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Inauguration celebrates new leader, new era

Nancy Blattner, Ph.D., is installed as Caldwell College's eighth president and the first lay president in the college's 70-year history.

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Faith and food help nourish evangelization

Stephen Doocey, co-host of the morning cable TV program "Fox and Friends," served as the emcee of the Nov. 11 "Nourishing Your Faith" fund-raising dinner.

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NJ bishops seek prayers to defend marriage

BY JAMES GOODNESS
Director of Communications

Continuing their efforts to advocate for maintaining the definition of marriage as that of a union of one man and one woman only, the Catholic Bishops of New Jersey have called on all Catholics in the state to observe Sunday, Nov. 29, as a "Day of Prayer" for the Vocation and Sacrament of Marriage.

The bishops also called on Catholics to pray that the NJ State Legislature preserves the definition of marriage. In addition to praying, the bishops asked Catholics to "pledge their personal support for family members, including those who choose to remain single, to help those entering marriage to prepare

for the challenges, sacrifices and joys of marriage, and to reach out with the special compassion of Christ to those married couples and families experiencing difficulties, anxiety, and illness."

Issued through the Trenton-based New Jersey Catholic Conference to the almost 700 parishes throughout New Jersey, the bishops reiterate the clear and emphatic teaching of the Church that marriage, as a union of one man and one woman, has its roots not only in human tradition and history, but also in natural law, which transcends all man-made law.

"Marriage is a natural institution," the bishops declared in their statement. "The Catholic Church celebrates the covenant of marriage as a sacrament. As teachers, the Catholic Bishops of New Jersey point to both the Old Testament

and the New Testament where the definition of marriage as a union between one man and one woman is clear."

The statement comes at a time when the New Jersey Legislature expects to consider during the lame-duck session a controversial bill to redefine marriage. In recent months, more than 150,000 Catholics throughout the Garden State have petitioned their legislators to maintain the definition of marriage as a union between one man and one woman.

In a recent op-ed column in *The Newark Star-Ledger*, reprinted in this edition of *The Catholic Advocate* (see page 3), Archbishop John J. Myers reminded the people of New Jersey about the singular purpose and truth about marriage. "The great truth about marriage," he wrote, "is a fact of human nature, recognized from

time immemorial by virtually every faith and culture. Marriage reflects the basic complementarity of the sexes. No ideology or political expediency can erase from the human spirit the certainty that marriage exists solely between a man and woman who, by mutual personal gift, proper and exclusive to themselves, tend toward the communion of their persons.

"Man and woman in marriage perfect each other and through this perfection they cooperate with God in the procreation and upbringing of new human lives," Archbishop Myers continued. "No other voluntary relationship can be regarded as the equivalent of marriage."

(Editor's note: The full text of the statement from the Catholic Bishops of New Jersey appears on page 13 of this edition.)



Advocate photo – Ward Miele

PRESENTING THE COLORS—

A color guard comprised of several police departments snaps to attention at the beginning of the annual "Blue Mass" celebrated Nov. 12 by Archbishop John J. Myers at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark. Each year the Mass honors the Garden State law enforcement community and remembers with reverence the women and men who lost their lives in the line of duty. In his homily, Archbishop Myers said police officers are heroes, adding that "being a hero is not easy." Archbishop Myers urged police officers and state troopers to "make Jesus your hero." Public officials, including NJ Gov.-elect Chris Christie and Gov. Jon Corzine, along with representatives from federal, state, county and municipal law enforcement departments, attended the Mass. See related photo on page 4.

SEASON OF ADVENT



Blattner vows to guard spirit that guides Caldwell's mission

CALDWELL — Nancy H. Blattner, Ph.D. was inaugurated Nov. 7 as Caldwell College's eighth president and the first lay president in the college's 70-year history. Over 500 people attended the installation ceremony, which was themed "In Celebration of Community."

Dr. Alexander Giaquinto, chair of the Caldwell College board of trustees, presented the chain and the medallion to Dr. Blattner as a symbol of the office of the president and formally conferred the in-

vestiture. Most Rev. Thomas A. Donato, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, gave the invocation.

Most Rev. John J. Myers, J.C.D., D.D., Archbishop of Newark, presided at a Mass Nov. 6, held at the college's Newman Center, to celebrate the inauguration.

Attending the Nov. 7 installation ceremony were delegates from colleges and universities, friends and family, political and community leaders, as well as Sister Patrice Werner, O.P., Ph.D.,

Caldwell College's outgoing president, Caldwell College administrators, faculty, staff, students, alumni and the Sisters of Saint Dominic—the order that founded the college.

Addressing the audience at the installation event, Blattner said the four pillars of Dominican life—community, prayer, study and ministry—are the "focus of all that we do and who we are at Caldwell. Each one of us is called to be part of this community that values interconnectedness, that builds relationships, that sees 'the other' as part of oneself, the self that reflects the life of the divine.

"Never forgetting that our college's mission is one of academic excellence, we nonetheless realize that in order to achieve the goal of community, the entire individual must be cultivated: intellectually, aesthetically and spiritually, as ex-



Submitted photo

Sister Patrice Werner, O.P., Ph.D. (right), Caldwell College's seventh (and outgoing) president, presented Dr. Nancy Blattner the college's mace—the symbol of the president's authority. Blattner praised the special spirit and "atmosphere of community" that have distinguished Caldwell College since it was founded by the Sisters of Saint Dominic in 1939.

pressed in our mission statement," she said.

Maxine Susman, Ph.D., professor of English, presented a poem she wrote for the inauguration entitled "Caldwell—a Welcome, a Calling." The Caldwell College Choir and Brass Ensemble and the Caldwell College Wind Ensemble provided music for the event.

Blattner, who most recently served as vice president and dean for academic affairs at Fontbonne University, St. Louis, officially assumed her duties as Caldwell College president July 1 (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Aug. 12). Sister Patrice retired June 30 after serving as president for 15 years (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Jan. 21 and Oct. 8, 2008).



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Marriage is what marriage is

Despite concerted and well-financed efforts to establish “same-sex marriage” in numerous states in recent years, most Americans know better. They won’t support it. In every state where same-sex marriage has been put to a vote of the people, the people have said “No.”

In fact, only a minority of Americans wants to redefine marriage, according to a CBS News/NY Times Poll conducted this past summer and reported on by both organizations. And support is falling, down almost 10 percent this year. Instead, most Americans want to protect marriage as the union of one man and one woman, as husband and wife.

The great truth about marriage is a fact of human nature, recognized from time immemorial by virtually every faith and culture. Throughout human history, marriage between a man and a woman has been a foundational element of the common good—and must remain so.

Marriage reflects the basic complementarity of the sexes. No ideology or political expediency can erase from the human spirit the certainty that marriage exists solely between a man and woman who, by mutual personal gift, proper and exclusive to themselves, tend toward the communion of their persons. Man and woman in marriage perfect each other, and through this perfection they cooperate with God in the procreation and up-bringing of new human lives.

Indeed, the union of man and woman that we call marriage existed long before any nation, religion or law was established. No other voluntary relationship can be regarded as the equivalent of marriage. Marriage is unique in its stability, in the environment it provides for the develop-

ment of families and in the protection it affords husbands, wives and children.


Governments, therefore, have a duty to protect this permanent institution and to pass it on to future generations, rather than attempt to redefine it arbitrarily for transitory political or social reason.

In New Jersey, the debate about same-sex marriage is not about benefits and rights. The Civil Union Act settled that issue once and for all some three years ago. Same-sex couples have every benefit and right, without exception, that our state grants to heterosexual marriage couples.

Throughout human history, marriage between a man and a woman has been a foundational element of the common good—and must remain so.

The New Jersey Supreme Court made very clear that the state must extend to same-sex couples benefits and rights. The legislature, acting on that decision, created civil unions. Unfortunately, when New Jersey created civil unions, it did not educate and inform people and employers so that they could understand the law. The overwhelming majority of “documented” complaints to the Civil Union Commission were not intentional violations of the law, but rather the result of the failure of the state to advise citizens about the law. Yet the promoters of same-sex marriage have used this failure of government as an opportunity to seek political gain.

Sincerely
in the Lord



By Archbishop John J. Myers

During discussions with legislative leaders after the New Jersey Supreme Court decision, I and many others who advocate maintaining marriage as the union of one man and one woman offered a way for the state to expand the kinds of rights and benefits same-sex couples wanted to any couple without the need for a sexual relationship test—two brothers, two sisters, a brother and sister, a grandparent and a grandchild, for instance—who could demonstrate a mutual economic and social relationship. But we were told those people did not count, that their need for health benefits, inheritance rights, hospital visitation privileges and such was not valid. And we who wish to maintain the definition of marriage are being called bigots. I wonder.

Civil unions provide the benefits that same-sex couples have sought and won. But now some want to go further. Much further. They want to radically change the very essence of marriage as understood throughout human history.

Let me be clear: persons of same-sex orientation are deserving of respect and have the right to live as they choose. But no one should have the right to redefine marriage for everyone by altering the civil law.

Changing marriage is not only unpopular. It is not right. Most Americans know this. Our legislators should know this too.

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TRANSITION BEGINS—

Immediately following the Nov. 12 Law Enforcement Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart (see page 1), Archbishop John J. Myers (center) welcomed Gov.-elect Chris Christie (left) and Gov. Jon Corzine to his Newark residence to begin a dialogue on the transition of leadership in the Garden State. The two politicians sat side by side during the Mass, which paid tribute to Jersey City Police Department Detective Marc Anthony DiNardo, who was killed in the line of duty July 21. Christie will be sworn into office as NJ's chief executive on Jan. 19, 2010 and Archbishop Myers will preside at an inaugural Mass at the Cathedral Basilica that morning.



Advocate photo — Ward Miele

Pope urges leaders to focus on hunger

ROME (CNS)—Opulence and waste are unacceptable especially when hunger—the cruelest form of poverty—continues to rise, Pope Benedict XVI told world leaders at a summit on food security. The pope condemned the greed that fuels speculation on food prices, aid that debilitates agricultural production, and excessive exploitation of the earth's resources. Pope Benedict spoke Nov. 16 during the opening session of the United Nations' World Summit on Food Security. The Nov. 16-18 conference, hosted by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome, brought together leaders and delegates from countries around the world to find concrete solutions to end the scourge of hunger and malnutrition and find ways to stabilize food prices. According to the FAO, more than 1 billion people are undernourished and one child dies every six seconds because of malnutrition. "Hunger is the most cruel and concrete sign of poverty," the pope said in his address to summit leaders. "Opulence and waste are no longer acceptable when the tragedy of hunger is assuming ever-greater proportions. Norms, legislation, development plans and investments are not enough, however; what is needed is a change in the lifestyles of individuals and communities, in habits of consumption and in perceptions of what is genuinely needed," Pope Benedict said. He noted the growing number of hungry people in the world is not directly linked to an increase in world population. The lamentable destruction of foodstuffs for economic gain is more proof that "there is no cause-and-effect relationship between population growth and hunger," he said. Pope Benedict called for creating "a network of economic institutions capable of guaranteeing regular access to sufficient food and water."

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

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

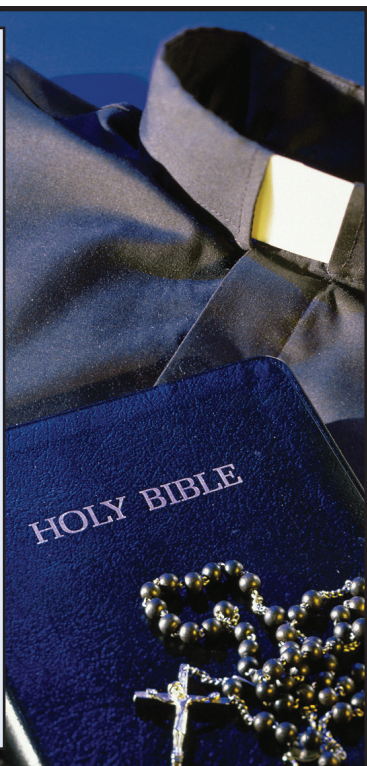
"Come and see,"
He answered.

John 1:38-39

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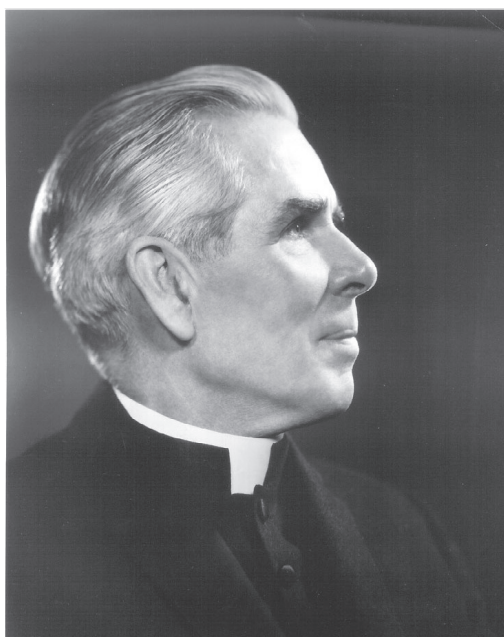
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Masses to honor vision of Archbishop Fulton Sheen

BY MELISSA MCNALLY
Staff Writer

AREA — On Dec. 9, faithful Catholics from around the world will celebrate the life and legacy of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen with commemorative masses, proving his far-reaching influence 30 years after his death.

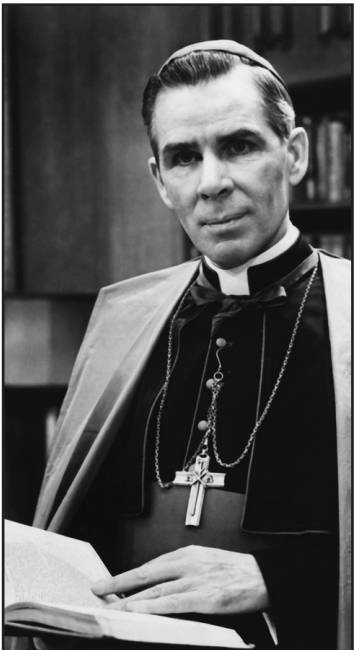
From Australia to Uganda; from El Salvador to the Garden State, 35 countries and all 50 U.S. states will honor the death of the popular evangelist, radio/television personality, writer and missionary who is in the process of canonization. The largest ceremony on Dec. 9 is scheduled at Saint Patrick Cathedral, New York City, at 5:30 p.m. The Shrine of Saint Joseph, Stirling, also has a Mass planned at 8 a.m.

Archbishop John J. Myers is on the Episcopal Advisory Board for the beatification cause of the Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Foundation, based in the Diocese of Peoria, IL, which is also Archbishop Sheen’s birthplace, Archbishop Myers came from the Diocese of Peoria in 2001 to the Archdiocese of Newark and has strong ties to the cause.

Ann Marvin, who assisted in organizing events for the commemorative masses, remembers the impact Archbishop Sheen had on her spiritual and personal life. “My personal connection with Archbishop Sheen is through my mother. In her generation, he was sort of a celebrity. He taught Catholicism on a weekly basis and was eloquent and charismatic.”

Archbishop Sheen became an iconic figure in the Church and is considered a media pioneer. Born

on May 8, 1895 in El Paso, IL, he was ordained a priest in 1919. In 1926, he began his first radio program broadcast in the New York City area and went nationwide with his program “Catholic Hour” from 1930-1952. His popular tel-



CNS photo

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

evision series “Life is Worth Living” (1952-1957) was viewed by 30 million people and earned an Emmy Award in its second year. Archbishop Sheen also wrote more than 70 books and was a scholar and university professor. He died on Dec. 9, 1979, at the age of 85.

The late archbishop’s popularity spans generations. Marvin’s daughter, EmmaClarie, attends Oak Knoll School in Summit and collected money for the Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Foundation on Veteran’s Day. Oak Knoll School students wore

red, white and blue and donated money to distribute Sheen’s “Wartime Prayer Book” to troops through the organization Catholics in the Military.

Originally published in 1943 and handed to servicemen during

WWII and the Korean War, the pocket-sized book was recently reissued by the Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Foundation and published by Sophia Institute Press. EmmaClarie raised \$700 and will personally deliver the donation at

the Saint Patrick Cathedral Mass.

Marvin believes the masses celebrating Archbishop Sheen’s life and mission are shedding light on his exceptional career. “The (commemorative masses) brings

Continued on page 11

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Fund-raiser 'nourishes' 2010 evangelization events

BY WARD MIELE
Managing Editor

BELLEVILLE—The overwhelming response to the first "Nourishing Your Faith" dinner, designed to support the evangelization work of the archdiocesan men's and women's commissions, raised significant funds (and hopes) for the planning of next year's Catholic Men's Conference and Women's Day of Reflection.

Clergy, Religious and prominent friends and supporters from every corner of the Church of

Newark filled Nanina's In the Park for the Nov. 11 fund-raiser. Following a standing ovation, Archbishop John J. Myers, expressed his gratitude to the 455 donors who turned out for the sold-out gala event, declaring that their support in nourishing souls is critical.

The next Men's Conference, which made its debut last March, will take place March 13, 2010, while the annual Women's Day of Reflection is slated for March 20, 2010. Both events, scheduled on consecutive Saturdays, will

be held on the campus of Seton Hall University, South Orange.

Organizers of the Men's Conference anticipate a turnout of 4,000, surpassing this year's attendance of 2,500 (see *The Catholic Advocate*, April 22 and 8). Scheduled to run 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., tentative participants include Eduardo Verastegui, Mexican model, singer and actor appearing in the pro-life movie "Bella;" rock 'n' roll legend Dion DiMucci, lead singer of "Dion and the Belmonts," who will provide insight into his return to the Catholic Church; John Eldridge, founder and director of Ransomed Heart Ministries in Colorado Springs, CO; and Curtis Martin, founding president of the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS).

Featured speakers at next year's Women's Day of Reflection will be Dr. Dianne Traflet, associate dean at the Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology, South Orange, and Colleen Carroll Campbell, a fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C. Campbell also serves as the host



Advocate photo – Ward Miele

Pictured during the Nov. 11 Nourishing Your Faith fund-raiser, Archbishop John J. Myers (seated) welcomed, left to right, dinner emcee Stephen Doocey, co-host of "Fox and Friends" on FOX-TV and a lector at Saint Elizabeth Parish, Wyckoff; Major League Baseball Umpire Philip Cuzzi, a member of Holy Family Parish, Nutley; and the evening's featured speaker, Kevin J. Seamus Hasson, chairman, president and founder of the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty in Washington, D.C.

of the EWTN TV program "Faith and Culture."

"We are looking forward to our annual Lenten reflection which

will focus on the life and spirituality of Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross—Edith Stein—a great convert and martyr," Pamela Muller Swartzberg, chairwoman of the Women's Commission, said. "The Women's Commission strives to light the beautiful teaching of the Church on authentic femininity."

Earlier this year, Johnnette S. Benkovic, an author and producer of the EWTN program "The Abundant Life," was the keynote speaker at the Women's Day of Reflection, which drew over 800 guests at Holy Family Parish, Nutley (see *The Catholic*

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2010 events

Advocate, April 22).

Deacon Joseph Dwyer, Jr., archdiocesan Vice Chancellor for Administration and co-chairman of the Men's Conference, addressing fund-raiser attendees at Nanina's, said the "living and expressing of our faith is off to a good start." He stressed the funds raised will make the two conferences available to even greater numbers of people who might not otherwise be able to afford to attend, thanks to the "incredible generosity" of those at the dinner. Citing the work of the commissions, Deacon Dwyer added "the challenge goes on to get closer to Jesus Christ."

Featured speaker Kevin J. Seamus Hasson, chairman, president and founder of the Becket

Fund for Religious Liberty in Washington, D.C., praising the outreach efforts of the archdiocesan groups, declared forcefully "evangelization is the solution." The evening's other speaker, Major League umpire Philip Cuzzi, a member of Holy Family Parish, Nutley, said resolutely: "I am a proud Catholic."

Stephen Doocey, co-host of the cable program "Fox and Friends" and lector at Saint Elizabeth Parish in Wyckoff, was the dinner emcee. He said he and his family feel lucky to live in the Archdiocese of Newark and praised the leadership of Archbishop Myers.

Commenting in the weeks preceding the Nourishing Your Faith dinner, Deacon Dwyer called upon those who attended the first Men's Conference to "come again and bring a friend." Citing the

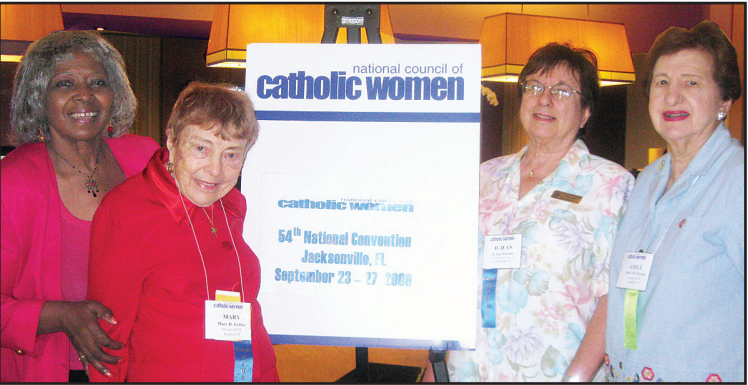
positive feedback generated by the initial gathering, he said the affects continue to be seen and emphasized the "faith context" of the men's conference.

Reflecting his fellow co-chairman's sentiments, Jorge Repollet, co-chairman of the Men's Commission, focused on a number of conversions that resulted from the first Men's Conference including that of a Muslim. A number of men, he added, "came back" to the Church. Those attending the conference, Repollet, explained, seek a faith tradition in which they feel comfortable and welcome. Both Deacon Dwyer and Repollet stressed that the upcoming Men's Conference is being held at a Catholic institution. The first conference was held at Essex County Richard J. Codey Arena, West Orange.



Advocate photo—Ward Miele
Pamela Muller Swartzberg and Archbishop John J. Myers

Archdiocesan women attend NCCW forum



Submitted photo

Margaret Henderson, Mary Loftus, Jean Schneider and Adele Ciccone (left to right) represented the Archdiocese of Newark at the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) convention in Florida, held Sept. 23-26. Headquartered in Arlington, VA, the NCCW (Web site: www.nccw.org) serves as an umbrella organization for Catholic Women. For more information on the NCCW, contact Loftus at (973) 497-4356 or (973) 265-2048.

JACKSONVILLE, FL—Four officers from the Newark archdiocesan council of the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) recently attended a nationwide convention that revised the national organization's bylaws. Representing the Archdiocese of Newark at the four-day convention were Jean Schneider, director; Mary Loftus, president; Margaret Henderson, first vice president and Adele Ciccone, treasurer.

The convention, which attracted more than 950 members, featured workshops dealing with key issues as immigration, evangelization, unity, diversity, servant leadership and the Church

in Africa, developing a positive and powerful image and human trafficking.

The Newark Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (NACCW) will hold its annual Christmas Luncheon and Raffle Saturday, Dec. 5, at the Kenilworth Inn, 60 South 31st Street, Kenilworth. Raffle articles may be viewed after 11:45 a.m. The NACCW also will present awards for a "Woman of Faith" and a "Woman of Action." Tickets are \$30 per person. Call Ciccone at (201) 939-7639 for reservations.

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EXPANSION PLANS—Following three years of internal review and planning, Saint Peter's Preparatory School, 144 Grand St., has unveiled a master plan that will affect every facility that comprises its downtown Jersey City campus. This initial phase of the plan, with a budget of \$10 million, will be highlighted by the conversion of the existing Burke Hall from an all-purpose academic building into a state-of-the-art facility for science education, including the installation of seven new laboratories and additional rooms for science education. The three-story building is located at the corner of York and Warren streets.



Submitted illustration

Ministry plans job-seeker workshop

RIDGEWOOD—The Career Resources Ministry of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, 1 Passaic St., will present the last of a four-part fall workshop series for job seekers Sunday, Dec. 13.

Held in the meeting room located in the lower church, the workshop will begin at noon. The forum, "Interview, Cultivate Offers and Negotiate," will

discuss strategies for job seekers in presenting their talents to an organization.

The ministry extends an invitation to anyone seeking employment. Parish membership is not a prerequisite. Call Ed McCabe, (201) 652-3130 or Carol Shea, (201) 447-4215 for more information.

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Give thanks and focus on faith priorities

When we were in the seminary a generation or two ago, we studied a subject called “scholastic philosophy.” The textbooks were in the decent obscurity of the Latin tongue. Therefore, we struggled to understand the indecent obscurity of classical and medieval thought.

In the same discipline, in a subject called cosmology (the study of the real world) we learned that there was a distinction between “prime matter,” which was indefinite substance, and “substantial form,” which gave the prime mat-

ter a definite reality. This is a concept from Plato.

The analogy limps, but in a similar vein we might consider Adam. He was, according to Scripture, a form made out of clay—a lifeless pile of molecules. Then God breathed into the clay and the clay became a living person, a human being.

Our cultural and spiritual lives are similar in a way. They are only what we make them. We give them form and substance in the ways that we celebrate culture and life.

Thanksgiving materially is a

series of events into which people throw themselves. There are preparations to travel “home” to parents or relatives, time spent in supermarkets purchasing food. On the day itself as some folks prepare the meal, others watch the Macy’s Parade on television or see it in person. Most of us share a large repast with the family. We then fall on to couches to watch football, or just sit around talking. That is the basic stuff of Thanksgiving Day.

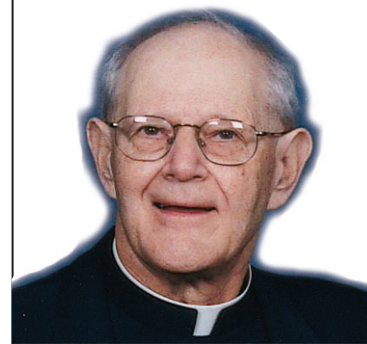
Nevertheless, “Thanksgiving” comes from a transitive word. We are “giving thanks.” The word requires an object. “Thanks to whom?” is the prime question.

For a huge number of people “Thanksgiving” is just a long, secular ritual. It is dutifully per-

formed and then having lived out the pageant and the feast, people move on to the really “big” event: the sales in the malls on the Friday after Thanksgiving. Monday finds everyone back where they started—at work, at school, or in the midst of a daily routine, only now they are exhausted.

But for true believers, for those who live their faith, Thanksgiving is all that it was meant to be. It is a day set aside to render thanks to our Creator for all of His many blessings—for faith, for family, for friends and for life itself. For those who start the day with Mass or a religious service, for those who gather at the table to join hands and to thank the Lord for His manifold blessings, it is a demonstration of gratitude to the Almighty.

VOICES



By Rev. Msgr. John Gilchrist

So, for one group it is just a ritual of experiencing passing pleasures. For the second, it is a spiritual time that binds family and friends more closely in the love of God and each other.

Christmas is the same. We must realize that the Church planted Christmas right on top of a pagan feast: the solar feast of “*Natalis Sol Invicti*,” (“birthday of the unconquered sun”) on Dec. 25, about the time of the winter solstice. It was a time of riotous rejoicing, of drunkenness and feasting, because another year of life was assured. The sun had not died.

That feast was the occasion, the unformed matter if you want, on which Christians chose to honor Our Lord’s birthday. We Catholics baptized a pagan feast, breathed a spiritual life into it, and made it to be a celebration for Our Lord—the unconquered Son of God.

However, the secular society has taken our feast back to itself. Macy’s and Gimbels unwittingly began the process in America by “hying” Christmas to increase sales. The music industry jumped in with “Rudolph,” “White Christmas,” and a hundred other

Continued on page 9

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Sacred season of hope inspires a much-needed time to reflect

Advent, as the beginning of the liturgical year in the Catholic Church, is a time of preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas. The first Sunday in Advent is Nov. 29. Pope Benedict XVI, during his 2008 Angelus address, as reported by Catholic News

Service, said Advent is the season when the Church "is called to become hope for itself and for the world." Advent hope, he said, is the recognition of an ongoing need for salvation.

Father Thomas A. Dente, director of the archdiocesan Office of Divine Worship, said the Church teaches that Advent is a

season with a twofold focus. First, it looks forward to the second coming of Christ, and secondly, it looks to the past, to the first coming of Christ at Christmas.

"It is a time for celebrating the mystery of the incarnation, God's coming in human form, but it is also a time of preparation for the second coming of Christ," Fr. Dente said.

He described Advent as a brief season that calls for simplicity, especially in the liturgy. "Outside of our churches, though, it can look more like Christmas than the Christmas season does," Fr. Dente observed. "During Advent, it is hard to avoid the Christmas decorations on homes and in stores; it is difficult to ignore the Christmas music on the radio; it is all but impossible not to attend a 'Christmas party' during Advent.

Despite the secular feeling that Christmas already has arrived

thirsty for the Divine and unsatisfied within.

But for those who have lived with the Church, the Holy Spirit will vivify these days. December will be precious. Advent will bring God's unimaginable beneficence into view. For those devout Christians, Christmas preparations will truly be a spiritual journey toward joy, another step toward eternal life.

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

Give thanks

Continued from page 8

saccharine songs. The rest of the world joined in the secularizing of a religious holyday.

Soon, amid jingle bells and Santa, Jesus began to fade. For many, Christmas means a frenetic time of parties, gifts, decorations and stress and no Jesus.

But on the other hand, examine the ecclesiastical solemn season of Advent: the quiet liturgies; the silence of our churches; and then finally the glorious liturgy of the Holy Mass on Christmas Day. It is a total contrast to the "holiday season" of the department store and the office party.

Compare the effects of this season on people. For those who have ignored the "Word become flesh," the unimaginable miracle of God become Man, they have merely gone through an empty series of events. It will leave them



CNS photo

the Third Sunday of Advent, which says, "Be patient, brothers and sisters...Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand" (James 5:7-10).

The restrained liturgical celebrations and the simple décor of churches during the season of Advent should reflect an inner reality—putting aside distractions in order to be alert and ready for the second coming of Christ, according to Fr. Dente. "As the Advent wreath grows brighter from week to week, we are reminded that God's light is dawning upon us, but our hearts need to be ready to receive it."

Father Albert Holtz, formation and oblate director, Benedictine Abbey of Newark, said the heightened sense of expectation of a future fulfillment of God's purpose, is an essential part of the Christian experience during the Advent season.

"We all know that we've already been saved by Christ who has died and has risen to conquer sin and death," Fr. Holtz said. "Yet every day we all experience

Continued on page 10

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Mass to celebrate evangelization programs

NEWARK—Most Rev. Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, will celebrate Mass Saturday, Dec. 5, 10 a.m., at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, 89 Ridge St., to recognize the work of small Christian communities and local evangelization programs. A reception will follow immediately after Mass.

Evangelization programs developed by RENEW International and Disciples in Mission, such as

“Why Catholic?,” have inspired the lives of many Catholics throughout the archdiocese during the last four years. The Mass, which coincides with Advent as a season to reflect upon spiritual values, will celebrate archdiocesan parishes that have participated in this evangelization mission.

For more information, contact Liliana Soto-Cabrera, archdiocesan coordinator of evangelization, by phone at (973) 497-4353 or via e-mail (sotolili@rcan.org).

Following Mass, the faithful will be invited to attend a free expo and reception for small Christian communities, which will be held at the Archdiocesan Center, 171 Clifton Ave. (adjacent to the Cathedral). Representatives from RENEW International and other faith-based organizations will be present to share resources and refreshments will be served.

The evangelization programs were developed in recent years, responding to the Church’s teaching

that Catholics are called by baptism to spread the faith through evangelization. Bishop da Cunha has stressed the importance of lay people as being, “the best vehicles” for this kind of evangelization work.

RENEW International (Web site: www.renewintl.org), based in Plainfield, is a Catholic not-for-profit organization with a three-decade record of revitalizing parish life by effectively training and implementing small-community efforts in dioceses and parishes. RENEW was founded in the Archdiocese of Newark and last year celebrated its 30th anniversary (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Sept. 3, 2008). Sister Theresa



RENEW
INTERNATIONAL

Richard, O.P., is the executive director of RENEW.

Disciples in Mission, a ministry of the Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association headquartered in Washington, fosters parish-based evangelization programs.

Happy Thanksgiving

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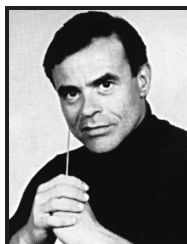
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Reflections

Continued from page 9

the fact that death and sin are still here—they’re not yet fully overcome.”

People of faith live in a time in-between the two comings of Christ—His first coming at Bethlehem and His final coming at the end of the world, according to Fr. Holtz. “We live in the tension between what has already happened and what is still to come,” he explained. “While every Christian lives in this in-between time, monastic men and women live with an especially acute sense of waiting for the Lord to come. Each day they celebrate vigils—a prayer of quiet, hopeful waiting and expectant longing for Christ to come and save us. Benedict admonishes them: ‘keep death ever before your eyes.’”

Fr. Holtz pointed out monastic men and women live this sense of hope by their vow of stability: holding firm in their commitment no matter what, especially in times when the Lord seems far away. “Advent is surely the monks’ season, a time for watching daily for the Lord’s presence among us while at the same time looking in hope to the future knowing that this life is not our destiny or our final goal,” he said.

Father Neil J. O’Connell,

O.F.M., Catholic chaplain to Borough of Manhattan Community College, Manhattan and Herbert H. Lehman College, The Bronx, described Francis of Assisi as the perpetual Advent person and Franciscan men and women as perpetual Advent people.

“As a Franciscan, I am a strict adventist,” Fr. O’Connell, a member of the Holy Name Province Franciscans Order of Friars Minor, NY, declared. “I avoid choosing to do ‘Christmas things’ prior to Christmas Eve, since Advent has its own rich and enveloping experience.”

He explained that a Franciscan Advent is apocalyptic and forward looking in a creative sense. “We stand erect and raise our eyes as we do cosmic and environmental house cleaning for the arrival of the Great King who makes all things new.”

Fr. O’Connell said a Franciscan Advent is evangelical and Marian. “We announce and live the good news of The Great King who embraces sinners and who refines them into nourishing wheat for others. We, with Mary, bearing the embryonic ‘Word Made Flesh’ within us, hasten to those once empty to make present to them the Great King who makes their whole being leap with joy.”

(Editor’s note: story content provided by various sources, edited by Michael C. Gabriele.)

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WEIL MCLAIN



Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

Continued from page 5

Sheen’s name back into the forefront. He is such a guiding light and people still remember him. All roads point to Archbishop Sheen,” she explained.

Sister Marlene Brownnett, S.H.C.J., was a teacher at Oak Knoll School for 29 years and is now on the school’s Board of Trustees. She is a member of the Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Foundation advisory council and played an active role in coordinating the worldwide celebration of masses. She currently works in New York.

“Archbishop Sheen had a great influence on many people. A lot of young people have picked up his writings and listened to his tapes and recordings. They are surprised by how apt and relevant he is today. He had his finger on the future and was ahead of his time,” Sr. Marlene recalled.

Her connection with the late archbishop is both personal and spiritual. “I have known Archbishop Sheen since I was a child in 1948. During my college years, I worked for him when he was National Director of the Propagation of the Faith in New York. He led me to the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus where I became a novice,” she explained.

Sr. Marlene remembers the late archbishop as “magnificent” with a brilliant mind. “We used to tell Archbishop Sheen he was brilliant. He said he was just a hard worker. He was fun—loved baseball and loved to laugh. He had many close friends who were comedians and we would invite them to his birthday parties.”

When contacting international members of her religious congregation asking if they wanted to participate in the Dec. 9 masses, Sr. Marlene found many willing to be involved. “We are working with people from all over the world. The response has been wonderful. I called Sisters in Jordan, England and Scotland. They were all happy to do it,” she said.

The worldwide celebration



A dramatic painting of Archbishop Sheen by New Jersey artist Greg Hildebrandt was displayed last year during a memorial Mass at the College of Saint Elizabeth, Morristown.

is also an opportunity to promote Archbishop Sheen’s cause for sainthood. Father Andrew Apostoli, C.F.R., is the vice postulator for the Cause of Canonization of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen. He explained that over 6,500 pages of testimony have to be consolidated into a one-volume “positio” to be given to the Congregation of Causes of Saints in Rome. If the congregation approves the positio, it is passed on to the Holy Father. If he approves, Archbishop Sheen will be given the title of “venerable” or a person who led a life of heroic virtue. The foundation hopes the positio will be completed by June of 2010.

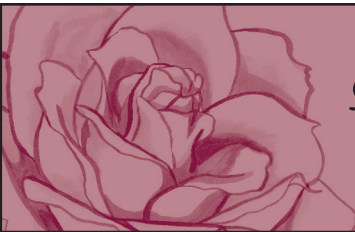
(Editor’s note: The Catholic Advocate wishes to thank The Beacon, the newspaper of the Diocese of Paterson, for providing information for this article.)

‘Phantom’ to appear at musical

WOODCLIFF LAKE—Our Lady Mother of the Church Parish, 209 Woodcliff Ave., will present “From Galway to Broadway” an evening of music and song, Saturday, Dec. 5, 7:30 p.m.

The program will include Irish and Italian melodies, Broadway and American Songbook favorites and beloved Christmas carols. Ciaran Sheehan, who starred in the lead role of hit Broadway musical “The Phantom of the Opera,” will be among the featured performers. Other musicians include Gay Willis, Eily O’Grady and the Strings of Tara.

Advance general admission tickets are \$35 per person and can be purchased at Our Lady Mother of the Church, (phone: 201-391-2826); Irish Eyes, 1 Cottage Place, Ridgewood, (201-445-8585) or online at www.ticketweb.com.



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

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

Novenas

NOVENA TO ST. JUDE

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

M.A.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. Novena is published in gratitude in thanksgiving. Thank you, St. Jude.

R.C.

SHOULDER WOUND OF JESUS CHRIST PRAYER

O loving Jesus, meek lamb of God, I a miserable sinner, salute and worship the most sacred wound of Thy Shoulder, On which Thou didst bear Thy heavy cross, which so torn Thy flesh and laid Thy bones as to inflict an anguish greater than any other wound of Thy most Blessed Body. I adore Thee, Oh Jesus most sorrowful, I praise and glorify Thee, and give thanks fully to thee for this most Holy and sacred and painful wound, beseeching Thee by that exceeding pain, and by the crushing burden of Thy heavy Cross to be merciful to me a most miserable sinner, to forgive me of all my mortal and venial sins and to lead me on towards Heaven along the way of Thy Cross. In Jesus name (mention requested) Amen to all. Thank you for your help.

This most powerful prayer must be said for requests and most urgent help. After you have said and asked for your requests- This prayer MUST be published immediately after being said.

J.C.

PRAYER TO ST. CHRISTOPHER

O Glorious St. Christopher you have inherited a beautiful name. Christbearer, as a result of the wonderful legend that while carrying people across a raging stream you also carried the Child Jesus. Teach us to be true Christbearers to those who do not know Him. Proect all of us that travel both near and far and petition Jesus to be with us always. Amen. Novena is published in gratitude in thanksgiving.

R.C.

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

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

S.A.L.

NOVENA TO ST. PIO OF PIETRELICINA (PADRE PIO)

Say once a day for nine days
Dear God, Thou hast generously blessed Thy servant, St. Pio of Pietrelcina, with the gifts of the Spirit. Thou hast marked his body with the five wounds of Christ Crucified, as a powerful witness to the saving Passion and Death of Thy Son. Endowed with gift of discernment. St. Pio labored endlessly in the confessional for the salvation of souls. With reverence and intense devotion in the celebration of Mass, he invited countless men and women to a greater union with Jesus Christ in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

Through the intercession of St. Pio of Pietrelcina, I confidently beseech Thee to grant me the grace of (mention your intentions here). Amen. Novena is published in gratitude in thanksgiving.

R.C.

Official Appointments

Archbishop John J. Myers has announced the following appointments:

PASTOR

Reverend Monsignor George R. Trabold, Pastor of Saint Rose of Lima Parish, Short Hills, has been appointed to a third six-year term ending June 30, 2016.

Very Reverend Michael G. Ward, V.F., Pastor of Saint Cecilia Parish, Kearny, has been appointed to a second six-year term, ending Jan. 31, 2016.

PAROCHIAL VICAR

Reverend Juan Luis Calderon, O.A.R., has been appointed part-time Parochial Vicar of Saint Rocco/Saint Brigid Parish, Union City, and part-time Parochial Vicar of Saint Joseph of the Palisades Parish, West New York, with residence at Saint Joseph of the Palisades, West New York. The appointment was effective Oct. 29.

Reverend Jose Montes de Oca, Parochial Vicar of Saint Aloysius Parish, Jersey City, was appointed Parochial Vicar of Our Lady of the Visitation Parish, Paramus, effective Oct. 28.

DEACON

Mr. Willie Moore, Permanent Deacon of Queen of Angels Parish, Newark, has been appointed Permanent Deacon of Blessed Sacrament/St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Newark, effective immediately.

DEAN

Very Reverend Paul A. Cannariato, V.F., Pastor of Saint Mary Parish, Closter, has also been appointed Dean of the Northern Valley Bergen Deanery, Deanery 2N, for a five-year term ending Oct. 28, 2014.

CHAPLAIN

Reverend Juan Luis Calderon, O.A.R., part-time Parochial Vicar of Saint Rocco/Saint Brigid Parish, Union City, and Saint Joseph of the Palisades Parish, West New York, has also been appointed Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus, Saint Rose of Lima Council No. 6209, Union City, effective immediately.



Reverend James N. Chern, Campus Minister at Montclair State University, has also been appointed Chaplain of the West Orange Fire Department, effective immediately.

Reverend John J. Galeano, Pastor of Saint Francis de Sales Parish, Lodi, has also been appointed Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus Saint Michael Council No. 2861, Lodi, effective immediately.

Reverend Salvatore DiStefano has been appointed Chaplain at Oratory Preparatory School, Summit, with residence at Our Lady of Peace Rectory, New Providence. The appointment was effective Nov. 16.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Reverend Marianus Hough, C.S.J., has been appointed Spiritual Director of the Legion of Mary Newark Comitium, effective immediately.

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We the Catholic Bishops of New Jersey have designated Sunday, November 29, 2009 as a Day of Prayer for the vocation and Sacrament of Marriage. This day of prayer is timely because marriage faces serious challenges from a society more focused on individual satisfaction than on the Gospel.

One of the most serious challenges is the current effort to pass Bills in the New Jersey legislature that would change the very definition of marriage as a union of one man and one woman in order to allow same sex “marriage.” We must not stand silent in the face of this serious challenge.

Marriage as a union of one man and one woman has its roots not only in human tradition and history, but also in natural law, which transcends all man-made law. Marriage is a natural institution.

The Catholic Church celebrates the covenant of marriage as a sacrament. As teachers, the Catholic Bishops of New Jersey point to both the Old Testament and the New Testament where the definition of marriage as a union between one man and one woman is clear:

That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body. (Genesis 2:24)

And in the New Testament, Jesus teaches that marriage is a union between one man and one woman:

Have you not read that from the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female’ and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So they are no longer two, but one flesh... (Matthew 19:5-6)

We, therefore, call upon all Catholics to pray that the legislature preserves the definition of marriage as a union of one man and one woman. In addition to praying, we urge all Catholics to pledge their personal support for their family members, including those who choose to remain single. We call upon all to help those entering marriage to prepare for the challenges, sacrifices and joys to come. We ask all to reach out with the special compassion of Christ to those married couples and families experiencing difficulties, anxiety, and illness.

On November 29, 2009 pray for marriage but also take actions of kindness and support for all family members – for as children of God we are all members of a most blessed family.

May God bless you.

Most Rev. John J. Myers
Archbishop, Archdiocese of Newark

Most Rev. John M. Smith
Bishop, Diocese of Trenton

Most Rev. Arthur J. Serratelli
Bishop, Diocese of Paterson

Most Rev. Joseph A. Galante
Bishop, Diocese of Camden

Most Rev. Paul G. Bootkoski
Bishop, Diocese of Metuchen

Most Rev. William Skurla
Bishop, Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic

Most Rev. Edgar M. da Cunha, SDV
Auxiliary Bishop Essex County

Most Rev. John W. Flesey
Auxiliary Bishop Bergen County

Most Rev. Thomas A. Donato
Auxiliary Bishop Hudson County

Most Rev. Manuel A. Cruz
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Most Rev. David Arias
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Most Rev. Charles J. McDonnell
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LIFE-SAVING LESSON—Student members of the American Red Cross Club at Marist High School, Bayonne, trained at Mercer Community College on conducting blood drives in high schools. While there, the students were honored with a trophy for the greatest increase in blood donations for the 2008-2009 year in the Pennsylvania/New Jersey region. Posing with trophy are, left to right, Angelica Briones, Jaime Williams, Ashley Vasquez, Kevin Menendez and Melissa Vasquez accompanied by Brother Bob Warren, F.M.S. Brother Steve Schlitte, F.A.S., is the principal of Marist, a co-educational college preparatory school operated by the Marist Brothers.

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Assumption gets flu info from Webinar

WOOD-RIDGE—Seventh grade students at Assumption School recently participated in a H1N1 preparedness "Webinar" (an online seminar) hosted by Discovery Education. They joined over 10,000 students from across the globe in a Web seminar with experts in the fields of medicine, education and emergency readiness.

The online seminar was designed to educate young people about viruses, their symptoms, how they spread, and how to prepare for this season's particular threat: the H1N1 virus, also known as the swine flu.

Assumption School Technology Director Margaret Sullivan helped the students navigate the Internet during the seminar. The seventh graders watched and listened as experts from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); the Centers for Disease Control; the U. S. Department of Education; and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, described the H1N1 virus and how it can be spread.

The students especially enjoyed the virtual question-and-answer segment of the seminar. They typed questions into the chat area and received answers from the experts in real time.

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Healthcare funding to boost Catholic Charities' services

NEWARK—In support of its long history of dedication to serve the disadvantaged, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark recently secured funding under two initiatives to expand access to healthcare services for those in need.

Catholic Charities was selected to join a nationwide coalition to increase the number of children enrolled in healthcare. The agency will receive federal funding from the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act to increase enrollment in NJ Family Cares, the state's healthcare insurance program for children.

Phillip Frese, Ph.D., Catholic Charities chief executive officer said the funding will enable Catholic Charities to provide outreach to high-risk communities to inform residents of the program and assist families with the enrollment process. He said Catholic Charities anticipates connecting over 1,900 children to appropriate healthcare services over the next two years.

In addition, Catholic Charities

has received a grant from the M.A.C. AIDS Fund to improve nutrition and provide education at the Franciska and Saint Bridget residences. A part-time nutritionist will staff these residences, located in Jersey City and Newark, which serve homeless men infected with HIV/AIDS.



Submitted photo

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark operates 43 programs and annually serves 70,000 area residents, focusing on community healthcare needs. The organization traces its roots in the archdiocese to July 1903, when a group of lay Roman Catholics founded the Catholic Children's Aid Society of New Jersey. For information on Catholic Charities' programs and services, visit the group's Web site (www.ccannj.com) or call (973) 639-6523.

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Holy Name captures spot on 'best' list

TEANECK — Holy Name Hospital has been ranked fourth on Modern Healthcare magazine's national list of 100 "Best Places to Work in Healthcare" for 2009. It is the only organization in the north-eastern United States to be included in the list's top 10.

This is the second year Modern Healthcare has conducted its "Best Places to Work" program, and the second year that Holy Name has received the honor for workplace excellence. The hospital was ranked sixth last year.

"Best Places to Work in Healthcare" recognition is based on the results of a comprehensive employer questionnaire and an anonymous survey of randomly selected employees, who complete an in-depth questionnaire about eight core workplace criteria: leadership and planning, culture and communications, role satisfaction, working environment, relationship with supervision, training and development, pay and benefits, and overall satisfaction.

"This honor speaks volumes about our hospital" Michael Maron, Holy Name president and chief executive officer, said.



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Stocks/Securities – Consider converting a portion of your portfolio into a life income gift in the form of a Charitable Gift Annuity with the Archdiocese of Newark.

Appreciated Property – For securities that have increased in value, consider using that stock towards your gift. Then use the cash you would have used for the donation to repurchase the same investment. The result—the same securities you had, with a higher cost basis.

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