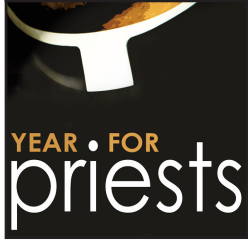




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## Pope Benedict puts focus on divine calling

Pontiff lays out plans for worldwide celebration of vocations, cites Pope John Paul II as an inspirational figure.

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## Wyckoff teens decide to think inside the box

Cardboard City project by youth ministry at Saint Elizabeth Parish examines plight of homeless young adults.

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## Mayor Booker shares insights Quest for peace draws Iraqi leaders to Seton Hall forum

BY MELISSA MCNALLY  
Staff Writer

SOUTH ORANGE—Nine prominent clerics and mayors from Anbar Province in Iraq discussed interfaith dialogue as a means of achieving mutual understanding during an April 1 forum at Seton Hall University (SHU).

Hosted by The Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations, the forum, which included Newark Mayor Cory A. Booker, is part of the U.S. Department of State-sponsored International Visitor Leadership Program.

In their first visit to the United States, Sunni imams and mayors from Iraq, communicating through a translator, explained that they chose to visit SHU due to the university's dedication to diplomacy and building international relationships.

Moderated by Ambassador John K. Menzies, dean of The Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations, the first discussion focused on opportunities for interfaith dialogue. However, the Iraqi delegates, by coming to America to engage in such a discussion and attempting to rebuild Iraq in a new model, have faced ridicule and persecution in their home country.

"Our panelists have shown tremendous courage," Menzies said. "They have opposed Al-Qaeda as non-Islamic and have put themselves at great personal risk." As a result, their identities were kept secret during the program.

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Advocate photo — M. Gabriele

**EASTER GREETINGS**—Archbishop John J. Myers celebrated Easter Sunday Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart. After Mass, he greeted the faithful at the front entrance of the Cathedral, against the backdrop of blooming cherry blossoms and chilly April winds. Archbishop Myers wore his special ring (visible in photo on his right hand), which was a gift from his parents when he was ordained as a bishop 22 years ago. During his Easter homily, the archbishop described Jesus as Lord and savior for all people by the power of His love and the power of God.

## Women, men gather to bond, share faith Mary eased sorrow, pain of Benkovic

BY MELISSA MCNALLY  
Staff Writer

NUTLEY—"If it wasn't for the intercession of Mary, I wouldn't be here today," Johnnette S. Benkovic, keynote speaker at the annual Women's Day of Reflection, declared.

The April 4 event at Holy Family Parish drew over 800 guests. This year's theme "Mary and the Holy Spirit," holds special significance for

Benkovic. After tragically losing her son Simon in a car accident, she lost her husband of 34 years, Anthony, to cancer just a few years later. She credits Our Lady with helping her through her trials.

After years as a non-practicing Catholic who "turned her back on The Way," Benkovic had a profound conversion in 1981 following a charismatic prayer meeting. Since then, she has made it her life's mission to spread the word of God throughout all media.

She is the executive producer of the television program "The Abundant Life," seen internationally on EWTN, and the host of

Continued on page 15

## Conference hosts 2,500 fathers, sons

BY WARD MIELE  
Managing Editor

WEST ORANGE—In numbers that exceeded expectations, fathers, sons, uncles and brothers from throughout the Archdiocese of Newark and beyond joined in spiritual fellowship at the inaugural Catholic Men's Conference.

Some 2,500 participants filled the Essex County Richard J. Codey

Arena on Saturday, March 28 for the two-tier English and Spanish eight-hour program. Archbishop John J. Myers, a primary proponent of the conference and Men's Commission, described the event as "a gathering of men seeking a deeper relationship with God and stronger participation in parish life." The conference was co-sponsored by the Newark-based Franciscan Friars of the Renewal.

Archdiocesan Vice Chancellor for Administration, Deacon Joseph A. Dwyer, Jr., and Jorge L. Repollet, director cemetery services for Catholic Cemeteries, co-chairmen for the conference, shared an excitement over the event's success.

Continued on page 5





Advocate photos – Melissa McNally, Ward Miele

**SOLEMN LITURGIES**—Archbishop John J. Myers presided over Palm Sunday Mass (top photo) on April 5 and the annual Chrism Mass (left photo) the following day at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark. Clergy from throughout the archdiocese processed with the archbishop on Palm Sunday. In his homily, Archbishop Myers said “death can appear to be the ultimate absurdity.” Jesus’ death, he stressed, was His most “free and loving” action. We should all imitate Jesus in our own death, the archbishop said. At the Chrism Mass, attended by clergy and almost 1,200 faithful, Archbishop Myers blessed the oils to be used in the sacraments of the Anointing of the Sick and Confirmation. He called the Mass “one of the most important liturgies of the year.”

## The Fifty-Fifth Annual Archbishop's Vocations Fund Dinner

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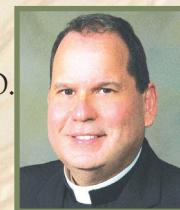
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Most Rev. Manuel A. Cruz, D.D.  
Auxiliary Bishop of Newark



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## FREQUENCY FOR THE YEAR

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



Advocate photo – M. Gabriele

**CORRUGATED COMMUNITY**—The Youth and Young Adult Ministry of Saint Elizabeth Parish, Wyckoff, known as Branches, constructed "Cardboard City" March 21 as a community service project to call attention to the plight of homeless teens. Led by Gina Marie Alala, youth ministry director, 26 Saint Elizabeth young adults—armed with rolls of duct tape—built ramshackle shelters on the lawn of the parish, then slept in the shelters overnight to get a first-hand glimpse of what it means to be homeless. Directors and homeless teens from Covenant House, Newark, visited Cardboard City and gave presentations on the social and spiritual issues associated with homelessness, while an area band, Moving Face, performed for the Cardboard City residents. Father Melvin Avilla, C.R.M., an Adorno Father based in Ramsey, served as a spiritual advisor and designed the event T-shirts. Youth-group members, assisted by Peter and Cathy Ingrassi, baked 40 meat loafs in the parish cafeteria, which were delivered to Saint Martin's Kitchen, Jersey City. The following morning youth group members collected \$1,400 from Sunday parishioners.

## Fr. Jaki, 84; scholar who explored science, religion

SOUTH ORANGE (CNS)—Benedictine Father Stanley L. Jaki, an internationally acclaimed author, physicist, philosopher and theologian, died April 7 in Madrid, Spain, following a heart attack. He was 84 years old.

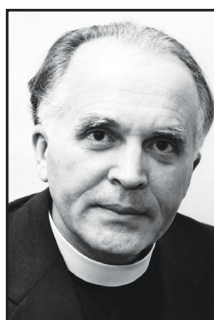
Fr. Jaki, who taught at Seton Hall University (SHU), specialized in the history and philosophy of science. He earned doctorates in theology and physics. He was awarded the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion in 1987. He was cited for delineating "the importance of differences as well as similarities between science and religion, adding significant, balanced enlightenment to the field."

Fr. Jaki had traveled to Spain from Rome, where he had lectured on his latest book at the Renaissance-era "casina" or garden house, of Pope Pius IV—the headquarters of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences. Fr. Jaki had been an honorary member of the pontifical academy since 1990.

He joined the faculty of SHU in 1965, attaining the rank of distinguished university professor in 1975. Fr. Jaki was deeply committed to the conjunction between faith and reason, arguing that the flourishing of science in Europe was intrinsically related to the Christian understanding of creation and the Incarnation.

"Although the world was God's creation and, as such, to be profoundly respected, the world itself possessed no intrinsic divinity," explained Father Thomas G. Guarino, professor of theology at SHU. "Fr. Jaki's

work elucidated the notion that in understanding the very laws of the physical universe, science naturally opened out toward the affirmation of faith," Fr. Guarino added.



Fr. Stanley Jaki



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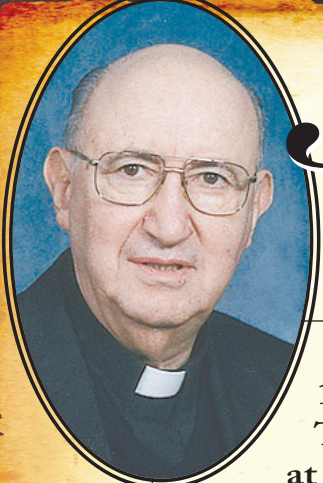

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*After 54 years of dedicated service to St. Lucy's Church, Newark, Msgr. Joseph J. Granato will be retiring as of June 30, 2009.*

*The parishioners of St. Lucy's are going all out to thank Msgr. Granato for always being a true father to all.*

**A special Mass is scheduled at 12:15 PM on Sunday, May 31st. There will be a reception at 3:00 PM at The Birchwood Manor in Whippany. Tickets are \$130.00 per person.**

**Anyone interested contact Michele at the Rectory: (973) 482-6663**

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## Pope Benedict to visit Holy Land

VATICAN CITY and JERUSALEM (CNS)—On his first trip to the Holy Land, Pope Benedict XVI will meet with Jewish, Muslim and Christian leaders, stop at the Dome of the Rock and the Western Wall in Jerusalem and visit a refugee camp in Bethlehem. The May 8-15 visit will take the pope to holy sites in Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian territories. He will visit the new King Hussein Mosque in Amman, Jordan, stop at Jesus' baptism site at the Jordan River, and make a pilgrimage to Mount Nebo, where Moses once looked out at the Promised Land. The pope's program calls for meetings with Israeli political leaders, Christian leaders, Jerusalem's most promi-

nent rabbis and the city's leading Muslim cleric—the grand mufti. Pope Benedict also will visit the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem and celebrate public Masses in Amman, Bethlehem, Jerusalem and Nazareth, Israel. However, Pope Benedict will encounter a Holy Land that has changed greatly since Pope John Paul II visited in 2000. Pope John Paul arrived in Israel and the Palestinian territories when, despite stumbling blocks in the peace process, the jubilee year celebrations seemed to buoy the Holy Land with a booming tourism industry. But Pope Benedict will visit amid continued Israeli-Palestinian tensions—months after a controversial Israeli inva-

sion of Gaza and during continuing Palestinian rocket attacks against southern Israeli towns. He will face a land scarred by the violence and physical barriers of the second intifada, which broke out just months after the 2000 papal visit.

## Killer quake jolts Newark priests

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—In a sign of solidarity with those struck by a devastating earthquake and a series of tremors and aftershocks, Pope Benedict XVI donated a portion of the sacred oils he blessed to the Italian Archdiocese of L'Aquila. During a chrism Mass in Saint Peter's Basilica April 9, the pope said he hoped the oils used in the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, ordination and the anointing of the sick would "accompany a time of rebirth and reconstruction and heal wounds and encourage hope" in the city and province of L'Aquila. The tremors left more than 275 people dead, more than 1,000 injured and tens of thousands homeless. Father James M. Sheehan and Father Mark Francis O'Malley, priests from the Archdiocese of Newark studying in Rome, were eyewitnesses to the disaster. American seminarians and priests live at the Pontifical North American College while pursuing degrees at various universities. The tremors



CNS photo

A Muslim man walks away from the Dome of the Rock, in the background, at the Temple Mount complex in the Old City of Jerusalem April 6. Pope Benedict XVI will visit the Dome of the Rock during his May 8-15 visit to the Holy Land. The Islamic shrine holds significance to Muslims, Jews and Christians.

began at around 3:30 a.m., Fr. Sheehan recalled. "It was startling to be woken up to the feeling of my bed moving," he said. "It was a strange sensation. This was the first time I had ever felt an earthquake." Like Fr. Sheehan, Fr. O'Malley said this was first time he experienced an earthquake. "I was asleep in bed when the quake occurred. I was awoken by the crash of a picture, which fell from my wall," Fr. O'Malley said. "My bed was shaking and the windows were rattling. The priests in the residence from California took it all in stride the next morning, but it was something of a scary experience for a guy from Jersey."

Timothy M. Dolan as the 10th archbishop of New York. More than 2,000 guests packed the cathedral and listened to two church choirs and a brass ensemble. The Mass of installation was concelebrated by 12 cardinals and more than 115 archbishops and bishops. Archbishop John J. Myers, Archbishop Emeritus Peter L. Gerety, Bishop Edgar M. da Cunha, Bishop Thomas A. Donato, Bishop Manuel A. Cruz and several priests represented the Archdiocese of Newark. In his homily, Archbishop Dolan cited the welcome given by the archdiocese over the years to generations of immigrants, "who came and still come to this country through this city with little or nothing of earthly value, but tenaciously clung to that 'pearl of great price,' their faith, to find in the Church here the spiritual counterpart of Lady Liberty—Holy Mother Church—who welcomed them, embraced them, settled them in, taught their children and kept that faith alive."

## New York installs Archbishop Dolan

NEW YORK (CNS)—Saint Patrick's Cathedral in New York overflowed with people, music, incense and good will for the April 15 installation of Archbishop

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## The Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children 25th Annual Dinner Honoring John C. Walcott

*Dinner Chair - Kevin Cummings*  
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The Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children provides children in need with the opportunity for a quality, values-based education in a safe environment. The Fund provides partial tuition scholarships to economically disadvantaged children attending private and parochial schools within Bergen, Essex, Hudson and Union Counties. Scholarship awards are based upon need without regard to race, religion, or ethnicity.



To reserve a table, become a sponsor or place an ad in the Journal,  
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Archbishop John J. Myers (second from left) passed through a Knights of Columbus honor guard at the conclusion of the Mass he celebrated to end the March 28 Men's Conference. Deacon Joseph A. Dwyer, Jr., Deacon John J. McKenna, and Father Michael A. Andreano, (left to right) are pictured with the archbishop.



Advocate photo – Ward Miele

Fathers, sons


Continued from page 1

“Despite the cool temperatures, Our Lord Jesus Christ warmed the hearts of some 2,500 men,” Deacon Dwyer said. “I am excited about the future of the Men’s Commission. As we reflect on the powerful presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ, it is obvious He has called all of us to a great ministry.” “Close to 2,500 men were moved by the Holy Spirit,” Repollet observed. “It was a blessing to be part of such a spiritual day where many men found Jesus in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the Eucharist and in the Word that was proclaimed.” The keynote speaker was NFL legend Danny Abramowicz in the English segment. He told his audience that they were not at the conference “by accident, God had a plan for you today.” Citing his success on the grid-iron and later in the business world, Abramowicz said one day he looked into the mirror and actually looked into his soul. “I hated myself,” he declared. He immediately called a priest and confronted his alcoholism. “I became sober but not serene,” Abramowicz explained. It was at that point, he stressed, that “the Lord began working” on him and he began attending Bible study and prayer meetings. The loudest applause during his presentation was when Abramowicz asked the priests in the audience to stand up. The priesthood, he said, is “the greatest vocation in the world.” He concluded by holding up the Bible saying: “this is your playbook.” The archdiocese’s newest bishop, Most Rev. Manuel A. Cruz, was the keynote speaker at the Spanish segment. Bishop Cruz spoke on the “actualization” of the scriptures. He explained the importance of the need to bring God into one’s own experience

of the present moment. Bishop Cruz cited placing greater emphasis on the Passion story of the good thief. It is, he said, “a model to all of us” illustrating “what real humility is all about—ultimately a genuine acceptance of oneself and how we need to depend on the mercy and love of Jesus.” Father Bernard Murphy, leader of the Franciscans of the Renewal, gave the homily at Archbishop Myers’ Mass. Those at the conference were there, he said, because “the Lord is inviting us into a relationship with Him.” Deacon Ralph Polo, founder of New Evangelization Ministries,

Steubenville, OH, challenged his audience to candidly measure their internal spiritual strength. The Catholic male identity has been led astray in today’s culture, he charged, saying that many men typically take the “easy way out” preferring to define themselves by their chosen careers or material possessions. “Our real identity is being a son of God. As a man, our number-one responsibility is to bring our family to God.” Dr. Philip Mango, director of Saint Michael’s Institute for Psychological Studies, said the conference was “a powerful day.” Masculinity, he explained, is “identifying with God the Father.”

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Official Appointments



Archbishop John J. Myers has announced the following appointments:

**ARCHDIOCESAN AGENCY/MINISTRY**  
**Reverend Monsignor Edward G. Bradley**, faculty member at Seton Hall Prep, West Orange, and part-time director of the Ministry to Retired Priests, has been appointed as full-time director of the Ministry to Retired Priests with continued residence at Seton House, West Orange. The appointment is effective July 1.  
**PASTOR**  
**Reverend Bartley P. Baker**, parochial vicar of Saint Michael Parish, Union, was appointed pastor of Saint Leo Parish, Elmwood Park, effective April 1.  
**DEAN**  
**Reverend James P. Whelan**, pastor of Saint Lawrence Parish, Weehawken, was also appointed Dean of the Hudson Central Deanery, Deanery 9, effective March 16 and ending March 16, 2014.  
**PAROCHIAL VICAR**  
**Reverend Sathianathan X. Benedict** has been appointed summer parochial vicar at Saint Philip the
 **Apostle Parish, Saddle Brook, effective April 22, through May 31.**  
**DEACON**  
**Deacon George Rice** was appointed to Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Park Ridge, effective March 22.  
**FACULTY**  
**Reverend Mark F. O’Malley**, has been appointed to the faculty of Immaculate Conception Seminary at Seton Hall University, South Orange, with residence at Seton Hall University, South Orange. The appointment is effective July 1.  
**JURIDIC PASTOR**  
**Reverend Patrick Diver, S.D.B.**, pastor of Saint Anthony of Padua Parish, Elizabeth, has also been appointed juridic pastor of the newly formed “Our Lady of Guadalupe Academy,” Elizabeth, effective July 1.  
**RETIREMENT**  
**Reverend Michael H. Hansen**, parochial vicar of Assumption Parish, Emerson, has been granted retirement, effective May 1.

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# Pontiff cites Pope John Paul II for amplifying the 'divine call'

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The heritage Pope John Paul II left to the Church, and especially to its younger members, was a torch of faith and hope to lead them and the world through the darkness, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Pope Benedict, in particular, praised Pope John Paul as a spiritual leader who inspired many to pursue vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.

Celebrating Mass with young people April 2, the fourth anniversary of the death of Pope John Paul, Pope Benedict said his predecessor was able to communicate a strong feeling of hope founded on faith in Jesus Christ.

"If Christ's word remains in us,

we can spread the flame of that love that He ignited on the earth; we can carry high the torch of faith and hope," the pope told the young people who were preparing for the April 5 celebration of World Youth Day as they remembered Pope John Paul. At the end of the Mass, young people carrying oil lamps led Pope Benedict into the grotto of Saint Peter's Basilica, where they all knelt and prayed at the tomb of Pope John Paul.

During his homily, Pope Benedict said the torch of faith and hope was what Pope John Paul "left us as a heritage. He consigned it to me, as his successor, and this evening I pass it on once again to you, the young

people of Rome, so that you would continue to be sentinels of the morning, vigilant and joyful."

The fruitfulness of Pope John Paul's life and ministry, he said, is seen in the faces of the young men and women who crowded into Saint Peter's Basilica for the anniversary Mass.

"How many vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, how many young families committed to living the Gospel ideal and aiming for holiness are tied to the witness and preaching of my venerated predecessor," the pope said. "How many young men and women converted or persevered in their Christian journey thanks to his prayers, his encouragement, his support and his example."

Throughout his life Pope John Paul "did not hesitate using all his energy to spread the light (of Christ) everywhere," Pope Benedict said. "He was not willing to compromise when it came to proclaiming and defending Christ's truth. He never tired of spreading his love," he said.

"At the hour of his agony and death, this new generation wanted



CNS photo

Pope John Paul II greets then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger Oct. 22, 1978. Pope Benedict XVI, in his recent message for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, said embracing a religious vocation involves trusting God so much that one can answer the "divine call" without hesitation. Pope Benedict said it is God who chooses some to follow His Son, Jesus, more closely and to put themselves fully at the service of the Church.

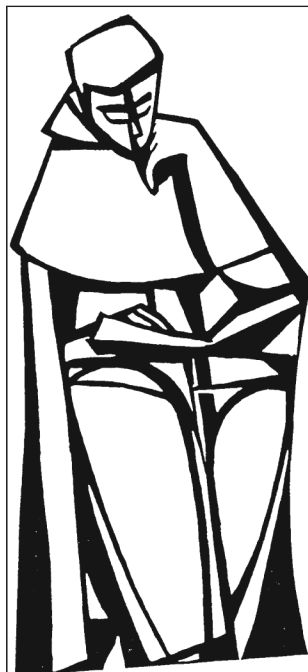
to show him they understood his teaching by gathering silently in prayer in Saint Peter's Square and many other places throughout the world," the pope said.

While Pope Benedict did not

make any mention of the process to beatify and canonize Pope John Paul, he did end his homily by praying that the late pope "never ceases to accompany us and intercede for us from heaven."

After praying in the grotto and before leaving Saint Peter's, Pope Benedict stopped to greet Angelo Gugel, Pope John Paul's Vatican valet, and the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart Sisters from Poland who ran the papal apartment and cared for Pope John Paul during his final illness.

The papal message for the day of prayer, which will be observed May 3 in most countries, was released March 31.



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# 'Year of the priest' to focus on life of Saint John Vianney

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Benedict XVI has declared a "year of the priest" in an effort to encourage "spiritual perfection." He will open the special year with a vespers service at the Vatican June 19—the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the day for the sanctification of priests. He will close the celebrations during a World Meeting of Priests in Saint Peter's Square June 19, 2010.

## New Web site provides info for vocations

BY DANIEL PETERSON  
Special to The Catholic Advocate

NEWARK—The Vocations Office of the Archdiocese of Newark has launched a new Website ([www.newpriestNJ.org](http://www.newpriestNJ.org)), which is designed to provide resource information for men who have embarked on the spiritual journey in the discernment process.

NewpriestNJ is a combination of "Newark Priest" and "new priest" as in "beginners." The Web site provides information on retreats, video clips, writings of Pope Benedict XVI and Archbishop John J. Myers, photos, holy cards, prayers, discernment questions and answers, and contact information including information for applying to the Archdiocese of Newark as a seminarian.

"As a Church, I think we need to respond to the needs of the people. The Internet can be a very useful tool," Father John Gabriel, archdiocesan director of vocations, explained. "There is a lot more to vocations than marketing. When a man begins to hear the Lord's call, it is imperative that the Church have all the proper tools in place to accommodate the journey."

Father Juan Carlos Zapata, a parochial vicar at Saint Aloysius Parish, Jersey City, and Danny Pabon, a resident of the archdiocese's Emmaus House of Discernment, designed the Web site.

Pope John Paul II spearheaded interest in new media throughout the Church. Pope Benedict has affirmed the Internet as a vital tool for evangelization. The Vatican has its own YouTube channel.

The pope made the announcement during a March audience with members of the Vatican Congregation for Clergy. He met with some 70 participants of the congregation's March 16-18 plenary assembly, which focused on the missionary identity of the priest and his mission to sanctify, teach and govern.

During this jubilee year, the pope will also proclaim Saint John Vianney to be patron saint of all the world's priests. At present he is considered the patron saint of parish priests. This year marks the 150th anniversary of the death of this 19th-century saint who represents a "true example of a priest at the

service of the flock of Christ," the pope said.

In his address, Pope Benedict said the priestly ministry consists of total adherence to the ecclesial tradition of participating "in a spiritually intense new life and a new lifestyle which was inaugurated by the Lord Jesus and which the apostles made their own."

Priestly ordination creates new men who are bestowed with the gift and office of sanctifying, teaching and governing, he said. The pope underlined the necessary and "indispensable struggle for moral perfection, which must dwell in every authentically priestly heart."



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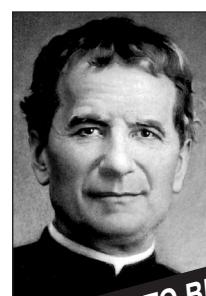
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CNS graphic

Saint John Vianney is widely known to Catholics as the "Cure (parish priest) of Ars," who won over the hearts of his villagers in France by visiting with them, teaching them about God and reconciling people to the Lord in the confessional.



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## Don Bosco gets ready to Rock 'n Roll May 2

RAMSEY—Don Bosco Prep will host The Rock 'n Roll Chorus, the Garden State's teenage a cappella group, on Saturday, May 2, 7:30 p.m. The 32-member chorus will perform rock and roll hits from the 1950s and 1960s.

The concert will be held at the school's chapel, Saint John's Hall, 492 North Franklin Turnpike. Tickets are priced at \$20 and available through the school's Web site ([www.donboscoprep.com](http://www.donboscoprep.com)) or by calling (201) 327-8003, ext. 188.



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Submitted photo

**PANTRY BOUND**—Kindergarten students at Saint Anne School, Fair Lawn, admire Easter baskets they assembled for a food pantry that serves needy families in nearby communities.

## Dancers hip hop to NJ title

RAMSEY—The Don Bosco Prep varsity and junior varsity teams, comprised of students from the Academy of the Holy Angels, Demarest, have captured two New Jersey Cheer and Dance Coaches' Association state championships in the hip-hop category.

The latest honor marks the team's 18th NJ title since 1993, making it the state leader for both cheer and dance teams. Last year the school captured the national hip-hop crown at Disney World, Orlando, FL (see *The Catholic Advocate*, April 9, 2008).

Tryouts for the teams will take place at Don Bosco the last week of April. Call Rick DeLillo—now in his 29th season as the coach of the dance and cheer teams—at (201) 327-8003 for more information. Girls who attend Academy of the Holy Angels are eligible to join the team.



Advocate photo — M. Gabriele

**ENRICHMENT FOR EDUCATORS**—The archdiocesan Respect Life Office, Linden, led by Father Joseph Meagher and Michelle Krystofik, sponsored a pro-life "enrichment day" seminar for Catholic school educators, which was held March 20 at the Newark chancery. Speakers presented ideas to teachers and administrators on how to effectively communicate pro-life topics to students. Over 100 educators attended the event, including Kristin Stanicki (left) of Saint Agnes School, Clark, and Angel Vilalongo (right) of SS. Mary and Elizabeth Academy, Linden. Archbishop John J. Myers addressed the gathering and underscored the role of parents as being essential to answering questions and providing guidance to teens. Regarding the "formation" of chastity in young adults, Archbishop Myers said it is "a way of truth" that recognizes the dignity of each person in their physical and spiritual maturity. "It is not easy," the archbishop acknowledged. "We can't do it alone. We need an interior life of personal prayer. We need sincere conversion of hearts. We make mistakes, but we have a loving and forgiving God." Call (732) 388-8211 to reach the Respect Life office.



## Bergen Catholic to welcome Brother Walsh as president

ORADELL—Brother Brian M. Walsh, C.F.C., a former principal of Bergen Catholic High School (BCHS), will become its third president Aug. 1.

He will replace Brother Lawrence T. Murphy, C.F.C., who is completing his 10th year as president. Brother Murphy has accepted a new position within the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America Leadership Team.

Serving as principal during the 1992–93 school year, Brother Walsh began his career at BCHS in January 1967, and stayed until June 1972, teaching biology, environmental science and religion while serving as dean of freshmen.

In addition to his work as an educator, Brother Walsh has held leadership positions within the Congregation of Christian Brothers. He has been a member of the leadership team of the Eastern American Province since 1993, serving as both the deputy province leader and the province leader. He worked to merge all of the North American Provinces into a single entity and served as the deputy province leader of the newly created Province of the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America. During his term as province leader, he served as the chairman of the board of trustees to BCHS.

He returns to BCHS with a wide array of administrative experience. He has served as the chief school administrator at Bishop Kearney High School in Rochester, NY and at Notre Dame-Bishop Gibbons High School in Schenectady, NY, as president/principal at Bishop Hendricken High School in Warwick, RI, and as the superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Rochester, NY.



Submitted photo

**TEAM PLAYERS**—Fifth graders at Saint James the Apostle School, Springfield, left to right, Vienna Holmes, Joanna Lucas, Christina Sanciango, Victoria Pacheco and Sarah Adeola, recently demonstrated “environmental shots,” a game created by the school’s sixth graders that involves recycling crushed soda cans.



Submitted photo

**PASSION PLAY**—To begin Holy Week, third grade students at Saint Catherine of Siena School, Cedar Grove, performed the annual Passion Play on April 8 for parents and the student body.

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## April 23

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 5427**, Washington Township, fund-raising drive at key locations throughout town, call Bob Hibler at (201) 666-2454.

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**, Hillsdale, financial strategy seminar, 7:30 p.m., (201) 666-2707.

## April 24

**BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF ELIZABETH**, vocation discernment retreat for women, through April 26, call Sister Mariette Therese Bernier, O.S.B., at (908) 352-4278, ext. 274.

**UNION CATHOLIC REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**, Scotch Plains, tricky tray, 5:30 p.m., cost: \$15, (908) 889-1600, ext. 304.

**XAVIER RETREAT CENTER, CONVENT STATION**, directed retreat, 5 p.m., through April 26, cost: \$150, (973) 290-5100.

**QUEEN OF PEACE HIGH SCHOOL**, North Arlington, "Annie," 8 p.m., through May 2, cost: \$10, (201) 998-8227.

## April 25

**SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH**, Ridgefield Park, a free job-search seminar, open to the public, 8:30 a.m. to noon, in the school auditorium, 110 Mount Vernon St. Seating limited to 200 participants, pre-registration recommended. To register, go online to [www.stfrancisorg.org](http://www.stfrancisorg.org), download the registration form and fax it to (201) 641-2282 or e-mail the form as an attachment to [stfrancisorgjobseminar@gmail.com](mailto:stfrancisorgjobseminar@gmail.com) or call the parish at (201) 641-6464.

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**, Hillsdale, Mass of Anointing of the Sick, 11 a.m., (201) 666-2707.

**OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH**, Orange, Feast of Maria Santissima Incononata, 11 a.m., (973) 674-2052.

**QUELLEN SPIRITUAL CENTER**, Mendham, "Zooming in on the Mountain of the Transfiguration," 10 a.m. - noon, cost: \$15, (973) 543-6528, ext. 217.



Advocate photo - M. Gabriele

**SACRED HEART OF JESUS PARISH**, Irvington, Rosary Altar Society spring luncheon, noon, cost: \$5, (732) 225-5965.

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK**, international adoption information meeting, at Archdiocesan Retreat Center in Kearny, (201) 246-7378.

**ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE PARISH**, Jersey City, Mass of Anointing, 1 p.m., call Sister Maryann at (201) 433-8500.

## April 26

**ST. CASSIAN PARISH**, Upper Montclair, "Music from the Sanctuary, Music from the Stage," 4 p.m., cost: \$15, (973) 744-2850.

**HOLY NAME HOSPITAL**, Teaneck, Spring Fashion Fling for MS, held at Marriott Glenpointe Hotel, cost: \$75, (201) 837-0727, ext. 3899.

**ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE PARISH**, Jersey City, Holy Name Society communion breakfast, after 8 a.m. Mass, cost: \$15, (201) 451-0123.

## April 27

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

## April 29

**ST. ANTONINUS PARISH**, Newark, "Life in the Spirit" seminar, six Wednesdays through June 3, 8-10 p.m., call George and MaryAnn McGehrin at (201) 933-5983.

## May 1

**HOLY FAMILY PARISH**, Nutley, fashion show fund-raiser, cost: \$22, call Erma Mastro at (973) 667-4430.

**ST. ANTONINUS PARISH**, Newark, Family Healing Ministry "Healing through Forgiveness," with Father John Hampsch, C.M.F., through May 3, (973) 623-0258.

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

## May 2

**QUELLEN SPIRITUAL CENTER**, Mendham, "Lectio Divina: Listen to Scripture with the 'Ears of your Heart,'" 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., cost: \$35, (973) 543-6528, ext. 217.

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH**, Bloomfield, "The Mission of Marriage: Heaven on Earth," 9 a.m. - noon, cost: \$10 per person/\$15 per couple, call Bob Miller at (973) 338-9190, ext. 29.

## May 3

**ROSARY SHRINE, MONASTERY OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY**, Summit, 3 p.m., rosary pilgrimage devotions and May crowning, hosted by the Dominican Nuns and opening with a procession in honor of Our Lady of Fatima led by the Knights of Columbus. Guest speaker, Rev. Bother Isaiah Mary Molano, O.P. who will be ordained to the priesthood next year. For additional information contact the Dominican Nuns at (908) 273-1228 or e-mail them at [nunsopsummit.org](mailto:nunsopsummit.org).

## May 4

**JOSEPHINE'S PLACE**, Elizabeth, golf event at Cedar Hill Golf and Country Club in Livingston, cost: \$400 per golfer/\$1,500 per foursome, call Sister Judith Mertz at (908) 436-0099.

## May 5

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 3428**, North Arlington, May Crowning followed by a Living Rosary, 7:30 p.m., (201) 991-9606.

## May 6

**HOLY SPIRIT PARISH**, Union, Holy Hour for Life, 7:30-8:30 p.m., call Deacon Stanley W. Kwiatek, Jr. at (908) 964-7653.

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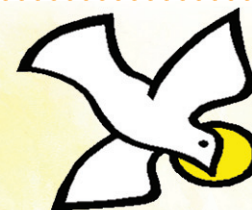
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## Iraq forum

Continued from page 1

Addressing the delegates, Menzies said he was thankful for their visit and hopeful for the outcome. "We are deeply grateful that you are here and we are honored that you chose SHU. We are all here to compare, contrast and share ideas. I hope this

dialogue provides rich new insights," he added.

Dr. David Little, professor in the Practice of Religion, Ethnicity and International Conflict at the Harvard Divinity School, participated in the roundtable discussion. Until 1999, he was senior scholar in Religion, Ethics and Human Rights at the United States Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C., where he conducted a multi-

year study of religion, nationalism and intolerance.

Little shared results of the study with the Iraq delegation. "Religion is an important feature in nationalist conflict, where nationalism is important and ethnic groups are contending with each other for dominance," he explained. In areas such as the Middle East, religious groups vying for political domination will invoke religion as a way to claim title and territory, he stressed. Religion/ethnic intolerance then leads to violence, Little added.

In his recently published work "Peacemakers in Action: Profiles of Religion in Conflict Resolution," Little concluded that religion is not just a source of intolerance, but a source of peace. "Religion has a preference for peace and justice," he said. "Hostility and violence is best overcome by peaceful means. There is debate as to whether force should ever be used you create peace."

A member of the visiting Iraqi delegation remarked that their visit to SHU was a way to mend bridges between America and Iraq. "We came looking for co-existence and we are praying for peace all over the world. We

are keen to continue dialogue."

Another delegate expressed the belief that they are several misconceptions about Iraq. "There is no problem between the religious sects in my country. We are all participating in building the Iraq state. However, we are suffering from extremism and radicalism. There are people with hidden agendas that want to sabotage the Iraqi experience."

Although the delegation was targeted because of its visit, the hope was that such interfaith dialogue will lead to new policies and ideas they can bring back to Iraq. "All members here have been targeted for assassination and many of my colleagues lost their lives for co-existence and peace. We look forward to having a memorandum of understanding with SHU," a member of the visiting Iraqi delegation said.

Father Lawrence E. Frizzell, director of the Institute of Judaic-Christian Studies at SHU and a columnist for *The Catholic Advocate*, encouraged dialogue as "a true exchange between people accepting each other as equals." Willingness to learn from all participants and capacity is also essential to a successful dialogue, he added.

"The immediate goal of dialogue is to improve the conditions where we live. Common needs should be approached by everyone. Dialogue should deepen the trust for each other by working together to achieve goals for a large community. I hope our visitors make great progress," Fr. Frizzell declared.

Rev. Msgr. Robert J. Wister, associate professor of Church History at SHU, presented a brief overview of the relationship between religion and politics in the United States. He noted that religion and politics continues to evolve in our nation. Various religious groups have been persecuted and ostracized in America, but the foundation of our government ensures freedom of religion.

"After becoming independent from Great Britain, it was established that no one religion should be favored above another," Msgr. Wister said. "It was for practical reasons; there were too many different religions. There was also the philosophical understanding that an individual had the right to follow his conscience. All people are free to adopt and practice any faith as a basic human right."

Vatican Council II encouraged dialogue between people of differ-

**GOING TO OREGON**—Caldwell Dominican Sister Carol J. Dempsey, O.P., Ph.D. will become a professor of theology in biblical studies at the University of Portland, OR, June 1. The university is a four-year Catholic institution affiliated with the Congregation of Holy Cross. Recognized by her peers for her excellence in scholarship, Sister Carol was appointed to the editorial board of the *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* and received an invitation to become a peer reviewer for the *Journal of Catholic Higher Education* by the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities. Sister Carol is the author of numerous books and scholarly articles and plans to continue her work in research and publishing while teaching at the university.



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Seton Hall President Msgr. Robert Sheeran (right) greeted a member of the Iraqi delegation during the April 1 interfaith forum. U.S.-led coalition forces invaded Iraq on March 20, 2003. Since then, 4,200 U.S. soldiers have been killed and 30,000 wounded.



Submitted photo

ent faiths and that edict has “produced much fruit” according to Msgr. Wister. Even though religion is not endorsed by the government, the faith of the people has endured. “The lack of government support has made religions rely on themselves. Because of no government assistance, religions have grown stronger and self-reliant. The people of the United States are among the most religious in the world,” he concluded.

As permanent delegate to the United Nations for Caritas Internationalis, Joseph C. Donnelly is regularly involved with Muslim nations, including Iraq. Caritas is a global confederation of 164 Catholic relief, development and social organizations working in over 200 countries. “I represent an international Catholic organization and most of our work is in Muslim countries. Iraq is one of the top five priorities. We are present to the people, not the politics,” he said.

Caritas workers facilitate food banks, build water pipes and work in education in foreign countries. Donnelly stressed that learning about the communities they serve is imperative to the work of the organization. Learning the culture, customs and traditions, especially in Muslim counties, is essential, he said. “You cannot just be in a place and not know the people. You have to become part of the community you serve. Attach yourself to what is real where you are.”

Crossing boundaries and learning from other countries is essential to peacemaking, Donnelly explained. Addressing the Iraqi delegation, he viewed their venture to SHU as a step toward achieving peace. “Your visit helps us to learn better. We must keep the hope alive; your presence is a sign of hope.”

A member of the visiting Iraqi

delegation noted that God is in the “social fabric” of his country. Since the United States occupation of Iraq, Al-Qaeda and other terrorist groups are now more prevalent in Iraq. The first step, he believes, to rebuilding his country is interfaith dialogue, while a stronger, moderate Muslim voice is a key to building peace.

“If we want to accelerate the dialogue, we have to find moderate leaders in all faiths. We should all be sincere in our efforts and not just be simply talking politics. We also need systematic order for dialogue,” a visiting delegate said.

Mayor Booker participated in a second roundtable discussion on employing interfaith dialogue to make public policy. With two Iraqi mayors on the panel, they compared the experiences of rebuilding Newark and rebuilding Anbar province.

Putting together unique coalitions composed of citizens from many faiths, Mayor Booker believes, has resulted in reduction of violent crimes. “Change came about because everyone was working together. My job is (to be) a ‘weaver,’ to create one common cloth,” he said. “We have to put aside our differences for the greater good.”

A member of the Iraqi delegation relayed that in his first 10 months as mayor, he acted as military general due to the threats and dangers faced by his community. Because he worked toward creating a new government in his country he was labeled an “infidel” working against God. “I received e-mails threatening my life and my family. My children did not go to school for a year,” he said.

There is a lack of government structure in Iraq, another member of the visiting delegation explained. “Since 2003, we had to

start from scratch under atrocities and violence. Luckily, Iraq is 75-percent back to normal.”

Mayor Booker commended the visiting Iraqis for building a foundation for their home country. Even though he faces chal-

lenges as mayor of the state’s largest city, he noted the obstacles in Anbar province far outweigh his own concerns.

“The violence in my city is not synonymous with yours. I do not have anywhere near the challenges

you face,” Mayor Booker said. “I believe we both fight for the same principles. The work you do is the work of true heroes. May God bless you in your efforts and may my nation join yours in courageous work for the common good.”

*“The modern problem of justice in economic affairs is the non-existence of an intelligent and responsible account of economics.” Bernard J. Lonergan, S.J.*

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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.

J.D.

## PRAYER TO ST. JUDE

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

C.Q.

## PRAYER TO ST. CLAIRE

Ask St. Claire for three favors; one Business and two impossible. Say nine Hail Mary's for nine days with a lighted candle. Published the ninth day "May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, adored, and glorified today and every day. Requests will be granted no matter how impossible they seem. Publication must be promised.

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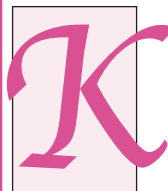
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Benkovic

Continued from page 1

“Women of Grace Live,” a one-hour, call-in radio talk show broadcasted nationally on various AM and FM radio stations. She is also the founder and president of Living His Life Abundantly International Inc., a Catholic evangelization apostolate based in Oldsmar, FL (Web site: [www.lhla.org](http://www.lhla.org)).

Benkovic’s faith was tested when Simon, having just returned from serving in Iraq, struck a tree while driving a few miles from the family home in Florida. She was overcome by unbridled grief.

“There was a pain in my womb (when I learned that Simon had died). I was wailing like when Rachel wailed for her children in the Bible. I asked God for the spir-

itual blessing that held Our Lady firm for the three hours while she was under the cross.”

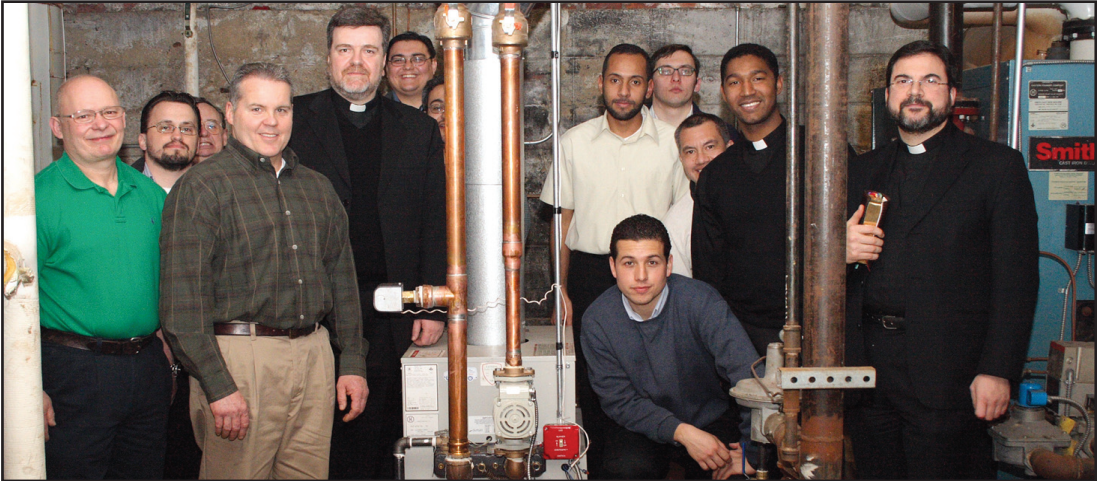
Although her emotions were in turmoil, Benkovic relied on God for spiritual blessing. She believes that we all live in a “day and time that is all about feelings” and that faith is not about emotions, but steadfast conviction. “Faith is not about feelings; it’s a theological virtue that resides in the intellect,” she said. “Faith is practiced and made strong through the will. Emotions are not reliable indicators of faith in our lives and don’t tell us the truth all of the time.”

In 2007, her beloved husband Anthony succumbed after a long battle with brain cancer. She once again asked God for spiritual blessing and grace. Her relationship with Mary grew deeper after the tragedy. “I entered a relation-

ship with Our Lady where she would mother me and show me what to do during my travail. God wants all of us to know and live and experience Our Lady.”

Through her suffering, Benkovic connected to Mary’s suffering and contemplated the plight of Christ’s mother. “I thought—if I am experiencing this level of pain, what did Mary experience? My pain was rooted in the desires to see Simon happy. I wanted my son back. Mary was not compromised by selfishness. She had only love rooted in her.”

The death of her son and husband, although heartbreaking, brought them eternal life. She understood that God took those closest to her and that their physical death is not the end of their journey. “God knew the perfect time for Simon and my husband to leave this world,” she said.



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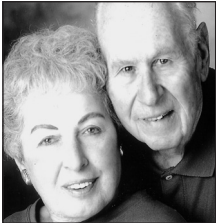
Advocate photo – Melissa McNally

Johnnette Benkovic (left), keynote speaker at the Women’s Day of Reflection, said that when we open ourselves to Our Lady, she leads us to her Son Jesus Christ. “True devotion to the Blessed Mother leads us to divine union with the Lord. If you want more of God, get more of Mary.”

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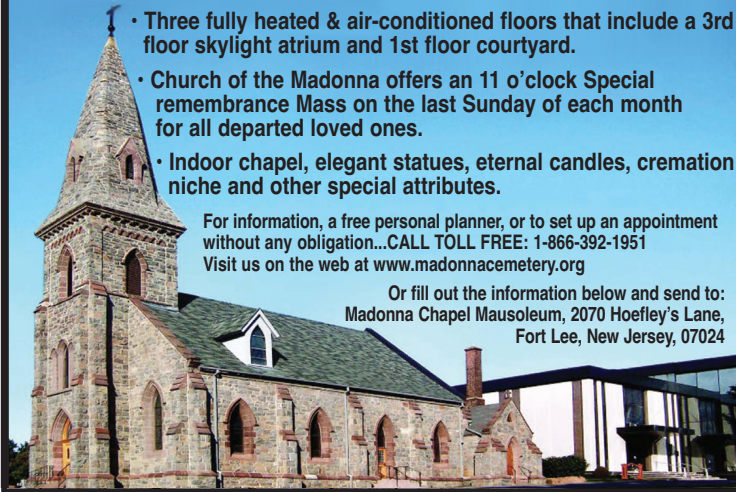


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**A WARM FEELING**—Robert Gomez (left) and Sarah Getz (right), members of Scotch Plains-based Union Catholic Regional High School's peer ministry student leaders, deliver 16 new quilts that will be given to patients at Peggy's House at the Center for Hope Hospice, also located in Scotch Plains. Gratefully accepting the quilts is Nancy Rager, RN. Janet Etlinger, whose granddaughter is a Union Catholic graduate, heard of the hospice's need and initiated the project.



Submitted photo

## Holy Name receives designation as an NJ coordination center

TEANECK—Holy Name Hospital has been designated as a Medical Coordination Center (MCC) for Bergen County, one of only nine such facilities in New Jersey.

A major role of the MCC is to communicate closely with the state Department of Health and Senior Services and Office of Emergency Management to identify any and all emergency incidents.

Using state grants, Holy Name's MCC has purchased state-of-the-art computers, video and radio systems. With the new George P. Pitkin Emergency Care Center, Holy Name Hospital has been able to expand and improve services to MCC requirements.

The new emergency room (ER), along with the Marian Hall Conference Center strategically located below the ER, is equipped to handle large-scale, mass-casualty situations with radiation detection and an isolation area for decontamination. The Holy Name center would deal with the medical surge of patients during an incident of this type. The entire facility was created with input from Israeli safety experts along with site visits to their healthcare facilities.



Submitted photo

Discussing Holy Name Hospital's status as a medical coordination center are, left to right, Thomas Rose, center coordinator; Sheryl Slonim, senior vice president of patient care services; Joseph Tricarico, assistant to the commissioner for health preparedness; and Michael Maron, Holy Name's president and chief executive officer.

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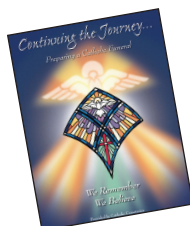
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