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Felician marks sterling silver anniversary

Sister Theresa Mary Martin celebrated her 25th year as president of Felician College with a week-long series of events in November.

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150 reasons (and counting) to give thanks

Immaculate Conception High School paid tribute to the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, who are celebrating their sesquicentennial anniversary.

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www.rcan.org/advocate

The Living Church Center illuminates deacon's family values

BY ANDREW SAUNDERS

Special to The Catholic Advocate

Bill was a great teacher. He loved to teach. He once told me that often, when he was teaching, 'time stood still.' He taught us that the family is holy. It is a continuation of God's creation and life in the world. Even with all its sorrows and difficulties, family life is holy."

Rev. Msgr. Richard M. Liddy, Ph.D., used these heartfelt words during his homily at a Funeral Mass celebrated nearly two years ago at

Saint Elizabeth Parish, Wyckoff. Msgr. Liddy, professor of Catholic Thought at Seton Hall University (SHU), South Orange, was describing his dear friend and colleague Deacon William J. Toth, Ph.D.

An influential and beloved figure throughout the Archdiocese of Newark, Deacon Toth died Feb. 3, 2008 at the age of 67. His love of family and his work as a teacher were honored Dec. 5 at The Center for Family Spirituality—a center he was instrumental in creating at Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology, on the campus of SHU. He joined the faculty of the School of Theology

in 1991 and served as Associate Professor of Christian Ethics.

The Catholic Center for Family Spirituality was designed to respond to the challenge issued by Pope John Paul II to create new institutes dedicated to the theological, spiritual and pastoral dimensions of family life. Through a generous grant from the William E. Simon Foundation, the center reflects on the family as the "Church in miniature" and explores ways to meet the challenges and stresses attending modern family life.

The center was created through the collaboration of Deacon Toth and Dr. Dianne Traflet, an associate dean of the School of Theology.

Tragically, Deacon Toth died just as plans for the center were being finalized. In tribute to an inspiring colleague, the seminary has established the William J. Toth Summer Institute for Family Spirituality, a cornerstone for the center, which offers graduate level courses on the theological, spiritual and pastoral dimensions of family life. A Catholic Journal of Family Spirituality also has been published by the center and dedicated to the memory of Deacon Toth.

"The center will be a tribute to Dr. Toth, who inspired the seminary community, not only by his scholarly career and classes on Christian

Continued on page 7



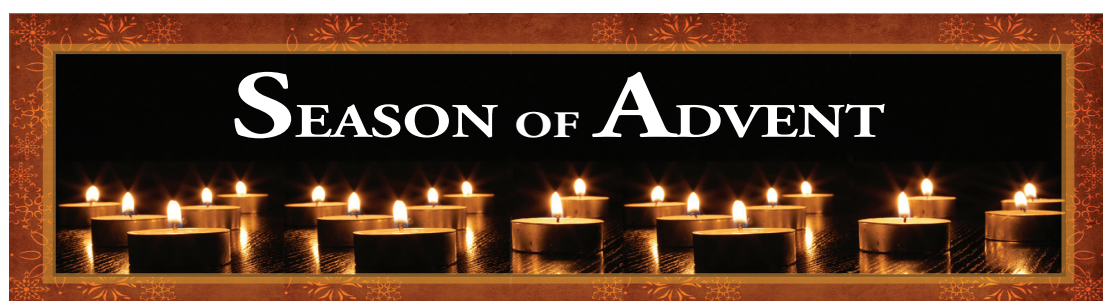
Photo courtesy of Ken Smith, Quiet Heart Images

NEWARK—The Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, 89 Ridge St., will host the 39th annual "Candlelight Carol Sing" Dec. 16 and 17 (Wednesday and Thursday), featuring the Cathedral Choir and Brass Ensemble and organist Vincent Carr. Doors open at 7 p.m. John J. Miller, archdiocesan director of music ministries, will conduct the performance.

Admission is free both nights and the public is invited to attend. There will be a good-will collection during the program. In addition to traditional

Christmas Carols, the concert will include choral selections from various countries. Call (973) 350-8443 for more information.

The Carol Sing is the highlight of the Cathedral Concert Series. The program traces its roots to an impromptu event in 1969, when a snowstorm disrupted a scheduled organ recital at the Cathedral. With the organ soloist unable to attend the event due to the blizzard, John Rose—then the director of music—led the assembled concert crowd in the singing of Christmas carols.



Statue of beloved pope marks anniversary for Newark parish

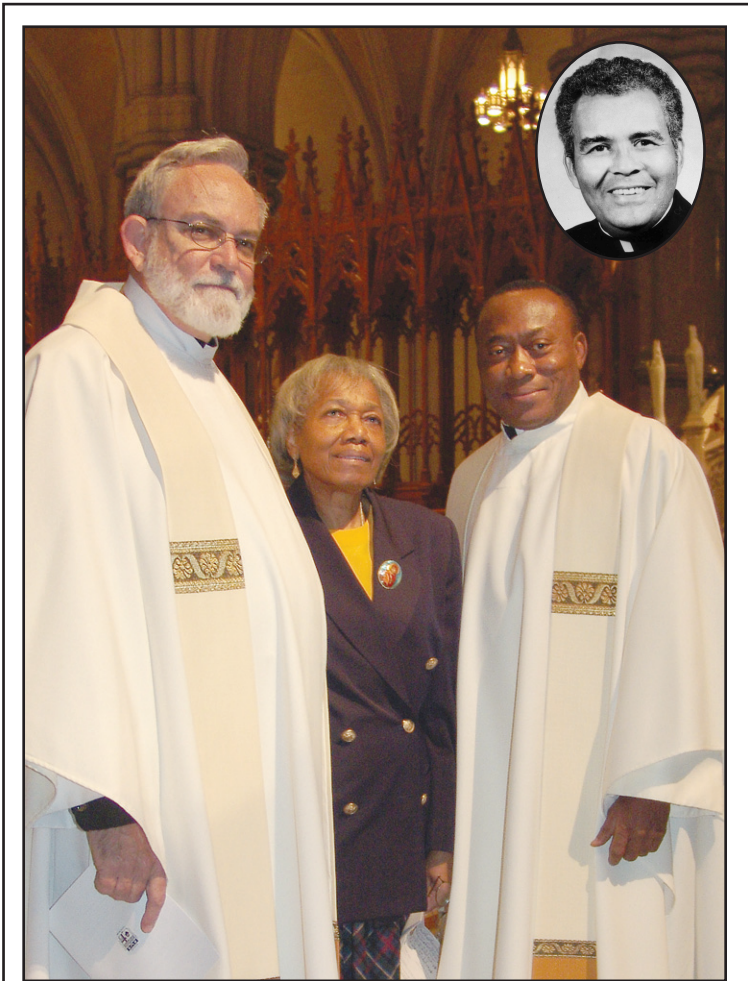
NEWARK—Saint Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr Parish, 146 Irvine Turner Blvd., marked its 120th anniversary Nov. 8 with a Mass celebrated by Archbishop John J. Myers.

Prior to the Mass, Father Bogumil J. Chrusciel, pastor, led a colorful procession throughout the neighborhood streets, which included Father Jordan Mysliwiec, Father Boniface Treanor and Father Mariusz E. Koch. The procession concluded with an unveiling and blessing of a bronze statue of Pope John Paul II, followed by a reception.

The parish was established in 1889 to support the spiritual needs of Polish immigrants. Initially the community purchased a small wooden church from a Baptist congregation. In 1901, construction began on the present Gothic-style church. It was the first Polish parish in the Newark area and is considered the “Mother Church” of Polish parishes.



Submitted photo
Father Bogumil J. Chrusciel, parishioner Maryanne Szuszkowski and Archbishop John J. Myers and Rev. Msgr. Michael A. Andreano, archdiocesan Vice Chancellor (center, back row, left to right), pose with members of Saint Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr Parish, following the blessing of a bronze statue of Pope John Paul II. The statue was cast in Italy and purchased through parishioner donations as an expression of their love for the late pope. “This statue will serve as a beacon to those who pass our church each day; not only Catholics, but people of all faiths,” Fr. Chrusciel said.



Advocate photo – M. Gabriele
REMEMBERING BISHOP FRANCIS—Rev. Msgr. Richard Arnholts, archdiocesan Vicar for Pastoral Life, Sister Patricia Lucas, D.H.M., director of the archdiocesan African-American, African and Caribbean Apostolate; and Rev. Msgr. Anselm I. Nwaorgu, Ph.D., pastor of Blessed Sacrament/Saint Charles Borromeo Parish, Newark, (left to right) gathered for a Mass Nov. 14 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, as part of the celebration for the annual Bishop Joseph A. Francis Award luncheon. Bishop Francis (inset), who died in 1997 at the age of 73, was the first African-American auxiliary bishop in the Archdiocese of Newark and one of the first African-American priests in the hierarchy of the U.S. Church to speak out against racism.



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Global warming threatens poor nations

LIMA, Peru (CNS)—World leaders and negotiators who participated in the recent U.N. Climate Change Conference must remember that the world's poorest and most vulnerable people will suffer most from environmental factors, Church activists declared. "This is a pivotal point for all people of faith and good will," said Cliona Sharkey, policy and advocacy officer for CIDSE, an international network of Catholic development agencies. "We simply cannot accept the continuation of a situation that is impacting on the people who have contributed least to the problem." Church groups are

calling for negotiators meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark, Dec. 7-18 to sign a legally binding agreement that includes sharp cuts in greenhouse gas emissions by industrialized countries and long-term funding to help developing countries adapt to the effects of climate change. Global warming could affect food and water supplies, public health, infrastructure and political security. "The implications are felt first by people living in poverty," Sharkey said. Island nations and countries with coastal cities are threatened by rising sea levels, while mountain farmers who depend on glacial runoff in dry seasons are seeing glaciers disappear. Other regions, including northeastern Brazil and parts of Africa, are suffering increased drought. In recent years, wealthy countries have pledged funds to help poor countries adapt to climate change. However, most of the promised funds have not reached the countries with the greatest need.



CNS photo

ADVENT LIGHT—A Palestinian woman and child light candles in the Church of the Nativity in the West Bank town of Bethlehem Nov. 29, the first Sunday of Advent.

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MT 25:36



Bishop cites false rumors on CCHD

BALTIMORE (CNS) —Members of the U.S. bishops' subcommittee overseeing the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) reassured their fellow bishops and donors that "no group that opposes Catholic social or moral teaching is eligible for funding" from their domestic anti-poverty campaign. Bishop Roger P. Morin of Biloxi, MS, subcommittee chairman, stressed in a Nov. 17 report to the U.S. bishops at their fall general assembly in Baltimore that accusations CCHD is "providing funds to groups that are pro-abortion or groups that are not in support of the family...and other untruths" are "outrageous claims." Locally, Catherine L'Insalata, division director of community access and volunteer services for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark, serves as archdiocesan director for CCHD.

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Weighing life's choices, the question is: what if?

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE
Editor

NEWARK—What if?

A clipped phrase—two words and a question mark. However, it can reveal a multitude of possibilities on the purpose and direction of a single life. It can come at a critical moment, when someone pauses to consider one choice among many; a choice that will have profound consequences.

Father Pedro Bismarck Chau posed the what-if question to students at Saint Benedict's Prep, 520 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., on Nov. 3 as the featured speaker at the school's third annual Vocation Awareness Day program.

Though the thrust of his message was for students to be open to the calling of religious life or the priesthood, he invited all those in the packed auditorium to ponder the what-if question with regard to any vocation.

"Do not dismiss the what-if question," Fr. Bismarck told the young men of Saint Benedict's. "Answer the call and follow Jesus. Whatever your calling in life, see it through the eyes of Christ. Everyone has a vocation. Think of the needs of others and forget about yourself. Then you'll know who you really are."

He reminded students to keep God "in the equation" as they move forward to new chapters in their lives. "Be holy as a creation of God," Fr. Bismarck advised. "Holiness means perfect love. Don't let possessions become false fulfillment. Don't let possessions become an obstacle to God's call.

"Are we selfish people?," he asked the audience,

challenging students to re-evaluate those things they consider to be valuable. "I know you all have great dreams and goals. Goals are fine, but strive for perfect love. Fulfill your vocation, whatever it is, with perfect love."

The parochial vicar of Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish, Garfield, Fr. Bismarck shared his life journey with students, which started in Managua, Nicaragua, 41 years ago. He was ordained to the priesthood at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart on May 24, 2008. It was his experience that the what-if question on his calling to the priesthood took more than 15 years to percolate in his heart, mind and soul. His discernment included a career in the insurance business before he entered the seminary at age 34.

His siblings—brother and sister twins—proved to be a guiding force for his discernment. His beloved sister, who is deaf, inspired him to become accomplished in liturgical American Sign Language, making him one of the few priests in the area able to "sign" a Mass. His brother, who has cerebral palsy, serves as a lay missionary and travels throughout the world.

He first encountered his own what-if question at age 18, Fr. Bismarck confessed. He felt God's call to the priesthood, but Fr. Bismarck's dreams and goals initially took him in other directions.

"Sometimes God works in your life without you knowing it," he said. "Ever since I entered the seminary and became a priest, these have been the happiest days of my life." He said he experiences the joy of the priesthood every day—even when he's forced to deal with difficult situations and people in his ministry.



Advocate photo — M. Gabriele

Brother Patrick Winbush, O.S.B., (right) the director of vocations at Saint Benedict's Prep, organized "Vocation Awareness Day," which featured Father Pedro Bismarck Chau. The two are pictured in the Newark Abbey's garden. Those seeking more information on vocations can contact Br. Patrick by phone at (973) 792-5772, via e-mail at (pwinbush@sbp.org) or visit the school's Web site (www.sbp.org).

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The greeting extended within a culture as people come and go provide an indication of the values shared by members of the group. The biblical greetings “The Lord be with you” (Ruth 2:4) or “Peace be with you” (Jn 20:21) have profound resonances in the liturgy; in Catholic cultures these wishes or similar phrases were repeated throughout the day.

Unfortunately much of this echo of worship has been lost. How many of the ordinary people who say “Good-bye” to a friend realize that it means “God be with you?” Upon reflection, we find shallow modern attempts at variety to indicate sincerity and thoughtfulness. “Have a nice day!” or “Enjoy!” are expressions that show a belief in the goodness of life that should be shared. However, God-centered greetings are much richer.

The Church endeavors to teach

life is to be enjoyed, not in a self-centered, individualistic manner, but through a community aware that all true joy and happiness are gifts of God. Moreover, this is the very goal of life itself: from an understanding of Emmanuel (God is with us), we come into a union with God that constitutes everlasting joy.

The popular Latin name for this Sunday is *Gaudete!* “Rejoice in the Lord always!” (Phil 4:4). The new lectionary introduces us into the milieu of Jewish worship from which Saint Paul derived his teaching. The exuberance with which the people of Israel approached the Temple in prayer is so pervasive that one finds 27 words for joy in the Hebrew Bible. The short passage of Zephaniah (a prophet in Judah during the seventh century B.C.) contains eight synonyms for joy. First, one notes that it is a community experience, Zion and Jerusalem being personifications of the capital city and, therefore, representing the entire people.

The reasons for the call to rejoice are significant: first, God has forgiven the sins of the people and in ceasing to judge them He brings peace; secondly, God is acknowledged to be their King and dwells in their midst. No longer should the people fear the oppression of enemies nor should they be discouraged by misfortunes. Their King is a mighty Savior, delivering them from all dangers and renewing their lives by His love.

When Luke described the coming of John the Baptist and of Jesus, he pointedly situated their work in the historical reign of Tiberius Caesar. Readers should not forget the oppressive presence of the Romans in the Holy Land of those days. How fervent were the prayers that God would manifest His royal might as when He delivered Israel from Egyptian slavery. John quoted the prophet of old (Is 40:1-5) that indeed God would come soon; to prepare, people must seek forgiveness for their sins and live righteous lives. By this John meant that the right order

desired by God must be achieved by keeping the commandments and imitating divine generosity.

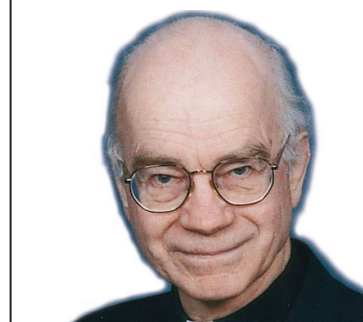
John then explained that His work was a preparation for the coming of God’s Anointed One (Messiah). He stressed that the long-awaited Son of David would possess the gifts of the Holy Spirit in order to exercise the royal prerogative of judging everyone (see Is 11:1-5). Bringing justice and righteousness to the daily lives of all would be the basis for a reign of peace that would extend even to the wild animals and reptiles that often threaten life and limb (Is 11:6-9).

After John was imprisoned by Herod Antipas, the great prophet seemed to become impatient with Jesus. His disciples asked: “Are you he who is to come, or shall we look for another?” (Lk 7:19). In other words, when are you going to begin the ominous task of judgment?

Jesus replied by quoting other passages of Isaiah. “The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have the good news preached

SUNDAY READINGS

3rd Sunday of Advent
(Dec. 13, 2009)



By Rev. Lawrence Frizzell

to them” (Lk 7:22; see Is 29:18-19; 35:5-6; 61:1). These are signs that God’s reign of peace and wholeness (shalom) is coming upon the world.

The healing presence of Christ in our midst is the great source of a profound joy and peace that fulfills all human hopes, while surpassing all understanding (Phil 4:7).

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



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Deacon Toth

Continued from page 1

Ethics and Christian Marriage, but by the way he lived out his vocation as husband, father and deacon,” Traflet said.

She noted Deacon Toth spoke with a keen sense of passion and authenticity about the family as a sacred “domestic” Church. “His love of his family and his love for the Church as his spiritual family always edified us,” Traflet said. “He has left us with indelible memories of a teacher who taught by example the richest and most beautiful meaning of marriage and the family.”

Traflet described Deacon Toth as a man who dearly loved his family, “speaking about his wife, Kathy, with tender admiration, convinced that she was a precious gift from God.” He also spoke about his children with deep affection and understandable pride, pointing to individual talents, gifts, and personalities. Traflet said he often credited his wife and children with teaching him about the practice of faith.

The father of eight children and 10 grandchildren, Deacon Toth taught graduate-level classes on Christian Marriage and gave numerous lectures and workshops on the vocation and spirituality



Deacon William Toth

of the laity. His courses also included Christian Ethics, Theology of the Body, and Spirituality in Contemporary Culture.

Deacon Toth earned a master’s degree in Moral Theology from Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology and a Ph.D. in Christian Ethics from Union Theological Seminary. He served as a deacon at Saint Elizabeth Parish.

An expert in social ethics, Deacon Toth served as the chair of the archdiocesan Peace and Justice Commission and was the director of Lay Leadership Development. In 2005, Deacon Toth was named as a respondent for an international symposium held in Rome (sponsored by the Peace and Justice Commission) to mark the 40-year anniversary of *Gaudium et Spes* (Joy and Hope)—a pas-

toral constitution on the Church in the modern world from the Second Vatican Council, promulgated by Pope Paul VI.

Among his accomplishments, he initiated interdisciplinary courses between the Stillman School of Business and the SHU law school. He was the founder and co-director of the Micah Institute for Business and Economics (formerly known as the Institute on Work). His interest in work-life ministry prompted him to develop and teach courses related to the Theology of Work, and to organize and give workshops on business ethics, job creation and executive leadership development.

(Editor’s note: Andrew Saunders is the director of The Catholic Center for Family Spirituality. Contact the center by phone, (973) 761-9575, or via e-mail, theology@shu.edu, for more information on programs.)




Submitted photo

INCLUSIVE AWARDS—Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Bergenfield, recently received awards from the New Jersey Coalition for Inclusive Ministries, an organization that works to fully include all children and adults with disabilities or special needs into faith communities. The parish was recognized for holding its Inclusive Family Mass and developing a support group for mothers of special-needs children. Pictured at the awards ceremony are (left to right) Msgr. Richard J. Arnhols, pastor, and awardees Norman David Atkinson, Margarita Rosario, Anne Masters, MA, archdiocesan director of Pastoral Ministry for Persons with Disabilities and Jim Detura. The parish’s Inclusive Family Mass is held the first Sunday of each month at 1:30 p.m. Call (201) 384-3601 for more information.

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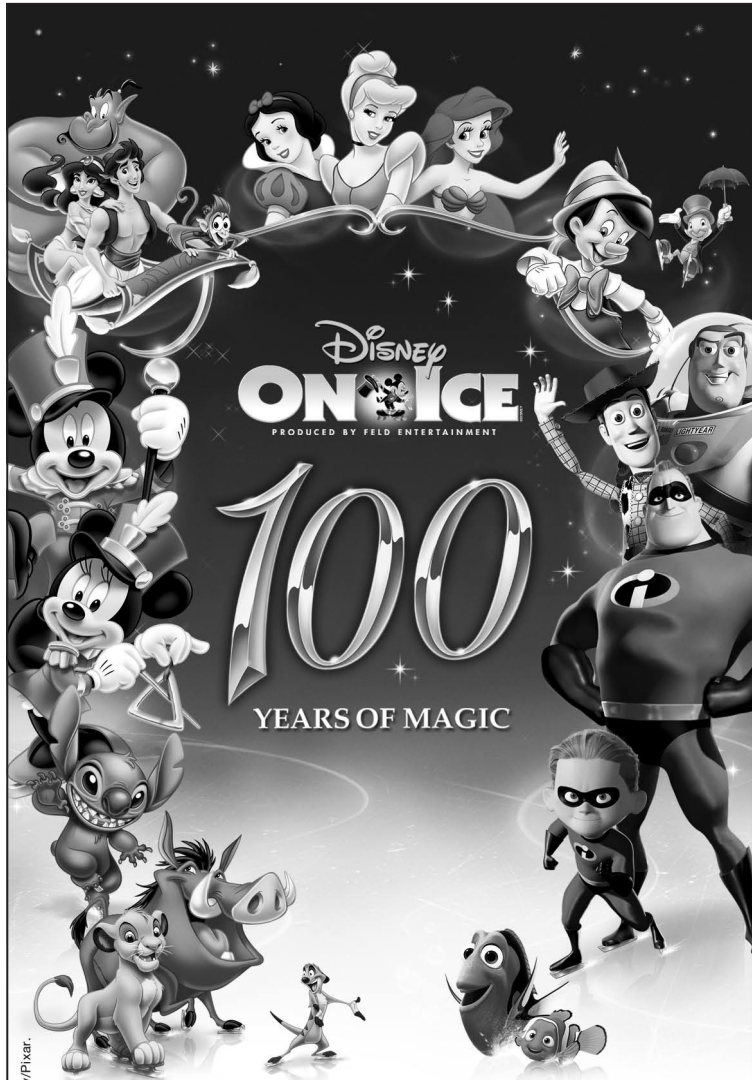
ICHS helps Sisters of Charity mark 150 years

BY WARD MIELE
Managing Editor

WEST ORANGE — The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, celebrating their 150th anniversary, were honored Nov. 18 by Immaculate Conception High School (ICHS) with a Lifetime Achievement Award during the Montclair school's 26th annual Hall of Fame Dinner held at Mayfair Farms.

In addition to the congregation, ICHS inducted into its Hall of Fame six of its graduates who joined the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth. The inductees include Sister Regina Hudson, Class of 1948; Sister Lorena Reilly, Class of 1952; Sister Carol Williams and Sister Ann Fay, Class of 1961; Sister Margaret Tierney, Class of 1953; and Sister Kathleen Mirenda, Class of 1966.

The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth first arrived at Immaculate Conception Parish in 1881. The congregation was founded in 1859 when the New York Sisters of Charity appointed Sister Mary Xavier Mehegan to take charge of a new foundation



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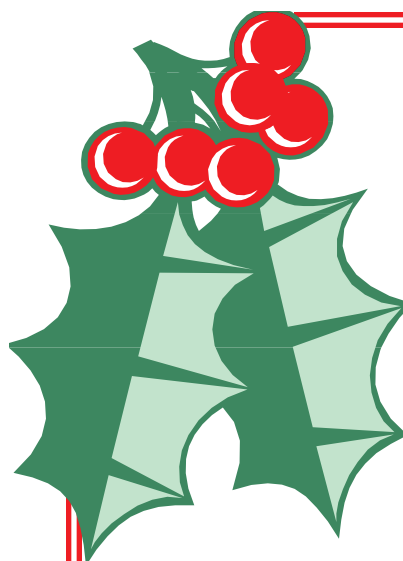
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6:30 pm	Connor Hall, Light supper (downstairs)
7:30 pm	Concert in Church



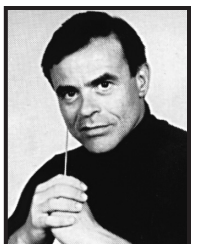
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on Washington Street in Newark.

Commenting on the Sisters of Saint Elizabeth and their long tenure with ICHS, the school president, Sister Maureen Crowley, S.C., a member of the Class of 1956, said that “as alumni, it is important that we recognize the significance of the role the Sisters played in our formative years, spiritual development, educational curiosity and achievement of life goals. They were both challenging to us and challenged by us.”

According to a history provided by the congregation, Sister Mary Xavier’s assignment to Newark in 1859 was the result of a request from Bishop James Roosevelt Bayley, a nephew of Saint Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton and the first Bishop of Newark, for the Sisters of Charity to start a community in the Garden State. Assisting Sister Mary Xavier was Sister Mary Catharine Nevin. They welcomed five young women from the Newark and Paterson areas who received initial formation from the Cincinnati Sisters of Charity.

A year after establishing the congregation in Newark, the original facility already was inadequate. In 1860, Mother Xavier purchased property in Madison from the then-Diocese of Newark. The site was available as Seton Hall College was being relocated to South Orange. In 1873, Bishop Michael Corrigan, the second



Advocate photos – Ward Miele

The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth (pictured on page 8) were the guests of honor at ICHS’ Hall of Fame Dinner. The congregation, celebrating its 150th anniversary, received the school’s Lifetime Achievement Award. Pictured above, making the presentation to General Superior Sister Maureen Shaughnessy, S.C., right, was Sister Maureen Crowley, S.C., president of ICHS and a member of the class of 1956. The Sisters of Charity also celebrated their anniversary with a Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, on Sept. 27.

Bishop of Newark, appointed Mother Xavier to Mother for Life. During her 56-year tenure, the Sisters experienced remarkable growth and founded the first college for women in New Jersey—the College of Saint Elizabeth, Convent Station—in 1899.

Six decades ago the decision to seek recognition as a reli-

gious congregation rather than a society—whose members live in a community—represented a change in canonical status. With it came a shift from annual renewal of private vows to perpetual profession of public vows. In 1957 the status of the congregation was changed from diocesan to pontifical right.

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Parish plans traditional Mass

JERSEY CITY—Holy Rosary Church, 344 Sixth St., will celebrate a traditional Solemn High Mass on Christmas Eve at Midnight. The traditional Mass or Extraordinary Form as Pope Benedict XVI identified it in his Apostolic Letter *Summorum Pontificum* is celebrated in Latin according to the Missal of 1962, issued under Blessed John XXIII.

The Holy Rosary Choir, directed by Harold Bott, will perform seasonal music at 11:15 p.m., preceding the Mass. Father Rino Lavaroni, Ph.D., is the pastor of Holy Rosary, which will celebrate its 125th anniversary in October 2010. Call the parish at (201) 795-0120 or visit the Web site (www.holyrosarychurch.com) for more information.

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Interfaith wisdom confronts 'separation anxieties'

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE
Editor

One night in early November, a Muslim community leader and a Catholic priest got together before a diverse audience at an Episcopal church in Bergen County to dis-

cuss the best ways to share the stories of spiritual journeys between people of different faiths.

Good-will dialogue between Catholics, Muslims, Jews, Protestants and people of other faiths has been an ongoing conversation in the four counties of the Archdiocese of Newark. This local engagement, which typically is

lost in the shuffle of turbulent international events, reflects the words of Pope Benedict XVI.

One year ago, during a meeting of the Catholic-Muslim Forum at the Vatican, the pope declared that professing faith in one God requires Catholics and Muslims to respect one another (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Nov. 12, 2008). Love of God and neighbor, the pope said, obliges members of

both faiths to work together.

In the case of the Nov. 4 presentation at the Church of the Atonement, Tenafly—"Telling Our Stories: Teaching Our Values," sponsored by the North Jersey Christian/Muslim Project—Mohamed el Filali, the community outreach coordinator of the Islamic Center of Passaic County, and Father Philip Latronico, the chair of the archdiocesan

Commission on Interreligious Affairs, provided another milestone in this ongoing interfaith journey. The program focused on how people of faith can share the spiritual wisdom of their stories as part of process of dialogue.

"You have to own the story—you can't just read the story," Fr. Latronico said, emphasizing the word "own" in his statement.

Continued on page 11

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Advocate photo – M. Gabriele

Mohamed el Filali of the Islamic Center of Passaic County, Rev. Lynne Bleich Weber, the rector of the Church of the Atonement, Tenafly, and Father Philip Latronico, the chair of the archdiocesan Commission on Interreligious Affairs (left to right), led the Nov. 4 panel discussion—"Telling Our Stories: Sharing Our Values."

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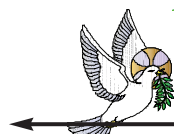
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Holiday glitter doesn't outshine Christmas spirit

For many people, December is a month of great challenge. The minutes of daylight continue to decrease as we approach the first day of winter. The pressures of sending Christmas cards, buying Christmas gifts, decorating Christmas trees and preparing for Christmas get-togethers can all converge to make people feel overwhelmed and even depressed.

Whether we place unreasonable expectations on ourselves or allow others to make us feel guilty, this is hardly the spiritual journey that the season of Advent envisions.

People will wait on long lines at toy or electronics stores for the latest gadget or gizmo to please their children, spouse, relative, or friend, often only to learn that the item is sold out by the time they get to the front. Fights frequently ensue. The joy of the season evaporates in an instant. By contrast, the lines tend to be much shorter at parish penance services and reconciliation rooms, although people always find themselves renewed and refreshed after such a sacramental encounter.

Maintaining perspective goes a long way to surviving the holidays. Keeping Christ in Christmas is more than making sure we get a retailer to acknowledge that God's gift of Jesus is the real motivation for the shopper's purchase. It also means conducting ourselves in such a way that our own relationship with Jesus is evident to everyone around us, be they cus-

tomers or merchants, strangers or friends.

Of course, December is also a month of hope and promise. By the time Christmas actually arrives, the moments of daylight are already beginning to overtake the darkness once again. Fleeting thoughts of spring and summer temper the cold winds blowing across our faces.

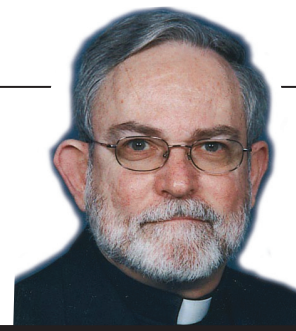
Midnight Mass and other masses remind us anew of the great mystery of God in our lives, even if we have not always made as much room for Him as we might have. New Year's Eve gives us yet another opportunity to put the past behind us and start all over again (as long as we don't overdo the scope of resolutions we make.)

In most parishes, December is a special time to see love put into action. Hundreds of people come forward with gifts for struggling families and nursing home residents. Parishioners provide bags of food for the poor. Members of social concerns committees, who usually labor faithfully behind the scenes all year long, work extra diligently to ensure that all donations are sorted, packaged, distributed or

*December is a month of hope
and promise—a special time
to see love put into action.*

SEEING & BELIEVING

By Rev. Msgr.
Richard J. Arnhols



delivered to as many as possible. Liturgy committee members volunteer extra hours in the midst of their own busy schedules to beautifully decorate our sanctuaries and crèches. Youth Groups, school children and choirs provide uplifting renditions of seasonal tunes, both sacred and secular, in pageants, concerts, liturgies and services.

May the spirit of Christmas, which celebrates the mystery of love made real through the reality of the Word made Flesh, fill our hearts during this holy season and motivate our actions throughout the New Year as we give witness to the miracle of God with us!

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

Lutherans, Catholics celebrate a milestone of Christian unity

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE
Editor

SOUTH ORANGE—Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology, and the Archdiocese of Newark's Commission for Christian Unity marked the 10th anniversary of The Lutheran and Catholic Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification with a scholarly forum Nov. 13, which was held at the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, Seton Hall University (SHU).

Dr. William G. Rusch, former executive director, Office of Ecumenical Affairs for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Chicago, and Msgr. John A. Radano, former staff member and head of the Western Section of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, the Holy See, 1984-2008, served as the featured speakers for the event. Msgr. Radano is based at SHU where he is an adjunct professor in the School of Theology.

According to information provided by forum organizers, representatives of the Holy See and the Lutheran World Federation, on Oct. 31, 1999, signed the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification. Considered a major achievement of the modern ecumenical movement, the declaration represents decades of international dialogue between Lutherans

and Catholics on the central theological issue in the conflict between Martin Luther and Church authorities in the 16th century.

The declaration states "a consensus in basic truths of the Doctrine of Justification between Lutherans and Catholics" and that the doctrinal condemnations of the 16th century in regard to the Doctrine of Justification, do not apply to the teaching of the other presented in this declaration. "Justification" is the theological understanding of how God brings persons into a right relation with Himself, overcoming their sin and its effects. Three years ago the

World Methodist Council officially associated itself with this joint declaration.

Father Luke Edelen, the chair of the archdiocesan Commission for Christian Unity and a member of Newark Abbey, said recognizing the 10th anniversary of the joint declaration is significant as it helps repair the break in the Western Church that dates back to the 1517 Reformation. The declaration represents a thoughtful process between Catholic and Lutheran theologians and creates an environment to further explore Christian unity, Fr. Edelen said.

Interviewed earlier this year



Msgr. John Radano

(see *The Catholic Advocate*, Feb. 4), Msgr. Radano said the ecumenical journey of dialogue between Catholics and Lutherans has

moved beyond the conflicts of the past and now focuses on complex issues such as the nature and role of ministry.

Msgr. Radano explained the ecumenical movement's goal of "visible unity" does not mean "uniformity," but rather unity in legitimate diversity, as once described by Pope John Paul II. "This is unity with diversity, not divergence. The goal of achieving visible unity will require a great deal of spiritual depth."

While the Second Vatican Council (1962-65) marks the point for deep commitment by the Catholic Church in modern ecumenical dialogue, many theologians agree the international ecumenical movement began with the 1910 World Missionary Conference in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Interfaith

Continued from page 10

"Actions are the best way to tell stories of faith. God uses everyday people to tell stories of faith. I first must know my own story, but I also must know the story of the other. If we are people who truly learn from our stories, then we need to read them, tell them and live them."

When it comes to sharing faith-based wisdom, stories should include a human dimension to which people can relate, according to el Filali. "Imagery is important. There must be relevance to the lives of those listening to the story. We must see the common denom-

inator in our stories. It's also our responsibility to listen to the other person's narrative. Muslims reflect on stories they share with Jews and Christians. As people of faith, we are in a journey together. We should try to see the common denominator."

Occasionally, even with good intentions, stories of faith can be used to separate those engaged in the dialogue. "There are stories that unite and divide," Fr. Latronico pointed out. "Our stories (from different religions) are similar, but there is always the desire to see what separates us."

"Mohamed, Lynne and I have different beliefs," he continued, referring to the Rev. Lynne Bleich Weber, the rector of the Church of

the Atonement and the host for the program. "We can disagree but not be separate."

The stories that come from sacred scriptures provide wisdom on the realities of revelation and transformation in life. Prophets often confronted fear in the places they traveled due to threatening, unreceptive audiences and regional conflicts. People of faith face similar realities today, el Filali said.

"We always have the opportunity to do good," he acknowledged. "There is a wisdom that God puts forth in our scriptures. People should pay attention to God's wisdom. Each person has a responsibility to bear. There are ups and downs when it comes to

our faith. Not everything in life is rosy. There will always be obstacles, but these obstacles are opportunities to rise to the next level and the victories come from God."

Fr. Latronico concurred, acknowledging spiritual struggles and uncertainty faced by people of faith. "We often like to do things empirically. We try to prove or measure our stories, but empiricism doesn't always work," he said, confessing that he was once a dedicated mathematician during his college days. "We ponder situations and struggle, but there is a spiritual way of seeing things. What is God trying to say? How does He speak to humanity? How does He speak to me?"

Cardinal built bridges, trust for Jews, Catholics

BY MELISSA MCNALLY
Staff Writer

SOUTH ORANGE—"He was a prophet and pioneer," Msgr. John A. Radano said of Johannes Cardinal Willebrands, a key figure in Judaeo-Christian relations.

On Oct. 25 at Seton Hall University (SHU), Cardinal Willebrands and his efforts to build bridges between the faiths was the focus of the 16th Msgr. John M. Osterreicher Memorial Lecture.

Born on Sept. 4, 1909 in the Netherlands, Cardinal Willebrands dedicated his life to reconciliation and religious understanding.

In 1951, he founded the Catholic Conference for Ecumenical Questions that brought together theologians and is a symbol of the ecumenical diplomacy movement.

In 1960, Cardinal Willebrands was a founding member of the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity (later elevated to a Pontifical Council) in Vatican City. His relations with other churches informed his work while he participated in the Second Vatican Council. Fluent in six languages, his connections with the Lutheran Church, Eastern Orthodox churches and Jews made him invaluable in promoting religious dialogue. Cardinal Willebrands was also leader of the Pon-

tifical Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews.

Cardinal Willebrands died Aug. 2, 2006 at the age of 96. Considering the scope of his accomplishments, there is increasing interest in the life of the cardinal, with the Catholic Church in the Netherlands gathering his papers, including notes and diaries, as records. On Nov. 19, a colloquium was held at Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome celebrating the centennial of his birth.

Msgr. Radano, an adjunct professor in the School of Theology at SHU, served at the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity from 1984-2008, the first

six years under the presidency of Cardinal Willebrands. As former head of the council's Western section, his responsibility related to contacts with the Christian World Communions and the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches. (See page 11 for related article involving Msgr. Radano.)

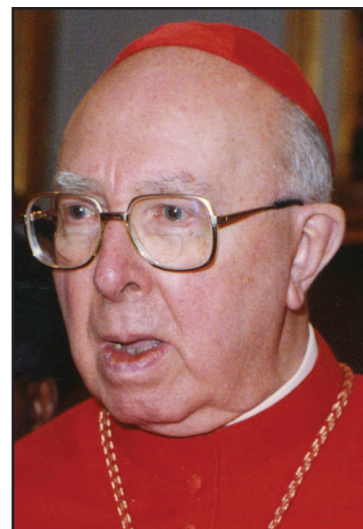
Promoting reconciliation between Catholics and Jews was essential to the late cardinal's work, according to Msgr. Radano. In the recently discovered diary of Cardinal Willebrands, he was in contact with Msgr. John M. Osterreicher, founder of the Institute for Judaeo-Christian Studies at SHU.

"Osterreicher and Willebrands kept in contact after Vatican Council II. Osterreicher kept him informed with the work here at the Institute. At the 20th anniversary of *Nostra Aetate* (Declaration on the Relation of the Church with Non-Christian Religions), Cardinal Willebrands had the warmest words for Msgr. Osterreicher and called him a pioneer of Jewish and Christian relations," Msgr. Radano explained.

Cardinal Willebrands, who received an honorary degree from SHU in 1987, said Christians and Jews were "linked together" by the same God. "Interpreting Willebrands' contribution to (interfaith dialogue) is a story that needs to be told," Msgr. Radano noted.

Judith Banki, director of special programs at the New York-based Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding, came in contact with Cardinal Willebrands as part of a Jewish activist group during the Second Vatican Council. She served for more than 30 years as associate national director of Interreligious Affairs for the American Jewish Committee.

Banki describes Cardinal Willebrands as a "reluctant revolutionary" who, despite opposition, promoted unity and strove to dispute anti-Semitic stereotypes throughout his career. "Some heroes leap fearlessly into justice as they see it. Others use patience, fortitude and diplomatic skill. Change requires both kinds of heroes. Willebrands was definitely the second type of



Johannes Cardinal Willebrands

hero," she explained.

Cardinal Willebrands had a "friendly, open disposition with a strong backbone" who "never lost his cool," according to Banki. "He was deeply human and made lifelong friends and cherished his relationships. He had a lively curiosity, was an avid reader and loved studying," she added.

Through researching his work and life and his personal agendas, Banki noted that Cardinal Willebrands had contacts with Protestant churches and used his diplomatic skill help explain *Nostra Aetate*. "Willebrands was staunchly apposed to anti-Semitism and was deeply empathetic with the Jewish people. He tried to correct the image of Jews in Catholic documents," Banki said.

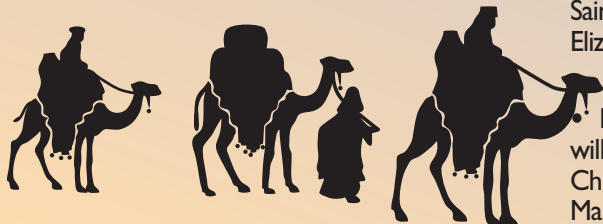
The "teaching of contempt" in Catholic documents, Banki explained, resulted in Jews being "degraded, segregated and viewed as potential converts charged with wicked crimes." In 1965, Cardinal Willebrands made three trips to the Middle East and met with Catholics, Eastern Orthodox and Anglicans to overcome hostility in relations to the Jews.

Banki noted that there are negative images of "the other" in all religious texts, not just Christian and Jewish. The progress and dialogue that Cardinal Willebrands promoted is still relevant in today's culture. "We have to make a conscious effort to discuss and address the negative issues of how we see 'the other.' May the memory of Cardinal Willebrands bless the work we still have to do together."

Bishops offer Mass schedules

The following is the listing available at press time for Archbishop John J. Myers and the auxiliary bishops of the Archdiocese of Newark.

- **Archbishop John J. Myers** will celebrate Christmas Eve Midnight Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, 89 Ridge St., Newark
- **Archbishop Emeritus Peter L. Gerety** will celebrate the 7 p.m. Spanish Mass on Christmas Eve at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, 99 Broadway, Jersey City
- **Bishop Edgar M. da Cunha** will celebrate Christmas Eve Midnight Mass at Saint Benedict Parish, 65 Barbara St., Newark, and Christmas Day Mass, 10:30 a.m., at Saint Aloysius Parish, 66 Fleming Ave., Newark
- **Bishop Thomas A. Donato** will celebrate 10 p.m. Christmas Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Mass, 8 a.m., both at Saint Henry Parish, 82 West 29th St., Bayonne
- **Bishop John W. Flesey** will celebrate Christmas Eve Midnight Mass at Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, 787 Franklin Lake Rd., Franklin Lakes
- **Bishop Emeritus Dominic A. Marconi** will preside on Christmas Eve at the blessing of a live Christmas crib scene at 1 p.m. at Saint Theresa Parish, 541 Washington Ave., Kenilworth. He also will celebrate the 10 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass at Saint Genevieve Parish, 200 Monmouth Rd., Elizabeth, and returning to Saint Theresa Parish, he will celebrate Christmas Midnight Mass
- **Bishop Emeritus Charles J. McDonnell** will celebrate Christmas Eve Mass, 10 p.m., and Christmas Day Mass, 10:30 a.m., both at Saint Mary's Parish, 17 Msgr. Owens Pl., Nutley.



Midnight Mass

Solemn High Mass in the Extraordinary Form
The Latin Mass

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Announcement

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How to report abuse

The Archdiocese of Newark takes very seriously any and all credible complaints of sexual misconduct by members of the clergy, Religious and lay staff of the archdiocese. We encourage anyone with knowledge of an act of sexual misconduct to inform the archdiocese immediately so that we may take appropriate action to protect others and provide support to victims of sexual abuse. Individuals who wish to report an allegation of sexual misconduct may do so by calling the Archdiocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection at (201) 407-3256.

Novenas

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

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

PRAYER TO ST. CLAIRE
Ask St. Claire for three favors; one Business and two impossible. 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 impossible they seem. Publication must be promised.
M.F.R.

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.

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
(Never known to fail).
Oh most beautiful flower of Mt. 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 show me herein, you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3X). Holy Spirit you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy towards me and mine. The person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted.
C.J.M.

PRAYER TO THE INFANT OF PRAGUE
O Divine Child of Prague, and still the great, omnipotent God, I implore through Thy; most holy Mother's most powerful intercession and through the boundless mercy of Thy omnipotence as God, a favorable answer to the intention I so earnestly ask for in this Novena. O Divine Child of Prague, hear my prayer and grant my petition (three times). Our Father. Hail Mary (once).
D.M.M.

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SFIC fest plans slam-dunk showcase

AREA—The Archdiocese of Newark's Scholarship Fund for Inner City Children (SFIC) will host the seventh annual SFIC Basketball Festival in January,

featuring some of the nation's top high school boys and girls basketball teams.

The boys' competition takes place Sunday, Jan. 10, 2010 at

Kean University, beginning at 12:15 p.m. The girls' tournament will be held Sunday, Jan. 17, beginning at 3:15 p.m. at Paramus Catholic Regional High School.



Submitted photo

DONATION TO AID SEMINARIANS—Father Michael Marotta (second from right), pastor of Saint Joseph Parish, Lodi, and former rector at the Adorno Fathers Mahwah residence, recently accepted a \$500 check from the Bergen County Federation of Holy Name Societies Inc. on behalf of Adorno Fathers' seminarians. Members of the federation pictured with Fr. Marotta are (left to right) Steve Liszewski, recording secretary; Elton Ekstrom, first vice president; Donald Stein, second vice president; and Salvatore Scialdone, treasurer.

Tickets for the SFIC Basketball Festival are priced at \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. There is also a family plan that includes two adult tickets and two student as well as a festival t-shirt. Tickets may be purchased by logging onto www.SFICHOOPS.com or calling (973) 497-4279.

Since its inception, the basketball festival has raised over \$150,000 to support the SFIC. Bill Fitzpatrick serves as director of the event. Gerard T. O'Connor is the executive director of the SFIC, which provides partial tuition scholarships to economically disadvantaged students attending Catholic schools in Bergen, Essex, Hudson and Union counties.

Opening-round action for the girls has Saint Anthony High School of Jersey City against Elizabeth's Benedictine Academy. That game will be followed by Paramus Catholic taking on Mother Seton Regional High School of Clark. The final match-up finds Marist High School of Bayonne meeting Caldwell's Mount Saint Dominic Academy.

USA Today's top-rated boys basketball team, Saint Patrick of Elizabeth, and two other Top-25 squads will headline the field of

teams for the boys' competition. Saint Patrick Celtics guard, Kyrie Irving, is the sixth-ranked high school senior in the nation and has committed to play for Coach Mike Kryzyzewski at Duke University next fall. The Celtics are also led by the nation's top-ranked junior, 6-8 forward Michael Gilchrist. The duo will lead the Saint Patrick squad as it battles Trenton Catholic Academy.

Also returning to the competition are the Saint Anthony Friars of Jersey City, ranked 24th nationally. The team has guided by legendary Coach Bob Hurley for the past 35 years and is led by senior Devon Collier. Saint Anthony will be matching up against NIA Prep, Newark, a top-ranked New Jersey prep program. In 2008-2009, NIA Prep finished as 11th ranked prep team in the country.

In the opening match, Newark's Saint Benedicts Gray Bees will take on Our Savior New American, a Northeast power from Centereach, NY. The Gray Bees team is ranked eighth in the nation. Juniors Myck Kabongo and Sidiki Johnson lead the Gray Bees.

The final game of the festival will feature Saint Peter's Prep versus Hudson Catholic.

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This Christmas, will you pray for your "family" in Nias and throughout the Missions? And will you support the work of local Sisters who help our youngest brothers and sisters experience the Lord's great love for each of us?



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TEAM EFFORT—Members of Bergen Catholic High School's Crusaders for Christian Action (CCA) hosted its annual Thanksgiving food drive. Pictured among the grocery bags are CCA officers and contributors (standing, left to right) juniors Matthew Negron and John Cuyulis, senior Brian Correll, sophomore Craig Kay, juniors Ryan Dikdan and Conor Lloyd, senior Sang Yoo, sophomore Omar Elkeshk and CCA moderator Diane Merrick. Also pictured with the group (kneeling) is Bergen Catholic baseball and bowling coach Larry Fierro. The annual food drive, held in cooperation with the Center for Food Action, Englewood, and Lincoln Technical Institute, Mahwah, yielded several frozen turkeys and numerous laundry baskets filled with food.

Violinist Matos to perform at Kean

BELLEVILLE—Violinist Melissa Matos, a member of the Jovenes Creyentes youth group of Saint Peter Parish, will perform in the Greater Newark Youth Orchestras' 20th annual holiday party and concert, which will be held Saturday, Dec. 19 at Wilkins Theatre, Kean University, Union. Matos is a member of the Greater Newark Youth

Orchestra, established in 1990 as part of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. The concert showcases the student musicians of the youth orchestra. The holiday party begins 1:30 p.m. in the lobby of Wilkins Theatre and the concert is slated to start at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per person. Call (800) 255-3476 for reservations.



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WEST VIRGINIA	SAT	DEC. 26
SYRACUSE	TUE	DEC. 29
CINCINNATI	SAT	JAN. 9

POWER PLAN

SYRACUSE	TUE	DEC. 29
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Friday, Dec. 25, 2009

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In singing Christmas Vespers at 4:00 p.m.
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New Year's Eve, Thursday, Dec. 31, 2009



All-Night Prayer Vigil
Welcome the New Year in an atmosphere
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the monks of Newark Abbey and the
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Each hour will be marked by prayer
for a special intention.

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Thursday night, Dec. 31, 2009

9:30 p.m. Church is open for prayer
11:15 p.m. Annual Parish Vigil followed by
New Year's Mass

Friday, January 1, 2010

Exposition of Blessed Sacrament after Mass till 7:00 a.m.
2:00 a.m.- 6:00 a.m. Quiet adoration and brief hourly services
7:00 a.m. Sung Lauds (Morning Prayer)
10:30 a.m. Mass

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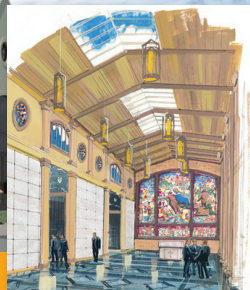
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