



The Catholic Advocate

Catholic Cemeteries



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Community newspaper of the Archdiocese of Newark

February 18, 2009

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Brother Patrick celebrates vocations

Saint Benedict's Prep hosts an "awareness" day gathering that energizes students, guests and staff.

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Lenten recipe to wow your family, friends

A delightful dish: calamari salad over baby greens. Once again, Chef Angelo has outdone himself. Buon appetito!

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Solving financial crisis tops the list

Blair shares wisdom on global challenges

BY WARD MIELE
Managing Editor

Global alliances based on shared values are essential to meet the challenges of the 21st century, the most crucial of which is the worldwide economic freefall, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair declared Feb. 3 at Seton Hall University (SHU), South Orange.

Over 2,000 students, faculty, alumni and guests filled the Walsh Gymnasium on the snowy late afternoon for the John C. Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations' World Leaders Forum.

A resident of London's 10 Downing St. from 1997 through 2007, Blair focused domestically on transforming public education and healthcare while internationally he battled terrorism—primarily in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo and Sierra Leone—while at the same time working for climate change, fighting global poverty and was a lynchpin of the Middle East peace process.

Blair marked his decade as British prime minister by assisting in the Northern Ireland peace process by helping to negotiate the Good Friday Agreement that established a power-sharing government. Today he is a special envoy to the Middle East on behalf of "the Quartet," comprised of the United Nations, the European Union, the United States and Russia.

Last year he established the Tony Blair Foundation that works to promote understanding between the major faiths and the role of faith in the world. After leaving office Blair converted to Catholicism.

The world's three primary challenges, he stressed, are the economy, the environment and security issues. The toughest of that trio, he noted, is the economy. Usually, with a complex topic such as economic policy, a world leader will "call in

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Tony Blair

Submitted photo

FaithQuest to explore byways for 'pilgrims of the Absolute'

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE
Editor

AREA—FaithQuest, a four-week Lenten adult faith-formation program hosted by Saint Aloysius Parish, 219 Bloomfield Ave., Caldwell, will begin Wednesday, March 11, 7:30 p.m. Registration will be held that evening in the school auditorium, which is located behind the church.

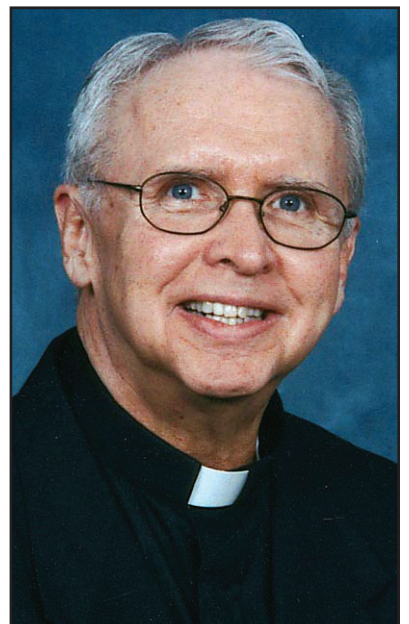
Three topics will be presented in the FaithQuest series: "Prayer and Spirituality"; "Understanding Sacred Scripture"; and "Morality in Today's World." Pre-registration is strongly advised for those planning to attend any or all of the FaithQuest events. Registration cost is \$3 per person per session or \$10 for all four sessions. Sessions will be held on consecutive

Wednesday evenings (March 11, 18, 25 and April 1), 7:30 to 9 p.m. Contact the Saint Aloysius rectory office at (973) 226-0221 for session information or to pick up a registration form.

Now in its third year, FaithQuest is a cooperative community outreach effort among four Essex County parishes: Saint Aloysius; Notre Dame, North Caldwell; Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, Roseland; and Saint Thomas More, Fairfield (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Feb. 6, 2008). It was created from the West Essex Parish Cluster, working with the archdiocesan New Energies project, as a way to connect the four parish communities as well as inspire and enrich adult faith formation.

Msgr. Michael J. Desmond, the

Continued on page 12



Msgr. Michael Desmond

Communicating the good news about marriage

BY FATHER MICHAEL M. WALTERS
Special to The Catholic Advocate

Ministry teams from the Archdiocese of Newark and the Diocese of Paterson have combined to form World Wide Marriage Encounter North Jersey. I have the honor of serving on the ecclesial leadership team with Mike and Eileen Morgan from the Diocese of Paterson.

You don't have to look far these days to find bad news about the state of marriage. It seems that each week newspapers and magazines, television and radio will carry stories about the latest assault on traditional marriage or the latest celebrity divorce. Still, for the vast majority of couples, marriage is a good thing and a holy thing.

During the last 40 years World Wide Marriage Encounter has been telling the world the good news about marriage—not only in the United States, but also in over 80 countries around the world and across the religious landscape. From its beginnings in the Catholic Church, Marriage Encounter has found expression in Protestant and Orthodox churches and among Jewish congregations.

In talking about World Wide Marriage Encounter, many people often ask: "Is that still around?" Yes, it is! Jesuit Father Chuck Gallagher and a small group of committed couples launched Marriage Encounter 40 years ago. Weekend sessions were being held coast to coast and soon the movement spread to Belgium and the U.S. Military overseas. Most Rev. Charles J. McDonnell, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Newark, during his time as a chaplain in the Army, was one of the early pioneers of Marriage Encounter.

Last year 30,700 couples experienced 2,000 World Wide Marriage Encounter weekends throughout the world, including nearly 11,000 couples in the United States. Considering this vast level of interest, World Wide Marriage Encounter is more than "just around"—it is a vibrant presence in the world and a force to help renew the Church.

World Wide Marriage Encounter truly has evolved as an international program that helps to unite people. In Oceania, teams travel by outrigger canoe to present and attend the weekend sessions. In Peru, under threat of martial law, weekends sessions were

held in secret because gatherings of more than four people were illegal. Blacks and whites came together in South Africa during the days of apartheid. Protestants and Catholics went on weekend retreats in Ireland during the period of social unrest known as "the Troubles."

The message of the program is that marriage—the spiritual union of one man and one woman—continues God's plan of creation and leads to a committed lifestyle in which the spouses participate

tion and a time to share responses between the spouses. A married couple and a priest serve as the presenters for each talk. Three couples and a priest make up the team that presents the weekend.

The weekend encounter concludes with a celebration of Mass in which couples and priests renew their vows. Yes—priests also renew their vows as the Marriage Encounter weekend is an opportunity for priests and religious to renew and rekindle their sacramental relationship.

The next MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND
will be held on **MARCH 13-15** at the
Wyndham Garden Hotel, 50 Kenney Place, Saddle Brook
(near the intersection of Interstate Route 80
and the Garden State Parkway).

To register contact Sal and Sylvia Vassallo

Phone: (800) 823-5683 • E-mail: sylvia12@aol.com

in the grace of their sacrament and help each other achieve holiness through sacrificial love for each other.

Communication represents the core philosophy of Marriage Encounter. Couples learn to communicate and share their feelings, which helps to build a stronger relationship by getting to know each other more intimately. It also helps couples to deepen their commitment and avoid the cycle of expectation and disillusionment, which leads to the breakdown of so many marital relationships.

These stressful cycles of marriage never fully disappear—unfortunately, they're part of the human condition—but decisions to love can shorten the cycle and lead to more joy in the relationship.

It is, for many, a new way to communicate and think about relationships. Since its beginning, Marriage Encounter has presented its concepts in the framework of a weekend experience from Friday night to Sunday afternoon at a local retreat center or hotel where couples are introduced gradually to new ideas and are given time to concentrate on each other and their relationship.

For some couples this is the first time since their honeymoon when they have the luxury of devoting time solely to each other. It is also a powerful experience as many say the weekend was a life-changing experience of God's grace.

The weekend format is simple: a series of talks presenting the concept followed by a reflection ques-

economic stress and financial meltdowns, a renewal of your sacrament and an awareness of how much the Lord and His people love you will help you to weather the present crisis.

As a movement, Marriage Encounter is changing to meet new challenges. Realizing that it is sometimes difficult for couples to get away for an entire weekend, the Marriage Encounter Experience was developed. It reworks the weekend concepts into a series of presentations, which take place over the course of a week. This experience takes place in a local parish, which saves hotel costs and eases baby-sitting difficulties, since the parents are not out overnight. It is also enables parishes to respond to the upcoming U.S. Bishops' pastoral letter on marriage, which will ask pastors to provide marriage enrichment programs on a regular basis.

Organizational structures for the program also are changing too. The United States and Canada are beginning the process of merging separate secretariats into a single North American Secretariat. Once the two countries are fully integrated, weekends will be given in English, Spanish, French and Korean.

Leaders from both countries



Father Michael Walters

will come together in July to select the North American Secretariat Ecclesial Team. This team will represent the United States and Canada in the World Council, the global governing body. The World Council, which consists of six secretariats: North America; Latin America; Africa; Asia; Europe; and Oceania, recently met in Vancouver, Canada.

(Editor's note: Father Michael Walters, the former pastor of Holy Spirit/Our Lady Help of Christians Parish in East Orange, last year was appointed the director of the archdiocesan Center for Ministerial Development.)



AAA KICKOFF—Archbishop John J. Myers (center) concelebrated Mass Feb. 8 at Saint Joseph Parish, West Orange, to kick off the 2009 campaign of the Archbishop's Annual Appeal (AAA). Archbishop Myers expressed his gratitude to the Saint Joseph parishioners, who have exceeded their AAA goals during each of the last five years. In his homily, Deacon Joseph A. Dwyer Jr. (right), archdiocesan vice chancellor for administration, praised the Saint Joseph faith community, saying their generosity to the AAA opens doors to assist those in need. Father Richard G. Francesco (left), the pastor of Saint Joseph, welcomed the archbishop to the parish.

Advocate photo — M. Gabriele

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FREQUENCY FOR THE YEAR
The Catholic Advocate continues to be a bi-weekly publication. Publication dates for 2009 are 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.

St. Paul exhorts Christians through Jesus to strive together, offer prayers to God

BY FATHER LAWRENCE E. FRIZZELL
Catholic Advocate Columnist

“Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thess 5:16-18; Rom 12:12).

What was the experience behind this exhortation of Paul the Apostle to the Gentiles? These Greeks has “turned to God from idols, to serve the living and true God and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come” (1 Thess 1:9-10).

During the time of instructing this group of converts who already had heard the Scriptures in the local synagogue, Paul guided them to integrate their understanding of God’s Word into a synthesis focusing on the suffering and resurrection of Jesus (see Acts 17:1-4). They would learn to link prayer to their daily lives in order to present their bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which was their spiritual worship (see Rom12:1).

Did these people realize that the challenge to pray constantly and to make their very lives a sacrifice to God was shared with Jews who frequented the local synagogue? We too might ask: “What did Saul of Tarsus bring to the community of Damascus when he was baptized?”

His faith in Jesus as Messiah and Lord was a response to the revelation of Jesus as the Christ (Gal 1:11-12; Acts 9:1-19). The major task for his early years as a Christian was to relate his considerable learning and his rhythms of prayer into a new synthesis centered on the person and work of Jesus, whom Saul the Pharisee (Phil 3:5) knew to be the risen Lord.

Daily prayer included a formal personal act of faith and love, using the text of Deuteronomy 6:4-9 as its core. Evening and morning Saul prayed: “Listen, Israel: The Lord our God is Lord alone. Therefore, you shall love the LORD with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your strength” (Dt 6:4-5). Thus he took upon himself the yoke of faith and of the commandments in the service of the Kingdom of God.

Because the Temple of Jerusalem was the privileged place of God’s revelation and the unique place for sacrificial worship, Saul oriented himself toward the holy city when praying (see Dan 6:10) and united himself with the Temple sacrifices at the appropriate hours. One point of the Pharisee doctrine was that all Israel was a “kingdom of priests, a holy nation” (Ex 19:6). Members of the laity were exhorted to make each meal a context for prayer of thanksgiving (Dt 8:10) and reflection on God’s Word.

Both space and time are to be consecrated to God, so along with an understanding of sacred place, Saul followed the venerable practice of dedicating the seventh day, the new moon, and the cycle of feasts and fast days to God. He would fast on Mondays and Thursdays, the points half way between the

previous and coming Sabbaths, as an act of self-discipline and a means for preparing for the divine gifts of Sabbath peace.

Prayer is constituted not only by the adoration, thanksgiving, confession of sins and petitions that we offer but as a dialogue. It involves careful listening to God’s Word proclaimed in worship and penetrating human hearts. Silence also must be cultivated so that this Word may penetrate and permeate the lives of all.

In gratitude for the divine gift of life and its benefits, the pious Jew blesses God at specific times and spontaneously as the occasion arises. A century after the time of Jesus, Rabbi Meir declared that everyone should offer a hundred spontaneous blessings each day. No doubt this practice imbued the life of Saul, as it is manifested in his letters. The very mention of God the Father by one of His

titles became an occasion for a blessing (see Rom 1:25; 9:5; 16:25-27). This imitates the doxologies of the psalms, which were an integral part of Saul’s life of prayer, and quoted frequently in his letters.

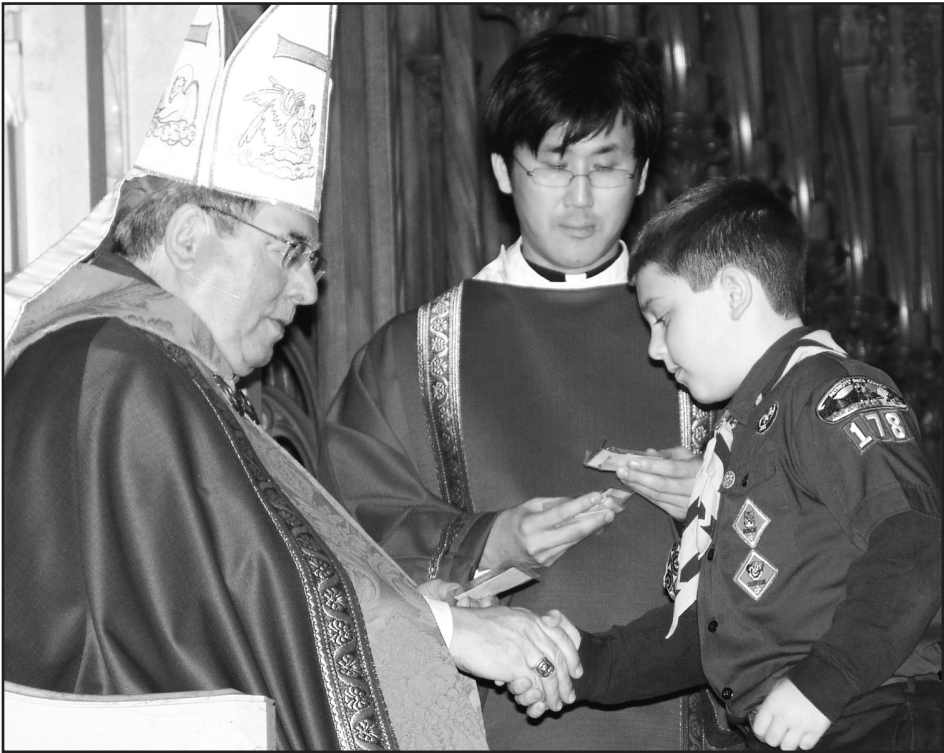
All of these aspects of the Pharisee tradition on prayer lie behind the Apostle’s exhortation to live a life permeated by the Spirit of joy (Gal 5:22), with every breath elevated into an implicit act of gratitude to God and petition for the needs of the faithful and, indeed, all one’s neighbors. This is an aspect of the service that imitates the loving kindness of God toward all creatures. Petitions should be offered in the plural and within the context of thanksgiving for gifts already received.

Continuity with Israel

The faithful of Israelites of every generation were taught through the liturgy to partake in God’s manifold gifts to their ancestors, especially the patriarchs and matriarchs, the generation rescued from slavery in Egypt and those born in the wilderness. People should learn from the good and the bad examples of the past.

“These things happened to them as a warning, but they were written down for our instruction, upon whom the end of the age has come” (1 Cor 10:11). Thus, the Jewish Scriptures were proclaimed in Christian worship and became the basis for homilies and other instructions. Listening attentively to God’s Word, a practice of synagogue worship,

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Advocate photo – Ward Miele

SCOUTING SALUTED—Following his visit to Saint Joseph Parish in West Orange (see photo on page two), Archbishop John J. Myers presided at the annual Catholic Scout Awards service Feb. 8 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark. Archbishop Myers—pictured presenting an award to a Cub Scout—cited the effectiveness of the archdiocesan Scouting program, declaring that those involved are “committed to doing the right thing.” The archbishop also encouraged Scouts and their parents “to be open to the possibility of a Church-related vocation.”

Document to address interfaith marriage

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Father Philip Latronico recalled the unbridled love of a couple he once married. Seemingly driven by destiny, the two had been friends since high school

and life kept bringing them back together.

“No matter what happened, they kept coming back to each other,” he said.

As the executive secretary of

the Archdiocese of Newark’s interreligious and Christian unity offices since 1993 and a leading voice in interfaith dialogue circles, Fr. Latronico has extensive experience in managing the del-

icate situations that an interfaith relationship can present.

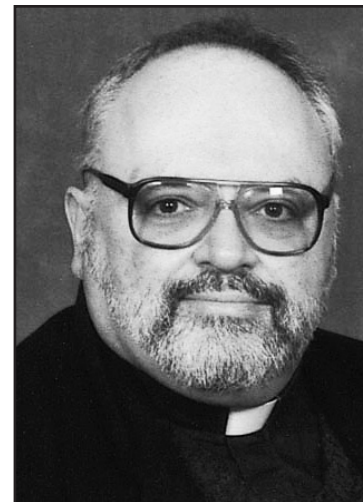
When they were ready for marriage, the groom-to-be came to Fr. Latronico for help and advice: He was Catholic and his fiancée was Muslim. The marriage of a Muslim woman to a non-Muslim man typically is controversial if not illegal in Islam. If a Muslim woman marries a non-Muslim man, her family and the Muslim community must cut ties with her.

In an effort to provide a resource to Catholic and Muslim leaders, marriage preparation personnel and interfaith couples on the subject of interfaith marriages, the Mid-Atlantic Dialogue of Catholics and Muslims has created a document, “Marriage: Catholic and Sunni Muslim Perspectives,” which is scheduled to be published later this year. Sunni Muslims form the largest branch of Islam.

In a diverse, interfaith society such as the United States, interfaith marriages are “something that Muslims are just starting to deal with,” Fr. Latronico said. “Islam is trying to adapt itself to the culture that they are in.” Although the Catholic Church does not keep track of how many Catholic-Muslim marriages there are in the United States, he said the phenomenon is becoming more common.

“The document offers practical information and will help the imam and priest assist people preparing for marriage,” Fr. Latronico said in an interview with *The Catholic Advocate* earlier this month. “It will remove some of the myths of a Muslim and Catholic marriage, and will describe the viability of Muslims and Catholics coming together. It also will talk about the difficulties and constraints and give advice on how to pastorally look at these situations.”

As part of the team preparing the document, Fr. Latronico



Father Philip Latronico

served as a coordinating editor, representing the national Catholic Association of Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers (Web site: www.cadeio.org), working in association with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), Washington D.C.

Father Francis Tiso, associate director of the USCCB’s Secretariat of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, explained some of the problems that can arise in an interfaith marriage. In the Muslim faith, rights of children belong to the husband. If the father is not Muslim, then the children are not Muslim, regardless of the mother’s faith. At the same time, the Catholic Church teaches that parents have the responsibility to raise their children as Catholics.

The interfaith marriage document is unique in that there is not much written in English by Muslims on the subject of marriage, according to Fr. Tiso. The document says both Catholics and Muslims believe marriage is a blessing from God between a man and a woman and that families play a pivotal role in providing an environment in which faith may be nurtured.

“While Catholics and Muslims hold many things differently, they nonetheless agree on many important features of marriage and family life,” the document states.



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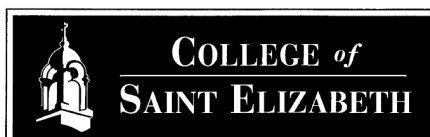
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Two parades—one happy, one sad

One of the benefits of getting older is that we senior citizens look at life more dispassionately than we did in our youth. We can say about a lot of things: “been there, done that.” We are not moved as emotionally or as impressed by important people or big events as we once were.

I watched many of the inauguration events for the new president on Jan. 20. I was also able to see some of the prayer service at the National Cathedral.

I am fully cognizant of the importance of the first African-American president of the United States. I did street preaching in the South in the 1950’s. I watched the civil rights struggle waged by Martin Luther King. I was in Kearny when the riots broke out in Newark. I could see the fires and hear the sirens. I wept over the deaths of King, President John F. Kennedy, and Sen. Bobby Kennedy.

But I am much older now. The ceremonies at last month’s inauguration were, for me, the culmination of all that went on before. It was a celebration that signaled the end of an era and the beginning of a new time in our nation. I was more content and satisfied than joyful. I only wished that so many of my friends of color, Bishop Francis and Mrs. Foreman, for exam-

ple, were here to find the fulfillment of their efforts for justice.

Yet, as I watched, another form of emotion began to trouble my soul. I found myself somewhat uneasy and disturbed. I tried to pinpoint the problem. It finally dawned on me—it was the overwhelming adulation of the crowds for this one man. Human psychology is a study in itself. I had seen this type of throng before.

I am almost convinced that there is something in the human psyche that wants a leader—a king, a monarch, a czar, or an emperor. It is as if people wanted one figure therein they could place all their cares, troubles, and their faith and allegiance.

I saw it when John Kennedy was elected. I witnessed it when Queen Elizabeth (my own contemporary) was crowned in England. Unfortunately, I also saw it in the 1930’s. I sat in a dark movie theatre and watched the Movietone newsreels. I saw a dark figure and hundreds of thousands saluting that person. That event took place in Nuremburg, a city in the German state of Bavaria.

There was an inauguration parade in Washington on Jan. 20 to celebrate the new American president. But two days later there was another parade in Washington—the 36th annual March for Life rally. The participants of that parade included faithful members of the Archdiocese of Newark (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Jan. 7). Unfortunately, few watched as an estimated 100,000 people from around the nation braved the cold to celebrate life itself.

Those who marched on Jan. 22 commemorated the lost lives of more than 50 million aborted babies since the Jan. 22, 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade*. These marchers are not fanatics. They are for God and for life. And just as the inauguration events were filled with almost hysterical joy, the March for Life was tinged with enormous sadness.



CNS photo

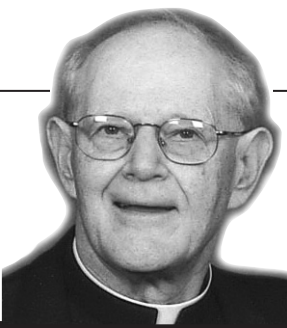
A woman holds a sign during the March for Life rally on the National Mall on Jan. 22, 2009 in Washington. It was the 36th March for Life marking the Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortion.

I am happy that America has overcome prejudice. If only now America would realize that she is destroying her future. I salute you who fight for life. You will be blessed. You are on the right side in the war for civilization.

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

VOICES

By Rev. Msgr. John Gilchrist



Weighing the dangers of premature reconciliation

Given the unique status of the Holocaust as an icon of evil in a morally confused world, Holocaust-denial triggers revulsions similar to those triggered by blasphemy in the Middle Ages: the Holocaust-denier must be shunned for everyone else’s moral health.

Thus it was completely understandable that, when Pope Benedict XVI lifted the excommunications of four bishops illegally ordained in 1988 by the late French Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, reporting and commentary focused on the fact that one of the four, Richard Williamson, is a Holocaust-denier and a man given to extolling that hoary anti-Semitic forgery, “The Protocols of the Elders of Zion.”

Understandable, but something of freakish sideshow, for Williamson is an internationally known crank and no serious person can believe that Benedict XVI’s act constituted an endorsement of Williamson’s lunatic view of history. As the pope made clear at his Jan. 28 general audience, he has long recognized the Holocaust as a unique icon of wickedness—one that should call all of us “to reflect on the unpredictable power of evil when it conquers the heart of man.”

For Catholics, condemning Holocaust-denial is a moral imperative rooted in the conviction that anti-Semitism (of which Holocaust-denial is a pseudo-sophisticated form) is a sin against the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Jesus—a God who keeps his promises, both to the people of Israel and to the people of the Church.

That conviction leads readily to another conviction: that God preserves the Church from fundamental error in essential truths. And that, not questions of liturgical taste, is what is really at issue with Lefebvrists: Were the Second

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

By George Weigel



Vatican Council’s teachings on the nature of the Church, on Church-state theory, and on the sin of anti-Semitism in continuity with the great tradition of Catholic faith? Or did they represent a rupture and a breach of faith?

The interpretation of Vatican II among Catholic “progressives” has long stressed that Vatican II was a council of radical change: a new beginning that, in effect, created a new Church. On this understanding, the council broke with hundreds of years of Catholic history by mandating an open dialogue with secular modernity.

In an odd mirror image, the Catholic far right—embodied by Lefebvrists, among others—agrees, except that, in this instance, rupture means betrayal. Marcel Lefebvre was shaped in part by currents in French public culture that helped produce the Vichy regime during World War II. To a mind formed in that cauldron of resentments, prejudices and dreams of an ancient regime restored, it seemed self-evidently clear that the council made a fatal bargain with

modernity, thereby emptying Catholicism of its content while eviscerating the distinctive Catholic way of life.

For the past three decades, by contrast, Joseph Ratzinger has argued vigorously in defense of Vatican II as an authentic expression of Catholic faith that must be interpreted in continuity with the Church’s tradition. For Ratzinger, Vatican II was a council of development: its teaching teased new meanings out of ancient tradition, but it in no way involved a rupture with the past. How could it, if God keeps his promise to preserve the Church in essential truths?

The council’s continuity with the great tradition of Catholic faith is what Archbishop Lefebvre and his movement have long denied. And while some may sympathize with the Lefebvrists’ commitment to dignified worship, few, I suspect, will want to defend the Lefebvrist claim that the council taught falsely when it defined religious freedom as a fundamental human right.

Thus if Benedict XVI’s attempt to reconcile dissidents on the far starboard edge of world Catholicism is to contribute to the Church’s unity, his gestures of reconciliation must be met from the Lefebvrist side by a clear rejection of the rupture theory of Vatican II. That means an unambiguous acknowledgment from the Lefebvrist bishops that the council taught the truth of Catholic faith in affirming religious freedom and condemning anti-Semitism.

Until that happens, the absurd Lefebvrist claim that their movement is “the tradition” (most recently made by the leading Lefebvrist Bishop Bernard Fellay) will remain an insuperable obstacle to the restoration of full communion.

(George Weigel is Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.)

February 18

HOLY FAMILY PARISH, Nutley, St. Lucy Filippini Sodality meeting, 8 p.m., call Jo-Ann Brown at (973) 667-2633.

February 19

OUR LADY OF GRACE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, Fairview, Walk-A-Thon, proceeds benefit student Massimo Phillipy who is battling Adrenoleukodystrophy (ALD), (201) 945-8300.

February 21

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH, Hillsdale, dance lessons/social for young adults, following 5 p.m. Mass, (201) 664-3131.

ASCENSION PARISH, New Milford, Mardi Gras beefsteak/ karaoke night, 7:30-11:30 p.m., cost: \$27, call Peggy at (201) 384-0371.

February 22

NEW JERSEY BLOOD SERVICES, blood drive at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Mountainside, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., call Marie Forrestal at (732) 616-0798.

MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS PARISH, Wallington, "Sweet Sunday," 2-6 p.m., cost: \$5 in advance/\$6 at the door, call Ginny at (201) 804-3995.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH, Mountainside, Inclusive Family Mass, 1:30 p.m., (908) 232-1162.

OUR LADY OF SORROWS PARISH, South Orange, "Perspectives on Heart Maintenance" with free blood pressure screenings, 9 a.m., call Frank Franzonia at (973) 378-9039.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH, Montclair, Concert of Sacred Music, 4 p.m., free.

February 23

BERGEN COUNTY FEDERATION OF HOLY NAME SOCIETIES, quarterly convention at St. Anne Parish in Fair Lawn, following 7 p.m. Mass, (201) 791-1616.

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

ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA PARISH, Little Ferry, bereavement support group, for six consecutive weeks of Lent, 7:45 p.m., RSVP by Feb. 20, call Helen at (973) 471-5473.

February 24

ST. ANNE SCHOOL, Fair Lawn, registration for Pre-K through Grade 8, 9-11 a.m., (201) 796-3353.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 3428, North Arlington, Shrove Tuesday (Mardi Gras) celebration, 6:30 p.m., cost: \$11 for adults/\$9 for seniors/\$5 for children, advanced sales only, (201) 991-9606.

February 25

CARMEL RETREAT, Mahwah, Ash

Wednesday Day of Reflection, Presentation, Reconciliation, Eucharist and lunch, 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., cost: \$35, (201) 327-7090.

February 27

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 3428, North Arlington, "Pound Party" auction, 7 p.m., call Dolores at (201) 998-7640.

FRANCISCAN FRIARS RETREAT HOUSE, Newton, Lenten retreat "Seek the Lord," call Father Thomas Kelly, O.F.M. at (973) 985-9736.

February 28

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SEMINARY, South Orange, Great Spiritual Book of the Semester Club meeting, 1:30-4:30 p.m., cost: \$15, call Debbie Kurus at (973) 313-6329.

LUMEN CENTER, Caldwell, "Getting Closer to Your Dreams," 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., cost: \$35, (973) 403-3331 ext. 25.

Correction

The Jan. 21 edition of *The Catholic Advocate* incorrectly stated in a photo caption about the annual Christmas Pageant at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Washington Township that the pastor, Msgr. Thomas McCarthy was going to celebrate the 40th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. In fact, it will be the 50th anniversary of his ordination.

CHRIST THE KING PARISH, Jersey City, community food pantry fundraiser dance, 7 p.m. - 12 a.m., cost: \$20, (973) 923-3453.

March 1

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH, Bergenfield, Inclusive Family Mass, 1:30 p.m., call Rosemarie Flood at (201) 384-3601.

March 4

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH, Union, Holy Hour for Life, 7:30-8:30 p.m., (908) 964-7653.

March 6

MOTHER SETON REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, Clark, "Garden Party" gift basket auction, 6 p.m., cost: \$10 in advance/ \$12 at the door, (732) 382-1952.

March 7

ARCHDIOCESAN CENTER, Newark, workshop introducing "Bread for the World's Offering of Letters" campaign for Foreign Aid reform, 8:45 a.m.- 12:30 p.m., (973) 497-4341.

OUR LADY OF VISITATION PARISH, Paramus and Saint Philip Parish, Clifton, (open to residents of the Archdiocese of Newark) bus ride to Divine Mercy Con-

ference in New York. Bus fee \$10, conference fee \$50. To reserve a seat call Martia or Ann at (201) 384-9110 and Rey Evangelista at (973) 778-4754 or Edna at (201) 998-7083 respectively.

FELICIAN COLLEGE, Lodi, Magic Moments dinner and auction, at The Royal Manor in Garfield, 5 p.m., cost: \$75 per person, advanced sales only, RSVP by Feb. 25, (201) 355-1308.

March 8

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHAPEL, North Bergen, "Jesus the Healer... A Living Meditation on Healing," 5:30 p.m.

March 11

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH, Oakland, Not in Limbo Singles Network meeting, at Knights of Columbus Council 5846 Hall, 7 p.m., call Phil Brady at (201) 337-7596 ext. 15.

March 14

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH, Bergenfield, New Energies Tri-Parish Irish Dinner Dance, 7:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m., advanced sales only, RSVP by March 9, call Bernadette McCabe at (201) 384-4579.

Forum to ponder forgiveness

WASHINGTON TWP—Former New York City Det. Sgt. Stephen McDonald, paralyzed when shot in the line of duty, will speak on "Faith and Forgiveness" on Wednesday, March 4, 7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish. The presentation is open to the public.

A good-will offering will be accepted. Proceeds will be donated to a project that takes handicapped, mentally challenged and crippled teenagers and young adults to the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in France.

For additional information or directions call (201) 664-1679.

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Tickets are \$15.00 and must
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Take out is also available.
Call (201) 437-4090.

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

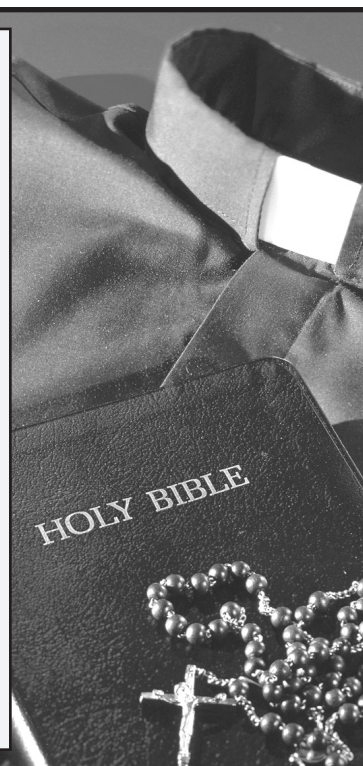
**Have you considered following
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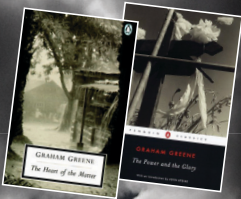
Submitted photo

CELEBRATING VOCATIONS—Saint Benedict’s Prep School, Newark, hosted “Vocation Awareness Day” on Jan. 27, an event sponsored by the Benedictine Abbey of Newark’s Vocation Office. The assembly included 550 students, monks, lay faculty and staff. Father Juniper Mary Sistare, C.F.R., (left) and Brother Juanmaria Arroyo Acevedo, C.F.R. (right), members of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, served as the featured guest speakers. The two are pictured with Brother Patrick Winbush, O.S.B., director of vocations for the Benedictine Abbey. Presentations by the friars energized the students, asking them to consider a vocation to the priesthood and religious life. Sister Margaret Thomas McGovern, O.P., archdiocesan delegate for religious, and Father Pedro Bismarck Chau, parochial vicar, Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish, Garfield, were among the honored guests at the event. Following the assembly there was a special reception that featured the “Fishers of Men” vocation discernment group. The Fishers of Men vocation program, which currently has over 20 members, was launched in September 2007 with four students. Those seeking more information on vocations can contact Brother Patrick by phone (973) 792-5772 or via e-mail (pwinbush@sbp.org).

The Institute for Christian Spirituality at Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology *invites you to its next*

Great Spiritual Book of the Semester Club Meeting
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Insights on Grace and the Soul in
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Saturday, February 28, 2009 • 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Immaculate Conception Seminary, School of Theology, Seton Hall University

Featuring:

Reverend Ian Boyd, *President of the Chesterton Institute, Seton Hall University*

Dermot Quinn, *Professor of History and Director of the Chesterton Institute, Seton Hall University*

Gregory Glazov, *Associate Professor of Biblical Studies and Coordinator of the Great Spiritual Books Program, Seton Hall University*

Archbishop’s reception to laud Shinn, Brennan

WEST ORANGE—The 16th annual Archbishop’s Business and Labor Recognition reception, which will be held Tuesday, March 3, 5:30 p.m., at Mayfair Farms, 481 Eagle Rock Ave., will honor Laurel Brennan, secretary/treasurer of the NJ State AFL-CIO, Trenton, and Timothy H. Shinn, president and chief executive officer of United Crane Rentals Inc., Kenilworth.

Tickets are priced at \$200 per person and \$1,800 to reserve a table for 10 people. Contact Gerry Ricci-Menegolla at the Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center, Kearny, at (201) 998-0088, ext. 4154, for reservations.



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The Most Reverend Ignatius Catanello
Auxiliary Bishop for the Diocese of Brooklyn



Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC
Director of Association of Marian Helpers

OTHER SPEAKERS:

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Pastor, Author

Ralph Martin
President of Renewal Ministries

Fr. Frank Pavone, MEV
National Director of Priests for Life

Brother Jason Lewis, MIC
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Melissa Lucanie
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Readers, writers pause, reflect

February is Catholic Press Month. It is a time to shine a spotlight on the accomplishments, ministry, challenges and responsibility of such a vital segment of professional journalism.

The Catholic press is not its secular counterpart; never has been, never will be. Both have different definitions and perspectives of what is “news” in the Catholic Church.

In the pages of *The Catholic Advocate* we work to let readers know how Christ’s mission is being carried out in the worldwide Church and the Archdiocese of Newark. Not surprisingly, often the two intersect.

The Catholic press works diligently to inform its readers about how their neighbors across town or halfway around the world are living out their Catholic Faith every day in small ways and sometimes on a grand scale. It is news to Catholics when a new pastor is assigned to their parish, what is being accomplished in Catholic education and, as happened last spring, when the pope visits the area. The Catholic press

wants the faithful to take joy in celebrating their faith.

The secular press has its own important role and mission. Secular publications occasionally carry stories that parallel what the Catholic press strives to do, but too often it is the negative news that gets the banner headlines and sensationalized treatment.

That said, however, what the Catholic and secular press do have in common is the real threat to the printed word in these uncertain economic times. Catholic publications cannot and should not become a victim of budget cutting.

If you are a paid subscriber of *The Catholic Advocate*, we thank you for your business and your interest in our publication. To potential readers in Bergen, Essex, Hudson and Union counties, we ask that you consider becoming a paid subscriber to help us continue our editorial mission. *The Catholic Advocate* is truly appreciative of its readers. We are the community newspaper for the Archdiocese of Newark.

Catholic Press Month is a time for writers, advertisers and readers to pause and reflect. During February, Catholic journalists can look back at what they have done and commit themselves to do better. At its best, the Catholic media informs and inspires.

The Living Church

Continued from page 3

was integral to all Christian communities. So gentiles were introduced to the entire “Old Testament”; evidence of this is found throughout Paul’s letters in which the Books of Moses, Prophets and Psalms are quoted frequently.

Prayer is constituted not only by the adoration, thanksgiving, confession of sins and petitions that we offer but as a dialogue. It involves careful listening to God’s Word proclaimed in worship and penetrating human hearts. Silence also must be cultivated so that this Word may penetrate and permeate the lives of all.

Newness of the Gospel

The Christian of gentile background learned that through the death and resurrection of Jesus and in Baptism he or she was united with Christ, becoming an adopted child of God and child of Abraham (Gal 3:26-29). The key to this understanding of the sacraments is found in the celebration of Passover.

Over the centuries the father would proclaim to his children: “This is because of what the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt” (Ex 13:8). The lamb and other ingredients of the Passover meal reminded the people of the drama of the Exodus, but this was more than a mere recollection.

As a sacrificial victim the lamb was linked to the Temple service and became the memorial, which represented the result of God’s intervention on Israel’s behalf. The event itself was bound by a specific time and place, but the divine attributes, God’s wisdom and power, goodness and mercy, transcend the limits of this world and touch every generation of believers. Thus the faithful of each generation were assured of God’s care in their own time and prepared for an act of hope in the final triumph of God over evil.

This memorial, activating the divine gifts on behalf of those open to God, was experienced in a new way at the Last Supper, when Jesus anticipated His sacrificial death through the transformed gifts of bread and wine. Paul expressed the faith of the Church when he declared: “Christ, our Pasch has been sacrificed” (1 Cor 5:7) and when he reminded the Corinthian Christians that Jesus has commanded his followers: “Do this in memory of me!” (1 Cor 11:23-27). Although Paul did not use the term “transubstantiation,” the Eucharist is declared to be the Body and Blood of the Lord (11:27-32), expressing the faith of the Church.

To the dismay of some other disciples of Jesus, Paul taught that non-Jews could become members of the sacred convocation (Ekklesia) by the Baptism alone. He did not require that males be circumcised, but taught that converts

from Judaism and from the nations should “live in such harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus; that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom 15:5-6).

Part of the Orthodox Jewish man’s morning prayer is an act of thanksgiving that God has not made him a pagan (goy), a slave or a woman. The rabbis interpret this prayer to mean that the great privilege of keeping the commandments is the prerogative of the Jewish adult man; in freedom he can keep all the positive commandments, as the woman is exempt from those with a specific time and place as part of the requirement. Paul may have referred to this



Advocate photo – M. Gabriele
Stained glass window at Saint Paul Parish, Ramsey, depicts Saint Paul—bound in chains—offering prayers to God.

prayer when he described the baptized Christian as being clothed in Christ, so that there is “neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Gal 3:27-28).

Through Baptism Christians are united in their service of God the Father, yet as adults they will find a particular calling and mission as members of the mystical Body of Christ (1 Cor 12:12-31). The gifts bestowed for this varie-

gated ministry in extending the work of Jesus have a unifying bond through the presence of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 12:4-18), who guides the prayer of Christians so that this intimacy with God the Father through union with Jesus leads to a life of service.

Christians proclaim that God the Father raised Jesus from the dead (Rom 4:24-25). Through Him as risen Lord God the Father’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit (Rom 5:5). As children of God, “we cry ‘Abba, Father!’ It is the Spirit himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God...” (Rom 8:14-17). Throughout this life we are progressing, perhaps slowly at times, into the service of God. To uplift us, especially in time of dire need, “the Spirit helps us in our weakness... interceding for us with sighs too deep for words” (Rom 8:26).

Just as Jesus taught the disciples to unite in prayer to God the Father, Paul exhorted the Christians of Rome, (and all down through the ages) “by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Holy Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God...” (Rom 15:30).

During the years of his ministry Paul endured many hardships (see 2 Cor 11:16-23), always confident that God protected him, but ready to offer his life as a libation in the imitation of Jesus’ fidelity until death. There were enemies among Jews and within the Church, but the most dramatic confrontations were with the powers of evil in the cosmic order (see Eph 6:10-17). The dangers were insidious, but the Word of God provided the means to achieve victory.

From the experience of the risen Lord on the road to Damascus and throughout his life, Paul’s prayer included revelations that consoled and challenged him. As he struggled with a physical ailment, perhaps an eye affliction, Paul called for relief in an intense prayer. The response drew Paul to the mystery of the Cross. “He said to me: ‘My grace is enough for you, for in weakness power reaches perfection’” (2 Cor 12:7-10). Thus he learned how much he had to suffer for the Name of Jesus (see Act 9:16).

From Paul’s life and writings we can learn much about the Christian meaning of prayer, rooted deeply in the life of Israel. The highest forms of prayer flow from the sacraments, drawing upon the Paschal Mystery of Jesus’ death and resurrection.

Christians should celebrate the wonders of God’s goodness and mercy in a variety of settings (see 1 Cor 14:1-40), but they should also ask for the insight that opens to them the way to exercise their mission in the Church and to accept the mystery of suffering in their lives (see Rom 8:17). They should give thanks in all circumstances, because “in all this we are more than conquerors because of him who has loved us” (Rom 8:37).

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

Collections to celebrate and support retired priests

BY JAMES GOODNESS
Director of Communications

NEWARK—On Ash Wednesday (Feb. 25), as the worldwide Church marks the beginning of Lent, or in the weeks immediately afterward, parishes in the archdiocese will again take a special collection to benefit the Retired Priests' Pension Fund.

Today, some 200 of the more than 700 archdiocesan clergy are retired from active ministry. Although they no longer have regular parish assignments, the vast majority of retired priests continue to minister in some way to the people in the state, and we are all grateful for their contribution to the life of the Church.

For example, retired priests celebrate Mass on week-ends in parishes, temporarily replace priests who are on vacation or ill and visit the sick in hospitals and nursing homes.

Like so many of our state's senior citizens, retired priests receive a small monthly pension income to help them meet their needs now that they no longer regularly serve in parishes. In the past 10 years, the number of retired priests has grown considerably, a trend that is expected to continue in the years ahead.

While the Archdiocesan Priests' Pension Fund is stable and does provide adequately for the current commitment of the archdiocese, parishioner support of this special collection will help ensure that the arch-

diocese can maintain its long-term commitment—not only to current retired priests but also into the future for all priests now serving in regular assignments. In 2008, the parishioners contributed some \$417,000 to special Retired Priests' Pension Fund collection.

As we mark the start of our Lenten journey this year, a time of both reflection and anticipation, let us reflect on those good priests who have walked with us through the years on previous Lenten journeys. Their service to the Church and her people has given us all comfort and support that can never be forgotten. Through a contribution to the Retired Priests' Pension Fund, we can say a very strong "thank you" and ensure that they will receive the comfort and support that they deserve.

Official Appointments

Archbishop John J. Myers has announced the following appointments:



ARCHDIOCESAN/ AGENCY MINISTRY

Reverend Monsignor William J. Reilly, pastor of Most Holy Name Parish, Garfield, has been re-appointed coordinator of multicultural and ethnic affairs for another five-year term, ending Jan. 1, 2014.

PASTOR

Reverend Richard J. Kelly, pastor of Saint Aloysius Parish, Jersey City, has been appointed pastor of Our Lady Mother of the Church Parish, Woodcliff Lake, effective Feb. 1.

Reverend Joseph A. D'Amico, pastor of Saint Leo Parish, Elmwood Park, has been appointed pastor of Saint Aloysius Parish, Jersey City, effective March 1.

PAROCHIAL VICAR

Reverend Camilo L. Lopez has been appointed parochial vicar of Assumption Parish, Emerson, effective Jan. 21.

Reverend Thomas D. Nicastro, Jr. has been appointed parochial vicar of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Bayonne, effective Feb. 4.

PASTORAL ADMINISTRATOR

Reverend Salvatore DiStefano, parochial vicar of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Kearny, has also been appointed pastoral administrator of the newly formed Mater Dei Academy, Kearny, effective Feb. 15.

RELEASE

Reverend Siffredus Rwechungura has been granted an extension of another three-year term for continued pastoral ministry in the Archdiocese of Dar es Salaam, ending Dec. 1, 2011.

Irish eyes to smile in Bergen County

AREA—The Washington Township Knights of Columbus and Immaculate Conception Parish in Mahwah have scheduled separate events to celebrate the spirit of Saint Patrick's Day.

The Knights' Council 5427 will hold a dinner/dance Friday, March 13, 7 to 11 p.m., at the council hall, located at 79 Pascack Rd.

The event will feature corned beef and cabbage and the McLaughlin Irish-American Dancers. Advance reservations are required and tickets, which must be purchased by March 6, are \$35 per person.

Call (201) 664-0422 for details.

The Immaculate Conception Parish dinner/dance is slated for Saturday, March 7 at 900 Darlington Ave., Mahwah. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with entertainment to start at 7 p.m.

Featured performers include The West Milford Pipe Band. Dinner will be a "market basket" Irish buffet. Tickets are priced at \$45 per person. Call (201) 327-1276 or (201) 825-3251 to make reservations.

Tuesday, March 17, is the actual date to mark Saint Patrick's Day.

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Chilled Italian Calamari Salad over Mixed Baby Greens

Recipe By: Chef Angelo Basilone
Serving Size: 8 • Preparation Time: 20 minutes

Amount	Ingredient	Preparation Method
2 1/2 pounds	calamari	
1 cup	extra virgin olive oil	
1 cup	white wine vinegar	
1/2 each	red onion	dice fine
2 cloves	garlic	minced
2 ounces	celery	dice fine
1 each	red bell pepper	dice fine
2 ounces	calamata olives	pitted
2 ounces	sun-dried tomatoes	julienned
each	lemon	juice of
1 teaspoon	capers	rinsed and drained
1 tablespoon	extra virgin olive oil	
	salt and pepper	to taste
	baby mixed greens	

Slice Calamari into rings about a 1/4 inch wide and place into a small sauce pot. Cover calamari with olive oil and white wine vinegar; bring to a boil and simmer for 8 minutes. Remove from heat, drain and chill, reserving the liquid.

Gather all of the remaining ingredients, except baby salad greens, and place into a bowl, take 4 ounces of the poaching liquid and toss with the remaining ingredients, add the chilled cooked calamari, toss together. Serve over a bed of mixed baby salad greens or by itself.



Inward pilgrimage of conversion into well of truth

BY FATHER ALBERT HOLTZ
Special to The Catholic Advocate

Many Catholics see Lent almost entirely in terms of penance and “giving things up.” Unfortunately, this negative view misses other deeper and perhaps more life-giving aspects of the holy season. Originally Lent was a period during which the catechumens (candidates for Christian initiation) prepared for their Baptism, which would take place during the Easter vigil.

Before long, however, even baptized Christians began observing Lent and it became the Church’s official season of preparation for Easter: 40 days of prayer, introspection, almsgiving, self-denial and the exercise of virtue.

It was only during the Middle Ages, when popular Christian piety began to concentrate solely on the sufferings of Christ, that the original wide variety of Lenten practices was reduced to the single dimension of penance, self-denial, fasting, and abstinence.

Where can we turn to find some help in regaining the former richness of Lenten observances? One place is Saint Benedict’s *Nursia’s Rule for Monks*, which

was written in the sixth century, when the observance of Lent was still marked by a wide variety of purposes and practices.

Benedict writes: “... we urge the entire community during these days of Lent to keep its manner of life most pure and to wash away in this holy season the negligences of other times. This we can do in a fitting manner by refusing to indulge evil habits and by devoting ourselves to prayer with tears, to reading, to compunction of heart and self-denial. During these days, therefore, we will add to the usual measure of our service something by way of private prayer and abstinence from food or drink, so that each of us will have something above the assigned measure to offer God of his own will with the joy of the Holy Spirit.”

He also directs that during Lent each monk be given a book to read and that more time be allotted for reading. For Benedict, then, Lent is an opportunity to “add to the usual measure of our service” not just by bodily mortification, but more importantly by drawing closer to God in prayer and holy reading, by trying to root out bad habits, and by practicing virtues.

Fond of the metaphor of life as a journey, Benedict certainly would approve of the image of a



Father Albert Holtz

“Lenten journey,” an inward pilgrimage of conversion into the innermost truth about ourselves, meeting on the way all of our brokenness and imperfections and finding at our center the Risen Lord. The traditional Lenten disciplines of self-denial and mortification are useful only as they help us on this inward journey.

The journey metaphor became very real for me some years ago. I went on an 11-month sabbatical trip through Europe and South America, a trip that turned out to be an inward journey as well. I later wrote about this experience in a book called *Pilgrim Road: a*

Benedictine Journey through Lent (Morehouse Publishing, 2006), in which I invite the reader to accompany me on both the outward and the inner journeys in a series of 40 reflections, one for each day of Lent. The following is an abbreviated chapter, set in the world’s highest capital city.

La Paz, Bolivia, sits in a bowl-shaped valley 12,000 feet up in the Andes Mountains. Hundreds of tiny brick houses climb the steep slopes like a tattered blanket of brown ivy. Iris, our private guide, is escorting three of us on an afternoon tour of the city. With me are a young Chilean couple, Carlos and Elena. We’ve left our hired taxi for a few minutes to stroll up a cobblestone street called “el Mercado de las Brujas” (“the Witches’ Market”).

The street is lined with little shops and sidewalk stalls displaying love potions, magic charms, animal skins, medicines and folk remedies. Iris explains that all of these have been used for centuries in Aymara, the native Andean culture. Women in bright-colored ankle-length skirts and tiny bowler hats stand watch over their wares as potential customers and foreign tourists file past.

“What are those?” asks Elena,

as she holds tightly onto Carlos’ arm and points at some odd-looking dried up objects in a cardboard box.

“Those are dried frogs,” answers Iris. “They’re supposed to be good for attracting money.”

As we continue along the unbroken row of stalls and shops, we wander over to a sidewalk display that is being tended by an old woman with a wide, toothless smile. She boasts about the powers of her toad talismans, owl feathers and stone amulets. Then she shows us her different colored candles: the blue one brings good luck at work, the yellow promises health, the green one money and the purple one happiness.

I sneak a quick peek through the open door of her shadowy shop and see a dusty stuffed armadillo resting on a shelf beside a random collection of dozens of old liquor bottles containing murky, odd-colored liquids.

Suddenly I begin to feel uneasy. I start to see the quaint, colorful scene in a different light—all these talismans and candles and spells are human attempts to control the spiritual powers that affect our lives. We Christians try to leave ourselves as vulnerable as possible to God, and ask the Lord

Continued on page 11

Pilgrimage

Continued from page 10

to guard and support us every day, especially on days when events are beyond our own control or understanding. Many monastic practices, in fact, such as the common ownership of goods and our frugal lifestyle, are meant precisely to help us monks put our lives more completely in the Lord's hands.

In the Mercado de las Brujas, on the other hand, you try to do exactly the opposite: you hope to gain the upper hand over the great mysterious powers of the universe and make them subject to you.

There is nothing here that gives your life a deeper meaning, nothing that challenges you to become more fully human, nothing that calls you to self-sacrificing generosity toward your neighbor.

"¡Aquí estamos!" (Here we are!") Iris announces. We've come to the other end of the street, where our car and driver are waiting for us. We climb in and the old Ford taxi lurches ferociously into the traffic, its horn blaring. We barely miss an old woman bent under a giant bundle of weird black leaves. When she turns her head slowly and skewers our driver with an ominous stare, it crosses my mind that if we had hit her, it would probably have meant months of very bad luck for all of us.

Perhaps you could take some time this Lent to stroll into your own personal "witches' market" and take a careful inventory of the things you tend to rely on when God is not enough, or when God is not answering as quickly as you might like. Choose a couple of things or behaviors that you could get rid of by simply fasting from them during this Lent.

Let us set out together on our Lenten journey with this ancient blessing that was prayed over medieval pilgrims as they set out on the road to the famous shrine of Santiago de Compostela:

"O God, you who were the guide of the Hebrew people through the desert, we ask you to protect these your servants. Be for them a companion on the march, a guide at the crossroads; give them strength when they are weak, defense in the midst of danger, shelter along the route, shade from the sun, light in the darkness, solace in moments of discouragement and firmness in their purpose. May the blessing of God the All-Powerful, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, descend upon you. Amen."

(Editors note: Father Albert Holtz, O.S.B., is a Benedictine monk of Newark Abbey, where he is novice master and religion in-

structor in the monastery's school, Saint Benedict's Prep. He is the author of five books of meditations, including *From Holidays to Holy Days: a Benedictine Walk through Advent* (Morehouse Publishing, 2008), and *Street Wisdom: Connecting with God in Everyday Life* (Twenty-Third Publications, 2003).

Career workshop to gather at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

RIDGEWOOD—The employment workshop sponsored by the Career Resources Ministry of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, will be held Sunday, March 8, noon, in the lower church, which is located at 1 Passaic St. "Define Your Target Market" is the topic for this meeting.

The monthly workshop series, free and open to the public, is for those seeking employment or anticipating the possibility of losing their job (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Nov. 12, 2008). Members of the parish's Career Resources Ministry—professionals in their respective fields—provide information on how to find a job or explore a new field of employment.

Those planning to attend should bring their most recent resume. Call Carol Shea at (201) 447-4215 for more information on the career ministry.

Sacred Heart to offer 'information'

LYNDHURST—Sacred Heart School will host "Information Night" on Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 7 p.m. to introduce families to its K-8 academic programs.

The program will begin with an overview by Principal Margaret

Smiriga. Attendees will also meet teachers, alumni, students and parents. Key topics will include the curriculum for each grade, as well as extracurricular activities. Sacred Heart School features a full-day kindergarten.

Last year students scored in the top 20 percent on national standardized tests, an accomplishment that exceeds area public schools and the national average for Catholic schools.

The curriculum features advanced offerings in computers, mathematics and world language instruction starting in kindergarten. Sacred Heart School offers a state-of-the-art computer lab with laptops and interactive Whiteboards. The school's spiritual life curriculum emphasizes moral values that build character through daily classroom instruc-

tion and participation in projects that benefit the local and world communities. For its efforts, Sacred Heart School was recently named the kindest school in New Jersey by Mission Kindness International.

Students can take part in more than 20 extracurricular activities. Before- and after-school care is available for students in all grades. To help families manage tuition, Sacred Heart School offers a flexible payment program and tuition discounts for enrolled siblings. The school typically enrolls students from Lyndhurst and surrounding areas, including Rutherford, North Arlington, Kearny, Harrison, Belleville, Nutley and Clifton. Visit the school's Web site (www.sacredheartlynd.org) or call the school at (201) 939-4277 to register for the Feb. 24 forum.



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FaithQuest

Continued from page 1
pastor of Saint Aloysius, said the FaithQuest topics are designed to address current spiritual needs and

concerns of Catholics. "During the last two years we saw great enthusiasm among the people in the four parishes for this Lenten series," Msgr. Desmond said. "Everyone is welcome to attend."
His presentation on March 11

("Ascending the Mountain... Many Ways to God") will discuss the different routes and spiritualities that enable Catholics to find God in their lives.

"There are as many paths to spirituality as there are people in the world, but we are all pilgrims of the Absolute," Msgr. Desmond said. "There are different traditions in the Catholic faith, such as Jesuit and Carmelite. I will be offering reflections on the many ways that Catholics find God in their lives."

Edward Karpinski, religious education director for Saint Aloysius, serves as one of the central coordination team leaders for FaithQuest. Karpinski said that, based on feedback during the last two years, people in the West Essex region have identified a strong interest and a need for on-going faith-formation programs.

"We spend a great deal of time, effort and resources on the faith formation of our children and teenagers, but we often forget that adults also need a faith-formation process," Karpinski said.

A central coordination team, composed of members from each of the four parishes, has created the FaithQuest agenda, selected speakers and topics, and will coordinate overall logistics of the presentations during the four-week period. Catechists will receive 1.5 certification credits for attending the sessions.

The "Prayer and Spirituality" sessions will include the topics: "Ascending the Mountain—Many Ways to God" on March 11; "New Sunday Liturgy—The Reform of the Reform?" on March 18;

"The Spirituality of Letter Writing" on March 25; and "In God's Hands—The Spirituality of Edith Stein" on April 1.

"Understanding Sacred Scripture" sessions will explore the letters of Saint Paul during this, the Year of Saint Paul. The schedule includes "Saint Paul, a Complicated Man and his Mission" on March 11; "1 Corinthians, the Body of Christ" on March 18; "Saint Paul—Cross and Resurrection" on March 25; and "Saint Paul and Women" on April 1.

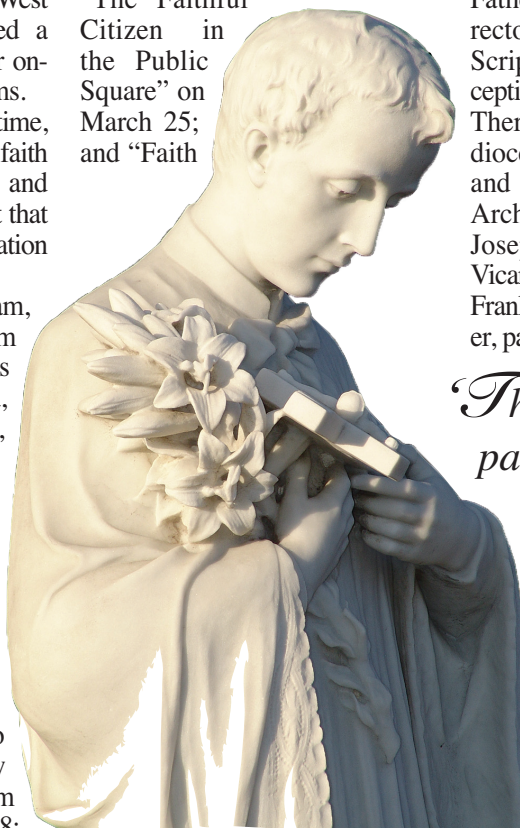
Topics for "Morality in Today's World" series include: "A Judge Looks at Natural Law Today" on March 11; "A Moral Theologian Looks at Divorce" on March 18; "The Faithful Citizen in the Public Square" on March 25; and "Faith

Response to Crisis of the Earth" on April 1.

In addition to Msgr. Desmond, the FaithQuest sessions will feature an array of noteworthy speakers, including Judge Andrew Napolitano, a former New Jersey Superior Court judge and a senior judicial analyst on Fox News; Dr. Dianne Traflet, J.D., S.T.D., professor and associate dean of Pastoral Theology at Immaculate Conception Seminar, South Orange, and co-founder and director of the Institute of Christian Spirituality; Father John D. Gabriel, archdiocesan director of vocations; Kay Furlani, director of the Office of Human Concerns for the Archdiocese of Newark; Father Edward Ciuba, former rector and professor of Sacred Scripture at Immaculate Conception Seminary; Sister Mirian Therese MacGillis, O.P., archdiocesan coordinator of peace and justice education for the Archdiocese of Newark; Father Joseph Scarangella, Parochial Vicar at Saint Aloysius; and Father Frank McNulty, a teacher, preacher, pastor and author.

There are as many paths to spirituality as there are people in the world, but we are all pilgrims of the Absolute.'

—Msgr. Michael Desmond



Statue of Saint Aloysius

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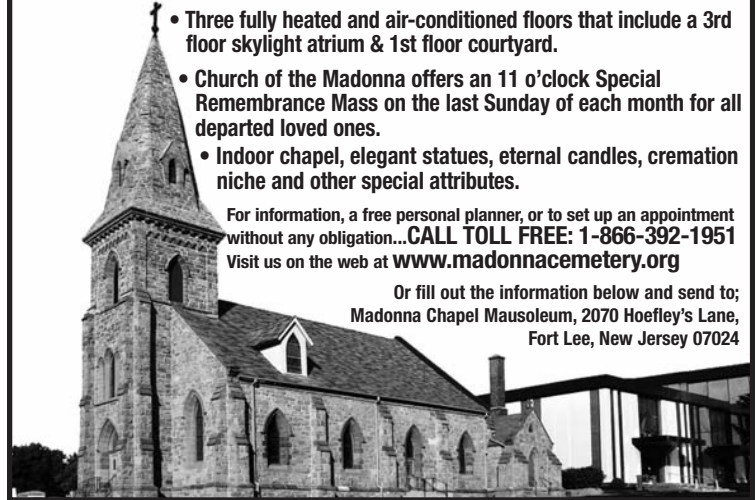
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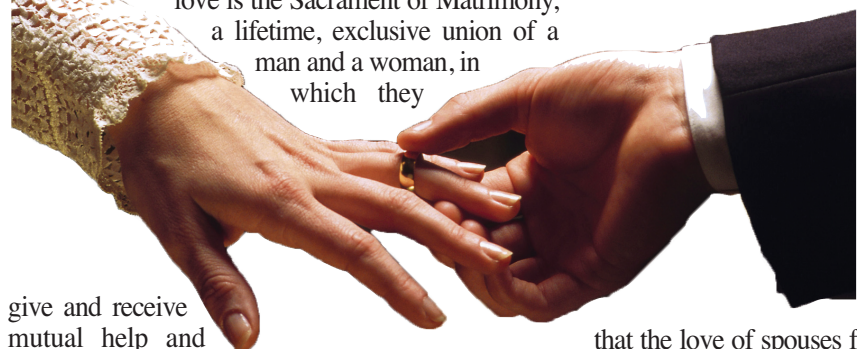
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Bishops call for prayer Feb. 22 to defend holiness of marriage

TRENTON—The Catholic Diocesan Bishops of New Jersey have designated Sunday, Feb. 22, as day of prayer throughout the Garden State to strengthen and preserve marriage.

Separately, Archbishop John J. Myers, the president of the New Jersey Catholic Conference (NJCC), is finalizing a pastoral statement on marriage that will be published in a future edition of *The Catholic Advocate*.

“One of the greatest expressions of love is the Sacrament of Matrimony, a lifetime, exclusive union of a man and a woman, in which they



give and receive mutual help and love, commit to a lifetime of total fidelity and from their union bring forth and raise children,” the letter from the Catholic Diocesan Bishops states.

“The self-giving love of husband and wife reflects the mutual love of Christ for the Church and the love of the Church for Christ. We must remember that without the help of God, man and woman cannot achieve the union of their lives to which God calls them. Truly, it is through the love and struggles of marriage that a couple attains holiness.

“Marriage not only is a call to holiness, it also is the foundation of the family and society. Marriage as a union of one man and one woman has its roots not only in human tradition and history, but also in natu-

ral law, which transcends all man-made law. God is the author of marriage.

“As shepherds of our dioceses, we salute married couples who are persevering in their vocation and who truly are on the way to holiness. Unfortunately, our secular culture’s preoccupation with personal autonomy and self fulfillment has led to fewer people marrying, increased divorce rates, increased cohabitation of unmarried adults and calls for same-sex marriage.

“In the face of these serious challenges, Catholics cannot stand silent. Our first responsibility is to pray. Therefore we, the Catholic Bishops of New Jersey, have designated Feb. 22 as a day of prayer for the strengthening and preservation of marriage. We ask everyone to pray

that the love of spouses for one another continues to grow steadfast and strong, for in strengthening marriage and families, we help to build up the Body of Christ, the Church.”

Patrick R. Brannigan, executive director of the NJCC, issued the letter Feb. 15, which was signed by Archbishop Myers; Most Rev. Joseph A. Galante, Bishop, Diocese of Camden; Most Rev. Paul G. Bootkoski, Bishop, Diocese of Metuchen; Most Rev. Arthur J. Serratelli, Bishop, Diocese of Paterson; Most Rev. John M. Smith, Bishop, Diocese of Trenton; Most Rev. William Skurla, Bishop, Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic; and Most Rev. Joseph Younan, Bishop, Our Lady of Deliverance Syriac Catholic Diocese.



Submitted photo

ABOVE AND BEYOND—The Parent/Teacher Guild (PTG) of Saint John’s Academy, Hillsdale, is the recipient of the National Catholic Educational Association’s 2009 “Distinguished Home and School Association Award,” recognizing the Bergen County school’s “Above and Beyond” program. A partnership between the school’s parents, teachers and students, the program consists of community outreach service projects each month throughout the school year, reinforcing the concept of Catholic stewardship and the sharing of time, talent and treasure. “Sweethearts for Seniors” is the community service project for the month of February. Parents, students and teachers created Valentine cards, poems, crafts and pictures for senior citizens in the Hillsdale area. Annette Gallagher, serves as the president of Saint John Academy PTG, while Sharon Gallagher, academy assistant principal, helps to coordinate projects. “I’m proud of the partnership we’ve created with our PTG,” Elizabeth Viola, principal of the academy, explained. “We wanted our parents to be an integral part of school. We wanted them to know the PTG was more than just a group that raises money.”

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Medquest at Marist to provide snapshot of healthcare careers

BAYONNE—Medquest, a new education program designed to introduce students to healthcare careers, health promotion, disease prevention and personal well being, will be available in the fall at Marist High School.

A Marist spokesman explained that Medquest will help students to become prepared for entrance into top-notch pre-medical, pre-dental, and pre-veterinary programs, to get insights for a career in healthcare. The program combines classroom instruction as well as internships and fieldwork to give students first-hand knowledge and practical experience in healthcare professions.

Marist students in the Medquest program participate in an accelerated science curriculum. As freshmen, they study biology and take an “introduction to health” course. In addition, students also participate in workshops in First Aid and CPR. Sophomores study biology and take a course entitled “Health Career Explorations.” They are also required to do 100 hours of volunteer work at a healthcare facility.

Juniors take courses in anatomy, physiology and medical ethics and must complete an internship at a hospital, clinic, nursing home, dental office or veterinarian’s office. Seniors study physics and medical technology to round out the Medquest experience.

Volunteer work and internships represent an essential component of the program, according to Marist officials. Medquest students start as volunteers in a health-related facility as sophomores and progress to the level of internship and volunteer work as upper classmen. The students will experience a variety of health care service settings. Clinical sites will be chosen with the students’ interest in mind.

To qualify for the program, students must have an interest in a health/medical career, average or above average grades, good conduct and attendance records and a willingness to participate in health care program activities beyond regular school hours. The program will begin in September 2009 with incoming freshmen.



Submitted photo

Alice Miesnik, (left) assistant principal for academics, and Brother Steve Schlitte, Marist High principal, will unveil the Medquest program to students in September 2009. Located at 1241 Kennedy Blvd., Bayonne, Marist High School (Web site: www.marist.org) is owned and operated by the Marist Brothers of the Schools.

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St. Michael’s nursing unit continues expansion plans

NEWARK—Saint Michael’s Medical Center has completed another phase in its ongoing expansion under the auspices of Catholic Health East (CHE) with the opening of a new 22-bed nursing unit.

Located on the healthcare facility’s renovated eighth floor, the nursing unit is staffed by telemetry-trained registered nurses and technical associates. It features cutting-edge telemetry technology, which affords nursing personnel remote access to patient vital signs and other information. Patient rooms are appointed with flat-screen TVs and other amenities.

“As the newest member of Catholic Health East, our hospital’s 140-year-old mission to serve Newark residents has been renewed and revitalized,” Robert H. Evans, Saint Michael’s chief executive

Continued on page 15

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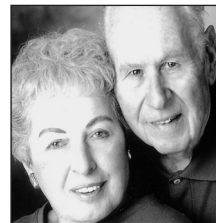
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NJHA selects Greene as 'professional of the year'

NEWARK—The New Jersey Hospital Association (NJHA) has named Lois Greene, R.N.C., M.B.A., of Saint Michael's Medical Center as its Healthcare Professional of the Year for 2009.

The assistant vice president of Oncology and Hematology Services, Greene received the award at the NJHA's 90th annual meeting, which was held in January.

Greene, who joined Saint Michael's as a nurse educator in 1995, was honored by the NJHA for her "outstanding achievements in the fight against cancer." She serves as the administrative director of both the Regional Cancer Center and The Connie Dwyer Breast Center and oversees the hospital's "In The Pink" program, which provides free cancer screenings to minorities and the uninsured.

Joint program offers degree in therapy

JERSEY CITY—Saint Peter's College and Seton Hall University (SHU), South Orange, are cooperatively offering a six-year, combined-degree program in sociology or psychology and occupational therapy.

The combined-degree program will allow undergraduate students to attain a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology or a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology from Saint Peter's College, and a Master of Science degree in occupational therapy from SHU. Students will take courses at Saint Peter's for three years, followed by three additional years at SHU. Contact Ruth Segal, Ph.D., chair of SHU's Department of Occupational Therapy at (973) 761-7145 for more information.

Marylou Yam, Ph.D., vice president for academic affairs for Saint Peter's, and Dr. Brian B. Shulman, dean of the School of Health and Medical Sciences for SHU, signed the cooperative agreement in January. "The program promotes seamless articulation for our students from undergraduate through graduate coursework," Yam said. "The field of occupational therapy offers strong employment opportunities in a variety of healthcare and community settings."



Lois Greene

The president-elect of the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, North Jersey Affiliate, and a board member of the American Cancer Society, Greene also serves as chair of the City of Newark's Cancer Initiative. She also works as a legislative ambassador for the American Cancer Society's Cancer Action Network, a government advocacy program.

"I can think of no more deserving recipient of this honor than Lois Greene," Robert H. Evans, the Saint Michael's chief executive officer, said. "Her knowledge and experience, both as a clinician and a healthcare administrator, are unparalleled. But more important than Lois's professional credentials is her dedication to providing compassionate care to our patients."

Nursing unit

Continued from page 14

officer said. "We are aggressively incorporating the sound management practices and strict fiscal policies that are CHE hallmarks so that, despite the current economic climate, we can continue investing in our facility's infrastructure and technology over the next several years."

This is the third nursing unit to open at Saint Michael's Medical Center during the last eight months. Future plans include the renovation of additional patient care units and a comprehensive redesign of the hospital's emergency department.

The expansion and renovation programs are needed as CHE officials have estimated that overall annual admissions at Saint Michael's could reach 16,400 patients by the end of this year, which would represent a 60-percent increase from 2007.

Headquartered in Newtown Square, PA, CHE acquired Saint Michael's in an asset purchase in August 2008. CHE (Web site: www.chc.org), one of the nation's largest Catholic healthcare systems, manages healthcare ministries in 11 East Coast states, including 33 acute-care hospitals and 12 assisted-living facilities.



Submitted photo

SAVING LIVES—A smiling but slightly nervous Marinalda Morel (left) receives last-minute encouragement from her classmate Paige Peterson during the 17th annual health club blood drive at Union Catholic Regional High School, which was held Dec. 16 and moderated by school nurse JoAnn Ball. Under the guidance of the school's health club executive officers Jessica Gomez and Marina Sanit Val, the blood drive, which included donors from the community as well as students, surpassed its goal of 40 donors. The club's final blood drive of the school year will be held March 10 at Union Catholic, located at 1600 Martine Ave., Scotch Plains. For eligibility requirements and general information for donating blood, call the school at (908) 889-1600 or visit the Web site for the East Orange-based Blood Center of New Jersey (www.bloodnj.org).

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

M.G.

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.

L.C.

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.)

B.D.

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.

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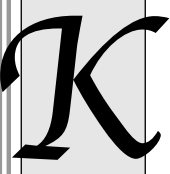
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Fasting opens hearts and eyes, inspires faithful to help needy

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Fasting from food and detaching oneself from material goods during Lent help believers open their hearts to God and open their hands to the poor, Pope Benedict XVI said. The Lenten fast helps Christians “mortify our egoism and open our hearts to love of God and neighbor,” the pope said in his message for Lent 2009.

The papal message for Lent, which begins Feb. 25 for Latin-rite Catholics, was released Feb. 3 at the Vatican. Cardinal Paul Cordes, president of the Pontifical

Council Cor Unum, the Vatican’s office for promoting and coordinating charity, told reporters that Christian fasting brings together love for God and love for neighbor.

“The pope reminds us of our obligation to open our hearts and our hands to those in need,” Cardinal Cordes said at the Vatican presentation of the message.

The Vatican invited Josette Sheeran, executive director of the U.N.’s World Food Program, to help present the papal message.

“Serving the hungry is a moral call that unites people of all faiths,” said Sheeran, whose organization relies heavily on Catholic charities and other faith-based organizations to distribute food aid.

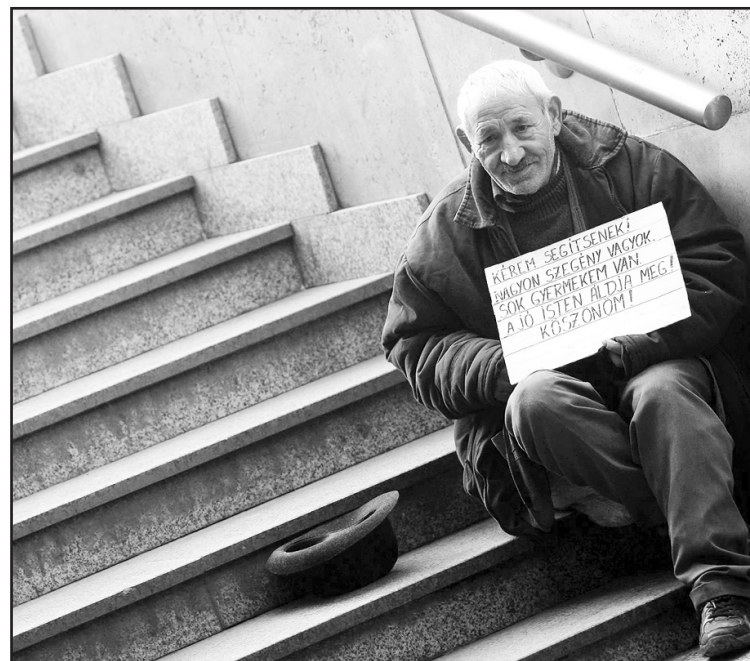
“At this time of worldwide economic challenges, let us not forget that the food and financial crises hit the world’s most vulnerable the hardest,” she continued. “Since 2007, 115 million were added to the ranks of the hungry to create a total of nearly 1 billion people without adequate food.”

Sheeran said that at a time when the U.S. and other governments are announcing multitrillion-dollar packages to bailout banks, car companies and other industries, the World Food Program is asking that 0.7 percent of all stimulus plans be dedicated to hunger relief. “Financial rescue packages must serve not only Wall Street and Main Street, but also the places with no streets,” she stressed.

Cardinal Cordes and Sheeran agreed that the financial bailout plans are necessary not just for helping the world’s richest nations, but also for preventing a worsening situation in poor countries dependent on exports, on development aid and on the money their citizens working abroad send home to support their families.

“If the financial system fails completely, it will hurt the poor first,” Cardinal Cordes said.

Sheeran said the 2007-2008 food crisis—when the price of



CNS photo

A man begs on the steps of an underpass in the center of Budapest, Hungary, Jan. 30. The message on his sign reads: “Please help! I am very poor, I have many children! God bless you!” Pope Benedict said that by fasting in solidarity with the poor, “freely embracing an act of self-denial for the sake of another, we make a statement that our brother or sister in need is not a stranger.”

Global statistics reveal increase in hunger crisis

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—In his 2009 Lenten message Pope Benedict XVI said the spiritual practice of fasting should lead to concrete action on behalf of those who live in poor nations and suffer from the global hunger crisis.

“Fasting is an aid to open our eyes to the situation in which so many of our brothers and sisters live,” the pope said.

Offering a perspective on the global hunger crisis, the World Food Program and the office of the U.N. Secretary-General recently issued the following statistics:

- In 2008, the number of undernourished people in the world rose to 963 million (more than the combined populations of the United States, Canada and the European Union), up 40 million from 2007.
- The majority of undernourished people live in developing countries, with about 65 percent of the total living in India, China, Democratic Republic of Congo, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan and Ethiopia.
- Hunger and malnutrition are the number-one risk to health worldwide, greater than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined.
- Hunger does not affect just the individual. Economists estimate that every child whose physical and mental development is stunted by hunger and malnutrition stands to lose 5 to 10 percent in lifetime earnings.
- The total food surplus of the United States alone could satisfy every empty stomach in Africa; France’s leftovers could feed the hungry in Democratic Republic of Congo and Italy’s could feed Ethiopia’s undernourished.
- Today 25,000 people will die from hunger. A child dies every six seconds of malnutrition or starvation.
- A number of factors, including high energy and fertilizer costs, sent global food prices soaring to all-time highs in 2008. In March the price of rice hit a 19-year high while wheat climbed to its highest level in 28 years.

Holocaust author Fr. Desbois to discuss his book March 1

SOUTH ORANGE—Seton Hall University’s Institute of Judaean-Christian Studies will host “The Holocaust by Bullets: A Priest Uncovers the Truth,” a lecture by author Father Patrick Desbois on Sunday, March 1, 2 p.m., at Jubilee Hall Auditorium (lower level).

Fr. Desbois will discuss his recent book, which details research into the killing of civilian Jews during the Nazi invasions of Poland and Russia during World War II.

The lecture, sponsored by the Monsignor J. M. Oesterreicher Endowment, is free and open to the public. The forum includes light refreshments and a book-signing period by Fr. Desbois. Contact Father Lawrence Frizzell by phone (973) 761-9751 or via e-mail (frizzella@shu.edu) for further information.

basic staples soared—combined with more recent job losses because of the financial crisis involved “two separate problems, but the result is the same: malnutrition and death.”

In his message, Pope Benedict said the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving are meant to help Christians focus on God and prepare for the Easter celebration of Jesus’ victory over sin and death. Focusing his message specifically on the practice of fasting, the pope said it is a way for believers to submit themselves humbly to God, trusting in his goodness and mercy.

“Denying material food, which nourishes our body, nurtures an interior disposition to listen to Christ

and be fed by His saving word,” the pope wrote. “Through fasting and prayer we allow Him to come and satisfy the deepest hunger that we experience in the depths of our being: the hunger and thirst for God,” he said.

While some people fast to cleanse their body or to lose weight, Christians fast during Lent in order “to heal all that prevents them from conformity to the will of God,” he noted. “Freely chosen detachment from the pleasure of food and other material goods helps the disciple of Christ to control the appetites of nature, weakened by original sin,” the pope wrote. “Fasting is an aid to open our eyes to the situation in which so many of our brothers and sisters live.”

Lent—time for prayer, penance

NEWARK—Msgr. John E. Doran, Vicar General, Moderator and Acting Chancellor for the Archdiocese of Newark, has issued Lenten regulations to pastors.

“Lent is the time for the faithful to be ever more attentive to the word of God and prayer, to prepare themselves by penance for the renewal of their baptismal promises at Easter,” Msgr. Doran stated in his memo to pastors. He said the virtue and practice of penance is a necessary part of the preparation for Easter (April 12). Penitential practices such as fasting and abstinence are to be “encouraged by the Church.”

Pastors were asked to publish the archdiocesan Lenten regulations in their respective parish bulletins on Sunday, Feb. 22, prior to Ash Wednesday. Msgr. Doran pointed out that the Code of Canon Law allows a pastor to dispense in individual cases from eating meat on Friday during the Lenten Season.

Archdiocesan Lenten Regulations:

- The days of both fast and abstinence during Lent are Ash Wednesday (Feb. 25) and Good Friday (April 10). The other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence. On a day of fast, only one full meal is permitted. Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast. On a day of abstinence, no meat may be eaten. Those who have reached the age of 14 are obliged by the law of abstinence.
- The obligation to observe the laws of fast and abstinence “substantially,” or as a whole, is a serious obligation.
- The Fridays of the year, outside of Lent, are designated as days of penance, but each individual may substitute for the traditional abstinence from meat some other practice of voluntary self-denial as penance.
- The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty*) extends from the First Sunday of Lent, March 1, 2009 to the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity, June 7, 2009. (*Canon 920: I—All the faithful, after they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year.)





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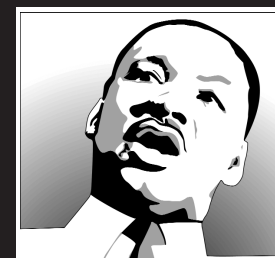
Parish plans international celebration

NEWARK—Blessed Sacrament/Saint Charles Borromeo Parish, 15 Van Ness Place, will host a special Mass at 10 a.m., Sunday, Feb. 22, as part of its month-long celebration of Black History Month.

Following the Mass, there will be an international festival held in Fellowship Hall (adjacent to the church), which will feature an assortment of African cuisine and Negro spiritual music. Contact Robert (Buddy) Williams, pastoral associate, at (973) 230-3950 for more information on the celebration.

Each weekend during the month of February the parish is featuring the music, history and culture of various African nationalities, especially the African Diaspora in Caribbean nations such as Jamaica and Trinidad.

Father Anselm I. Nwaorgu, Ph.D., is the pastor of Blessed Sacrament/Saint Charles Borromeo Parish. Born and raised in Imo State, Nigeria, he served for three years as the president of the African Conference of Catholic Clergy and Religious in the United States.



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Caldwell planning career fair, gets award for business ed unit

CALDWELL — Caldwell College will host its annual Career and Internship Fair for students Wednesday, March 4, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Business representatives attending the event will have the opportunity to meet and recruit college students for internships and entry-level positions.

The career fair is also open to students attending other colleges and universities. For additional information, visit the Caldwell College Career Planning and Development Web site (www.caldwell.edu/career) or call (973) 618-3290.

In a separate development, the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) baccalaureate/graduate degree board of commissioners has awarded the business education division of Caldwell College with initial accreditation. Caldwell will receive its certificate of accreditation during the ACBSP's annual conference, which will be held June 28 in San Antonio, TX.

The accreditation recognizes the quality of Caldwell's business education programs and its commitment to teaching excellence. Achieving the accreditation involves a rigorous process where the college matches its performance and processes against complex standards of excellence established by the accrediting agency. The accreditation by covers a 10-year period, during which

time the college's business division must continually reaffirm the integrity of its programs through quality assurance reports.

Caldwell's business education division offers comprehensive programs in marketing, management, accounting, international business, economics and business administration. The division is actively involved with the business community in the northern New Jersey, cultivating opportunities for career development and internships for students.



Submitted photo

JOURNEY TO GUATEMALA—Students in Trish O'Shea's Spanish classes at Assumption Academy, Emerson, recently "traveled" to Guatemala. Bill Parent (right), an associate at Whole Foods Market in Atlanta, worked with children in Guatemala during the month of September as part of a "Whole Planet Foundation Trip." After reading the book "Abuela's Weave," Assumption students learned about Guatemalan/Mayan culture, viewed photos taken at locations mentioned in the story and saw examples of products woven by people in Guatemala.

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Tony Blair

Continued from page 1

the experts," Blair said. However, given the unprecedented conditions as they exist today, even the experts are saying "they don't know what to do."

Noting that there have been economic crises before, what makes this one different is that "the fundamentals of the economy have been shaken" by the growing

global financial meltdown. Agreeing that there has to be some kind of stimulus, Blair was equally emphatic that "this economic crisis cannot be solved locally." The impact, he went on, has been "pervasive" and must be addressed on a "global scale."

The environment, Blair is convinced, can benefit from how the economic crisis is addressed. A major economic concern, he said, is China where 60 percent of the population is subsistence farm-

ers. Investing in clean technology, Blair admitted, is a "huge challenge" a major component of which has to be agreements with emerging nations such as China and India. There is "nothing more important," he noted, than for President Obama to establish "the right strategic relationship" with China.

On the security front, he continued, a major concern is the ongoing tensions in the Middle East, which he described as "not a con-

ventional battle" and a place where "politics gets polarized." While the military has a role, Blair continued, "there is nothing more important than resolving the situation between Israel and the Palestinians."

Religion, he added, can be a source of "reconciliation and progress" in the Middle East. Emphasizing that "justice is the most powerful spirit of global citizenship."

A close ally of former President George W. Bush, Blair began his lecture by citing the promise of the new administration of President Barack Obama, calling it "inspiring." Recalling his own election, Blair described coming to power as "a moment of euphoria."

Saying there are "huge hopes and expectations" for the new president, Blair stressed that, for President Obama to succeed, he will need the help of "partners as well as supporters." Looking beyond Washington, Blair said "the world in which we live is a new and completely different place" with changed expectations of politics that affect policy.

The former prime minister took several questions from the audience following his lecture. Asked what role religion can play in the Israel-Palestinian conflict, Blair said it "can play a role for good...(but) religion also must speak out about the bad things."

Shared spiritual values can help people of faith reach "an understanding of the 'other' person."

Another questioner wondered about the role of the European Union (EU) in the 21st century. Europe, Blair answered, should leverage its power by creating a strong economy.

Blair also was asked about his decision to convert to Catholicism after he left office. Prefacing his response with the contention that religion is treated "differently" in Great Britain than in the United States, Blair called the timing of his decision "a private decision."

Asked about what he thought was his greatest legacy, Blair answered "that is for other people to judge." He did mention, however, his efforts to remove dictators around the world and his role in Northern Ireland. A "most frustrating" element of being prime minister, he added, is that advisors "can give you 1,000 reasons for not doing something and not one reason to do something." Ultimately, he noted, "things can change for the better."

Continuing a tradition started at the Whitehead School since its inception a dozen years ago, the School of Diplomacy forum brings to campus "people who have shaped the world in which we live," Msgr. Robert Sheeran, SHU president, explained.

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Monthly Chapel Mausoleum

Mass Schedule

All Masses begin at 9:30 a.m.

March 11

Holy Cross,
North Arlington

March 10

Gate of Heaven, East Hanover

March 13

Saint Gertrude, Colonia



**Please Provide Me
With Information on:**

- ☐ Holy Cross, North Arlington
- ☐ Gate of Heaven, East Hanover
- ☐ Saint Gertrude, Colonia
- ☐ Holy Name, Jersey City

- ☐ Cemetery Plots
- ☐ Mausoleum Space
- ☐ Individual Family Estates
- ☐ Cremation Niches

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: (_____) _____

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CA 2-18



March 8, 2009 • 7:30 - 9:30pm

(DOORS OPEN 6PM) • Reserved seating only

Bridgewater Middle School, 425 Foothill Road, Bridgewater

For tickets or info: Immaculate Conception Parish, 908-725-1112 ext.1124

www.immaculateconception.org

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