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Supplement to  
**The Catholic  
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May 7, 2008





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**FREQUENCY FOR THE YEAR**

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

NJPA



# Painful trends throughout U.S. reveal unhealthy prognosis for the uninsured

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Living without health insurance in the United States is bad for your health.

That simple truth was affirmed once again in "Dying for Coverage," a new report from Families USA (Web site: [www.familiesusa.org](http://www.familiesusa.org)) that estimates how many people between the ages of 25 and 64 are likely to die in each U.S. state because of a lack of health coverage.

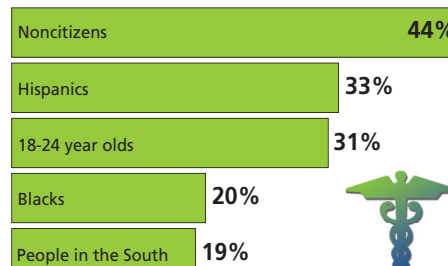
Using data from the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine, the U.S. Census Bureau and the Urban Institute, the Washington-based national organization for healthcare consumers issued reports for each state and the District of Columbia, analyzing how mortality rates for that population were affected in 2006 by a lack of health insurance.

Ron Pollack, executive director of Families USA, said the report "highlights how our inadequate system of health coverage condemns a great number of people to an early death simply because they don't have the same access to healthcare as their insured neighbors."

The worst news was in Texas and California. It was estimated that more than seven Texans of working age and more than eight Californians of working age die each day because they don't have health insurance. The nearly 47 million uninsured Americans are less

## Who are the Uninsured?

46.6 million people in the U.S. are without health insurance. These demographics represent many of the uninsured.



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2005 and 2006 Annual Social and Economic Supplements

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A high percentage of noncitizens are among the 46.6 million uninsured people in the United States.

likely to have a regular source of healthcare outside the emergency room, more likely to go without screenings and preventive care, and often postpone or forgo needed medical care or fail to fill needed prescriptions.

The uninsured pay more for the medical care they do get. Because they cannot negotiate the same discounts on hospital and doctor bills that insurance companies do, uninsured patients often pay 2.5 times more than patients with health insurance, according to Families USA.

However, the insured pick up the tab for much of the uncompensated care provided to the uninsured, Pollack said. He estimated that the average family paid just under \$11,000 for insurance premiums in 2005, with \$922 of that going to pay for uncompensated care.

American taxpayers also devote a large portion of their federal taxes each year to healthcare, according to an analysis prepared by the National Priorities Project, Northampton, MA. The nonprofit research organization said the median-income family in the United States paid \$2,628 in federal income taxes in 2007. Of that, \$1,109 went to military spending, including veterans' benefits, interest on military debt and the war in Iraq, and \$581 went to healthcare, including the federal portion of Medicare spending.

As it has for the past five years, the Catholic Health Association (CHA) of the United States marked "Cover the Uninsured Week" April 27-May 3 with a variety of events aimed at raising awareness of the problem. In a recent letter to those involved in Catholic healthcare ministries, Sister Carol Keehan, a Daughter of Charity who is CHA president and chief executive officer, said the United States is "approaching a defining moment in the future of American healthcare" (see related story on page 6).

# Funding shortfall may shutter cord-blood facility

## Allendale site supports adult stem-cell research

BY MELISSA MCNALLY

Staff Writer

ALLENDALE—The New Jersey Cord Blood Bank (NJCBB), the state's only public cord-blood bank that supports adult stem-cell research, is in danger of closing due to lack of funding.

"If we can't locate funding soon, the program is at risk of going away. That would be a sad thing for the people of New Jersey," Susan Mysliwiec, assistant vice president of recruitment, said.

Community Blood Services, a not-for-profit organization that supplies blood and blood products to more than 30 hospitals in the New York/New Jersey area, runs NJCBB. In 2005, Community Blood Services' cord-blood program was designated as an official partner with the Camden-based Coriell Institute for Medical Research and was responsible for cord-blood collections in the northern part of the state.

The Elie Katz Umbilical Cord Blood Program, a private family bank in Allendale, and a public bank, also located in Camden, are the collection sites (see *The Catholic*

*Advocate*, March 21, 2007). The program was awarded \$350,000 by the state for the collection of 10,000 units of cord blood material.

The Catholic Church opposes embryonic stem-cell research, which results in the destruction and/or cloning of a four to five-day-old human embryo. However, "adult" stem cells collected from placenta blood and the umbilical cord of a newborn do no harm to embryos and can be used to find cures and treatments for illnesses such as multiple sclerosis, diabetes, spinal cord injuries and lupus. As such, the Church is a strong supporter of adult stem-cell research.

The Princeton-based Catholic HealthCare Partnership of New Jersey (CHCPNJ), led by Father Joseph Kukura, launched an initiative in 2006 to encourage the state's Catholic hospitals to donate to the cord-blood bank (see *The Catholic Advocate*, June 7, 2006). The initiative emphasized collecting cord and placenta blood from minorities, which was especially needed.

Last year, Community Blood Services took over all operations of NJCBB. "Coriell Institute wanted to concentrate on research and said cord blood collection and testing was not their competency," Dr. Dennis M. Todd, president and chief executive officer of Community Blood Services, said.

Funded by revenues from private donations and contracts with hospitals, NJCBB was expected to receive \$10 million from a bill passed in 2006. The state assembly passed legislation authorizing \$270 million worth of bonds for stem-cell research projects, highlighted by the construction of the state's first stem-cell research centers in New Brunswick, Newark and Camden. The cord-blood program has yet to receive any money from that stem-cell bill.

"Our situation is becoming a real financial difficulty. We are about \$600,000 in the negative. The program is forced to streamline resources and pull back on collections. We

Continued on page 12



Advocate photo — Melissa McNally

Dr. Dennis Todd, president and chief executive officer of Community Blood Services, which runs the New Jersey Cord Blood Bank (NJCBB) in Allendale, is seeking much-needed grant money to keep the program running. Visit the group's Web site ([www.communitybloodservices.org](http://www.communitybloodservices.org)) for more information on the cord-blood donation program.

*"We are \$600,000 in the negative. Collecting and testing umbilical cord and placenta blood units is expensive."*

—Susan Mysliwiec





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# Saint James Hospital completes transition from acute-care site

NEWARK—Recently completing its two-month transition from acute care, the Jefferson Street site of Saint James Hospital is now the Saint James Campus of Saint Michael's Medical Center.

"The signs (on the hospital's exterior wall) give a new look to an enduring tradition of service," explained Felicia Karsos, administrator of nearby Saint Michael's Medical Center. A 24-hour satellite emergency department and other continuing non-acute healthcare services will enable the Saint James Campus to retain its important role in the Ironbound community.

"For many decades, area residents have relied on Saint James for emergency care, primary care, and prenatal care," said Karsos. "Those services, as well as behavioral healthcare, remain available at the site, and we expect residents to continue using the Saint James Campus as they always have—es-

pecially the emergency room, which is still open day and night, all week long."

Treatment at the Saint James Campus is supported by the inpatient, outpatient, and clinic services at Saint Michael's Medical Center, located under two miles away. Transportation between the two sites—by ambulance or by shuttle, as appropriate—offers patients ready access to these additional services.

many patients on their visits to Saint Michael's Medical Center. To learn about the continuing services at the Saint James Campus, call (973) 465-2700.

As reported earlier this year, a comprehensive hospital transition plan designed to preserve a much-needed Catholic healthcare presence in Newark, the boards of Cathedral Healthcare System, Cathedral Health Services, and Columbus Hospital have approved a strategic transaction with Catholic Health East (CHE), Newtown Square, PA (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Jan. 23).

While the move signals a strong new sponsorship and expansion for Saint Michael's Medical Center, the comprehensive hospital transition plan includes the phasing out of acute-care services at Columbus



*"The signs give a new look to an enduring tradition of service."*

—Felicia Karsos, administrator,  
Saint Michael Medical Center

The free shuttle service, which operates from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays and from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekends and holidays, allows family members to accom-

Hospital and establishing a new healthcare mission for Saint James Hospital. The Cathedral hospitals' chronically poor financial performance, inability to ac-



Submitted photo

New signage makes official the transition of Saint James Hospital from an acute-care facility. The site will offer a 24-hour satellite emergency department and other continuing non-acute healthcare services in the Ironbound section of Newark.

cess capital and stagnant utilization prompted the transition plan.

CHE (Web site: [www.che.org](http://www.che.org)) is a multi-institutional Catholic health system co-sponsored by 12 religious congregations and Hope Ministries. It provides the means to ensure the continuation of the Catholic identity and operational strength of the sponsors' health ministries, which are located in 11 eastern states from Maine to Florida.

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

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# CHA creates a 'vision' to guide healthcare reform

BY JEFF TIEMAN

Special to The Catholic Advocate

As the 2008 presidential election season unfolds, the American public is perhaps more concerned than ever about healthcare reform. In addition to opinion research sponsored by the Washington, D.C.-based Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA), many independent surveys place healthcare in the top tier of issues the public perceives as requiring urgent attention, alongside others including the war in Iraq and the faltering economy.

Some might say: "I've heard it before that healthcare is a top issue, and yet nothing ever seems to get done." That would be correct. Voters consistently tell pollsters and others that our nation's healthcare system requires urgent and careful reform. Yet, so little has been done when it comes to comprehensive change and making certain no one goes without basic medical services.

In fact, since healthcare reform was last attempted on a grand scale in 1993-1994 by the Clinton administration, the situation has only worsened. Instead of 37 million uninsured people, we now have 47 million. Costs have grown at a rate unmatched elsewhere in the economy.

Meanwhile, on the quality

front, we continue to face unforgivable disparities in how minorities are treated, and medical errors are still far more prevalent than they should be.

Why should we believe this moment is unique, that there is a real chance this time to make real change? The answer may be found in the combination of momentum, coalitions and dialogue. In Massachusetts, for instance, lawmakers enacted significant healthcare reform after bringing together all affected parties and working collaboratively toward a viable compromise. Many other states are on a similar path.



**THE CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION  
OF THE UNITED STATES**

The current presidential race is also in the mix with several candidates developing and pushing proposals to expand coverage and access, reduce costs and spending, improve quality and eliminate waste and abuse. Aside from Iraq, healthcare is one of the most mentioned topics on the campaign trail.

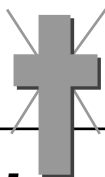
With these developments making headlines around the country, a new kind of momentum is build-

ing, one that says this is possible. Yes, problems exist with each state's rendition of healthcare reform, and it is true that many elements of these plans will have to be revisited, retooled or revoked. To focus on the problems, however, misses the point, which is that collaborative efforts to make progress, with everyone at the table, are working and can work for our entire nation.

The alternative model of the federal government enacting a top-down legislative solution has proven to be far less effective than the more recent developments in the states.

To take advantage of the momentum, and build on the recent successes created by consensus and dialogue, we need to take several additional steps. One of those steps is embodied in the

CHA's reform document: "Our Vision for U.S. Health Care." This vision statement—literally a collaborative effort of the Catholic health ministry—is based on Catholic social teaching and describes the values at stake in this debate. It then proceeds to list six principles, or reform elements, that must be met in order for health reform to be successful from the perspective of the Catholic health ministry.



Submitted photo

Jeff Tieman and Sister Carol Keehan review the CHA's "Vision for U.S. Health Care," a set of values-based criteria for reforming the healthcare system, is designed to help the ministry and others articulate its expectations of a redesigned system. The document envisions a healthcare system that serves everyone with dignity and compassion.

The six principles state that healthcare in the United States should be:

- Available and accessible to everyone, paying special attention to the poor and vulnerable
- Health and prevention oriented, with the goal of enhancing the health status of communities
- Sufficiently and fairly financed
- Transparent and consensus driven in allocation of resources and organized for cost-effective care and administration
- Patient centered and designed to address health needs at all stages of life, from conception to natural death
- Safe, effective and designed to deliver the greatest possible quality.

The document also lists a host of revealing points, such as the tragedy that an estimated 18,000 people in the United States die each year because they do not have health coverage and missed the medical services they needed.

CHA and Catholic healthcare leaders hope this document will fuel new conversations around the country and inspire lawmakers to think about healthcare as a moral issue instead of only an economic and political one. Also, we hope this document can be the springboard for tangible action on healthcare reform—action that can help create a system in which everyone is served with dignity and compassion.

As we present the CHA vision document to lawmakers and use it in community conversations, we must also be aware of other obstacles to our success, many of which can be solved through dialogue.

For instance, a recent opinion survey conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation indicated that Republicans and Democrats widely agree on the need for healthcare reform, but then split when it comes to the specific problems that need attention.

Forty-seven percent of Republicans surveyed said they would rather hear presidential candidates discussing healthcare costs than expanding coverage for the uninsured. For Democrats, the answer goes in reverse, with 42 percent saying they would rather hear about increasing coverage.

At the end of the day, both issues need to be addressed. The interrelatedness between cost and access has never been disputed and requires careful, non-partisan analysis.

The vision document reflects the fact that healthcare reform is much more than any of these single elements and in fact must involve addressing all of them together. We hope this resource and related materials on the CHA's Web site ([www.chausa.org](http://www.chausa.org)) will help readers in their efforts to advocate on behalf of a healthcare system that works for everyone.

The next time someone asks why this truly is the time for healthcare reform, tell them that we have the voice to raise in making sure momentum creates change and not frustration.

*(Editor's note: Tieman is director of "Covering a Nation" for the CHA. The group is headquartered at 1875 Eye Street, NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC, 20006; phone (202) 296-3993. Sister Carol Keehan is the president and chief executive officer of the CHA.)*

## Trinitas center joins therapy group

ELIZABETH—Trinitas Comprehensive Cancer Center has been approved for membership in the Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (RTOG) based in the Philadelphia offices of the American College of Radiology Clinical Research.

RTOG is a national clinical trials cooperative funded by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to investigate new protocols in the care and treatment of many of the most common types of cancer. The group consists of both clinical and laboratory investigators from more than 260 of the most qualified institutions across the United States and Canada.

Since its inception 35 years ago, RTOG member institutions have investigated more than 300 protocols on about 60,000 patients. In addition, RTOG members have helped define new national standards of care and new strategies to improve the survival and quality of life for many. Only approximately 10 percent of all radiation therapy facilities in the United States have been approved for RTOG membership.

Appointment requirements are stringent. An affiliate member institution must maintain a fulltime staff with expertise in a range of required oncological disciplines including medical oncology, surgery and pathology, as well as expertise in research and data management. In addition, the institution must maintain high quality and be proficient in calibration

and treatment planning procedures as recommended by the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM). An institution also must possess advanced planning and treatment technology. Trinitas was the first cancer center in New Jersey to house the advanced Trilogy linear accelerator.

"Being approved for membership in the RTOG is a confirmation that Trinitas continues to raise the level of cancer care in our region," Gary S. Horan, F.A.C.H.E., president and chief executive officer of Trinitas Hospital, said. "This is the culmination of a major commitment we made in 2005. We owe this RTOG affiliation to our outstanding team of medical specialists, research staff, and support staff whose activities are directed to helping people with cancer to live longer with a better quality of life."

Presiding as chair of Trinitas' radiation oncology unit is Dr. Clarissa Febles Henson, who worked with her staff in applying for RTOG membership in the RTOG. Henson announced the appointment saying "membership in the RTOG represents a significant increase in access to multi-institutional protocols and clinical trial options for patients in Union County and throughout New Jersey."

For more information or to speak with Henson call (908) 994-8000 or visit the Trinitas Web site ([www.TrinitasCCC.org](http://www.TrinitasCCC.org)).



# Healthcare priest contemplates end-of-life care ethics, choices

BY MELISSA MCNALLY  
Staff Writer

MORRISTOWN—For the many Catholics living in New Jersey, ethical, morally sound, end-of-life care for loved ones is a difficult issue. Not only do theological principles of innate human dignity arise, but there are practical matters of cost to weigh.

The latter point can be particularly painful as the Garden State ranks number one in the nation for excessive hospital care in the last months of life, according to the Dartmouth Atlas of Health Care 2008 (Web site: [www.dartmouthatlas.org](http://www.dartmouthatlas.org)).

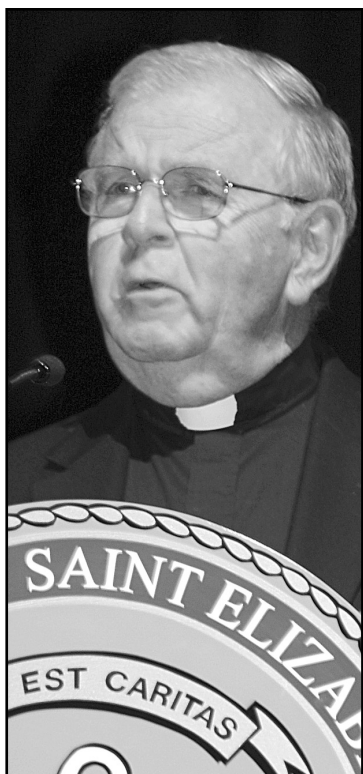
Father Joseph Kukura, president of the Princeton-based Catholic Healthcare Partnership of New Jersey, addressed the Catholic perspective on end-of-life care at a program held April 8 at the College of Saint Elizabeth. As a self-defined “pastoral ethicist,” Fr. Kukura discussed the Church’s stance on artificial hydration and nutrition (AHN), advanced directives and experimental medical technology.

Working in the healthcare field, Fr. Kukura uses the “Ethical and Religious Directives for Health Care Services,” published by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C., as a guide in advising others and making moral decisions.

“I believe in the Catholic ethical perspectives,” Fr. Kukura continued. “We are talking about the whole person that needs to be embraced by God’s grace. (The Ethical and Religious Directives) are who we are, what we are about and what we should stand for. Ethics is not negative enterprise; it is a positive enterprise.”

Preparing the seriously ill and their loved ones for death is not an easy task, especially when considering medical procedures leading up to the end of life. “We have to help people understand that they are going to encounter the love of their life. Death is simply the gateway of life. All that God expects of us is that we should be reasonable with the gift of life. We have to measure benefit and burden,” Fr. Kukura explained.

Balancing benefit and burden is essential in Catholic moral tradition. However, familial love can make medical decisions difficult in dire situations. “Love sometimes means something different to people depending on the cir-



Advocate photo – Melissa McNally  
Father Joseph Kukura, president of The Catholic Healthcare Partnership of New Jersey, discussed the Catholic perspective on end-of-life care at College of Saint Elizabeth symposium. “As Scripture says, there is a time to live and a time to die. We must have the courage to do the last,” Fr. Kukura said.

cumstances. It is not unusual, when a loved one is hooked up to machines, to say ‘I want everything done.’ There is an inability to face death.”

Technology and medical advancements must also be weighed in terms of benefit and burden: does it preserve the dignity of the human person while providing a real solution? “We are driving our country into bankruptcy by the amount of money spent on healthcare. There is money spent on esoteric, experimental remedies that are not proven in terms of health recovery. Can we put the two theories, technology and dignity, together for the benefit of human kind?” Fr. Kukura asked.

Some clinicians may be forced to practice bad medicine, Fr. Kukura argued, because families of those who are dying want every procedure done to keep their loved ones alive. For example, the Dartmouth Atlas of Health Care 2008, published in April, showed that Medicare paid Saint Michael Medical Center in Newark an average of \$63,438 to treat chronically ill patients in the last six months of life; the national average is about \$25,000.

“I believe there is an abundance of care in New Jersey,” Fr. Kukura stated. “There is no evidence that more care is better; it appears to be the opposite. We are the big users, but not the best users of resources. When you have the resources, you use them but it does not add anything but more expense.”

End-of-life care also has gained national attention in recent years, especially cases such as Terri Schiavo in 2005, for treatment of patients in a persistent vegetative state (severe brain damage resulting in a patient being alive but not conscious or awake). The Church advocates keeping a person alive without using “extraordinary” means. Artificial hydration and nutrition, supplying food and water to keep someone alive, are not extraordinary procedures, according to Catholic teaching.

“On a political, theological and Church level, there is diverging of opinions of artificial hydration and nutrition (AHN) for patients in a vegetative state,” Fr. Kukura said. “There are many who feel that the person is dying or would have died if someone did not intervene and stabilize the patient through AHN. The hope is that you would go further

and bring them into a quality of life where other treatment is possible. ‘Ordinary’ and ‘extraordinary’ are the most confused term in medicine. We would like to change it to proportionate or disproportionate.”

To avoid conflict between family members and the hospitals or clinicians at the end of life, Fr. Kukura advocated making advanced directives or a living will.

*Life is fragile and we need to be prepared to handle that fragility.*

— Father Joseph Kukura

“Life is fragile and we need to be prepared to handle that fragility. Advanced directives are a real gift to your family who now has something to go by when you approach the end of your life. If there are no plans made, the burden is on a family member to grapple or guess what you would have wanted done. The decision can come back to haunt the family years later.”

Practical, useful information was dispensed at the lecture, according to Dr. Catherine Martin, College of Saint Elizabeth chair and associate professor of philosophy/theology. “Fr. Kukura spoke well as a pastoral ethicist and real, specific problems were ad-

ressed,” Martin said. “People are hungry for a black or white, right or wrong answer. However, it is the responsibility of adult Christians to understand their faith and apply it to different situations. Being reasonable is essential in the Catholic moral tradition and faith does not conflict reason.”

Christian scientists have to navigate a fine line when completing experimental research. The Catholic Church is pro-technology, Martin believes. “There is a strong Catholic tradition of research and trying to advance theology. Some people do science research just because they can, but the Catholic researcher has to keep in mind the common good and human dignity. The value and respect for human life has to be considered.”

The Church’s view on end-of-life issues has been the center of attention in cases like Schiavo, but the discussion about morality and ethics was overshadowed, Martin said. “The Schiavo case was an anomaly because of her relative youth and that attracted people to it. There is a great empathy in those cases and it challenged everyone to say, ‘What would I do in that circumstance?’ The case was about empathy and identity. However, the Schiavo case was politicized, pitting people against each other. That was not dialogue; people were attacked and had walls put up. Taking sides makes dialogue difficult. Everyone has to be open to other people of good will.”



Advocate photo – M. Gabriele

**PRIZE WINNER**—West Orange resident Vincent Bucci (center), a member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Orange, was the winner of a flat-panel screen TV—the grand prize in a pre-planning sales-promotion raffle held by the Catholic Cemeteries department of the Archdiocese of Newark. The group staged promotional events at Holy Cross Cemetery/Mausoleum, North Arlington; Gate of Heaven Cemetery/Mausoleum, East Hanover; Saint Gertrude Cemetery and Good Shepherd Mausoleum, Colonia; and downtown Short Hills during the month of April as part of its ongoing community outreach efforts. Pictured with Bucci is Msgr. William B. Naedele (left), director of Catholic Cemeteries, and Joseph Heckel, director of sales. Catholic Cemeteries recognizes the deep religious significance of the Corporal Works of Mercy and is dedicated to the respectful care of the deceased and the sacredness of the cemeteries in which their bodies rest.



# Rally asks teens to reflect on life, human dignity

## Keynote speaker describes her abortion-survival saga

BY MADDALENA ALLEGRETTA  
Special to *The Catholic Advocate*

**T**raveling from all five dioceses throughout the Garden State, 750 high school students attended the fifth annual New Jersey Pro-Life Rally on Friday, April 18 on the South Orange campus of Seton Hall University (SHU).

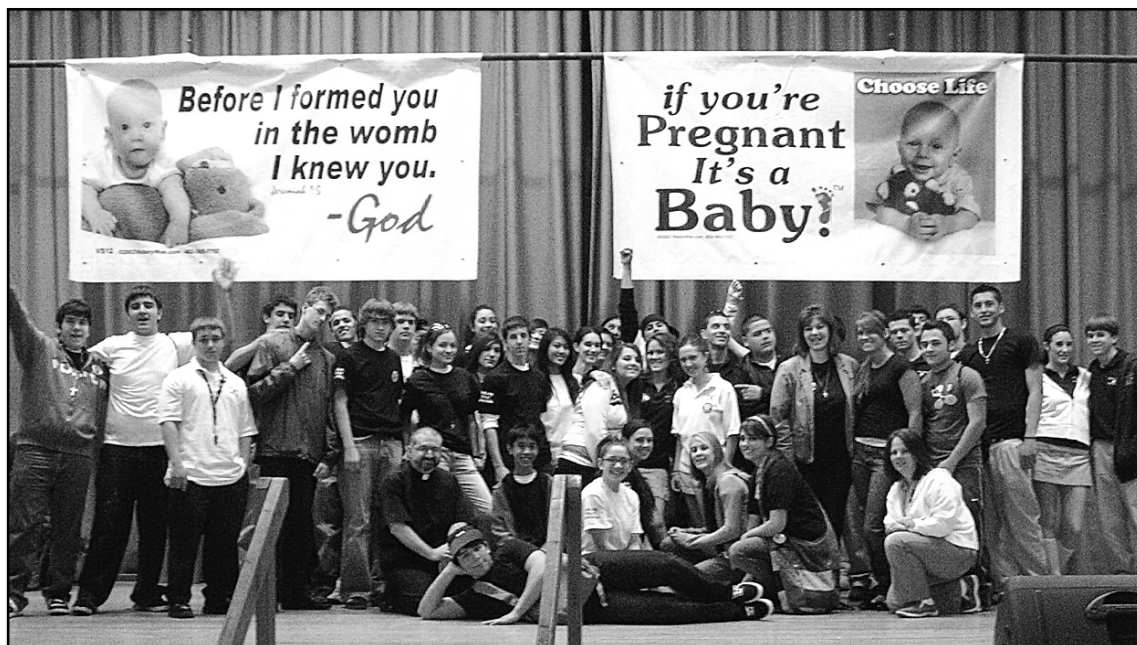
Sponsored by the Salesians of Don Bosco, the youth-oriented event stresses the value of human life from conception to natural death. SHU sophomore Elizabeth Jarocki, an integral leader in the planning of the rally, said the goal of the event is to make high school students aware of the pro-life issue.

"The Salesians are dedicated to the inherent dignity of each per-

son, with a focus on all life issues," Jarocki explained, noting that the issues include topics such as abortion, chastity, euthanasia and stem-cell research.

Father Steve Ryan, Salesian youth ministry coordinator, who has been involved with the rally since its inception, said he found there was an evident need for a youth rally in New Jersey. Fr. Ryan explained that, except for the annual "March for Life" rally in Washington D.C. and some local youth retreats, there really isn't a venue for students to come together and learn about these critical pro-life issues. "Kids want to hear in an honest way from adults about life issues," he said.

The keynote speaker for the event was Gianna Jessen, whose mother had tried aborting her in her third trimester. Jessen's mother



decided to undergo a saline abortion, however, the abortion was unsuccessful and Jessen was born prematurely.

Now in her 30s, Jessen has been speaking of her experience since she was 14 years old. She has made presentations throughout the United States as well as in England at various venues. She told the young people that the greatest opportunity to tell her story was on Aug. 5, 2002, when she spoke before Congress in favor of the "Born Alive Infants Protection Act," to extend legal protection to infants who were born alive after a failed abortion.

As a result of the failed abortion, Jessen was diagnosed with cerebral palsy as a young child. Many doctors believed that young Gianna would never be able to sit, crawl or walk, yet she exceeded all expectations and now trains to run marathons—even completing the London Marathon in 2006.

"I really want to speak about hope and truth, with love behind that message," Jessen declared. "Young women who are considering abortion need to know that abortion never solves anything and that there are people who care about them, such as the Good Counsel Homes who provides free services for expectant mothers. This is not an end, but only the beginning."

Karin Searson spoke of her emotional struggles after abortion. Also taking to the podium was Dennis Howard from the Movement for a Better America.

Students in attendance—many participating in the rally for the first time—took home a special impression of the program. "This was the first pro-life rally I have ever attended," Christie Pascual, a freshman at Koinonia Academy in



Submitted photos

Students from Queen of Peace High School, North Arlington (top photo), were among the enthusiastic participants at the New Jersey Pro-Life Rally. Kimberly Feliciano, a senior at Queen of Peace and the president of the school's student Youth for Life group, put together a 20-minute skit on abortion and presented it to the students. The skit involved dramatic monologues on various life situations.

Plainfield, said. "I liked Gianna's talk as well as Karin Searson. This is the first year anyone from our school has gone and I would definitely come back next year."

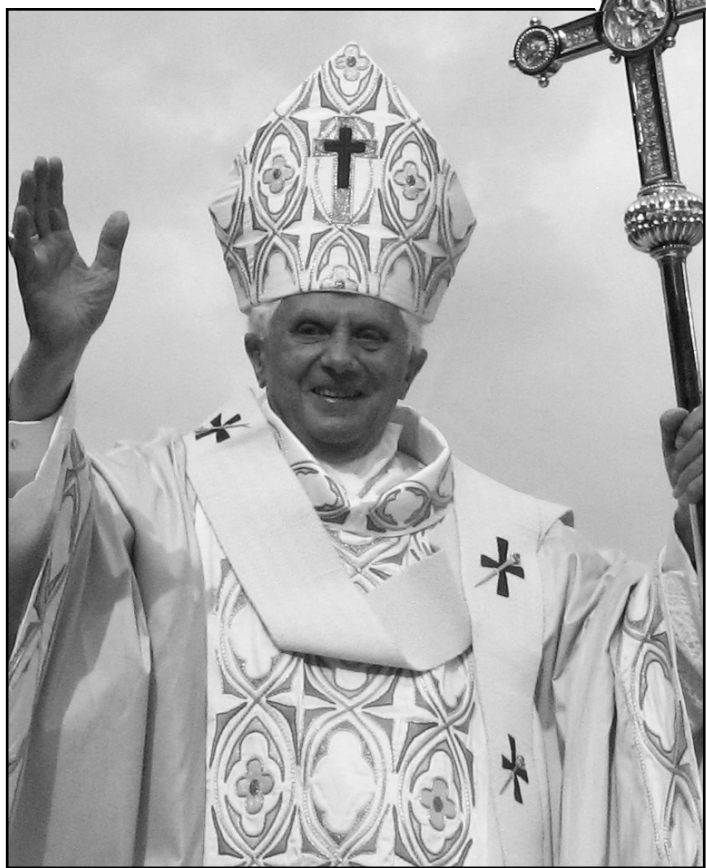
Jarocki explained that the impact the rally has on the high school students manifests itself in their actions after attending the event. "We had a huge positive response after last year's event. A lot of students come back year after year and have said that certain events impacted them."

Fr. Ryan stressed that the purpose of the event is to "inspire" the high school students to participate

in the pro-life movement in their own ways. "The beauty of the rally is that it gives energy to students so that they take up the movement when their return to their schools, parishes and communities," he noted. "The celebration of life every year at Seton Hall is very important for the future of the pro-life movement in the State of New Jersey."

(Editor's note: Maddalena Allegretta is the assistant news editor of *The Setonian*, the student newspaper of SHU. A resident of Wood-Ridge, she is a junior and a Biology major.)

## Pontiff in focus



Submitted photo

**POPE AT YANKEE STADIUM**—Ace photographer Father Raymond E. Rodrigue, parochial vicar at Nativity Parish, Midland Park, shared this photo of Pope Benedict XVI, which he took during the memorable April 20 Mass at Yankee Stadium. Fr. Rodrigue, describing the shot as it unfolded, said the pope—waving to the crowd at the end of Mass—was "rounding third and heading for home plate" while walking along the spectacular platform that covered the Yankee Stadium infield. *The Catholic Advocate* would like to thank Fr. Rodrigue for his generosity and keen shutterbug eye.



# Pope accomplishes goals during historic U.S. visit

## News analysis reviews stops on April tour

NEW YORK (CNS)—On his first trip to the United States, Pope Benedict XVI achieved three objectives that could be considered critical to the pastoral future of the American Church.

First, the pope brought a certain closure to the priestly sex abuse scandal that has shaken the Church for more than six years, expressing his personal shame at what happened and praying with the victims.

Second, he set forth a moral challenge to the wider U.S. culture on issues ranging from economic justice to abortion, but without coming across as doctrinaire or bullying.

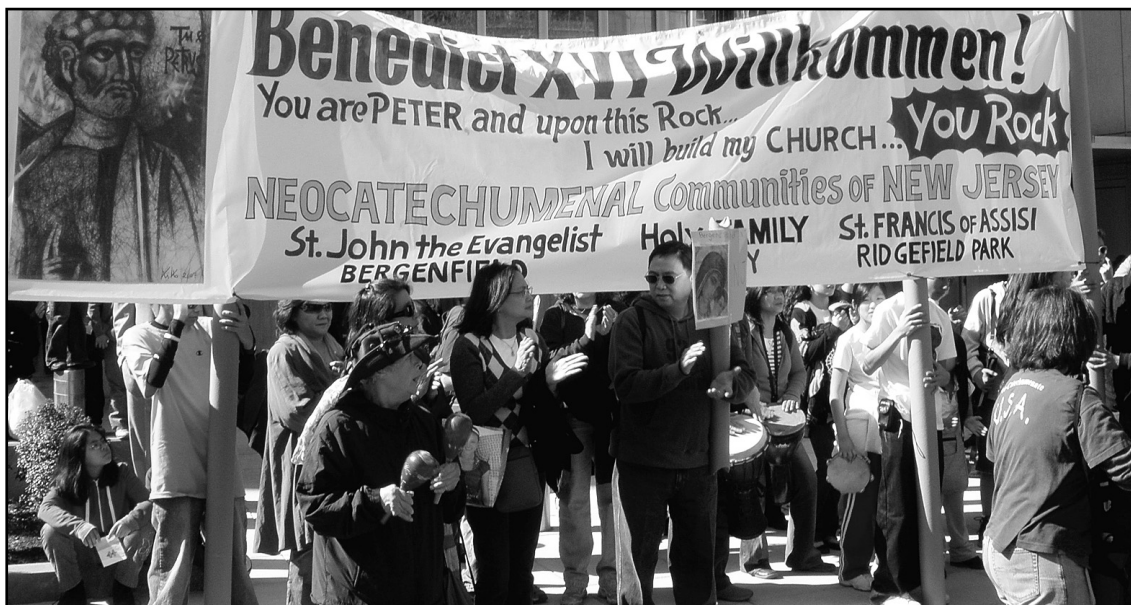
Third, to a Church that often seems divided into conservative and liberal camps, he issued a firm appeal to "set aside all anger" and unite in order to effectively evangelize society.

In the process of his April 15-20 visit, the 81-year-old pope established his own identity in a country that did not know him well and, in a sense, came out of the shadow of the late Pope John Paul II.

"I feel like I know him a lot better. I learned that he is trying all his best to reach out to the youth," 18-year-old Gabriella Fiorentino of Yonkers, NY, said at a youth rally April 19. Did she understand what the pope, a scholarly theologian, was trying to get across? "Jesus' message of hope—that is his message," she said.

The pope addressed clerical sex abuse on five different occasions, beginning with his encounter with reporters aboard his plane from Rome. He spoke from the heart about the shame, the damage to the Church and the suffering of the victims. He also spoke with familiarity about the Church's efforts to make sure perpetrators are out of ministry and to implement better screening of would-be priests.

At one point, he mentioned that when he read the case histories of the victims, he found it hard to imagine how a priest could betray his mission to be an agent of God's love. These were far more detailed and direct comments on the issue than were ever made by Pope John Paul II, and there was a reason: As Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, Pope Benedict headed the doctrinal con-



Advocate photo — Father Manuel Duenas

Parishioners from Saint John the Evangelist, Bergenfield, Saint Francis of Assisi, Ridgefield Park and Holy Family, Nutley, organized a joint pilgrimage during Pope Benedict's visit to the United States. Forty-nine pilgrims boarded buses in Bergenfield at 4:30 a.m. on April 16 and traveled to Washington D.C., where they proudly displayed their banner on Pennsylvania Avenue. The faithful wayfarers returned to Bergenfield to host 130 weary travelers from Arizona and California. They joined the crowds that cheered the pope at the United Nations, Saint Patrick's Cathedral, and then celebrated Mass at the Prudential Center in Newark.

gregation, which took over the handling of sex abuse cases in 2001. What Cardinal Ratzinger saw in those files led him to denounce, in early 2005, the "filth" inside the Church—even among its own priests.

The pope's unscheduled meeting with five sex abuse victims was a moving and tearful encounter. It seemed to mark an emotional turning point for several of those who participated and perhaps indirectly to others among the thousands of victims in the United States. Overall, the pope left the strong impression among Americans that, on the sex abuse issue, he "gets it."

The pope's broader issue in the United States was what he called the "attack of a new secularism," which threatens to undermine traditional moral values and the voice of religion in public affairs. He articulated this challenge on several occasions, most notably telling 45,000 people at a Washington Mass that American society is at a moral crossroads.

"We see clear signs of a disturbing breakdown in the very foundations of society: signs of alienation, anger and polarization on the part of many of our contemporaries; increased violence; a weakening of the moral sense; a coarsening of social relations; and a growing forgetfulness of God," he said.

To counter these trends, he said, people need the Church's message of hope and fidelity to the demands of the Gospel.

What was striking about the pope's approach was that it was

framed in a very positive context. Over and over, he praised the United States for blending a secular form of government with a moral order based on "the dominion of God the Creator."

He quoted George Washington, who called religion and morality the "indispensable supports" of political prosperity, and cited Franklin Roosevelt's statement that "no greater thing could come to our land today than a revival of the spirit of faith."

However, the pope warned that today this secular/moral balance risks tipping toward a god-

less, individualist form of freedom. He made his argument more relevant by linking it to a popular contemporary issue: environmental degradation. In the pope's view, ecology is part of an ethic of respect for creation and the creator.

When it came to the Church and its sometimes-divided membership, the pope had an equally encouraging approach. Time and again, he praised the vitality of parish life and movements and noted U.S. Catholics' continuing contribution to the life of the country.

The pope looked honestly at

shortcomings, too, lamenting that some Catholics are not in line with Church teaching, even on the issue of abortion. But his solution, expressed to bishops, was a long-term program of religious education, rather than a set of short-term marching orders or penalties.

In a comment aimed at people inside and outside the Church, he said the faith is more than a set of rules and suggested that more attention should be given to external challenges. "Perhaps we have lost sight of this: In a society where the Church seems legalistic and 'institutional' to many people, our most urgent challenge is to communicate the joy born of faith and the experience of God's love," he said.

One of his strongest themes was Church unity. At the Mass in Saint Patrick's Cathedral in NY, he expressed disappointment with the formation of divisions within the Church between Catholic groups, generations and individuals. The Church, he said, needs to "put aside all anger and contention" and turn its gaze together toward Christ.

During the Mass in Yankee Stadium on his last day in NY, he told Catholics to remember that all Church groups, associations and programs exist only to support and foster deeper unity in Christ.

The papal masses highlighted the diversity of the Church in the United States, which, as the pope said, comes together in a "common commitment to the spread of the Gospel."

## Pontiff recalls ground-zero moment

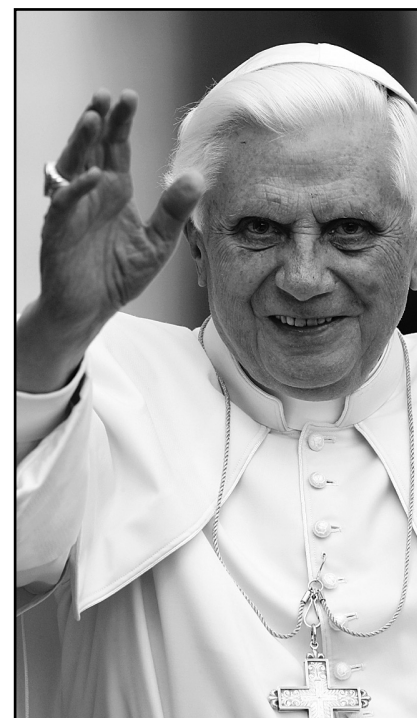
VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Benedict XVI said his April 15-20 visit to the United States was an opportunity to give and to receive a witness to the power of hope and faith.

Reflecting on his trip during his April 30 weekly general audience at Saint Peter's Square, the pope said the hope that flows from faith in Christ can vanquish even the darkness cast by the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Christian hope, "stronger than sin and death, animated a moment filled with emotion, which I passed in silence in the abyss of ground zero (in lower Manhattan on April 20), where I lighted a candle, praying for all the victims of that terrible tragedy," the pope said.

Pope Benedict said he set out on the U.S. trip "to confirm Catholics in the faith, to renew and increase brotherhood with all Christians and to proclaim to all the message of Christ our hope; that Christ is there today among the people, that He shows them the way and helps them to build the present as well as the future."

The United States was built "on the foundation of a felicitous joining of religious, ethical and political principles, which still today constitutes a valid example of healthy secularity," he said. It is a place "where the religious dimension in all its variety is valued as the spirit of the nation and as the fundamental guarantee of human rights and responsibilities." Modern life and global realities continue to challenge the country, he said, and the Catholic Church has an obligation to help citizens build a society worthy of the human person and one that uses its resources to help others.



Pope Benedict XVI



## May 9

**Notre Dame Parish**, North Caldwell, liturgy for those whose children have died, 7:30 p.m., (973) 497-4327.

## May 10

**Immaculate Conception High School**, Montclair, health and wellness fair, 11 a.m.- 2 p.m., (973) 744-7445 ext. 31 or (973) 403-3401.

**St. Valentine Parish**, Bloomfield, St. Valentine Treble Choir performance, 5 p.m., reception to follow, (973) 743-0220.

**St. Michael Parish**, Union, Anointing Mass, 11 a.m., call Sister Ann Dominic at (908) 686-5271 or (908) 688-1232.

**St. John the Evangelist Parish**, Bergenfield, "A Mother's Love: Reflections on the Face of God- A Concert in Honor and in Memory of All Mothers," 7:30 p.m., call Lisa Marciano at (201) 261-8430.

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish**, Nutley, Band Night, for children grades 7-12, 7-10 p.m., cost: \$5, (973) 667-2580.

**St. Thomas More Parish**, Fairfield, bicycle collection, 1-4 p.m., cost: \$10, call Rosemarie Scannapieco at (973) 808-7044 or Dawn Behnken at (973) 227-0224.

**Holy Trinity Parish**, Fort Lee, is sponsoring a Candlelight Prayer Vigil for Life at 9:30 a.m. across the street from an Englewood abortion clinic on Engle Street.

**St. Thomas the Apostle Parish**, Bloomfield, youth group, presents an evening of praise and worship, 7:30 p.m. with John Angotti who will bring his music ministry to all masses on May 11. Free will offering.

## May 12

**Senior Care and Activities Center**, Montclair, Mother's Day Open House, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. and two public seminars for seniors and caregivers at 6-9 p.m., (973) 783-5589 ext. 14.

## May 13

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish**, Ridgewood, Rosary Altar Society spring luncheon, at Macaluso's Restaurant in Hawthorne, 12:30 p.m., cost: \$40, call Noreen Walsh at (201) 447-9455.

**The Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth**, Spring Lake, luncheon and book signing with Mary Jane Clark, at Spring Lake Bath and Tennis Club, 11:30 a.m., cost: \$110 per person, call Anne Marie Gardiner at (973) 290-5454/5409.

## May 14

**Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish**, Roseland, annulment information evening, 7:30 p.m., (973) 497-4327.

**Holy Family Parish**, Nutley, tricky tray at Good Shepherd Academy, 6 p.m., cost: \$15, call Rosie at (973) 751-4247.

**Xavier Retreat Center**, Convent Station, "Wednesday for Women: Mary, Our Sister," 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., cost: \$30, (973) 290-5133.

**St. Joseph School**, East Rutherford, will present "Song of America," a choral review by students in grades four through eight and the school choir, at 7 p.m. Open to the public, especially those serving in the military.

## May 15

**Our Lady of Peace Parish**, New Providence, annual fair, May 15-17. Hours are 6 to 10 p.m. May 15; 6 to 11 p.m. May 16 and

1 to 11 p.m. May 17. For additional information call the rectory at (908) 464-7600.

## May 16

**St. Mary Parish**, Nutley, a night of sacred and secular music, 7 p.m., cost \$10, (973) 235-1100.

**Archdiocesan Retreat Center**, Kearny, tricky tray, 6 p.m., cost: \$25, call Sister Loretta DeDomenicis at (201) 998-0088 ext. 4147.

**St. Joseph Parish**, Maplewood, Tricky Tray, doors open 5 p.m., drawing 7 p.m. in school gym, \$12 admission at door, \$10 in advance. Coffee and dessert provided, can bring own food. Call (973) 761-4033.

**Knights of Columbus**, Westwood, roast loin of pork dinner, 6 p.m., \$10 per person, \$25 max per family, free soda, 40 Crest St., off Kinderamack Road.

## May 17

**St. Margaret of Cortona Parish**, Little Ferry, Wellness Day, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., cost: \$5 in advance/ \$7 at the door, call Sister Dorothy at (201) 641-3937.

## May 18

**Queen of Peace Convent Chapel**, North Arlington, Mothers of Priests, Chapter 6 Holy Hour, 1:15 p.m., call Rosalie D'Andrea at (973) 667-5674.

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

## May 21

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

**Academy of St. Elizabeth, Convent Station**, KT Productions auditions for Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella," 7 p.m., also on May 22, contact ktproductions05@aol.com for more information.

**Trinitas Hospital**, Elizabeth, "Learn How to Prevent Hearing Loss," 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., (908) 994-5138.

**Archdiocesan Retreat Center**, Kearny, "Catholics Who Happen to be Single" club, Mix

and Mingle Cruise information meeting, 7:30 -9:30 p.m., RSVP with Leonora Ragab at (973) 743-6100.

## May 31

**Magnificat**, a ministry to Catholic women, will hold a women's prayer service from 9

a.m., until noon at Saint Mary Parish, Closter. Breakfast will be followed by a period of praise and worship prayers for the needs of those present. Maria Hill will speak on the transforming love of Christ in her life. Tickets are \$20. Call (201) 265-2738.

# Official Appointments

**Archbishop John J. Myers has announced the following appointments:**

### ARCHDIOCESAN AGENCY

**Reverend Thomas A. Dente**, director of the Office of Divine Worship, has been reappointed to a second three-year term ending April 1, 2011.

### PASTOR

**Reverend Arthur F. Humphrey**, pastor of Saint Margaret of Cortona Parish, Little Ferry, has been appointed for a second six-year term ending July 1, 2012.

**Reverend Stephen Fichter**, parochial vicar of Saint Gabriel the Archangel Parish, Saddle River, has been appointed pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Haworth, effective July 1.

**Reverend John J. Galeano**, parochial vicar of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Jersey City, has been appointed pastor of Saint Francis de Sales Parish, Lodi, effective July 1.

**Reverend Monsignor Robert E. Harahan**, pastor of Saint Teresa of Avila Parish, Summit, has been appointed pastor of Saint Elizabeth Parish, Wyckoff, effective July 1.

**Reverend John J. Korbelak**, parochial vicar of Immaculate Conception Parish, Montclair, has been appointed pastor of Saint John the Baptist Parish, Hillsdale, effective July 1.

**Reverend Armand Mantia**, pastor of Saint Benedict Parish, Newark, has been appointed pastor of Holy Spirit Parish, Union, effective July 1.

**Reverend Ward P. Moore**, pastor of Saint Andrew Parish, Westwood, has been appointed pastor of Saint Thomas More Parish, Fairfield, effective July 1.

**Reverend Brian G. Plate**, director of vocations for the Archdiocese of Newark, has been appointed pastor of Saint Teresa of Avila Parish, Summit, effective July 1.

**Reverend Andrew M. Prachar** has been appointed pastor of Little Flower Parish, Berkeley Heights, effective July 1.

**Reverend Thomas S. Wisniewski**, parochial vicar of Corpus Christi Parish, Hasbrouck Heights, has been appointed pastor of Saint Catharine Parish, Glen Rock, effective July 1.

### ADMINISTRATOR

**Reverend Leo J. Butler**, chaplain at Paramus Catholic Regional High School, has been appointed administrator of Immaculate Conception Parish, Norwood, effective July 1.

### PAROCHIAL VICAR

**Reverend Salvatore DiStefano**, parochial vicar of Saint Stephen Parish, Kearny, has been appointed parochial vicar of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Kearny, effective June 18.

**Reverend Joseph A. Mancini**, director of Emmaus House - Newman Center, Newark, and executive director of CYO/Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Kearny, has been appointed part-time parochial vicar of Saint Stephen Parish, Kearny while maintaining his responsibilities as executive director of CYO/Youth and Young Adult Ministries. The appointment is effective July 1.

### DEAN

**Reverend Arthur F. Humphrey**, pastor of Saint Margaret of Cortona Parish, Little Ferry, was appointed Dean of the Bergen South Central Deanery, Deanery 5 effective April 2, 2008 and ending July 1, 2012.

### CHAPLAIN

**Reverend Dominic G. Ciriaco** has been appointed chaplain at Immaculate Heart of Mary Academy, Washington Township, with residence at Saint Luke Parish, HoHoKus, effective July 1.

### RELEASE EXTENSION

**Reverend Christoph Lintz** has had his release from pastoral service in the Archdiocese of Newark extended for an additional period of three years to continue his ministry in the Archdiocese of Munich, Germany. This release is effective immediately and ending Sept. 1, 2010.

### RETIREMENT

**Reverend Monsignor Donald E. Guenther**, pastor of Saint Elizabeth Parish, Wyckoff, has been granted retirement, effective July 1.

# How to report abuse

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

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





Advocate photo—Melissa McNally

## Honor parents, help end hunger in archdiocese

With Mother's Day fast approaching and Father's Day not far behind, the Emergency Food and Nutrition Network (EFNN) of Catholic Charities in the Archdiocese of Newark (Web site: [www.ccsnewark.org](http://www.ccsnewark.org)) has solved what to get mom and dad on their special days in a way much more meaningful than flowers or a new power tool.

To honor your parent EFNN, for a minimum donation of \$5, will send a card noting the gesture in their name to help feed the ever-increasing number of hungry people in the Archdiocese of Newark.

Funds collected through this unique effort will be used strictly for the purchase of emergency food supplies. Donations can be made in the name of a parent whether he or she is living or deceased. It will be an incredible way to express your love to those who are alive and a moving tribute to a parent who has gone home to God.

This EFNN donation program comes during the spring and as the summer months approach when, according to Sharon Reilly-Tobin, EFNN's director, "donations dramatically decrease." However, the work does go on throughout the year. For example, last November, working with archdiocesan Catholic Schools, EFNN organized the "Harvest of Hope" food drive.

With the dollars raised in recognition of the special place mom and dad hold in our hearts, food will be sent to 75 pantries in the four counties that make up the Church of Newark. And that is what Catholic Charities is all about. It provides programs that provide shelter to the homeless, counsels families in crisis, offers day care and socialization activities for older adults, builds families through adoption, teaches job skills, rescues and restores victims of human trafficking, educates students with special needs and helps those with HIV/AIDS. It is a big and never-ending job.

Help out and make that donation, preferably as much above the \$5 minimum, as you can afford. It will be money well spent. Call Reilly-Tobin at (973) 266-7966.

Last year, led by Sharon Reilly-Tobin, members of EFNN and MEND (Meeting Needs with Dignity)—units of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark—participated in the annual Essex County "Walk to End Hunger" rally in Newark. The year's fifth annual event took place May 2.



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Please call Margo for details at 973.325.0024, ext. 3008

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# Rejecting 'isms' that conceal basic truth of faith

Pope Benedict XVI came to the United States last month and it was nothing less than a triumphal tour. Dignitaries flocked to greet him. Hundreds of thousands stood on lines and in the midst of crowds to catch a glimpse of this white-robed figure. Millions more followed every public event on television.

The reaction among Catholics and non-Catholics alike ranged from silent awe and tears to ecstatic shouts of welcome. I, like most everyone else, watched all that I was able to on television. I, too, was filled with pride.

But, with all of the adulation, it is necessary to put emotion aside and listen intently to this pontiff. He is, above all else, a world-class scholar and theologian. Beyond that he is a German theologian; when he speaks or writes, every single word has meaning. Nothing is random. Every statement is calculated.

For example, I believe that I heard, at least four times in his speeches the word "relativism." What did he mean by that word? Where did it come from?

On Monday, April 18, 2005, before he was elected as Supreme Pontiff, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger had been chosen to address the Cardinals at the opening Mass of the conclave that would elect the new Pope. In that talk Cardinal Ratzinger spoke these words:

"How many winds of doctrine have we known in recent decades, how many ideological currents, how many waves of thinking? The small boat of the thought of many Christians has often been tossed about by these waves—flung from one extreme to the other: from Marxism to liberalism—even to libertinism; from collectivism to radical individualism; from atheism to a vague religious mysticism; from agnosticism to syncretism.

"Today, having a clear faith based on the Creed of the



CNS photo

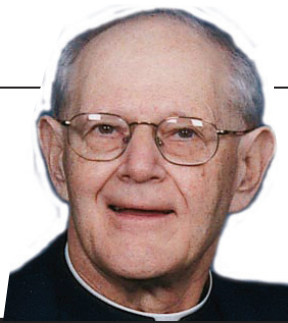
Pope Benedict XVI elevates the chalice during Mass at Yankee Stadium in New York April 20.

Church is often labeled as fundamentalism," he continued. "Whereas relativism, that is, letting oneself be tossed here and there, carried about by every wind of doctrine, seems the only attitude that can cope with modern times. We are building a 'dictatorship of relativism' that does not recognize anything as definite and whose ultimate goal consists solely of one's own ego and desires."

The day of that address, Cardinal Ratzinger had no idea that he would be elected to the papacy. He spoke as the dean of the College of Cardinals and as head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Without realizing it at the time,

## VOICES

By Rev. Msgr. John Gilchrist



Cardinal Ratzinger was setting the theme for his reign as Benedict XVI. This bishop who had personally experienced the collapse of Catholicism throughout Europe and the Western world was laying out a remedy for the recovery of this one, holy, Catholic and apostolic Church.

What he was advocating was nothing less than a complete return on the part of Catholics to the basic truth of faith. No more "trends" and "fashions." No more "subjectivism" and "relativism." All of the "isms" of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries had to be rejected.

On the day after his election, the new Pope said this: "Electing me as the Bishop of Rome, the Lord wanted me as His Vicar. He wished me to be the 'rock' upon which everyone may rest with confidence."

In watching and hearing him, we certainly know that the rock of Peter remains firm. We can stand on that rock and in the words of John Paul II, "never be afraid." The bark of Peter continues on its sure course through history to the eternal harbor.

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

## Healthcare

# Fritz Reuter offers continuing-care guidance

NORTH BERGEN—Fritz Reuter Lifecare Retirement Community, 3161 Kennedy Blvd., is a continuing-care facility bringing 110 years of experience to its residents. Directors

of the facility are experienced in dealing with concerns over costs and the many delicate family dynamics that occur when it comes to the care of senior citizens.

Continuing care represents an important phase in spectrum of healthcare services. Marketing Director Noreen Wendt said the most common reaction seniors have about deciding to move into a retirement community is: "I'm not ready yet."

"I tell them when they think they are ready it may be too late," Wendt cautioned. "Making the decision to move out of your house is very traumatic. However, if you move into a retirement community and then need to move again into a nursing home if 24-hour care is needed, it is very difficult especially after one has become acclimated to the community." She pointed out that Fritz Reuter

offers three levels of care (independent apartments; residential one- or two-room suites and 24-hour skilled nursing) to address the changing needs of individuals.

Fritz Reuter has healthcare alliances with Hoboken University Medical Center and Palisades General Hospital. Wendt explained that, because Fritz Reuter is tax exempt and non-profit, "it enables us to be very reasonable in cost."

Those in the independent apartments have meals in a main dining room, guest rooms are available as is housekeeping, laundry, transportation to shopping and a full range of activities. If circumstances make relocation to the residential facility necessary, it is connected to the apartment building. The residential facility has private rooms, meals as well as housekeeping and laundry services.

Medical assistance is provided at no additional cost, Wendt said. When someone moves into the residential unit, they drop their secondary health insurance because the Fritz Reuter

Community pays all medical bills, she said. If a resident needs assistance bathing, dressing, ambulation or medications, all that too is provided at no extra cost.

Guests in the 24-hour nursing-care section can move into either temporarily or on a permanent basis, where every need is addressed. Residents can enter directly into the nursing care

unit if around-the-clock care is needed. Such availability is offered at a very reasonable, one-time entrance fee and monthly service charge.

Healthcare specialists visit Fritz Reuter on a regular basis. In addition to the medical director, residents have access to a dentist, ophthalmologist, physical therapist, podiatrist, psychiatrist, psycholo-

gist, social worker, speech and occupational therapist as well as X-ray technicians. In addition, there is a complete recreational staff that addresses both physical and mental needs. Fritz Reuter also provides an extensive entertainment program and regularly scheduled trips to local shopping centers.

For additional information on programs and services or to schedule a tour, call Wendt at (201) 867-3585 or visit the facility's Web site ([www.fritzreuter.com](http://www.fritzreuter.com)).

## Allendale

Continued from page 3

cannot facilitate hospital agreements. Hopefully, this is a temporary setback, but I am very worried," Mysliwiec said.

NJCBB has doubled its collections from last year and in total, has 6,000 units so far between the Allendale and Camden facilities. Due to the NJ Catholic hospitals initiative, donations by minority populations have also increased, which leads to more financial strain. "Collecting and testing umbilical cord and placenta blood units is expensive. We have to cap collections this

year, which could be difficult because we have a relationship with these hospitals," Mysliwiec explained.

Todd is applying for grants around \$5 million for the next five years that would keep the program in the clear. Fundraisers, that include an annual gala and sports night with guest speakers, bring in money that goes toward the cord-blood program. "The program is costing \$2.5 million a year to run. It costs \$1,000 for each unit we collect," Todd said.

Although there are financial struggles for the cord-blood program, research and testing of the material continues to make strides in medicine. "Cord blood

is used to treat diseases such as leukemia and the medical community is looking into diabetes, sickle cell, and cerebral palsy treatment in the near future," Mysliwiec stated.

The material collected by the NJCBB is processed in Allendale and Camden and shipped all over the world to help those in need.

"The NJCBB has had 155 successful transplants and 50 percent of these transplants were given to children," according to Mysliwiec, adding there are many more medical breakthroughs to come. "We have achieved great things but we are stuck in hold until we get more funding," she said.



# Archdiocese to join global celebration of Saint Paul

## Mass at Cathedral June 29 to launch a yearlong focus

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE  
Editor

NEWARK—The Archdiocese of Newark will inaugurate its observance of the “Year of Saint Paul,” with a special noon Mass on the solemnity for Saints Peter and Paul, to be celebrated by Archbishop John J. Myers on Sunday, June 29, at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart. The worldwide celebration, proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI last year, will run from June 28 to June 29, 2009.

Church scholars believe St. Paul, a central figure in the New Testament, was born 2,000 years ago in Tarsus, in what is now Turkey, between the years A.D. 7 and 10. After his conversion on the road to Damascus, he turned from persecuting Christians and became one of the early Church’s leading evangelizers before his martyrdom in Rome.

Pope Benedict announced the Church’s Pauline year marking the 2,000th anniversary of the saint’s birth last June on the eve of the feast of saints Peter and Paul. The pontiff said the celebration year, to be marked by liturgies and events in Rome, should also be celebrated in dioceses around the world.

A pastoral letter issued last January by Bishop Michael A. Saltarelli of Wilmington, DE—who served as an auxiliary bishop in the Archdiocese of Newark and was a priest at Holy Family Parish in Nutley—calls upon the faithful to discern how best to study, pray and celebrate the life, inspired writing, spirituality and missionary spirit of St. Paul.

“St. Paul understood how sin works in human nature and how the Holy Spirit can completely transform habits of corruption,” Bishop Saltarelli wrote. “St. Paul also understood how to influence non-Christian and anti-Christian mindsets with charity so as to be able to be an instrument of another mind’s enlightenment. The best way that we can celebrate the Year of St. Paul is to go to the risen Lord and ask Him about what deep and intimate conversion of life He is calling us to.”

The Year of St. Paul offers a chance for Catholics to focus more attention on the Bible, Bishop Saltarelli declared. “Any investment in understanding and praying the Scriptures more deeply is at the same time an investment in a fuller, more active and conscious participation in our Catholic Mass and sacramental liturgies,” he said.

“The cross of Jesus Christ is at the center of all that Paul does,” Bishop Saltarelli continued, saying Paul’s ability to put the cross of Christ above temptations to egoism and pride is the “true source of his effectiveness.”

St. Paul’s proclamation in his First Letter to the Corinthians (“Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel”) reflects what Bishop Saltarelli said is one of Pope Benedict’s main goals for the Year of St. Paul: “to have every Roman Catholic hold up a mirror to their life and to ask: Am I as determined and as energetic about spreading the Catholic faith as St. Paul was?”

Most Rev. Thomas Collins, the Archbishop of Toronto, in an address last October, noted that St. Paul’s writings form a major portion of the New Testament and through them God reveals to us how to

live as individual disciples and a Christian community, as well as how to engage the world around us with a confident faith.

St. Paul stands out as a great individual, as a disciple who has had a profound personal experience of Christ, Archbishop Collins pointed out, “but it is clear from his life, as indeed from all of the Gospels and from the experience of the Church through the centuries, that the life of Christian discipleship is meant to be lived in community.”

Jesus established a community, chose the 12 apostles from them and gathered them in a communal meal the night before He suffered, Archbishop Collins explained. “Jesus appeared to the community of disciples after His resurrection, and sent the Holy Spirit upon them at Pentecost. The Acts of the Apostles, which tells us of the apostolic adventures of Paul, also shows us the life of the early Christian communities.

“In Paul’s letters we see the affection he had for the various communities he established and visited; after all, most of his letters are to communities,” he continued. “When Christians act in the spirit of St. Paul, they share generously with others, especially the most needy, the time, talent, and treasure, which are gifts of God. They are actively engaged in the life of the parish and of the wider Church. This is what is meant by Christian stewardship.”

(Father Thomas A. Dente, the director of the Archdiocesan Office of Divine Worship, and Catholic News Service provided information for this article.)



CNS photo

A statue of Saint Paul dominates a corner of the street that bears his name in Valletta, the Republic of Malta. St. Paul is the patron of the tiny Mediterranean island off the southern coast of Italy. According to tradition, the saint evangelized there for three months after being shipwrecked. He was said to have converted the Roman governor, Publius, who went on to become the first bishop of Malta and was named a saint.

## Annual tea honors Legacy Circle members

BY WARD MIELE  
Managing Editor

NEWARK—Twenty members of the Legacy Circle Planned Giving Society, including Archbishop John J. Myers and Archbishop Emeritus Peter L. Gerety, were recognized April 22 at the annual Legacy Circle Prayer Service and Tea.

Archbishop Myers conducted the afternoon prayer service in The Lady Chapel of the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart prior to the tea in his residence. The event, he said, is held “in gratitude and recognition of all those who have a strong Catholic faith, who believe in the future of the Archdiocese of Newark and who want to pass that legacy of Catholic faith on to future generations.”

Bill Evans, executive director of Major Gifts and Planned Giving, presented each Legacy Circle member with a certificate, special recognition pin and commemorative medal, featuring the Legacy Circle insignia. Archbishop Myers made the presentation to Archbishop Gerety.

Legacy Circle members recognized this year were Margaret Barbour Gilbert, Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark; Rosemarie Brodeur, Saint James Parish, Springfield; Helen Cahill, Saint Joseph Parish, Maplewood; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Chapmen, Saint Cassian Parish, Upper Montclair; Antoinette Chiaro and Adele Ciccone, both of Sacred Heart Parish, Lyndhurst; Eileen J. Connolly, Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, Newark; Frank E. Dascenza, Our Lady of Grace Parish, Fairview; Dot Hagemann, Our Lady of Peace Parish, New Providence; Dr. and Mrs. Ervin E. and Judith Lepko, Saint Cecilia Parish, Englewood; Mary Rogers, Our Lady of the Visitation Parish, Paramus; John Salvato, Holy Trinity Parish, Westfield; Marilyn Stellato, Saint Raphael Parish, Livingston; Mr. and Mrs. Joseph and Carol Trovato, Holy Spirit Parish, Union and John Wodzanowski, Jr., Saint Paul the Apostle Parish, Jersey City.

For additional information about the Legacy Circle or about planned giving options to the Archdiocese of Newark, contact Anne DeVivo DeMesa, director of Planned Giving, by phone at (973) 497-4048 or e-mail at demesaan@rcan.org.



Submitted photo

Archbishop John J. Myers (left) welcomed Legacy Circle members for tea on April 22. The Legacy Circle honors individuals who have remembered the Archdiocese of Newark or their parish through a planned gift or in their wills.



# Pastor's 'push' motivates, connects diverse flock

BY MELISSA MCNALLY  
Staff Writer

The first Mass at Saint Francis of Assisi Parish was celebrated in July 1890 in a newly built structure of wood and brick. Father James Flannagan was appointed resident pastor in 1900. Far ahead of his time, Fr. Flannagan involved the laity in the parish decisions and set an ecumenical tone for his Catholic community, encouraging cooperation with other denominations in the area.

The parish also founded a school in 1890 and in 1912, a new church and school was built to accommodate parish growth. Three years later, the Sisters of Charity came to teach in the newly constructed elementary school. In 1930, due to increasing population, the cornerstone for the current church building was laid and a year later, Mass was celebrated in the new church.

Under the parish's fourth pastor, Father James M. Coyle, 1,000 students were enrolled in Saint Francis of Assisi School and another 1,000 students were in the religious education program. Associate pastors were added to the parish and a new convent and rectory were built as an addition to the school.

In the 1970s, renovation to the church to meet the directives of Vatican Council II was completed by an expansion and more lay involvement. Ongoing repairs and improvements to the physical plant followed, even as the spiritual life was enhanced by new programs, ministries and pastoral council.

"The parish's ethnicity is a combination of European, Asian and Hispanic descent. There is no one predominate nationality, but we do have a growing Spanish population," Father Eugene J. Field, the current pastor, explained. "We have a core of long-time parishioners and have been recently witnessing an influx of young families with diverse backgrounds."

Fr. Field is impressed by the generous spirit of the parish. "I am happy to have been assigned here and to have the opportunity to work with such a diverse group of people. The parish has many gifted and talented people who are willing to share with others their gift of faith," Fr. Field said. "I have learned a great deal about our Lord and myself from working and worshiping with them. I consider myself to be

very blessed by the opportunity to serve them."

The parish has an active community, with the parish feast and international dinner being the highlights of the year. Usually held in late September or early October, the parish feast unites the Ridgefield Park community and involves months of planning by dedicated volunteers.

"Members of the feast committee meet on a monthly basis," Fr. Field stated. "We also have an appreciation dinner every January for all the parish volunteers. This past January almost 150 people gathered for an evening of music and good food."

Committees such as the men and women's societies, youth prayer groups and liturgical groups create a vibrant parish. Young people also play an important role in parish activities. The senior high youth ministry program has about 40 members who meet on Wednesdays. The junior high program, open to middle school students, has more than 30 members.

Saint Francis of Assisi Elementary School continues to educate the community while instilling Catholic virtues and encouraging a spirit of volunteerism. Approximately 70 percent of the 261 students are

parishioners involved in parish liturgies through the Saturday evening folk group or one of the four bell choirs.

Led by the Principal, Sister Patricia Miedhof, S.C., the students have received awards in art, writing and basketball competitions. The religious education program at the parish, led by Constance Sheehan, is also flourishing with 302 students with 24 lay catechists and 20 aides who teach on Sunday mornings and Monday evenings.

Fr. Field believes it is the commitment of his parishioners that makes his parish a special community. "As our parish history states, 'memory and heritage are important to the parish.' We have many parishioners who have spent their entire lives here and many more who feel that no matter where they live, Saint Francis is their parish."

Gloria Esau, a parishioner of 16 years who was drawn back to Saint Francis of Assisi Parish after living in Teaneck, has a deep-rooted connection to her home parish. "We really are a community and we rely on each other. Fr. Field really brings people together," she said.

As a member of the parish council, parish feast committee, and CCD teacher, Esau believes having Fr. Field as pastor increases the atmosphere of fellowship. "Our pastor encourages volunteerism," she said. "More lay people volunteer and step up. I am currently working on earning a master's degree in religious education and Fr. Field is a big supporter. He pushes people."

Sue McAllister, head of the parish council for the past seven years, agrees that Fr. Field is a great influence on the parish's familial spirit. "He is just marvelous," she said. "Fr. Field is extremely energetic and has a good vision for the church. He is looking to enhance the

## Meet the Pastor



Father Eugene J. Field

**Birthday:** April 30, 1964  
**Hometown:** Bergenfield  
**High School:** Bergenfield High School  
**Seminary:** Immaculate Conception  
**Undergraduate:** University of Dayton, OH  
**Graduate School:** Seton Hall University  
**Ordination:** May 28, 1994  
**Heroes:** Early Christians  
**Favorite Saint:** Saint Jerome  
**Favorite Sport:** Hiking  
**Favorite Food:** Anything homemade  
**Favorite Subject in School:** History  
**Favorite Movie:** "The Mission"  
**Last Book Read:** The First World War  
**Occupation if I Weren't a Priest:** Historian

spiritual experience."

The parish events draw the community even closer together, McAllister believes. "I have been going to the Saint Francis Feast since I was a child; people just love it. During the international dinner, all the ethnic groups come together and there is food and music. We have a lot of fun at this parish."

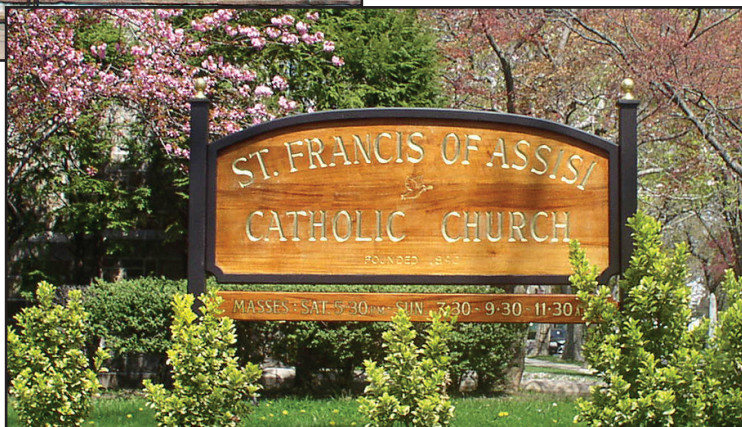
In the future, McAllister hopes that her parish continues to be as vibrant as it is today. "People really are like a family here; we genuinely, sincerely care about each other. We are fortunate to have the priests we have had. The parish is connected spiritually and everyone is supportive. Here, there is always someone to talk to. It is our responsibility, as parishioners, to keep Saint Francis as vibrant as it is and always was."

*St. Francis of Assisi Parish is located at 114 Mt. Vernon St., 07660. Masses are: Saturday 5:30 p.m.; Sunday 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m., and 12:30 p.m. Call (201) 641-6464 for more information.*



Submitted photos

Saint Francis of Assisi, an active community of 1,500 families, celebrates its diversity every year with an international dinner. The feast and carnival brings the community together with ethnic food, rides, games and booths selling handmade crafts. Father Eugene Field has been pastor for three years and parishioners applauded his ability to inspire volunteerism.



*Saint Francis of Assisi, Ridgefield Park*



## Reading center plans courses

LODI—The Felician Reading Center, 260 South Main St., has scheduled reading improvement courses for primary and intermediate elementary school students June 30 through July 31.

Preliminary testing is under way and will continue through June 12. Classes do not exceed eight students, who are grouped according to specific need and ability levels.

For additional information call Sister Mary Delphine between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday at (973) 473-7447.



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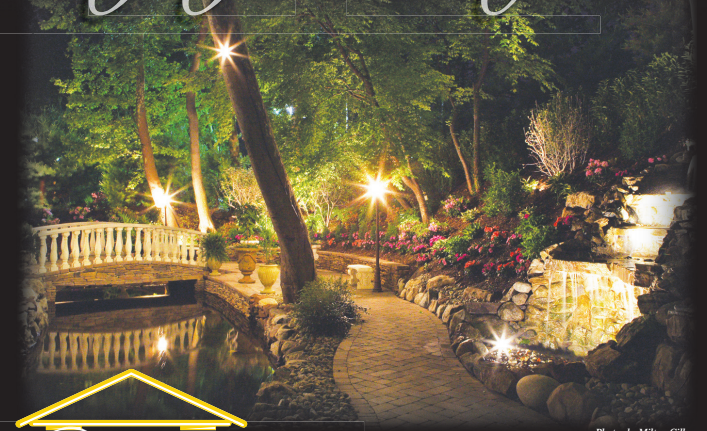
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Photos by Milton Gill



## Bear visits Paramus Catholic High School

PARAMUS—Police officials from three jurisdictions spent four hours in and around the wooded campus of Paramus Catholic High School on April 24 trying to locate and finally tranquilizing a wayward 345-pound Black bear.

Paramus Catholic President James P. Vail said the school's safety officer called at about 8:15 a.m. with a

message that a bear had been spotted in the campus neighborhood. Police from Paramus and Ridgewood as well as the Bergen County Sheriff's Department responded to the scene and set up a command post. Eventually, K-9 units cornered the bear near a fence at the school's stadium bleachers. The big critter was tranquilized, taken to Sussex County and released.



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Submitted photo

**YOUTH GROUPS JOIN FORCES**—The youth groups from Our Lady of Lourdes Parish and Saint Joseph Parish, both in West Orange, re-enacted the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. Taking part were, left to right Akshay Mampilly, Daniel Shelly, Eric T.B. Lomotey, Christopher Petrillo, Carl Ianero, Michael Cunningham, Katie Davenport, Brittney Dillion and Yola Mossaud. At the top left is Michael Petrillo, youth minister.

## St. Helen's May 18 raffle to aid Sr. Pat's Kid Camp

WESTFIELD—Saint Helen's Parish, 1600 Rahway Ave., will host its annual Sister Pat's Kid Camp super raffle—a drawing for \$15,000 that will be held after the 10:45 a.m. Mass on Sunday, May 18.

Christine McCoid, Saint Helen's community coordinator, is directing the raffle. Contact Saint Helen's at (908) 232-1214 for more information on the raffle or Sister Pat's Kids Camp.

Saint Helen's Catholic Community ministry supports the camp each year at Mid-Hudson Valley Camp, located along the Hudson River in Esopus, NY. The camp assists children stricken with cancer or blood disorders. Saint Helen CYO high school students attend the camp as support staff.

In addition to the raffle, a charity basketball tournament, held March 16 and directed by Westfield resident Jamie Marner, raised over \$2,000 for the camp. Over 80 fourth graders participated in the tournament, representing student athletes from Saint Helen's CYO team, Holy Trinity Parish CYO Green and White teams, Holy Trinity School team and the Westfield White and Black Garden State Travel teams.

The Holy Trinity Parish CYO Green team coached by Steve Criscuolo and Bill Fitzpatrick, won the tournament championship by defeating Westfield White, coached by Rick Varakian and Mike O'Connor.

"I thank all the enthusiastic volunteers, donors, officials, families and players for supporting this event," Marner said. "We raised \$2,020 thanks to the generosity of the participants and sponsors." Marner offered special thanks to Msgr. Bill Harms, the pastor of Saint Helen Parish, and Msgr. Joseph Masiello the pastor of Holy Trinity Parish.

## Energetic volunteer Vogt gets applause from Rotary

AREA—The Edison Rotary Club recently honored Will Vogt, a parishioner at Saint Bernard of Clairveaux and Saint Stanislaus Parish in Plainfield, for his volunteerism. The group presented Vogt with its "Senior of the Month" award.

"One of the most rewarding things I do is volunteer, whether it is at my church, at my school, or in my community," Vogt said during the Rotary award ceremony.

At his parish, Vogt has volunteered in 30-hour fasts to raise money to distributing food for the needy at the state food bank in Hillside, while on Sundays he is an altar server, lector and Eucharistic minister. Since 2001 he has served as a "student ambassador" at the Wardlaw-Hartridge School in Edison. Working for the school's admission office, Vogt gives tours and speeches to prospective families during open houses.

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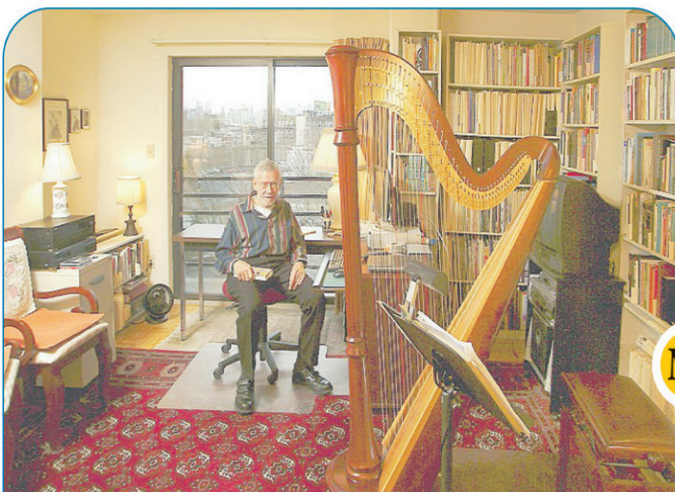
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# St. Thomas plans Neptune retreats

BLOOMFIELD—The Ministry of Spiritual Direction at Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish will hold two retreats this summer in Neptune, located on the Jersey Shore.

The retreat sessions will take place June 26-29 and July 3-6 at The Upper Room Spiritual Center, which is located on Bangs Avenue, five miles from the beach. To reach the town of Neptune, use

exit 100B on the Garden State Parkway.

The summer retreats will include meals, private rooms and private meetings with a spiritual director. There is an offering of \$225.

Reservations are limited. For additional information call Anna Graziano at (973) 338-9538. St. Thomas Parish is located at 60 Byrd Ave. Very Rev. Charles J. Miller, V.F., is the pastor of St. Thomas.

*The Archdiocese Of Newark*

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CA 5-7-08



Submitted photo

**ARBOR DAY**—Under the guidance of third grade teacher Deanna DeVenzenas, students at Visitation Academy in Paramus participated in a Seedling Care Project, sponsored by the State Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Parks and Forestry. Each student received a seedling to take home and care for. They were also required to research and write an essay on how to properly care for trees, why trees are important to the environment and the many uses for tree.



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## Endowment founders get award for leadership

**SOUTH ORANGE**—Pearl and Seymour Lehrhoff, founding members of Seton Hall University's (SHU) Sister Rose Thering Endowment, received the "Humanitarians of the Year" award for their leadership, dedication and service to the endowment and the surrounding community at the 15th annual "Evening of Roses," which was held last month in the Jubilee Hall auditorium on the SHU campus.

A spokesman for the endowment said the Lehrhoff's leadership, scholarship, empathy, sensitivity and support for the endowment are the reasons they received the award. "Since its inception in 1993 both Pearl and Seymour have made great efforts to ensure the endowment became the outstanding program that it is today," the spokesman stated.

In addition to being members of the endowment's executive committee, Pearl Lehrhoff is an associate commissioner on the National Board of the Anti-Defamation League, life member of the New Jersey Regional Board of ADL, former president of B'nai B'rith Women of South Orange/Maplewood and has been involved in other women's organizations in Essex County.

Seymour Lehrhoff served on the United Jewish Appeal (UJA) Federation in Millburn, Short Hills, Irvington, and Springfield. He was vice president of B'nai B'rith of Millburn for many years and became president of Congregation B'nai Israel in Millburn in 1961 and served until 1965.

The Lehrhoffs said their work in helping to create the Sister Rose Thering Endowment is a highlight of their lives.

Rabbi Matthew D. Gewirtz, Senior Rabbi of Congregation B'nai Jeshurun in Short Hills, spoke about interreligious understanding that "connects us with our Christian brothers and sisters."

The program for the 15th anniversary event focused on Sister Rose's legacy through presentations from Dr. Paul Winkler, executive director of the New Jersey Commission for Holocaust Education; teachers who have graduated from the SHU Department of Jewish-Christian Studies and their own students; and Dr. David Coppola, a former student of Sister Rose.



Submitted photo

**PAPAL TOUR OBSERVERS**—Holy Family Academy in Bayonne was well represented during the recent visit of Pope Benedict XVI. Senior Paloma deLeon and her family were invited to the White House welcome for the pontiff, while Jennifer Grzegorzewski attended the Mass at Yankee Stadium. Among the thousands who attended a youth rally at Saint Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers were academy students (front row, left to right) Gabrielle Figueroa, April Canete Samantha Kraszyk, Jillian Wilkowski (back row) Kathleen Figueroa, Taylor Marek, Bridget Ward, Melissa Nolan and Kimberly Conover.



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# Bok recalls horrors of Sudan slave trade

BY MEGHAN DUNN

Special to The Catholic Advocate

Francis Bok, formerly a slave in Sudan, knows he needs to do more than just talk about his experiences as a slave; he knows he needs to take action. Bok, who travels throughout North America speaking about the existence of slavery in today's world, has recently returned from Sudan, his first visit since his escape in 1996.

"I cried most of my time there, but my tears cannot change anything," he said to a group of nearly 200 in the Alumni Theater at Caldwell College on April 23.

He challenged those in attendance "sitting in freedom and comfort" to take action and help the millions that are still enslaved and living in poverty. Bok, citing an astonishing statistic, noted there are an estimated 27 million people enslaved throughout the world.

In 1986, Bok was living in the village of Nyamlell in southern Sudan selling eggs and peanuts for his mother in the market,

when Sudanese militia stormed his village killing the men and taking the women and children to be slaves.

At the age of seven, Bok was taken north, became a slave and was forced to tend to hundreds of goats and later cattle without pay. If he lost one of the animals or if his owner did not think that they were being taken care of, Bok would be beaten. It was difficult for Bok to keep track of so many animals since he had never learned to count past 10. He was fed rotten scraps of food and was made to sleep on the ground with the cattle.

Ten years later, Bok finally escaped and gained refugee status so that he could come to America. His book, "Escape From Slavery: The True Story of My Ten Years in Captivity and My Journey to Freedom in America" documents his harrowing experience in slavery and his journey to America.

When asked by a member of the audience what got him through his 10 years of slavery, Bok said there were several fac-

tors—first and foremost was his Catholic faith that his mother instilled in him. "I had no one to love me and no one to laugh with," he recalled. Even when he was alone taking care of the animals or being beaten by his master, he knew that "God was watching over him."

Another factor was that "I don't like to lose" and he wasn't going to lose to his master, Bok declared. He said it was his father's faith in him that made him believe that he could make it through the ordeal of slavery. Bok's father had a nickname for his son in their native language that meant "12 men," because his father believed that Bok would accomplish in his lifetime what 12 men could do.

Bok is certainly living up to his father's expectations. He is returning to Sudan in June, with the hope of building a well in the village where he was raised. The well, which costs \$11,000, will bring clean water to the community.

Recognizing the need to promote and encourage education in

Sudan, Bok lamented that children in his village are only educated to seventh grade and even then, the teachers are volunteers who have only a limited education themselves. The volunteer teachers told Bok: please go back to America and tell them we need help. He quoted them saying, "Do not abandon us, like we have been abandoned by the international community for the last 20 years."

Bok also is set on building a simple school in the village to provide a basic education to the young people who don't currently have the tools needed to help themselves. He is also working to promote peace and reconciliation in Sudan. Bok told those in attendance that any help they could give would make a world of difference to those living in such dire conditions, such as spreading the word and making people aware that slavery still exists.

Considering the brutal horrors he has experienced during his young life, Bok said he continues to find inspiration in the Old Testament story of the Israelite



Francis Bok

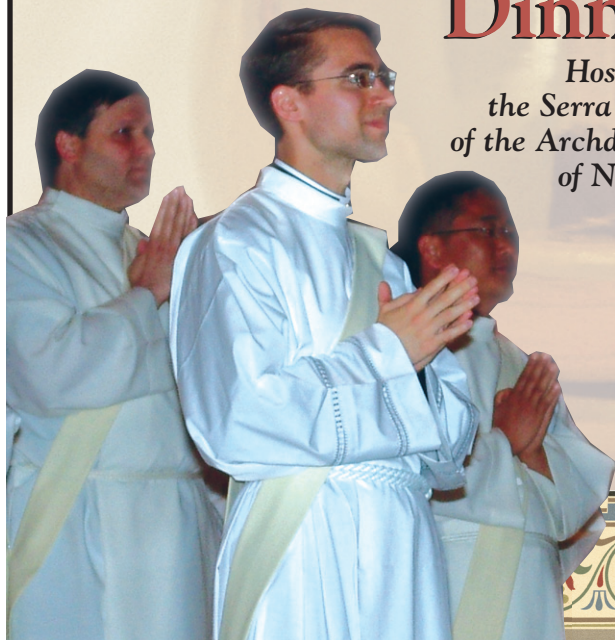
Advocate photo – Pushparaj Aitwal

slaves escaping from Egypt and crossing the Red Sea after God parted the waters through Moses so that they could enter the Promised Land. Mourning the fact that slavery still exists in the modern world, Bok referenced this Bible passage saying: "the sea has not yet parted for my people."

(Editor's note: Boonton resident Meghan Dunn is a junior and communications/journalism major at Caldwell College.)

## The Fifty-Fourth Annual Archbishop's Vocations Fund Dinner

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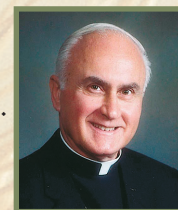
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# Investors Bank opens its doors to assist disadvantaged youths

NEWARK—The Investors Savings Bank Charitable Foundation, which supports not-for-profit, community-enrichment programs in the neighborhoods the bank serves, has awarded a \$24,000 grant to the archdiocesan Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children (SFIC).

SFIC offers scholarship programs that make it possible for disadvantaged children of low-income families to attend Catholic high schools. Many of these students come from challenging urban environments and are exposed to the threats of street crime, narcotics and gang violence.

The foundation grant, which has supported the SFIC in the past, will bring the total number of high school scholarships funded by the bank to four. Each student will receive a four-year education in a safe, nurturing environment that stresses academic excellence, personal responsibility and strong moral values.

“Parochial schools, which rely on tuition fees and receive no public funding, provide underserved children with the tools they need to become healthy, productive members of society,” Lorraine Cunningham, executive director of SFIC, explained. “The generosity of donors like the Investors Savings Bank Charitable Foundation makes a profound difference in the lives of families in need.”

The foundation also has provided grant funding to other parochial schools in the Newark Archdiocese. A \$10,000 grant to Saint James the Apostle School, Springfield, will upgrade the facility’s computer lab, while a \$5,000 grant to Saint Vincent Academy will support a fundraising campaign that will enable the school to continue providing tuition aid and scholarship support to needy students.

“We are very grateful to the Investors Savings Bank Charitable Foundation for recognizing the value of a Saint Vincent Academy education to young, urban women of limited means but great potential,” said Sister June Favata, the academy’s administrative director.

“The Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children and the parochial schools it supports are opening doors for young men and women who might otherwise not have an opportunity to thrive and succeed,” noted Kevin Cummings, president and chief executive officer of Investors Savings Bank, who also serves on the foundation’s board of trustees. “We’re proud to partner with them in making this possible.”

# Knights’ ‘Shield’ to honor courageous public servants

RAMSEY—The Rev. Patrick Pindar Council 3962, Knights of Columbus, will hold its 31st annual Shield Awards ceremony May 16, 7 p.m., at the group’s Council Hall, 48 Mechanic St.

This year’s recipients are Bruce G. Greenwood, Ramsey Ambulance Corps; Capt. Randy Sterbinski, Ramsey Fire Department; Ralph Venturini, senior planner, Ramsey Office of Emergency Management; Police Sgt. John E. McIntyre; and Ramsey Rescue Squad Capt. Richard K. Mauser II.

“It is an honor to again be able to recognize our public safety personnel who do such an excellent job safeguarding our residents,” Grand Knight Joseph Reap said, announcing the awards. “They perform a dangerous and demanding task, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.”

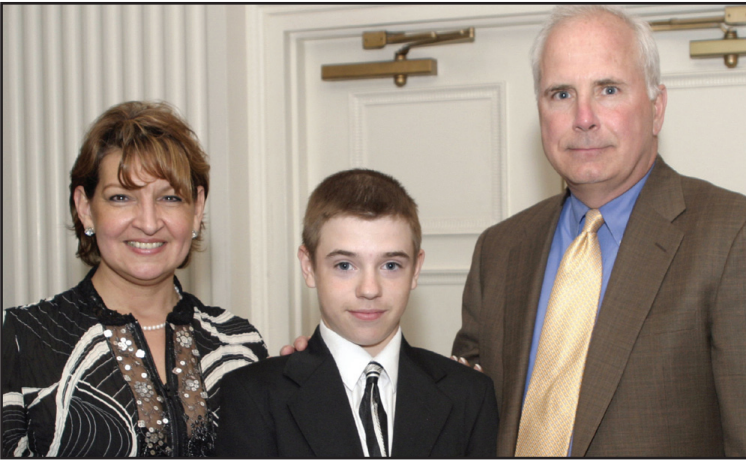
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Ada Melendez (left) and Kevin Cummings (right) of Investors Savings Bank, whose charitable foundation has awarded a \$24,000 grant to the archdiocese’s Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children, are pictured with Justin Dziedzic, one of several scholarship recipients.

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Mixing another batch of chocolate chip cookies to raise funds to help Haitian families are, left to right, Peter Groppe, Alicia and Rachel Furlan and Ben Groppe.



Submitted photo

## St. Rose of Lima students assist families in Haiti

SHORT HILLS—Earlier this year, as part of their Lenten preparations, the children at Saint Rose of Lima Academy were asked by their principal, Dr. Karen Fasanella, to raise money for Food For the Poor's "Operation Starfish" program.

Mission accomplished.

"This year our 245 students

raised \$3,615, which is \$1,015 over last year's accomplishment," Fasanella said. "I am very proud of all the students at Saint Rose of Lima Academy (Web site: [www.stroseoflima.net](http://www.stroseoflima.net)). "Time and again they prove their love for those less fortunate."

Funds raised by the students went to aid impoverished families

living in Haiti. Last year students from Pre-K3 through eighth grade raised \$2,600. It was enough to build the Fleur Family a home of their own.

Peter Groppe from the second grade and third graders Alicia Furlan, Rachel Furlan and Ben Groppe took this fund-raising task very seriously and decided to sell hot chocolate and cookies to people shoveling snow during the last winter storm. They passed out flyers bearing the slogan: "Lick your Lips—Love your Neighbor" and together with their parent match, they raised \$150.



Meanwhile, Pre-K4 student James Reinke painted and sold sea shells to raise funds. "When James brought his box in, he could barely manage it as it was so full of coins and bills," Fasanella said. "This little boy truly understood the sacrifice. I wish everyone could have witnessed the look on his face. He had such joy in his selfless sacrifices."

Food For The Poor (Web site: [www.foodforthe poor.org](http://www.foodforthe poor.org)) is an interdenominational ministry that not only provides food for those in need, but also builds small houses for the destitute, digs clean water wells for villagers, provides medicine and medical equipment for the sick and elderly, supports orphanages and supports education for children.

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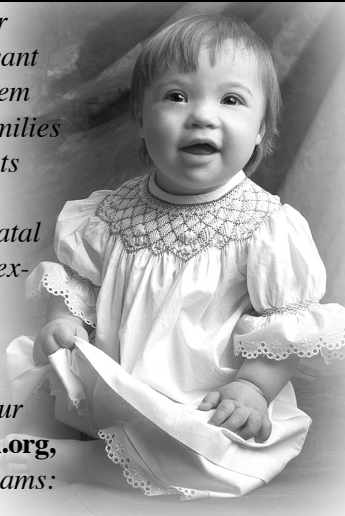
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Advocate photo — M. Gabriele

**GOLF OUTING**—The fourth annual Chancery Golf Outing, sponsored by the Archdiocese of Newark, will be held Monday, May 12, at the Knoll Country Club, 990 Greenbank Rd. (West Knoll and Greenbank roads), Parsippany. Steve Belloise, the executive director of the archdiocesan Property Management Administration, pictured on the Parsippany links, said the fund-raising event will begin 10:30 a.m. with registration and a brunch buffet, followed by a “shotgun” tee off. Following the golf action, there will be a cocktail hour, dinner and an awards ceremony. Call (973) 497-4136 for more information.

## Fr. Squeo receives award for role as a peacemaker

JERSEY CITY—Father Eugene P. Squeo, a member of the team ministry at Saint Patrick and Assumption/All Saints Parish, was honored during a recent Pax Christi New Jersey Assembly held at Saint Patrick’s School.

Father Squeo, known for his interfaith dialogue efforts throughout the Archdiocese of Newark, was recognized as last year’s recipient of the “Dorothy Parker Peacemaker Award” for his work with the Haiti Solidarity Network of the Northeast and the North Jersey Regional Coalition Immigrants Rights Task Force. State Assemblyman Harvey Smith presented Father Squeo with a commendation for his work on behalf of peace and justice issues.

Pax Christi USA is a national Catholic peace movement with more than a half million members including 130 bishops, 800 parish sponsors, 650 religious communities and 300 local groups. It is an affiliate of Pax Christi International (Web site: [www.paxchristi.net](http://www.paxchristi.net)), the international Catholic peace movement with consultative status at the United Nations.

Bishop Thomas Gumbelton, longtime activist in the international peace movement and founding bishop and president of Pax Christi USA, called on Catholics to “simplify their lives and take action for justice” during his keynote address.

Speaking on the theme “We Suffer and Rejoice with our Brothers and Sisters,” Bishop Gumbelton cited the food crisis in Haiti that he contrasted to the wealth and consumption in the United States and the rest of the world. Those who have so much more, he declared, “must recognize they are living unjustly.” Throughout his speech, Bishop Gumbelton—a recipient of an honorary degree from Seton Hall University Law School—cited the United Nations “Universal Declaration of Human Rights,” which was enacted 60 years ago.

## Metuchen to host pastoral musicians

METUCHEN—The Diocese of Metuchen will host the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM) Eastern Regional Convention June 30-July 3 at the Hilton East Brunswick Hotel, 3 Tower Center.

This year’s theme is “In the Midst of Change, Jesus Christ the Same, Yesterday, Today and Forever” (Heb. 13:8). Sister Carol Perry, S.U.,

will give the opening address at the convention.

Choir members, youth musicians, cantors, organists, choir directors, instrumentalists, clergy and all music ministers are encouraged to attend. For additional information on the conference go to the Web site [www.npm.org](http://www.npm.org) or contact Dan Mahoney by phone at (908) 756-0633, ext. 39 or via e-mail at [Dan410@aol.com](mailto:Dan410@aol.com).

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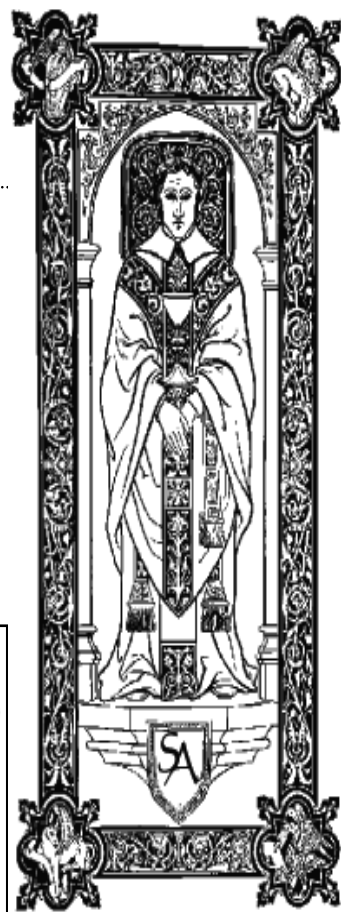
Sunday: 7:30 a.m. • 9:00 a.m. • 11:00 a.m. (High Mass)  
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## NOVENAS

#### NOVENA TO ST. JUDE

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

B.W.

#### PRAYER TO ST. JUDE

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

B.W.

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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.

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J.M.

#### ST. THERESA

Oh Glorious Saint Theresa, whom almighty God has raised up to aid and counsel mankind. I invite your miraculous intercession. So powerful are you obtaining every need of body and soul, our Holy Mother Church proclaims you a "Prodigy of Miracles." Now fervently I beseech you to answer my petition (mention here) and carry out your promise of doing good upon earth of letting fall from heaven a shower of roses. Henceforth, Dear little flower, I will fulfill your plea to be made known everywhere and I will never cease to lead others to Jesus through you. Amen. (Say prayer everyday for 9 days. By 4th day, ask for a sign. If prayers are to be answer. Between 4th and 9th day, you will see arose in magazine, TV picture or receive roses. You can also get a strong scent of roses in home even if no roses present. Must promise publication. Thank you.)

A.W.

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

P.H.

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T.S.

#### PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

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

L.F.

#### PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

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

A.W.

#### NOVENA TO ST. JUDE

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

E.D.

#### PRAYER TO ST. CLAIRE

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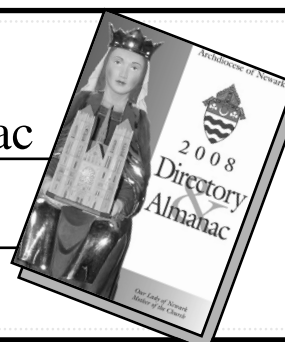
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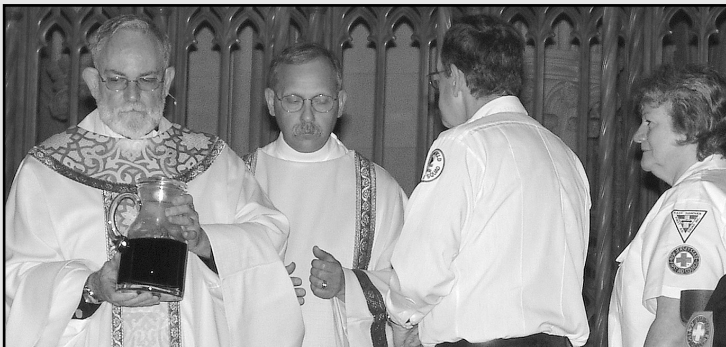
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# Prayers honor brave first responders

**LIFESAVERS SALUTED**—Msgr. Richard Arnhols, (left), pastor of Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Bergenfield and Archdiocesan Vicar for Pastoral Life, celebrated the annual Mass in honor of Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and paramedics on Sunday afternoon, April 27 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark. In his homily Msgr. Arnhols told of the “reassuring” sound of EMT first responders on their way to a call and cited them for the “dedication, sacrifice and joy” they bring to their demanding, high-stress jobs. Msgr. Arnhols is a regular columnist for *The Catholic Advocate*.

Advocate photo – Ward Miele



## Lectures to explore end-of-life questions

**RIDGEWOOD**—End-of-life issues as they relate to medicine and the law will be explored in a three-part lecture series this month co-sponsored by the Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology and the International Catholic Lawyers' Society, New Jersey Chapter.

Part of the theology school's Spirituality and Ethics Lecture Series, the forum will take place on consecutive Thursdays—May 8, 15 and 22—from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish.

Father John Grimm, S.T.L., J.D., associate professor of Ethics at the School of Theology, will lead the lecture series.

The spirituality of accepting declining health, physical limitations and suffering while preparing for the dying process and death all within the authentic Christian outlook toward death will be the topic on May 8. The ethics of end-of-life decisions will be explored May 15 in the context of Church teachings. Focal points will be the Christian understanding of true human dignity.

At the final lecture May 22, insights will be offered on the legal aspects when a life is coming to an end, exploring topics such as patient rights, advance directives, statutory laws and an understanding of natural law and its application to man-made law.

The fee for each individual lecture is \$10 or \$25 for all three. Pre-registration is suggested. Contact Deborah Kurus by phone at (973) 313-6329 or via e-mail at [kurusdeb@shu.edu](mailto:kurusdeb@shu.edu) for more information.

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Submitted photo

Bishop Edgar da Cunha (center) gives his blessing at a Mass marking the 100th anniversary of Oratory Prep. Concelebrating was Father Paul Prevosto, the school's chaplain and religion teacher.

## Bishop da Cunha marks milestone at Oratory

SUMMIT—"Mission is as needed today as it was 100 years ago," Bishop Edgar da Cunha, Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, declared in his homily at a Mass celebrating the centennial of Oratory Preparatory School.

Over 250 students, faculty and adults attended the Mass concelebrated by Oratory's chaplain and religion teacher, Father Paul Prevosto.

Bishop da Cunha told those at the Mass that they are part of that mission "of passing on values of Church and faith to build a world of love and forgiveness."

Marlene Kostka, interim head of Oratory Prep, thanked Bishop da Cunha for his words of encouragement.

Oratory Prep originally was founded as Carlton Academy, a day/boarding school with 20 students. In 1924 it took on its present name. Highlights of the school's past 100 years include addition of the Bain Academic Building, a computer laptop program launched six years ago and major renovations in 2003-04 that transformed the school into a state-of-the-art facility.

## Holy Angels will download 'e-cycling' forum May 10

DEMAREST—Academy of the Holy Angels (AHA) will host an electronic waste recycling forum on Saturday, May 10 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. GreenFaith, Per Scholas and the AHA GO GREEN! Environmental Club will serve as sponsors for the event.

Executive committee members of the GO GREEN! club include juniors Bianca Monaco, Claire Quinn, Anna Reuter, Megan Khan-Karen and sophomore Christine Vuolo.

"We all have electronic equipment like cell phones, cameras and iPods that no longer work. Donating them to the drive not only helps us, but benefits the people who recondition them and the people who receive them. And it's good for our planet too," Monaco pointed out, urging a wide participation for the forum.

Computers and electronics contain hazardous substances such as lead and mercury. They are often disposed in dumps or sent to at-risk communities around the world for disassembly, exposing workers, communities and the environment to toxic waste. Reuter said many times the electronic devices are disposed of by burning—producing toxic fumes which are released into the environment, causing breathing problems for everyone, especially children.

Recyclable devices include computers, laptops, monitors, printers, fax machines, cell phones, radios, calculators, copiers, switches, DVD players, VCRs and standard telephones. Items collected at the forum will go to Per Scholas, which works to bring affordable technology to disadvantaged communities, trains unemployed adults as computer technicians and provides environmentally responsible recycling of electronic waste.

Per Scholas asks that donations are accompanied by a small monetary amount (a suggested range is \$5 to \$20) to help cover the cost of transportation, recycling and job training. Contact Jillane Miroddi, AHA director of communications, at (201) 768-7822, ext. 244 for details on the program.

## St. Joseph taps into 'Power' on Internet

WEST NEW YORK—Saint Joseph of the Palisades High School is ramping up "Power School," a new technology designed to improve parent-teacher communication.

Power School is an Internet-based program that allows a parent to obtain up-to-the-minute information on how their student is performing in the classroom.

Parents simply log on to the school's website and go to a password protected list of their child's classes to see what grades have been received and assignments that are due. Parents can also receive reminders of upcoming school events and can send an e-mail to a particular teacher. Parents also can have grades and assignments sent to them on a regular basis via e-mail.

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### Week 2 Classes

**July 14-17** featuring Dobie Moser and Leisa Anslinger; Rev. Patrick Collins; Dr. Dennis Doyle; Dr. Megan McKenna; and Dr. Lucinda Mosher

**July 14-17** "Life Through Death,"  
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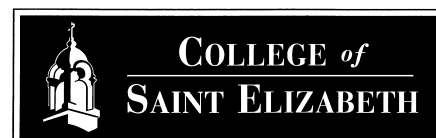
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# New Jersey falls short on charity care

BY GARY S. CARTER

Special to The Catholic Advocate

I can't go anywhere these days without someone asking me: "What's going on with our hospitals?" The question is prompted by the spate of hospital closures and bankruptcies in recent months.

More and more New Jersey communities are seeing their local hospitals struggle under a number of growing pressures.

For example, in 2007 and into this year, New Jersey has lost five acute-care hospitals. Five others have filed for bankruptcy protection. In addition, three hospitals have closure plans pending. Of the

state's remaining 77 hospitals, nearly half are losing money.

The reasons for these financial difficulties are numerous and complicated. However, one of the greatest contributing factors is the lack of government support for charity care. The term "charity care" has a specific meaning in New Jersey. Charity care is not simply free care for the poor. Our state is one of very few in the nation where charity care is a specific mandate written in state law. Most other states operate their own public hospitals that are designated to care for the poor and uninsured. In New Jersey, all hospitals treat all comers, regardless of their ability to pay. It's part of the state's mandate and it's also part of the caring mission of hospitals.

According to the mandate, the state is supposed to reimburse hospitals for the care they provide to these needy New Jerseyans. But year after year, that reimbursement falls far short of hospitals' costs. And now, the charity-care program faces an even deeper shortfall, with Gov. Corzine's 2009 budget proposing \$143 million in cuts to this critical program.

This year alone, New Jersey's hospitals will provide roughly \$1.3 billion in charity care to the state's 1.4 million uninsured residents.

The state, meanwhile, will reimburse hospitals just \$716 million – a number that will fall to \$573 million if the state's 2009 cuts are approved.

Looking back to 1993 when the state deregulated the rates paid to healthcare facilities, Garden State hospitals have absorbed a combined \$6 billion in losses due to state underfunding of charity care. The charity-care problem is

that serve the greatest number of charity-care patients. Those hospitals currently receive the state's highest reimbursement for their charity care services, being paid 96 percent of what Medicaid would pay. But with Medicaid's rates already below hospitals' costs, that charity-care reimbursement drags hospitals even further from the break-even point when serving the state's uninsured patients. The "top rate" paid to safety net hospitals would slide even further under the state's 2009 proposal. Those 21 hospitals would see their charity care payments reduced from 96 percent to 91 percent.

The rest of the state's hospitals would sustain more staggering cuts. The middle tier of hospitals—representing about one-third of the state's hospitals—would see their charity care payments cut by 34 percent. And 26 of New Jersey's hospitals would receive zero dollars back from the state, despite providing a total of \$118 million in care to charity-care patients.

Charity care is not a grant program that simply provides state aid to hospitals. This is real care, provided to real patients at hospitals across our state. One has to wonder why the state places different values on this care; choosing to

Continued on page 30

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# Cancer therapy hits home run for sports enthusiast

TEANECK — Undergoing cutting-edge, image-guided radiation therapy (IGRT) at Holy Name Hospital's Regional Cancer Center was just what the doctor ordered for sports enthusiast Thomas D. Wall.

Wall, 67, had three surgeries for squamous cell carcinoma, a type of skin cancer that had spread to the lymph nodes in his neck. The three operations removed, as he puts it, "a lot of beef" from his neck and shoulder.

Although not visible to the casual observer, lack of soft tissue posed some problems when Wall underwent subsequent radiation treatments. And when he experienced a recurrence of his cancer earlier this year, his surgeon wasn't sure his body could tolerate another round of therapy.

"I was scared stiff," recalled Wall, who suffered skin problems on his back and fatigue after his first course of radiation. "But they said it was going to be different this time."

It was. Under the supervision of oncologists Charles Vialotti, M.D. and Benjamin Rosenbluth, M.D., Wall received IGRT, a new technology that combines the pre-

cision of intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) with the visual confirmation of X-rays or CT scans on a single machine. It also takes into account "target" motion—movement of the tumor and surrounding tissue—to irradiate only the malignancy, and little or none of the healthy tissue around it.



*"I was scared stiff, but they said it was going to be different this time."*

—Thomas D. Wall

Other than having a sore tongue for a couple of weeks, Wall suffered no other side effects. He also felt more energetic throughout the duration of his treatments, compared to the first time. Best of all, he was able to continue his seven-days-a-week work schedule at his store, T. Wall Sports Cards and Memorabilia, 439 Route 23, Pompton Plains,

and life at home in Butler, with his wife, son and daughter, and his 12 grandchildren.

Wall was impressed with "the great care" taken by Holy Name staff in all aspects of his treatment, including pre-therapy instructions, positioning and dose checks prior to each treatment, listening to his concerns, and "making me feel at home."

A devout Roman Catholic who starts each day with a cup of coffee and a prayer, Wall said he felt confident with his care at Holy Name. "I just can't say enough," he said. "The people at Holy Name are the most compassionate people in the world. You can see it in their eyes."

A parishioner at Saint Anthony's Parish in Butler, Wall was born at Holy Name Hospital, as was his son, Thomas L. Wall. He is a member of the first graduating class (1959) at Bergen Catholic High School, Oradell, and describes himself as a fan of the New York Yankees and the Super Bowl champion New York Giants. He said he grew up as a Brooklyn Dodger fan, but always admired Yankee centerfielder Mickey Mantle.



Submitted photo

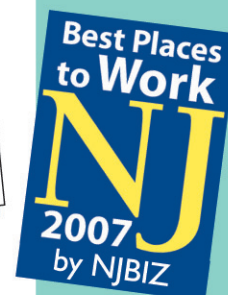
Sports fan Thomas Wall (left) with one of his oncologists, Dr. Charles Vialotti, following his treatment with IGRT at Holy Name Hospital's Regional Cancer Center. Wall was born at Holy Name, as was his son, and is a graduate of Bergen Catholic High School, Class of 1959.

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## Charity-care funding

Continued from page 28

pay for patient care in some of the state's hospitals, but not in others.

Confronted with such poor reimbursement, many New Jersey hospitals are being forced to make some hard choices; whether to cut programs, lay off employees or close their doors for good.

After a career spent in health-

care, I truly believe that some hospital closures are good for their communities. A well-planned exit can ensure the long-term stability of a region's healthcare system, and careful consideration can be given to protect the needs of patients and the broader community.

But a growing concern in New Jersey is that too many hospitals

are closing without the benefit of a statewide master plan and that those hospitals are simply falling victim to chronic underpayments by the government. As a result, our state is at risk of an access-to-care crisis in which not just the poor and uninsured but all New Jersey residents will face longer drives, greater waits and added worries about accessing the hospital services that they need.

As more hospitals fail, New

Jersey will lose much more than healthcare services.

The sad irony is that these programs are the first to go when hospitals face tough financial times. And the times couldn't be much tougher for New Jersey's hospitals.

Just imagine what we stand to lose if more of our hospitals fail.

*(Editor's note: Gary Carter is president of the New Jersey Hospital Association (NJHA), based in Princeton.)*



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## Englewood Hospital to open new emergency care center next year

ENGLEWOOD—Englewood Hospital and Medical Center has initiated construction on the Kaplen Pavilion, a 35,000-square-foot-emergency care center. The next-generation facility, nearly three times larger than the existing emergency department, has a projected completion date of fall 2009.

"Our patients have always received excellent care in the current Emergency Department," Douglas

A. Duchak, president and chief executive officer of the medical center, said. "However, the facility, its size and configuration, are no longer up to the high standards we have set for patient care areas. Our new emergency care center will accommodate the growing number of patients we are seeing."

The pavilion will be named for philanthropists Maggie and Bill Kaplen, who made the lead gift of \$5 million that officially launched

"Lifeline to Tomorrow—Our Campaign for An Emergency Care Pavilion," the drive that will fund the project. The Kaplens are two of the medical center's greatest benefactors. Four years ago they were the first recipients of the Medical Center's Touchstone Award presented for leadership in exceptional philanthropy and community service. Maggie Kaplen is a member of the medical center's board of trustees, while Bill Kaplen served as a board member 25 years.

Highlights of the new center include 40 large, private treatment rooms, numerous care team stations distributed throughout the department, and a "fast track" triage and treatment area. Treatment rooms will be equipped for the care of critically ill patients, allowing any patient to be treated in any room.

The private treatment rooms will have three zones with the front of the room for caregivers, the middle for the patients, and the back third for loved ones. Multiple care team stations instead of a main nursing station will make for a more efficient and quieter workplace.

The building's design specifically addresses disaster preparedness, including seismic events, the potential to receive patients from New York City resulting from a natural or intentional event that could be contaminated either biologically or chemically, train railway accidents causing a chemical spill or the release of harmful gases into the immediate atmosphere, and patients from a nearby nuclear power plant suffering from either radiation burns or poisoning. A decontamination unit will be located near the ambulance entrance and within steps of the trauma/resuscitation room and all treatment rooms are designed to handle emergent high acuity (critically ill) patients.

The project will be funded completely by donations.

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- Free shuttle service is available from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. for patients and family members who need transportation to access a variety of primary-care and specialty clinic services at Saint Michael's Medical Center.
- Patients at the continuing prenatal clinic at the Saint James Campus can now arrange for their deliveries and peri-natal services at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center.

The Saint James Campus — 155 Jefferson Street, Newark, N.J. — will be sponsoring free, monthly, on-site health screenings and education sessions, covering such topics as cancer prevention, cholesterol, heart health, and more.

For more information about services at the Saint James Campus, call (973) 465-2700.

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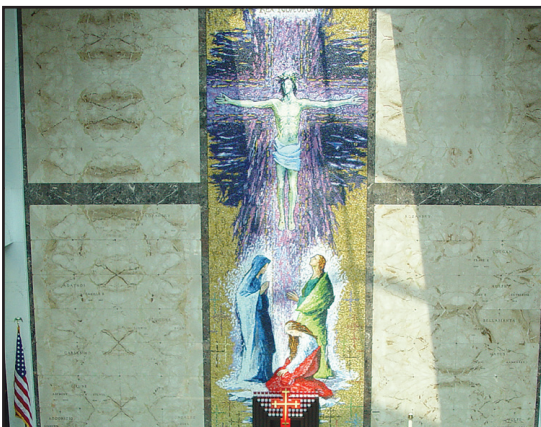
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