



The Catholic Advocate

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Community newspaper of the Archdiocese of Newark

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Take a week to celebrate Catholic schools

How about Jan. 25-31? Archdiocesan educators weave compassion, community outreach into core curriculum to inspire faithful, future leaders.

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Blair to share his experience on diplomacy

Former British prime minister to speak at Seton Hall University.

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Economic turmoil creates more need AAA assists most-vulnerable neighbors

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE
Editor

NEWARK—The 2009 Archbishop's Annual Appeal (AAA) will kick off "pledge week" the weekend of Feb. 7 and 8, as parishes throughout the four counties of the archdiocese gear up for this year's fundraising campaign.

The appeal this year is being launched amid the throes of the unfolding financial crisis that has gripped the nation and created economic anxiety for many in the archdiocese.

"Times are tough for everyone," Carla Gonzalez, executive director of the archdiocesan Development Office, acknowledged, assessing the difficult economic environment.

"But when times are tough, our need to help others increases. The AAA is an opportunity for the archdiocesan community to come together as one family and help those who are less fortunate."

For example, Gonzalez cited recent accounts of more people going to emergency shelters and longer lines at the soup kitchen run by Saint John Parish. Donations to the AAA support programs to help the needy,

along with archdiocesan schools, the formation of priests, outreach by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark, and the Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministries.

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Advocate photo – M. Gabriele

Enthusiastic sixth grade students, members of the Queen of Angels O Ambassadors Club, along with their teacher Desiree Franklin, focus on the importance of community service—local and international. Every two months the club selects a theme and organizes fund-raising and awareness-raising events for the school.

Global citizens learn to serve

BY LAURA CRISTIANO
Special to The Catholic Advocate

Service has always been an essential part of Catholic education. It is so completely intertwined within the mission of the Church that when Catholic school students are asked, "What do you do for service?" they are completely overwhelmed.

They aren't overwhelmed because they have to scramble to come up with an answer; rather, they are overwhelmed because their answer could entail an hour-long conversation.

"Celebrate Service" is the national theme to trumpet Catholic Schools Week, which runs Jan. 25-31 (see special report that begins on page 15).

Catholic schools typically partake in community outreach programs such as Toys For Tots and Thanksgiving donations for food pantries. As laudable as these outreach efforts are, they are seasonal. The needs of the poor and hungry are not limited to the months of November and December—or the four counties of the archdiocese.

Since Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Newark are concerned about their ongoing role in the community and world around them, their perspective on outreach is an ongoing endeavor. Many times, when the idea of service is brought up, a passage from Luke 12:48 is quoted: "When someone is given a great deal, a great deal will be demanded of that person."

But how exactly is "a great deal" defined? What

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Catholic education remains our mission

In the weeks leading up to this very important celebration in the life of the Archdiocese of Newark—Catholic Schools Week—I have been thinking much about the future of Catholic education in general, and of Catholic education here in this great Archdiocese. It is my hope to share with you soon, in a more comprehensive manner through a pastoral message, my thoughts about the mission and future of this critical ministry of the Church.

We pause this week to acknowledge that this ministry is among the most important in the Church. I am grateful to the parents, pastors and teachers who guide and educate in partnership all of our children. I also am grateful to the staff of the Archdiocesan Schools Office and to Fr. Kevin Hanbury, our Vicar for Education, for their guidance and stewardship of the mission of Catholic education here in the Archdiocese. Most of all, I take this moment to reemphasize our pride in and commitment to Catholic education.

Reason to be proud

The Catholic schools of the Archdiocese are learning communities of faith and service that provide children with in the foundation they need to succeed in life. They offer strong academics, faith and values, all with a vibrant and culturally diverse environment. Our schools maintain high expectations, encourage family and community involvement, stress the value of self-discipline and commitment, and offer faculty and staff as positive role models for students. They encourage all students toward excellence and teach them to use their gifts and talents in service to others. Because learning with the heart is as important as learning with the mind, a child who receives a Catholic education has an advantage for life. That is the true value of a Catholic education and one that cannot be translated into numbers.

Yet, we live in a world where numbers matter, so let me share some numbers about the success of the Catholic schools in the Archdiocese.

Research shows that because of a greater emphasis on homework and study, Catholic school students develop

Sincerely
in the Lord

By Archbishop John J. Myers



more effective writing skills. Our diocesan students score an average of 30 points higher on the SAT writing exam than students in neighboring schools.

One hundred percent of the graduates of our elementary schools continue through high school, and 95 percent of our high school graduates pursue higher learning.

Our students score significantly above national averages on the annual TerraNova standardized test, a well-recognized measurement tool used by both private and public schools across the country.

The 83 percent graduation rate that the State of New Jersey boasts about includes graduates from both public and private schools in the state. The 100 percent of students who graduate Catholic high school make the state's high graduation rate possible.

Look at any business, government entity or non-profit in this state, and you will find graduates of our Catholic schools leading, managing, contributing to their organizations' success, shaping and guiding the future for our society.

Yet challenges loom

Given this condensed summary of the successes of our Catholic schools, most people would ask: "Why is there flux in Catholic schools?" "Why make changes?"

The questions are simple, but the answers are complex.

In 2002 I commissioned a study of both the parishes and schools so that we could, as a local Church, meet the changing needs of the people of our Archdiocese. You all know this study as the New Energies Initiative. A portion of the work examined Catholic education. Shifts in population in many of our cities and towns, and changing societal standards, have produced families that have fewer children. Many of those families do not see the value of Catholic education. In addition, in areas where Catholic parishes and schools traditionally had been strong, the population is no longer Catholic (perhaps not even Christian), and is unaware of the advantages of a Catholic school education. In many of these same areas, the level of poverty has increased, and families simply cannot afford to pay the tuition of a Catholic school.

Solutions are possible

The ten-year plan that the Schools Task Force prepared contained one element—a more regionalized approach to providing Catholic education—that holds hope for the future. In locations across the Archdiocese, parishes are collectively combining their once-individual schools to form one strong and solid learning community to serve the needs of all students in their parishes. In each instance where this idea is implemented, we recognize that the tradition of the self-standing parish school will no longer continue, and we share with these communities the sense of loss that comes when something no longer is part of their lives in the same way.

At the same time, however, we are establishing a new way of fulfilling our mission of Catholic education within a much larger, stronger community of faith. We believe that this new approach can be the start of a recommitment by the entire Catholic community of the Archdiocese to the mission of Catholic education, and the challenge that Jesus gave us to "testify to the truth" (Jn.18: 37).

That, after all, is what Catholic Schools Week is all about.

Instilling wisdom, values: an 'apostolate of hope'

BY SISTER PATRICE WERNER
Special to *The Catholic Advocate*

As we celebrate Catholic Schools Week, I am thinking back to last spring when I had the wonderful opportunity to be in the audience when Pope Benedict XVI spoke to Catholic educators at The Catholic University of America in Washington D.C. I was heartened by how he encouraged us.

"The Catholic community here has in fact made education one of its highest priorities. This undertaking has not come without great sacrifice," Pope Benedict said. He called Catholic schools an "outstanding apostolate of hope" and recognized many of our founders for their courage.

Today, we benefit from the courage and sacrifice of those founders. It was not easy for them to start Catholic schools. They were not afraid to take risks and adapt to the changing academic, social and economic needs. Today, Catholic higher education

is challenged to do the same.

To remain competitive the market demands that we look closely at how to continue to provide a quality affordable education during a national financial crisis; how to develop a curriculum that serves the current career needs of students; how to pursue and strengthen our core values in a global, interfaith world; and how to keep alive our Catholic Dominican mission.

If 15 years as a college president has taught me anything, it is awareness of the institution's need to be open, nimble, innovative and responsive to the changing marketplace.

There is not a college president who would not say that higher education today confronts many challenges in the face of our country's economic ills. When Caldwell College's foundress Mother Joseph Dunn first envisioned opening a college to serve those who did not have access to higher education, she said, "If God wants the college, God will bless the college."

Seventy years and countless successful graduates later, we know that God has certainly blessed Caldwell College. We continue to provide that access and the Catholic Dominican mission remains at the heart of all we do. Catholic colleges like Caldwell work hard to make quality higher education affordable for students and families, and nearly 90 percent of our undergraduate students receive some form of financial aid. When you compare the cost of public versus private higher education, it is important to look beyond the "sticker" price. Since Caldwell College provides significant financial aid and an extremely supportive teaching environment, the true value is much greater than it appears.

Whenever I listen to alumni who return to the college, I am reminded of why we do what we do. Our core curriculum is designed to meet the goals of a liberal arts education. The same students who, while on campus, perhaps moaned about the need to take a wide spectrum of liberal arts

courses, including theology and philosophy, usually return a few years later as alumni and talk about how this background has given them a leg up in their professional lives. Alumni often share how, when they first stepped out into the work world, they found that their Caldwell College liberal arts education had enabled them to communicate more effectively in the workplace than their colleagues who had attended colleges or universities in the "bigger leagues."

Edward R. Collins, Class of 1998, founding partner and wealth advisor of Artisan Wealth Management LLC, said that *Sapientia et Scientia* (the college's motto, which means "Wisdom and Knowledge"), was at the heart of his Caldwell College education. "The broad-based liberal arts education is what provides the knowledge," he said. "It is that education combined with the values and beliefs imparted by a Catholic college that helps instill wisdom in the minds of students."

Collins referenced wisdom as



Sr. Patrice Werner

the prudent application of that knowledge and said that "the critical thinking skills learned at Caldwell College are exactly what are needed in the working world."

At Caldwell College, we know our students need those critical thinking skills to engage in a global, diverse, interfaith world. As a Catholic college,

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FREQUENCY FOR THE YEAR
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Prestigious awards adorn his bookshelf

Fr. Hummel acknowledges Scouting values helped to blaze his trail to the priesthood

BY WARD MIELE
 Managing Editor

NEWARK—With 51 years involvement in the Boy Scouts of America, Father Donald K. Hummel is what is known as a of “lifer.” The values learned and lived in Scouting, he is convinced, were among the primary reasons for his vocation to the priesthood.

Fr. Hummel recently was recognized by Union County’s Patriots’ Path Council with its first-ever Lifetime Achievement Award. It was the latest honor for his service to Scouting that includes the organization’s most prestigious awards.

Of his Lifetime Achievement Award, one of three presented at a Dec. 9 dinner held at the Echo Lake Country Club in Westfield, Fr. Hummel described himself as honored and humbled. “It was quite touching,” he recalled with a smile.

Entering Scouting as a Cub Scout at eight years of age, the future priest was a member of Cub Pack 6 at Saint Aloysius Parish in Caldwell. A major influence in his young life was his father who had been a Scout and his friends at the time.

He moved on to Boy Scout Troop 6 at the parish and its affiliate Explorer Post 6. Among other responsibilities with Troop 6, Fr. Hummel was a senior patrol leader and began working at the local Scout camp.

He advanced through the ranks and earned Scouting’s highest achievement—Eagle Scout in 1965. His project was the cleaning and refurbishing of what was then the parish hall. The building has since given way to a parking lot.

As an adult, the former pastor of Saint Bartholomew the Apostle Parish in Scotch Plains has held most every leadership position in Scouting. He has been a member of the local council and regional executive boards since 1979 and served as chaplain at four national jamborees, attended the World Jamboree two years ago in England and two national camping schools.

For the past 17 summers, Fr. Hummel has served as chaplain at the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico and eight years ago was appointed chaplain of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting.

Among his many honors are the Silver Beaver Award—the highest award given by a local council for distinguished service to youth, in 1978; the Silver Antelope Award in 1991, which is the highest regional award in scouting; and the Silver Buffalo Award five years ago, which was given by the national president and chief executive of Scouting. The national headquarters for the Boys Scouts of America is Irving, TX (Web site: www.scouting.org).

Although most people may not realize it, Scouting is actually an “educational” program. The values and activities of Scouting educate an individual “spiritually, physically, morally and emotionally,” Fr. Hummel explained.

The predominate benefits of Scouting,



Submitted photo

Father Donald K. Hummel (left), Diane Litterer (center), executive director of the New Jersey Prevention Network, Lakewood, and Victor M. Richel, chairman of the board at Trinitas Hospital, Elizabeth, recently were honored as recipients of a Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by Union County’s Patriots’ Path Council. Fr. Hummel, who has enjoyed more than a half-century in Scouting, serves as the director of continuing education and formation for the archdiocesan Clergy Personnel department.

he said, are that a youth can “succeed at his own pace,” adding that Scouting builds self-reliance and self-confidence, attributes not necessarily achievable in sports or even school.

Today, Fr. Hummel stressed, the values of Scouting “are more valuable than ever. They are really timeless.” Catholic Scouting, he noted, has been involved with Boys Scouts of America since its inception. Catholic values and the values of Scouting, he emphasized,

parallel one another. He underlined the fact that to be in Scouting, one has “to believe in God in one way or the other.” Fr. Hummel remembers being especially impressed and moved as a Boy Scout when a priest would celebrate Mass in the field.

“It is so much a part of my life, I can’t imagine it not being part of it,” Fr. Hummel said, reflecting on his five decades in Scouting. “I hope, God willing, to continue to serve.”

Business, labor reception to laud Brennan and Shinn

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE
 Editor

NEWARK—Laurel Brennan, secretary/treasurer of the NJ State AFL-CIO, Trenton, and Timothy H. Shinn, president and chief executive officer of United Crane Rentals Inc., Kenilworth, will be honored at the 16th annual Archbishop’s Business and Labor Recognition Reception, which will be held Tuesday, March 3 at Mayfair Farms, 481 Eagle Rock Ave., West Orange.

The event will begin at 5:30 p.m. as guests will have an opportunity to meet with Archbishop John J. Myers. Cocktails and food stations will be available at 6 p.m. Proceeds from the reception support the archdiocese Youth and

Young Adult Ministries and CYO athletics. To date the annual event has raised more than \$1.4 million.

Tickets are priced at \$200 per person and \$1,800 to reserve a table for 10 people. Contact Gerry Ricci-Menegolla at the Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center, 499 Belgrove Dr., Kearny, at (201) 998-0088, ext. 4154, for details. It’s suggested that reservations be made no later than Feb. 13. Ads for the reception journal also are being accepted.

Brennan is the first female secretary/treasurer of the state AFL-CIO and the first woman honoree of the Labor and Business Reception. Shinn is a fourth-generation member of a family business that spans more than seven decades.

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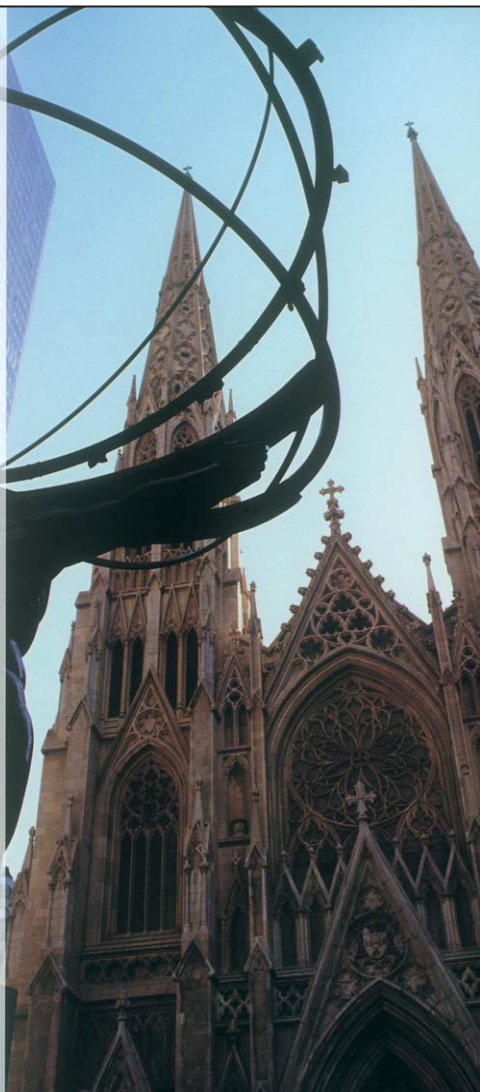
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No fear for those united with Christ

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—While people lacking faith in God may dread numerous dangers and hostile forces in the world, those who are firmly united with Christ have nothing and no one to fear, Pope Benedict XVI said. Jesus Christ is above every form of domination and He is the true Lord of the world, the pope declared Jan. 14 at his weekly general audience. “If we are united with Christ, we do not have to fear any enemies and adversaries, but it also means that we have to hold on to Him tightly without loosening our grip.”

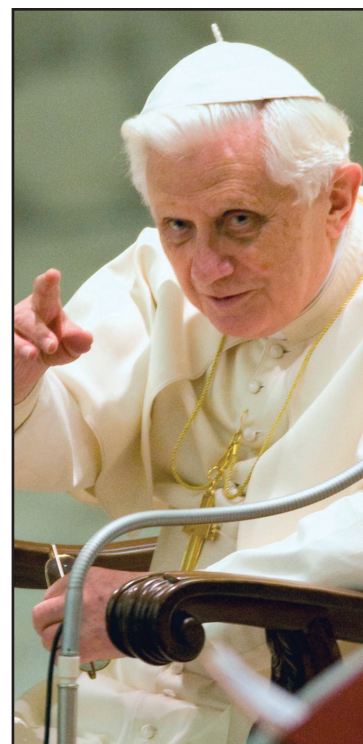
Bishop seeks end to use of torture

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Religious leaders renewed their efforts to press President Barack Obama to sign an executive order banning torture. Bishop Howard J. Hubbard of Albany, NY, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on International Justice and Peace, joined nearly three-dozen leaders as part of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture in signing a letter to Obama’s transition team Jan. 9. The letter urged the president to make good on his oft-repeated campaign pledge to end the use of torture during the interrogation of prisoners. The letter in-

cluded a declaration of principles that calls for a single national standard that upholds basic human rights in the treatment of detainees by the military and intelligence communities.

Church-state model faces challenges

ROME (CNS)—The traditional U.S. model of church-state relations has been praised by Pope Benedict XVI as a form of “healthy secularism,” but it risks being eroded by those who want to limit religion’s influence in public life, speakers at a Rome conference said. The conference, held Jan. 13, marked the 25th anniversary of formal diplomatic relations between the United States and the Holy See. Mary Ann Glendon, the U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, introduced the program by pointing out that there are competing models of religious freedom in the United States, and that the future direction of church-state relations is a subject of intense debate. Speakers agreed that there are persistent efforts in the United States to restrict religion to the private sphere—something not intended by the framers of the Constitution. Philip Hamburger, a professor at Columbia Law School, New York, said the original U.S. idea of “disestablishment,” which prevented the government from establishing an official state church, has been increasingly replaced by the no-

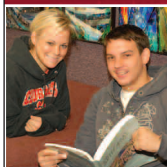
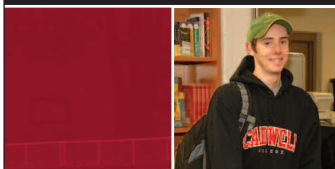


Pope Benedict XVI

tion of strict separation between church and state. This concept of separation developed not from the Founding Fathers, but in later times—first as a form of discrimination against religious minorities, including Catholics; and later as a way to limit all religious influence in society. Hamburger said there’s a modern tendency to broaden the understanding of religious freedom to include the so-called right of religious exemption, in effect giving individuals different degrees of freedom depending on their religion.

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SHU's Whitehead School to host forum Feb. 3

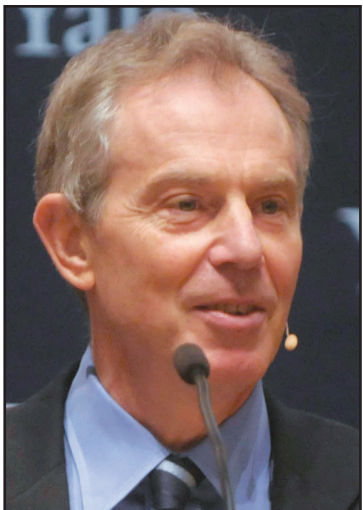
Tony Blair to expound on international diplomacy

SOUTH ORANGE—Tony Blair, prime minister of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from 1997 to 2007, will speak at Seton Hall University (SHU) on Tuesday, Feb. 3 at 4:30 p.m., as part of the John C. Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations' World Leaders Forum. Blair will discuss the skills and values required of the next generation of global leaders in order to meet the challenges facing the global community.

The event, which takes place on campus at the Walsh Gymnasium, is free and open to the public, however tickets are required for admission. Students with a campus ID may pick up tickets at the University Center Box Office. Guests can reserve tickets by calling (973) 275-2557 and mentioning code WLF 1.

Blair, who recently completed his first semester of co-teaching a course on globalism and religion at Yale University, New Haven, CT, became a member of the Catholic Church in 2007. Last month he addressed a seminar at Yale's Battell Chapel about the interplay between globalization and religious faith.

"Religious faith and globalization have to find ways to be at peace with each other so that globalization can be more peaceful and run better and more efficiently," he said at the Yale lec-



In recent days former British Prime Minister Tony Blair has taken a lead role to negotiate an end to the conflict in the Gaza strip.

ture. "Globalization itself needs values—like trust, like justice."

During the decade he spent as prime minister, Blair transformed Britain's public services

through investment and reform in the nation's schools and hospitals. Internationally, he has been known as a vocal proponent of values-based, activist and multilateral foreign policy. As a leading voice for international affairs in Europe, Blair's agenda combined tackling terrorism in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo and Sierra Leone, while addressing climate change, global poverty and the Middle East peace process.

He is widely credited for assisting the Northern Ireland peace process by helping to negotiate the "Good Friday Agreement" and delivering a power-sharing government. He currently serves as special envoy to the "Quartet" on the Middle East. Comprised of representatives from the United Nations, the European Union, the United States and Russia, the Quartet

is involved in mediating the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Last year Blair established the Tony Blair Faith Foundation, which is dedicated to promoting understanding between the major faiths and of the role of faith in the modern world.

"We are pleased to welcome Tony Blair to Seton Hall, who joins a distinguished group of diplomats to have been honored at our World Leaders Forum," Ambassador John Menzies, dean of the Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations, said.



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Holy Rosary

Eucharistic Celebration

Reflection on the need for Divine Mercy by
Fr. Benedict Groeschel, CFR

Presentation on the Marian Fathers' new Mission to the Philippines by:
Mr. Francis P. Bourdon
Executive Director—Association of Marian Helpers

Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC
Director—Association of Marian Helpers, Vice Postulator—Canonization Cause of St. Faustina Kowalska

Followed by BLD Announcements



For more information on the Marians of the Immaculate Conception, please visit www.marian.org/philippines

For more information on Bukas-Loob sa Diyos, please visit www.bldnewark.org

January 22

ST. ROSE OF LIMA PARISH, Short Hills, bus trip to the March for Life in Washington, D.C., 7:15 a.m., cost: \$20 per person/\$50 per family, call Phil Farrelly at (973) 376-8095 or (973) 376-7400 ext. 202.

January 23

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH, Union, dinner/dance and raffle for the Hogar Infantil orphanage in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 7:30 p.m., cost: \$35, (973) 340-0032.

January 24

CHURCH OF THE PRESENTATION, Upper Saddle River, Singles Ministry pizza and music night, 7:30 - 11 p.m., cost: \$10, (201) 327-1313.

January 25

ST. ANTONINUS PARISH, Newark, Memorial Mass celebrating Father James Ferry, 10 a.m., (973) 623-0258.

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH, Nutley, baby and toddler pro-life baby shower, 2:30- 4 p.m., bring donated clothing and baby supplies, (973) 667-2580.

ASSUMPTION ACADEMY, Emerson, "55 Years of Service" anniversary Mass, 10 a.m., brunch to follow, call Pamela Derfus at (201) 262-0300.

January 26

HOLY FAMILY PARISH, Nutley, Rosary Altar Society, 7:45 p.m., call Joyce Ritacco at (973) 235-0668.

January 27

ST. BENEDICT'S PREP, Newark, second annual Vocations Awareness Day beginning at 8:30 a.m. Guest speakers will be two Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. Call Brother Patrick Winbush, O.S.B., at (973) 792-5772 or visit www.newarkabbey.org. Feb. 3 is the snow date.

January 28

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 5846, Oakland, Not in Limbo Singles Network meeting, every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m., call Phil Brady at (201) 337-7596 ext. 15.



Submitted photo

DOUBLE CELEBRATION—Children in the Religious Education program at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Washington Township last month presented "A Light to the World" Christmas pageant marking the parish's 50th anniversary and the upcoming 40th anniversary in May of the ordination to the priesthood of the pastor, Msgr. Thomas McCarthy.

January 31

ST. ANDREW PARISH, Bayonne, "The Soprano's: Tony's Retirement Dinner/Play," 6 p.m., cost: \$50, (201) 437-0833.

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY, South Orange, Institute for Christian Spirituality presents Ministry Resource Day, at St. Peter the Apostle Parish in River Edge, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., cost: \$30, RSVP by Jan. 23, call Jo-Anne Lieder at (973) 313-6331.

ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA PARISH, Little Ferry, "Men of Faith Living in Times of Fear," for men only, 9 a.m. - 12:45 p.m., cost: \$10, call Ed Berta (evenings) at (201) 440-6829 or Mike Meehan at (201) 641-5771.

February 1

HOLY CROSS PARISH, Harrison, Chinese Mass in celebration of Chinese New Year, 2 p.m., (973) 484-5678.

February 4

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

Other

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH, Union, Divorced and Separated Support Group, meetings every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at Drexler Hall, call John at (908) 964-1683 or Marie at (908) 931-9073.

Official Appointments



Archbishop John J. Myers has announced the following appointments:

PASTOR

Reverend Michael J. Sheehan, Pastor of Annunciation Parish, Paramus, has been appointed pastor of Saint Peter the Apostle Parish, River Edge, effective Feb. 1.

Reverend James V. Teti, Parochial Vicar of Saint Teresa of Avila Parish, Summit, and director of Selection and Formation for the Permanent Diaconate of the Archdiocese of Newark, has been appointed pastor of Annunciation Parish, Paramus. The appointment is effective Feb. 1. He will retain his responsibilities with the diaconate program.

DEAN

Reverend George Faour, Pastor of Saint John Parish, Orange, has also been appointed Dean of the Essex Central Deanery, Deanery 17, for a five-year term, ending Jan. 5, 2014.

RETIREMENT

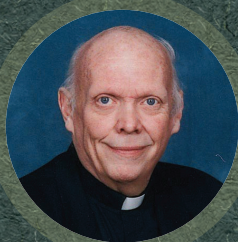
Reverend Monsignor Edward J. Ciuba, Pastor of Notre Dame Parish, North Caldwell, has been granted retirement, effective Feb. 1.

Reverend Edward G. Furrevig, Parochial Vicar at Holy Spirit Parish, Union, has been granted retirement, effective Feb. 1.

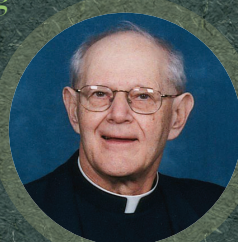
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Conference

Continued from page 1

Senior Citizens, 65 and older, also \$15. Priests and Religious will be admitted free. Donations are welcome. Admission includes a continental breakfast and lunch. For additional information write to Catholic Men's Conference, P.O. Box 9500, Newark, N.J. 07104 or call (983) 497-4545. The fax number is (973) 497-4552. Those preferring to use e-mail, the address is CatholicMen@rcan.org.

An integral part of the inaugural gathering will be concurrent English and Spanish segments. The day will include multicultural faith-based speakers, exhibits, an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, public adoration and music by Catholic Underground.

Registration, breakfast, confessions and fellowship will begin at 8 a.m., followed by music at 9:15 a.m. A segment that will also include confession, fellowship and exhibitors gets under way at 10:15 a.m. Lunch will be served 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.—an hour block offering time for fel-

lowship and a tour of exhibits. Confession will be held 12:30 to 1 p.m. and eucharistic adoration will be available the entire day.

Archbishop John J. Myers, a major proponent of the Men's Commission and upcoming conference, will celebrate Mass at 3 p.m. "Just as the apostles gathered in the Upper Room to comfort, console and strengthen each other," he wrote when introducing the Men's Commission and its goals, "I believe it is imperative that we, too, must seek opportunities to gather in worship as a community of men of faith, to pray for guidance and strength, and to develop avenues of good Christian fellowship so that we can be fathers, sons, uncles, friends and business associates who follow the words of Jesus to 'go into the world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature.'"

Commenting on the upcoming conference in a letter to Rev. Msgr. John E. Doran, Vicar General, Moderator of the Curia and Acting Chancellor, Archbishop Pietro Sambì, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, sent his "congratulations and well wishes" to those plan-

ning to attend the March 28 gathering. He noted too that "joining together in support of one another" in one's "own personal discipleship" toward the Lord is "an occasion of great grace."

Taking to the podium at 2 p.m. will be keynote speaker NFL legend Danny Abramowicz, the host of the EWTN television program "Crossing the Goal," which uses a sports format to encourage men to get themselves into spiritual shape. Abramowicz is a former All-Pro wide receiver. He played for the New Orleans Saints and San Francisco 49ers and was a special team coach for the Chicago Bears and offensive coordinator for the 49ers.

Abramowicz has been involved with "Independent Isla," a playground program for the handicapped; Boy's Hope and the Louisiana Special Olympics. In addition to sitting on the board of EWTN, he is a member of the Catholic Foundation board of directors, the executive committee of the Archbishops' Annual Community Appeal, the National Catholic Men's Fellowship and works with the John Paul II Cultural Center.



Advocate photo — Ward Miele

The archdiocesan Men's Commission co-chairmen Jorge L. Repollet (left), director of cemetery services and marketing for Catholic Cemeteries, and Deacon Joseph A. Dwyer Jr., Vice Chancellor for Administration, discuss plans for the March 28 conference, which carries the theme: "Fueled by Faith, United in Christ our Hope."

Speakers in the English language segment include Father Benedict J. Groeschel, C.F.R., author, psychologist, spiritual director and co-founder of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal headquartered in Newark. Born in Jersey City, Fr. Groeschel is director of the Office for Spiritual

Development for the Archdiocese of New York and adjunct professor at the Institute for Psychological Sciences in Arlington, VA. He is the author of more than 30 books and has recorded over 100 audio and video series in addition to appearing regularly on EWTN.

Service

Continued from page 1

kind of service is "demanded?" An interesting philosophical argument is posed: if you yourself face adversity, are you still obligated to assist others?

Many students in inner-city Catholic schools confront individual adversity on a daily basis, dealing with tough issues such as poverty, crime and neighborhood gangs. However, despite their own concerns, these students are often the most generous when it comes to helping others. Perhaps it is because of the challenges they face that these students are inspired to be compassionate and act to help those who deal with even greater problems—reaching out to support families in the archdiocese as well as people who live in distant lands.

Queen of Angels School, (Pre-K to grade eight) established in 1963 and located at 40-42 Irvine Turner Blvd.—in the heart of the Central Ward in Newark—is a place where students reach out to help those in need. "Students are taught daily to love others as Jesus instructed," Principal Evelyn V. Hay said. "I like to stress to our students that to attend a Catholic school is a blessing. As part of our religious education program it is imperative that students learn global awareness and begin to reach out to help other children less fortunate than they are."

"We are so excited to be a part of the 'O Ambassadors' program and we're proud to represent the voices of youth in Newark," she continued. "There are so many issues in our world that need our attention and we're ready to show that children care and want to make a difference in our world."

Students at Queen of Angels participate in the O Ambassadors program, which is a joint project of Oprah's Angel Network (Web site: www.oprahsangelnetwork.org) and Free The Children. Established in 1997 by talk-show host Oprah Winfrey, Oprah's Angel Network, "is a public charity that uses donations to award grants to organizations around the world that are improving access to education, developing leaders, protecting basic rights, and creating communities of support."



Submitted photo

Benedictine Academy students Simarjit Kaur (left) and Sonia Domingues represent the faith-based tradition of joyful outreach and service at their school. The academy's O Ambassadors Club is raising \$8,500 to build a school for at-risk girls in a developing country. Call the Elizabeth school at (908) 352-0670, ext. 105, for information on donations.

The students are working towards the UN's Millennium Development Goals, learning about international issues and making a tangible difference in the lives of their peers in the developing world. They are part of a network of O Ambassadors clubs across North America,

an effort that encourages students to develop leadership skills and become active, compassionate global citizens.

"We are stressing global awareness for our students and hope to raise a minimum of \$500 to send to Free The Children," Hay said. "While this seems like nothing much for our small school it is a lot." As of Jan. 13, the school met its goal and Free the Children matched their contribution. Anyone interested in making a contribution to the program can contact the school at (973) 642-1531.

Queen of Angels isn't the only school that has chosen to get involved with Oprah's Angel Network. Benedictine Academy, an all-girls high school located at 840 North Broad St., Elizabeth, also has joined the O Ambassadors club. On Dec. 4, 2008, the "Roots of Action" tour, featuring keynote speakers Michel Chikwanine and Katie Meyler, came to Benedictine Academy to inspire students to understand and care about the challenges facing youth around the world.

Their presentation encouraged the students to realize their power to change the world. The tour concluded with a leadership workshop, challenging students to "think critically about their world and the role they can play in making it a better place."

During the workshop, Chikwanine and Meyler spoke of the great desire of children in developing countries in Africa and Asia to attend school. They urged Benedictine Academy students to help raise additional money for the school they are trying to fund, saying that if everyone at the academy gave up a bag of chips (\$1.50) for one day, it would raise enough money to purchase 16 goats for 16 families as well as send all of their kids to school.

"We can do a lot. We can go to Africa to help build a school," Kulvinder Kaur, a junior at Benedictine Academy, said after the presentation. Her cousin, Simarjit Kaur, a freshman added, "There are some people who would do anything to be in my place, to have the education I have. I really appreciate what I have here at Benedictine Academy."

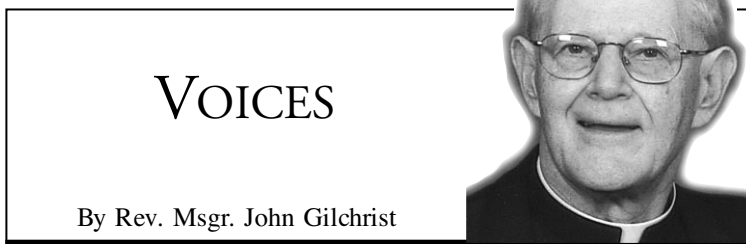
(Editor's note: Laura Cristiano is the director of marketing for the Archdiocese of Newark's Schools Office and a frequent contributor to The Catholic Advocate.)

Tragic 'House' trapped by his secular limitations

Isometimes watch the television program called "House." I watch House critically, almost as a case study in modern philosophy.

Most folks in the evening, as they fall back onto the couch, are there for relaxation and recreation. The "boob tube" is a way to sit back and be entertained or educated, or simply just "to be."

However, what we often forget or disregard is that, while viewers come to the television relaxed and seeking diversion, the producers, writers, directors and sometimes even the actors of those dramas and comedies often have their own agenda. Yes, they desire to keep our attention, and incidentally to sell us products. But most TV shows have a message—sometimes overt, often subtle and, at times, even subliminal. The networks are selling more than soap and cars. They are selling ideas: free love, divorce, abortion and euthanasia are just a



VOICES

By Rev. Msgr. John Gilchrist

few examples of the philosophies that they espouse.

House is a created character. He is important because the writers and producers of this persona have created the absolute materialist. House is purely and blatantly an unabashed atheist, who can make fun of religion and belief with no compunction. The universe is for him all natural science and pure reason, with no emotion.

In one episode, House says to a dying man who is refusing treatment: "There is no place with angels and wings. There is misery

or nothingness." Subsequently, House dares fate by electrocuting himself. He recovers. He has had no "after-death experience." Finally, he stands over the dead body of the patient and says: "I told you so." He has proven to himself that there is nothing after death.

House sees all things physically. He is a pure materialist and he is totally honest. He says what he believes and he believes what he says. He has no true personal relationships. In his mind, physical activity between a man and a woman is just that—

physical activity, nothing more.

He is brutally frank with patients. While his brilliance saves their bodies, he is cold and indifferent to their emotions. He says the most outlandish and hurtful things. He is speaking the unadorned, cold, hard truth as he sees it.

Yet personally, House suffers. He suffers physically from an enormously painful leg injury. He suffers from loneliness. He is locked up within his own psyche. He often plays the part of a selfish child. At other times he seems like a lost soul—so very human. He relies on drugs to get him through the day.

The people around this character are drawn to him by his very vulnerability, yet they are repulsed by his total absence of sensitivity. Women want to love him. Men want to befriend him. But in his life there is no room for God or the Holy Spirit. He is pure scientist and pure materialist.

While House is fictional, millions upon millions of secular/humanists in our world are not fictional. They walk our streets. They worry about their

House lives in his own personal prison. We should be able to see in him so many real people in our society.

money, their health and their own well-being. They are wrapped up in themselves. They have no spiritual dimension. Everything is existential—the here and now.

Pope Benedict at a conference last June said this: "There is a massive presence in our society and culture. It is a relativism, which recognizes nothing as definitive and leaves as the ultimate criterion only the self with its desires. Under the appearance of freedom, it becomes a prison for each one, for it separates people from one another, locking each person into his own ego..."

House lives in his own personal prison. We should be able to see in him so many real people in our society. And as I watch this fictional man, I say to myself: "without faith, family and friends—there but for the grace of God go I."

How fortunate are people with faith in God. They are free—free to love, free to give of themselves to others. They have a destiny. It lies in the fullness of union with God. That is why people of faith can laugh. They have the secret of eternal life. As Joyce Kilmer said: "thank God for God."

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

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Presentations look to spark dialogue

Bergen County parishes provide 'gift' to faithful

AREA—Growing in Faith and Theology (GIFT), an adult education program sponsored by 10 Bergen County parishes, is under way, featuring presentations by speakers from inside and outside the archdiocese.

Separate courses, costing \$35 each, will take place Wednesdays—Jan. 21 and 28 and Feb. 4 and 11—12:30 to 2 p.m. and again 8 to 9:30 p.m. at Saint Luke Parish, 340 North Franklin Turnpike, Ho-Ho-Kus, and Thursdays—Jan. 22 and 29 and Feb. 5 and 12—8 to 9:30 p.m. at Saint Elizabeth Parish, 700 Wyckoff Ave., Wyckoff.

The parishes participating in the GIFT program include Saint Luke, Saint Elizabeth; Guardian Angels, Allendale; Blessed Sacrament, Franklin Lakes; Saint Catharine, Glen Rock; Nativity, Midland Park; Immaculate

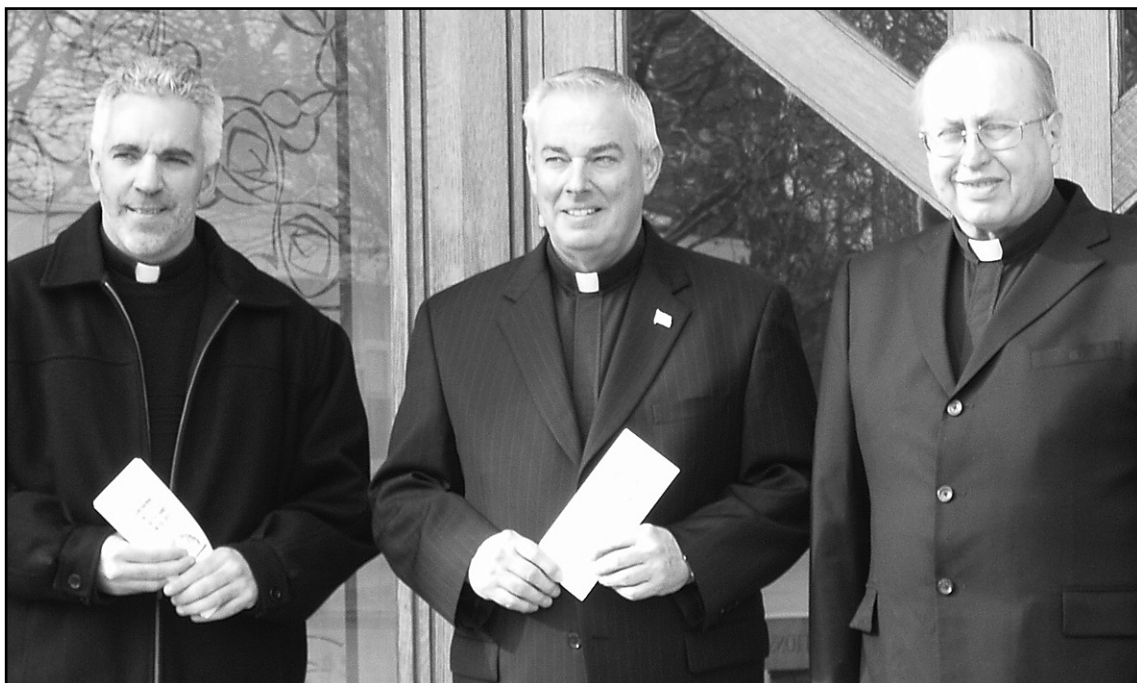
Conception, Mahwah; Saint Paul, Ramsey; Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Ridgewood; and Church of the Presentation, Saddle River.

GIFT, which was founded 10 years ago as a cooperative venture of Deanery 1, is designed to engage archdiocesan faith communities in meaningful dialogue on various Church issues, Scripture readings and theological topics.

Glen McCall, M.A., marking his 26th year in youth ministry and the director of youth ministry at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, will present: "What Every Teen Wants Their Parents to Know But is Afraid to Tell Them." McCall will discuss the role of technology, the Internet and the media, relationships and substance abuse among other topics.

McCall served as a guest author for *The Catholic Advocate* in the October 2007 special report on "Youth and Young Adults." "Our youngest generation is our most valuable resource," McCall wrote in that report. "If it is true that a society (or our Church) can be judged by how it treats its youngest and oldest generations, then we need to ask ourselves, as a faith community, how are we as a Church responding to these concerns? What are we doing to assist our young people with the struggles they face?"

A fitness class for body and soul, "Body, Mind and Spirit," given by certified fitness professional Cathy Byron, will use Pilates-based exercises and integrated stretches. Included will



Submitted photo

Speakers in the GIFT program include, left to right, Father William Sheridan, Father Robert Harahan and Father Thomas Wisniewski. Marlene Malenda, the director of religious education at Saint Elizabeth Parish, serves as the coordinator of the GIFT program. Call (201) 891-3262 or (201) 444-5690 to register.

be continual Christ-centered meditations and prayers. Bring a thick yoga mat and wear comfortable clothes.

The basic characteristics of a Catholic identity will be looked at by Kieran Scott, Ed.D., a professor in the Graduate School of Religion at Fordham University, NY, in the course "Distinctively Catholic: An Exploration of What Makes Us Catholic." Catherine Martin, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Philosophy and Theology at the College of Saint Elizabeth, Convent Station, will present "The Good News of Jesus

Christ According to Mark."

Father William P. Sheridan, pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Mahwah and campus minister at Ramapo College, will explore the topic "Letting Go: Spiritual Insights from the Carmelite Tradition." Last year Fr. Sheridan concelebrated Mass at Ramapo College with Archbishop John J. Myers, an event that also served as an opportunity to emphasize the link between the Ramapo campus ministry and Immaculate Conception (see *The Catholic Advocate*, March 5, 2008).

Father Peter Funesti, pastor of Nativity Parish, Midland Park, will review the letters of Saint Paul during the Pauline Year, which concludes in June. Father Robert Harahan, pastor of Saint Elizabeth Parish, will explore concepts of discipleship. Father Thomas Wisniewski, pastor of Saint Catharine Parish in Glen Rock, will discuss morality and how to live as a Catholic according to the Gospel message. Father James White, D.Min., parochial vicar at Saint Luke, will present "The Energy of Anger—Gift or Curse?"



Glen McCall

Prayer service to sing praises of Consecrated Life

BY MELISSA MCNALLY
Staff Writer

NEWARK—Most Rev. Thomas A. Donato, Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, will preside at an "Evening of Prayer for Consecrated Life" on Monday, Feb. 2, 7 p.m., at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

A national program, the prayer service provides the opportunity to give thanks to God for the blessings and graces of Consecrated Life. Bishops, clergy, seminarians, deacons, men and women Religious and consecrated virgins are invited to attend. Parishioners and lay people also are welcome to show their deep gratitude to and support of the Consecrated.

Sister Margaret Thomas McGovern, O.P., delegate for the religious of the archdiocese, believes the prayer service gives important recognition to those who dedicate their lives to the Lord and His work.

"In addition to their work of education on all levels—the religious instruction of our public school students, social work to eliminate poverty and hunger, the empower-

ment of women who have been abused and neglected, especially single-parent mothers, advocacy to bring about systemic change... are among the many avenues of their works for the people of God," she said.

Sr. Margaret noted that the Consecrated further the mission of the Church, especially in turbulent times. Despite the lower numbers of vowed religious, she believes that the spirit of Consecrated Life will continue in the Church.

"In spite of the declining number of religious, the call of Christ is still there. Consecrated Life will persist until the end of time. It may take a different form, but people will continue to serve the Church," she said.

"Even though (the evening of prayer) is held in February during a cold and dark time of the year, many people attend," Sr. Margaret continued. "There is a large number of international Religious that come and there are many auxiliary bishops present. The service is replete with psalms and scriptural readings. The homily encourages religious and the assemblage to pray for the grace to continue in vowed life. Consecrated Life is a sign that God is with us."



Sister Margaret Thomas McGovern

Advocate photo-Melissa McNally

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Trinity Academy, a Pre-K to eight, Interparochial, Catholic, suburban school, sponsored by the parishes of St. Aloysius, Caldwell; Notre Dame, North Caldwell; and Blessed Sacrament, Roseland is seeking:

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Our Lady of Guadalupe Academy (Kindergarten-Grade 8) Elizabeth, NJ, is a newly formed school from the merger of Blessed Sacrament, St. Anthony and St. Mary of the Assumption Schools. A dynamic and creative leader to serve as principal effective July 1, 2009 is sought.

Qualifications:

• Practicing Roman Catholic committed to the development of the Catholic faith in the school.
• 5 years plus of successful teaching/administrative experience.
• Masters degree, preferably in administration, supervision and/or curriculum.
• NJ State Principal Certification, its equivalent or eligibility for this certification.
• Ability to work collaboratively with faculty, staff, parents, pastors and board.
• Fluency in Spanish.

Please submit letter of interest, resume and three educational references by Feb. 1, 2009 to:

Brother Ralph Darmento, F.S.C.
Principal's Search Committee
Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 171 Clifton Avenue
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Mater Dei Academy (Kindergarten-Grade 8) Kearny, NJ, is a newly formed school from the merger of Holy Cross School, Harrison, NJ and St. Stephen School, Kearny, NJ. A dynamic and creative leader to serve as principal effective July 1, 2009 is sought.

Qualifications:

• Practicing Roman Catholic committed to the development of the Catholic faith in the school.
• 5 years plus of successful teaching/administrative experience.
• Masters degree, preferably in administration, supervision and/or curriculum.
• NJ State Principal Certification, its equivalent or eligibility for this certification.
• The ability to work collaboratively with faculty, staff, parents, pastors and board.
• Fluency in Spanish and/or Portuguese would be helpful.

Please submit letter of interest, resume and three educational references by Feb. 1, 2009 to:

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preserved throughout the world
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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.

R.D.

PRAYER TO ST. CLAIRE

Ask St. Claire for three favors;
one Business and two impossi-
ble. Say nine Hail Mary's for nine
days with a lighted candle.
Published the ninth day "May the
Sacred Heart of Jesus be
praised, adored, and glorified
today and every day. Requests
will be granted no matter how im-
possible they seem. Publication
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V.B.

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.

F.M.C.

**NOVENA TO THE
SACRED HEART OF JESUS**

Dear Heart of Jesus, In the past, I
have asked for many favours. This
time, I ask for this special one
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Heart of Jesus, and place it within
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Father sees it. Then in His merci-
ful eyes it will become your favour,
not mine. Amen. Say for 3 days
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J.I.

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Support groups eye stress caused by economic crisis

ELIZABETH—As the severe national economic downturn affects individuals and families across the country, those in Union County finding themselves in a financial bind can avail themselves of mental health professionals at the Department of Behavioral Health and Psychiatry of Trinitas Regional Medical Center (TRMC) two free weekly support groups.

The Elizabeth location (phone: 908-994-7559), 654 East Jersey St., hosts support groups Mondays 11 a.m. to noon, while the Cranford site (phone: 908-276-2244), located at 300 North Avenue East, operates Wednesday 7-8 p.m.

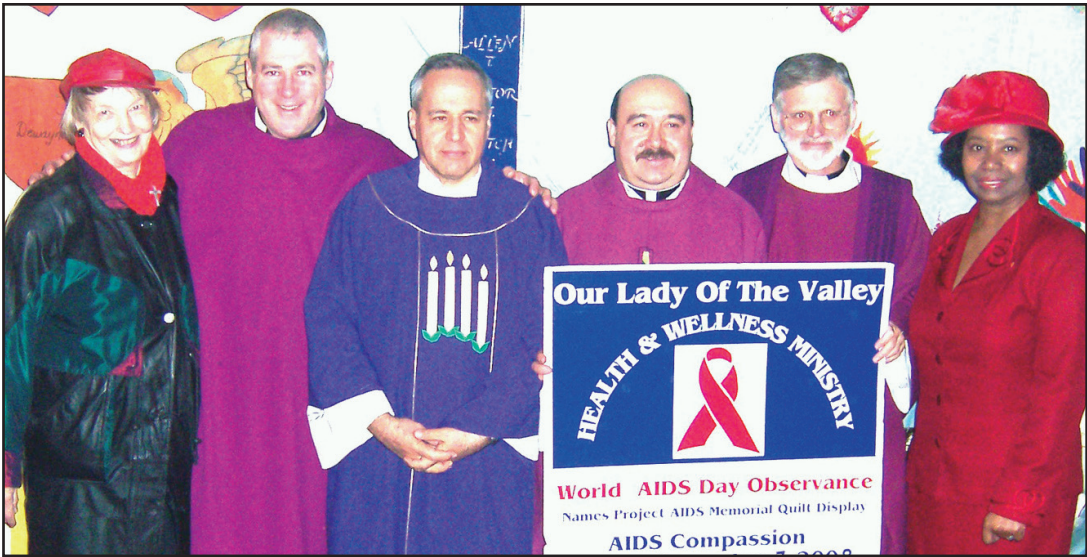
The TRMC support groups are designed to provide assistance in learning how to cope with the multiple challenges that the recession presents. “Many people understandably are having a very difficult time coping with paying their bills. Families and individuals are under a great deal of stress,” James Lape, senior vice president/behavioral health and psychiatry, explained.

“The support groups will offer opportunities for people to share their concerns under the guidance of mental health professionals who can provide positive suggestions and recommendations for improving coping skills to help during these very difficult times,” he added.



Submitted photo

GOOD MEDICINE—Students from Saint Mary’s High School in Elizabeth visited nearby Trinitas Comprehensive Cancer Center for a Nativity presentation in the spoken word and song to help share and spread the Christmas spirit.



Submitted photo

IN REMEMBRANCE—The Health and Wellness Ministry at Our Lady of the Valley Parish, Orange, celebrated AIDS Compassion Sunday on Dec. 7, 2008. The parish focused attention on those living with HIV and AIDS, asking the Lord to be with them. Taking part in AIDS Compassion Sunday were, left to right, Eve Jablonowski; Father Steven Ryan, S.D.B., province vocations director/youth minister; Father Luis Correa; Father Jose Gamba, pastor of Saint Peter Claver Parish, Montclair; Father David Moreno, S.D.B.; and Carolyn Monel, coordinator of the parish’s Health and Wellness Ministry.

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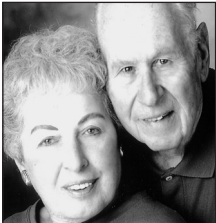
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GIVING BACK—Students from Oratory Prep in Summit gave back to the community in December, serving dinner to at-risk persons through Summit Helps Its People (SHIP). Preparing dinner, serving it and cleaning up at the Oakes Center on Morris Avenue were, (left to right, back row) SHIP board member Richard Nelson and students Thomas Ward and Joseph Koomar, (front row) Darren Earl II, Jordan Spritzer, Cathy Marshall (Oratory campus minister and coordinator), Timothy Lynch and Fernando Garcia. Missing from the photo is SHIP board member and Oratory English teacher Rosemary Butler. Community service is a not a requirement at Oratory, but it is encouraged as a means of spiritual growth of each student.



Submitted photo

Group seeks more hands to knit shawls

MAYWOOD—Members are being sought for a new Prayer Shawl Ministry at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, 400 Maywood Ave.

Initial membership stands at 15. Shawls are knitted for the sick, homebound, bereaved and depressed.

Ministry member Janice Marich said that prayers for healing, courage, hope, strength and faith are woven into each shawl. "We pray that the recipient will feel the Lord's arms around them filling them with comfort and peace," she said.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets monthly at the parish rectory at 7 p.m. for about 90 minutes. Those interested in joining should call Marich at (201) 291-9542.

Additional information about the parish is available on its Web site www.olqp.org. Father Lawrence J. Fama is the pastor.

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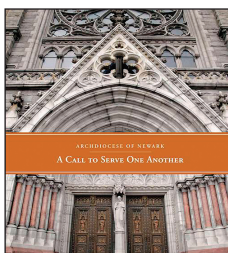
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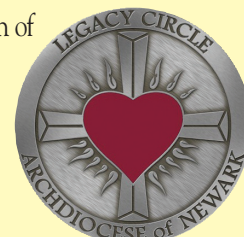
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CHAPEL CONCERT—The legendary Yale Whiffenpoofs, celebrating a century this year with over 200 acappella concerts, will appear Friday, Feb. 6, 8 p.m., in the chapel of Don Bosco Prep, 492 North Franklin Turnpike, Ramsey. The group’s repertoire includes classical, jazz, English folk songs, Motown and contemporary hits. Over the years the Whiffenpoofs have performed for dignitaries such as President Ronald Reagan and Mother Theresa. Tickets, priced at \$85, include a pre-concert dinner with the artists and a post-concert dessert reception. For reservations call (201) 327-8003, ext. 188.

Hudson to fete Brother Patrick King

JERSEY CITY—A dinner/dance honoring Hudson Catholic Regional High School teacher and director of alumni relations, Brother Patrick King F.S.C., for his selection as the grand marshal of this year’s Jersey City Saint Patrick’s Day Parade, will be held Saturday, Feb. 7, from 7 to 11 p.m. in the school gym.

Brother Patrick, a math teacher who has been at Hudson Catholic since its inception in the early 1960s, is a member of the Irish Society of Jersey City.

Tickets are priced at \$75 per person. Seating for 10 at a table is available. It is recommended tickets be purchased at least a week before the event. Call the school at (201) 332-5970 for details. The event will feature music by the Bobby Byrne Orchestra.

Expected to draw many of the school’s alumnae, the evening will benefit the Hudson Catholic Scholarship Fund. A highlight of the evening will be the unfurling of new banners in recognition of the many achievements of the various sports teams.

Anyone considering a donation to the school should sent checks, payable to the Hudson Catholic Rising Funds, to Hudson Catholic Regional High School, 790 Bergen Ave., Jersey City, NJ, 07306.



Brother Patrick King

School schedules open house

VERONA—Our Lady of the Lake School, will host two open-house programs—Jan. 26 and 27 (Monday and Tuesday)—9 to 11 a.m. for pre-school through eighth grade students and their parents interested in the current school year and/or September 2009.

Visit the school’s Web site (myoll.org) or call (973) 239-1160 for more information.

The school offers pre-school program for children ages three and four on weekdays. An early childhood enrichment program is available to pre-school through kindergarten children, ages three through six, not enrolled in the school as well as students in the pre-school program. A full-day kindergarten is also available.

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Advocate photo—M. Gabriele

Carla Gonzalez, (left) executive director of the archdiocesan Development Office, presents a plaque to Msgr. Richard Arnholds, the pastor of Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Bergenfield, recognizing the work of the parish to surpass its 2008 AAA goal. Msgr. Arnholds, the featured speaker at the Jan. 14 kickoff dinner, said each year he encourages his parishioners to give more, the same or less to the AAA than the previous year, “but I ask them to give something.”

2009 AAA kickoff

Continued from page 1

“Rooted in Faith, Growing in Love” is the theme for this year’s AAA—a Scripture passage taken from the third chapter of Ephesians, which goes on to say: “May Christ dwell in your hearts and may charity be the root and foundation of your life.”

lion was rebated to parishes that exceeded their AAA goal. The rebates help to strengthen parishes in Bergen, Hudson, Essex and Union counties so that they can continue to offer spiritual guidance to their respective communities as well as assist those in need, Gonzalez explained.

The annual AAA commencement reception was held Jan. 14 at the Archdiocesan Center. Msgr. Richard J. Arnholds, the pastor of Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Bergenfield, the archdiocesan Vicar for Pastoral Life and a columnist for *The Catholic Advocate*, served as the keynote speaker. Saint John the Evangelist was ranked number-two last year among parishes exceeding their AAA goal (based on percentage). Holy Trinity Parish, Fort Lee, was the top-ranked parish. Other parishes surpassing their 2008 goals included Holy Trinity/Epiphany, Newark; Holy Rosary, Edgewater; and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Ridgewood.

Archdiocesan parishes recently received literature from the Development Office, outlining plans for the 2009 AAA campaign. Kenneth Di Paola is the director of the AAA and capital campaigns. Call the Development Office at (973) 497-4130 for more information, or visit the Web site (www.rcan.org/AAA).

“When times are tough, our need to help others increases. The AAA is an opportunity for the archdiocesan community to come together as one family and help those who are less fortunate.”

— Carla Gonzalez

The goal for this year’s AAA campaign is \$11 million. The 2008 AAA effort collected \$11 million, which represented a 5-percent decline from the year earlier. Last year more than \$1 mil-

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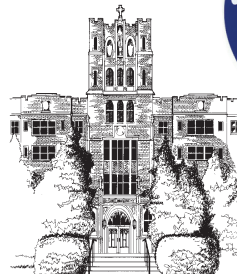
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The robotics club at the Academy of Our Lady of Peace received an award for research at the regional competition in Upper Montclair last December. The club also was invited to participate in the state tournament in Mount Olive.



Submitted photo

Academy experience cultivates

BY MELISSA MCNALLY
Staff Writer

Academic excellence and spiritual enrichment are the benchmarks of any Catholic school. In the Archdiocese of Newark, several elementary schools have gone above and beyond their traditional role to become academies. The Academy of Our Lady of Peace, New Providence; Our Lady of Mercy Academy, Park Ridge; and Saint Rose of Lima

Academy, Short Hills, have taken the next step to facilitate a quality education for a generation of Catholic students.

In May 2008, Brother Ralph Darmento, F.S.C., deputy superintendent of schools, and Sister Joan Amelia Ferruggiario, S.S.J., assistant superintendent of elementary schools, Cluster 1, granted academy status to Our Lady of Peace School. As detailed in the "Guidelines for Transitioning a School to an Academy," written by Brother Ralph, a school must meet special criteria including ad-

ditional curriculum requirements, a gifted-and-talented program, academically related activities, an Early Childhood program and religious education. (See related commentary article by Brother Ralph on page 24.)

After applying to become an academy, Brother Ralph and Sister Joan visited the school to speak with parents, teachers and students. An active school advisory board and home school association are also essential to becoming an academy.

"Academy designation implies that special skills and subjects are taught," Brother Ralph said. "It is not merely a merging of schools and inserting the word 'academy' into the school's new name."

The recent change in status has not been the only change at The Academy of Our Lady of Peace. Thomas Berrios became principal of the academy in July. Diane Pollack, former principal, spearheaded the movement from school to academy.

With only 160 students, the school created a great buzz due to the name change. "It was an exciting beginning to the school year," Berrios said. "We promoted the academy status in September and October. The school put up the sign and we had backpacks made with our new logo."

One of the school's innovative enrichment programs is the robotics team. Participating in the First Lego League, the school purchased a kit and built a working robot. Students conducted their own research and presented their creation to a board of judges.

While evaluating the school for academy status, a lack of sports programs was noted. This year, volleyball, after-school tennis and a track team will be open to the students.

The participation of faculty and parents has been essential to the growth of the elementary school. "The faculty members bring ideas to us. They want us to be better," Berrios pointed out. The change to an academy also has generated renewed interest in the school, its principal explained. "The community is very aware of our school and being named an academy is a step forward."

The principal has seen a positive response in the community when the school participates in service projects. Clothing and food drives and ministry in action are emphasized at the academy. Older students visit Horizon School in Livingston, which serves more than 150 students with multiple disabilities.



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The students have joined in the academy spirit and feel a sense of pride in their school. "(Becoming an academy) is about the students—their work and their accomplishment. The eighth graders have been our biggest cheerleaders. They feel proud that the school they love and were committed to was recognized."

This June, The Academy of Our Lady of Peace will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its first graduating class. Berrios noted that alumni have responded with

enthusiasm to the academic status. "Coming from this tiny little school to a nationally recognized institution, they were thrilled."

Our Lady of Mercy Interparochial School was granted academy status last November. Laraine Meehan, principal for 14 years, believed her school already had possessed the criteria of an academy.

"When I read the guidelines for academy status, I felt that Our Lady of Mercy qualified immediately. Brother Ralph and Sister Patricia Butler, S.C.—the associate superintendent for elementary school administration, Cluster 2—met with our executive advisory board and the home school association. After three weeks, we

were found out we were qualified. We were approved before Thanksgiving and the school was thrilled and very pleased with the decision," she said.

"Truly, the hard work of this community has created an academy where students and teachers strive for excellence...where all achieve as a result of the dy-

namic teaching/learning interaction," Brother Ralph noted in the official letter granting the school academy status.

Foreign language and math clubs are some of the after-school activities offered. A special-education department, to address children who learn differently, has always been part of the curriculum. Forensics (the classical cultivation of public speaking, debating and extemporaneous presentations) is

a highlight of the school, which received an "honorable mention" award in a state mock trial three years ago. After school activities are another way students develop life skills, Meehan believes. "The extra-curricular activities show students that what they learn in class can be applied in real life. It shows them that what they learn from books is not useless."

Our Lady of Mercy Academy

Continued on page 18



Submitted photo

Seventh grade students in the math and science enrichment program at Our Lady of Mercy Academy study the principles of chemistry and physics. Faculty and volunteer parents provide diverse enrichment clubs for students, such as a chess, cooking, and stamp and art collecting.

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Academies

Continued from page 17

will have a celebratory Mass during Catholic Schools Week to commemorate their status change. The

principal wants her school to be known for their excellent academics and a Christian environment.

Saint Rose of Lima Academy made the transition last January. When applying for academy status in August 2007, Principal Karen

Fasanella was motivated by the passing of science teacher Oy Ling Chun and a wish to create a science lab in her honor.

"I felt our school met the criteria for a status change," Fasanella said. "We thought becoming an

academy would be great to market our school to an internal audience and give Saint Rose of Lima duly noted recognition. After our beloved science teacher passed, we began collecting funds for a new science lab. During this time, we underwent the process for academy status."

During Catholic Schools Week of last year, the state-of-the-art Oy Ling Chun Science Center was dedicated and the school officially became an academy (see *The Catholic Advocate*, March 5, 2008). "The school was so thrilled to receive that letter. It was great to have the science center opening aligned with the status change. It was a truly momentous occasion."

Celebrating its 140th anniversary this year, Saint Rose of Lima Academy has a tradition of pinning the graduating class during Catholic Schools Week. "The eighth grade class realized they will be the first class to graduate with the word 'academy' in the title. They are very excited," Fasanella explained. "For parents, becoming an academy gave them the affirmation they wanted. Our area has an extremely strong public school system. It shows the parents that we can keep up with (the public schools) and go beyond."

The evaluation process enlightened Fasanella to the good work that parents, faculty and students do. "We all discovered things were taking for granted, like our dedicated staff and extra-curricular activities."

Enrichment programs, like orbital studies—a systematic way to encourage students to become independent learners—is a 10-week

program led by a faculty advisor, that meets on a weekly basis. Students choose topics that they are interested in and make a 10-15 minute presentation on their research at the orbital expo. Occurring at the end of each trimester, the expo gives parents and the student body an opportunity to see their hard work.

The parents and students sign a contract stipulating that the children do all of the documentation and research themselves. Topics ranging from the rise and fall of the Incas to great heroines of literature are presented. "The students respond to orbital studies because they are allowed a choice in what they are studying. They become interested on a much deeper level," Fasanella explained.

Sacramental and faith programs are essential to an academy, Fasanella said. Students live their faith through service to Saint Mary's Soup Kitchen in Elizabeth. The upper grades prepare sandwiches for the needy and deliver and serve them every month. During the last two years, the entire school created fund-raisers to help build homes in Haiti. The program was so successful, that last year, they built two homes. Students were able to see a photo of the home they built and the families that they helped.

"The students are doing very inspiring types of work. A group of third graders sold hot chocolate during winter to raise money. The students think of these fund-raisers on their own. Their faith becomes more realistic and they know they can make a difference," the principal explained.

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Students and teachers enjoy the "reader's theater" skits at Saint Rose of Lima Academy, which are designed to promote a greater appreciation for public speaking, literature and the performing arts.

Coach, teacher decide to go back to school

SCOTCH PLAINS — Most high school coaches can claim that collaboration yields positive results, but one who has celebrated a 600th career victory can substantiate it.

Kathy Matthews, a physical education teacher and girls' basketball coach at Union Catholic Regional High School (UCHS) recently became one of only five coaches in New Jersey high school girls' basketball history to accumulate 600 wins. However, her skill as a team player goes beyond the court.

Matthews and Joan O'Donnell, a fellow physical education teacher at Union Catholic, took their expertise to the next level by completing Thomas Edison State College's professional certificate in Personal Fitness Training, offered through the college's School of Professional and Continuing Studies.

"We may be seasoned educators, but learning is an ongoing process," Matthews, who has been teaching since 1977, said. "The courses in the program refreshed my knowledge of anatomy, kinesiology and exercise physiology and familiarized me with current research and developments in the field. There was constant brainstorming between Joan and me, especially when dealing with discussion questions, reading assignments and projects."

O'Donnell, herself with 24 years of teaching experience, said that she and her colleagues often are persuaded by senior school administrators to continue their education beyond the baccalaureate level.

"I may pursue my master's degree at some point, but I teach full time, run group exercise classes at the YMCA four days a week, and am busy raising two teenagers. Taking the professional certificate program made more sense from an efficiency standpoint," O'Donnell said. "The program was rigorous but incorporated the aspects that I love—exercise, nutrition and strength training—with a medically based fitness model that I could apply immediately to our curriculum."

"Our personal fitness training courses enabled us to effectively work with students and colleagues toward physical fitness and weight-loss goals," O'Donnell said. "We got the entire school involved with a health and wellness week. We also instituted a healthy eating program and held exercise classes after school for students. We concluded the week with teachers from an array of curriculum teaching different aspects of health. It was a huge success and we are planning an even bigger week for this school year."



Submitted photo
Kathy Matthews, left, and Joan O'Donnell recently earned a professional certificate in personal fitness training, focusing on ways to educate students on how to live healthier lives. They credit Union Catholic Regional High School Principal Sister Percylee Hart with providing moral and financial support to continue their education, recognizing the need to offer a fitness program at the school that would benefit students as well as faculty members.



At Union Catholic, faith-based extracurricular activities such as Peer Ministry and Service Club are a central part of campus life. Built on the Catholic principle of charity and service these activities bring students together to help their peers and their communities.

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LONG-DISTANCE VOLUNTEER— Karolina Parciak (top left), a senior at Saint Dominic Academy, Jersey City, last summer returned to Poland—the country she left at age seven—to fulfill her Community Action Service requirements by volunteering at a camp for orphans and disabled children. Part of the International Baccalaureate Diploma program, the camp, located in Lomza, Poland, is run by Caritas International. Parciak plans to work at the camp again this summer and also serves a volunteer at the Leaders of Tomorrow Day Care Center, Jersey City.

Events create invitation to draw students, parents

AREA—Catholic schools throughout the Archdiocese of Newark have a variety of programs and open-house events planned in conjunction with Catholic Schools Week. A thumbnail listing of the activities follows.

- **Saint Joseph School**, 20 Hackensack St., East Rutherford; registration for the upcoming school year is under way. Call (201) 939-3193 or visit www.sjsr.com
- **Mother Seton Regional High School**, 1 Valley Rd., Clark; an “informal” open house Jan. 28, 7:30 to 9:15 p.m. for fifth through eighth graders and their parents. Registration for the fall will be held Feb. 2, 9 a.m., call (732) 382-1952 or visit www.motherseton.org
- **Roselle Catholic High School**, 1 Raritan Rd.; open house, Jan. 29, 6:30 p.m., call Brother Dan Riordan at (908) 245-2350
- **Assumption Academy**, 35 Jefferson Ave., Emerson; school will mark its 55th year on Jan. 25 with a 10 a.m. anniversary Mass celebrated by the pastor, Father Dominick Lenoci. A brunch will follow. Call (201) 262-0300
- **Saint Peter Academy**, 431 Fifth Ave., River Edge; open house, Jan. 22, 7 to 9 p.m. Call (201) 261-3468 or visit www.spare.org
- **Immaculate Conception School**, 760 Post Pl., Secaucus; “Student for a Day” program. Call (201) 864-9346 or visit www.icsecaucus.home.comcast.net
- **Trinity Academy**, 235 Bloomfield Ave., Caldwell; a continuous open-house program during school hours, Jan. 26-29. Call (973) 226-3386
- **Saint Joseph School**, 131 East Fort Lee Rd., Bogota; open house, Jan. 25, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Registration for the new school year has started. Call (201) 487-8641
- **Bergen Catholic High School**, 1040 Oradell Ave., Oradell; “information night” for accepted eighth graders, Jan. 28, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. To be a “Crusader for a Day” call Pat Fesen in the admissions office at (201) 634-4151
- **Hillside Catholic Academy**, 397 Columbia Ave., Hillside; now through May 29, “Be Wowed on Wednesday,” featuring a visit to the school for a review of the course of study, a meeting with the principal, watching classes in session and a tour of the building. Call Linda Graca, (908) 686-6740, or e-mail her at adminhillsidecatholicacademy.org
- **Saint Anne School**, 1-30 Summit Ave., Fair Lawn; open-house events on Jan. 25, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Jan. 29, 9 to 11:30 a.m. Early-decision registration is available. Call (201) 796-3353 or visit www.stannenj.com.

Students pass test on value of service

BY DANIEL PETERSON

Special to The Catholic Advocate

AREA—The celebration of faith-based service, helping those in need who are less fortunate, has long been a part of the education experience and core curriculum for schools in the four counties of the Archdiocese of Newark. This year the celebration of service is the theme for Catholic Schools Week's national campaign.

"Service is a vital aspect of Catholic social teaching and of formation and education," Father Kevin M. Hanbury, archdiocesan Vicar of Education and superintendent of schools, said. "Students learn values that they take with them for the rest of their lives. Children and teenagers who attend the elementary and secondary schools within the Archdiocese of Newark often continue in volunteer service ministries as adults.

"It seems that whatever value-centered and life-supporting skills are taught to our Catholic school students become part of a lifestyle for building up a local and global community of loving one's neighbor as Jesus has taught us," he said.

"What's so impressive about our Catholic schools is that they don't just respond to a generic need, but to a specific cause," Laura Cristiano, director of Marketing for the Schools Office in the Archdiocese of Newark, observed (see related story on student service written by Cristiano on page one). "Every school has multiple, ongoing projects to benefit those in the communities around them and globally."

"Civic engagement is a hallmark of Catholic education," Karen Ristau, president of Washington D.C.-based National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), said in a prepared statement. "The majority of elementary and secondary schools participate in service projects ranging from collecting canned goods for the homeless to rebuilding schools (damaged by hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico), so it was natural that we choose service as a major theme."

The NCEA, looking to motivate students and foster a renewed spirit of service on a national level, has linked the theme of

Continued on page 27



Submitted photo

Immaculate Conception High School's United People of Color Performance Troupe will perform at the school on Feb. 21 to celebrate Black History Month, demonstrating their service to the Montclair community. The student troupe also will appear at Irvington Public Library and Saint Joseph Shrine. Students in the troupe design their own costumes, write scripts and construct sets. All profits raised by the performances will go to the Immaculate Conception scholarship fund. Performances highlight the legacy of the African traditions and promote harmony among different cultures. Deidre Sears, an Immaculate Conception graduate and currently a student at Saint John's University, serves as the choreographer for the troupe.

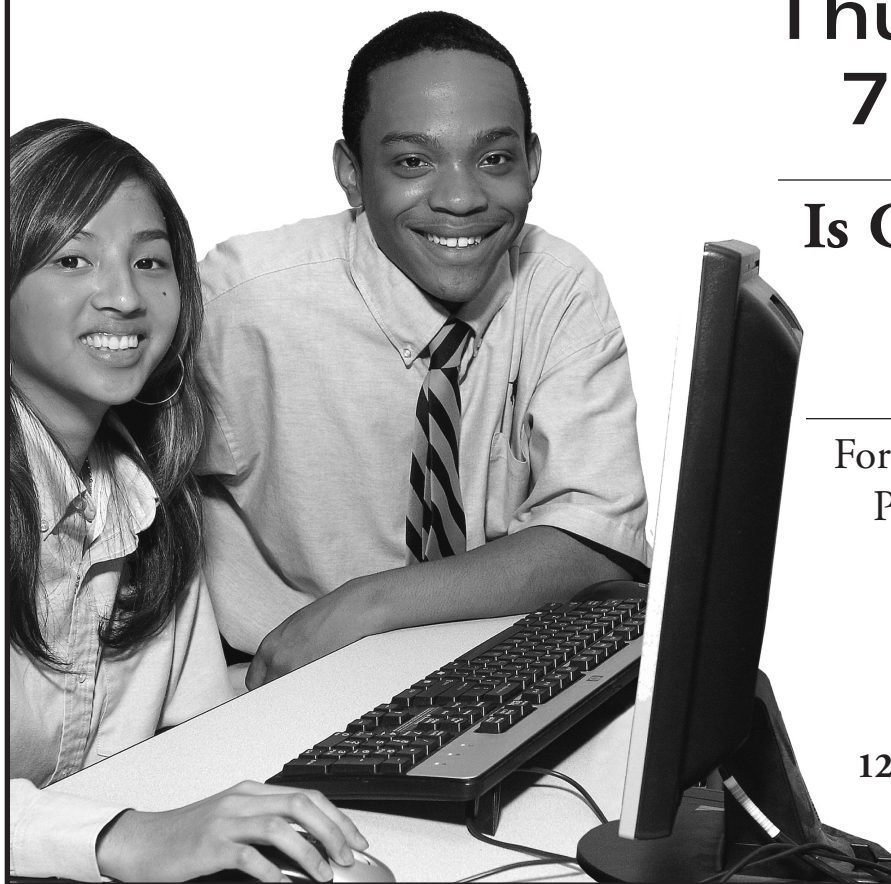


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Deacon Nick Valdez emphasizes a point on the subject of bereavement to his students at Saint Mary of the Assumption High School in Elizabeth. "At first, the students come in to the class apprehensive," Deacon Valdez said, "but as we start to discuss the different areas, they begin to open up and it becomes much easier for them."



Submitted photo

Novel course helps students to grasp bereavement issues

BY JUNNO DEJESUS AROCHO
Special to *The Catholic Advocate*

ELIZABETH—The death of a family member or loved one is always a difficult time of life and making preparations for funeral arrangements can be a daunting task when dealing with a painful loss.

The issues are difficult for adults as well as for teenagers. In an effort to promote an understanding of the bereavement experience, a unique course on the subject is being taught to students at Saint Mary of the Assumption High School.

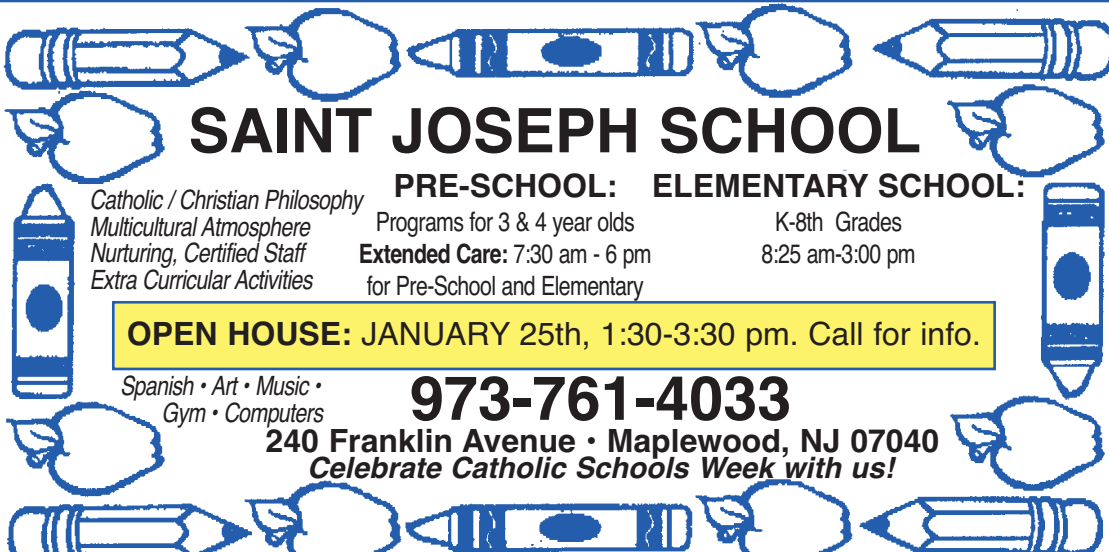
The Archdiocese of Newark, through the Catholic Cemeteries office, has made it a priority to reach out to those who have experienced the loss of a loved one by providing comfort, advice and peace of mind. Catholic Cemeteries has published a resource book to assist those who have suffered the loss of a loved one in making decisions regarding funeral preparations and burial according

to the Rite of Christian Burial.

Entitled, "Continuing the Journey...Preparing a Catholic Funeral," the booklet has been compiled in cooperation with several offices and schools. Jorge Repollet, director of cemetery services and marketing, said the book, along with presentations in different parishes, schools and funeral homes, gives Catholic Cemeteries the opportunity to expand its evangelization and ministry efforts throughout the four counties of the archdiocese.

"This booklet is an excellent tool for high school students as well as for pastoral staff, lectors, funerals directors and bereavement couples to effectively plan ministries that celebrated the death of a Christian in a meaningful and loving way," Repollet said. "It also helps the many families who are either pre-planning their own arrangements or those of their loved ones."

Repollet, as part of his faith-based outreach efforts, frequently makes presentations to parishes



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Bereavement

and community groups throughout the archdiocese, discussing bereavement issues and the services and ministries of Catholic Cemeteries.

In the booklet's introduction, Archbishop John J. Myers writes that "the death of a loved one begins a time of great loss, loneliness, pain, sadness, confusion and searching. Those of us who minister within the Church recognize the deep sorrow of the bereaved. But it is also a time when the core of all that we believe as Catholics, that new life comes through death, is remembered and celebrated."

The resource book addresses topics such as bereavement and grieving and provides practical information on arranging funeral services, making or updating one's will, and benefits that can be received from Social Security that can contribute to the costs of funeral arrangements. The goal of the booklet is to show how, during this difficult time, preparations and funeral arrangements for a loved one can be met with dignity and respect.

Students at Saint Mary of the Assumption High School are using the book as part of a course being taught by Deacon Nick Valdez. Deacon Valdez began the program more than

five years ago at Queen of Peace High School in North Arlington. The course, "Death and Dying," is taught to seniors and involves discussions on how people deal with the loss of a loved one from a faith-based perspective. As a former police officer, Deacon Valdez uses his personal experience of seeing death in many circumstances, which he said helps students to open up in class.

One class project involves preparing the funeral arrangements for a fictitious person. The students would go to parishes and funeral homes finding out prices for funerals and also preparing speeches for the deceased. Ryan Langston, a senior at Saint Mary of the Assumption, said the class provided him with useful, real-world information. "You have a guideline that coaches you through when 'that time' comes," he said.

The lessons learned from the course have helped students during a particularly difficult period for the entire school last year when a fellow student passed away. "I was shocked" said 17-year-old Nigeria Cunningham. "The class helped us release our feelings and understand better when our classmate died."

"The practical aspects of preparing for their classmate's funeral and the liturgy were guided by what they learned in

the course," Brother Ralph Darmento, archdiocesan deputy superintendent of schools, said. "The resource helps see death in a holistic way; that death is not just the end of human existence, but that there is something beyond that—eternal life."

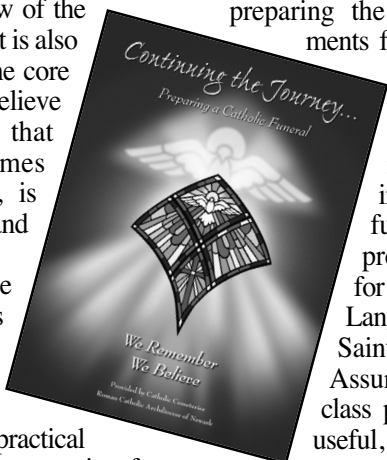
Archdiocesan offices that con-

tributed to the program included Divine Worship, Bereavement, Communications, Family Life Ministries, *The Catholic Advocate* and the Vicariate for Education. Other collaborators include the NJ State Funeral Directors Association Inc., Wall Township, and the Center For Hope Hospice

& Palliative Care, Scotch Plains.

To obtain a copy of the booklet, contact Catholic Cemeteries at (973) 497-7988 or visit the Web site (www.rcan.org).

(Editor's note: Junno De Jesus Arocho is a public relations assistant in the archdiocesan Communications department.)



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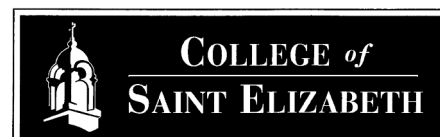
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MEDAL WINNING SMILES—Eighth grade students from Saint Michael's School, Cranford, captured second place in the annual Scholastic Olympics hosted by Roselle Catholic High School. Six Saint Michael's students earned individual medals in six of the nine subject events. Earning first place medals were Edward Duffy in science and Janine Puhak in current events. Saint Michael's also took second place in three subject areas: Michael Dombrowski in spelling, Andrew Smedberg in English, and Meghan Glassen in art. Janeclare McCann won a third place award in religion. Also competing were Artie Gathercole, Jessica Nesi, Mae Rose Adubato, Annabelle Hartnett, Kevin Franko, Rebecca Giordano, Ian Smith, Angela Busichio, John Paradiso and Danny Cruz.

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Academies reflect pursuit of scholastic excellence

BY BROTHER RALPH
J. DARMENTO

Special to The Catholic Advocate

In recent years elementary schools, especially in the northeast, have sought to change their identity through the naming of the school as an academy. This article will address the historical origins of the academy and its significance for Catholic ele-

mentary education today.

In 386 BC, the Greek philosopher Plato founded "The Academy," where he taught his students philosophy, Latin, Greek, mathematics and science. The growth of the academy movement spread throughout Europe most notably in Italy, France, Spain, and Great Britain.

Three forms of schooling were prevalent in colonial times: the petty school; the writing school;

and the Latin Grammar School. Popularized in the 18th century, the petty school was localized in the home of a woman who instructed children in the fundamentals of reading and spelling. The mission of the writing school was to teach the children of the community writing, reasoning (known at the time as reckoning) and basic arithmetic. In time these two schools became one, teaching reading, writing and arithmetic.

The Latin Grammar School, described as "the most important school in early colonial days where the great teachers were found," focused on preparation for college with its emphasis on Latin and Greek. The college preparatory secondary school developed from the Latin Grammar School.

In the United States, the academy movement took another form as Benjamin Franklin sought to provide the rising middle class with access to social mobility through success in politics and business. To the college preparatory curriculum, he added the "practical and utilitarian courses."

The religious communities who came to our shores from Europe influenced Catholic schools in America. Many of the sponsored educational ministries of these religious congregations charged tuition and in addition to the classical education in vogue added the performing and fine arts and usually French to the curriculum.

Today our Catholic elementary



Brother Ralph J. Darmento

schools offer educational and formational programs characterized by rigor and relationship. The schools provide academic programs that exceed national and state standards, and teacher expectations are high—motivating our students to exceed their grasp.

So why are our Catholic elementary schools seeking academy status?

Many Catholic schools providing additional special skills and subjects want to enjoy recognition that the title academy brings historically. In order to provide this opportunity, the archdiocesan Office of the Superintendent of Schools researched the characteristics of the academy as experienced throughout the Catholic schools in the United States and developed a set of guidelines for school communities wishing to transition to academy status.

Most importantly it should be noted that all of our Catholic elementary schools exceed national and state standards and 98 percent of them are accredited by the Commission on Elementary Schools of the Middle States Association of Schools and Colleges.

The academy program in the Archdiocese of Newark includes more extensive foreign language instruction, the offering of a full-year of algebra and the inclusion of science laboratory instruction within the curriculum.

Another important area characterizing the academy is the provision for gifted and talented students to have quality experiences that enrich classroom instruction via project learning and individualized instruction. In addition, the academy governance structure must include a board of advisors.

(Editor's note: Brother Ralph J. Darmento, F.S.C., is the deputy superintendent of schools for the Archdiocese of Newark and a leading force in developing the academy model for archdiocesan schools.)

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Submitted photo
Chris Domes (right), Marymount vice president for enrollment and student services, advises Mai Abdelaziz, Class of 2010, an interior design major. A Catholic university, Marymount (Web site: www.marymount.edu) has an enrollment of 3,600 students, representing more than 40 states and 65 countries.


Students need instruction to decipher financial aid

BY CHRIS DOMES
Special to The Catholic Advocate

A college education is one of the biggest investments a family will ever make. In these difficult economic times, it's more important than ever to make sure that you are getting the best educational value possible. You might assume that a private, Catholic college or university would be cost prohibitive. The fact is, private colleges and universities usually offer many more merit- and need-based scholarships than their public counterparts. Catholic colleges have a long history of reaching out, being inclusive and providing financial-

aid packages that are tailored to family circumstances. Financial aid refers to the total amount of funding a student receives from all sources—federal, state and institutional. Aid can take many forms, including scholarships, grants, loans and campus employment. Some financial aid is need-based (family income), and some is merit-based (high school grades and SAT scores). Some scholarships are based on a combination of need and merit and may have additional requirements, such as a student demonstrating a commitment to community service. At most Catholic colleges and universities, a large percentage of

Continued on page 29



Education as such,

is not so much an adding on,
as it is a leading out
of all that is best within a student.

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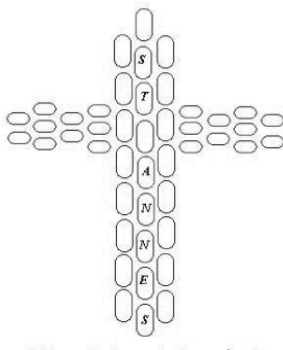


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January 30-31, 2009

January 30, 8 p.m. — *Second Spring*. Commentary by Monsignor Gerard McCarren.

January 31, 8 p.m. — *Baroness of God* by John Dandola. Commentary by Dr. David Foster.



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Service

Continued from page 21

"Celebrating Service" with Pope Benedict XVI's April 15-20, 2008 visit to the United States (see *The Catholic Advocate*, April 23 and 9, 2008). Catholic school students were asked to pledge hours of community service to honor the pope's 81st birthday. The campaign yielded more than 2 million hours of service pledged by students throughout the nation.

Throughout the Archdiocese of Newark, Catholic schools have responded generously to the call to service. Two schools that have taken this call to service to the next level include Assumption Academy, Emerson, and Immaculate Conception High School, Montclair.

Students at Assumption Academy, an elementary school in Bergen County, celebrated Christmas with 65 children from Saint George's Church in Baghdad, Iraq, by supplying them with gifts shipped in shoeboxes. Participating in "Operation Shoebox," which was facilitated by the New Jersey National Guard, Assumption students collected nearly 200 small gifts and shipped them in shoeboxes, which were purposely undecorated so Baghdad children did not attract attention in their dangerous, crime-ridden neighborhoods. Saint George's Church has experienced violence and

tremendous persecution over the past few years but continues to prosper as a faith congregation.

"Thank you for your kindness," Major John Tumino of the New Jersey Army National Guard said. He told the Assumption students about one Iraqi boy in a wheelchair who lost his legs to an IED (improvised explosion device). "He was very happy to meet Santa and get his present," he said.

Students at Immaculate Conception serve the community with skill and creativity throughout the year while celebrating diversity and cultural heritage. For example, to celebrate Black History Month in February, the United People of Color Performance Troupe—composed of Immaculate Conception students—will perform blending traditional dance, music and poetry. In addition to preparing for its performance, the student troupe is also gearing up to celebrate its 20th season at Immaculate Conception.

United People of Color will perform at Immaculate Concep-

tion, 33 Cottage Pl., on Saturday, Feb. 21 and also will appear in separate performances at Irvington Public Library and Saint Joseph Shrine. All profits raised by the performances will be donated to the scholarship fund.

Members of the troupe design their own costumes, write scripts and construct sets. "It is remarkable to see the students showcase their talents especially with the purpose of benefiting others," Kathleen Badillo, event coordinator and a teacher at Immaculate Conception, said. "I have been blessed over the past few years."

Badillo said Deidre Sears, an Immaculate Conception graduate and currently a student at Saint John's University, Queens, NY, serves as the choreographer for the troupe. "This is Deidre's way of giving back to the school and the community," Badillo said.

(Editor's note: Daniel Peterson is a public relations assistant in the Communications department of the Archdiocese of Newark.)



Submitted photo

Assumption Academy students helped to bring Christmas joy to children in war-torn Baghdad by sending them gifts wrapped in shoeboxes.

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Sr. Patrice

Continued from page 2

we serve a diverse population with 11 percent international students, 30 percent minority students, and students of different faiths. While most of our students are Catholic, fewer are coming from Catholic elementary and secondary schools and their faith is not always solidly anchored in a strong knowledge base. They live in a media-saturated, consumer-oriented society that bombards them with the message that "it is all about me." We strive to give them something that is countercultural to that mentality by living the motto of the Dominican order: *veritas* or truth.

I see that search for truth being lived out on our campus. I see it through the six students now engaged in our Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) program. I see it in a campus ministry program filled with volunteer opportunities from tutoring at Our Lady Help of Christians in East Orange, to praying with inmates at the Essex County jail, to re-building homes in Appalachia, to volunteering at the soup kitchen, to feeding the homeless in New York City, to standing up for the unborn through Students for Life activities.

Innovation is another way that Catholic colleges can and do lead.

For example, to help meet the needs of New Jersey, which has the highest rate of autism in the nation, Caldwell College was the first in the State to offer a master's degree in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), a highly effective treatment for autism. There is a great need for autism specialists, known as behavior analysts, to work with children and families. Our faculty members are leaders in this training. Caldwell's ABA program points to the ways colleges and universities can help in the economic recovery of our nation by being on the frontier in addressing the pressing educational needs of our time.

Chances are that when I retire in June, the new president will not be a Sister of Saint Dominic of Caldwell. Catholic colleges are feeling the effects of the decline in "living endowments"—the priests, brothers and sisters who long made up the majority of staff and faculty at our institutions. At Caldwell, we have worked to counter that decline by promoting the Catholic Dominican charism among our faculty and staff.

Our mission is also fostered through liturgies, orientation programs, and our Fanjeaux Summer Study Program where staff, faculty and students travel to France (where Saint Dominic founded the order) to join other Catholic Dominican colleges to study the Dominican vision and intellectual tradition.

The college has been fortunate to come out of a period of dramatic growth in enrollment, programs and facilities. Much has been provided through the talent, faith, prayer; the support of many donors, alumni and friends; and the backing of a religious congregation—the Sisters of Saint Dominic of Caldwell. Still, the realities are clear. At Caldwell, like many Catholic institutions of higher education, we rely very heavily on that support. Pope Benedict spoke to the value of an investment in Catholic education and schools as that "apostolate of hope" continuing today to provide "a highly commendable opportunity for the entire Catholic Community to contribute generously to the financial needs of our institutions."

Some would say that "hope is not a strategy." But if we don't have hope, faith, trust and a spirit of service, then our "practical" strategies will surely be fruitless.

Faith, hope, trust and a spirit of service are at the core of all successful strategies. This year we celebrate Catholic Schools Week with the theme of "Catholic Schools Celebrate Service." It is time to reflect on all we have to be thankful for in being given the opportunity to contribute to a great "apostolate of hope" and to be able to serve so many wonderful students from New Jersey and from around the globe.

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NEW DEAN—Sister Joann Marie Aumand, S.C.C., recently was installed as the new dean of administration at Hudson Catholic High School, Jersey City. Her responsibilities include peer ministry, extracurricular activities and administrative duties. She will also co-chair the school's co-ed initiative that will welcome "Lady Hawks" for the first time in Hudson Catholic's 44-year history. For more than three decades Sr. Joann has been a teacher, administrator and formation director. She also has served with Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark as an administrator for immigration, refugee and human-trafficking programs.

Financial aid

Continued from page 25
undergraduates receive financial aid. In fact, nearly 80 percent of students at Catholic colleges and universities receive institutional grant aid, compared with only 32 percent at public colleges. The average grant award at Catholic institutions is \$8,446.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the first step in the financial-aid process. This application, which can be downloaded at the Web site www.fafsa.edu.gov, is used to determine the eligibility for federal student financial aid, including grants, loans and work-study programs.

While the cost of tuition, room and board and books adds up, it's important to remember that a college education is a student's best investment in the future. Careers, as well as lifelong friendships and interests, are launched during these four formative years. The right college education is a valuable investment that yields a lifetime of dividends.

(Editor's note: Chris Domes is vice president for enrollment and student services at Marymount University, Arlington, VA.)

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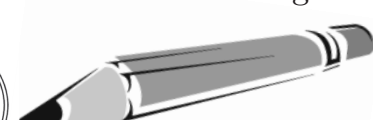
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Submitted photo

Money raised at the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra's April 19 concert at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart will go directly into the archdiocesan Catholic Education Fund for secondary and elementary schools. An advertising journal will be distributed at this year's concert to help generate funds. Call Fr. Kevin Hanbury at (973) 497-4253 to place an ad in the journal.

Concert to aid archdiocesan schools

NEWARK—The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra returns to the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart for a concert to benefit Catholic education on Sunday, April 19 at 4 p.m. Proceeds of the event will be distributed to archdiocesan schools.

Tickets for the concert are priced at \$30 per person and \$50 per couple. Checks payable to Archdiocese of Newark (with "concert sponsor" in the check's memo space) should be sent by April 3 to Archdiocese of Newark, Superintendent of Schools Office, attention Nicole Butler, 171 Clifton

Ave., Box 9500, Newark, N.J. 07104. For additional information call the archdiocesan Schools Office at (973) 412-7500 or e-mail Butler at nbutler@united-minds.com.

Father Kevin M. Hanbury, archdiocesan vicar for education and superintendent of schools, said the benefit concert would be the final event of the annual Newark Cherry Blossom Park Festival. Branch Brook Park, renowned for its springtime cherry blossom display, is adjacent to the Cathedral Basilica.

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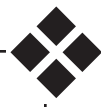


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Holy Cross, North Arlington
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Saint Gertrude, Colonia

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