



The Catholic Advocate



Bangladesh bishop visits Garden State

Most Rev. Bejoy Nicephorus D'Cruze meets Father Stanley Gomes, director of archdiocesan Adjunct Clergy Personnel.



Bayonne parish gears up for next 100 years

Father Gerard M. Lombardo, the affable pastor, celebrates St. Michael the Archangel's Lithuanian roots.

Inside

USA & World News ... 2, 4
Around the Archdiocese ... 6
Opinion 7
Commentary 8
Faith & Spirituality 9
Black History Month 13
Classifieds 18
Health & Senior News. 23

Friars plan retreat for 'husbands'

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE
Editor

NEWARK — The Franciscan Friars of the Renewal will sponsor a men's day retreat ("Husbands Love Your Wives") on Saturday, March 15, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Most Blessed Sacrament Friary, located at 375 13th Ave.

The retreat is open to all men—married or single—and will offer reflections on Christian manhood. It will feature presentations by Damon Clarke Owens, the coordinator of the Natural Family Planning office for the Archdiocese of Newark and the president and founder of Joy-Filled Marriage New Jersey (Web site: www.joyfilledmarriagenj.org).



Damon Clarke Owens

and Joseph Campo, an independent film producer and the founder of Grassroots Films, Brooklyn, NY (Web site: www.grassrootsfilms.com).

Owens said his presentation would draw from the faith-filled lecture series known as Theology of the Body. "My talk will be pointed towards husbands living the vocation of marriage and fatherhood more sincerely," he said.

Continued on page 11



Advocate photo — Melissa McNally

ASH WEDNESDAY—Archbishop John J. Myers celebrated Ash Wednesday Mass at St. Patrick Pro-Cathedral in Newark on Feb. 6, which signaled the start of Lent. "The Cross reminds us that we must obey God's will and turn away from sin," Archbishop Myers said in his homily. "It reminds us of our sinfulness and that through the Cross, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are saved. During Lent, we must concentrate on intense prayer, almsgiving and sacrifice."

Prayers mark apparitions at Lourdes

BY MELISSA MCNALLY
Staff Writer

NEWARK—Close to a 1,000 of the faithful from throughout the Archdiocese of Newark filled the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart on Feb. 11 for an evening prayer service, celebrated by Archbishop John J. Myers, and a Plenary Indulgence granted by Pope Benedict XVI, honoring the 150th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Lourdes.

"We celebrate this great anniversary and it is a time of prayer and veneration," Archbishop Myers said during the service. "Lourdes has been a place of worldwide pilgrimage and prayer. Miracles still happen today."

Continued on page 2

'Friends' look to help those trapped inside gloomy center

BY WARD MIELE
Managing Editor

ELIZABETH—First Friends, a volunteer group based out of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, puts Catholic compassion and social teaching into action by simply "being there" for international asylum seekers at the Elizabeth Detention Center.

In addition to its charitable work, the ecumenical, non-sectarian group, organized eight years ago, takes strong exception to conditions at the center—operated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security—and the fact that most detainees have not committed any crime, but are simply seeking a safe haven in America.

Continued on page 14



Advocate photo — Melissa McNally

Beckoned by the glow of candlelight, the faithful venerated Our Lady of Lourdes at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark during an evening of prayer. The first appearance of the Blessed Mother to Bernadette Soubirous took place in Lourdes, France, on Feb. 11, 1858.

Lourdes represents spiritual link for faithful pilgrims

BY REGINA LINSKEY
Catholic News Service

LOURDES, France (CNS)—Every year, more than 6 million people, including about 500,000 American Catholics, travel to Lourdes, ask for healing and forgiveness and often leave with a bottle of holy water. But without the proper spiritual and historical context, such journeys and traditions may seem odd to some.

Thousands of faithful from around the world traveled here earlier this month to mark the 150th anniversary of Mary's miraculous first appearance to St. Bernadette Soubirous at the grotto of Massabielle. The Church, in 1862, recognized the apparitions at Lourdes as authentic.

Pilgrimages are as old as worship, according to Ann Ball, author of the "Encyclopedia of Catholic Devotions and Practices." Prehistoric man felt the need to visit where his gods lived, the early Christians felt the need to visit where Jesus lived and the tradition continued, Ball said in the book.

Father Jeffrey Keefe, spiritual director of Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers, said people participate in such pilgrimages because of a special devotion to Mary, and they often take a problem—physical or spiritual—and offer it up to God at places "known to have good effects."

The New York-based Catholic organization recruits and organizes volunteers and pilgrims for trips to the famous grotto where Mary appeared to St. Bernadette Soubirous 150 years ago. The organization also offers virtual pilgrimages with a guided virtual tour on its Web site (www.lourdesvolunteers.org) for those who cannot travel to France.

The 13th time Mary appeared to St. Bernadette, Mary asked her to tell the priests that people should come to Lourdes and that a chapel should be built. The first Marian procession took place May 12, 1858, and construction of the chapel began in 1862, the year the local bishop recognized the authenticity of the apparitions.

In 1866, two years after the first local pilgrimage from Loubajac, France, a railway was built connecting Lourdes to the rest of the country. In 1874, the first international pilgrims arrived from Belgium. Today, people come from around the world to pray at the sanctuaries and visit the important sites related to St. Bernadette's life and her 18 Marian apparitions. And many pilgrims also take home a bottle of water from the Massabielle grotto, where Mary showed St. Bernadette a muddy spring and asked her to drink from it.

Lourdes is also a place where the sick and disabled visit to be healed. Sick pilgrims can stay at Accueil Notre-Dame, a sort of hotel-hospital, where each bed has



CNS photo

Pilgrims carrying candles take part in the rosary procession around the Sanctuaries of Our Lady of Lourdes in Lourdes, France, Feb. 10—the eve of the 150th anniversary of Mary's first appearance to St. Bernadette Soubirous. Pope Benedict XVI, in his Feb. 10 Angelus address at the Vatican, said the message of Lourdes reminds the faithful to pray and do penance. The pope said he promised to pray for all sick people during his annual Lenten retreat.

an alarm bell and each unit has a doctor on call.

The Sanctuaries of Our Lady of Lourdes are nestled within the city. The churches are carved out of the Pyrenees Mountains, stacked above and below the grotto like a sandwich. Outside St. Michael's Gate—the pathway connecting the sanctuaries to the rest of the city—narrow, winding streets are filled with shops selling Catholic trinkets.

The Catholic Church recognizes 67 cures as miracles attributed to Mary's intercession at

Lourdes. However, the most important miracles of Lourdes are the growth and spiritual changes people have after they visit, Father Keefe said.

Mary did not seek devotion from St. Bernadette Soubirous and Catholics but instead sought devotion to Jesus and the Eucharist, according to Bishop Jacques Perrier of Tarbes and Lourdes. In the apparitions at the Massabielle grotto, Mary led St. Bernadette to Jesus and today intercedes for pilgrims and leads them to Jesus, the bishop said.

Bishop Perrier said the Jubilee Way, the special anniversary pilgrimage in Lourdes of sites related to St. Bernadette's life, begins at the parish church, where St. Bernadette was baptized, and ends where St. Bernadette received her first Communion. All of the Jubilee Way is in preparation for the Eucharist, said Bishop Perrier, who, like the tens of thousands of pilgrims thronging the streets of Lourdes for the feast day, wore a souvenir medallion marking his participation in the Jubilee Way pilgrimage.

Cathedral

Continued from page 1

Archbishop Myers visited Lourdes, France, in 1964, which was also the year of the French National Pilgrimage. "I saw thousands of sick people who were offering their bodies as a living sacrifice to God. They persevered and found peace in prayer."

"We must celebrate Mary with love and with trust," Archbishop Myers stressed. "We must use our freedom as Mary did – to emulate the will of God. We welcome Mary's intercession and follow in the footsteps of her Son."

A Plenary Indulgence (the full or partial remission of tem-

poral punishment due to sin) is obtained by celebrating the Sacrament of Penance, receiving Holy Communion and praying for the intentions of the Holy Father.

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



Advocate photo – Melissa McNally

Archbishop John J. Myers (front row, second from left) leads prayers in Our Lady of Lourdes niche chapel at the end of the procession on Feb. 11 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark. Archbishop Myers presided at the evening prayer held at the Cathedral Basilica. During his days as a seminarian in 1964 Archbishop Myers visited Lourdes, France. He recalled vividly how seminarians would interact with and assist pilgrims who had traveled great distances to visit Lourdes. "I saw thousands of sick people who were offering their bodies as a living sacrifice to God," he recalled. "They persevered and found peace in prayer."

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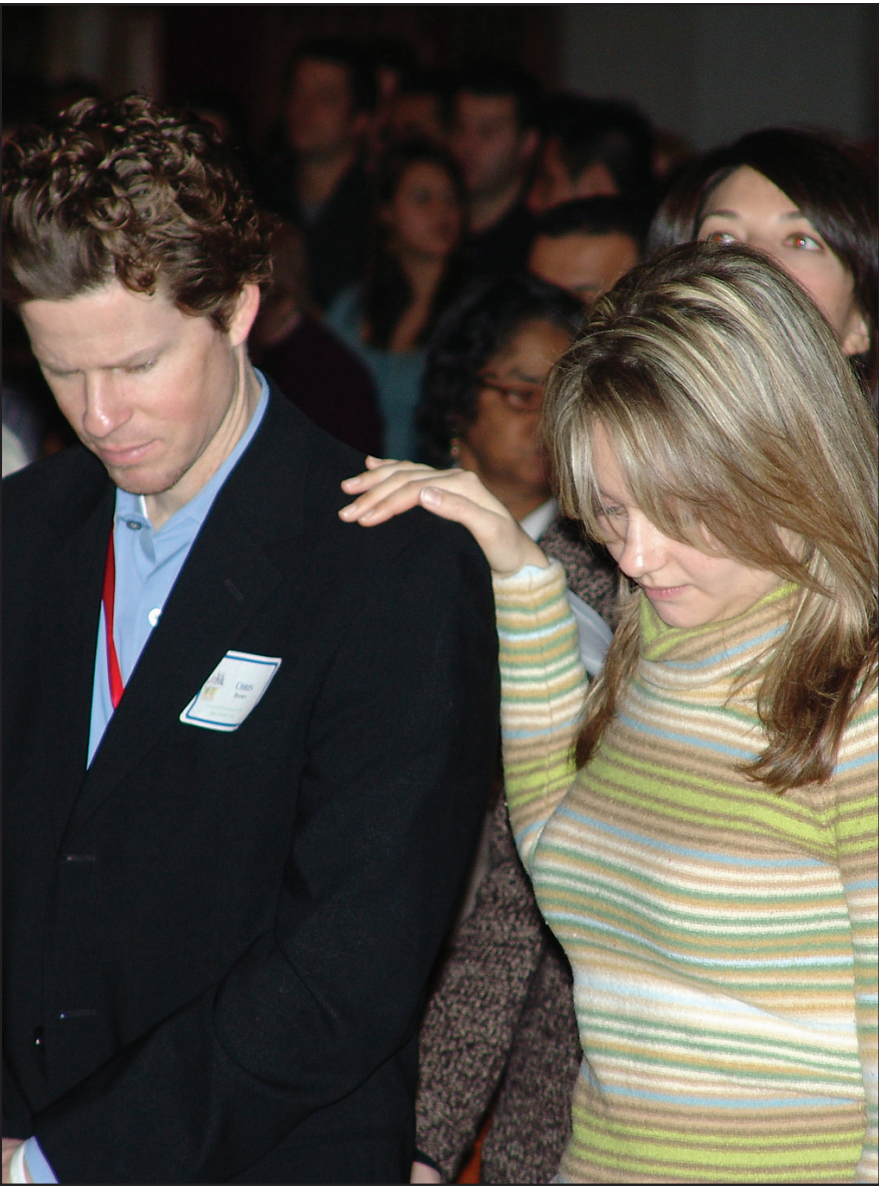
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FREQUENCY FOR THE YEAR

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

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Answering a powerful call



Advocate photos – Ward Miele

LENTEN JOURNEYS—Faithful from throughout the archdiocese filled the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark the weekend of Feb. 9-10 for the Call to Conversion on Saturday and Rite of Election on Sunday. At the Call to Conversion, sponsors symbolically take candidates into their care by placing their right hand on the candidate's shoulder, as did Alison Strabone for candidate Chris Brown from Church of the Presentation, Upper Saddle River. A solemn moment during the Rite of Election occurs when catechumens sign the Book of Elect under the watchful eye of their godparent. Seven-year-old Andrew Lundy, accompanied by Joseph Cuffe from St. John the Baptist Parish, Hillsdale, added his name to the list. In his homily at the Call to Conversion, Father Michael J. Sheehan, archdiocesan director of the catechumenate and pastor of Annunciation Parish, Paramus, urged the congregation to come to "a greater appreciation" of the meaning of their Baptism. He also cited the "divine breath" in every human being. At the Rite of Election, Father Sheehan told those in the pews that they had been chosen by God and stressed the "power of God" working within them.

Caldwell College prepares Veritas dinner to celebrate its most accomplished alumni

AREA—The 23rd Veritas Awards dinner, sponsored by Caldwell College, will be held Friday, March 14, 6 p.m. at Mayfair Farms in West Orange. The Veritas Award is the highest honor Caldwell College bestows on its alumni for their professional excellence.

The event will celebrate the accomplishments of three individuals who have given their professional and volunteer talents to improve the quality of life in the Garden State. Kathleen P. Galop, Esq., Class of 1968, a resident of Murray Hill, has been a leader for championing Branch Brook Park in Newark. Belleville resident Michael Ippolito, Ph.D., Class of 1984, has developed his tutoring and family therapy services for the Essex County

area where grew up. Laurita McGreevy Warner, Class of 1970, who resides in Wall Township, has spent a career focused on communications for Prudential Financial Inc., a corporation that has played a pivotal role in the revitalization of Newark.

Galop will receive the Veritas award for Excellence in Historic Preservation; Ippolito will be lauded for Excellence in Psychotherapy; and Warner will be cited for Excellence in Corporate Communication.

The dinner is open to the public and college alumni are encouraged to attend. Tickets are \$80 per person. Contact Kathleen Buse, director of alumni affairs at Caldwell College, at (973) 618-3411 for reservations.



Michael Ippolito

The grand master of the Knights of Malta, Fra Andrew W.N. Bertie (left), speaks with Pope Benedict XVI during a private audience on June 22, 2007. Bertie, the first Englishman to be selected to the post of grand master in the order's 900-year history, died Feb. 7. The New Jersey-based Order of Malta, American Association, maintains a Web site (www.maltanewjersey.org) that provides information on the group.



CNS photo



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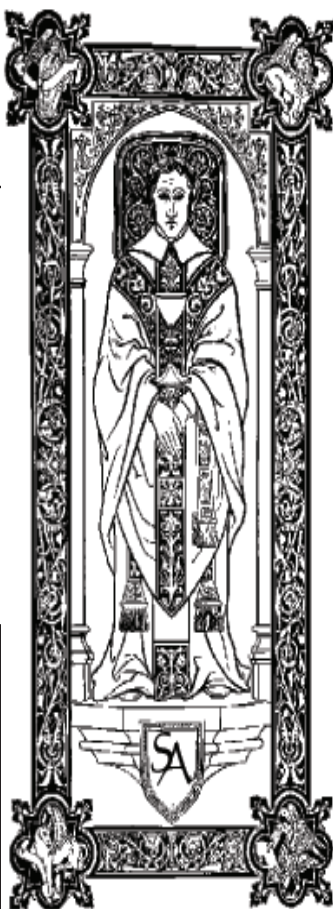
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Tuesday: 7:00 p.m. (with devotions to St. Anthony)

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. (with Miraculous Medal Novena)

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• Eucharistic Holy Hour of Adoration: Thursday 7:00 p.m. •



Bishops' survey looks at marriage

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Although nearly three-quarters of American Catholics say they are somewhat or very familiar with Church teachings on marriage, many mistakenly believe that a non-Catholic spouse must promise to raise the couple's children as Catholic and that Church teaching accepts divorce in cases of marital infidelity. Those were among the results of a nationwide survey commissioned in April 2007 by the U.S. bishops' Committee on Marriage and Family Life on U.S. Catholic attitudes and practices regarding marriage. The survey was carried out in June 2007 by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University via the Internet polling firm Knowledge Networks and was made public Feb. 11. "This is the first time that such a varied and comprehensive body of data about Catholic patterns in marriage has been collected and analyzed," said Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, KY. He is chairman of what is now the bishops' Subcommittee on Marriage and Family Life of the newly renamed Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth.

World Day of Sick cites Lourdes ties

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Some were in wheelchairs. Others hobbled on canes or were assisted by caregivers in white lab coats. Many were elderly but several were young. All suffered serious health problems. They came together at a special Mass Feb. 11 at Washington D.C.'s Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception to receive the anointing of the sick—one of the Church's seven sacraments. The anointing is reserved for people whose health is seriously impaired by sickness or old age. The Mass

celebrated World Day of the Sick, which is tied to the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. This year's observance also commemorated the 150th anniversary of the first Marian apparitions at Lourdes in southern France (see related story on page two).

Economic policies must protect poor

UNITED NATIONS (CNS)—As the world waits to see the extent of the global economic damage provoked by the U.S. mortgage crisis, national and international policies must protect low-income families and the working poor, said the Vatican's observer at the United Nations. Archbishop Celestino Migliore spoke Feb. 7 at a meeting of the Economic and Social Council of the U.N. Commission for Social Development. The archbishop said the cycle of economic growth and job creation followed by recession and job losses seems to be accelerating, straining individuals, governments and international economic partners that are not used to changing course quickly.

Pope decries how world treats women

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Benedict XVI decried chauvinism and the "serious and relentless" exploitation, discrimination and violence being waged against the world's women. "There are places and cultures where women are discriminated against or undervalued just for the fact that they are women," he said Feb. 9 in remarks to participants attending a Vatican-sponsored international congress. The Feb. 7-9 congress, "Woman and Man: The 'Humanum' in Its Entirety," was organized by the Pontifical Council for the Laity to mark the 20th anniversary of Pope John Paul II's apostolic letter, "Mulieris Dignitatem" ("On the Dignity and Vocation of Women").

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Tomeo, Morana to address March 1 Day of Reflection

BY MELISSA MCNALLY
Staff Writer

NEWARK—The Women's Commission of the Archdiocese of Newark will host its annual Day of Reflection on Saturday, March 1 at Seton Hall University, 400 South Orange Ave., South Orange. The program begins with Mass at 10 a.m. to be celebrated by Archbishop John J. Myers. Registration for the day will open at 9:15 a.m.

This year's theme is "On the Dignity of Women: Reclaiming Authentic Femininity in the Public Square." Pamela Swartzberg, chairwoman of the Women's

Commission, decided on the theme to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Pope John Paul II's apostolic letter *Mulieris Dignitatem* ("On the Dignity and Vocation of Women").

"I love *Mulieris Dignitatem*. I am frustrated that there is a misconception on the subject of women in the Church," Swartzberg said.

In the letter, the Holy Father addressed the challenge contemporary feminism presented to the Church and provided theological reflection on the true meaning of womanhood, the vocation of women and the role of women in the Church and in society.

Scheduled speakers at the conference include Teresa Tomeo and Janet Morana. Originally from Jersey City, Tomeo is a veteran broadcast journalist with more than 20 years of experience as a

radio and TV news reporter and anchorwoman in the Detroit area.

After years in the field, Tomeo became disillusioned and disappointed by the trends in the media toward sensationalism, vi-

olence and liberal bias. In 2000, Tomeo left the secular media to start her own speaking and communications company. Her daily morning radio program "Catholic

Continued on page 11



Teresa Tomeo



Janet Morana

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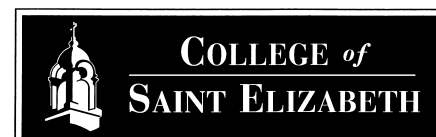
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February 20

Holy Family Parish, Nutley, St. Lucy Filippini Sodality meeting, 8 p.m., call Jo-Ann Brown at (973) 667-2633.

February 21

Holy Trinity Parish, Westfield, grief support group meeting, 7:30 - 9 p.m., (908) 232-8137.

February 22

Knights of Columbus Council 3428 Ladies Auxiliary, North Arlington, Lenten meatless past night, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m., cost: \$10/\$5 for children, call Carolyn Roche at (201) 991-9606.

February 23

St. Antoninus Parish, Newark, Lenten Day of Reflection, with Nigerian preacher Father Anthony Ozele, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., call (973) 623-0258.

Lumen Center, Caldwell, "Who? Never Heard of Them!" 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., cost: \$35, (973) 403-3331, ext. 25.

February 24

Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel, North Bergen, Franciscan Mystery Players, "The Way of the Cross," 4 p.m., call Marge Quinn at (201) 868-9319.

February 25

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

Assumption College for Sisters, Mendham, Allen Wright lecture "Finding Christ in the Gospel Homes and in Our Homes," also on March 3 and March 10, 7 - 9 p.m., (973) 543-6528 ext. 228.

Georgian Court University, Lakewood, "Wisdom Women of the Hebrew Bible and New Testament," 7 p.m., (732) 987-2263.

February 27

St. Elizabeth Parish, Wyckoff, parish Lenten Mission, "Dare to Be Holy," through Feb. 27, 7:30 p.m., call (201) 891-1122.

St. Mary Parish, Nutley, bereavement support group meeting, 7 - 8:30 p.m., eight-week series, call Elaine Tanimura at (973) 667-0335.

March 1

St. Anastasia Parish, Teaneck, Newark Boys Chorus performance, 7:30 p.m., cost: \$25 adults/\$20 seniors/\$15 children, call (201) 837-3354.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Orange, fish and chips

dinner, 6 p.m., cost: \$15, call (973) 674-2052.

March 2

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Wallington, pancake and sausage breakfast, 8 a.m. - noon, call Betty German at (973) 473-4876.

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

March 4

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Ridgewood, St. Patrick's Day luncheon, noon, cost: \$35, (201) 445-6553.

March 5

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

St. Mary Parish, Rutherford, bereavement group, runs through April, 7:30 - 9 p.m., call (201) 438-2200.

Sacred Heart School, Lyndhurst, fish and chips or chicken dinner, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., cost: \$10, (201) 939-4277.

St. Leo Parish, Elmwood Park, annulment information meeting, 7:30 p.m., (973) 497-4327.

March 6

Felician College Child Care Center, Lodi, open house, also on March 6, 9 - 11 a.m., call Sister Rose Mary or Kathy at (973) 778-0093.

March 7

St. Anastasia Parish, Teaneck, parish Lenten Mission, Ralph Martin presents "Call to Holiness- Call to Mission," also on March 8, 7 p.m., (201) 837-3354.

The Sodality of the Children of Mary of St. Teresa, Jersey City, recitation of the "Little Office," 3:15 p.m., call Katherine T. Crossan at (201) 689-1471.

Other

St. Paul Parish, Ramsey, Stations of the Cross, Fridays during Lent, 7:30 p.m., (201) 327-0976.

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Bloomfield, ongoing individual guided spiritual direction, by appointment, call Anna Graziano at (973) 338-9538.

Rosary for Life, Montclair, gathering in front of local abortion Clinic Pilgrim Medical Center, every second Saturday, 8:45 - 10 a.m., call Liz Arias (973) 239-7868.

Business, labor reception to receive guests March 4

NEWARK—The 15th annual Archbishop's Business and Labor Recognition Reception will be held Tuesday, March 4, at Mayfair Farms, 481 Eagle Rock Ave., West Orange. The event begins with cocktails and food stations at 6 p.m.; the program starts at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are priced at \$200 per person. Contact Gerry Ricci-Menegolla at (201) 998-0088, ext. 4154, to reserve tickets.

When Jesus turned around and noticed them following Him,

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

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

"Come and see," He answered.

John 1:38-39

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

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

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

Rosary Society, Bayonne is sponsoring a Fish & Chips Dinner, catered by Argyle's of Kearny.



Thursday, March 13, 2008
from 5pm to 7pm in the Marian Room of the school, 19 West 13th Street.

Tickets are \$12.00 and must be purchased in advance. Take out is also available.

Call (201) 437-4090.

CATHOLIC**CEMETERIES MASSES**

All masses are at 9:30 a.m. For more information call (866) 773-7526.

March 11

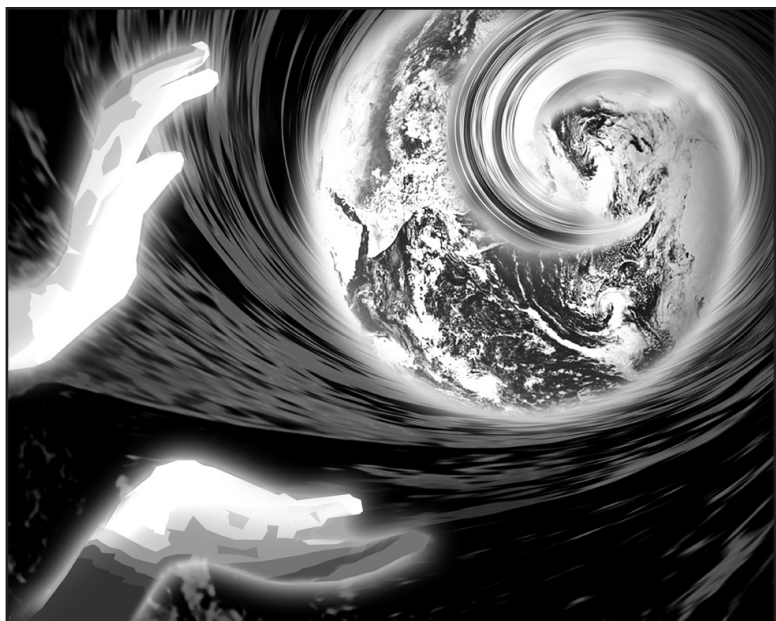
Gate of Heaven Chapel, East Hanover

March 12

Holy Cross Chapel, North Arlington

March 14

Good Shepherd Chapel, Colonia



CNS graphic

In his recent encyclical on Christian hope, the pope said that a personal God—not the laws of matter or evolution—ultimately governs the world.

Tips to ponder during season of Lent

Lent, that spiritually special time of year for sacrifice and reflection, is here. By now the faithful are familiar with the Lenten regulations issued recently by the Archdiocese of Newark.

An intensely personal experience with God, Lent is also a time for family. That aspect of preparing for Easter was mentioned in an interesting and unique way in a recent bulletin from Saint Michael the Archangel Parish in Union. Its “Lenten family faith tips” are worth exploring.

There are four of them. Take heed and see how many can be incorporated into Lent this year. The first calls for watching less television. Use the time instead to read, pray, write letters and visit the sick. Perhaps the most significant provision here is the last one. Being bed-bound in the hospital or even at home is tedious and a visit

from a friend or family member can brighten the sick person’s day.

Second is to recall a bad habit, something all of us have in abundance, and give it up for Lent. Some of them could be but are certainly not limited to what the bulletin suggests: being overly critical, gossiping or harboring resentments.

The third tip is rather daunting but still doable; i.e. decide on one thing you can do to bring about a more just world. The possibilities are endless.

And, finally, a rather powerful idea for Lenten observance is to ponder tip number four: “If you knew your life would end tomorrow, what would you do today?” Do it during Lent, the bulletin advises.

All four tips are suggestions to be sure, but each one possess exciting potential for an enriching faith journey experience.

Beware when ideology corrupts science and medicine

Some physicians and researchers fail to see the important role of ethics and religion in the world of medical science. Others are clearly ready to sideline religion altogether when it comes to discussing the moral values that should guide the conduct of science and scientists.

Recently I came across some published remarks by Professor Richard Sloan of Columbia University dealing with the relationship between medicine and religion. He notes that even though abortion is a “perfectly legal procedure,” some physicians withhold information about the practice from their patients, claiming their decision is justified by their religious beliefs.

He goes on to express his displeasure that some states have enacted conscience clauses, “to permit such religiously motivated malpractice.” He even states that in some parts of the country, patients may have “no alternative to physicians who think that their primary obligation is to honor their religious convictions rather than act in the best interests of their patients.”

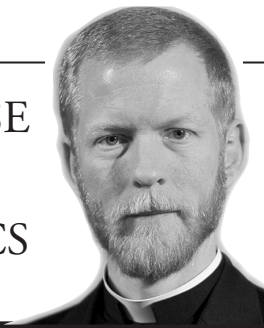
His remarks expose a real tension between those who believe modern healthcare should be guided by the values of an ethically informed conscience, and those who believe that it should be driven by various ideologies. One ideology widely encountered in the field of medicine today promotes the direct taking of human life through abortion, euthanasia, and embryo research, and neglects longstanding codes of medical ethics that insist that the first duty of the physician and the researcher is to “do no harm.”

When a physician directly takes the life of another human being, he is, in fact, committing medical malpractice, and acting directly against his central healing mission as a doctor. Abortion, by its very nature, can never be compatible with promoting human dignity. It never respects the human person. It is invariably at odds with the best interests of patients. As a component of a broader anti-life ideology, it represents a corrosive force in hospital clinics, research laboratories and other institutions of higher learning. When ideology begins to shun sound ethical thinking rooted in religion, we need to be very concerned.

I remember a story my father once told about the corrosive power of ideology, something he had witnessed first-hand living under communism and working as a physics professor at the University of Warsaw. To enter the university and study physics, all applicants were required to pass three oral exams—one in physics, one in mathematics and the third in something called “Politics and Marxism.” All the exams were held in a

MAKING SENSE OUT OF BIOETHICS

By Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk



single room with different tables for each subject.

One day as my father and another faculty member were interviewing candidates, a young man approached their table. It became immediately clear that he was very intelligent and gifted and would make an excellent student. They discovered that he had been unable to gain admission to the university for two years, because—even though he did brilliantly on the physics and mathematics exams—he couldn’t seem to pass the Politics and Marxism exam.

My father and his colleague had seen this before. The Communist Party members who conducted these interviews would target applicants who might be religious in their outlook, asking them pointed and discriminatory questions they could not answer in good conscience, and then fail them on the exam. Fortunately for the young man, there was a policy that any faculty member was free to move among tables and ask questions during any other department’s entrance examination. So when the hopeful student approached the Politics and Marxism table, my father and his friend went over and sat down, one on each side of the Communist Party member running the interview.

The first question was: “Please explain how the Church is backwards and oppresses people.” The fellow remained silent, since he was a Catholic himself. My father and his colleague stepped in after a moment, and said, “Well, it’s clear that he didn’t grasp the question. Allow me to repeat the question for him: ‘What does Marxism teach about how the Catholic Church is backwards and oppresses people?’”

The fellow was then able to jump in and provide a correct answer, by affirming that the ideology of Marxism did teach thus-and-so. The questions and their refinement by my father and his colleague continued, and the Communist Party official became visibly agitated. The fellow ended up passing the Politics and Marxism exam, along with the physics and mathemat-

ics exams, and was admitted to the university.

Although the story had a happy ending, the brilliant young man had lost two years of a successful career because of the closed-minded, anti-religious ideologies prevalent in the academic environment of the university under communism.

In academic settings today, we still encounter powerful anti-religious ideologies, as Professor Sloan’s comments remind us, and they can result in even more damaging consequences than merely delaying admission to the university. As anti-life ideologies, for example, become tolerated and even promoted as part of medicine, not only do many humans end up being destroyed along the way by abortion, euthanasia, in-vitro fertilization or embryo research, but those clinicians and researchers who decline to participate in these practices “feel the heat” and worry their careers may be at risk.

To force healthcare and research to embrace such anti-life ideologies is to warp and eventually corrupt modern medicine altogether. Instances of such corruption have happened only too often in the past as professors, researchers, and physicians have chosen to minimize the demands of an ethical conscience and to adopt seriously misguided ideologies. Codes of medical ethics like the Hippocratic Oath, the Nuremberg Code, and the Declaration of Helsinki came into existence after various misguided ideologies gained a foothold, and the medical establishment suffered a core meltdown, allowing doctors and researchers to participate in crimes against humanity. History sadly reminds us how quickly our human conscience, when deprived of its divine and religious dimensions, becomes untethered in a tumultuous sea of ideological temptations, and can end up on the glide path towards crime and atrocity.

Those who strive to protect the ethical integrity of medicine through conscience protection laws, and those medical professionals who ardently pursue an upright personal conscience by resisting, among other things, maiming or killing actions directed against early human life, provide an essential witness and a critical counterbalance to powerful and destructive ideologies that are operative in academia and healthcare today.

In academic settings today, we still encounter powerful anti-religious ideologies.

Challenges of the liturgical calendar abound

Anyone who has received a comprehensive Catholic education would tell you that March 19 is St. Joseph's Day and March 25 is Mary's Annunciation. Millions more would not hesitate to identify March 17 as St. Patrick's Day. Yet this year, with an early Lent and Easter, none of the above is true, as far as liturgical observance is concerned. St. Joseph's Solemnity will be on March 15 and the Annunciation on the 31st! St. Patrick's Memorial is not observed this year at all!

While most people would think of all of them as equal feast days, in the liturgy there are different levels of importance ascribed to days and to seasons. Solemnities, which conflict with major seasons like Holy Week and Easter Week, are transferred to days before or after of lesser importance. A memorial (an observance of lesser significance on the universal Church calendar) is simply omitted. Marchers will still parade up Fifth Avenue on March 17, of course, for the civic observance of St. Patrick's Day.

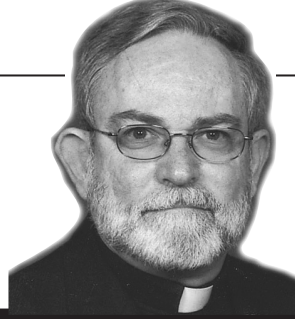
As Americans, we've also experienced changes in civic observances. I grew up aware of Lincoln's birthday on Feb. 12 and Washington's on the 22nd. Now they're combined into the floating date of Presidents' Day on the third Monday of February, just as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday is established as the third Monday of January rather than the actual date of Jan. 15.

These accommodations basically have to do with convenience and commerce.

The floating date of Easter, however, seems an

SEEING & BELIEVING

By Rev. Msgr.
Richard J. Arnhols



even greater challenge to understand. Trying to match our current solar-based calendar to the corresponding lunar cycles of the Jewish calendar was formidable enough. The Council of Nicea fixed Easter on the Sunday following the full moon after the vernal (spring) equinox, but this was further complicated through the centuries with the differences of the Gregorian calendar used in the Western Churches and the Julian calendar still observed by the Orthodox. There have been ongoing discussions of trying to agree on a common Easter date. A few years ago, all the calendars actually matched up, but that rarely happens.

Liturgical remembering has less to do with historical synchronicity though, and much more with celebrating what is happening now between God and His people. As we recall the saving events of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, we focus on the

conversion and growth in faith that Jesus is working in us today by the power of the Holy Spirit. As Jesus offered Himself completely to the Father for our sakes, His example encourages us to more completely turn our hearts, minds, and souls to our Father every day. This should make us, both individually and as a community, richer in compassion, more steadfast in hope, and more fearless in the quest for peace and justice.

The ceremonies of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) remind us that people still yearn to find their fulfillment in Christ, rather than in the many trappings which society alleges will bring us happiness. We still have several weeks of this Lent to focus on our growth in holiness, and all the days of our lives to progress in it thereafter, until we are called out of the measure of time and into the bliss of eternity.

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

Liturgical remembering has less to do with historical synchronicity though, and much more with celebrating what is happening now between God and His people.

Understanding our Baptism and the death of Jesus

Readings: Exodus 17:3-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-8; John 4:5-42.

What is the most precious natural resource in the Middle East? Many would think immediately of petroleum, but in the long run water is far more crucial to people of the region. This precious gift, too little appreciated in our society, becomes an evocative symbol in the life of the Church.

During Lent we should consider anew the meaning of our Baptism; the readings this Sunday provide a basis for this reflection.

Whether in the desert or at sea, travelers have always prized fresh water as their most important commodity. Led by Moses into the wilderness of the Sinai Peninsula, the people of Israel began to grumble that freedom from slavery was worth little if they were soon to die. Moses objected that they should trust in God, but he realized that their frustration would erupt in violence. His was a prayer of anguish and God's reply demanded of him an act of faith. "Strike the rock and water will flow from it for the people to drink" (Ex. 17:6). How the wise among the crowd must have laughed! Centuries later Bernadette was so ridiculed when she clawed the earth on the hillside at Lourdes.

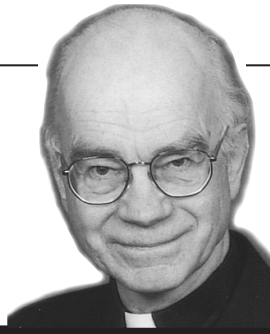
Do we sense the Lord's presence in our midst in

Our Baptism and life of faith link us profoundly to the death and resurrection of Jesus.

SUNDAY READINGS

3rd Sunday of Lent
(Feb. 24, 2008)

By Rev. Lawrence Frizzell



times of trial? The act of faith at a time of darkness activates our response to the divine graces that surround us always. But do we believe deeply God's providential care?

Our Baptism and life of faith link us profoundly to the death and resurrection of Jesus. "We believe in the One who raised Jesus from the dead, who was handed over for our transgressions and was raised for our justification" (Rom. 4:24-25). Just as Israel moved from oppression and slavery through the sea to freedom and new life in God's service, so each of us benefits from Christ's triumph over sin and Satan, sharing in the mystery of the Lord's risen life. This is a free gift or grace that constitutes the basis for our hope for the glory of God (Rom. 5:2). The phrase "glory of God" refers to the marvelous presence of the heavenly Father appreciated in faith now and awaited with great expectation because Jesus allows us to share in His life.

This new level of existence transforms even the afflictions that cross every human life (5:3). Indeed, we thereby participate in the pattern of Christ's suf-

ferings and try to imitate His obedience and love. Our faith can blossom into hope "because the love of God (the Father) has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us" (5:5).

We notice in this passage and elsewhere in St. Paul's letters that the theological virtues (faith, hope and charity) are linked intimately to the work of each divine person in our Christian life. This should be recalled each time we make the sign of the cross with holy water. Entering the church, we are reminded of our Baptism and find many encouraging ways to celebrate our service to God through the imitation of Christ, uplifted by the gift of the Holy Spirit.

St. Paul reminds us that without the work of Jesus we can do nothing adequate for the worship of God (see John 15:4-5). "For Christ, while we were still helpless, died at the appointed time for the impious" (5:6). Like Sidney Carton in Dickens' "Tale of Two Cities," we might imagine someone giving up his life for a good person (5:7). But only God's love could inspire someone to die for an enemy.

Jesus died to make us capable of loving and being loved in a new experience that transcends all merely human expectations. Personal prayer and the Church's worship are complementary contexts for savoring these realities of the spiritual order. Like a human friendship such as marriage, our intimacy with God will grow because of the efforts that both partners make. Certainly the divine gifts are ever present, but are we fully aware of the new life of a baptized Christian?

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



Advocate photo—Ward Miele

CELEBRATING CHRISTIAN UNITY—An ecumenical service was held Jan. 18 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, marking the northern New Jersey celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Attending the service were, left to right, Father Luke Edelen, O.S.B., chair of the archdiocesan Commission of Christian Unity; Father Philip F. Latronico, commission executive secretary; Most Rev. Dominic A. Marconi, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Newark; Father James Puglisi, Minister General of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement and director of the Centro Pro Union in Rome and the evening's homilist; and Bishop Mark Beckwith, of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark. "Unity is a gift that comes from God, not something we create," Father Puglisi said during his homily. "We need to grow into unity." The service at the Cathedral marked 100 years of prayer for the Unity of the Church as encouraged by the founders of the Friars and Sisters of the Atonement, Father Paul Wattson and Mother Laurana White.

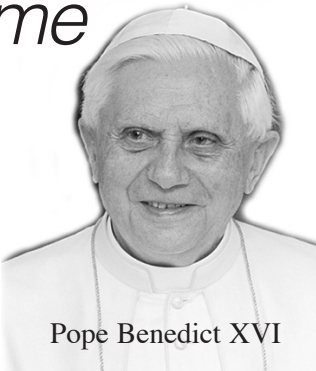


Advocate photo – Ward Miele

PRO-LIFE MASS, MARCH— Most. Rev. Thomas A. Donato, Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, celebrated a pro-life Mass on Jan. 20 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark. Father Joseph A. Meagher, the director of the archdiocesan Respect Life office, based in Linden, delivered the homily. In a recent column, Father Meagher pointed out that, since 1973, there have been more 48 million "legal surgical abortions" performed in the United States. According to recent news reports, New Jersey has the second-highest abortion rate in the United States. Following the Mass, the Knights of Columbus led faithful pilgrims—including many teens and young adults—on a march to nearby St. Lucy Parish where a Eucharistic Holy Hour for Life was held. Numerous members of the archdiocese traveled to Washington, D.C. on Jan. 22 for the 35th annual March for Life protesting the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Jan. 9). In addition, the NJ Right to Life sponsored the "Rally for Life" in Trenton, also on Jan. 22. Father Meagher and representatives from the Respect Life office can be reach by phone at (732) 388-8211 or via e-mail at arnewrespect@sjanj.net.

THE POPE SPEAKS

The Lenten journey provides a time for renewal



VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The season of Lent is a time of conversion, which means "letting oneself be overcome by Jesus and with Him return to the Father," Pope Benedict XVI said during his general audience on Ash Wednesday.

"When modern man declares his total independence from God, he becomes a slave to himself, and often he finds himself inconsolably lonely," Pope Benedict declared.

He said experience has shown that having one's expectations and needs fulfilled is not what brings contentment. "In reality, the only joy that makes the human heart overflow is that which comes from God," because humanity thirsts for a joy that is infinite and resistant to being quashed by daily worries, he said.

"The invitation to conversion then is an incentive to return to the embrace of God—a warm and merciful Father—to trust in Him and put oneself in His hands like adopted children rejuvenated by His love," the pope said, adding that the Lenten journey involves prayer, reflection, penance, sacrifice and works of charity.

Cavins offers 'Adventure' March 8 at Kearny center

BY CHRISTY GUERRA
Special to *The Catholic Advocate*

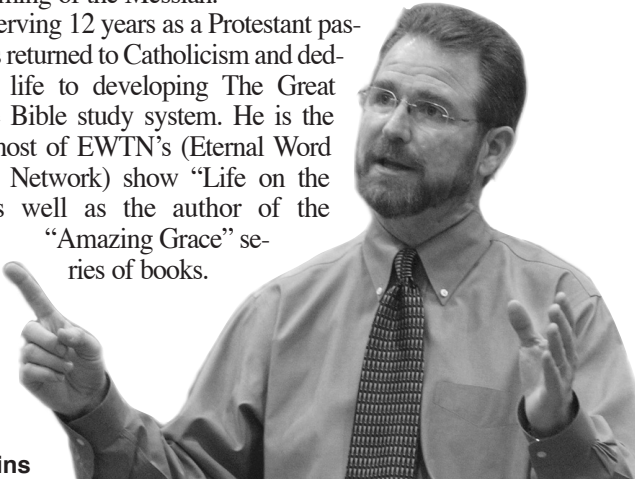
NEWARK—"Great Adventure—A Journey through the Bible," a seminar focusing on salvation history through Scripture study, will be held Saturday, March 8, at the Archdiocesan Youth and Young Adult Retreat Center, 499 Belgrove Drive, Kearny.

Jeff Cavins, Catholic author, theologian and television commentator will lead the seminar, which is sponsored by the Archdiocese of Newark's Office of Evangelization. Contact Liliana Soto-Cabrera, coordinator of the archdiocesan Office of Evangelization, by phone at (973) 497-4353 or via e-mail at sotolili@rcan.org for more information.

Check-in at the Kearny center begins at 8:30 a.m. The registration fee is \$35 and includes seminar materials and lunch.

The seminar is a learning system designed to teach the full narrative of the Bible. Developed by Cavins, it identifies the books of the Bible that tells the story of salvation history. The program includes information on Genesis and the Early World; the Patriarchs; the Exodus story; and the coming of the Messiah.

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



Jeff Cavins

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Advocate photo – Ward Miele

Father Stanley Gomes (left) recently welcomed Most Rev. Bejoy Nicephorus D'Cruze, Bishop of the Diocese of Khulna in Bangladesh, at the Archdiocesan Center as part of the adjunct clergy program.

Bangladesh bishop shares snapshots of his homeland

BY WARD MIELE
Managing Editor

NEWARK—Its a long way from Bangladesh to Newark but Most Rev. Bejoy Nicephorus D'Cruze, O.M.I., Bishop of the Diocese of Khulna, went out of his way to visit the Garden State's largest city.

Bishop D'Cruze, 51, came to the Archdiocese of Newark in January as part of a combination business trip and vacation that also took him to Toronto, Washington, D.C., New York City and Maryland. Appointed a bishop in February 2005, Most Rev. D'Cruze consulted with Father Stanley Gomes, director of the archdiocesan Office of Adjunct Clergy Personnel. Father Gomes is a Bangladesh native of Dhaka.

Adjunct clergy are priests from foreign countries. The benefits of adjunct clergy, who usually are assigned to parishes for the summer months to allow the regular staff to take what Father Gomes termed a "well-deserved vacation." Adjunct priests are exposed to a new pastoral situation, culture and values and learn good English," he added. Father Gomes also is convinced that the adjunct clergy experience is mutually beneficial, as archdiocesan parishioners get a first-hand view of another culture and country.

During his visit, Bishop D'Cruze shared tragic tales of Cyclone Sidr, which struck his country last fall. The storm killed 10,000 in the predominately Muslim country and left countless homeless. However, the bishop is grateful that no member of his diocese lost their lives to the cyclone. His diocese, the bishop noted, is only two inches above sea level.

The Diocese of Khulna encompasses 9,986 square miles. Bangladesh is a country of 140 million citizens of which less than 1 percent are Christians. Some 89 percent are Muslim and 10 percent either Hindu or Buddhists. It is challenging in his country, Bishop D'Cruze lamented, for Christians to live their faith freely. During times of political turmoil, some actually "live in fear," while local authorities are especially suspicious of missionaries, he stressed.



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‘Husbands’

Continued from page 1

“Theology of the Body is a philosophy about what it means to be created and expressed in authentic love. It is the understanding that our bodies express and reflect who we are—made in the image and likeness of God,” Owens continued. “The body is not just biological; it is theological.”

Three years ago Grassroots

Films won the International Inigo Awards for the short film “God in the Streets of New York City,” which was a selection of the “Open Air Cinema” in Bonn Germany. Last year Grassroots Films won the Gabriel Award for its documentary “Fishers of Men.” In addition to his work as a film producer, Campo serves as the director of St. Francis House, an apostolate of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, and is director of Youth 2000 New York.

The March 15 retreat also will include Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Confession, along with workshops and discussion groups. A light breakfast and lunch will be served at the retreat.

Father Mariusz Koch is the organizer of the event for the friary. Those interested in attending the retreat should call the friary at (973) 622-6622 no later than March 8. There will be a free-will offering and private parking is available.

Reflection

Continued from page 5

Connection” is heard on over 120 Catholic stations through EWTN Global Catholic Radio.

“(Tomeo’s) radio show is on all the time in my car,” Swartzberg said. “Her goal is to give the Catholic person a voice in the media. She has the idea to fight back and for Catholics to engage and have a piece of the public discussion. She wants women to reclaim a dignified public voice.”

Morana serves as the associate director of Priests for Life, a Staten-Island based organization that encourages priests to preach and teach the sanctity of life. Morana is the assistant to the national director, Father Frank Pavone. She is the co-founder of the “Silent No More” awareness campaign, a national effort to assist women who have had abortions to share their testimonies. Moarana is featured on Father Pavone’s “Defending Life” series seen on EWTN and is the co-host and producer on the Gospel of Life series seen on Sky Angel Network.

She is also a weekly guest on Tomeo’s radio show.

“(Morana) listens to the voice of women who have suffered through abortions and is encouraging the healing of families through the post-abortion ministry of ‘Silent No More.’ I heard Teresa interview Janet on ‘Catholic Connection’ and thought they were a great pair. They play off each other very well and have engaging conversations,” Swartzberg said.

Registration for the Day of Reflection is \$35 per person; \$25 for students, seniors and religious. The group rate for 10 or more par-

ticipants is \$15 per person. Lunch is included for all registrants.

To register, send name, address, telephone number, e-mail address and parish name along with check made out to “Women’s Commission, Archdiocese of Newark” to: Women’s Commission, Archdiocese of Newark, Archdiocesan Center, 171 Clifton Ave., Newark, NJ 07104-0500. For additional information on the event, contact Swartzberg (e-mail swartzpa@rcan.org), call the Archdiocesan Center at (973) 497-4008 or visit the Web site www.rcan.org/wom-com for details.

Knights offer scholarships

WESTWOOD—The Knights of Columbus, St. Thomas More Council 2188, will award education grants to students who distinguish themselves in school, their parish and community.

The program is open to the children and grandchildren of council members, parish members served by the local Knights and “worth and needy” students. Last year the program awarded three \$1,000 scholarships.

Applications are available by writing to Knights of Columbus, St. Thomas More Council 2188, 40 Crest St., Westwood, N.J. 07675 attention: Anthony Fiorica; or by e-mail at Triumvar@aol.com.

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SIGN OF THE TIMES—The Secaucus Knights of Columbus, Mary Immaculate Council 12769, in conjunction with the Respect Life Committee of Immaculate Conception Parish, Secaucus, last month marked the 35th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion by forming a life chain outside the church and praying the rosary to remember those lost to abortion. Among those braving the cold weather were Jean and Gary Jeffas, a past grand knight of the council. Inside the church Father James Tucker, a parochial vicar at Immaculate Conception and a council member, led a eucharistic adoration hour with the Msgr. Peter B. O'Connor Assembly 1543 as honor guard.



Submitted photo

Cornerstone Retreat to run March 14, 15

WEEHAWKEN — St. Lawrence Parish will host a Women's Cornerstone Retreat on March 14-15 in the parish center.

The 26-hour retreat begins Friday at 7 p.m. and will end Saturday with a 7 p.m. Mass.

The retreat, explained an organizer, is "an opportunity to renew and strengthen your faith in an alive and stimulating way while meeting other members of the parish community." Featured at the retreat will be discussion groups, talks, Scripture readings and

time for personal reflection.

The organizer noted too "the retreat means something different to each participant. One thing it does universally is to put you in touch with other like-minded people. The goal is for each participant to develop a stronger connection to God so that she may live the life that God wants her to live. Participants often join parish ministries, small Christian communities, become Liturgical ministers and continue their growth in the knowledge and love of God while helping others do the same. Cornerstone is gender specific and run by the laity. Priests and deacons provide spiritual guidance."

No fee will be charged for attending the retreat, but a free-will offering will be accepted.

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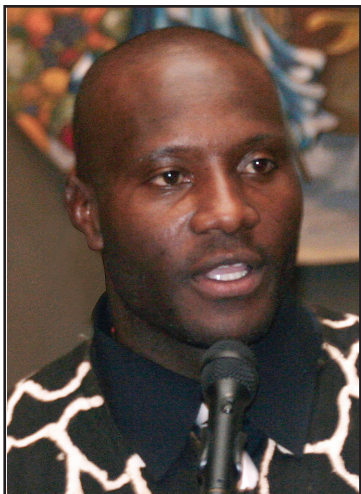
Commission head Kassimou looks to cultivate Newark 'connections'

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE
Editor

NEWARK—The initial task for Dosso Kassimou as the president of Newark's new African Commission will be to connect the city's growing African community with the established Catholic African-American diaspora.

Mayor Cory A. Booker formed the group last summer to strengthen the ties between African and African American communities, with a mandate to help bridge subtle but significant gaps in cultural understanding (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Jan. 23).

Originally from Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire (the Ivory Coast), West Africa, Kassimou, who currently resides in South Orange, will receive a multiple master's degree in diplomacy, international relations and public administration from Seton Hall University's Whitehead School of Diplomacy



Dosso Kassimou

and International Relations.

The commission and Kassimou's role in it may prove to be significant in the near term, as the Garden State's largest city grapples with burgeoning growth spurred by new business investment, such as the Prudential Center. Many Catholics who ar-

rived from African nations and relocate to the Archdiocese of Newark find it difficult to adjust within the community, he said, noting that language barriers typically prevent them from adapting to U.S. culture.

"There needs to be more understanding of African culture and history and our rich traditions," Kassimou said. "My goal will be to bring people together to build a community." Unfortunately, community members many times don't connect and collaborate on important urban issues such as economic development, health-care and education, he lamented.

Father Anselm I. Nwaorgu, the pastor of Blessed Sacrament/St. Charles Borromeo Parish, recently expressed similar observations. Establishing cultural connections for African clergy coming to the United States was one of Father Nwaorgu's top priorities while he served as president of the African

Conference of Catholic Clergy and Religious in the United States (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Feb. 6).

"Immigration can be disruptive," Father Nwaorgu—who was born and raised in Nigeria—said in a separate interview. "Part of the handicap to being accepted is not knowing the customs," he said.

Dialogue and community networking will be done through a series of programs and events, which are being planned by

Kassimou's commission in the coming months. Catholic churches in the area will play a key role in providing a venue for these events, Kassimou said. Eventually, the outreach and dialogue will extend to other segments of the Greater Newark community. This extension would be a natural outgrowth of the commission's efforts, Kassimou explained, as Africa is a continent of diverse cultures and many religions and ethnic groups.

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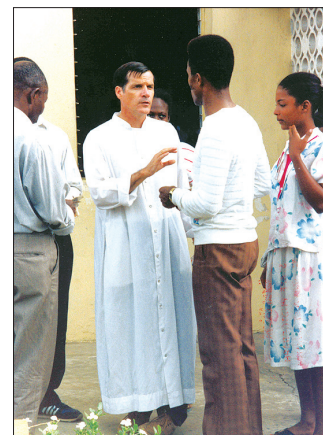
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First Friends

Continued from page 1

Retired banker Greg Sullivan, a parishioner of St. Elizabeth Parish in Wyckoff, has been director of First Friends' Elizabeth Detention Center Visitor Project since last September. "Since 1997, any immigrant not listed as a criminal or terrorist, requesting political asylum at JFK, Newark Liberty or Philadelphia airports, is immediately transferred to this facility in irons," Sullivan said. The 300-person facility, a converted warehouse on the edge of Newark Airport, also is used for resident aliens who are subject to deportation proceedings, Sullivan said.

Others in the Archdiocese of Newark share Sullivan's concerns regarding those housed at the center. Thomas Mungovern, staff attorney for the Refugee Resettlement and Immigration Assistance Division of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark, represents detainees at the Elizabeth facility. After screening detainees to see if there is a case for asylum, Mungovern begins legal proceedings to assist the detainees. The process, if successful, yields lawful permanent resi-

dent status for a year and citizenship after five years. The average case for a detainee lasts three months, he noted.

Citing the success his office has had in recent years, Mungovern explained that he is currently working with detainees from such far-flung countries as Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nepal, Tibet, China and Liberia. Those seeking asylum, the Catholic Charities' attorney continued, are persecuted in their homelands for such things as political expression, religious affiliation and ethnicity. Mungovern described the Elizabeth center as "a deplorable (place) to greet someone coming to the United States for help."

Two years ago, Mungovern called attention to the plight of Tibetan monks who had been detained at the center (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Aug. 9, 2006). The men fled through the Himalayan Mountains on their journey to freedom.

Sullivan's road to First Friends began about six years ago when he and his wife participated in the archdiocese's "JustFaith" program. JustFaith, explained Kay Furlani, director of the archdiocesan Human Concerns office, is a

parish-based, adult-formation program that offers an opportunity to grow spiritually and to become more generous and compassionate.

JustFaith provides a lively and challenging context in which participants can deepen their commitment to care for those who are poor and vulnerable and to become advocates for justice, Furlani said. "It changes lives, inspires faithful witness and transforms the world through love and service. The intent is to provide a tapestry of learning opportunities that emphasize and enliven the remarkable justice tradition of the Church."

Msgr. Robert J. Harrington, pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Elizabeth—featured in *The Catholic Advocate*'s Feb. 6 "Parish Profile" report—sees Catholic social teaching being carried out through the faith-based work of groups like First Friends, "visiting with strangers, compassion for the poor and working for justice."

An important aspect of First Friends, Msgr. Harrington noted, is prayer, citing the annual Ash Wednesday prayer vigil outside the Elizabeth center, which is now in

Continued on page 15



Submitted photo

Geraldine Mulligan (left), president of First Friends, holds the microphone for guitar-toting Father Jack Martin, parochial vicar at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Elizabeth, at the annual ecumenical Ash Wednesday vigil held outside the Elizabeth Detention Center. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus speaks about welcoming "the stranger" and comforting those who are poor and imprisoned.

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First Friends

Continued from page 14

its 10th year. Calling the vigil “very ecumenical,” Sullivan said attendees included Father Jack Martin, parochial vicar at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, members of the Presbyterian and Lutheran faiths as well as the academic communities of Seton Hall University, Fordham University and Mother Seton Regional High School in Clark. Several orders of Religious Sisters also attended, he stressed, including the Sisters of Mercy, Sisters of St. Joseph, Dominican Sisters of Caldwell, the Benedictine Sisters, Franciscan Sisters of Peace, the Sisters of Charity and Dominican Blauvelt Sisters.

Part of Sullivan’s job description involves him working with graduate-school interns from Monmouth University. Before being taken in to First Friends, each intern undergoes a training program he termed as learning “the dos and don’ts of speaking with detainees.” Those being held at the center, Sullivan noted, usually are quite apprehensive regarding their surroundings and do not know their legal status.

Once training is completed, a volunteer goes to the center with an experienced member of First Friends. The check-in process,

said Sullivan, involves going through a metal detector and an air-lock door into what he termed is a “ghastly” visitors’ room. Visits can only be made evenings and on the weekend. Conversation is on the phone because detainee and visitor are separated by a glass partition. Security cameras are every-



Greg Sullivan

where and visits are limited to an hour. Stressing that detainees typically have no friends or relatives who can visit, Sullivan said the primary goal of First Friends is to be just that—friends and companions to those living in isolation.

It has been Sullivan’s experience that the average stay for a

detainee is a year to a year and a half. During visits from First Friends, he explained, detainees most often ask that prayers be said for them. “They don’t know about America or what it is like and they often talk about their homeland,” Sullivan added.


A particular focus of First Friends is to address the rather “restrictive writing material situa-

tion.” Detainees, he lamented, are able to receive packages of writing materials only twice a year. To that end, First Friends puts together packages containing pens, stamped envelopes and paper along with telephone cards. His parish, Sullivan pointed out, donated money for the purchase of telephone cards.

Sullivan had been looking for a


productive life in retirement and investigated various charitable programs, but he “didn’t connect” until he encountered First Friends. Taking advantage of his banking experience, Sullivan “ran the books” of First Friends before becoming director.

Working with First Friends, Sullivan declared, has given “real meaning” to his Catholic faith.



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Anchored by Lithuanian roots, parish enters its next century

BY MELISSA MCNALLY
Staff Writer

Renowned for welcoming everyone that enters its doors, St. Michael the Archangel Parish celebrated its centennial last November.

In December 1898, the Society of Saints Peter and Paul was organized by Lithuanian Catholics in the city to share their culture and traditions. After years of traveling to other areas around Bayonne to worship, in 1907, the parish was incorporated and masses were celebrated in the ethnically Italian Our Lady of the Assumption Parish on West 23rd St.

One year later, property and a church building were purchased and the Lithuanian Catholics had a place to call their own. In 1974, a new rectory was built and three years later a new church on the site of the original building was completed.

Over the years, the parish flourished and to this day includes several spiritual and reflective novenas. In 1941, the Perpetual Novena in honor of the Miraculous Medal began. A variety of novena prayers are recited Mondays through Fridays including: the Novena of the Infant Prague statue on Mondays, the Novena to Saint Anthony on Tuesdays, Saint Jude Novena on Thursdays and the Good St. Anne Novena and the St. Peregrine Novena on Fridays.

Programs for children are also important to the spiritual life of the parish. Children serve as lec-

tors during the Children's Mass every Sunday and a choir consisting of about 10 children sing hymns during the Mass. The religious education program includes 85 children in grades 1 through 8. Classes are held following the Children's Mass. Students are reminded of the importance of participating in their faith. Extra classes are offered to the children and prayer services are held in other parishes to help the youngsters spread their faith and make new friends while learning valuable lessons from their neighboring communities.

For adults, the "Why Catholic?" program provides an opportunity to meet in small groups and reflect and share themes of the Catholic faith. The "Why Catholic?" group meets weekly and is an opportunity for parishioners to grow in faith and

explore Sacred Scripture and their life experiences. There is also a catechism group for adults in conjunction with St. Mary Parish where faithful meet, reflect, meditate and discuss a variety of subjects related to Sacred Scripture.

Longtime parishioner of St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Rosanne Adams, helps run parish Bingo, fundraisers and parish celebrations. "People are always involved in this parish," Adams said. "There is a dwindling Lithuanian population, but it is still an intimate and very authentic parish. Father Lombardo is a kind and compassionate pastor and the masses are always beautiful."

James F. O'Neill, a parishioner for 40 years, has seen the transition to a more diverse community from a predominantly Lithuanian parish. "The parish is more universal in nature today," O'Neill said. "In the past, there were all first-generation Lithuanian families at the church. I was asked to be the first lector to read in English because most of the parishioners were not well versed in the English language. I felt such a sense of power when I was at that podium," O'Neill laughed.

The dearth in Lithuanian priests in the area has led to a decrease in the once major population of the parish. Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Kearny, another archdiocesan parish with a strong Lithuanian heritage, also has experienced a steady transition in demographics over the years (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Oct. 10, 2007).

"There is a lack of Lithuanian-born priests available. Father Lombardo is half Italian and half Irish, but he is doing a good job. He had to work at being accepted and is a very affable priest," O'Neill added.

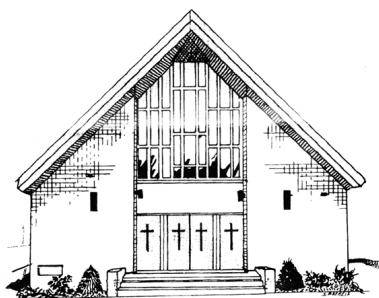
Also a trustee, O'Neill has a deep, spiritual connection to his home parish. "I feel closer to God when I am at St. Michael's. It is such a small church and I feel a sense of spirituality. Because of its size, the parish draws people from all over Bayonne. They all look at the church as their own. People shopping on Broadway come in because of the parish's central location."

O'Neill has witnessed the evolution of St. Michael the Archangel Parish, and often reminisces fondly about its past. "I

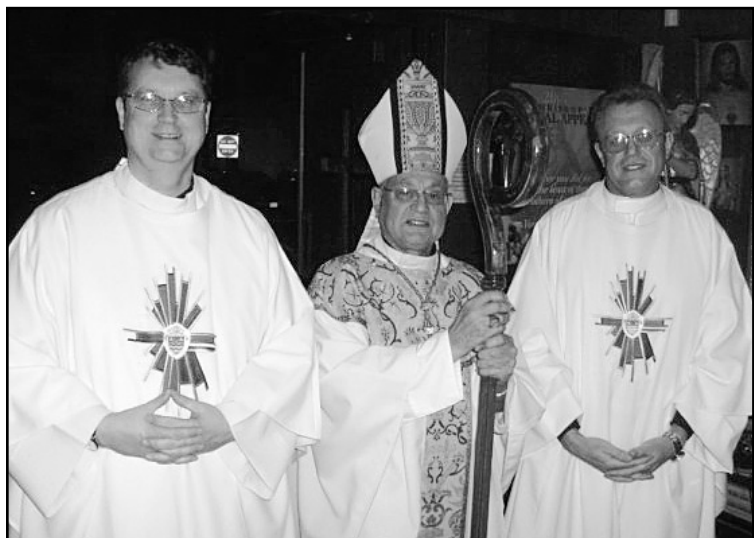


Submitted photos

A traditionally Lithuanian Catholic parish, St. Michael the Archangel is known as the "Novena Church" and has several novenas throughout the week. There are 800 families enrolled in the parish and its location near the shopping center of the city makes it popular with drop-in visitors.



Saint Michael the Archangel, Bayonne



Father Gerard Lombardo, Bishop David Arias O.A.R., D.D. and Father Chester Zalubski, S.D.B. (left to right) were present last November at the 100th anniversary of St. Michael the Archangel. The parish community's spiritual life includes Eucharistic Adoration, in which the Blessed Sacrament is exposed for quiet prayer, three days per week.

Meet the Pastor



Rev. Gerard M. Lombardo

Birthday: May 2, 1952
Hometown: Avoca, PA
High School: St. Pius X
Seminary: Immaculate Conception Seminary
Undergraduate: Cathedral College of the Immaculate Conception
Graduate School: Seton Hall University
Ordination: Nov. 22, 1986
Hero: My father, Michael
Favorite Saint: St. Patrick
Favorite Sport: Basketball
Favorite Food: Italian
Favorite Subject in School: Theology
Favorite Movie: "A Man for All Seasons"
Last Book Read: *Playing for Pizza* by John Grisham
Occupation if I Weren't a Priest: Banker

miss the midnight masses. I am an ex-altar boy, but I never had a complete religious feeling until I attended St. Michael's. The love of this parish is now shared by many more people than when I first attended."

Lucille Gerardi agrees that Father Lombardo is a great leader for the parish. "Father Gerry can't do enough for his parishioners. He has been working to rejuvenate the parish."

Along with being a eucharistic minister, Gerardi takes care of the altar and the priests' vestments. "I help out with whatever they need done. I just love the church and I like participating. I like to stay in the background, but I always help out and people know they can depend on me. I would never say 'no.'"

Gerardi washes and irons the cloths for the altar and views it as a privilege. "My sister-in-law used to take care of the altar at another parish and I thought it was such an honor and privilege to touch the altar. I take pride in dressing it. I call it 'God's tablecloth.' It is not a job or a chore to do it. I just do it with tender loving care."

(*St. Michael the Archangel is located at 15 East 23rd St. in Bayonne. Call (201) 436-1412 to learn more about the parish's programs. Information provided by parish historian Joe Olesky was used in this article.*)

Holy Family Catholic Academy gears up for September launch

AREA—Two Bergen County elementary schools—Catholic Academy of the Northern Valley, Closter and Demarest, and Holy Family Interparochial School, Norwood—will unveil plans in the coming weeks to combine and form a new academy.

The new school, Holy Family Catholic Academy, will open its doors in September 2008 and will occupy the current site of Holy Family Interparochial.

Catholic Academy of the Northern Valley and Holy Family are co-sponsored schools serving the educational ministries of seven parishes. The parishes of St. Mary, Closter; St. Joseph, Demarest; and Sacred Heart, Haworth, have sponsored Catholic Academy of the Northern Valley since 2004. The parishes of Immaculate Conception, Norwood; Saint Pius X, Old Tappan; St. Anthony, Northvale; and Our Lady of Victories, Harrington Park, have sponsored Holy Family Interparochial since 1991.

Pastors of the seven parishes—at meetings with parents and in announcements in their respective parish bulletins during the month of January—ex-

plained the decision to combine the two schools into one academy-style facility. The pastors said the new school would reflect a vision of quality education in an environment based on Catholic traditions and values.

In recent years, Catholic Academy of the Northern Valley and Holy Family had found themselves confronting challenges faced by Catholic schools throughout the nation: diminishing enrollment and rising costs. Between 2005 and 2007, the cost of education at the two schools climbed considerably—to \$7,870 per student at Catholic Academy (from \$5,200); and \$7,336 per student at Holy Family (from \$4,800). Meanwhile, enrollment at both schools fell signif-

icantly during the same two-year period.

By forming a single academy, the pastors said they expect to maintain competitive costs and services, as well as utilize the best programs of each school. They also said that an improved financial status for the new academy would help to stabilize tuition, ensuring that a Catholic education remains affordable for those who wish to embrace it.

In a separate but similar development, a new academy will be formed in Hudson County—a move that would, in effect, merge the four remaining Catholic elementary schools in Bayonne. All Saints Catholic Academy will be launched in September at the site of the for-

mer St. Mary Star of the Sea School in Bayonne (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Jan. 23). The academy education model emphasizes world languages, math and science, and art and music courses.

A board of advisors for Holy Family Catholic Academy will be drawn from members of the boards of the two current schools. A search for a principal, faculty and staff is currently underway.

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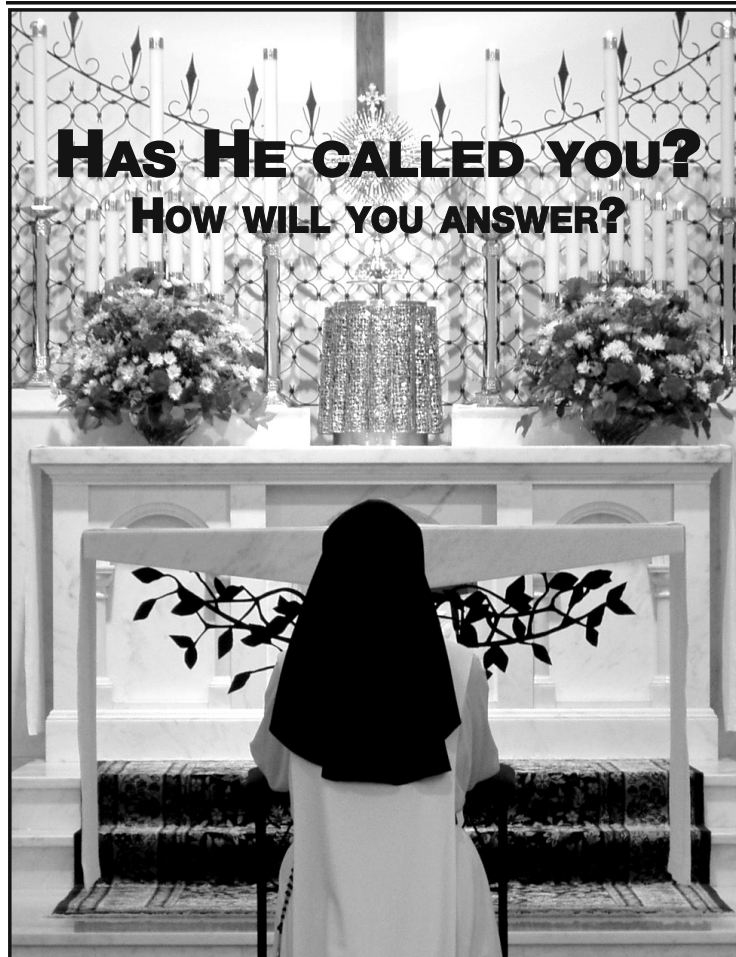
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A faithful Teaneck son returns for Lenten mission March 7, 8

TEANECK—After five decades, renowned Catholic evangelist and TV host Ralph Martin is returning to his hometown to deliver the Good News.

Martin will bring a message of hope and renewal to Saint Anastasia—the Bergen County parish where he grew up, received his sacraments and graduated grade school. He will lead a parish Lenten mission, “Call to Holiness—Call to Mission” on March 7 and 8, which is part of Saint Anastasia’s yearlong centennial jubilee celebration.

The Lenten mission sessions are free and open to the public. Martin’s program is

composed of three 45-minute sessions. The Friday session begins at 7 p.m., while the Saturday sessions will start at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Each session is different and refreshments will be provided. Call the parish, located at 1095 Teaneck Rd., at (201) 837-3354 for details on the mission.

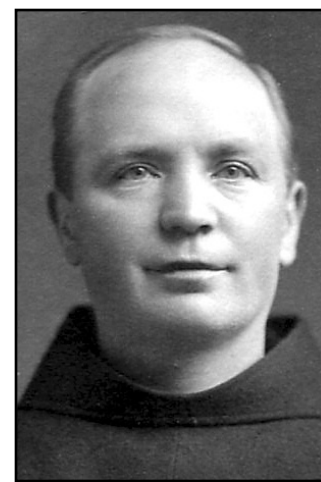
For more than 25 years Martin has hosted “The Choices We Face,” a weekly Catholic television and radio program broadcasted throughout the world. The program airs at 6 p.m. Tuesday and 6:30 a.m. Friday on EWTN.

In addition, he serves as the president of Renewal

Ministries (Web site: www.renewalministries.net). Founded in 1980, the organization works with Church leadership to carry out the work of renewal and evangelization throughout North America and in more than 25 countries. Martin, who currently resides in Ann Arbor, MI, is also the director of graduate theology programs in

evangelization and an assistant professor of theology at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in the Archdiocese of Detroit.

“Ralph Martin is nationally known for his enthusiasm and commitment to a spirit-filled Christian way of life. We are honored to have him back with us now,” Father Daniel O’Neill, O. Carm., Saint Anastasia pastor since 2002, said. “In our centennial year, we are doubly enthused to have one of our own lead us in our annual Lenten renewal program.”



TRIBUTE—Saint Leo Parish, 324 Market St., Elmwood Park, will celebrate a solemn liturgy and portrait dedication at noon Mass on Sunday, March 2. The Mass will honor the parish namesake, Father Leo Heinrichs, O.F.M., local Franciscan martyr. Call the parish rectory at (201) 796-3521 for details.

Angel attends ‘Sports Day’

DEMAREST—Catherine Crimmins, a senior at the Academy of the Holy Angels (AHA), represented her school Feb. 3 at the “New Jersey Celebrates National Girls and Women in Sports Day,” which was held at Seton Hall University, South Orange.

The New Jersey Interscholastic Athletic Association sponsored the event. Accompanying Crimmins were her parents and Howard Schuman, her track coach at AHA.

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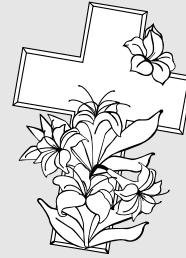
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THANK YOU ST. JUDE

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.

T.C.

PRAYER TO ST. JUDE

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

T.C.

St. Philomena plans devotion

LIVINGSTON—St. Philomena Parish, 386 South Livingston Ave., will hold a 40-hour Lenten devotion Feb. 24-26 to mark the 35th anniversary of the dedication of its church.

A Mass of Exposition will be celebrated at noon on Sunday, Feb. 24. Mass will conclude with a eucharistic procession and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 10 p.m. Feb. 25 will have an exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and again 7:30 to 10 p.m. Mass will be celebrated at 7 p.m.

The final day, Feb. 26, there will be an exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. followed by a Mass of Desposition at 7 p.m. Mass will conclude with a procession, benediction and final reposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

"The whole purpose of our human existence is to live forever with the Blessed Sacrament in Heaven, to enjoy forever the victory of Jesus over sin and death," Father Brian X. Needles, St. Philomena parochial vicar, said. "We get a foretaste of that eternal happiness and peace when we visit and adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament."

Parishes to host Lenten play

AREA—Three parishes in the Archdiocese of Newark will present the Lenten play "The Way of the Cross," which follows the journey of the Stations of the Cross.

Performance dates include Feb. 24, 4 p.m., St. Joseph Parish, West New York; March 9, 8 p.m., St. Anne Parish, Jersey City and March 16, 8 p.m., Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish, Garfield.

The production is under the auspices of the Franciscan Mystery Plays written and directed by Father Francis Pompei, O.F.M., a Franciscan Friar from Holy Name Province.



Submitted photo

MASS FOR FATHER WASHINGTON—St. Stephen's Parish, Kearny, held its annual Mass on Feb. 3 to honor the memory of Father John Washington, the hero chaplain who died at sea during World War II. Pictured at the church is (left to right) Father Richard E. Cabezas, St. Stephen's pastor; Most Rev. Dominic A. Marconi, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Newark; and JoAnne Bruneeti, Father Washington's niece. Father Washington, who had been assigned to St. Stephen, was a chaplain on board the U.S.A.T. Dorchester, the military transport ship that was attacked and sunk off the coast of Greenland on Feb. 3, 1943. Father Washington and other three chaplains on board (a rabbi; a Methodist minister; and a Dutch Reformed minister) sacrificed their lives that fateful day by giving up their life jackets to sailors. As the ship sank, it was reported that the four chaplains prayed together arm and arm. The U.S. Postal Service, in 1948, issued a stamp to honor the memory of "The Four Chaplains."

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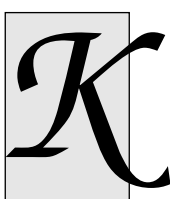
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Deacon Dwyer to address March 2 fund-raiser

TEANECK — Deacon Joseph A. Dwyer Jr., Vice Chancellor for Administration for the Archdiocese of Newark, will be a featured speaker at a Lenten vegan fund-raising dinner to benefit veterinary charity funds.

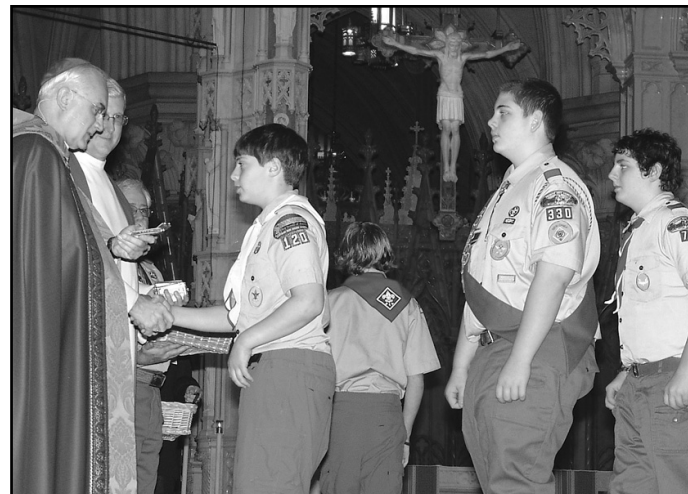
The dinner will be held at Veggie Heaven, 473 Cedar Lane, on Sunday, March 2, 2 to 4 p.m. Admission is \$35 per person, \$5 for children between the ages of

four and eight and \$15 for children between the ages of nine and 12. Reservations must be made by Feb. 27. Send checks, payable to God's Creatures Ministry or Catholic Concern for Animals USA (the sponsors of the event) to PO Box 322, Wayne, NJ 07474.

A board member of Catholic Concern for Animals USA (Web site: www.all-creatures.org/ca) and a resident of Nutley, Deacon

Dwyer, will speak on the topic of compassionate stewardship.

Rev. Frank Hoffman, a retired United Methodist pastor and full-time volunteer trustee of the Mary T. and Frank L. Hoffman Family Foundation, will join Deacon Dwyer at the podium. The foundation supports organizations that share the goal of preventing harm to all of God's creatures as well as the environment.



Advocate photo — Ward Miele

SCOUT AWARDS SUNDAY—Most Rev. Thomas A. Donato, Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, officiated at the annual Catholic Boy Scout Awards Sunday prayer service Feb. 3 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark. Bishop Donato presented Boy Scout and Cub Scout recipients with their awards. During his homily, Very Rev. Victor P. Kennedy, V.F., pastor of Resurrection Parish in Jersey City and archdiocesan chaplain to the Catholic Committee on Scouting, urged the young men to "become a family of Scouting and a family of the Church."

Open House

March 5, 2008, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

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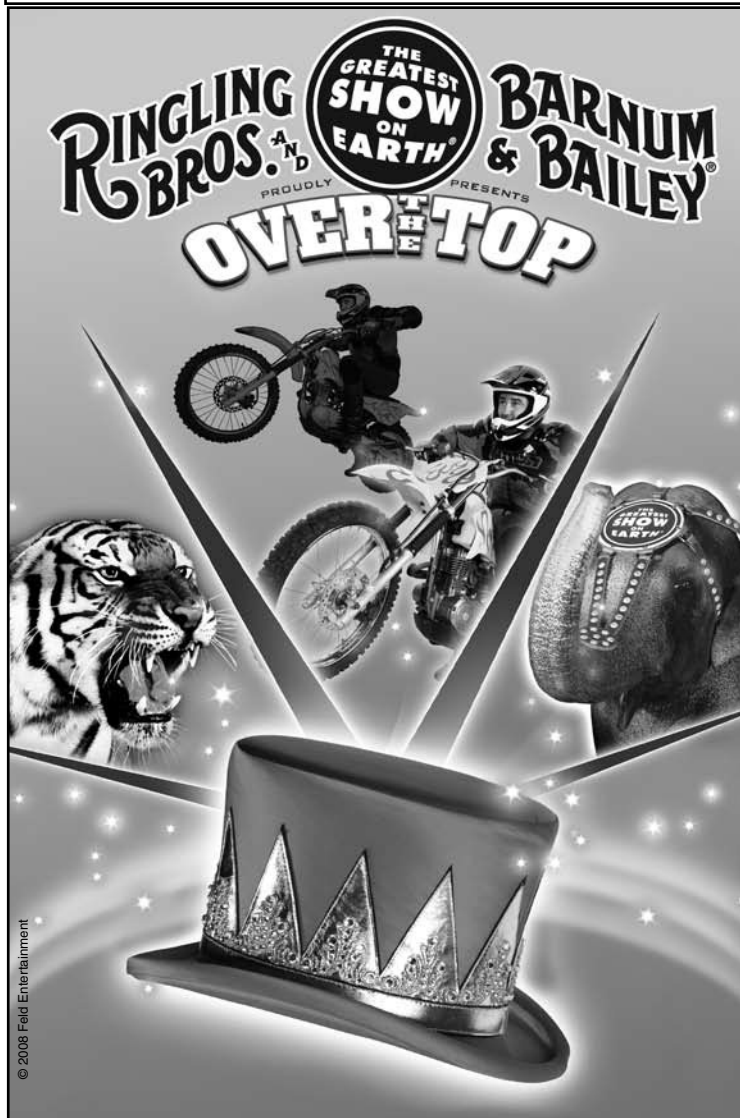
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CLOWNING AROUND—St. Catherine of Siena School, Cedar Grove, hosted Family Fun Night on Feb. 1 as part of its activities for Catholic Schools Week (Jan. 27-Feb. 2). “Circus Science,” performed by clowns from the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, entertained students and parents. The performers demonstrated Newton’s law of motion, techniques for balance, theories of gravity and juggling. Eighth grader Matthew Oehm (pictured here), took note of the high-tech instruction and was able to spin a plate.



WORLD TRAVELERS—One of the many activities during Catholic Schools Week at St. Leo’s School, Elmwood Park, was a celebration of international cultures. The lower school students, with passports in hand, “traveled” to Ireland, France, Italy, Poland and China all in one day. Students enjoyed slide shows, Powerpoint presentations, Irish step-dancing and the Polka. They also feasted on international cuisine provided by parents—everything from Irish soda bread to French baguettes.



A FINE FINE ARTS FAIR—Visitation Academy, Paramus, as part of its recent open house, offered a fine arts fair under the direction of music and art teacher Marge Redling. Paintings and creative writing samples were displayed and critiqued, while student musicians performed on electric guitar, piano, violin and wind instruments. Rumor has it that the five virtuoso guitar players, pictured here, are leading contenders for a Grammy nomination next year under the category “Best New Rock and Roll Artists.”

Sacred Heart plans forums

LYNDHURST—Sacred Heart School, 620 Valley Brook Ave., will host two information sessions to introduce families to its academic programs for students in grades Pre-K 3 through eight. The sessions will be held Feb. 28 at 7:30 p.m. and March 2 at 2 p.m. Each program will include an overview by Margaret Smiriga, principal. Visit the school’s Web site (www.sacred-heartlynd.org) or call (201) 939-4277 for more information.



REMEMBERING THE FAMILIES—Students at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, Tenafly, collected and donated food and other items for the families of deployed U.S. soldiers. Under the direction of teachers Marilyn Termotto and Dana Macaluso, the students collected non-perishables, canned goods and paper products and prepared them for special delivery. In addition to collecting the items, students also assisted National Guard soldiers from the Teaneck Armory, pictured here, by loading the donations onto a truck, along with their best wishes and prayers.

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An invitation

to attend, or help others to attend,

the International Eucharistic Congress, held in the
beautiful North American city of Quebec - June 15th-22nd, 2008



Dear Friend in Christ,

This coming June of 2008, the Church in North America will celebrate a great event for the Faith, an event that is being watched with great anticipation.

The Holy Father has given me the privilege of leading this event, the International Eucharistic Congress, in Quebec City.

And I, in turn, have invited the Holy Father to celebrate our final Mass of the Congress.

Would there be a possibility that you and your family and friends might be able to join us in Quebec in June, and even to send us your support today?

The International Eucharistic Congress is a great opportunity for the new evangelization of North America. It is an occasion to rekindle the flame of the Catholic faith in our countries, where in the past there was a deep unity between the culture and the Faith.

Now, the urgency of Faith is obvious for an increasingly secular and materialistic world. It is not too late to regenerate Christian culture.

Each day, catechesis and testimonies will be offered to the thousands of participants—the present and the future leaders of the Church—and a solemn Eucharistic liturgy will be celebrated. There will also be processions of the Blessed Sacrament, as well as special religious events for young adults and families, and activities to promote brotherhood.

We hope that the International Eucharistic Congress will bring about a greater emphasis on the sacred character of the Eucharistic celebration, a deepened understanding of its sacrificial dimension, and a renewal of Eucharistic adoration, prayer, and good works.

This theme, the Eucharist as “Gift of God for the life of the

world,” will begin with Sunday’s invocation of the Holy Spirit, who reminds the Church of all that Jesus did and then left in our care.

Monday will focus on Jesus’ institution of the New Covenant, completed by the offering of His own blood, while the following day concentrates on the sacrificial dimension of the Eucharist. Wednesday invites us to explore the first result of this gift of God; in giving Himself and in being received in the faith of the Church, the Eucharistic Christ founds the Church and opens up the communion of divine persons for the communion of human persons.

The Eucharist gives life to worship, which embraces all of life, prayers and ritual gestures, but also gives life to human relationships, work, joys and sorrows, sufferings and hopes. Thus, Thursday focuses on adoration, as the evening concludes with a public procession with the Blessed Sacrament in the heart of the city.

The theme of Friday is the Eucharist and mission: it emphasizes charity and engagement for peace and justice.

Finally, the week concludes with teaching on “ordinary” holiness at the heart of the world, inspired and nourished by the Eucharist.

At this great gathering, which will be closely watched and reported by the news media around the world, public testimonies for the essential role of the Faith and witness to the centrality of Jesus in our lives will give us an unparalleled opportunity to evangelize millions upon millions of people, and especially those in our troubled countries—for example, perhaps your own neighbors, family and friends!

First, by your fervent prayers to Almighty God that the Congress will reawaken the faith and ecclesial life of the people of Canada, especially the people of Quebec. For many

dioceses throughout North America, there is a direct link to Quebec, which gave birth to the Church on our continent.

Second, the Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life, as Pope John Paul II, and now Pope Benedict XVI, have repeated so often in their magnificent teachings. We are invited to celebrate this Congress together.

Third, I invite you to help me to make this Eucharistic Congress a possibility, a reality, and a blessing for many people in Latin America and in the Third World who might never have the opportunity to experience the graces and blessings of the International Catholic gathering without your generosity and financial assistance.

There will also be a myriad of other costs associated with an event of this magnitude – yet our budget is modest, and we seek only to cover what is necessary.

Without the support of our brothers and sisters in the Faith from the United States, our effort cannot be called a complete success.

We must not fail, with the eyes of a skeptical secular world and the media upon us. On the contrary, together, united with the Holy Father himself, we must show even the doubters the way to Christ!

I need your assistance, and I thank you in advance for your generosity in helping to make the International Eucharistic Congress accessible to many people.

Yours in the Eucharistic Jesus,

Marc Cardinal Ouellet
Archbishop of Quebec
Primate of Canada
President, 49th International Eucharistic Congress

A Message from Archbishop John J. Myers

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In times of joy, in times of trouble, we Catholics turn to the altar and to the central act of worship of the Church, the celebration of the Eucharist, the gift of the Body and Blood of Christ. Christ, present in the Eucharist, is our spiritual food and the source of all grace.

Throughout the ages, this selfless sacrifice has united us in faith, and been a sign to all of the Resurrection and of God’s merciful love and caring for us. The Eucharist defines us as the people of God. When we gather at Mass to receive Christ in the Eucharist, we truly give witness to the meaning of Communion.

The International Eucharistic Congress is a call to proclaim the centrality of the Eucharist – indeed, of Christ—in our lives, and I encourage all in the Archdiocese to consider joining Catholics from throughout North America in Quebec in this important evangelization movement.

With kindest personal regards, I remain,

Sincerely in the Lord,

✠ Most Reverend John J. Myers
Archbishop of Newark



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Dr. Anthony Laneve

St. Joseph physician honored

PATERSON — Anthony Laneve, M.D., chief of internal medicine at St. Joseph’s Regional Medical Center, is the recipient of the Paterson Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition Inc.’s Leadership Award.

Laneve, who was born at St. Joseph’s, began his career at the medical center 25 years ago. He has a self-described “old-fashioned doctor’s mentality,” which

he has developed through years of service to patients from all walks of life. A graduate of Rutgers University, Laneve received his medical degree from the College of Medicine & Dentistry in Newark. He was honored in 2006 with the Kendrick P. Lance, M.D., “Distinguished Physician Award,” which was presented at the St. Joseph’s Regional Medical Center Foundation Charity Ball.


Eight Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies coalitions were established by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services more than 20 years ago as part of an initiative to reduce infant mortality in 11 target cities, including Paterson.

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