



The Catholic Advocate

Catholic Cemeteries



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Vol. 58, No. 3

Community newspaper of the Archdiocese of Newark

February 4, 2009

PAGES 10-12



Sr. Patricia shares journey of faith, hope

Special report focuses on the celebration of Black History Month.

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Issues remain on meaning of 'communion'

News analysis explores Pope Benedict's decision regarding four bishops of traditionalist Society of Saint Pius X.

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Advocate photo-M. Gabriele

Archdiocesan taskforce leaders met last month at the Newark chancery to map out plans to participate in the national campaign to reduce poverty. Pictured are (seated, front row) Sister Linda Klaiss, pastoral associate of Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish, Newark; Catherine L' Insalata, taskforce coordinator; Patricia Russillo, coordinator of the archdiocesan Research and Planning department; (standing, back row) Vincent McMahon, a teacher at Queen of Peace High School, North Arlington; Michael Fusco, director of religious education at Saint Teresa of Avila, Summit; Sister Loretta DeDomenicis, director, parish outreach for the Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center; and Dr. Eugene Tozzi, associate director for adult and family planning, archdiocesan Catechetics department.

Taskforce mobilizes for campaign on U.S. poverty

BY DANIEL PETERSON

Special to The Catholic Advocate

NEWARK—An archdiocesan taskforce has been formed to work in solidarity with the national “Campaign to Reduce Poverty in America,” which is being coordinated by Catholic Charities USA. The taskforce will work as a partner with similar organizations in other dioceses in New Jersey and throughout the United States.

Archbishop John J. Myers and the four archdiocesan auxiliary bishops are signatories to the taskforce. The auxiliary bishops—Most Rev. Edgar M. da Cunha (Essex County); Most Rev. Thomas A. Donato (Hudson County); Most Rev. John W. Flesey (Bergen County); and Most Rev. Manuel A. Cruz (Union County)—have asked their jurisdictional pastors to designate one contact person at each parish to be a representative for their respective faith communities. Designated representatives from parishes in Bergen, Hudson, Essex and Union counties will attend a taskforce planning session on March

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The Living Church; Msgr. John Radano

Ecumenical dialogue strives for unity

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE
Editor

“I pray for those who will believe in me through their word that all may be one as you, Father, are in me and I in you. I pray that... they may be one as we are one... that their unity may be complete”

(John 17:21-23).

The goal of the international ecumenical movement is “visible unity” among all of Christ’s disciples; unity in a common understanding of the one apostolic faith, a common sacramental life and a common understanding of ministry, which for Catholics means hierarchical ministry.

Because the divisions among Christians have lasted for centuries and efforts to heal them can be complex, there is no deadline, no target date to achieve the lofty goal of visible unity. There is, however, a sense

of urgency and commitment because of the spiritual benefits of unity. It is understood the unity of Christians is the will of Christ (Cf. John 17:21). There is also a heightened spirit of encouragement because an ecumenical path has been established. Thus far, there is recognition that, despite ancient schisms and mistrust, ecumenical efforts among Christians during the last four decades have achieved considerable progress toward unity.

Before Vatican II there were few contacts between Catholics and

other Christians, but today there is much good will. As a result of theological dialogue, Christians have found convergences and agreements on fundamental aspects of the Christian faith. For such reasons many theologians have described the present time as an “intermediate stage” of the ecumenical movement, in which progress has been made, although unity has not yet been achieved.

The road ahead to go beyond this intermediate stage will be difficult,

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Advocate photos — M. Gabriele

NEW TV STUDIO, CHAPEL, ARTWORK—Immaculate Heart Academy (IHA), Washington Township, last month unveiled three jewels for students and faculty. A TV studio and editing room (top left), designed by George A. Held, will be a learning center to teach basics of broadcast journalism. IHA students Colleen McVeigh, Hope Wierzbicki and Sara Shahmiri (left to right) pose with one of the three studio cameras. The Chapel of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (bottom left), also known as the Sister's Chapel, was designed by Anthony V. Genovese and dedicated by Bishop John W. Flesey. Ellen Miret of J&R Lamb Studios, Wyckoff, created the stained-glass windows. Artist Regina M. Miele, IHA Class of 1987, was commissioned to execute three paintings (oil on lead-primed linen) that depict the life of the Virgin Mary. "Annunciation-Assumption" (top) is a detailed view of one of the three works now on display at IHA.

Women's Commission to host 'reflection' on April 4

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE
Editor

NEWARK — The annual "Women's Day of Reflection," an all-day forum sponsored by the Women's Commission of the Archdiocese of Newark, will be held Saturday, April 4, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at Holy Family Parish, 28 Brookline Ave., Nutley.

Archbishop John J. Myers will celebrate Mass for the gathering at 10 a.m. to open the event. "Mary and the Holy Spirit" will be the theme of this year's conference, which will feature EWTN television and radio host Johnnette S. Benkovic as the keynote speaker.

Benkovic is the executive producer and host of "The Abundant Life" television program, seen internationally on EWTN. She also serves as the host of two radio programs: "Living His Life Abundantly" and "Moments of Truth Live." A popular national conference speaker, retreat master, and seminar presenter, Benkovic has written several books on prayer and spirituality, authentic femininity and the hidden dangers of the new-age movement.

Registration for the Day of Reflection is \$35 per person, while the cost for students is \$25. Registration for senior citizens, along with a discount group rate (10 people or more) is \$15 per person. There is no registration charge for clergy members and Religious. The registration fee includes lunch.

Contact the archdiocesan chancellor's office at (973) 497-4008 for more information. Details of the event also are available online (Web site: www.rcan.org/womcom).

Members of the archdiocesan Women's Commission include Ann Burgmeyer, Marta Cabrera, Mary Elaine Connell, Christine Flaherty, Anna Groves, Catherine L'Insalata, Liliana Soto, Sister Margaret Thomas McGovern, O.P., Holly Lawmaster, Maureen Madigan and Pamela Muller Swartzberg.

Swartzberg is the chairperson of the commission and works as a volunteer to raise funds for the Alzheimer's Association of Greater New Jersey. Soto serves as the archdiocesan coordinator of evangelization, while L'Insalata is the director of community access and volunteer services for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark. Sr. Margaret Thomas is the archdiocesan delegate for Religious and Madigan works as the director of Catholic Campus Ministry for the archdiocese.

According to a statement on the group's Web site, the Women's Commission faithfully recognizes its duty as an organization of Catholic women to follow the example and instruction of Jesus Christ and His holy mother Mary. Commission members, through activities such as the Day of Reflection, strive to bring the teachings of the Catholic Church—especially issues regarding women—to the attention of all people in the archdiocese.

Last year the Day of Reflection was held at the South Orange campus of Seton Hall University and featured presentations by Teresa Tomeo, a news anchor and EWTN radio host, and Janet Morana, the co-founder of "Silent No More," a national abortion-awareness campaign (see *The Catholic Advocate*, March 19, 2008).



Pamela Muller Swartzberg

USPS-008-380
The Catholic Advocate
"Inspires Our World... One Spirit at a Time."

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

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FREQUENCY FOR THE YEAR
The Catholic Advocate continues to be a bi-weekly publication. Publication dates for 2009 are February 18; March 11, 25; April 8, 22; May 6, 20; June 10, 24; July 15; August 12, 26; September 9, 23; October 14, 28; November 11, 25; December 9, 23.

Bishop Joseph Younan to lead Syriac Church

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Benedict XVI has formally accepted the election of a new head of the Syriac Catholic Church. Bishop Joseph Younan, 64, who has served as the chief shepherd of the New Jersey-based Syriac-Rite diocese of the United States and Canada since 1995, was elected as the new patriarch of the Holy See of Antioch in a synod held in Rome Jan. 18-20.

Bishop Younan will be elevated to the office of patriarch in Lebanon on Sunday, Feb. 15. He succeeds Syriac Patriarch Mar Ignatius Pierre VIII Abdel-Ahad of Antioch, who retired last year.

Following the election, Bishop Younan took the name Mar Ignatius Youssif III Younan—the 136th patriarch of the Holy See of Antioch. As is customary for the patriarchs of the Eastern churches in union with Rome, the newly elected head of the church requested communion with the pope, who granted it last month while meeting with the synod of bishops of the Syriac Church.

The Very Rev. Father ST Sutton, chancellor of the Syriac-Rite diocese, proclaimed in a statement dated Jan. 21, that “by the grace of Almighty God and through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, His Excellency, the Most Rev.



Submitted photo
Last year Bishop Joseph Younan (right) met with Pope Benedict XVI in Rome.

Joseph Younan, first bishop (eparch) of Our Lady of Deliverance Syriac Catholic Diocese in the United States and Canada, has been elected the Patriarch of the Holy See of Antioch in a special synod of bishops convened in Rome by His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI.”

Upon learning of the election, Archbishop John J. Myers wrote to the new patriarch, with whom he has worked on many issues of importance to the Catholic people of the state of New Jersey. “Please accept my fraternal

prayers and congratulations on this appointment and your accession to the line of succession of Saint Ignatius,” Archbishop Myers stated in the letter. “Know that you have our gratitude for your work among us and our best wishes for your future ministry.”

Born in Hassakeh, Syria, Patriarch-elect Younan was ordained to the priesthood on Sept. 12, 1971 and, after attending school in Rome, served as a priest for several years in Lebanon. He was appointed pastor of the Church of The Annunciation in Beirut in 1980, where he remained until 1986.

Twenty-three years ago he was sent by the Congregation for Eastern Churches to the United States where he ministered in Syriac Catholic communities throughout North America. In 1995, Pope John Paul II named him the bishop of the first U.S. Syriac-Rite diocese, Our Lady of Deliverance Syriac Catholic Diocese in the United States and Canada.

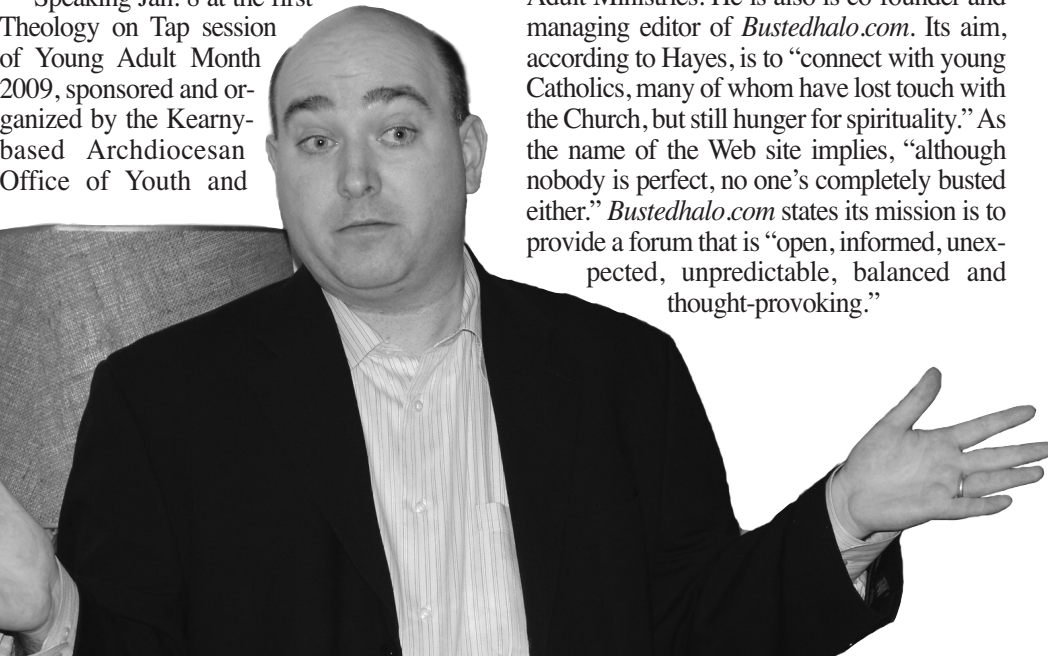
Through the fraternal support of Archbishop Myers and Bishop Thomas A. Donato, Bishop Younan celebrated a Pontifical Mass on Sept. 7, 2008, where he named Saint Joseph Parish, Bayonne, as his cathedral and the See of the diocese.

Hayes traces faith journey for ‘Tap’ crowd

BY WARD MIELE
Managing Editor

CALDWELL—A turning point in the spiritual journey of Michael Hayes during his days as a commentator with WFAN sports radio in New York came shortly after a coveted interview with basketball legend Michael Jordan.

Speaking Jan. 8 at the first Theology on Tap session of Young Adult Month 2009, sponsored and organized by the Kearny-based Archdiocesan Office of Youth and



Advocate photo – Ward Miele

According to information found on his Web site, Theology on Tap speaker Michael Hayes co-founded BustedHalo.com with Father Brett Hoover in December 2001. A frequent speaker on ministering to young adults, Hayes is the author of “Googling God: The Religious Landscape of People in their 20s and 30s,” published by Paulist Press, Mahwah (Web site: www.paulistpress.com).

Young Adult Ministries and the Youth Retreat Center, Hayes told those who filled the top floor of the Cloverleaf Tavern that, even after landing the interview with the NBA superstar, he stopped and said to himself: “There has to be more.”

There was.

Hayes is now director of the Paulist Young Adult Ministries. He is also co-founder and managing editor of *Bustedhalo.com*. Its aim, according to Hayes, is to “connect with young Catholics, many of whom have lost touch with the Church, but still hunger for spirituality.” As the name of the Web site implies, “although nobody is perfect, no one’s completely busted either.” *Bustedhalo.com* states its mission is to provide a forum that is “open, informed, unexpected, unpredictable, balanced and thought-provoking.”

Fueling Hayes’ current career was his days as leader of retreats at New York’s Saint Paul the Apostle Parish. “I am a retreat director at heart. That is what I have been called to do,” he confessed.

“God,” Hayes declared, is “beyond us. He is not an object we can understand. God is with us in the person of Jesus. God is the source of our lives. God is the infinite horizon.”

Hayes said the face value of who you are and what you are called to do is a continuous process. However, he cautioned, “We all want that ‘Google’ answer.” Yes, Google—the online search engine. The title of Hayes’ presentation at the Cloverleaf was “Googling God.”

From Catholic tradition, Hayes explained, come such essential values as “prudence and fidelity.” Wherever they are, he added, “we are always in God’s presence.”

Near the end of his presentation, Hayes urged his audience to utilize what he called an “examination of consciousness.” This reflection, he said, is a prayer where we try to find the movement of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives as we reflect on our day. The five categories of this prayer are: recalling that you are in the presence of God; spending a moment looking over the day with gratitude for its gifts; asking God to send His Holy Spirit to help with one’s actions and attitudes and motives with honesty and patience; a review of the day; and, the fifth and final step—a “heart-to-heart” talk with Jesus.

Pope urges unity efforts in Russia

VATICAN CITY (CNS)— Catholics in Russia must work together with the country's much larger Orthodox community to defend human life and the family and promote strong moral values, Pope Benedict XVI said. The pope met the four Catholic bishops of Russia Jan. 29, the last day of their *ad limina* visits to the Vatican to report on the status of their dioceses and just two days after the Russian Orthodox Church elected a new patriarch. In a situation where Catholic-Orthodox differences involving theology, church structure and practice make formal dialogue a challenge, the pope said, the bishops must engage in dialogue on a personal level (see related story on the Christian ecumenical movement, page one). "Such contacts contribute to greater mutual understanding, thanks to which it is possible to work together in areas of common interest," he said. "It is important that Christians unite to face the great cultural and ethical chal-



CNS photo

lenges of the present moment concerning the dignity of the human person and his inalienable rights, the defense of life at every stage, the safeguarding of the family and

other urgent economic and social questions," the pope said. In a country like Russia, so deeply marked by more than 1,000 years of Orthodox tradition and culture, "it is essential to take into account the necessity of a renewed commitment to dialogue with our Orthodox brothers and sisters," Pope Benedict said.

Paulists reach out for reconnection

WASHINGTON (CNS) — This Lent and Easter thousands of inactive Catholics will go to church and some will be open to an invitation to reconnect with their Catholic faith, said a Paulist Association spokesman. The campaign, titled "Awakening Faith: Reconnecting With Your Catholic Faith," has its own Web site: (www.awakeningfaith.org). Through the site a number of tools are available for parishes to use to connect with inactive Catholics and invite them to participate in parish life. Those tools include invitation fliers, letters, newspaper ads and Web site ads. According to a news release announcing the campaign, the heart of the initiative is a small-group process. Groups will meet once a week for six weeks of social interaction as well as conversation based on short essays about spirituality, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, God's mercy, the Mass and the Church. The goal of the meetings is to foster reflection, prayer and sharing in a welcoming setting, creating "a bridge" to the larger Church community. Citing a 2008 study that showed Sunday Mass attendance is decreasing, Father Frank DeSiano said the Church is facing

Russian Orthodox Patriarch-elect Kirill leads a service in Moscow's Christ the Savior Cathedral after being chosen as head of the Moscow-based Russian Orthodox Church Jan. 27. Pope Benedict, offering his best wishes to Patriarch-elect Kirill and prayed that God would "confirm us all in the commitment to walk together on the path of reconciliation and fraternal love." In addition, the pope praised Catholic bishops ministering in Russia, encouraging their efforts to "re-launch liturgical-sacramental participation, catechesis, priestly formation and the preparation of a mature and responsible laity" after decades of communist repression of Church activities.

Bishops seek aid for Zimbabweans

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS)— Catholic bishops of Botswana, South Africa and Swaziland have used diocesan funds to buy food and medicine for Zimbabweans and urged Catholics in their countries to help provide immediate relief to their suffering neighbors. The contributions will be distributed through an aid network in Zimbabwe organized by Caritas Internationalis (Web site: www.caritas.org), the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference said in a statement from Pretoria, South Africa. Archbishop Buti Tlhalagale of Johannesburg, president of the conference, called on all parishes and communities in the conference territory to join their bishops in making a financial contribution so that food and medicine can be bought. "Zimbabwe has moved from a crisis to a disaster to passive genocide," Archbishop Tlhalagale said. "We cannot stand by without offering practical and immediate help. This is our Christian duty."

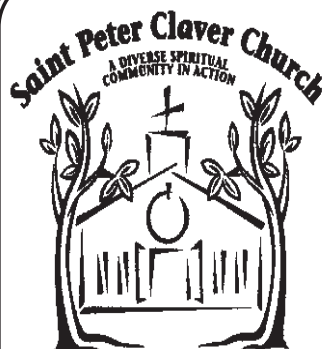


CNS photo

A nurse administers a sugar solution to a child suffering from cholera in a ward at Budiro Polyclinic in Harare, Zimbabwe, Jan. 29. Cholera has killed more than 3,000 Zimbabweans and infected at least 57,000, the World Health Organization said, making it the deadliest outbreak in Africa in 15 years.

"a pastoral challenge" that the Paulists' campaign is addressing. He referred to a study titled "Sacraments Today: Belief and Practice Among U.S. Catholics," conducted by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University in Washington. It found that only 23 percent of adult Catholics in the U.S. attend Mass once a week or

more often, and only about 31 percent of adult Catholics are estimated to attend Mass in any given week. "As a church proclaiming the saving mission of Jesus Christ, we must face this urgent pastoral challenge directly and find new ways to invite and welcome inactive Catholics," Father DeSiano, co-author of the campaign, said in a statement.



56 Elmwood Ave.,
Montclair
Rev. José I. Gamba, Pastor

Remembering the Past
Looking toward
the Future.

Celebrate Black History
with us.
Sunday, Feb. 22, 2009 @
11 a.m.
Special Guest

When **Jesus** turned around and noticed them following Him,

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

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

"Come and see,"
He answered.

John 1:38-39

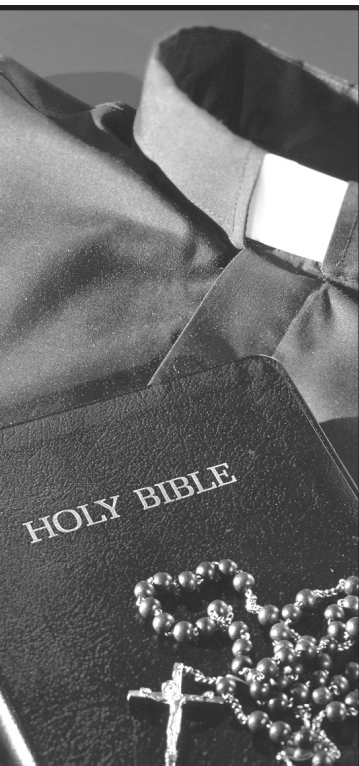
Have you considered following after Jesus as a Priest, Sister or Brother...?



Fr. John Gabriel, Vocations Director

The Vocations Office

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Answering Sarah's call to heal pain caused by sin

As I sat at my computer screen last month wondering what I was going to write about for this issue, I received a call from Joe Fairley, our parish's copier company representative. Every so often he calls, which is usually a reminder that a copier lease is coming to an end or a better or more efficient model is now on the market. I already started seeing dollar signs in my imagination.

As I've learned through previous conversations we've had, though, Joe is a deacon in his African-American Protestant congregation. We've chatted before about the differing lengths of Catholic homilies and Protestant sermons and of the challenges he faces in preparing his, as our own Catholic permanent deacons do, while also maintaining a separate full-time job and a family.

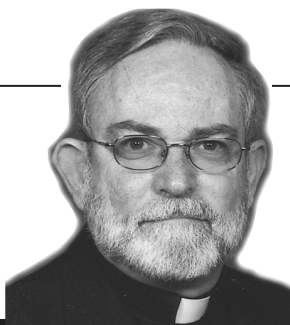
It turns out that Joe was calling to say that his pastor had asked him to preach at a weekend service honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and, in studying Isaiah 49:2, he was seeking some validation as to whether I thought it was an appropriate parallel to Dr. King's effective use of the sword of Scriptural preaching in the cause of greater liberation of American Blacks while still exercising demonstrable but non-violent marches, sit-ins and rallies.

We discussed the historical context of the Israelites to whom and for whom Isaiah was preaching, and agreed that there were indeed similarities of circumstance and approach that you could see in the mission and message of Dr. King.

It seemed that I might expand on this whole theme here a bit more in observance of Black History month, as I reflected on the remarkable, though still incomplete, progress that has been made since Dr. King's death. However, at this point in my writing, I was interrupted by a phone call from a young man named Brian, who grew up in a nearby parish and was manning a suicide hotline

SEEING & BELIEVING

By Rev. Msgr.
Richard J. Arnhols



with a call from "Sarah" in Boston, who wanted to confess to a priest over the phone of her suicide attempt and was struggling not to try again.

He couldn't reach a priest in his own parish so started calling others. While I explained to him that you can't celebrate sacramental confession over the telephone, I told him I'd be willing to speak with her.

The next 40 minutes or so included talking about God's mercy and strength, His unfailing love even when



others let us down or when we're disappointed in ourselves. I reminded her that one way we show our sorrow for sin is to resolve not to do it again and to try sincerely to keep that promise.

We agreed that if she ever came to New Jersey, I would be happy to provide sacramental confession. She started writing down my parish information and noted that her phone was losing power. Soon after, the line went dead and was unable to accept a return call. I knew Brian would be calling me back, so I shared the circumstances with him for follow-up. And then I prayed that God would give her the strength to go on and seek the help she really needed.

People become slaves to alcohol, drugs, sex, money, possessions, chronic illness, psychological distress and sin, just as surely as past generations of African-Americans were physically enslaved. The lives of Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King, Jr., were both needed, along with countless others in between them and since then, to break down barriers and make pathways for true freedom and hope.

Christ brought release from the bond of sin and enabled the Church to bring healing and comfort to those weighed down by their wrongdoing or their desperation of spirit. His help, available to us always, is especially highlighted during Lent, which begins later this month.

Each time we leave the confessional, released from our sins anew, we are another step closer to that ultimate Promised Land, where one day we will be able to proclaim, with all God's redeemed children, "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

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

Divine physician brings humanity back to wholeness

Readings: Job 7:1-4, 6-7; Psalm 147; 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23 Mark 1:29-39.

In ancient Israel, teachers emphasized the truth that life is a divine gift what demands a moral response. They tended to discuss reward and punishment within the framework of our earthly existence. It was commonplace to interpret illness or misfortune in terms of punishment for sin. But does it not seem that the wicked thrive and even crush the innocent in the process of gaining the good things of life?

In Psalm 37 an elderly sage presented the common doctrine in an exhortation to help his disciples avoid jealousy of the wicked. "For evil doers shall be cut off, but those who wait for the Lord shall possess the land" (37:9).

The assurance that the creator is also judge constitutes an integral aspect of Jewish and Christian theology. The truth that sins will be punished by God bears repeating, along with the point that the practical atheism of the sinner leads to destruction. However, the tendency of people to judge that an afflicted person is suffering because of his or her own sins must be curbed.

The Book of Job is an eloquent drama condemning those who assert simplistically that the one who suffers must be afflicted because of personal sins. Although Job offers hope for a dimension to life that transcends physical death, the author does not offer retribution in the resurrection as the solution to the dilemma of human suffering. That theological insight will become clear only in Jewish literature in the last centuries before Christ's coming.

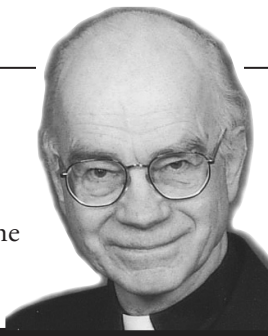
This Sunday's selection from Job's first speech comes after his friends have pestered him to confess his sins. Indeed, Job is suffering but he declares: "I have not transgressed the commands of the Holy One" (6:10).

Those who have spent months and years as invalids

SUNDAY READINGS

5th Sunday of Ordinary Time
(February 8, 2009)

By Rev. Lawrence Frizzell



may at times identify with Job's lament. "I have been assigned months of misery and troubled nights are my lot" (7:3). Depression may beset those afflicted with such burdens. "Remember that my life is like the wind; I shall not see happiness again" (7:7). Although wonderful advances have been made in the art of healing, those suffering still face the questions that challenged Job and his friends.

Mark records the evidence that healing was an integral part of Jesus' public ministry. This showed that the coming of God's Kingdom would bring humanity back to wholeness; both in relationships with God and neighbor and in the very person of each individual, a new experience of peace would be achieved through the work of Jesus. The fundamental aspect of this ministry was the forgiveness of sin, preparing the way for harmony with God and his creation.

Disorientation of spirit and maladies of the body prevented many from exercising their human dignity in the service of God and neighbor. Jesus came into their lives as the divine physician; the remedy of various woes became the sign of God's presence in human life. Throughout the centuries the Church has borne witness to the Incarnate Word by continuing His healing mission.

Ideally, those who are beneficiaries of God's mercy and human ingenuity should then live more maturely. The example of Simon's mother-in-law is significant; once she was healed by Jesus, she reached out in hospitality and service.

The people of Capernaum may have desired to invite Jesus to set up a "clinic" in their midst. However, He insisted on going to other places to preach. By example He showed the necessity of prayer, both in public services and in quiet, prolonged communion with the Father. He also placed healing within the larger framework of His teaching. Helping others to escape from pain and affliction could not constitute the deepest reason for His work. Healing the entire person, body and soul, would become the first step in that individual's task of collaborating with God's work of peacemaking in the world, and for the gift of eternal happiness.

All of Christ's followers have a part in the task described by Saint Paul, continuing the proclamation of the Good News. "I have made myself all things to all people, to save at least some of them" (1 Cor 9:22).

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

*Disorientation of spirit and
maladies of the body prevented
many from exercising their
human dignity in the service
of God and neighbor.*

February 6

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH, Hillsdale, Women's Cornerstone Retreat, through Feb. 7, call Eileen Thomas at (201) 248-0514.

SODALITY OF THE CHILDREN OF MARY OF ST. TERESA, Jersey City, recitation of the "Little Office," 3:15 p.m., followed by Mass, call Katherine T. Crossan at (201) 689-1471.

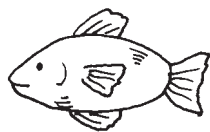
February 7

HOLY FAMILY PARISH, Nutley, World Marriage Day, Mass and reception, 5:30 p.m., also on Feb. 8, call Pat Attanasio at (973) 667-2991.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 3644, Wallington, Polish Night, 7-11 p.m., cost: \$30 per person, call Vic Puzio at (201) 935-0273 or (646) 442-0605.

February 8

ASCENSION PARISH, New Milford, Marriage Anniversary Mass, noon, reception to follow, (201) 836-8961.



ST. PAUL PARISH, Ramsey, "Strangers No Longer" panel discussion about immigration, 1 p.m., call Bob Lockwood at (201) 519-1945.

MOTHERS OF PRIESTS CHAPTER 6, North Arlington, Holy Hour at Queen of Peace Convent chapel, 1:15 p.m., call Rosalie D'Andrea at (973) 667-5674.

ST. JOSEPH PARISH, Oradell, "Taste of Silence" Lenten Mission, through Feb. 10, 7 p.m., call Maureen at (201) 925-1035.

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH, Ridgewood, Career Ministry workshop, "Create Your Communications Strategy and Resume," call Carol Shea at (201) 447-4215.

February 9

NEW JERSEY BLOOD SERVICES, blood drive at Holy Name Hospital, Teaneck, 1-6:30 p.m., call Marie Forrestal at (732) 616-0798.

February 11

FAMILY LIFE MINISTRIES, Newark, annulment information meeting at the Archdiocesan Center, 7:30 p.m., (973) 497-4327.

February 12

OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA PARISH, Harrison, meeting of the Polish Apostolate, 7:30 p.m., (973) 344-2743.

February 13

NEW JERSEY BLOOD SERVICES, blood drive at St. Henry Parish, Bayonne, 1:30- 7 p.m., call Marie Forrestal at (732) 616-0798.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 5427, Washington Township, Wine and Roses Gala, 7:30 – 11:30 p.m., cost: \$45 per person, RSVP by Feb. 10, call Ed Pendergast at (201) 664-6947.

TRINITAS REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER, Elizabeth, "What You Should Know about Heart Failure," 1-2:30 p.m., RSVP by Feb. 11, call (908) 994-8916.

February 14

LUMEN CENTER, Caldwell, "The Heart of the Matter," 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., cost: \$35, (973) 403-3331 ext. 25.

February 15

NATIVITY PARISH, Midland Park, Inclusive Family Mass, 9 a.m., call Janet Nemec at (201) 444-6362.

ASCENSION PARISH, New Milford, Parish Mission with Father Ramon Gaitan, O.A.R., through Feb. 20, begins at 8 a.m., call Josie McEwan at (201) 265-0485.

February 17

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 3428, North Arlington, lecturers' meeting with Msgr. William Fadrowski, 8 p.m., (201) 991-9606.

February 18

TRINITAS REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER, Elizabeth, "Community Prevention of Psychiatric Emergencies: Effectiveness of Early Intervention," 10 – noon, call Kelly Baker at (908) 994-7452.

February 20

SAINT BARTHOLOMEW PARISH, Scotch Plains, annual Knights and Dames Celebration. A 6 p.m. prayer service and awards presentation will be followed by a reception at Snuffy's Pantagis Renaissance at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$35. Send a check, payable to Saint Bartholomew the Apostle Church, along with name and telephone number, to Saint

Bartholomew the Apostle Church 2032 Westfield Avenue, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076. For additional information call (908) 322-2291.

March 20

ST. LAWRENCE PARISH, Weehawken, Women's Cornerstone Retreat, through March 21, 7 p.m., call Adele or Michele at (201) 863-6464.

Other

OUR LADY OF THE PERPETUAL HELP, Oakland, Fair Trade Coffee House, coffee produced by farmers who have been given a fair price for their labors, call Phil Brady at (201) 337-7596 ext. 15.



HONORABLE MENTION— John Szilagyi, a senior at Union Catholic Regional High School, Scotch Plains, has received an Honorable Mention in the 2008-09 National Hispanic Recognition program. Students with grade-point average of between 3.0 and 3.49 qualify for the designation.

Chapel marks ninth year of adoration

MOUNTAINSIDE— Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, 300 Central Ave., will celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and the ninth anniversary of its perpetual adoration chapel 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 11.

The celebration will include evening prayer and benediction featuring Most Rev. Manuel A. Cruz, Regional Bishop of Union County. A reception will follow in Pollard Hall. Call the parish office at (908) 232-1162 for more information. Very Rev. John M. McCrone, V.F., is the pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes.

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How to report abuse

The Archdiocese of Newark takes very seriously any and all 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.



Submitted photo

MAKING A POINT—Jackie Heath, Ashley Cha and Kathryn Palazzoto (left to right), student athletes at Academy of the Holy Angels, Demarest, will travel to Albuquerque, NM, Feb. 12-14, to represent the school at the U.S. Fencing Junior Olympics. Heath, the team co-captain, will compete in the Cadet women's Foil; Cha in the Cadet and junior women's Epee; and Palazzoto in the junior women's Sabre. Patrick Curran is the coach of the academy's fencing team.

Knights seek clothing to aid veterans

AREA — The Knights of Columbus, Fourth Degree Assemblies of the First New Jersey District, are conducting a statewide collection of new sweatpants and robes for patients at veterans' hospitals and homes throughout the Garden State.

The Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus is the patriotic arm of the order, which supports programs that assist veterans.

The program is in need of men's sizes M, L, XL, XXL and XXXL and women's sizes S, M and L. Anyone wanting to make a donation can drop off the clothing or mail garments to the Knights of Columbus Council, 194 River Rd., North Arlington, NJ, 07031. A collection box has been placed in the main entrance of the council hall.

Monetary donations for the purchase of sweatpants and bathrobes, payable to the Msgr. Peter B. O'Connor Assembly, can be mailed to the same address. Call Robert Tarantula at (201) 991-9606 for additional information on the collection effort.

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Mass in Orange to salute President Lincoln's birth

ORANGE—The memory of President Abraham Lincoln will be honored during a special noontime Civil War Military Mass Feb. 15 at Our Lady of the Valley Parish, which will be celebrated by Father David G. Moreno, S.D.B., chaplain of the 7th New Jersey Volunteer Infantry re-enactors.

"The Mass will give thanks for the life and accomplishments of Abraham Lincoln during this year commemorating the bicentennial of his birth (Feb. 12, 1809)," Fr. Moreno said.

Listed on the official calendar of events of the National Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, the Mass will include Latin chants and Civil War-era vestments and hymns, and will be followed by a three-volley military salute and the playing of "Taps" in honor of all who died during the Civil War.

As part of the commemoration, Piscataway resident Robert Costello, a Lincoln impersonator, will proclaim the immortal "Gettysburg Address." A light luncheon will follow in the parish center. Contact Fr. Moreno by phone at (973) 674-2400 or via e-mail at ChaplainDM@gmail.com for details on the event.

Lincoln was born in Hardin County, KY, the son of a frontiersman. He became the 16th president of the United States on March 4, 1861. On Good Friday, April 14, 1865, he was assassinated at Ford's Theatre in Washington D.C. by John Wilkes Booth.



Father David Moreno

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CNS photo

PRAYERS FOR UNITY—Pope Benedict XVI watches a dove fly from his apartment window over Saint Peter's Square at the end of the Angelus prayer at the Vatican Jan. 25. The pope asked Christians to make their prayers for unity "an intercession for the various situations of conflict currently afflicting humanity," Catholic News Service reported. Presiding over an ecumenical vespers service Jan. 25 at Rome's Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls, Pope Benedict marked the 50th anniversary of the day when Blessed Pope John XXIII convoked the Second Vatican Council. The announcement was "an event that the older ones among us certainly have not forgotten," said the 81-year-old pope, who served as a theological expert at the council. Pope Benedict said calling the council was a "providential decision, which my predecessor was firmly convinced was a suggestion of the Holy Spirit." The theological dialogues launched between the Catholic Church and the Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, Anglican and Protestant churches and communities have led to important agreements and a more precise definition of the issues that still divide Christians, he said. Marking the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the pope said as long as Christians seek unity in faith, their different spiritualities and customs do not have to be divisive. "In that way our diversity will no longer be an obstacle that separates us, but a richness in the multiplicity of expressions of a common faith."

Unity

Continued from page 1

warned Msgr. John A. Radano, who served on the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity for more than 23 years.

Msgr. Radano's distinguished service on the council ended last May. He returned to Seton Hall University, South Orange, where he was a member of the Religious Studies department from 1965 to 1984, following his ordination for the Archdiocese of Newark in 1965. He entered the seminary after graduating from Saint Peter's College, Jersey City, in 1959.

In 1984 the Vatican petitioned then-Archbishop Peter L. Gerety to release Msgr. Radano so that he could join the council—known at the time as the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity, part of the Roman curia. Archbishop Gerety consented and in the ensuing years Msgr. Radano served on numerous international dialogues co-sponsored by the Pontifical Council and was the council's liaison with the Commission on Faith and Order of the World Council of Churches (WCC), and a member of the "Joint Working Group" between the Catholic Church and the WCC.

Though no longer a member of the Pontifical Council, Msgr. Radano was asked to continue as a member of the Joint Working Group. Last November he attended a meeting of the Joint Working Group, which was held in Bossey, Switzerland (near Geneva). The group, since 1965, has fostered co-operation between the Catholic Church and the WCC. Two months ago he was a guest at the council's plenary meeting at the

Vatican, when Pope Benedict XVI addressed the assembly on the progress of Christian unity.

The pope told council members it was time for a "broad, precise and detailed" reflection on the ecumenical movement, weighing its accomplishments and shortcomings, in order to "identify new paths to follow" (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Dec. 24, 2008).

All popes, during the last 40 years, have been committed to the ecumenical movement. Pope John Paul II described the work for unity as a pastoral priority and an imperative of the Church, Msgr. Radano said, noting that the aim of promoting Christian unity was a central concern of the Second Vatican Council (1962-65).

"Catholics everywhere—here in the Archdiocese of Newark as well as throughout the world—must understand this (the ecumenical movement for unity) is a major commitment and an essential part of the Church's life and mission," Msgr. Radano said.

While Vatican II marks the point for deep commitment by the Catholic Church to the modern ecumenical movement, it is generally understood the movement began with the 1910 World Missionary Conference at Edinburgh, Scotland (which did not have Catholic or Orthodox representation). In the decades that followed more Catholics turned toward ecumenical involvement and Vatican II strongly endorsed the movement.

There are theological subtleties that must be grasped in order to fully appreciate the quest of the ecumenical movement. Msgr. Radano explained that the goal of "visible unity" does not mean "uniformity," but rather unity in legitimate diversity, as John Paul II

described it (*Encyclical Ut Unum Sint*, No. 57).

"This is unity with diversity, not divergence," Msgr. Radano said, pointing out the Catholic Church already embraces diversity in liturgy and culture that links its Eastern and Latin heritages.

An important current thrust for this intermediate stage of the ecumenical movement involves the "harvest project" now being undertaken by the Pontifical Council—a scholarly review of di-

initiative," Msgr. Radano said. "We are saved through God's grace." At the same time, he said there also is a recognition in faith that those who are justified need to perform good works in order to bring forth the works of love of which Scripture speaks.

Ever since the Reformation (1517) there has been strong contrast and conflict between questions of faith and good works in regard to the justification doctrine. Dialogue between Catholics

which was approved by members of the Joint International Commission for the Theological Dialogue between the Catholic and Orthodox churches in October 2007 during the commission's plenary session, which was held in Ravenna, Italy.

The decision at Ravenna was to undertake a four-year joint Catholic/Orthodox study that will trace the authority of the pope over 2,000 years. "The fact that we are having this project, in and of itself, is significant," Msgr. Radano said, explaining that theologians and historians on both sides will perform a systematic review of the papacy's history and the role of the Bishop of Rome. There is already much agreement between the two sides concerning the primacy of the pope as the "first among equals," but the question of a common understanding of the authority and jurisdiction of the Bishop of Rome, as well as the relationship between primacy and synodality, needs to be further explored.

Going forward, the ecumenical movement must be optimistic and realistic, Msgr. Radano stressed. "Ecumenical dialogue reveals our common ground and points to issues not yet resolved. The goal of achieving visible unity is not going to be easy. It will require a great deal of spiritual depth.

"There is virtue involved," he continued. "We need a sense of humility and a spirit of repentance to deal with the healing of bitter memories and theological differences that have existed for hundreds of years. We will need courage. Much depends on the commitment to unity that we all demonstrate. The pope has called on Catholics to work tirelessly for ecumenism—that we may all be one so the world may believe."



'Catholics everywhere must understand this (the ecumenical movement for unity) is a major commitment and an essential part of the Church's life and mission.'

—Msgr. John Radano

alogue reports reached during the last 40 years between the Catholic Church and the Lutheran World Federation, the World Methodist Council, the Anglican Communion and the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. The research will "harvest" and assess ecumenical progress made in these dialogues to help clarify an agenda of priorities going forward to reach the next stage of the unity journey.

For example, Msgr. Radano said the harvesting underlines the consensus on the basic Christian doctrine concerning the Trinity and Christology. Consensus also has been reached on "justification," the theological understanding of how we are saved and sanctified.

"We are 'justified' by God's

and Lutherans in recent decades has moved beyond the conflicts of the past so that today they have achieved a common understanding of this doctrine. Meanwhile, there remains considerable debate on other issues such as the nature and role of ministry, and much work remains to resolve the differences that still exist on this question.

During his Dec. 12 address to the Pontifical Council, the pope made special mention of the "consolidation and growth of ecclesial fraternity" between the Catholic Church and the Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox churches. Msgr. Radano pointed out an important step in this relationship relates to the "Ravenna Document,"



Advocate photo — Ward Miele

MARCHERS FOR LIFE—Most Rev. Manuel A. Cruz, top row, holding crozier, celebrated this year's annual Pro-Life Mass Jan. 18 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, co-sponsored by the archdiocesan Respect Life Office and Young Adult Ministries. Standing to the right of Bishop Cruz is Father Joseph A. Meagher, the director of the Respect Life Office. Marchers paused on the steps of the cathedral before joining in a procession to nearby Saint Lucy Parish for a Holy Hour. The Pro-Life Mass marked the 36th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion. In his homily, Bishop Cruz said God's call to service begins in a mother's womb. He said no one has the right to deny anyone "the right to be born." He also called for prayers for those who have aborted their child out of "ignorance or desperation."

Inspired by winter landscape, men discern spiritual journeys

BY DANIEL PETERSON

Special to *The Catholic Advocate*

MAHWAH—It was a winter spiritual sojourn for a diverse gathering of men to reflect upon the stations of their life journeys and discern paths that lie ahead.

"Each one of you in this room is unique and has your own story," Deacon Matthew Dooley, a seminarian from Immaculate Conception Seminary, South Orange, said. "We all have a vocation. God is calling each and every one of you to follow Him. Discernment is a process when we try to figure out what God is calling us to do."

Dooley was one of 24 men who attended a discernment retreat Jan. 4-6 at the Carmelite Retreat Center. On hand that weekend were seminarians from Immaculate Conception Seminary and Saint Andrew's College Seminary. Father John D. Gabriel, the director of vocations for the Archdiocese of Newark, organized and led the retreat, which consisted of Mass, witness talks, confessions, quiet and communal prayer, fellowship, a question-and-answer period and a viewing of the film, "Fishers of Men."

As part of his ongoing vocations outreach, Fr. Gabriel said he plans to make the retreat an annu-

al event to be held on the first weekend after the New Year holiday. "I wanted to have a retreat where a man could come and learn more about the call to the priesthood and take some time to pray about it," he said.

Surrounded by mountains and streams in northern Bergen County, the Carmelite Retreat Center offered a place for solitude, reflection and prayer, according to Fr. Gabriel, saying the retreat would serve as another tool to plant the seeds of vocations in the archdiocese. Other vocation-awareness activities involve Fr. Gabriel speaking at various parishes and leading eucharistic Holy Hours program throughout the four counties of archdiocese as well as leading a discernment group, "On the Road," which meets once a month at Seton Hall University (SHU), South Orange, (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Jan 7).

"Vocations are tremendously important, both for the faithful and for the Church itself," he said. "It is important to pray, invite and foster vocations."

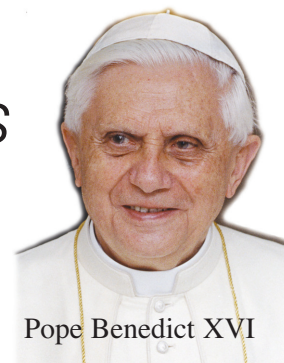
One of the highlights of the Carmelite center retreat was the witness of priests who spoke on different topics such as the challenges of priesthood, prayer, sacraments and spiritual direction.

Fathers Brian Page, Charles Kelly, Robert Gelinis, Peter Funesti and Renato Baustista—members of the vocation board and assistant vocations directors—addressed the gathering and offered their perspectives.

Continued on page 19

THE POPE SPEAKS

Pope praises wisdom in France on bioethics laws



Pope Benedict XVI

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Great leaps in science must always be guided by the desire to serve the inalienable dignity of the human person, Pope Benedict XVI said.

It is the Church's hope that an upcoming debate in France on the revision of an existing bioethics law recognizes "the untouchable nature of every human life," the pope told Stanislas Lefebvre de Laboulaye, the country's new ambassador to the Vatican.

Welcoming the new ambassador Jan. 26, the pope praised the French parliament for having come to "wise and humane conclusions" concerning end-of-life issues when it upheld a ban on euthanasia and proposed increased efforts to care for the sick and dying, which included providing better palliative care.

"I hope this same wisdom that recognizes the untouchable nature of every human life may be at work during the revision of bioethics laws" in France this year, he said. France's bioethics law was last modified in 2004 and covers artificial reproduction, research on the human embryo, human genetics and organ procurement.

The current law prohibits the creation of human embryos for research purposes or in order to create stem cells, but discussion is under way to reconsider the prohibition on therapeutic cloning. The French bishops will be offering their contribution to this year's public debate, the pope said.

He said the recent Vatican document "Dignitas Personae" ("The Dignity of a Person") highlighted how important it was that scientific progress "be guided by the concern to serve the good and the inalienable dignity of the human being."



Submitted photo

The gathering at the discernment retreat last month at the Carmelite Retreat Center in Mahwah included (left to right) Jose Rodriguez, Alex Orozco, Angel Gamba, Jaime Castellanos, Father John Gabriel and Javier Sanchez. Discernment for the priesthood involves a personal spiritual reflection, a process that explores the realization of how God is calling a man. For more information on outreach programs being conducted by the archdiocesan Vocation Office, contact Fr. Gabriel by phone (973) 497-4365 or e-mail (gabriejo@rcan.org).

A ministry blessed by diversity, dedicated to education and hope

Sr. Patricia recalls encounters with racism

BY MELISSA MCNALLY
Staff Writer

Since being appointed by Archbishop John J. Myers as director of the archdiocesan Office of Black Catholic Ministry last July, Sister Patricia Lucas, D.H.M., has made strides to represent her faith community while enriching her own spirituality.

"So far, so good," Sr. Patricia said, describing the responsibilities of the ministry and recalling the challenges of her own faith journey to mark Black History Month (February).

These days her busy schedule

includes making preparations for a conference for Black Catholic women, which will be held at Seton Hall University, South Orange, on March 21. She is also organizing a mother/daughter luncheon in June and a planning committee of lay volunteers for Black Ministry that has been formed. Last November she spearheaded a Mass and luncheon in honor of the late Most Rev. Joseph A. Francis, who was an Auxiliary Bishop of Newark (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Dec. 10).

Uniting Black Catholics was one of the goals Sr. Patricia stressed when first appointed to her new position (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Aug. 6). She has since visited Saint Mary Parish, Newark, and Christ the King Parish, Jersey City.

"Saint Mary is a very multicultural parish," she said. "There are people from Nigeria, Ghana and Liberia. Christ the King is a small, close-knit parish. I enjoyed meeting with the pastors and the parishioners there." She is planning outreach visits to other parishes in the coming weeks.

Large immigrant populations at some Black Catholic parishes can create friction for the African-American parishioners, Sr. Patricia said. "Many African-Americans are not that eager to unify with the immigrant groups. They feel there are many more Africans, especially Igbo (West African) Catholics, and there is resistance (for the community) to come together. They don't want one group to dominate."

Last year Father Anselm I. Nwaorgu, the pastor of Blessed Sacrament/Saint Charles Borromeo Parish, Newark—and the former president of the African Conference of Catholic Clergy and Religious in the United States—expressed the same concerns regarding immigrant tensions (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Feb. 6, 2008).

Along with her position in Black Catholic Ministry, Sr. Patricia is also a member of the multicultural and evangelization committees for the archdiocese. She is the regional director of formation for her order, Daughters of the Heart of Mary, where her re-



Submitted Photo

Sister Patricia Lucas (center) served as the director of Nazareth School for Girls in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 1989-1992. At graduation, Muslim students wore ornate gold jewelry while Christian graduates dressed in white garments, as pictured here.

sponsibilities include Canada and the United Kingdom. Working within her vocation, she has ministered to such far-reaching places as Ethiopia and the inner-city prisons of Chicago. Now residing at Saint Henry Parish in Bayonne, and working in the archdiocese for nine years, she credits her faith with guiding her through life's most difficult trials.

"My faith has made me a stronger person," she confessed. "I could not endure the racism, even within my own Church, if it was not for my faith. It made me look beyond the atrocities and realize there is a God."

Growing up in New York City with seven brothers, she always knew religious life was her calling. One of her brothers became

a priest and she professed her final vows to the Franciscan Handmaids of Mary, an all-black order, in 1965. It was while searching for an order that she encountered discrimination.

"As a young adult, I was told by many religious communities that the Franciscan Handmaids of Mary was my only option. I was not encouraged to join any other order." Sr. Patricia joined Daughters of the Heart of Mary in 1985. She is one of only three black Sisters in that order throughout the United States.

While with the Franciscan Handmaids of Mary, she ministered in prisons, including female prisoners separated from their children with nowhere to go after serving time. She worked as a pre-

lease coordinator and caseworker for the Cook County Illinois Department of Corrections. She founded Community Aid Inmates in Need (CAIN) in 1975. She is also co-founder of Sister House in Chicago, a shelter for women to live after released from prison.

Working in the jails with potentially dangerous inmates did not faze Sr. Patricia and she believed it was another way to reach out to those who need help the most. "I remember riding in the elevator with these men who had 'D.O.C. (Department of Corrections)' on the back of their shirts. They never bothered me. I was just a social worker who was there to help them. I was an advocate for them."

While working in Chicago, she joined the Daughters of Heart of

Mary due to the order's versatility. The members move freely among the people whom they serve, with no external identification. "I chose the Daughters of Heart of Mary because I can work in any milieu I want to. There are doctors and lawyers who are also Sisters," she explained.

After joining the order, she was assigned as director of Nazareth School for Girls in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Being in charge of 1,400 young women, she learned the power of faith in a vastly different environment. "At that time, the president of Ethiopia had his daughter attend Nazareth School. Everyone there valued their education and viewed attending the school as a stepping stone to England or America. The students prayed so much; they

prayed for peace every morning," Sr. Patricia recalled.

Due to the continuing civil war in the area that ended in 1991, she relocated to Buffalo, NY, as president of Nardin Academy. Even in the early 1990's, Sister Patricia felt discriminated against in the mostly white school.

"I sent in my résumé for the job without a photo," she said. "When I was voted in, people were definitely taken aback. I didn't see overt racism, but it was racism that was covered by a smile. People don't respect you as a person with intelligence."

After working as campus minister at Marist High School in Bayonne, deacons Marshall Andrews and Keith McKnight, liaison coordinators of the Office of Black Catholic Ministry, suggested Sr. Patricia for the position of director.


Concerns of the Black Catholic community, she believes, include the threat of parishes and schools closing. In these uncertain economic times, donating to the Church can be difficult, but she believes sacrifices have to be made for the good of the community.

"We have to take responsibility for ourselves," she said. "We have to learn to tithe. People spend money on things that are not necessary. If you give to God, God will give back to you."




Submitted Photo

A former campus minister at Marist High School, Bayonne, Sr. Patricia (center, front) brought students to Saint Joseph's School for the Deaf in Bronx, NY. Saint Joseph's was founded by the Daughters of the Heart of Mary in 1858.



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Deacon, airman had faith, kept his eyes on the prize

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Among the thousands who braved the cold weather to watch President Barack Obama make history by becoming the first U.S. African-American president was a Catholic deacon who made history himself.

Deacon Walt Richardson, who turns 80 in February, was a special guest at the inauguration because he was one of the famed Tuskegee Airmen. In addition, during his 40 years with the Air Force, Deacon Richardson served for a time in Vietnam. While stationed at the Dover (DE) Air Force Base, he became the first African-American to be promoted to master sergeant in the field maintenance squadron.

The Tuskegee Airmen were African-American men who joined the service during World War II—a time of bitter racial segregation in society and the military. The aviation cadets were trained at Tuskegee Army Airfield, AL, in a variety of disciplines, including single- and twin-engine aviation, navigation, meteorology, operational intelligence, aircraft mechanics, radio repair and parachute rigging. The airmen fought with distinction during the war, but still faced discrimination when they returned home.

Deacon Richardson, a permanent deacon for 29 years, served with the Tuskegee Airmen not as an aviator or mechanic, but as an entertainer. "I was part of 'Operation Happiness,'" Deacon Richardson said. "We were the first all-military troupe to entertain at Air Force bases." After a year with the Tuskegee Airmen, Deacon Richardson was transferred to an all-white unit, where he faced racism.

Deacon Richardson, who joined the Catholic Church in 1957, recalled encountering racism during a 1958 trip he made cross-country when he was transferred from Eglin Air Base, FL, to Okinawa, Japan. As he was driving to the West Coast for deployment, he had trouble finding motels and hotels that would accept black customers.

"My first reaction was to turn to my faith. Whenever I came to a town (to spend the night), I stopped at a Catholic church to ask the priest to recommend a place to stay that would accept my family and me," he said. "The priests would always find me a place."

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Him and in Him,
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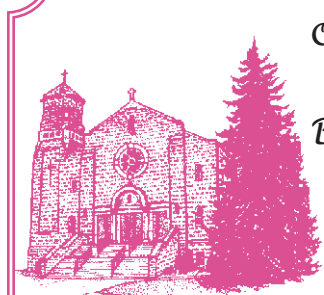
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Fr. Lambert, 86; strong voice for U.S. black Catholic clergy

PALOS PARK, Ill. (CNS)—Father Rollins Lambert, the first African-American to be ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Chicago and a prominent voice on African-American affairs for the Catholic Church, died Jan. 25 at Holy Family Villa in Palos Park. He was 86.

A memorial Mass will be celebrated Feb. 14 at Holy Family Villa for Fr. Lambert, who rose to national prominence as chairman of the Black Catholic Clergy Caucus in the late 1960s. He later worked on the staff of the bishops' conference in Washington as an adviser on national African-American affairs.

He served as chairman of the

Black Catholic Clergy Caucus in 1968-69. Speaking before the U.S. bishops' administrative board in 1969, he called for the creation of a "central office" advocating for black Catholics.

"It will prove that the Church trusts its black personnel—that they are not second-class citizens who must always be under the thumb of white people, laymen and clergy alike," he said at the time.

Through his efforts and the work of others, an office for black Catholics was created at the bishops' conference in 1988; today it is part of U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church.

In 1975, Fr. Lambert joined the U.S. bishops' conference headquarters staff in Washington as an adviser on African affairs in the Department of Social Development and World Peace, serving until 1987 when he reached the conference's mandatory retirement age.

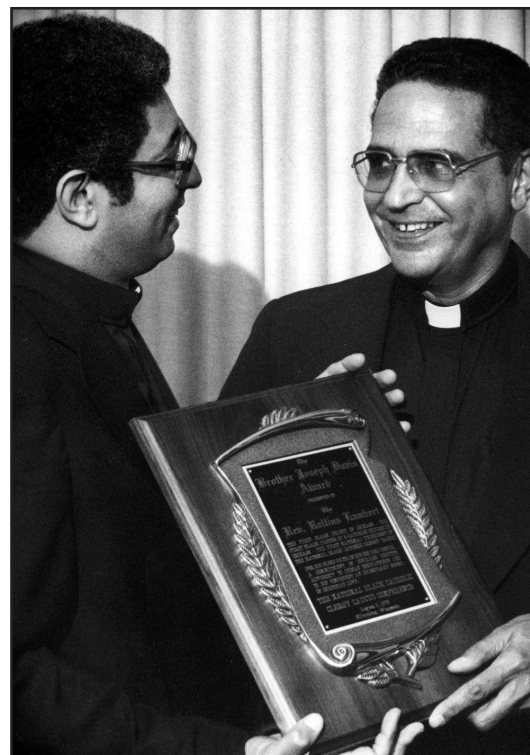
During his time in Washington, he was one of a large number of anti-apartheid activists who submitted to arrest in 1984 outside the South African Embassy.

He also visited many African countries, writing about his findings for the National Catholic News Service, the precursor to Catholic News Service. In addition, he was a regular reviewer of books that dealt with the African-American and African experience for the news service.

Before a 1984 meeting with Sudanese President Gaafar Nimeiri, Fr. Lambert noted how Nimeiri had said he was going to make Sudan an Islamic republic where Islamic law would prevail. But after the meeting, the priest said Nimeiri might be "backing off" that stance.

Fr. Lambert returned to Chicago to work in the archdiocesan chancery, first for a year as director of its human relations office, succeeding Msgr. John Egan, and then for a year as associate director of community services. Before retiring from active ministry in 1991, Fr. Lambert served as a dean for parishes on Chicago's South Side and in the southern suburbs.

A Chicago native of African-American and Cherokee heritage,



CNS photo

Father Rollins Lambert, pictured at right in a 1979 file photo, died Jan. 25 at the age of 86. Sixty years ago he became the first African-American ordained a priest in the Archdiocese of Chicago. In the photo, then-Auxiliary Bishop James P. Lyke of Cleveland presents Father Lambert with an award from the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus during a conference in Milwaukee.

Fr. Lambert was educated in Chicago public elementary and secondary schools and earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Chicago. While he was in college, he joined the Catholic Church.

He was ordained to the priesthood in 1949, the same year Fr. Lambert graduated from the University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary. He served eight years as assistant pastor at Saint Malachy Parish in Chicago. In 1957 he became assistant pastor of Saint Dorothy Parish for four years. In 1961, he began a seven-year stint as assistant director of the Newman apostolate at the University of Chicago.

Fr. Lambert gained his first pastorate at Saint James Parish in Chicago for a year, then returned to Saint Dorothy to be pastor there for two years before going back to the University of Chicago to serve

two years as the Newman apostolate's director.

His second appointment at Saint Dorothy brought charges that the priest was an "Uncle Tom" by some black Catholics who wanted to see Father George Clements, the African-American associate pastor at Saint Dorothy, get the pastorate instead. Fr. Lambert offered to resign the Saint Dorothy post if more black priests in Chicago were not made pastors.

SMA Fathers to host tasty cultural day

TEANECK — The SMA Fathers American Province will celebrate "African Cultural Day" Sunday, Feb. 15, following the noon Mass at its headquarters located at 23 Bliss Ave. The event will feature an exotic assortment of delicious African food and an exhibit of African culture. Call the SMA office at (201) 567-0450 for details on the event.

The initials "SMA" stand for Society of African Missions in Latin: *Societas Missionum ad Afros*. The American Province of SMA was established in 1941. SMA missionaries serve in 16 countries throughout Africa as well as other locations outside Africa where there is a large population of African heritage.

The SMA was founded on Dec. 8, 1856 in Lyon, France. The founder, Bishop Melchior de Marion Brésillac, was a French clergyman who had a strong commitment to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the peoples of Africa.

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SFIC hosts breakfast, thanks donors

BELLEVILLE — The Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children (SFIC) held its annual Trustees' Christmas Breakfast Dec. 4, 2008 at Saint Peter School, a 20-year tradition established by the SFIC board as a way to say "thank you" to donors for their commitment to educating financially disadvantaged students.

Distinguished guests at the event included the Honorable John Gibbons, a graduate from Saint

Peter's class of 1939. Executives from White Castle Systems, the Bank of New York Mellon and The Children's Scholarship Fund were among the corporate guests.

"Our country's current financial crisis leaves many families with no choice but to send their kids to public schools," Father Kevin M. Hanbury, archdiocesan vicar for education and superintendent of schools said. "It is going to take a joint effort by

the SFIC and the School Office of the Archdiocese of Newark to raise funds to help families with their tuition."

Saint Peter's student ambassadors provided SFIC guests with tours of the school and classrooms while the student choir entertained the group after breakfast.

The SFIC offers partial tuition assistance to more than 2,000


economically disadvantaged students throughout the archdiocese to help pay for their Catholic education. Contact Gerry O'Connor, SFIC executive director, at (973) 497-4287 for details on how to make a donation.



Submitted photo
Marilyn Castellano, principal of Saint Peter School (center), along with Gerry O'Connor (left), SFIC executive director, and Joseph Oakes, SFIC chairman, expressed their gratitude to donors for their support of students in the archdiocese.

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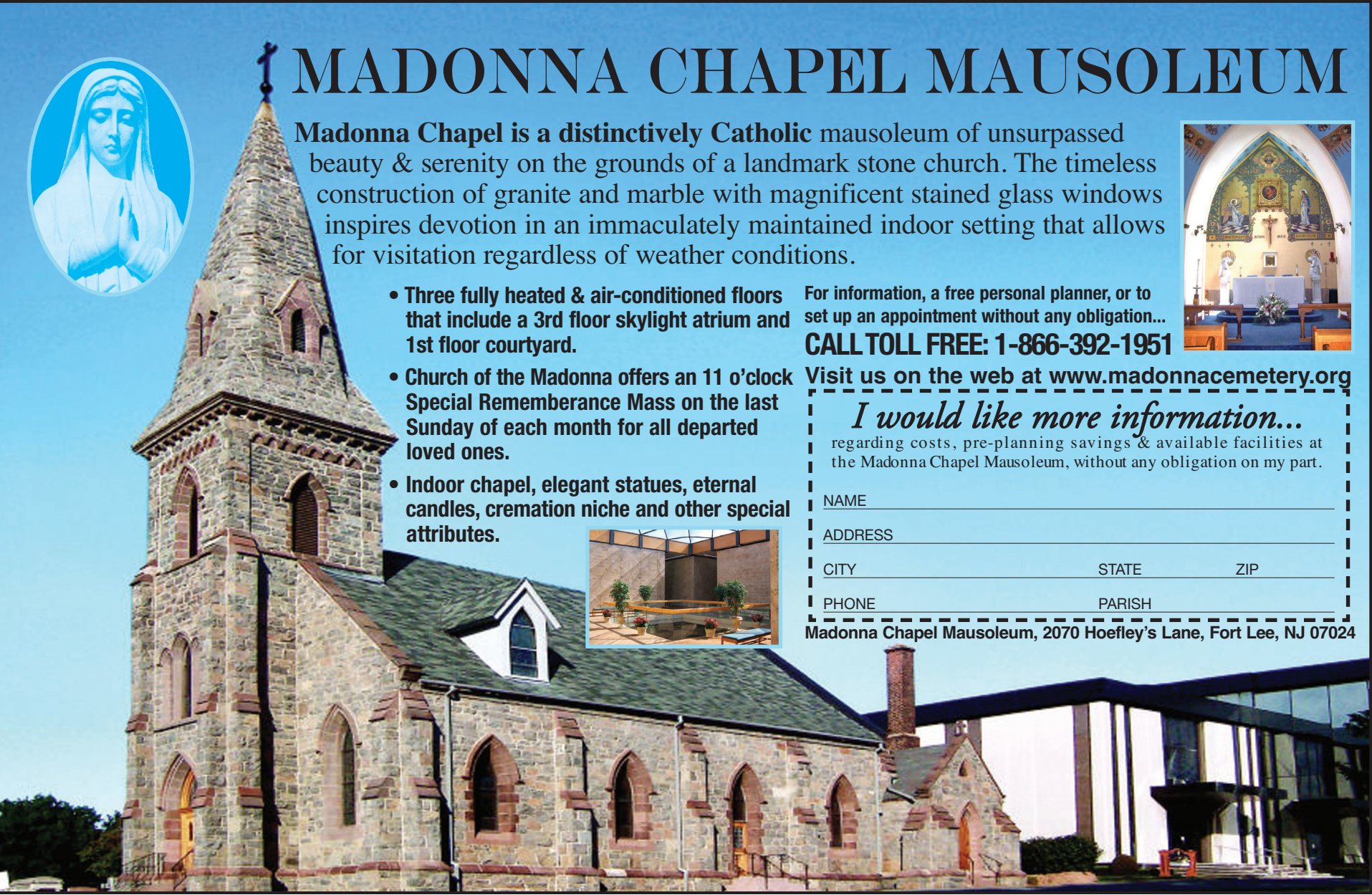
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Getting to know each other; quite a story

BY BOB ZYSKOWSKI

Special to The Catholic Advocate

I met a construction guy the other day who was working on the most interesting project. His firm has the job of figuring out how to dismantle a Catholic church in Buffalo, NY. They must take it apart—stone by stone, stained-glass window by stained-glass window—

crate it up and rebuild it in suburban Atlanta. He's familiar with the construction of churches, but he's never had to take one down and put it back together again.

It was quite the story.

I met the neatest woman, too. She's a woman Religious, a Grey Nun, and although she has a debilitating neuro-muscular disease, she hasn't given up serving God's people. She carries her breathing

machine and oxygen concentrator around with her while serving as an integrator of faith and health-care, a health educator and a counselor. She also makes referrals and develops support groups for the sick. Oh, and in her spare time she helps Nicaraguan refugees coming to the United States and Canada.

She was quite the story.

I met a number of Catholic people of color as well. They talked about the emotional response they felt with the election of Barack Obama as president of the United States. One said, "As a black woman, when I tell my children and grandchildren they can be anything they want to be, now they see it's possible." Another person was a Catholic archbishop—also a black man—who offered the new president his prayerful good wishes

along with a reminder about the need to protect human life at each stage of its existence.

They made for quite the story.

I am not unique in meeting interesting people like this, though. I met all these folks reading one issue of a Catholic newspaper.

Columnists and bloggers invite reflection on a variety of Catholic perspectives about the issues of the day that Catholics care about. Resources and activities that help Catholics enrich their spiritual lives and actively live out their baptismal call are regularly a part of Catholic communications vehicles—both in print and online.

But, more than ever, Catholics need to know one another. We need to be inspired by learning of the marvelous sacrifices other Catholics make as they follow



Bob Zyskowski

Jesus' commandments to love God and love their neighbor. We need to have role models to emulate as we strive to deepen our personal spiritual life, as we advocate for God's children in need, and as we try to live Gospel-based lives.

Recently a young mother passed away to whom thousands had been introduced. Emilie Lemmons had been a reporter for a Catholic newspaper, an editor of a church magazine and a columnist writing about the challenges of motherhood and parenting. When she was diagnosed with a virulent strain of cancer, her columns shifted in focus, describing the challenge of trying to be a good wife and mother while dealing with a life-threatening disease.

Thousands read her heart-wrenching words as she struggled with God, with her illness and with her emotions. Thousands more joined her journey on the Internet, where she blogged about trying to be strong when she wasn't strong, trying to put her life in God's hands when she didn't want to give up her life. Yes, she was quite the Catholic and quite a story.

February is a time to celebrate Catholic Press Month. Issue after issue publications and Web sites of the Catholic Press Association (CPA) introduce Catholics to one another—Catholics who share interesting, useful information; Catholics whose stories give us the strength to live the teachings of our church; Catholics who inspire us to know and follow Jesus more closely.

And how about you? Whom will you meet today?

(Editor's note: Bob Zyskowski is the associate publisher of The Catholic Spirit, newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, and also serves as the president of the CPA. Founded in 1911, the CPA, based in Chicago, is composed of more than 600 member organizations throughout the United States and Canada, representing publications, including The Catholic Advocate, news media and broadcast journalists.)



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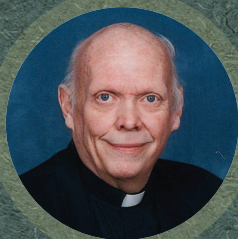


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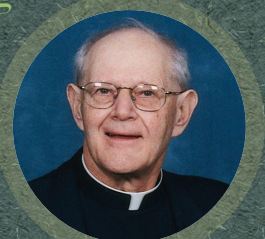
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Taskforce

Continued from page 1

21, 9 a.m. to noon at the Archdiocesan Retreat Center, 499 Belgrove Dr., Kearny.

The Kearny planning session will provide information and resources to parish communities via the representatives to heighten local awareness for this national campaign as well as mobilize the mission of social justice. The challenge will be to organize and focus the good will of faith communities into a unified effort to address poverty in America.

“Our hope is to raise awareness about the economics of poverty in the United States, in New Jersey, and in our Archdiocese as a threat to the common good,” Catherine L’ Insalata, division director of community access and volunteer services, of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark, and coordinator of the taskforce, said. “As a faith community in the archdiocese, we can expand our partnerships and act boldly in decreasing poverty in the United States so that by the year 2020 the rate of poverty will be reduced at least by half.”

“The people of the archdiocese are very generous in responding to the needs of those who are poor,” Catherine Furlani, director of human concerns for the Archdiocese of Newark, said. “What is needed is for that generosity to be enhanced by a deep desire for justice. What we hope to do over the next 12 years is to

equip Catholics with information so they can use the gift of their citizenship to support policies and programs that will reduce poverty and build a more just society.”

Over 36 million people in the United States—including one in six children—live below the poverty line. Additionally, the United States has a two to three times higher child-poverty rate than other major industrialized nations. The unfolding economic meltdown and national recession is compounding the problems faced by those most-vulnerable members of society.

Translating these grim national statistics on a local level, 34 percent of the families in the four counties of the Archdiocese of Newark live below the poverty line, which includes 90,000 children, according to 2006 U.S. Census statistics. The 2009 Archbishop’s Annual Appeal, which kicks off Feb. 7 and 8, provides funding that supports programs to help those in need (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Jan. 21).

The Anti-Poverty Network of New Jersey (APN), Edison, estimates that nearly 740,000 Garden State residents live below the federal poverty line (a household income of \$20,000 for a family of four). Each December the APN holds a conference in Trenton to spotlight the poverty situation in the Garden State (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Dec. 5, 2007).

The pain of poverty was felt in the archdiocese during the recent Thanksgiving and Christmas season, when it was reported that the 75 food pantries operated by the Emergency Food and Nutrition Network (EFNN) were faced with soaring demand and declining donations (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Nov. 12, 2008). The EFNN is a unit of Catholic Charities.

According to information on the Catholic Charities Web site (www.catholiccharitiesusa.org), the national campaign will work “in conjunction with other Catholic organizations, business leaders and community partners.” The campaign calls upon policymakers and all people of good will to help create positive changes in the lives of low-income families.



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NOVENAS**NOVENA TO ST. JUDE**

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

D.A.R.T.

NOVENA TO ST. JUDE

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

J.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 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.)

E.Y.

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.

P.C.

NOVENA TO ST. JUDE

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

P.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.N.

PRAYER TO THE INFANT OF PRAGUE

O Divine Child of Prague, and still the great, omnipotent God, I explore 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).

T.S.

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Questions remain on communion with Pius X society

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—In the long-standing conflict between the Vatican and the traditionalist Society of Saint Pius X, Pope Benedict XVI has been a key figure in reconciliation efforts that, so far, have always fallen short.

When the pope lifted the excommunication of four of the society's bishops in January, it finally seemed to open the way to the elusive "full communion" between the society's leadership and the Catholic Church. But the ending of this story has not yet been written, and even inside the Vatican there are questions about what the pope's latest move really signifies for the short term and the long term.

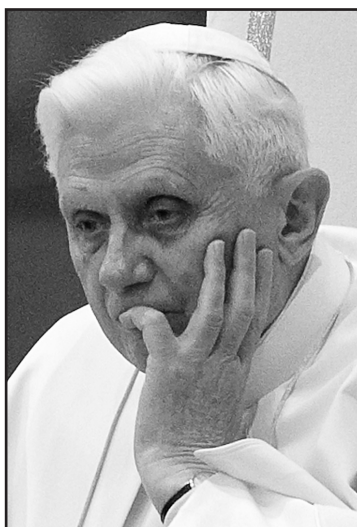
One of the biggest short-term questions regards the standing of the Swiss-based society's bishops and priests—specifically, whether in the Vatican's view they remain suspended from their ministry until a more complete agreement is reached.

The answer, according to several Vatican sources, is that there's no clear answer. The Vatican's own experts had different interpretations of how canon law applies in this case. Some felt that the removal of excommunication for the four bishops implied removal of their suspension, but others disagreed.

Most at the Vatican hold that the priests of the Society of St. Pius X remain suspended from ministry until they are regularized, which presumably will happen in future talks between the Vatican and the society's leaders. In the meantime, masses celebrated by these priests are considered valid, even though illicitly celebrated. However, other sacraments carried out by the suspended priests, such as marriage and confession, are not valid, in the view of several canon law experts.

In a sense, the Vatican has decided to look past what one official called a "canonical mess" and focus instead on the overriding goal: how to reach full communion.

There were some hopeful signs. Vatican officials said Bishop Bernard Fellay, head of the society, already had begun "pacification" efforts among the society's priests and seminarians in France and Germany to prepare them for re-entry into official unity with the Universal Church. Bishop Fellay, they said, seemed to appreciate that Pope Benedict has built a bridge to the society by making two decisions that were not very popular among mainstream Catholics: lifting the excommunications and restoring wider use of the 1962 form of the Mass,



Pope Benedict XVI

known as the Tridentine rite.

The Society of St. Pius X appears to be counting on Pope Benedict to make one more big concession: the granting of a special jurisdictional status to the society that would allow members to continue their traditional practices with some degree of autonomy. The more problematic issues are not jurisdictional but doctrinal, and the elephant in the room is the Second Vatican Council (1962-65).

The council was not mentioned in the official Vatican decree removing the excommunication or the accompanying statement. When he thanked the pope for his action, Bishop Fellay

made a point of saying that the society accepts all Church councils "up to the Second Vatican Council, about which we express some reservations."

In fact, the four bishops and many society members have at various times rejected Vatican II teachings on such matters as liturgy, ecumenism and interreligious dialogue (see story on page one regarding the modern Christian ecumenical movement, which was launched at Vatican II).

The only one to publicly mention Vatican II in connection with the future negotiations has been Pope Benedict. At his general audience Jan. 28, he said he hoped the society was ready to recognize the teaching and authority "of the pope and of the Second Vatican Council."

Some Vatican sources said that while the excommunication removal is a major Vatican concession it also puts more pressure on the society to come to an agreement on full communion. For one thing, they said, the canon law ambiguities that are now being tolerated cannot be allowed to continue indefinitely.

Pope Benedict has been close to agreement with the society before. As Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, at the request of Pope John Paul II, he conducted 11th-

hour talks in 1988 with the late French Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, the society's founder. Archbishop Lefebvre had been suspended from his ministry in 1976 after ordaining priests against Vatican orders and was threatening to ordain bishops—a move the Vatican said would result in schism and the automatic excommunication of those involved.

Cardinal Ratzinger was authorized to make concessions, and the two sides appeared to reach an agreement under which the Society of St. Pius X would be established as an organization of "pontifical right" with limited control by local bishops. The plan foresaw the creation of a Vatican commission to oversee relations among the society, the Roman Curia and bishops. It called on the society's leaders to adopt an attitude of "study and communication" regarding the previously rejected teachings of Vatican II.

Archbishop Lefebvre, who died in 1991, signed the protocol agreement, but before final approval he changed his mind. Soon after that, he went ahead with the ordinations, saying new bishops were needed so his society could continue to "guard against the spirit of Vatican II" and fight the "false ecumenism" that was leading the Church to ruin.

Affirming solidarity with Jews, pope recalls evil of Holocaust

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Benedict XVI renewed his "full and unquestionable solidarity" with the world's Jews and condemned all ignorance, denial and downplaying of the brutal slaughter of millions of Jewish people during the Holocaust.

The pope's comments Jan. 28 came a day after the Chief Rabbinate of Israel postponed indefinitely a March meeting with the Vatican in protest over the pope's lifting the excommunication of a traditionalist bishop who has minimized the severity and extent of the Holocaust.

Speaking the day after International Holocaust Remembrance Day, Pope Benedict said he hoped "the memory of the Holocaust will persuade humanity to reflect on the unpredictable power of evil when it conquers the heart of man."

The Jews were "innocent victims of a blind racist and religious hatred," he said at the end of his general audience in the Paul VI hall. The pope recalled his many visits to Auschwitz, calling it "one of the concentration camps in which millions of Jews were brutally slaughtered" by the Nazis.

"May the Holocaust be a warning to everyone against forgetting, denying or minimizing" what happened to millions of Jews "because violence waged against just one human being is violence against everyone," he said. "May violence never again humiliate the dignity of mankind."

British-born Bishop Richard Williamson of the traditionalist Society of St. Pius X has claimed that reports about the Holocaust were exaggerated and that no Jews died in Nazi gas chambers. He has stated his views on several occasions during the 1990s and repeated his position in a Swedish television interview recorded last November, but aired Jan. 2—the same day Pope Benedict lifted the excommunication against him and three other bishops who had been ordained against papal orders in 1988 by the late French Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre.

Jewish groups expressed shock that after Bishop Williamson's comments were televised the Vatican would still lift the excommunication against him. The Chief Rabbinate of Israel postponed a March 2-4 meeting in Rome with the Pontifical Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews. Rabbi David Rosen, a member of the delegation of the Chief Rabbinate, said the meeting with the Vatican had been postponed indefinitely "until a response comes from the Vatican that's satisfactory to enable us to resume our relationship as before."

The director general of the Israeli Chief Rabbinate, Oded Wiener, said the pope's Jan. 28 statement condemning the denial of the Holocaust was "extremely important...for all humanity" and that it was a "great step forward" in resolving the current embroilment between the Vatican and the rabbinate.



CNS photo

Concentration camp survivors walk out of the entrance of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp in Oswiecim, Poland. A metal sign above the entrance bears the infamous phrase "Arbeit Macht Frei," which means "work sets you free." Holocaust Memorial Day is commemorated internationally Jan. 27, the anniversary of the date of the liberation of the Nazi concentration camp in 1945.

Discernment retreat

Continued from page 9

Fr. Charles Kelly, parochial vicar at Queen of Peace Parish, North Arlington, said the retreat “inspired me to remain hopeful that, despite challenges in today’s Church, Jesus is still calling young men to ‘pick up their cross and follow Him’” (Luke 9: 23-24).

The men who attended the retreat were at different places in their respective discernment journeys. Some of those at the retreat were residents at the Emmaus House of Discernment, an archdiocesan house located in Newark, which offers men who are discerning God’s call a place to live in a prayerful setting. Some were college students at SHU, Franciscan University and Essex Community College, and some were working professionals from different places in New Jersey.

“Some of the guys just wanted more information and wanted to learn more,” Fr. Gabriel observed. “Others were reflecting on major life decisions they recently made, like applying to the seminary.” In addition, he confessed that he and other priests at the retreat used the weekend to discern “how to con-

tinue serving the Church through the awesome gift of the priesthood that Christ has given us.”

“What stood out to me was the diversity in the group who attended,” Brendan Laracy, an Emmaus House resident, said. “We had people from many different nationalities and ethnicities. Additionally, everyone there had an individual and unique story, which shows the ‘universality’ of Christ’s Church and how ‘He draws all men to Himself’” (John 12: 32).

“There were some very strong themes that were the undercurrent of the entire weekend,” Javier Sanchez, another Emmaus house resident, said. “The most common and most important were: everyone has a vocation to follow Christ, prayer, the Mass and quiet adoration of the Eucharist, are essential in discerning your call, devotion and imitation of the Blessed Mother is paramount in a healthy vocation and, we must respond to the words of John Paul II: ‘Be not afraid.’”

According to Fr. Gabriel, everyone has a role in cultivat-



Submitted photo

KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE—To mark Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Jan. 19), art students at Immaculate Conception High School, Montclair, under the direction of teacher Virginia Hernandez, painted images that were displayed throughout the school. The creative project included student artists (left to right) Nyasia Castenada, Suzanne Ramsahai, Kevin Soriano, Amadi Hayes, Kofi Woananu and Joanna Cueva.

ing vocations in the Church—a point he raised during an interview last year, shortly after becoming the director of vocations (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Aug. 6, 2008). The outreach to inspire vocations involves all members of the faith communi-

ty, he explained. Pastors need to preach about it, parents and family members need to encourage it and the faithful throughout the archdiocese need to pray for it.

“I would love to speak with any man regarding his vocation, to explore what God is calling him

to,” Fr. Gabriel said. He recalled the words of Pope Benedict XVI during his visit to the United States last April: “The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest” (Matthew 9:32-38).

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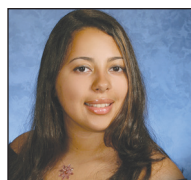
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Ryan was accepted at Cornell, Perdue, Sacred Heart, and Rutgers, Penn State, North Carolina, Wesleyan College. Ryan enrolled at Rutgers University.



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Ivette was accepted at American University, Seton Hall and St. John's. Ivette enrolled at St. John's University.



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Yuliza was accepted at Albright College and Rutgers. Yuliza enrolled at Albright College.

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St. Bartholomew to unveil 'refreshed' church, spirit

SCOTCH PLAINS—Most Rev. Manuel A. Cruz, Regional Bishop of Union County, will celebrate Mass at Saint Bartholomew Parish, 2032 Westfield Ave., on Saturday, Feb. 14, 5 p.m., to bless the renovation of the church.

The church doors will reopen after eight months of renovation work. Those taking part in the dedication will include Catholic and interfaith representatives from around the state. The Mass will feature the Saint Bartholomew ensemble choir and a new pipe organ.

The parish has grown under the spiritual leadership of Father John J. Paladino, who became pastor in May 2005.



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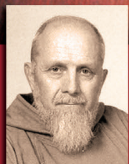
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TABLE FOR EIGHT IN ROME—Priests and seminarians from the Archdiocese of Newark currently living and studying in Rome met recently for the doctoral defense of Father Christopher M. Ciccarino, assistant professor of biblical studies at Immaculate Conception Seminary, Seton Hall University (SHU), South Orange. Fr. Ciccarino was awarded a Doctorate in Sacred Theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University upon the successful defense of his Pauline-based dissertation entitled: "Christ Our Passover Has Been Sacrificed: 1 Cor. 5:7."



Submitted photo

American seminarians and priests live at the Pontifical North American College while pursuing ecclesiastical degrees at various pontifical universities throughout the Eternal City. Pictured in Rome (seated, left to right) are archdiocesan seminarians engaged in theological studies at the Gregorian University—Ray Cho, Nick Bellotti, and Rev. Mr. Roberto Ortiz, who was ordained a transitional deacon in October 2008 at the Basilica of Saint Peter, Vatican City. Also pictured (standing, left to right) is seminarian David Santos; Father Peter Smutlovic, who received a doctorate in canon law from the Pontifical Lateran University this past spring and is presently released from the archdiocese for service to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith; Fr. Ciccarino; Father Mark Francis O'Malley, a doctoral candidate in ecclesiastical history at the Gregorian University; and Father James M. Sheehan, a doctoral candidate in canon law at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross. Missing from group is Father Anthony Figueiredo, S.T.D., formerly assigned to SHU, who works at the Pontifical Council Cor Unum, and Father C. Anthony Ziccardi, SHU vice president for mission and ministry.

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**February and March
2009**

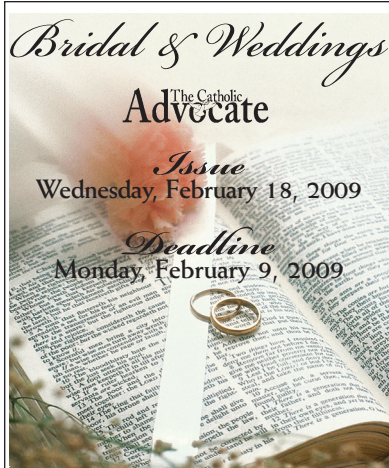
Feed the body—Nourish the soul.

Catch more buyers and diners in our

- ☐ Feb. 18
- ☐ March 11
- ☐ March 25
- ☐ April 8 editions

*Deadline for ad space and copy—
10 days prior to publication.*

Contact Marge McCue at
(973) 497-4201
Fax (973) 497-4192
Email: pearsoma@rcan.org

Bridal & Weddings
The Catholic Advocate
Issue
Wednesday, February 18, 2009
Deadline
Monday, February 9, 2009

It is the most anticipated and well-planned day in the lives of not only the bride and groom but their families and an advertisement in the Bridal and Wedding pages of *The Catholic Advocate*, community newspaper of The Archdiocese of Newark, will reach an audience of over 60,000+ eager to make that special day one to remember.

To place an advertisement that will get noticed and will get results call

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Celebrate & Advertise Your Events for St. Patrick's Day and St. Joseph's Day

Your ad in *The Catholic Advocate* will reach, and be seen by:

- **60,000+ direct mailed households** throughout Bergen, Hudson, Essex and Union counties.
- **224 churches, 33 high schools 97 elementary Schools**

**ISSUE DATE(S):
Feb. 18 and/or
March 11, 2009**



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