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Ad The Catholic Cate

Catholic Cemeteries

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December 23, 2009

The community newspaper of the Archdiocese of Newark

Parish gives gift of love to orphans in Guatemala

BY MELISSA MCNALLY Staff Writer

t is often said the spirit of Christmas is lost during the commercial holiday season. Among the parties, mad dashes to shopping malls and general stress, the importance of giving is overshadowed by the need for material, superficial things.

However, at Most Holy Name Parish in Garfield, Pastor Rev. Msgr. William J. Reilly and several volunteers keep the spiritual essence of the season alive by raising funds for constructing an orphanage in Malacatan, Guatemala.

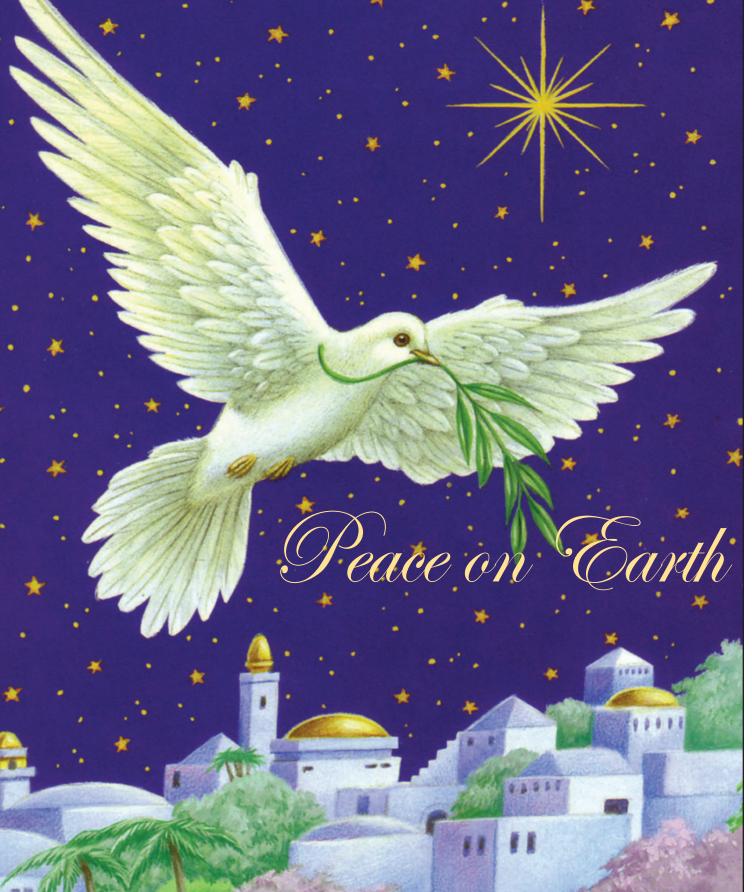
"By giving, we are blessed. The love you get in return is reward enough," Msgr. Reilly explained.

The journey toward finding a home for the poorest children in the Central American country began five months ago during a visit to the Dominican Republic. Last August, the Misioneras del Sagrado Corazon de Jesus, sisters whose pastoral ministry includes the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, and Most Holy Name Parish, held their general chapter in Santo Domingo (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Oct. 28).

During the visit, Msgr. Reilly and associates were introduced to Sister Josefina Rosario, H.S.C.J., who works in Guatemala, where the pastor has family connections. "I married my niece in Guatemala and my brother was director of the Peace Corps there," he said.

Sr. Josefina was introduced to Liz Canarte, director of music ministry at Most Holy Name Parish by Msgr. Reilly who knew they would make a great team. "I mentioned to Msgr. Reilly that I wanted a project. I was waiting for 'a call.' When I met Sr. Josefina and she said the Sisters want-

Continued on page 9





Joy to the World!

See Carol Sing photos on page 3

Take time to pray together during the holiday season



Advocate photo - M. Gabriele

o, here we are, Christmas Eve and we wonder where our Advent went. Maybe we resolved at the beginning of this holy season that this year was going to be different. We weren't going to get so caught up in the commercial. Certainly the state of the economy and the lightness of our pocketbooks might have "helped" keep that promise.

Still, now that Christmas is upon us, we might wish we had done better in focusing our thoughts on the reason for the season. But, like Scrooge awakening from his dreams and finding he hasn't missed Christmas at all, it's not too late for us either. Just because we have misplaced the spirit of Christmas doesn't mean we can't reclaim it. It's as near as the excited faces of our children and grandchildren or the warmth we feel on truly listening to an ancient carol.

Our Christianity is based on the certainty of our Father's love for us. It is a love so boundless He sent His only Son—in the flesh—to make sure we understood that love, as it had never been explained before. Jesus told us that when we have forgotten that love, or even rebelled against it, we can again be enfolded in our Father's embrace simply by asking. Like the Prodigal Son, we merely have to come to our senses and return home. He won't even let us get the explanation out of our mouths before restoring us to our honored place in His household. That is why we can be certain it is still not too late to have an ideal Christmas—the kind where home and family are so central. Liturgically we are reminded of that because Christmas, like Easter, is not just a one-day feast. It's so major it takes eight days, an octave, to complete the solemnity.

And sprinkled in between are other wonderful feasts,

Sincerely in the Lord

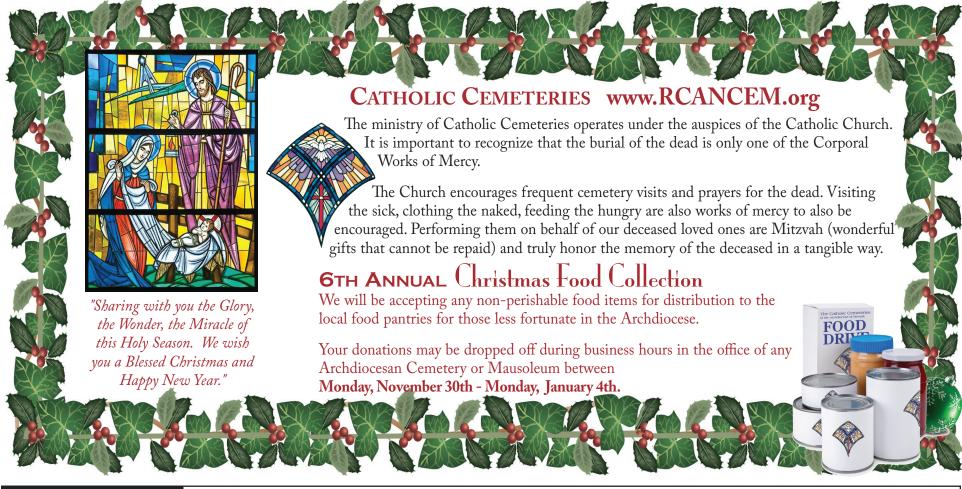
By Archbishop John J. Myers



like those of Saint Stephen, Saint John the Evangelist and especially the Feast of the Holy Family, that remind us again and again how God becoming one of us continues to change our world. And the world notices too. Things slow down a little in the week between Christmas and before we flip our calendars to 2010. Kids are off from school and many adults have scheduled vacation time or have shorter work hours this week. And that presents us with wonderful opportunities to spend more time together as families.

Some, of course, have scheduled vacations on ski slopes, resorts or with distant relatives. Trips make for great together time, too. But those of us who remain home can look for opportunities close-by. None can be more traditional than worshipping together at Midnight Mass or another Christmas liturgy; a celebratory breakfast or dinner with everyone sharing the preparations, cooking and clean-up; opening gifts.

As the days continue, there might be time for dining Continued on page 7













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O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant

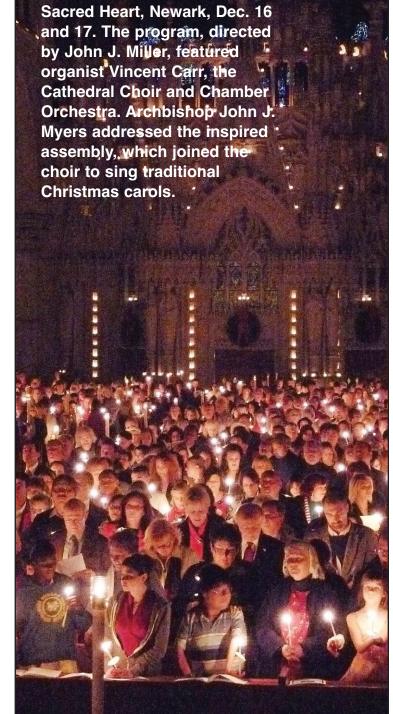




GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO — The 39th annual "Candlelight"

Carol Sing" was held at the Cathedral Basilica of the







Pope cites moral impact of pollution

VATICAN CITY (CNS)— The degradation of the environment is a pressing moral problem that threatens peace and human life itself, Pope Benedict XVI said. "We cannot remain indifferent to what is happening around us, for the deterioration of any one part of the planet affects us all," the pope said in his message, released Dec. 15 for World Peace Day, which will be observed Jan. 1, 2010. Government policies, the activity of multinational corporations and the day-to-day behavior of individuals all have an impact on the environment, the pope said. While the future of the world hangs in the balance because of

what people are doing today, the negative effects of pollution and environmental exploitation already can be seen. "Can we remain indifferent before the problems associated with such realities as climate change, desertification, the deterioration and loss of productivity in vast agricultural areas, the pollution of rivers and aquifers, the loss of biodiversity, the increase of natural catastrophes and the deforestation of equatorial and tropical regions?" the pope asked. Already, he said, the world is seeing the "growing phenomenon of 'environmental refugees'—people who are forced by the degradation of their natural habitat" to migrate in search of food, water and unpolluted air. "It is becoming more and more evident that the issue of environmental degradation challenges us to examine our lifestyle and the prevailing models of consumption and production, which are

often unsustainable from a social, environmental and even economic point of view," the pope said. In addition, he warned of the potential conflicts involving access to natural resources. "Protecting the natural environment in order to build a world of peace is thus a

duty incumbent upon each and all. It is an urgent challenge, one to be faced with renewed and concerted commitment; it is also a providential opportunity to hand down to coming generations the prospect of a better future for all," the pope wrote.



Fireworks explode as a giant Christmas tree is illuminated during a Christmas parade held Dec. 14 in downtown Beirut, Lebanon. An ancient city that has been continuously inhabited since the 15th century BC, Beirut is a diverse metropolis of 2 million people and many faiths, including Maronite, Greek and Armenian Catholics.



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Young adults to start New Year with scads of interactive events

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE

AREA—The fifth annual archdiocesan "Young Adult Month" celebration, sponsored and organized by the archdiocesan office of Youth and Young Adults Ministries and Youth Retreat Center, 499 Belgrove Dr., Kearny, will kick off the New Year with a slate of events to be held throughout January 2010.

Various activities planned in Bergen, Hudson, Essex and Union counties, and outside of the archdiocese, will look to socially and spiritually engage young adults—20- and 30-something young adults (married or single).

The following list represents the Young Adult Month schedule as of presstime. However, activity dates and locations occasionally are subject to change. It's strongly advised that those seeking more information or looking to confirm a particular event should contact Sister Marilyn Minter, director of young adult ministry and parish outreach and training, by phone at (201) 998-0088, ext. 4147, or via e-mail (minterma@rcan.org). Updated information on Young Adult Month activities also will be posted on the Kearny center's Web site (www.newarkoym.org).

Zip codes have been provided below with locations for those using the Internet to obtain directions for events.

Coffee House Night; New Year's Eve party

Date and time: Dec. 31, 2009; 7:30 p.m. Location: Saint Antoninus Parish, 337 South

Orange Ave., Newark 07103

Notes: Celebrate the New Year with prayer, praise and fellowship; evening begins with Mass. A free-will donation will be collected at the door.

Theology on Tap

Dates: Jan. 10, 17, 24, 2010 (Sunday nights) Location: Town Pub, 378 Broad St., Bloomfield,

Dates: Jan. 11, 25, 2010 (Monday nights) Location: Riddles, 300 Wanaque Ave., Pompton Lakes, 07442

Dates: Jan. 12, 19, 26, 2010 (Tuesday nights) Location: Chevy's Fresh Mex, 1900 State Route 10, Morris Plains, 07950-2601

Dates: Jan. 13, 20, 27, 2010 (**Wednesday nights**) Location: Carucci's Restaurant, 495 Saddle River

Rd., Saddle Brook, 07663

Notes: All Theology on Tap gatherings are slated to begin at 7 p.m. Theology on Tap is a national program sponsored by RENEW International, Plainfield, which features faith-based conversations and a guest speaker in an informal setting-a restaurant or tavern.

Festival of Praise

Date and time: Jan. 9, 2010; 7:30-9:30 p.m. **Location:** Saint John the Apostle Parish, 1805 Penbrook Terr., Linden 07036; music provided by Spirit and Truth

Date and time: Jan. 16, 2010; 7:30–9:30 p.m. Location: Saint Aloysius Parish, 691 West Side Ave., Jersey City, 07304; music provided by Felician Sisters and members of Saint Al's Young Adults

Notes: Young adults are invited to take part in Eucharistic Adoration with praise and worship music in the presence of the Holy Eucharist.

Continued on page 17

December 23, 2009



Christmas

Continued from page 2

out or going to the movies or attending basketball or hockey games. A lot of other things cost little if nothing at all. Yet the payoff can be great if it means we are spending more time with each other.

Sure, some boundaries have to be respected. Older family members, especially those home from college, should have time to reconnect with their friends just as much the younger ones need time to break in those new toys. In the spirit of the season, though, compromises can surely be struck so there can be personal time and family time. It need not be a whole lot but, even in small doses, we'll rediscover how we can balance tradition with the demands of today's busy society. This is how we assure that, in the heart of our homes, lives the spirit of Nazareth, which Pope Paul VI called the school for Christian family life

Essential to that is our effort to pray more together. In addition to meals and at bedtime, the Church offers from its Book of Blessings several rituals specifically tailored to this season. They can be printed from the Web site of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (www.usccb.org/advent/prayers.s html#antiphons) and include blessings for a Christmas tree, a manger, and a blessing of the home on Epiphany.

Each has short Bible readings, a Psalm response, intercessions and prayers. Parents can divide the various segments among children. Those too young to read can be assigned the responsibilities of turning on the tree

lights, placing figurines in the crèche or holding a bottle of holy water and passing it around at the time of blessing. Christmas carols are also perfect ways to open and close these sacred times of prayer and togetherness.

And let's not forget the outdoors. Who knows what the weather will bring? So there could be opportunities to bundle up for skating and sledding or walks in the lovely county and local parks that dot the archdiocese. Evenings might include a drive to see the festive lights that decorate our downtowns and residential neighborhoods. Maybe on the way home, a stop at a video store to rent a movie the entire family can enjoy or, for even more conversation, a long-neglected board game, or a deck of cards, might be played around the kitchen or dining room table.

On another night, after dessert, take out family photos and talk about the times that made those pictures. Wouldn't mom and dad's wedding album be a wonderful opportunity to tell the story of how they caught each

Wishing Everyone a Merry & Joyous Christmas and a **Happy New Year** St. Valentine, Bloomfield

other's eyes, fell in love and decided to make a life together? Sure, the kids might pretend such talk is "yucky," but deep down imagine what a Christmas memory and a family story that is going to make!

Sincerely in the Lord

It's also not too late to remember the spirit of giving is an important hallmark of the season. Besides gifts for family and friends, we should remember the needs of others. This week is a good time to get out our checkbooks and tally the donations we have made to Church and charity and compare the amount to the total earnings line on our latest paycheck. Yes, taxes and other deductions have taken a good share of our earnings. And, with uncertain economic times, there is a natural instinct to hunker down. But considering the blessings we have enjoyed can we afford to be more generous?

And it's never all about money. How about relatives or neighbors or others who may be alone and could use a visit, a call or even an invitation? We also might take a few moments to consider ways we might volunteer time and talent next year to some worthy endeavor in our parish, school or community.

As the week draws to an end, another opportunity for wholesome together time are the First Night celebrations that have become so popular over the years because of their fun-for-thewhole-family character. There are several around New Jersey. And, with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God celebrated Jan. 1, what better way to start the New Year's Eve festivities and the New Year itself than by attending Mass with the whole family?

I wish you joy, peace, love and happiness.





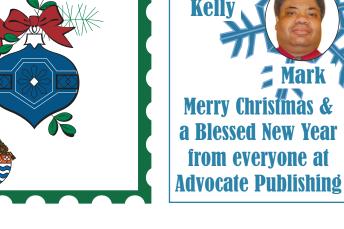
Dec 24. Christmas Eve 5:00 pm Caroling Service 9:00 pm Sacred Music 9:30 pm Solemn Vigil Mass





A Blessed New Year

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The Provident Bank Foundation was established in 2003 to support schools and organizations in communities served by the bank. The foundation thus far has provided more than \$13 million in grants, which focus on education, social and civic services, healthcare and the arts. Pictured are (left to right) Vince Vyzas, Hudson Catholic vice chair of development; Kevin Horta; Jessica Kowalski; Kendall Warsaw, executive director of The Provident Bank Foundation; Jade Kickey; Anthony Haddad; and Father Warren Hall, Hudson Catholic president.

Provident Bank grant aids Hudson Catholic students

JERSEY CITY—The Provident Bank Foundation recently donated \$25,000 to the Hudson Catholic Regional High School Alumni Association to provide tuition assistance for students.

"With this grant, more than 12 students from families with low incomes will have the opportunity to attend Hudson Catholic," said Kendall Warsaw, executive director of The Provident Bank Foundation. "The Provident Bank Foundation is proud to help provide educational opportunities for children in our communities."

"Inner-city children deserve an opportunity to reach for the stars and the grant from The Provident Bank Foundation will help many of them, who otherwise would not have come to our institution, receive a quality education," Vince Vyzas, vice chair of devel-

opment and member of the Hudson Catholic Board of Consultors, said.

"When I graduated from this school in 1981, it was because of the financial assistance of friends like Provident Bank who cared about education," Father Warren Hall, Hudson Catholic president, said. "We are alive and well today because these friends continue to believe in what Hudson Catholic has done in the past and will continue to do for many generations of 'Hawks' to come."

This year, the previously allmale school opened its doors to allow enrollment of female students. It now has more than 70 young women, stretching through all grade levels as part of the Hudson Catholic student roster. Freshman enrollment has nearly doubled since last year and a new department for performing arts has been added to the curriculum.

As reported, Hudson Catholic has enjoyed a renaissance since it nearly was forced to close in 2008 due to declining enrollment and lack of funds (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Aug. 26). Alumni, administrators, parents and interested community stakeholders pulled together with fund-raising efforts to keep the school open. Established in 1964 by the Archdiocese of Newark, Hudson Catholic serves as a preparatory high school for more than 400 students in Hudson County.

Saint John's school hosts SFIC Christmas breakfast

ORANGE—The archdiocesan Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children (SFIC) celebrated its annual Christmas breakfast Dec. 3 at Saint John's School.

Donors and corporate sponsors that support the SFIC attend the annual event, which is held at a different archdiocesan school each year as a way of demonstrating to benefactors the impact their contributions have made to young people throughout the Church of Newark.

"We are so grateful to Sister Kiernan Chidi Nguagbo (principal) and Father George Faour (pastor) for hosting the breakfast," Gerry O'Connor, SFIC executive director, said.

SFIC is providing over 2,200 students in grades K-12 over \$2.6 million in scholarships to attend

private and parochial schools in Bergen, Essex, Hudson and Union counties. Applications are being accepted for the 2010-11 school year. For additional information on applying for a scholarship or making a donation, call (973) 497-4279 or visit the Web site (www.sficnj.org).

Student ambassadors provided group tours of the school, which included exhibitions of student artwork, science projects, test papers and interactive learning lessons with teachers.

During the buffet breakfast, the school choir sang Christmas songs. Seventh grader Yessania Rivera, representing the 31 Saint John's students receiving SFIC funds, spoke of the positive impact the scholarship had had on her and her family.



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Students from Saint John's School, some looking remarkably like reindeer, raised their voices with songs of the season during the annual Christmas breakfast sponsored by the SFIC.



Submitted pho

Disadvantaged children from Guatemala will have a safe haven due to the generosity of parishioners at Most Holy Name Parish, Garfield. Call the parish at (973) 340-0032 for information on making donations to the orphanage project. According to information on the CIA World Factbook Web site, Guatemala has a population of 13 million. The Central American country endured a 36-year guerrilla war that ended in 1996. More than 100,000 people were killed in the conflict, which also created an estimated 1 million refugees and thousands of homeless children.

Guatemala

Continued from page 1

ed to build an orphanage, it just sort of clicked for me. I told her that we will build that house and we could do it," Canarte recalled.

Within three months, Canarte started fund-raising efforts and there are several donors who send money for the orphanage every month. She organized a concert, charging \$20 per ticket, to benefit the construction. On Nov. 13, the "Color of Hope" concert and reception was held at Most Holy Name Parish. Canarte, who plays guitar and sings, performed contemporary, Spanish selections and traditional Latin Church music with soprano Milagros Albrecht.

"We prepared 12 songs ourselves. We didn't want to hire outside musicians. We wanted to put the concert together in the most economic way possible. We had about 180 people attend and we raised \$5,100. Some parishioners who could not make it and people from out of town also donated money," Canarte said.

These days Canarte and Msgr. Reilly stay in touch with Sr. Josefina via e-mail. In a recent letter, Sr. Josefina said she is now buying land in Guatemala with the donated funds and even received a discounted price because it was deemed a worthy cause.

Written in Spanish, the letter also said the Sisters "wish to take in poor girls from the countryside that are at risk (of rape and abandonment)." These children are shining shoes or selling peanuts by the roadside to make a living. The superior general of the order will be visiting the project in January to

Continuing to raise funds and awareness about the charity is the next step for Canarte and her associates. She hopes that similar concerts will be held in other parishes throughout the archdiocese to benefit the orphanage.

evaluate the progress.

"The children that will be helped are literally knocking on

doors for food," Canarte said. "I hope to get a blog started and spread the word about the cause. We are a very service-centered parish and that is due to the spirit of Msgr. Reilly. When you mention his name, people want to help."

Fluent in Spanish, Msgr. Reilly is also coordinator of multicultural and ethnic affairs for the Archdiocese of Newark. He brought the Hermanas Misioneras del Sagrado Corazon de Jesus to Newark after meeting the Sisters in the spring of 1990. After visiting the Dominican Republic years ago, he pledged to help the Sisters rebuild a convent in Santo Domingo. Since then, Msgr. Reilly, his staff and parishioners at Most Holy Name Parish have donated money to an orphanage in the island nation that has helped create a classroom and study hall.

Each year in January, a committee of volunteers, including Canarte, organizes a dinner/dance with the proceeds going toward the school and orphanage in the Dominican Republic. There are hundreds of children at the school and 65 girls live in the orphanage. During his recent visit in August, Msgr. Reilly stayed at the school where the children call him "Grandpa Reilly."

"There is a picture of me in the

living room of the orphanage and when I came there, a few of them said, "I know you!" I call all of them my granddaughters. The children say, 'God is love and He loves us.' Even in such poverty, they are so faithful," he said.

Canarte calls visiting the Santo Domingo orphanage a "mindblowing" experience and realized the work she and her fellow parishioners do saves lives.

"Looking at the children's faces, I thought about how they would have no family, no hope and no future without these Sisters

here to help," she said. "You know where the money (you donate) goes, but to actually see it really working is incredible."

Having others continue the spirit of giving and encouraging parishioners to aid those in need is a source of joy for Msgr. Reilly. "It is exciting for me to open up new missions where people are hurting. I would like to get other people to sponsor concerts and donate to the orphanage in Guatemala. It is exciting for me to see the pieces come together. I am happy to be the sower of the seed."

Retreat to ring in New Year

BLOOMFIELD—Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish, 60 Byrd Ave., will host a "New Year, New Beginnings" retreat for men and women on Jan. 9, 2010, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. in the parish center.

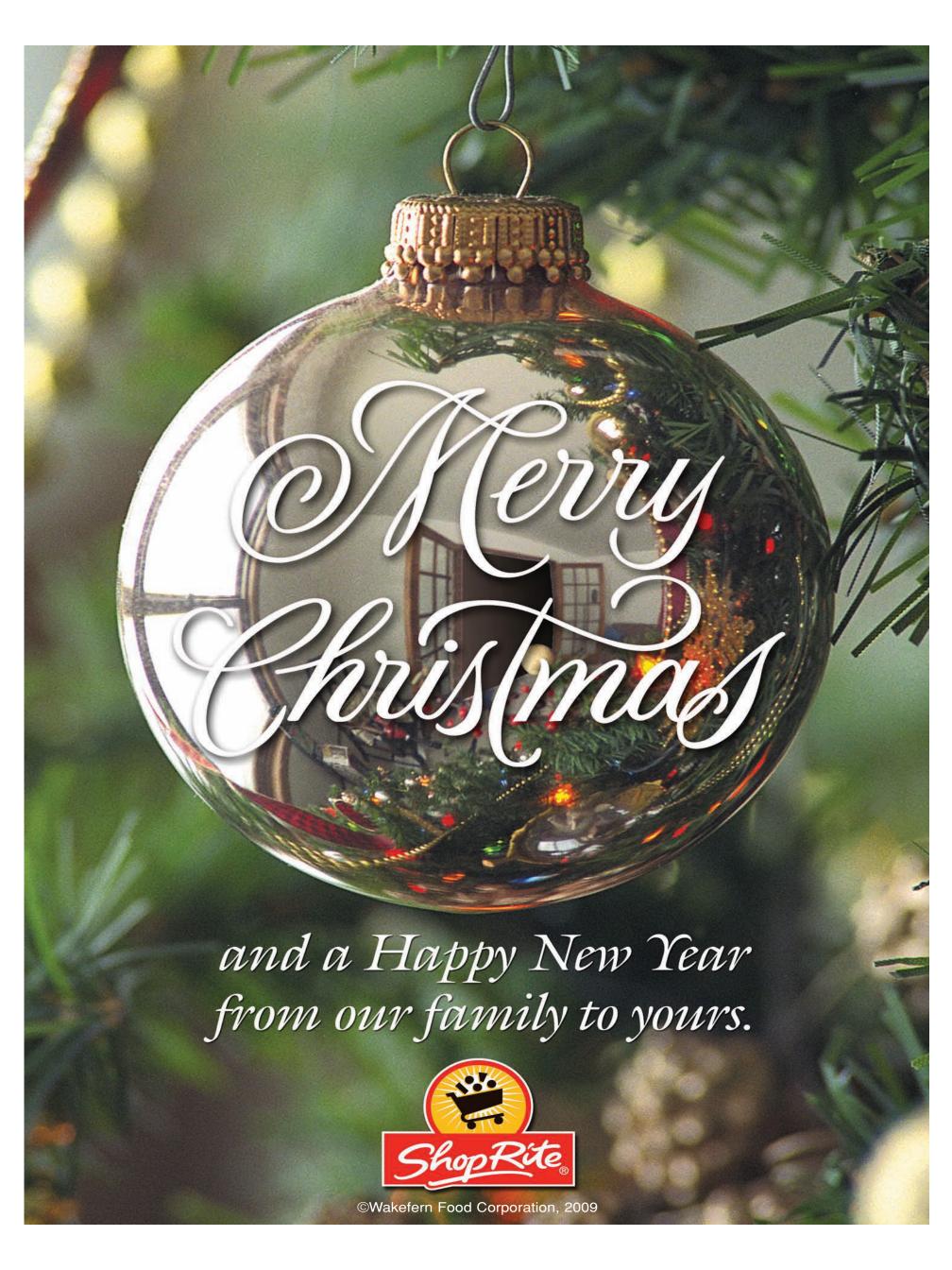
A light continental breakfast will be served. Those attending should bring a bagged lunch. To register, call Anna at (973) 338-9538 no later than Jan.7. Father Charles J. Miller is the pastor of Saint Thomas.











May the joy of Christmas live in your heart all year long.

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- St. Francis Xavier Church Newark
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The Monks of Newark Abbey invite you to start the New Year with Thanks and Praise. Friday, Dec. 25, 2009

Solemn Vespers of the Nativity Join the Benedictine monks of Newark Abbey In singing Christmas Vespers at 4:00 p.m. Christmas afternoon in St. Mary's Church Corner of King Boulevard & William Street, Newark NJ

New Year's Eve, Thursday, Dec. 31, 2009



All-Night Prayer Vigil Welcome the New Year in an atmosphere of praise, thanksgiving and petition with the monks of Newark Abbey and the parishioners of St. Mary's, Newark. Each hour will be marked by prayer for a special intention.

Our church will be open all night. Stop by any time!

Thursday night, Dec. 31, 2009

9:30 p.m. 11:15 p.m. Church is open for prayer 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.

For further information call (973) 792-5751

Official Appointments

Archbishop John J. Myers has announced the following appointments:

PASTOR

Reverend Gerard M.

Lombardo, Pastor of Saint Michael Parish, Bayonne, has been appointed to a second six-year term ending June 30, 2015.

Reverend Manuel D. Rios,

Pastor of Saint Rocco/Saint Brigid Parish, Union City, has been appointed to a second six-year term ending Jan.31, 2016.

PAROCHIAL VICAR

Reverend Eric W. Fuchs has been appointed Parochial Vicar of

Saint Vincent de Paul Parish, Bayonne, effective Jan. 1, 2010.

Reverend Lauro Jimenez,

S.D.V. was appointed Parochial Vicar of Saint Nicholas Parish. Palisades Park, effective Dec. I.

Reverend Joseph

Kwiatkowski, Parochial Vicar of the Parish of the Annunciation, Paramus, has been appointed Parochial Vicar of Saint Catharine Parish, Glen Rock, effective Jan. 20, 2010.

Reverend John Z. Radwan,

Parochial Vicar of Saint Mary Parish, Closter, has been appointed Parochial Vicar of Assumption Parish, Emerson, effective Jan. 20, 2010.

Reverend Robert K. Suszko,

Parochial Vicar of Saint Catherine of Siena Parish, Cedar Grove, has been appointed Parochial Vicar of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, West Orange, effective Jan. 20, 2010.

Reverend Babu Thelappilly,

S.D.V., Parochial Vicar of Saint Nicholas, Palisades Park, was appointed Parochial Vicar of Saint Michael Parish, Newark, effective Dec. 1, 2009.

CHAPLAINCY

Very Reverend John J. **Cryan, V.F.,** Pastor of the parishes of Our Lady of Mercy and Our Lady of Sorrows, Jersey City, has also been appointed Chaplain of the Magnificat Home, Jersey City, effective immediately.

Reverend Ivan Sciberras.

Pastor of Saint Peter Parish, Belleville, has also been appointed Chaplain of the Belleville Fire Department, effective immediately.

RETIREMENT

Reverend John F.X. Bauman

has been granted retirement effective Feb. 1, 2010.

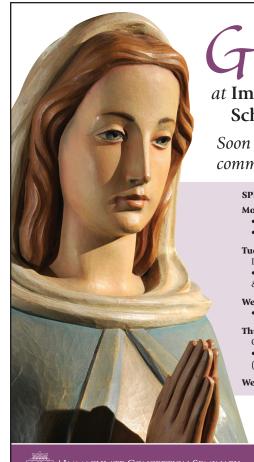
Aspiring playwrights join 'Youth Ink' cast

ELIZABETH—Students from Saint Mary of the Assumption High School are participating in the statewide "Youth Ink" play-writing program at McCarter Theatre in Princeton.

The theatre's education staff is partnering with high school educators to empower young people in the authorship of original 10minute plays.

During the yearlong program, which began in October, students will attend plays at McCarter Theatre as well as take part in seminars with professional playwrights, actors and the theatre's artistic director.

Throughout the process the students' plays are critiqued and finetuned. At the conclusion of the program, directors of the Youth Ink Festival will select and perform one of the students' plays.



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- Christian Marriage Theology of the Body Canon Law General Ecclesiology (held in Ridgewood, NJ)

Tuesdays: Biblical Theology of Benedict XVI ● Health Care Ethics ● Morality, Law & the Public Square • History of Christianity II • Counter-Reformation

- Christian Anthropology Ecclesiology Doctrinal Development: Classical
- Wednesdays: The Parables of Iesus Pentateuch Popes & the Papacy

Thursdays: Passover: Moses to Jesus • Catholic Social Teaching • History of Christianity II • Spiritual Direction • Spiritual Theology & Public Speaking Sacraments of Initiation • Reconciliation and Anointing • Pentateuch (held in Ridgewood, NJ)

Weekends: Youth Ministry II

A **50 percent tuition discount** is offered for students working in Church ministry. Classes are also offered at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Ridgewood, New Jersey.



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"And may all who come behind us find us faithful."—Steve Green





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Pondering a manger in the 'middle of time'

here are, in my eyes, three moments in time that mark the greatest events in cosmic history. I refer to the universe, the entire limits of space to the very edges of creation. I am speaking of time where it meets infinity.

The first moment is what we so easily refer to as the "Big Bang." It is that instant when time began, when an inconceivable sphere (I dare not call it a mass) of energy was created and then exploded into trillions of elements of gas and matter that became the countless galaxies of the heavens.

Since there is a law of conservation in nature that says nothing is ever gained or lost, but only transformed, all that existed at the beginning still remains either as energy or as matter.

The second great moment will come when time as we know it will end. Perhaps the universe will simply expand into eternal space. Perhaps this tiny planet will slow down and then fall back into the sun. Perhaps the sun will cool first. No matter—one day for mankind time, as we know it, will end.

If we are Christians, then we believe that the Son of Man will come as He said He would, and there will be a final reckoning. The Book of Life will be opened.

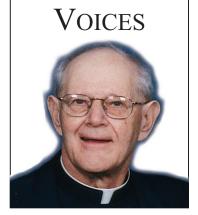
Between these two incomprehensible events, lies a third. It is that instant in the history of the world that a theologian, Hans Conzelmann, termed the "middle of time" when the eternal "Word" of God, the Logos, left eternity and stepped into time as man—Jesus of Nazareth. It is an occurrence that challenges the mind even more than creation and the final destiny of the material universe.

An African student from Kenya attending Seton Hall University once challenged me with this question: "How can an infinite God become finite and use such a flawed thing like language?" I don't remember the answer I gave. I'm sure it was just a word like "miracle." Or perhaps I said, "God can do all things." But the mystery haunts me each Sunday when I recite the words "God from God, Light from light, true God from true God, begotten not made, one in being with the Father." In the presence of this reality, this mystery, I hear the words: "Let all mortal flesh be silent" echo in my consciousness.

I read a little poem years and years ago. The poet was facing the same quandary as the Jews who awaited the Messiah. "They all were looking for a king To slay their foes and lift them high Thou camest a little baby thing That made a woman cry."

If we could even begin to understand this *mysterium tremendum et fascinans*, (a mystery inscrutable and spellbinding) (Rudolph Otto) that we so glibly mention as the "Incarnation," we would be reduced to a complete awestruck paralysis. It is no less mind-boggling than the creation of the world or the final destruction of all that physically exists.

"The Word became flesh and pitched His tabernacle among us," said Saint John. And so we can adapt the lines of the Book of Wisdom (18:15): "For when the peaceful stillness encompassed everything and the night in its swift course was half spent, your all-powerful Word bounded from heaven's throne" and the tiny voice of an infant's cry was heard in Bethlehem. And suddenly there was a heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in high



By Rev. Msgr. John Gilchrist

heaven, peace on earth to those on whom His favor rests."

Like the simple shepherds, we have no earthly wisdom with which to deal with these mysteries. We can only do as they did. We can go spiritually to Bethlehem and find Mary and Joseph and a baby lying in a manger. There in silence perhaps we will begin to understand this greatest mystery of all. There the promised peace will put our worried souls to rest. Only there will mystery give way to secure faith. *Pax Tecum* (Peace be with you)!

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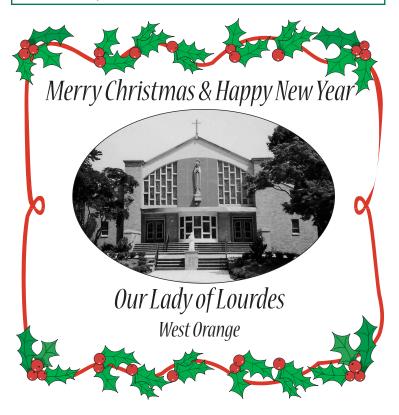
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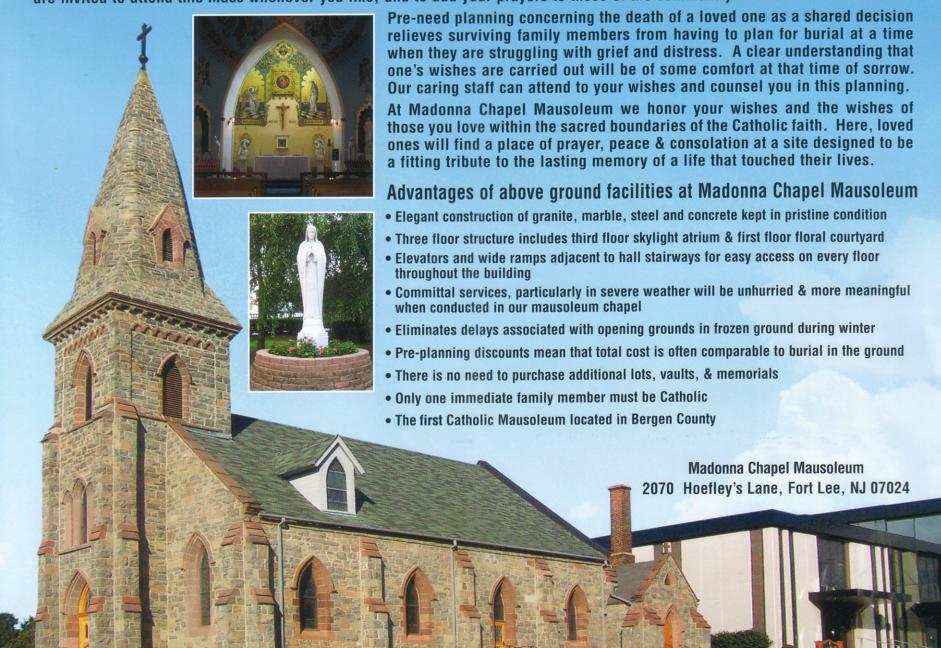
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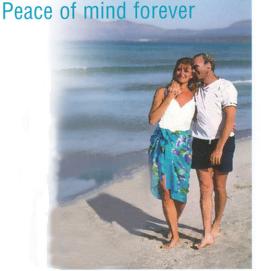
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VOICES RAISED IN PRAISE-

Youngsters joined adults in telling the story of Christmas in song during a concert Dec. 12 at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, West Orange. The performance followed Mass and dinner in the parish hall. Rev. Msgr. Joseph A. Petrillo is the pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes.

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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

To place an ad call Mona at (973) 497-4203

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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.

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

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, as sist 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 grati tude. Thank you.

ORACIÓN AL ESPÍRITU SANTO Espíritu Santo, tú qué me aclaras todo, que iluminas todos los caminos para que yo alcance mi ideal, tú que me das el don divino de perdonar y olvidar el mal que me hacen y que en todos los instantes de mi vida estás conmigo, yo quiero en este corto diálogo agradecerte por todo v confirmar una vez más que nunca quiero separarme de ti por mayor que sea la ilusión material. Deseo estar contigo y con todos mis seres queridos en la gloria perpetua. Gracias por tu misericordia para conmigo y los míos. (La persona debe rezar esta oración tres días seguidos sin decir el pedido, dentro de tres días alcanzará la gracia por difícil que sea). Publicar esta oración en cuanto reciba la gracia.

Find the Obituaries on the Web at www.rcan.org/advocate

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

NOVENA TO ST. JUDE

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus

be adored, glorified, loved and

Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude,

pray for us. Amen. Say this

days. Published in gratitude

Thank you, St. Jude

worker of miracles, pray for us

St. Jude, helper of the hopeless

prayer nine times a day for nine

preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of

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.

M.H.Q.

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 answer. Between 4th and 9th day, you will see arose in magazine. TV picture or receive roses. You can also get a strong scent of roses in home even if no roses present. Must promise publication. Thank you.)

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Gabe Infante

Continued from page 6

Young adults

37th annual "March for Life" rally
Dates: Jan. 21-22, 2010
Location and logistics: Bus ride to Washington D.C.
Notes: Young adults from the archdiocese are invited to participate in the "March for Life."
The bus leaves from Saint John

Notes: Young adults from the archdiocese are invited to participate in the "March for Life." The bus leaves from Saint John the Apostle Parish, 1805 Penbrook Terr., Linden 07036 on Thursday Jan. 21 at 5:30 p.m. and is scheduled to return Friday, Jan. 22 at 10 p.m. The cost is \$30 per person. Reservations should be made with Sr. Marilyn no later than Jan. 11, 2010. Over 100,000 people from throughout North America are expected to attend the demonstration, which attracts people of all religions.

Sons and Daughters of the Light Retreat

Dates and time: Jan. 29-31, 2010; arrive 7 p.m. on Jan. 29 Location: Youth Retreat Center, 499 Belgrove Dr., Kearny 07032 Notes: Young Adults are invited to participate in a spiritual weekend, considered the highlight event for the month. The theme for the retreat is "God of this city." Most Rev. John W. Flesey, Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, will celebrate the Eucharist on Jan. 30. The cost is \$85 per person. Space is limited and early registration is strongly advised.

Priests, Deacons, Religious and Laypersons interested in **Prison Ministry**

are invited to call Director of Prison Ministry, Deacon Gregory C. Quinn (973) 650-2098 or email him at: gcquinn57@aol.com

"...[I]n Prison and you visited me." MT 25:36

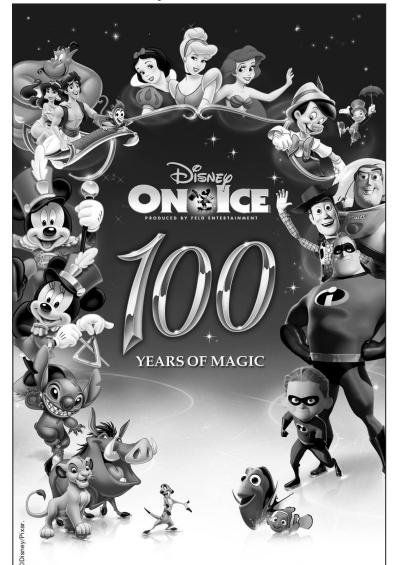


PARAMUS—When the USA Football Junior National Team takes the field early next year against in the first-ever clash of top international football talent, Gabe Infante, head gridiron coach at Paramus Catholic Regional High School, will be on the sidelines serving as defensive coordinator.

The game, to be played at Lockhart Stadium, Fort Lauderdale, FL, on Jan. 30, will pit the

U.S. junior national team, comprised of 45 of the country's top high school seniors, against the "world" team, with a roster of the best players aged 19 and under from outside the United States, spanning four continents.

A 1991 graduate of Memorial High School, West New York, Infante played football at the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA, and received a



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graduate degree from New York Law School. He was named head football coach of Paramus Catholic in January 2008 and was nominated to join the junior national team by Greg Schiano, the head football coach of Rutgers University.

Prior to arriving at Paramus Catholic, Infante worked at Bergen Catholic High School, Oradell, and Queen of Peace High School, North Arlington. He resides in Ridgewood and is a member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish.





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For more information

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Girls Basketball Festival Sunday, January 17 Paramus Catholic HS - Tipoff: 3:15pm

Paramus Catholic HS vs. Mother Seton HS
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Submitted photo

ONE OF MANY—Madeleine Ramos, a student at Marist High School, Bayonne, takes a well-deserved break after donating blood to the American Red Cross, an event sponsored annually by the school's Red Cross Club. "Knowing that the Marist family has come together to save so many lives is an awesome feeling," Hillary Madrinan, Marist senior, said. Overall the Hudson County school's blood drive netted 92 pints.

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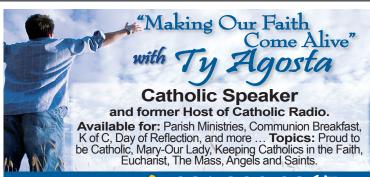
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DRIVE DONORS—A recent blood drive at Queen of Peace High School, North Arlington, saw 35 pints donated by students and faculty. Among those rolling up their sleeves were (left to right, front row) Kimberly Scarano, Verona Moura, Rebecca VanDyk, Alissa Ruccatano, Rachel Kronyak and Chelsea Len. In the back row, along with guidance counselor Vincent McMahon the blood drive coordinator, are Domenica Ahumty, Adrian Sauler, Anthony Scudere and Nicole Guadenzi.

Simulated patients help train nurses

ELIZABETH — The new home of the Trinitas School of Nursing in Union County College's Elizabeth I. Kellogg Building is providing challenging opportunities for student nurses to develop patient-care skills.

Simulation technology creates patient-care experiences that students will encounter in the real world. Students and faculty members work together in a large 16-bed learning and simulation center that resembles a fully outfitted intensive-care unit.

Sixteen patient-care simulators—men, women and infants serve as patients with whom nursing students practice their skills. The simulated patients talk, have real-life vital signs and can express pain and emotions.

A central control room allows faculty to monitor students and in-

teract with them through voice mechanisms in the simulated patients. Seven "smart" classrooms provide wireless Internet connections and computerized projection capabilities.

Ball funds to benefit hospice

TEANECK—Holy Name Hospital's annual Founders' Ball, held Nov. 24 and presented by the Health Care Foundation, raised \$600,000 for Villa Marie Claire, the hospital's new hospice facility, which is located in Saddle River.

The evening honored Salvatore Laraia, M.D. with the Spirit of Healing Award. Two major philanthropic grants totaling \$1 million from major benefactors and \$1.3 million from Rose Vialotti were announced.

Contact Holy Name Hospital at (201) 833-3231 regarding additional contributions to the hospice.

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St. Joseph's honors **Sisters of Charity**

PATERSON—Saint Joseph's Healthcare System recently saluted the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth as the Sisters this year celebrated the 150th anniversary of the founding of their congregation. In addition, Saint Joseph's executives recognized the Sisters for their many years of faithful service to patients and hospital staff.

The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth are living proof of God's generous care for the world," Sister Maryanne Campeotto, S.C., vice president for missions, Saint Joseph's Healthcare System, said. "Congratulations to the Sisters of Charity on 150 years of dedication and service to the people of New Jersey and beyond.

In addition to founding and sponsoring Saint Joseph's Healthcare System, Sr. Maryanne noted the sisters sponsor and work in hospitals throughout New Jersey, New York and Connecticut. The Sisters also serve in elementary, secondary and higher education, parish ministry and diocesan services, social services, nursing homes, homes for the aged, and community and women's centers, and provide for people in need of counseling, spiritual direction and retreats.

The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth currently provide an inspirational leadership presence throughout Saint Joseph's Healthcare System. There are 30 Sisters ministering within Saint Joseph's Healthcare System, including Sister Rosemary Smith, S.C., chair of the Saint Joseph's board of trustees.

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton founded the Sisters of Charity in 1809 in Emmitsburg, MD, embracing the spirit of Saint Vincent de Paul and Saint Louise de Marillac. In 1859, Mother Mary Xavier Mehegan, a Sister of Charity of New York, working at the request of Bishop James Roosevelt Bayley of Newark, founded the New Jersey community.

When Mother Mehegan moved the motherhouse from Newark to Convent Station in 1860, she began to build educational programs and establish institutions to address healthcare and social needs. Seven years later, the first of the hospitals sponsored by the Sisters—Saint Joseph's Hospital in Paterson—opened its doors.

Guided by faith, the Sisters methodically expanded the hospital and began to build the medical center that exists today.

Saint Joseph's Healthcare System encompasses Saint Joseph's Regional Medical Center and Children's Hospital, Paterson; Saint Joseph's Wayne Hospital, Wayne; Saint Vincent's Nursing Home, Cedar Grove; and Visiting Health Services of New Jersey, Totowa. Visit the Web site (www.StJosephsHealth.org) or call (877) 757-7547 for more information on healthcare services.



Advocate photo - Ward Miele

The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth have enjoyed many accolades this year during their sesquicentennial anniversary. Last month Immaculate Conception High School, Montclair, honored the Sisters with a lifetime achievement award during the school's annual Hall of Fame Dinner (pictured here, see The Catholic Advocate, Dec. 9). The Sisters also celebrated their anniversary with a Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, on Sept. 27.

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