



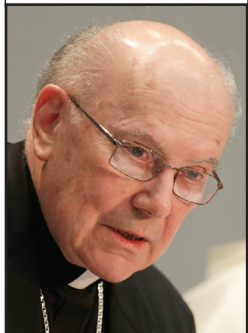
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Pondering souls, saints, bereavement

Special report offers food for thought on spiritual life, eulogies and somber aftershocks.

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Vatican offers structure for Christian unity

Cardinal William Levada explains new provision for Anglicans who want to unite with the Catholic Church.

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Forum raises red flag on 'culture of death'

BY MELISSA MCNALLY
Staff Writer

NORTH ARLINGTON—Promoting a “culture of life” and ensuring justice for all persons from conception to natural death was the focus of the annual Life Issues Seminar. Held at Queen of Peace Parish and High School on Oct. 3, “A Call to Action: Overcoming the Culture of Death” stressed the importance of family and dignity of the human person—topics that carry additional spiritual significance on the eve of the celebration of All Souls/All Saints days (Nov. 2 and 1, respectively).

The seminar, sponsored by the archdiocesan Respect Life Office and Pro-Life Commission, identified the “culture of death” as including abortion, euthanasia and other issues that seek to terminate the God-given gift of life. Father Joseph A. Meagher is the director of the archdiocesan Respect Life Office.

Bishop Edgar M. da Cunha began

the day with Mass, gathering together the crowd of faithful from around the archdiocese. Damon Owens, founder of Joy-Filled Marriage and Natural Family Planning Coordinator for the Archdiocese of Newark and one of the featured speakers at

the event, explained that our culture should be rooted in family.

Owens stressed that, as human beings, we need deep, personal relationships to thrive and grow. The fear of being alone, including being separated from a loved one through

death, is terrifying because of our intrinsic desire to be connected with another, he explained.

“We are deeply and innately personal and it begins with the relationship of man and woman. We are not

Continued on page 15

Clergy reviews new missal translation

BY JAMES GOODNESS
Director of Communications

NEWARK—The Archdiocese of Newark is moving forward with an important, ambitious program to inform the people of this local Church of Newark about the introduction of the Third Typical Edition of the Roman Missal (currently known as the Sacramentary) with a new English translation in the spring of 2011.

In addition to an informative Web site (www.romanmissalnewark.org), which was launched during the summer with resources, explanations and other practical information to help Catholics become familiar with the goals of the Roman Missal, the Archdiocese’s Office of Divine Worship recently began sharing detailed information with priests on the history behind the new

English translation of the missal and the kinds of changes that can be expected when parishes in the archdiocese begin using it.

Rev. Msgr. James Moroney—the former executive director of the secretariat for Divine Worship of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), rector of the Cathedral of St. Paul, Diocese of Worcester, and an expert in the field of the Roman Missal, who has helped familiarize more than 18,000 priests across the country about the changes—met in several sessions Oct. 19 and 20 with over 300 priests serving the archdiocese.

Msgr. Moroney spoke of the translation in terms of its ability to recall the centrality of the Eucharist in Catholic worship. “The missal describes very clearly that the priest stands ‘in persona Christi—in the person of Christ’—

Continued on page 5



Advocate photo – Ward Miele

PRIESTLY ICON HONORED—Father Benedict J. Groeschel, C.F.R., standing second from left, was honored for his half century of service as a priest during an afternoon Mass Oct. 18 at Holy Family Parish, Nutley. Archbishop John J. Myers, second from right, was the main celebrant. Fr. Groeschel, who was born in 1933 and grew up in Jersey City, is an internationally acclaimed author and TV commentator, as well as the founder of the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal and Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. In addition, along with Catholic layman Christopher Bell (who organized the Nutley celebration), he is a co-founder of Good Counsel Homes, headquartered in Hoboken—a 24-year-old program that offers supportive residential care of homeless mothers and their children. In his homily, Fr. Groeschel said he was “only here” because of the nun who taught him in second grade in 1939. He had wanted to be a fireman, Fr. Groeschel recalled. Also pictured at the Mass is Deacon Joseph A. Dwyer, Jr., far right, of Holy Family Parish and the archdiocesan Vice Chancellor for Administration.

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Fr. Ciordia to address Nov. 7 catechist conference

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE
Editor

PARAMUS—"Catechesis and Proclamation of the Word," the annual catechist convocation will be

held Saturday, Nov. 7, at Paramus Catholic Regional High School, 425 Paramus Road.

Organized and hosted by the Catechetical Office of the Archdiocese of Newark, the convoca-

tion will be offered on English and Spanish language tracks, welcoming parish catechetical leaders, teachers, eucharistic and youth ministers, parents, liturgists, priests and deacons and adult faith formation teams. The convocation will feature over 50 workshop topics in English and Spanish.

Morning hospitality for the convocation will take place 8:15-8:45 a.m. The welcome and opening prayer will be held 8:45-

9:30 a.m. Workshops will run throughout the day. The closing prayer for the convocation is slated for 3:30 p.m.

The English language keynote address is scheduled to start at 9:45 a.m., while the Spanish language keynote will begin 2:15 p.m. Father Lawrence Boadt, C.S.P., will deliver the English keynote, while Father José Antonio Ciordia, O.A.R., is the Spanish keynote speaker.

There will be seven workshop tracks at the convocation: Primary Catechists (for grades Pre-K to 3); Elementary Catechists (for grades 4 to 6); Adolescent Catechists and Youth Ministry People; Parish Catechetical Leaders (PCLs); Catechists for Special Needs; Adult Faith Formation (including young adults); and Spanish Language Workshops

The deadline for registration is Nov. 2 and the fee is \$40 per person. Registrations will not be accepted at the door on the day of the convocation.

Make checks payable to the Archdiocese of Newark's Catechetical Office and mail to: Catechetical Convocation, Archdiocese of Newark, Catechetics Office, 171 Clifton Ave., PO Box 9500, Newark, NJ 07104. Contact convocation organizer, Elizabeth Foer, by phone at (973) 497-4297 or via e-mail at foereliz@rcan.org for more information.

Fr. Ciordia, in his keynote address, will address the topic: *La Catequesis y la Proclamación de la Palabra* ("Catechesis And The Proclamation of The Word"). Born in Pamplona, Spain, Fr. Ciordia was ordained in Rome on April 9, 1961. He has a master's degree in Holy Scriptures and is a professor at Centro de Guadalupe, Union City. In addition, he serves as pastoral vicar of Saint Augustine Parish, also in Union City.

"The Bible in both Old and New Testaments as the Foundation of Catechesis" is the title of the keynote address by Fr. Boadt.



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

"Come and see,"

He answered.

John 1:38-39

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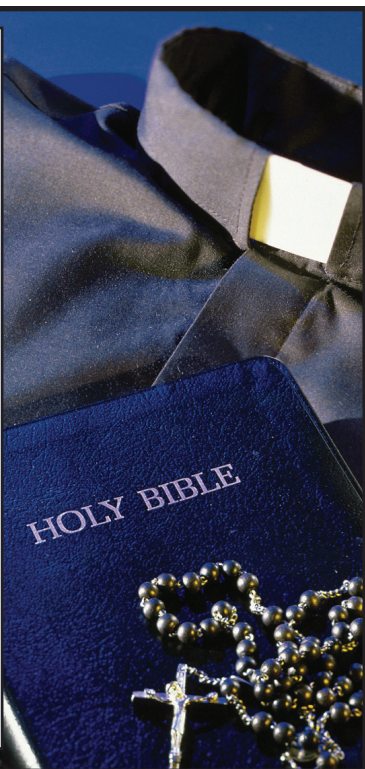
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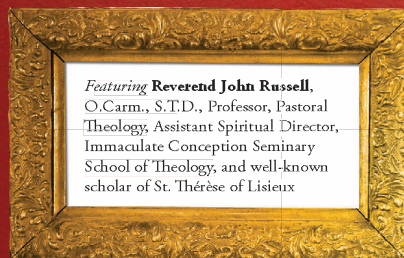
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PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT:

The *Catholic Advocate* is published by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark at 171 Clifton Ave., Newark NJ 07104-9500. Periodical postage is paid at Newark NJ and at additional offices. Postmaster: Please send address changes to: P.O. Box 9500, Newark, NJ 07104.

OFFICE HOURS:

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FREQUENCY FOR THE YEAR:

The *Catholic Advocate* continues to be a bi-weekly publication.

USPS-008-380

ISSN# 1084-3213

The Catholic Advocate

*The community newspaper
of the Archdiocese of Newark*



Vatican ‘provision’ opens door for Christian unity

VATICAN CITY and WASHINGTON (CNS)—Pope Benedict XVI has established a special structure for Anglicans who want to be in full communion with the Roman Catholic Church while preserving aspects of their Anglican spiritual and liturgical heritage.

Cardinal William J. Levada, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, said a new apostolic constitution would establish “personal ordinariates,” similar to dioceses, to oversee the pastoral care of those who want to bring elements of their Anglican identity into the Catholic Church with them.

Anglican priests who are married will be ordained Catholic priests, although married Anglican bishops will not be able to function as Catholic bishops in keeping with the longstanding Catholic and Orthodox tradition of ordaining only unmarried clergy as bishops, Cardinal Levada said.

In establishing the new jurisdictions, Pope Benedict is responding to “many requests” submitted by individual Anglicans and Anglican groups—including “20 to 30 bishops”—asking to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church.

Cardinal Levada explained the Vatican’s “new provision” does not weaken the commitment to promoting Christian unity, but is a recognition that many Anglicans share the Catholic faith and that Anglicans have a spiritual and liturgical life worth preserving.

“It has always been the principal aim to achieve the full, visible unity” of the Catholic Church and Anglican Communion, the cardinal said. However, given recent changes within many Anglican provinces with the ordination of

Continued on page 4

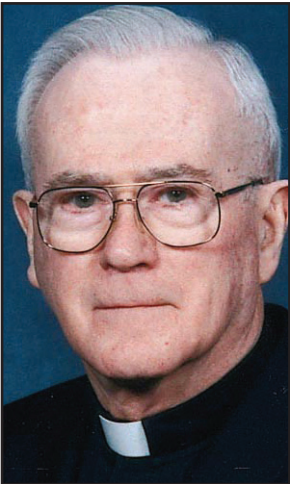
DRILL SERGEANTS STRENGTHEN THEIR MINDS CHAPLAINS STRENGTHEN THEIR SOULS



Submitted photo

SERVICE CITED—The Misioneras del Coazon de Jesus, Sisters whose pastoral ministry includes the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart and Saint Rose of Lima Parish in Newark and Most Holy Name Parish in Garfield, held their general chapter in August in Santo Domingo. Aspirants, postulants and novices were admitted to the congregation while several sisters professed final vows. Sister Josefa Gonzalez (far left), who serves at the Cathedral Basilica and Most Holy Name Parish, celebrated a quarter century of service. She was formerly missioned at Saint Francis Xavier Parish, Newark. Marking the occasion were, left to right, back row, Sr. Josefa, Most Reverent Manual Cruz, Auxiliary Bishop of Newark; Cardinal Archbishop of Santo Domingo, His Eminence Nicholas Rodriguez; Msgr. William Reilly, pastor of Most Holy Name Parish; front row, Victoria Rodriguez, formerly of Most Holy Name Parish, now living in Santo Domingo; Dr. Carmen Hernandez of Weehawken; and Liz Canarte, director of music at Most Holy Name Parish.

PAPAL HONORS—The following is a correction of the “Papal Honors” article that ran in the Sept. 9 issue of *The Catholic Advocate*. Rev. Msgr. James O. Sheerin, cited as a “Prelate of Honor,” was ordained on May 26, 1956. Born in 1930, Msgr. Sheerin is pastor emeritus of Saint Margaret of Cortona Parish, Little Ferry. He graduated from Seton Hall University, South Orange, and attended Immaculate Conception Seminary, Darlington. Msgr. Sheerin served as parochial vicar of Saint Patrick Parish, Jersey City, and chaplain for the U.S. Air Force. He was parochial vicar of Saint Mary Parish, Nutley, pastor of Madonna Parish, Fort Lee, and administrator of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Kearny. He was pastor of Saint Margaret of Cortona, Little Ferry, from 1995-2000 and served as administrator of Saint Valentine Parish, Bloomfield. Rev. Msgr. Sheerin was also a member of the Vocations Board for the Archdiocese of Newark.





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Provision

Continued from page 3

women priests and bishops and the acceptance of homosexuality in some areas, the prospect of full unity “seemed to recede,” he said.

The Church recognizes and welcomes those Anglicans who fully share the Catholic faith, agree with the Catholic view that only men can be ordained priests and recognize the role of the Bishop of Rome (Pope Benedict) as the sign and guarantor of Church unity, Cardinal Levada said.

Archbishop John J. Myers, responding to the Vatican announcement, said the new canonical structure is aimed to care for the needs of former Anglicans while allowing them to continue with the use of elements of their liturgical patrimony.

“At this time it is not known how this structure will impact the Pastoral Provision given by Pope John Paul II in 1980 for former Episcopalians seeking union with Rome in the United States of America,” Archbishop Myers said, issuing a statement from his Newark office Oct. 21.

“I believe one of the strengths of the Pastoral Provision has been its ability to reaffirm to these former Episcopalians that joining in union with Rome did not require them to abandon their spiritual heritage,” he continued. “I’m sure that such reaffirmation has contributed much to the cli-

mate surrounding the conversations (that led to the announcement by the Vatican).”

Archbishop Myers described



Cardinal William Levada

the developments as a “historical moment for the Universal Church as she provides for former members of the Anglican Communion and welcomes them to the fullness of faith, which is found in the Catholic Church. We continue to pray for the unity of all Christians and the necessary work of the ecumenical dialogue which will continue to take place.”

Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I., Archbishop of Chicago and president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

(USCCB), said the USCCB stands ready to collaborate in the implementation of the new provision.

“This step by the Holy See is in response to a number of requests received in Rome from groups of Anglicans seeking corporate reunion. The application of the new provision recognizes the desire of some Anglicans (Episcopalians) to live the Catholic faith in full, visible communion with the See of Peter, while at the same time retaining some elements of their tra-

ditions of liturgy, spirituality and ecclesial life which are consistent with the Catholic faith.

“This provision, at the service of the unity of the Church, calls us as well to join our voices to the Priestly Prayer of Jesus that ‘all may be one’ (Jn 17:21) as we seek a greater communion with all our brothers and sisters with whom we share Baptism. For 45 years, our Episcopal Conference has engaged in ecumenical dialogue with The Episcopal Church, which is

the historic province of the Anglican Communion in North America.”

(Editor’s note: Archbishop Myers, in addition to his duties in the Archdiocese of Newark, also serves as Ecclesiastical Delegate of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith for the Pastoral Provision for Admitting Married Former Anglican Clergy to the Catholic Priesthood in the United States. He was appointed to this post in 2005.)

Two churches share similar liturgies

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The relative ease with which groups of Anglicans can be welcomed into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church owes much to the unique history of the Anglican Communion.

Even before the formal Anglican/Roman Catholic theological dialogue began to explore ways to restore unity, the Second Vatican Council singled out the Anglicans when talking about the Christian communities born in the 16th century. “Among those in which Catholic traditions and institutions in part continue to exist, the Anglican Communion occupies a special place,” the council said in its “Decree on Ecumenism.”

Pope Benedict XVI announced Oct. 20 the Vatican would allow for the formation of “personal ordinariates”—similar to dioceses—to oversee the pastoral care of Anglicans while preserving elements of Anglican liturgy, tradition and spirituality.

The liturgy used by most Anglicans was developed within the Latin Rite of the Catholic Church and continues to resemble closely the text of the Mass celebrated by most Catholics. While a new apostolic constitution will make special concessions to former Anglicans, the liturgy cele-

brated within the personal ordinariates will be completely valid for all Catholics.

What is today the Anglican Communion was born in England from the one Christian church in the West headed by the pope. The occasion for the split between the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church was King Henry VIII’s request to Rome that his marriage to Catherine of Aragon be annulled. Pope Clement VII refused his request, so the king divorced her and declared himself head of the church in England.

The tension between the king and the pope took place while the Protestant Reformation was in full swing in Europe during the 16th century, dividing the Western church between those who recognized the authority of the pope as it was being exercised and those who did not.

In the newly independent Church of England, pastors and theologians adopted and contributed to some of the key aspects of the Protestant reform, including an emphasis on the importance of the Bible, gradual use of the vernacular for liturgy and an emphasis on collegial decision-making. Given their history, Anglicans often describe their church as both Catholic and reformed.



HOLDING FIRM, CELEBRATING HERITAGE—The Archdiocese of Newark celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with a Mass Oct. 11 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark. The theme for the Mass—which was organized by the Hispanic Apostolate and chaired by Jorge L. Repollet, Catholic Cemeteries director of marketing—was “Virgin Mary, Singular Mother of the Hispanics; The Start of Evangelization.” Most Rev. Manuel A. Cruz, Vicar for Hispanic Ministry and Regional Bishop of Union County (right photo, center, shaking hands), served as the principal celebrant and homilist, and was joined by Most Rev. David Arias (far right), Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Newark. During the Mass, 489 men and women received The Medal of Leadership and Honor, citing their leadership role in their



Submitted photos

communities and parishes as well as their overall support of the Hispanic Catholic community throughout the four counties of the archdiocese. A procession of colorful flags and banners highlighted the celebration. Bishop Cruz said that, despite the vicissitudes of the world, Catholics always “must hold firm to the Cross. Every human experience, whether good or difficult, must be a meeting place with Jesus.” He gave thanks to the Hispanic community of the archdiocese for the faithful prayers and dedication of the people. “While we look at the reality of our archdiocese, we understand that we, the Hispanic people, are not only men and women received and protected by this local Church, but we assume the responsibility to be part of the evangelization of all our Church,” Bishop Cruz said. He urged the faithful to surrender to the will of God with absolute confidence and cited Mary as the perfect role model.

Roman Missal

Continued from page 1
and that through his actions he gathers the people of the community in to worship, just as Christ

Official Appointments

Archbishop John J. Myers has announced the following appointments:

PAROCHIAL VICAR

Reverend John Berchmans Antony, Parochial Vicar of Madonna Parish, Fort Lee, has had his appointment extended through Oct. 31, 2011.

Reverend Malachy Odoh, Parochial Vicar of Holy Spirit Parish, Union, has had his appointment extended through Oct. 31, 2009.

RELEASE

Reverend Jose Manuel Abalon, released for pastoral service in the Archdiocese of Boston, has been extended for an additional period of three years ending June 19, 2012.



Advocate photo – Ward Miele

During workshops in Newark on the introduction of the Third Typical Edition of the Roman Missal, Msgr. James Moroney stressed not only the rationale behind the changes that will be coming, but how they would affect the role of the priest at liturgy.

gathered the Apostles together at the Last Supper and gathered the group around him at Calvary.”

Throughout the presentations, Msgr. Moroney linked many of the elements of the Roman Missal with the actions that flowed not only at the time of the Second Vatican Council, but in the years immediately following the Council, when the original English translation of the Roman Missal was undertaken and promulgated.

“Many priests have called to say they found the program enlightening,” Father Thomas Dente, director of the archdiocesan Office of Divine Worship, said. “Certainly, there have been some concerns about how the changes at Mass would affect people in the parishes. But Msgr. Moroney’s very direct, upbeat and real-world approach to the subject left the priests with an optimistic and positive look at what is coming. His

explanations helped all present to realize that this will be a good opportunity to renew the liturgical life of any parish.

“The Archdiocese of Newark has always had a reputation for good liturgy and I am confident that our priests will continue to uphold our standards with a positive implementation of the Roman Missal in our parishes and institutions,” Fr. Dente said.

Deacons in the archdiocese will attend a similar workshop on

Nov. 19, and Lay Leaders and Religious involved in liturgical work are scheduled to learn about the Missal on Nov. 20. Father Paul Turner, author, theologian and priest of the Diocese of Kansas City-Saint Joseph, will conduct both sessions, to be held at the Archdiocesan Center, 171 Clifton Ave. For more information about the Third Typical Edition of the Roman Missal, visit the special archdiocesan Web site www.romanmissalnewark.org.

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SFIC seeking applications from archdiocesan students

NEWARK—The archdiocesan Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children (SFIC) is accepting applications for the 2010-11 school year.

Applications must be postmarked by Jan. 15, 2010 and are available at the main office of any Catholic elementary school or high school in the Archdiocese of Newark or by visiting the SFIC Web site (www.sficnj.org).




Gerard T. O'Connor is the executive director of the SFIC. The organization provides partial tuition scholarships to economically disadvantaged children attending Catholic schools in Bergen, Essex, Hudson and Union counties. Scholarship awards are based on financial need without regard to race, religion or ethnicity.



Submitted photo

GRIFFINS WALK THE WALK—Students from the elementary school and high school at Queen of Peace Parish, North Arlington, recently held a walk-a-thon event to raise money for scholarship programs and activities including the new "Angels Fund." The fund will provide financial aid to families whose parents are seriously ill, have passed away or are permanently unemployed. Students raised more than \$3,600 and proudly displayed their Griffin pride by showing off hand stamps denoting participation in the march. Following the walk, school administrators celebrated the by holding a barbecue for students.




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ICHS to honor the Sisters of Charity

MONTCLAIR—Immaculate Conception High School (ICHS) will honor the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth with its "Lifetime Achievement Award" at the school's annual hall of fame dinner at Mayfair Farms,

West Orange, on Wednesday, Nov. 18.

The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth celebrated their 150th anniversary with a Mass Sept. 27 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark. The Sisters

of Charity have served the parish and its school since 1881.

Special recognition will be given to ICHS graduates who went on to join the order. They include Sister Regina Hudson, Class of 1948; Sister Lorena Reilly, Class of 1952; Sister Carol Williams and Sister Ann Fay, Class of 1961; Sister Margaret Tierney, Class of 1953 and Sister Kathleen Miranda, Class of 1966.

The dinner also will recognize Hugh D. Sweeney, Jr. with the ICHS Distinguished Service Award. Scheduled for induction into the school's hall of fame are Patricia Hannigan Scullen, Class of 1955; Ray S. Bishop, Jr., Class of 1977; Kevin Sweeney, Class of 1982; William L. Taylor, Jr., Class of 1985 and the entire 1994 football team.

For additional information contact the ICHS development office at (973) 744-7445, ext. 31.



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School plans gala musical

ELIZABETH—Saint Patrick High School, 221 Court St., will present its production of "High School Musical" Friday, Nov. 6, 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 8, 2 p.m.

Tickets are priced at \$6 in advance and \$8 at the door. Following the Sunday matinee, the school will host the 50th reunion of its Class of 1959. To reserve tickets, call the school at (908) 353-5220.

'Train the Trainers' program looks to educate educators

BY BARBARA DOLAN

Special to The Catholic Advocate

NEWARK—Principals and teachers representing 55 elementary schools in the Archdiocese of Newark met in late August to begin their participation in the "Train the Trainers" professional development program sponsored by the archdiocesan Schools Office.

The program, designed by CTB McGraw Hill, Monterey, CA, (Web site: www.ctb.com) seeks to facilitate the use of standardized

of "teacher trainer" for the school. The teacher trainers attend a series of four training sessions throughout the course of the school year.

The principal of each participating school attends a principal's workshop at the beginning of the school year to get an overview of the program and an understanding of the principal's role in supporting the teacher trainer in the presentation of the information to the rest of the faculty.

During the sessions Dr. Linda Thompson, a consultant for CTB



Submitted photo

Rose Perry (left), the principal of Hoboken Catholic Academy, and Ana Marie Castaneda, the principal of Our Lady of Libera School, West New York, participated in the initial "Train the Trainers" program for educators in the Archdiocese of Newark. Phase two of the program, which will focus on archdiocesan teachers, will begin Oct. 29 with sessions held at the Archdiocesan Center, 171 Clifton Ave.

testing data by teachers to improve instruction and, in turn, maximize student learning. The program is being offered within the archdiocese for the second year.

Schools Office administrators explain that examining standardized testing data in a systematic manner enables teachers to determine areas of the curriculum in need of additional emphasis, as well as identify the academic strengths and weaknesses of individual students. This information, they say, helps teachers to formulate strong instructional plans that foster academic excellence.

For example, during the 2008-2009 school year, representatives of 37 archdiocesan elementary schools participated in the program and found it to be focused, informative and applicable to the teaching/learning process.

Each school participating in the Train the Trainer program identifies one teacher to assume the role

McGraw-Hill, guides the teacher trainers in a series of activities to develop a more comprehensive understanding of the data presented in the TerraNova standardized testing score reports.

Participants examine score reports and discuss the information in light of individual and group achievement and its relationship to continued student mastery and proficiency.

The teacher trainers are responsible for sharing their learning with their colleagues in the local school setting during the period between training sessions. This "re-delivery" component of the Train the Trainers model allows the entire faculty to benefit from the teacher trainer's participation at the training session.

(Editor's note: Barbara Dolan is the assistant superintendent for curriculum, instruction and assessment for the archdiocesan Schools Office.)

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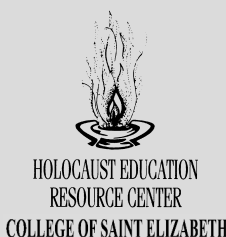
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The following events are free and open to the public.

Monday, November 9, 2009:

- **Kristallnacht Commemoration: 7:30-9:15 p.m.**
 - Interfaith service
 - Testimonies: Kristallnacht survivors George Greene of Caldwell and Fred Heyman of Morristown
 - Music: Elizabeth Singers

Wednesday, November 11, 2009:

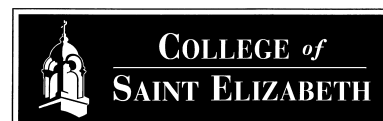
- **Challenges and Opportunities in Jewish-Christian Dialogue: 7:30-9:15 p.m.**

An interfaith dialogue with:
Rabbi Irving (Yitz) Greenberg, President, National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership (CLAL);
Director, President's Commission on the Holocaust

Rev. John Pawlikowski, Director, Catholic-Jewish Studies Program at the Catholic Theological Union, Chicago

Dr. Henry Knight, Director, Cohen Center for Holocaust Studies at Keene State College, New Hampshire

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For a complete schedule of these and the annual, in-class faculty sessions, email holocaustcenter@cse.edu or click on www.cse.edu/holocaustcenter.

Catholic Charities coordinator to provide insights on poverty

WEST WOOD—Saint Andrew's Parish, 120 Washington Ave., will host a forum on poverty in America Tuesday, Nov. 17, 7:30 to 9 p.m., in its parish center. The forum will provide information on initiatives organized by Catholic Charities USA.

Catherine L'Insalata, coordinator of the archdiocesan task force of the Catholic Charities USA's "Campaign to Reduce

Poverty in America," will be the featured speaker for the forum. The task force was formed earlier this year to work in solidarity with Catholic Charities USA, which has organized a nationwide initiative.

L'Insalata's presentation will focus on the social justice teachings of the Catholic Church. A short film entitled "Tour Poverty USA" will be shown and hand-

out materials will be available, including a listing of "20 Things You Can do to Address Poverty." She also serves as the archdiocesan director of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development and division director, Community Access and Volunteer Services of Catholic Charities in the Archdiocese of Newark.

Father John J. O'Connell, pastor of the host parish, will lead opening prayer. A commissioning and closing prayer will conclude the evening.

Open to the public, the forum is co-sponsored by the parishes of Saint Andrew, Saint John the Baptist, Hillsdale; Our Lady of Good Counsel, Washington Township and Immaculate Conception, Mahwah. For further information call (201) 666-1100.



Submitted photo

LIFELONG LESSONS—With the theme "Live a Healthy Life from Womb to Tomb," the health care ministries of Our Lady of the Valley Parish, West Orange; Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, South Orange and Saint Joseph Parish, Maplewood, joined forces for a health fair on Oct. 11. Activities included a health walk, some 30 professionals providing information on a variety of health topics, and for the youngsters, a Teddy Bear Clinic where student nurses from the Seton Hall University School of Nursing spoke about good health habits. Held at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, participants were also able to pray at Saint John's Chapel and take home a prayer book and rosary ring.

Assumption students roll up their sleeves

ELIZABETH—Thirty-five Saint Mary of the Assumption High School students, along with faculty and community members, donated 22 pints of blood Oct. 1 at a drive conducted by the Blood Center of New Jersey.

Principal Janet Malko, noting that such a hearty volunteer turnout is not unusual for her

school, said the Blood Center for the first time permitted 16 year olds to donate blood—and two Assumption students that age did so.

A second blood drive is planned and the Blood Center of New Jersey, based in East Orange, will award a \$1,000 college scholarship to student donors.

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Arc selects James Lape of Trinitas

ELIZABETH—James Lape, senior vice president, Behavioral Health and Psychiatry and Long-Term Care at Trinitas Regional Medical Center, has been selected as the new president of the board of directors of The Arc of Union County.

Celebrating its 60th anniversary, The Arc of Union County (Web site: www.arcunion.org) was founded by parents of children with disabilities and is affiliated with both the New Jersey Arc and the national Arc.

Lape leads the 18-member volunteer board of directors that oversees a comprehensive volunteer committee system.

According to information on the group's Web site, The Arc of Union functions as both an advocacy and service agency. It promotes holistic community integration and independence for people with developmental disabilities. Program sites are located throughout Union County. The agency serves approximately 800 individuals and their families each year.

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Holy Name lauded for stroke care

TEANECK—A study issued Oct. 13 by HealthGrades, Golden, CO, the leading independent healthcare ratings organization, finds that Holy Name Hospital is among the top 10 percent in the nation for stroke care.

According to the HealthGrades evaluation system, hospitals receiving a “five-star” rating have mortality or complication rates that are below the national average, to a statistically significant degree.

Holy Name’s other clinical achievements as cited by HealthGrades included five-star ratings for the treatment of heart attack, heart failure, hip-fracture repair, treatment of stroke and the treatment of pneumonia.

“We are truly honored to be recognized for outstanding clinical outcomes in so many specialty areas,” Michael Maron, Holy



Submitted photo

Holy Name Hospital received the 2010 HealthGrades “Stroke Care Excellence Award.” HealthGrades’ 12th annual “Hospital Quality in America” study, the largest annual report of its kind, analyzed close to 40 million Medicare hospitalization records from 2006, 2007 and 2008 from the country’s nearly 5,000 nonfederal hospitals.

Name president and chief executive officer, said. “That the study uses objective data gives consumers the confidence they need to make sound healthcare decisions.”

“At Holy Name, we engage in a continuing process of performance evaluation and improvement,” Maron continued. “The focus here is on quality care and patient satisfaction; it’s the rea-

son we come to work every day. And it’s the skill and dedication of our entire team—physicians, nurses, and allied health professionals—that make these five-star ratings possible.”

HealthGrades rates hospitals independently, based on data the facilities submit to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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“A Call to Serve One Another” which outlines the Archdiocese’s broad range of services to the poor, needy & disadvantaged, and how you can help through a planned gift.



*Church refers to any parish, Catholic School, or ministry in the Archdiocese of Newark, including the Archbishop’s Annual Appeal, as designated by the donor.

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Group offers guidance for Alzheimer families

UNION—Alzheimer’s disease and dementia are becoming more prevalent every year and represent a host of difficult healthcare issues for families, Chad Blecker, senior account manager for Seniors at Home LLC, said. Finding a balance between caring for a loved one with Alzheimer’s disease and managing your own life can be exhausting, he said.

“Even though doctors and scientists have been working on a cure for many years, that doesn’t help families or the victims, who fall prey to these diseases, cope with the degeneration of their loved ones,” he said.

Seniors at Home, located at 2424 Morris Ave., works with families who are overwhelmed by the many decisions associated with Alzheimer’s disease. Representatives visit families and offer a comprehensive assessment. Among the services provided are care at home as well as assisted-living facilities.

Home care may not be the answer for everyone, Blecker explained, noting that some individuals need to be in an Alzheimer’s facility.

Seniors at Home consults with families to assess a range of healthcare resources and support networks. Options include counselors, therapists, support groups, doctors, adult day care and facilities that specialize in cognitive disorders.” For further information call (866) 703-CARE or (908) 964-6700.

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HEARTFELT GIFT—Saint John the Baptist Parish and Saint John's Interparochial Academy, Hillsdale, have each received a memorial gift of an automatic external defibrillator (AED). Bob Hewitt, an honorary member of the local volunteer ambulance service, donated one for the church building in memory of his wife Louise and friend Margie Murphy. Dick Collier, a long-time parishioner, donated the unit to the school in memory of his wife Catherine who was the school nurse for several years. Admiring the AED, left to right, Hewitt, along with Glen Ford and Al Murphy, Jr., ambulance service captain and president respectively.



Submitted photo

Mass honors service of Deacon Porter

BY DEACON EDWARD CAMPANELLA

Special to The Catholic Advocate

SPRINGFIELD—A memorial Mass will be celebrated Saturday, Nov. 7, 5 p.m., at Saint James Parish, 45 South Springfield Ave., to mark a year since the passing of Deacon Edward Porter, Jr., former director of the permanent diaconate for the Archdiocese of Newark. Rev. Msgr. William C. Hatcher, Saint James pastor, will be the main celebrant.

Deacon Porter passed away on Oct. 24, 2008. He was born in the Vailsburg section of Newark and graduated from Seton Hall University, South Orange, in 1950 with a degree in communication arts.



Deacon Edward Porter, Jr.

In 1980, the future deacon was inspired by the ministry of deacon while serving as an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion at Overlook Hospital, Summit. He was ordained as a permanent deacon in 1988. His first assignment was at Saint James Parish where he built a support group program for children of high school age. He also established an ongoing, weekly novena to Saint Jude.

He was assigned as deacon at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, and was appointed director of the permanent diaconate of the Archdiocese of Newark. On March 11, 1992, Deacon Porter was awarded the Holy Cross *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* ("For Church and Pope," also known as the "Cross of Honor"). The medal, established by Leo XIII on July 17, 1888, is given to honor distinguished service to the Church by lay people and clergy.

One of Deacon Ed's special moments was receiving communion from Pope John Paul II at Giant's Stadium in 1995 during the pontiff's visit to the Archdiocese of Newark.

(Editor's note: Deacon Edward Campanella is a member of Saint John the Apostle Parish, Linden.)

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PRAYERS FOR PEACE—

A Peace Pole erected by the Sisters of Christian Charity on the campus of Assumption College for Sisters (ACS), Mendham, features the prayer, “May Peace Prevail on Earth.” It is written in nine languages associated with the school's history, including English, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Swahili and Spanish. The

installation reflects the college's support of the UN's observance of the 27th annual “International Day of Peace,” which was held Sept. 21. Admiring the pole are three ACS international students and an alumna searching for the prayer in their native tongues. There are Peace Poles at various locations throughout the Archdiocese of Newark, including the Rutherford campus of Felician College; Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Jersey City; and Saint Peter Claver Parish, Montclair.

VOCATIONS EXPLORED—Brother Paul Bednarczyk, C.S.C., executive director of the National Religious Vocation Conference, Chicago, addressed the topic “Guided by the Spirit, Awakening New Vocations: Working Together to Prepare for the Future” at the annual fall meeting of the New Jersey Council of Major Superiors of Women, which was held Oct. 2 at the Archdiocesan Center in Newark. Br. Bednarczyk stressed the importance of “visible witness to our consecration.” He told the state bishops and superiors in attendance “you stand for something—you are a man and woman of God.” Briefly addressing the meeting, Archbishop John J. Myers cited the fact that an obstacle to vocations is parental opposition. He noted too the importance of family and friends becoming a supporting faction in the vocational discernment process. Pope Benedict XVI has offered prayers for vocations as part of the global celebration of the “Year for Priests.”



Advocate photo – Ward Miele

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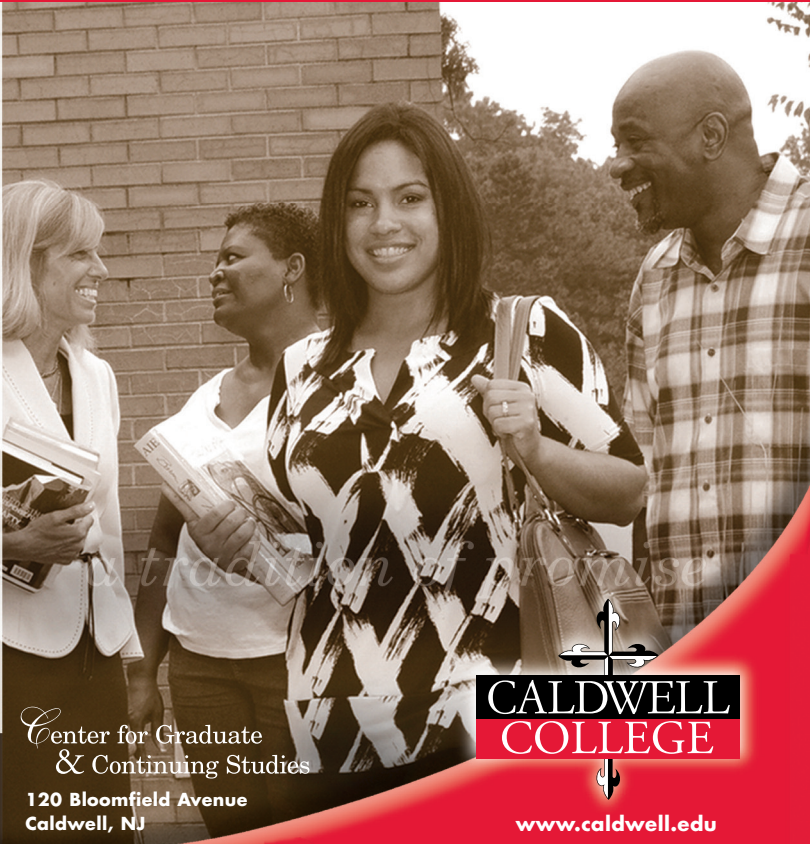
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October 29

BERGEN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, open house for boys and their parents, 7-9 p.m., (201) 261-1844.

October 31

ST. JOSEPH PARISH, East Rutherford, All Souls Day Cemetery Mass, at St. Joseph Cemetery in Lyndhurst, 10 a.m., call Charlotte Vocaturo at (201) 939-7330

November 1

NJ BLOOD SERVICES, blood drive at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Scotch Plains, 8 a.m. -1:30 p.m., call Marie Forrestal at (732) 616-0798.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 5427, Washington Township, Memorial Mass at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, noon, call Jack Kenney at (201) 670-1938.

RELIGIOUS TEACHERS FILIPPINI, Morristown, Senior Sisters' Christmas Bazaar, 12-5 p.m., (973) 538-2886.

SACRED HEART PARISH, Lyndhurst, parish communion breakfast, at San Carlo Restaurant, 10:15 a.m. following 9 a.m. Mass, RSVP at (201) 939-6680.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 1345, Dumont, pancake breakfast benefiting Kayla Rose Hanon, a young woman with bone cancer, at Dumont High School, 8 a.m. -1 p.m., call Lou Pidi at (201) 439-1985.

ST. JOSEPH PARISH, East Rutherford, Father Louie Vitale, co-founder of "Pace e Bene" to speak, 7:30 p.m., call Maria De Trizio at (201) 602-1505.

November 2

ASCENSION PARISH, New Milford, communion supper, following All Souls Mass at 7 p.m., cost: \$15, call Josie McEwan at (201) 265-0485.

UNION CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, Scotch Plains, "A Night of Comedy," 7 p.m., cost: \$20, (908) 889-1600 ext. 304.

MOTHER SETON REGIONAL SCHOOL, Clark, open house for fifth through eighth grade girls and their parents, 7:30-9:30 p.m., (732) 382-1952.

XAVIER RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER, Convent Station, "Communal Contemplation: Opening to One's Congregational Charism," a conference for women religious, 3 p.m., through Nov. 4, cost: \$280, (973) 290-5100.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 1345, Dumont, Memorial Mass for deceased members, 8 p.m., call Brian O'Dowd at (201) 385-2859.

QUEEN OF PEACE HIGH SCHOOL, North Arlington, open house, 7 p.m., (201) 998-8227.

November 4

NJ BLOOD SERVICES, blood drive at Seton Hall University, South Orange, 10:30 a.m. -9:30 p.m., call Marie Forrestal at (732) 616-0798.

CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF THE SACRED HEART, Newark, organ recital with F.Allen Artz III, noon, call John J. Miller at (973) 484-2400.

CHURCH OF THE ATONEMENT, Tenafly, "Telling Our Stories:Teaching Our Values," presented by the Christian/Muslim Project, with Father Phil Latronico and Mohamed el Filali, 7 p.m., (201) 568-1763.

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH, Union, Holy Hour for Life, 7:30-8:30 p.m., (908) 687-3327.

OFFICE OF FAMILY LIFE MINISTRIES, Newark, annulment information evening, at St. John the Baptist Parish, Hillsdale, 7:30 p.m., (973) 497-4327.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH, Mahwah, 7-week bereavement support group, 7:30 p.m., (201) 327-1276.

ARCHDIOCESAN CENTER, Newark, Ignation Volunteer Corps information session, 10:30 a.m., call Liz McMahon at (201) 618-6924.

November 5

UNION CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, Scotch Plains, "Noises Off," through Nov.

7, 7 p.m., call Meg Nuwer at (908) 889-1600 ext. 318.

QUEEN OF PEACE PARISH, North Arlington, Daddy Daughter Dance, 7-11 p.m., at Landmark in East Rutherford, cost: \$40, (201) 998-8227.

November 6

CALDWELL COLLEGE, "Faculty Favorites" concert, 8 p.m., cost: \$20/\$15 for students and seniors, (973) 618-3520.

November 7

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH, Bloomfield, women's conference, "Authentic Femininity: Raising the Cultural IQ to Feminine Genius," 9 a.m. -2:30 p.m., cost: \$15, call Bob Miller at (973) 338-9190 ext. 29.

November 8

ST. HENRY PARISH, Bayonne, choir concert in celebration of the parish's 120th anniversary, 4 p.m., (201) 436-0857.

CHURCH OF THE PRESENTATION, Upper Saddle River, "Harriman Hike" singles event, in Pomona, NY, meet in church parking lot at 9:30 a.m., (201) 327-1313.

HUDSON CATHOLIC REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, Jersey City, "New Beginnings" Fall Luncheon and Card Party, at Casino in the Park, noon, cost: \$50, (201) 332-5970.

November 9

COLLEGE OF SAINT ELIZABETH, Morristown, Holocaust survivors to speak at launch of Week of Holocaust Remembrance, 7:30 p.m., call Fran Sullivan at (973) 290-4416.

November 11

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 3428, North Arlington, flag retirement ceremony, 7:30 p.m., call Nicholas Cerchio at (201) 230-3428.

November 12

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY PARISH, Scotch Plains, "Internet Security," 7-8 p.m., (908) 889-2100.

November 13

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH, Montclair, tricky tray, 7 p.m., cost: \$15, (973) 744-1074.




MARGUERITE'S RETREAT HOUSE, Mendham, "Beginning Experience Weekend," for men and women going through separation, divorce or death of a spouse, through Nov. 15, call Margaret Davey at (973) 378-8682.

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Help Wanted		Gifts		SHOULDER WOUND OF JESUS CHRIST PRAYER O loving Jesus, meek lamb of God, I a miserable sinner, salute and worship the most sacred wound of Thy Shoulder, On which Thou didst bear Thy heavy cross, which so torn Thy flesh and laid Thy bones as to inflict an anguish greater than any other wound of Thy most Blessed Body. I adore Thee, Oh Jesus most sorrowful, I praise and glorify Thee, and give thanks fully to thee for this most Holy and sacred and painful wound, beseeching Thee by that exceeding pain, and by the crushing burden of Thy heavy Cross to be merciful to me a most miserable sinner, to forgive me of all my mortal and venial sins and to lead me on towards Heaven along the way of Thy Cross. In Jesus name (mention requested) Amen to all. Thank you for your help. This most powerful prayer must be said for requests and most urgent help. After you have said and asked for your requests- This prayer MUST be published immediately after being said. M.S.		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. D.A.R.T.	
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Darkest sorrow; survivors face suicide's spiritual aftershocks

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE
Editor

It represents the most-tragic loss of faith for an individual as well as a difficult experience for survivors to confront in a bereavement process. It's the darkest hour and the unanswered cry for help. It's the loss of a loved one from suicide.

Along with the initial devastating pain, Catholics and people of all faiths, as they grieve, must confront the spiritual aftershocks of suicide, coming to grips with theological issues and unanswered questions that stem from the traumatic episode.

Father John S. Grimm, assistant professor of Christian Ethics at Seton Hall University, South Orange, said the position of the Church is that life is sacred and every person has a duty to preserve their own life. This maintenance of life is a fundamental element of Catholic stewardship—in essence, sustaining God's most precious gift. That said, he noted the Church does take a "nuanced" view of personal responsibility, given the tragic, complex circumstances involved in suicide.

"Pastorally speaking, we don't want families of suicide victims to feel their loved ones are lost or in hell," Fr. Grimm said. "Only God knows the burdens that a person was carrying. People who feel overwhelmed may act impulsively or make mistakes in judgment.



CNS photo

The Church makes clear that suicide is objectively a serious sin, but we don't make a subjective judgment on the person."

Those who commit suicide have had their freedom and state of mind severely compromised by significant factors such as medical depression, hopelessness or addiction. Speaking from a faith-based perspective, compassion and Christian solidarity—not condemnation—are required to assist survivors so they can cope with the bereavement process, according to Fr. Grimm.

Father Ronald Rolheiser, president, Oblate School of Theology, Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, San Antonio, TX, and a national columnist, wrote in a recent article that—for people of faith—there are few things as devastating as the suicide of a loved one.

"There's the horrific shock of losing a loved one so suddenly which, just of itself, can bring us to our knees; but, with suicide, there are other soul-wrenching feelings—confusion, guilt, second-guessing, religious anxiety," Fr. Rolheiser wrote. "Where did we fail this person? What might we still have done? What is this person's state with God?"

Suicide is a disease and generally the most misunderstood of all sicknesses, Fr. Rolheiser stated. "It takes a person out of life against his or her will, the emotional equivalent of cancer, a stroke, or a heart attack. Suicide is an illness and, as with any sickness, we can love someone and still not be able to save that person from death.

"God loved this person too and, like us, could not, this side of eternity, do anything either," he continued. "We shouldn't worry about how God meets this person on the other side. God's love, unlike ours, can go through locked doors and touch what will not allow itself to be touched by us."

There is no pain like the one suicide inflicts, he said, pointing out that, in most cases, suicide is

Continued on page 19

Special to
The Catholic Advocate
October 28, 2009



All Saints All Souls

Faith clipart

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Life forum

Continued from page 1

meant to be alone. Eternal solitude is one of the cruelest encounters of the human experience," Owens added.

Our personhood is lived in and through the body, Owens believes, and the union between a man and woman is holy because it makes visible the interior secret of God Himself. Remembering masculinity and femininity are important because God gave them to us, he said.

"The dignity of the human person comes from the dignity of God. We are the image and likeness of Himself. How do we build and impact the culture of life? The answer lies in the family," he stressed.

The bond of family is essential to promoting a culture of life because it is how human beings develop positively. "Our world expands with the community and the Church. Research shows that development has to happen personally and not with an organization. Our maturity is not in data, but in human relations- that is how we grow and become in our personhood. That is how we build a culture of life," Owens said.

A strong family builds a strong culture, he said, and the root of all evils, including abortion and same-sex marriage, lies in the fact that human beings have forgotten who they are. Society has "collective/cultural amnesia" that has forgotten what true personhood is and that our corporeal bodies are gift from God.

"We think we can define what it means to be a person or when human life begins," Owens declared. "When we know who we are, we know our dignity. 'Remembering' happens in the family. Love gives us sight; we see the whole world differently."

Ensuring the protection of human life from conception to natural death by law is essential in promoting the culture of life. Robert P. George, professor of jurisprudence at Princeton University, believes that abortion is a violation of human rights.

"Every person should be protected by law. If we look in the embryology and biology books, a human embryo is just a human being at an early stage of development. The Bible doesn't tell us that; science tells us that," George said.

The pro-choice idea that an embryo is just a "clump of cells" is invalid, George believes, be-

cause scientifically, an embryo is already a person that should be granted the right to life.

"Some believe that an embryo is not yet a human being because it does not possess reasoning, consciousness or self awareness. Under that belief, euthanasia can be justified and comatose or se-



Advocate photo — Melissa McNally

verely retarded people are not considered human beings. All human beings are equal at a fundamental level," he explained.

The foundation of our government rests on the idea that all people are equal and have inherent rights. If the country denies rights

to the unborn, the cornerstone of the American government is in question, George countered.

"The U.S. principles go out the window if you believe in the principles of abortion. Every human being by virtue of humanity should have equal, inalienable rights. The Church believes that

Robert George, a featured speaker at the Respect Life "Call to Action" forum, said the right to life is not just a Catholic issue, noting that other faiths and even atheists are involved in pro-life issues. "The pro-life position is not about religion but about rationality and basic principles."

taking a life in any respect is fundamentally wrong because all life has profound, inherent worth. The right to life is embodied in law. It is not a morally Catholic idea, it is the principle of what our civilization is based," George noted.

All human beings have inher-

ent worth and dignity given to them by God. George believes that abortion, euthanasia, embryonic stem-cell research and any direct killing of innocent human beings should not be sanctioned by law. It is not a partisan or political issue, but an issue of ethics and human rights.

George praised the resilience of the pro-life movement and sees a shift in public opinion. "It is important to notice the fact that public sentiment is moving in a pro-life direction. That is a great credit of the pro-life movement. They have struggled for 40 years and could have given up a long time ago but held fast. We have to be wise as serpents and gentle as doves. We must remain organized and make sure pro-life is not compromised in spite of politics."

He compares those involved in the pro-life movement to the saints who sacrificed and persevered for their love of God. Some people, including his colleagues, have put their reputations and careers in jeopardy because of their beliefs.

"God did not call us to be victorious; he called us to be faithful," George explained. "You can be seen as a buffoon or rube if you are pro-life. Like the saints, they have made sacrifices for their faith."

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Eulogies replace focus on final spiritual status

A few weeks ago I was at a funeral Mass for a friend. The priest decided to wear black vestments and I was immediately carried back in time. My mind was filled with memories of the liturgies for the dead before Vatican II. They were somber affairs. The Latin language, the solemn music, the *Dies Irae*, (the translation begins, "O day of wrath, O day of mourning") the six candles around the casket, the black pall over the body of the deceased, and the absence of any form of homily all conveyed a message of grief and, above all, fear of divine justice.

The entire liturgy was of-

fered for the "happy repose" of the deceased. We were begging for a merciful judgment and a quick entry into paradise for a soul we presumed had at least some small sins.

Now, the liturgy of the resurrection has a completely different mood and it would seem almost a new theology. The Mass is celebrated in white, the mood is hopeful—at times almost joyful—and the liturgy of the Word, the homily, the prayer of the faithful, the eucharistic prayer and the orations are filled with a vision of eternal life.

Yes, we still pray for the soul of the departed, but the references are almost passing and overwhelmed

by a confidence in God's mercy and a certainty of salvation for the departed. However, in reality, something has been lost, not only at the funeral but in the lives of the faithful as well. At times there seems to be almost an arrogance in faith, an over-confidence verging on presumption.

The best example is found in some homilies at a "Mass of the Resurrection." Homilies have become eulogies, no matter who the person is and no matter what kind of life he or she had led. The word "eulogy" means to "speak well" of someone. Even in the days before Vatican II we priests had a saying: *de mortibus nil nisi bon*

("of the dead, (we speak) nothing but good"). But it has come to the point now that when one attends a funeral liturgy it has the feeling of being a witness to a beatification ceremony.

The reality of the person's past life, many times, is absolutely disconnected from the description of the deceased in the eulogy. Often, that casket in the church contains the mortal remains of a person who rarely, if ever, entered a church during life. The truth is we priests are often more concerned about making the mourners feel comforted than we are about the dead person's final spiritual condition. We do not even urge prayers for the deceased.

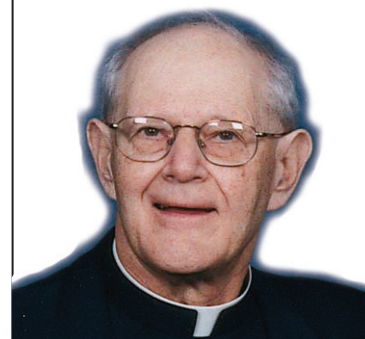
In today's Catholic society, a situation exists that we must acknowledge if we are to be true to our ancient faith. First, there is hardly any "sense of sin." The enlightenment, a complex of false philosophies, has swept over the world. It has infiltrated our Church. Especially since the sixties (the age of sex, drugs, rock and roll), there are few taboos. Do your own thing. Let it all hang out. The world was made for me. We are all existentialists in some form. We are the measure of all things, good or bad.

Second, as a part of that world view the "last things," as we once called them, have disappeared from Catholic consciousness. When was the last time you heard a priest preach about hell or purgatory? We have drifted into a form of "feel good" religion. (I am as guilty as anyone on this account.) We don't want to make people feel unhappy.

Third, some Catholic theologians in their heart of hearts really do not believe in the last judgment or any true value of intercessory prayers for the deceased. In this they have adopted Lutheran theology: Faith alone, not works, is necessary. As long as you believe, you are saved. So let it go at that point—*que sera, sera*.

As a consequence, the intention of offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for a departed soul has

VOICES



By Rev. Msgr. John Gilchrist

diminished. For many, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is a "memorial" service for the person—nothing more. Besides, as one woman once told me, a Mass card is cheaper than flowers.

It would be more than hypocritical if there were a priest who did not really believe in the redeeming power of the Mass, who nevertheless accepted a donation for "offering the Holy Sacrifice."

For Catholics who really accept the faith, All Saints Day and All Souls Day are precious. It brings into our minds and hearts the warm memory of those whom we have known and loved. They are not dead. They are alive in the Lord.

It is our belief that God allows the faithful departed to know everything that pertains to them. So, if you think of your loved one—if you barely whisper their name—they are aware of it. Our love is reciprocal. Those in heaven before the throne of God can pray for us. And even the souls who do not yet enjoy the fullness of the beatitude can also pray for us. In fact, the souls in purgatory have a powerful voice. Their love still burns.

So on these days, take time. Sit quietly. Even take out old pictures and treasured keepsakes. Remember, it is all about *caritas* (love) in its most beautiful and perfect form.

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

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Catholic Cemetery Sunday, to be celebrated Nov. 1, reminds the faithful of the importance and value in praying for our deceased family and community members.

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(Editor's note: Information provided by the Catholic Cemetery Conference, Hillside, IL.)

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Support groups offer hope during bereavement period

AREA—The archdiocesan Family Life Ministries sponsors parish-based support groups and other bereavement services throughout the four counties of the Archdiocese of Newark.

Support groups are open to people of all faiths who are grieving the death of a loved one. Trained facilitators provide information on the grief process and help participants find support through the sharing of their experiences.

To obtain information about parish support groups in Bergen, Essex, Hudson and Union counties, call Janet McCormack, associate director, Family Life Ministries, at (973) 497-4327.

In addition, Family Life Ministries offers a program for those who wish to become certified as bereavement support group facilitators for the Archdiocese of Newark. This program can serve to enhance an existing parish bereavement support group or provide the foundation to begin one.

During this eight-session program, participants will explore the experiences and tasks of mourning. They are invited to become a “bereavement support group” and to experience the dynamics of the group. Communication and listening skills are fostered, and practical information about starting a parish-based group is given. There is also an emphasis on how loss impacts a person’s spiritual journey. An instructional manual containing informational and resource material also is provided.

Continuing education credits are also available from Seton Hall University, South Orange, for those who successfully complete the course. Contact McCormack for details.

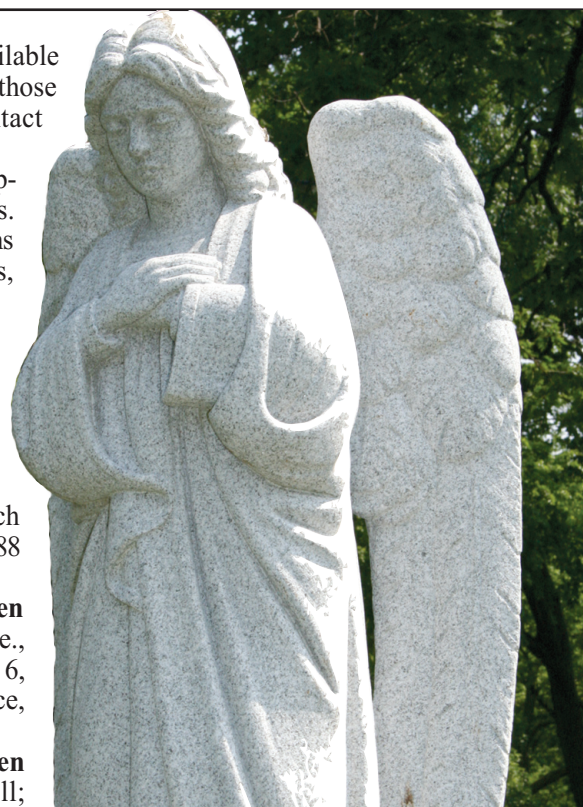
The following is a list of four bereavement support groups, sponsored by Family Life Ministries. It’s suggested that those interested in these programs should use contact information to confirm times, dates and locations.

HOPE (Helping Other Parents Endure); Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish, 60 Byrd Ave, Bloomfield; meets first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.; call Jack and Ann Muller, (201) 358-8752.

Support Group for Parents Whose Children Have Died; Saint Peter the Apostle Parish, 445 Fifth Ave., River Edge; meets third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.; call Mary Davis, (201) 265-3688 or (201) 261-5400.

Support Group for Fathers Whose Children Have Died; Notre Dame Parish, 359 Central Ave., North Caldwell; meets 10 a.m. Dec. 5; March 6, 2010; and June 12, 2010; Call Family Life Office, (973) 497-4327.

Annual Liturgy for Those Whose Children Have Died; Notre Dame Parish, North Caldwell; meets at 7:30 p.m. May 7, 2010; Call Family Life Office.



Advocate photo — M. Gabriele



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Aftershocks

Continued from page 13

an illness not a sin. Suicide, typically, is a desperate attempt to end unendurable pain. Victims of suicide were too bruised to have the resiliency needed to deal with life.

"Those of us who have lost loved ones to suicide know that the problem is not one of strength, but of weakness; the person is too bruised to be touched," he said. "God, as Jesus assures us, has a special affection for those of us who are too bruised and wounded to be touched.

"Our loved ones who have fallen victim to suicide are now inside of God's embrace, enjoying a freedom they could never quite enjoy here and being healed through a touch that they could never quite accept from us."

Compassion and Christian solidarity, not condemnation, are required to assist survivors so they can cope with the bereavement process.

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), New York (Web site: www.afsp.org) recently opened a chapter in Bergen County, bringing the total number of AFSP chapters in the United States to 36. An AFSP spokesman said suicide remains a national health problem that claims a life every 16 minutes. Overall, while New Jersey has the lowest suicide rate in the nation, Bergen County statistically has had the highest rate of suicide in the Garden State for the past 15 years, he explained.

The Bergen County AFSP chapter will co-sponsor a "National Survivors of Suicide Day" healing conference (Web site: www.afsp.org/survivorday) Nov. 21 at Bergen Community College, 400 Paramus Road, Paramus.

Chapter representatives in the coming months will work to expand programs to support those bereaved by suicide and bring nationally recognized suicide prevention initiatives to the northern NJ region. The chapter is composed of nine board members, including medical doctors, licensed mental-health professionals, business leaders and survivors of suicide loss.



Submitted photo

40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS—The round-the-clock vigil by volunteers of the 40 Days for Life Campaign, which began Sept. 23 at the Women's Choice Medical Center, Hackensack, will conclude Nov. 1. The demonstration in Hackensack, one of 212 cities across America and internationally taking part in the campaign, focuses on prayer and fasting to end abortion. For more information about the vigil or the organization, contact Lorraine Logerfo, by phone at (201) 384-3947 or via e-mail at 40daysforlife.hackensack@gmail.com. David Bereit is the national director of 40 Days for Life (Web site: www.40daysforlife.com).



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