Olde St. Mary's” and dedication of the chapel was held on Feb. 1, 1986.

Rev. Msgr. Robert J. Harrington, the pastor, has served St. Mary of Assumption Parish from 1990-2002 and from 2002 through today. One activity that brings the diverse faith community together is the parish picnic. Held in August—usually on or near the feast day of the parish's namesake—the picnic began four years ago.

“The idea came from Msgr. Harrington,” Joseph Mazzeo, a parishioner since 1959, said. “He thought it would be a good idea to celebrate our patron. On that day, we combine all the masses into one large Mass and there are games and food set out on the lawn. The picnic is extremely well-attended; last year we had almost 300 people.”

Norma and Robert Carroll are a young family with close ties to the parish. “I have been a parishioner for 34 years. I have been a lector since

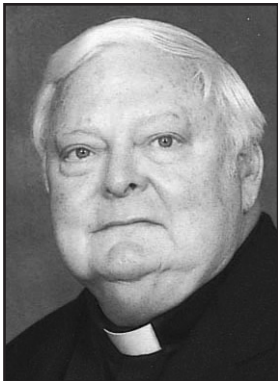


Advocate photo – Melissa McNally

Founded in 1845, St. Mary of Assumption Parish has 1,123 registered families, which includes Irish-American, Hispanic and Filipino parishioners. Father John B. Martin and Father Esterminio Chico serve as parochial vicars. The towering church steeple, pictured here, stands 180 feet over Washington Avenue.

## St. Mary of Assumption, Elizabeth

### Meet the Pastor



Rev. Msgr.  
Robert J. Harrington

**Birthday:** Sept. 23, 1944  
**Hometown:** Midland Park  
**High School:** Bergen Catholic  
**Seminary:** Immaculate Conception, Mahwah  
**Undergraduate:** Seton Hall University  
**Graduate School:** Immaculate Conception Seminary; Fordham University  
**Ordination:** 1971  
**Hero:** Pope John XXIII  
**Favorite Food:** Irish/ Italian  
**Favorite Subject in School:** English  
**Favorite Movie:** Too many to mention  
**Last Book Read:** *Prayer for the Damned* by Peter Tremayne  
**Occupation if I Weren't a Priest:** Social Worker

eighth grade and attended St. Mary Grammar School and the high school. I am what you would call a “lifer.” I have spent my lifetime at the parish,” Norma Carroll said. “People who moved away from Elizabeth still come to our masses. The parish is welcoming, inviting and close-knit. Our eight-month-old daughter was baptized in the middle of a Mass last summer; this church is very special to me.”

For Robert Carroll, the parish aided in his conversion to Catholicism. After completing the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program, Robert Carroll has been attending Mass since 1996. “St. Mary Parish is my idea of what a church should be. People were so accepting and friendly toward me. The RCIA

program was very informative and they wanted to help you.”

Now a eucharistic minister, Carroll was baptized during the Easter Vigil in 1997. “St. Mary's is a good place for someone who has been away from the Church to come back to.”

Mazzeo, active in the CCD program for 20 years, has observed the many changes in the parish demographic. “We have a very large Spanish-speaking population, which is indicative of the urban area of Elizabeth,” he said. “The Spanish Mass at noon runs out of seats.”

The CCD program, which has 100 children from kindergarten through grade 10, is also undergoing changes. “Everyone is bilingual and currently, we are the stages of revamping the program.

It is difficult to find people to participate because being a part of CCD is almost like a full-time job that takes a big commitment,” Mazzeo explained.

John Moriarty, a parishioner for 50 years, also noted the changes in the parish. “It is definitely a different parish than the one I grew up in. Today, you can go around the world without leaving Elizabeth. My parents are from Ireland and now it is culturally different. However, a lot of things have stayed the same. St. Mary's is still a tight-knit, blue-collar, hardworking, family-centered parish.”

(St. Mary of Assumption Parish is located at 155 Washington Ave. Call the parish at (908) 352-5154 for information on its programs and activities.)



Connections

Continued from page 1

Father Nwaorgu steered ACCRUS' eighth annual convention, which was held in Clark last August (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Aug. 22, 2007). During his three-year term as president, he worked to improve the communication between bishops in Africa and America.

"ACCCRUS sent a communiqué in 2006 to the bishops in Africa and the bishops in the United States in hopes to reduce incidents of conflict between immigrant priests and American priests due to poor planning." For example, he explained that an African priest could be sent by a bishop in his home country to America without making proper living arrangements or money to attend school in the United States. "When they get here, the new priests sometimes do desperate things to survive," Father Nwaorgu said.

The communiqué encouraged American priests and bishops to be open to African personnel and reminded priests and religious from Africa to recognize why they are in the United States: to spread the Gospel.

"People can read your intentions," he said. "If your reasons for being in America are not noble, they will despise you. There is a misconception that all African priests are focused on money. That is a half truth. Sometimes, because of the lack of preparation for them to come to the United States, priests have to work hard in order to put themselves through school or to pay for lodging."

Misinformation and a lack of cultural understanding can lead to conflict between native and immigrant priests. One of the goals of

*'There is a cross-cultural conflict that can arise if the new priests that come here do not have some sort of orientation.'*

—Father Anselm I. Nwaorgu

ACCCRUS is to reduce presumptions on both sides of the cultural divide. "ACCCRUS can be a great resource to the American bishops and we can work closely together," Father Nwaorgu said.

ACCCRUS is also a resource for the African priests unfamiliar with their new home. "The greatest thing that our organization does is provide support for the immigrant priests and religious. We provide a connection and a network for the local African priests. We want to make sure that no African priest feels alone or abandoned," Father Nwaorgu stressed.

Orienting the newly immigrated clergy and religious to American culture is another concern of ACCCRUS. "There is a cross-cultural conflict that can arise if the new priests that come here do not have some sort of orientation. The boundaries are not as clearly defined here in America as they are back home. We educate the priests on how to talk to parishioners, etiquette and how to better communicate in America. Part of the handicap to being accepted is not knowing the customs," Father Nwaorgu explained.

Father Nwaorgu has first-hand experience with adjusting to the U.S./African cultural divide as he was born and raised in a remote village in Imo State, Nigeria. One of seven children, he entered the seminary as a teenager.

Prejudice and resistance to change is an issue ACCCRUS is trying to eradicate. "African priests are only African by geogra-

phy. You are a priest first and African second. Where you come from should be secondary to the charism (gifts from God to benefit a community), which is the same as American priests," he said.

The willingness to adapt to new situations is important for both native and immigrant priests, Father Nwaorgu stated. "If you are going to come to America, you have to be open to change. It goes both ways. Immigrant priests have to adapt to new customs and native priests must be willing to accept the new clergy from Africa."

ACCCRUS is planning to release a new communiqué this year to set up protocol for orientation of newly immigrated African priests and religious. "ACCCRUS aims to keep up with the spiritual development of our African priests," he said, adding that he plans to remain involved in the ACCCRUS programs. "I may have finished my term as president, but I am not finished being an active member of this organization," he pointed out. "I believe in the mission of ACCCRUS."

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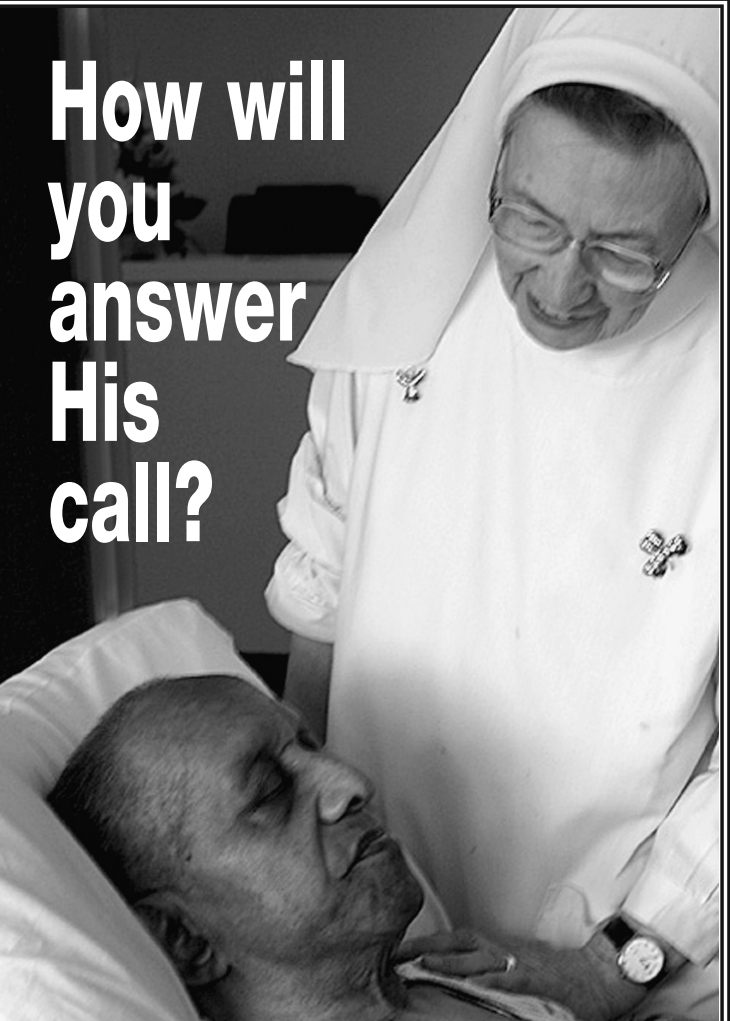
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# Tom Ryan

Continued from page 1

The roots of Free Bibles date back 21 years ago to a Bible study he ran at a Paterson men's shelter. "Many times I would be approached with requests for Bibles," Ryan recalled. "Bibles are expensive and so it is no wonder that many people are unable to buy bibles of their own and therefore are cut off

from the wonderful life-giving promises of Jesus."

That terrible realization of a cost penalty was the impetus for his work. "I started combing local flea markets and seeking Bibles from my parish," he said. "I began giving extra Bibles to another shelter. Soon both shelters were asking for Bibles and requests came in from other shelters. I had to expand my search. My wife suggested that I approach local parishes and furnish them with a

wicker donation basket to place in their church entrance."

Ryan noted that Bible collection baskets are now in 70 churches throughout northern New Jersey—about 20 parishes so far in the archdiocese. Bibles in need of "tender loving care" are refurbished at Ryan's workshop—the dining room of his residence in Elmwood Park.

The delivery and distribution process involves driving and hand-trucking boxes of the Bibles to specific locations. He operates without a budget and is financed through the Ryan's retirement income. A member of Saint Anne Parish in Fair Lawn, Ryan will celebrate his 75th birthday in May.

"There are no requirements or qualifications for obtaining a free Bible," Ryan explained. "My goal is just to make Bibles available. Expanding is becoming more and more difficult for

just one person. I pray that the Lord will raise up compassionate souls to help."

Ryan stressed that every refurbished Bible is checked to make sure it meets accepted Christian standards. There are, however, real-world needs and specifications to consider. For example, hardcover Bibles are not allowed in prisons because they could be used as weapons, so Ryan's soft-cover inventory goes to the county jails. He brings children's Bibles to community shelters and large-type editions to hospitals and nursing homes. He even has received a number of Bibles in Braille, "but I haven't been able to locate a place for them yet," he said.

The final step in the refurbishing process is the placing of a label on the inside cover that reads: "'I'll never leave nor forsake you.' Jesus." A bookmark is placed inside each book suggest-

ing that a good place to start is the Gospel of St. John and the appropriate page numbers.

"The raw hunger for free Bibles is absolutely unbelievable. I never seem to catch up with the demand," he pointed out. "It is truly amazing to see all the different sizes and types of Bibles that pass through this ministry. Chaplains in our area usually do not have the money in their budget to purchase Bibles. When residents, prisoners, hospital patients, rehab center clients and those attending Bible studies requested a Bible, there were none to give. Now there are."

Free Bibles is touching the spiritual lives of the less fortunate. It also has caught the attention of Christians looking for a way to respectfully recycle their old Bibles. Father Joseph C. Doyle, the pastor of Saint Anne, which maintains one of Ryan's Bible recycling baskets at the church entrance, said he has seen good response from parishioners to donate Bibles.

Calling Ryan's work a "Godsend," Rev. Louis Bihr, the administrator of Straight and Narrow Inc., Paterson, recently wrote to a letter to Ryan, saying that "the men and women both in Bible studies and spiritual awareness groups as well as the Gospel choir have greatly benefited from the Bibles you continue to bring us." In another recent correspondence, Sister Gloria Perez, executive director of Eva's Kitchen and Sheltering program, also based in Paterson, informed Ryan the Bibles "were gone in one day. Your kindness is truly appreciated."

## Legacy Tea set to brew on April 22

NEWARK — The Legacy Society Tea and Prayer Service will be held Tuesday, April 22. The prayer service will begin at 2 p.m. in Our Lady's Chapel at Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, 89 Ridge St., followed by a tea and reception in the residence of Archbishop John J. Myers.

Call the archdiocesan Planned Giving office at (973) 497-4048 to learn how to join the Legacy Circle. The archdiocesan office of Major Gifts and Planning Giving, which is located at 17 Clifton Ave. (adjacent to the Cathedral Basilica) is led by Bill Evans, executive director of Major Gifts, Anne DeVivo DeMesa, director of planned giving, and Theresa Lynch, development coordinator.

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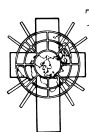
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NOVENAS

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

**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.  
**M.W.**

**PRAYER TO ST. JUDE**  
Oh, Holy St. Jude, Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near Kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and urgent petition (make request). In return I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. Say three Our Fathers, three Hail Marys and Glorias. St. Jude, pray for us all who invoke your aid. Amen. This Novena must be said for 9 consecutive days. Thank you for answering my prayer.  
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**THANK YOU ST. JUDE**  
A special prayer of thanksgiving to St. Jude for answering my prayer. All glory to God for His mercy and grace in the lives of His faithful. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, continue to pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, always pray for us. May we be forever grateful for the intercession of St. Jude in our times of need. Amen. Published in a true spirit of gratitude to Almighty God. Thank you, St. Jude.  
**E.M.**

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

**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.)  
**J.B.**

**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.)  
**C.H.G.**

**THANK YOU ST. ANTHONY**  
Prayer of Thanksgiving St. Anthony, God has helped me abundantly through your prayer and has strengthened me in my need. I thank God and I thank you. Accept this prayer and my serious resolve which I now renew, to live always in the love of Jesus and of my neighbor. Continue to shield me by your protection and pray to God for the final grace of one day entering the Kingdom of heaven to sing with you the everlasting mercies of God. Amen  
**E.M.**

**NOVENA TO ST. JUDE**  
May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. Amen. Say this prayer nine times a day for nine days. Published in gratitude. Thank you, St. Jude.  
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**REFLECTIONS ON LENT**—The practice of almsgiving is illustrated in a stained-glass window at the Shrine of St. Anne de Beaupre in Quebec City, Canada. Pope Benedict XVI said alms—freewill offerings to those in need—help Christians conquer the constant temptation to become slaves to wealth and material goods. The theme of the pope's Lenten message was "Christ made Himself poor for you." Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 6, while Easter will be celebrated March 23. Lent is a time of prayer, fasting, almsgiving and an "inward cleansing" that allows Christians to welcome Easter with renewed spirit, the pope said.



**MINISTRY OF READER**—Hong-Ray Cho from the Archdiocese of Newark was among 45 seminarians of the Pontifical North American College, Rome, recently instituted into the Ministry of Reader during a Mass celebrated by Most Rev. Wilton D. Gregory, Archbishop of Atlanta, who also instituted the new lectors on the solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord. The institution of lector is one of the ministerial steps leading towards diaconal and priestly ordination. A lector is charged with proclaiming the Word of God in the liturgical assembly, instructing children and adults in the faith and preparing them to receive the sacraments worthily.

## Official Appointments

Archbishop John J. Myers has announced the following appointments:

### ARCHDIOCESAN/ AGENCY MINISTRY

**Rev. Msgr. James S. Choma**, Pastor of St. Agnes Parish, Clark, has been appointed director of the International Institute for Clergy Formation at Seton Hall University, South Orange, effective Feb. 25 with residence at Seton Hall University.

### PASTOR

**Rev. Thomas Iwanowski**, Pastor of Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish, Jersey City, has had his pastorate extended one more final year, ending July 1, 2009.

**Rev. Pedro Helio de Oliveira, CSsR**, Parochial Vicar at St. James Parish, Newark, has been appointed administrator of St. James Parish, Newark, effective Feb. 25.

### PAROCHIAL VICAR

**Rev. Clement M. Krug, CSsR**, administrator of St. James Parish, Newark, has been appointed parochial vicar of St. James Parish, Newark, effective Feb. 25.



**Rev. Wilson Varikatt, O.Carm.** was appointed parochial vicar of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Tenafly, Jan. 11.

**Rev. Cristobal de Jesus Puertas** was appointed parochial vicar of St. John Parish, Orange, effective Jan. 26.

### CHAPLAIN

**Rev. Charles M. Kelly**, Parochial Vicar of Queen of Peace Parish, North Arlington, was appointed Chaplain of the Order of the Alhambra El Sheedy Caravan #192, North Arlington, effective Dec. 27.

### RETIREMENT

**Rev. Sylvester J. Livolsi**, founder and director of the Sanctuary of Mary, Branchville, was granted retirement effective Feb. 1.



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## Civil War Mass set for Feb. 17

ORANGE—Father David G. Moreno, S.D.B., chaplain of the 7th Regiment New Jersey Volunteer Infantry Civil War Re-enactors, will celebrate a Civil War Military Mass at Our Lady of the Valley Parish, 510 Valley St., at noon on Sunday, Feb. 17.

The Mass will focus on the contributions of Irish immigrants to the Civil War including the role of the famed "Irish Brigade." It will include a Latin chant, Civil War-era vestments and hymns. A three-volley military salute and the playing of taps on the grounds outside the church will be staged to honor the 620,000 soldiers who died in the Civil War (April 12, 1861 to April 9, 1865).

Light refreshments will be served in the cafeteria of nearby Marylawn of the Oranges Academy, 445 Scotland Rd, South Orange, following the Mass and ceremonies. Contact Father Moreno at (973) 674-2400 for details.

Father David Moreno



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## Ministry celebrates 'special' needs, gifts

ROSELAND—Our Lady of Blessed Sacrament Parish, 28 Livingston Ave., will celebrate a Mass for families with "special" needs and gifts and individuals with developmental disabilities on Thursday, Feb. 21, at 7 p.m.

Following the Mass, Anne Masters, the director of the archdiocesan Pastoral Ministry with Persons with Disabilities, will present information on the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in the sacramental life

of the Church. Contact Masters by phone at (973) 497-4309 or via e-mail at masteran@rcan.org or call Sister Rie Crowley at (973) 403-8169 for more information on the Mass.

The ministry also will sponsor a series of "inclusive" masses adapted for families with special needs. The first is, Sunday, Feb. 24, 1:30 p.m., at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Mountainside. The second is Sunday, March 9, 9 a.m., at Nativity Parish, Midland Park.

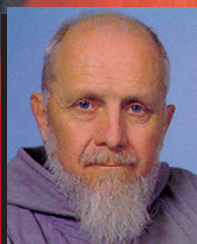
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### OTHER SPEAKERS:

**Msgr. James Lisante**  
Pastor, Author, Television commentator

**Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC**  
Director of Association of Marian Helpers

**James M. White**  
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