



The Catholic Advocate

Catholic Cemeteries



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May 26, 2010



Advocate photo – Ward Miele

Archbishop John J. Myers will ordain a dozen men to the priesthood at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark on May 29. The new priests are, left to right, front row, Father Duverney Bermudez Giraldo, Father Edinson Enrique Ramírez Ardila, Father Julius Joseph Banez Lucero, Father Juan Carlos Vargas, Father Arokiadoss Raji and Father Camilo Ernesto Cruz Bahamón. In the back row are Father Anthony L. Marcantuono, Father Victor Marković, Father Wellington Manuel Muñoz, Father Joseph Emmanuel Simon Dos Santos and Father Francisco Javier Rodríguez. The photo was taken inside the chapel at the Archdiocesan Center, which is located across the street from the Cathedral Basilica. Missing from the photo is Father Nicholas Vito Bellotti III (inset, bottom right). A report on the 2010 ordinations begins on page 9.



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Scholars earn recognition for hard work

Six juniors at Benedictine Academy are inducted into the National Honor Society.

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Event honors generosity of Legacy Society

A reception, hosted by Archbishop John J. Myers, celebrates those who donate planned gifts to the archdiocese.

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Bishop da Cunha cites goals of S-1872

Trenton urged to embrace an education 'opportunity'

TRENTON—It was, quite literally, a day when the sun was shining on the state's legislative process.

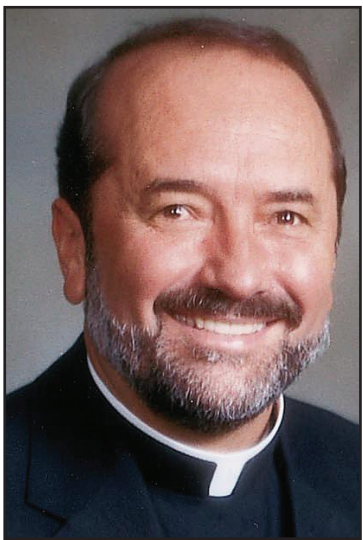
In an unprecedented move by a state senator to stand up to representatives of the public school teachers' union who had attempted to exclude from the hearing room adults and children who had come to Trenton to speak in favor of school choice, the NJ Senate Economic Growth Committee, on May 13, unanimously approved the Opportunity Scholarship Act by a vote of 6-0.

The bill, known as S-1872, proposes a five-year pilot program in which students who reside in districts where chronically failing schools are located and whose families earn less than 2.5 times the national poverty level would be eligible for scholarship assistance to attend public or nonpublic schools.

On the day of the hearing, some 1,500 students and teachers from non-public schools across the state—a mix of religious and private schools—had come to the Statehouse to show support for the bill. While the demonstration was under way outside and before the hearing was set to begin, representatives of the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA), the largest public school teachers union in the state, entered the hearing room and took most of the seats, thereby attempting to limit or lock out of the room testimony in favor of the scholarship act.

Sen. Raymond Lesniak of Elizabeth, the chair of the Economic Growth Committee and one of the sponsors of S-1872, asked the NJEA representatives to give up some of their seats so that a fair and impartial hearing of the bill could take place. When the NJEA contingent refused to cede some seats, Sen. Lesniak decided to move the hearing outside onto the steps of the Statehouse and invited the union representatives to join everyone out in the sun.

"The students, teachers and parents who came to Trenton to call for passage of the Opportunity Scholarship Act truly saw a mo-



Bishop Edgar da Cunha

ment in state history," Rev. Msgr. Kevin M. Hanbury, the archdiocesan Vicar for Education and Superintendent of Schools, said. "The willingness of the Economic Growth Committee members to bring the hearing virtually into the sunshine was a brilliant statement about government coming to the aid of families desiring affordable educational alternatives, and of recognizing that nonpublic schools have and always will be an essential element of successful education in this state."

Most Rev. Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, who spoke on behalf of the state's Catholic bishops and the Archdiocese of Newark, addressed the committee on May 13. Other speakers offering support for the bill included members of Lakewood's Jewish community, and New Jersey Education Commissioner Bret Schundler.

"I come before you today, to encourage you to support S-1872," Bishop da Cunha said, addressing the Senate committee. "Nonpublic schools, including Catholic and other religiously affiliated schools are a solid, educationally sound alternative to public schools, and are part of the solution for helping all children receive a quality education. Our schools welcome children from diverse backgrounds and are mainstays in many areas where public schools are not succeeding."

"Catholic Schools educate stu-

'Catholic schools educate students of all faiths. In inner-city parochial schools, 80 percent of our students are non-Catholic. This is our Christian mission.'

— Bishop Edgar da Cunha

dents of all faiths because we believe in the parable of the Good Samaritan," he continued. "In inner-city parochial schools, 80 percent of our students are non-Catholic. This is our Christian mission. We are not running a business, we are running a mission. We are about faith, hope and service."

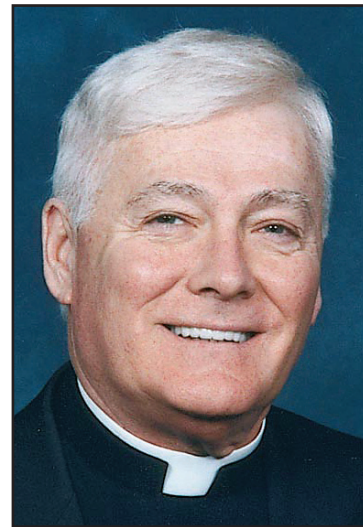
"By virtue of the choice that parents have made for their children to attend Catholic schools, we provide significant savings to the state's taxpayers, not to be overlooked in these difficult economic times. These are the same families that are struggling under the ever-growing burden of NJ property taxes and daily living expenses, which, presents a huge challenge to Catholic schools. If they raise

tuition, they lose students. I know first hand this challenge. When I was pastor of Saint Michael Parish in Newark, many times I met parents who could not afford to keep their children in Catholic school.

"Tuition goes up when costs increase. Nevertheless, our tuition is still modest in comparison to many private schools. When families cannot afford the tuition, enrollment drops and schools are forced to close. It is never an easy decision when it becomes necessary to close the schools which are struggling because enrollment is low. It is something we try always to avoid but we have all experienced the changes that shuttering of buildings and shifting of sites brings."

Bishop da Cunha said this year the Archdiocese of Newark has given \$10 million to support struggling schools. "In order to continue to provide the Catholic education in New Jersey that has existed for over 150 years, parents will need some assistance from the government," he said. "We are all responsible for finding a way to help children receive a thorough and efficient education now, especially when their local public schools are unable to provide one."

"The people who don't want this bill to become law try to make the case that the tax credits the corporations receive takes money



Rev. Msgr. Kevin Hanbury

away from the state," James Goodness, director of communication for the Archdiocese of Newark, said. "But the reality of this bill is the exact opposite: the scholarships amount to only \$6,000 for elementary school and \$9,000 for high school—about one-third and one-half of the \$15,000-\$20,000 that is the average for public education in New Jersey."

"Anyone who does the math sees that this bill will save New Jersey taxpayers money," Goodness continued. "There is a special provision in this bill that provides public school districts with innovation grants to encourage those districts to take steps to improve their education programs, thus benefitting the children who remain in those public schools."

Using a model that has been successful in other states, S-1872 would allow corporations to donate to scholarship funds in exchange for tax credits. A similar program exists in Pennsylvania. Last year the Keystone State marked the eighth anniversary of its successful Education Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program, which was the nation's first corporate education tax-credit program (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Aug. 26, 2009).

While Gov. Chris Christie is a strong supporter of the bill, the NJEA remains opposed to the measure, claiming it would create

Continued on page 3

Cast your vote online

The next step in the legislative process is for the bill to be reviewed by the Senate Budget and Appropriations committee, although there was no word at press time as to when that would occur. In order to become state law, the bill must pass the full Senate; an Assembly version of the bill has yet to be introduced.

Those who support the measure can contact their local state representatives to urge them to pass the Opportunity Scholarship Act. One way to do this is through the "CapWiz" e-mail system now available for use through the New Jersey Catholic Conference (NJCC) Web site (www.njcathconf.com).

To register to use the CapWiz program, log on to <http://capwiz.com/njcathconf>. The NJCC Web site also has additional information on S-1872.

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The community newspaper
of the Archdiocese of Newark



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Bishop helps chaplains to move onward and upward in ministry

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE
Editor

Serving as an auxiliary bishop in the Archdiocese of Newark for nearly six years, Most Rev. John W. Flesey frequently addresses culturally diverse groups and mingles with people in transit, moving to and from far-away lands. Earlier this month, Bishop Flesey called upon this experience when he addressed an “upwardly mobile” audience—a retreat for U.S. Air Force Catholic chaplains.

The annual retreat for Air Force chaplains was held May 10-14 at Bethany Center in Lutz, FL. The gathering drew 53 priests serving throughout the world, including some who recently had been stationed in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Father James A. Hamel, who was ordained a priest in the Archdiocese of Newark in 1992 and on active duty as an Air Force chaplain since 2000, ex-

tended an invitation to Bishop Flesey to lead the Florida retreat. A student of Bishop Flesey when the two were at Immaculate Conception Seminary, South Orange, Fr. Hamel currently serves as Ch. Maj., U.S. Air Force, staff chaplain and the di-

sentations. The retreat also included Most Rev. Joseph W. Estabrook, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese for the Military Services.

“This was a chance for the men to gather as priests rather than as chaplains,” Bishop Flesey explained. “As chaplains they are stationed all over the world and have many different duties. My presentations focused on issues that are fundamental to the priesthood. I also had the chance to meet with the chaplains informally.”

Bishop Flesey shared two observations from his vantage point as the leader of the retreat. First he cited the stress that priests experience due to multiple cultural adjustments and frequent friendship separations, which are part of the job description for a military chaplain. In addition, when the assignment is in a place like Afghanistan, chaplains must deal with the inherent tensions from armed conflicts.

Second, Bishop Flesey noted the strong camaraderie, dedication and *esprit de corps* among the chaplains, providing faithful sup-

port among themselves for their ministry. A “high degree of conviction in the mission” is required in order to function as a military chaplain, Bishop Flesey said.

“They move constantly between assignments (in different parts of the world) and must function as leaders and spiritual guides,” he said. “They face challenging issues that go beyond the obvious. It’s not an easy thing to do.”

Fr. Hamel’s home parish is Our Lady of Sorrows, South

Orange. He graduated from Columbia High School, Maplewood, in 1984 and earned a master’s degree in divinity at Seton Hall University, South Orange, in 1992. His parish assignments in the archdiocese included Our Lady of Fatima, North Bergen; Holy Trinity, Westfield; and Our Lady Queen of Peace, Maywood. He has been deployed to the Middle East four times since Sept. 11, 2001, with stops in Iraq, Afghanistan, Qatar and Kuwait.



Bishop John Flesey (left) and Father James Hamel

rector of the installation control center (ICC), Air Force Chaplain Corps College, Fort Jackson, SC.

As leader of the retreat, Bishop Flesey inspired the chaplains through a series of talks that focused on the priesthood, Fr. Hamel said in an e-mail to *The Catholic Advocate*, noting the attendees were “spiritually renewed” by Bishop Flesey’s pre-

‘They move constantly between assignments (in different parts of the world) and must function as leaders and spiritual guides.’

—Bishop Flesey on the life of an Air Force chaplain

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Sunshine

Continued from page 2

a “voucher” system in which public school funds would be diverted to private schools. The NJ bishops, in their formal statement to legislators, countered the NJEA claim, pointing out the legislation does not take money out of the existing education budget and therefore it is not a “voucher” bill.

“It is not an added burden to taxpayers; rather, it is funded through the corporate tax revenues that would be used for purposes other than education,” the bishops stated. “The legislation also does not undermine ongoing reforms of public education.”

Earlier this month the Catholic Bishops of New Jersey sent a letter to all NJ legislators asking them to support S-1872, sponsored by sen-

ators Lesniak (D-20), Thomas Kean (R-11), and Joseph Kyrillos (R-13).

“Through no fault of their own, some of the poorest children in New Jersey are trapped in schools that are failing to meet their needs,” the bishops said in their letter to legislators. “Like all children, these students are deserving of a quality education that will provide them with the skills to succeed in life. We, the Catholic Bishops of New Jersey, are strongly committed to providing a quality education for all New Jersey’s children as a matter of basic justice and as a means of promoting their God-given dignity and well-being.”

(Editor’s note: The Monitor, the newspaper of the Diocese of Trenton, the NJCC and the Communications Department of the Archdiocese of Newark provided information for this report.)

Congratulations and best wishes
to all the new Priests on their
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Bishops to examine migration issues

WASHINGTON—Representatives of bishops’ conferences of the United States, Canada, Mexico, and other Latin American and Caribbean countries will convene June 2-4 in Washington for the 2010 Regional Bishops’ Consultation on Migration. Archbishop Antonio Maria Vegliò, president of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People at the Vatican, and Archbishop Pietro Sambi, papal nuncio to the United States, also are slated to attend. The bishops are expected to discuss the current situation of migrants in their respective countries. This will involve presentations on current conditions impacting migration in sending and receiving countries; the treatment of immigrants living in or in transit through their coun-

tries; the impact on communities left behind; the implications of these realities on the Church’s pastoral care, advocacy and public policy, and service responses; coordination of efforts at the regional level; and the search for successful models. A dialogue with public officials is slated for June 4. The bishops and staff of related Catholic agencies dealing with the realities of human migration across the region will also tour two separate pastoral care and service centers for immigrants in the Diocese of Arlington, VA, on June 3. On the same day, they will be joined for lunch and hear from a group of children from the “Unaccompanied Minors” program from the Diocese of Richmond, VA. These consultations have grown out of regular meet-

ings between the migration-related committees of the U.S. and Mexican episcopal conferences that began in 1999 and resulted in the historic joint-pastoral letter, “Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope,” issued in 2003. Since then, the consultations

were expanded to other bishops’ conferences and their staff involved in human mobility work in Canada and Latin America, especially in Central America and the Caribbean. These discussions have served to strengthen collaboration among the participating episcopal conferences on behalf of migrants, transcending borders and allowing for more comprehen-

sive responses. Scheduled to participate at the consultation in Washington are several U. S. bishops including Bishop John C. Wester of Salt Lake City, chair of the USCCB Committee on Migration and Archbishop José H. Gomez, Coadjutor Archbishop of Los Angeles and chairman-elect of the Committee on Migration.

Muslims, Catholics continue dialogue

WASHINGTON—Interreligious education and the danger of stereotypes were discussed at the 14th annual meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Dialogue between Catholics and Muslims, in Somerset (NJ) May 5-6. The meeting began with remarks by the Bishop Denis Madden, Auxiliary Bishop of Baltimore, who spoke on behalf of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, and Dr. Talat Sultan of the Islamic Circle

of North America (ICNA). The Mid-Atlantic Dialogue between Catholics and Muslims has been sponsored jointly by the USCCB Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs and ICNA since 1996. In a presentation entitled, “Religious Education as a Path to Mutual Respect and Understanding among Catholics and Muslims,” Bishop Madden said Catholic education’s emphasis on the integral formation of the whole person whose final destiny is heaven and toward the common

good of societies. Dr. Sultan noted Islamic teaching that all humanity springs from a single source and stressed that mutual respect is imperative. He noted that before people teach about other religions, they should use primary sources to correctly understand other faiths. Christian Brother David Carroll, the Aquinas Chair of Catholic Studies, Saint Thomas Aquinas College, Sparkill, N.Y., spoke on “The Educational Mission of the Church.” He explained how principles in Pope John Paul II’s encyclical “*Redemptoris Missio*” are lived out in the work of the Brothers of Christian Schools in Africa and Asia. Even though the original Christian populations for which the schools were founded have moved on, he said, the schools continue to serve the local population. This thought was echoed by two of the imams—Shaykh Abdur Rahman Khan from Guyana and Imam Zafeer Ali Hafiz from India—who had attended Catholic schools in their home countries. On the first evening, the area ICNA chapter and the USCCB co-hosted a dinner for local religious and political leaders.



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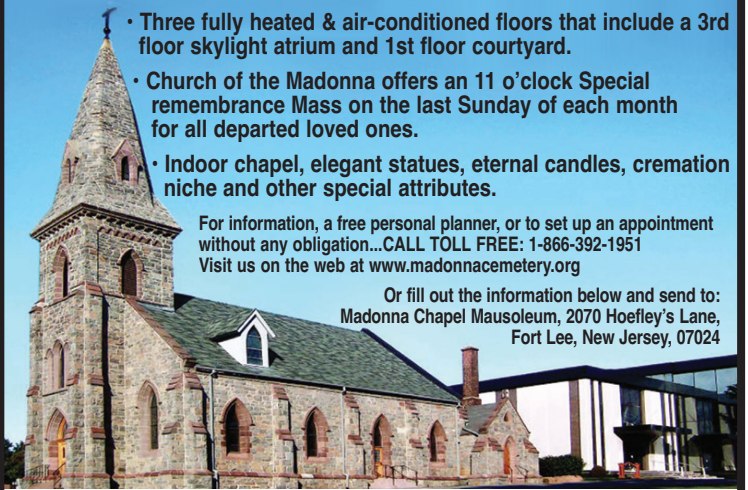
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DEDICATED STUDENTS—

Six members of the junior class at Benedictine Academy, Elizabeth, were inducted into the National Honor Society in a ceremony on April 15. Ana Miguel, Benedictine Academy Class of 2003, who is completing her master's degree in Social Work at New York University, addressed the students. Inductees included (left to right) Chisom Emeana of Hillside, Geraline Arroyo of Union, Sara Pereira of Elizabeth, Haneah Jackson of Hillside, Alicia Onacki of Roselle, and Stefanie Eller of Hillside.



Submitted photo



Submitted photo

HONOR SOCIETY—Saint Joseph School, Bogota, on April 16, inducted 16 new members into the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS). The students in grades 6, 7 and 8 met the rigorous standards of scholarship, leadership, service, character and citizenship. Sister Theresa Rickard, O.P., president of RENEW International, Plainfield, served as the guest speaker for the event. James Newman, principal, and Sean Houlihan, NJHS advisor, accepted the following students into the National Junior Honor Society: Michael Fiske, Elijah Rowe, Jonathan Acosta, Ezriel Ciriaco, Dhea Damaso, Ava Mancini, Sheena Santos, Michael Llanaeza, Eugene Roche, Sally Park, Veronica Pawlik, Annabel Reyes, Taras Bodnar, Larry Michelli, Jr., Joseph Mitchell and Matthew Ramos.

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JERSEY CITY—A full schedule of events marking a century of learning at the combined schools of Saint Patrick/Assumption/All Saints will take place June 4-6.

While the original Saint Patrick School is marking 100 years, All Saints School and Assumption School have reached the 110-year mark. The three schools merged five years ago. The location for the combined schools is 509 Bramhall Ave.

A wine and cheese reception will be held June 4 at the school. The celebration continues the next day with a cruise up the Hudson River on the Valiant Yacht. At 7 p.m. that same day, a dinner will take place at Casino in the Park, 1 Nunda Ave. The final day, a Sunday, will feature a 10:30 a.m. Baccalaureate Mass at Saint Patrick Parish, 492 Bramhall Ave.

Alumni of all three schools are asked to send in contact information to the Alumni and Development Office, 509 Bramhall Ave. Jersey City, N.J. 07304, or by phone at (201) 433-4664 or e-mailed to stpatsalumni@stpatsschool.org; allsaintsalumni@stpatsschool.org; or allsaintsalumni@stpatsschool.org.

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Advocate photo – M. Gabriele

GREAT STUDENTS—Third grade and sixth grade students at Saint Francis Xavier School, Newark, were awarded certificates for their participation in the Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) program, sponsored by the NJ State Parole Board. Officer Ray Vonberheide (back row, far right) served as the mentor and coordinator for the school's GREAT curriculum, which teaches students life skills to help them resolve conflicts and avoid gangs, drug abuse and crime. Two years ago *The Catholic Advocate* reported on the GREAT program, which is taught at nine schools throughout Newark. "Every time I teach the GREAT class I learn something new from the students and I hope they learn something about me," Vonberheide said in his remarks at the awards ceremony. Brother Ralph Darmento, archdiocesan deputy superintendent, addressed the assembly and congratulated the students.

USCCB cites progress on new Roman Missal

WASHINGTON—The Vatican recently gave its "*recognitio*" or statement of acceptance on the proposed U.S. version of the new edition of the Roman Missal. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) now must decide when to authorize its use in dioceses and parishes in the United States.

In a letter from Cardinal Antonio Cañizares Llovera, Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, dated March 25 (Protocol No. 269/10L), the text of the English translation of the Roman Missal, third edition, has been approved with the required *recognitio*.

Most Rev. Arthur J. Serratelli, chair of the USCCB's Committee on Divine Worship and the bishop of the Diocese of Paterson, voiced gratitude for the approval. "I am happy that after years of study and review, the Congregation for Divine Worship has concluded its work and provided us with a text that will enable the ongoing renewal of the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy in our parishes," Bishop Serratelli said.

Anglican Use confab speakers to explain communion process

NEWARK—The Archdiocese of Newark will host the 2010 Anglican Use Conference June 10-12 at the Archdiocesan Center, 171 Clifton Ave. Visit the Web site (www.anglicanuseconference.com) or call (570) 343-0634 for registration information.

Pope Benedict XVI's apostolic constitution has established conditions whereby the Anglican/Episcopal groups can enter full communion with Rome. Bishop Juan Ignacio Arrieta Ochoa de Chinchetru, secretary, Pontifical Council for Legislative Text, as keynote speaker for the conference, will explain how the process works.

Joseph Blake, president of the Anglican Use Society, Bethlehem, PA, said the gathering will provide guidance for Anglican/Episcopal churches and faith communities.

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Cemeteries hosting masses to remember Memorial Day

AREA—The annual Memorial Day outdoor masses, sponsored by Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Newark, will be held at seven sites throughout northern New Jersey. Masses will be celebrated (rain or shine) on Monday, May 31 at 11 a.m. Canopy seating will be available.

Outdoor masses will be held at the following cemeteries: Holy Cross, 340 Ridge Rd., North Arlington (Archbishop John J. Myers will preside and Father Donald Hummel will serve as the homilist); Gate of Heaven, 225 Ridgedale Ave., East Hanover (Bishop Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V.); Saint Gertrude, 53 Inman Ave., Colonia (Bishop Manuel A. Cruz); Holy Sepulchre, 125 Central Ave., East Orange (Very Rev. Philip J. Waters, O.S.B.); Christ the King, 980 Huron Rd., Franklin Lakes (Bishop John W. Flesey); Maryrest, 25 Seminary Rd. (Bishop Charles J. McDonnell); and Holy Name, 823 West Side Ave., Jersey City (Bishop Thomas A. Donato).

Visit the Catholic Cemeteries Web site (www.rcancem.org) or call (973) 497-7988 for more information.



Submitted photo

KNIGHTS HONOR TEACHER— Eileen M. Ballone, a music teacher at Saint Francis of Assisi School, Ridgefield Park, was honored by the New Jersey State Council of the Knights of Columbus as the 2010 NJ “Parochial School Teacher of the Year.” The award, which was presented on May 14 at the NJ Knight’s annual convention in Wildwood, cites her leadership, dedication and spiritual guidance of students. She is pictured with Jim Ming (left), past grand knight, and Herbert Meyer, state deputy, NJ Knights of Columbus at the conference. Ballone also serves as the director of music, choir director and organist at Saint Margaret of Cortona Parish, Little Ferry.

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Open the door, walk down forty-seven steps

This month of May is the month of Mary. Christians everywhere, Catholic and Eastern Rite, honor her with songs, prayers and devotions. It seems just perfect that, in the time of spring, flowers and of new life, the world should radiate with joy as we venerate the Queen of Heaven.

It may come as a surprise that

there is another great religion that honors Our Lady. Muslims all over the world have great respect, even love, for the mother of Jesus. It all comes from the Koran.

Mary is the only woman in the Islamic Holy Book to be called by her proper name. She is mentioned only with the highest respect. In the Suras (chapters) of the Koran, especially Sura 3 and Sura 19, the

story of the birth of Jesus is told. It deviates greatly from our Gospel narrative but it parallels Saints Luke and Matthew.

A pure virgin, Mary was chosen by God. The angels appeared to her and say: "Mary, God selected and purified you. He has selected you over all the women in the universe." (3:42). Mary, as in our Gospel, reacts with wonder.

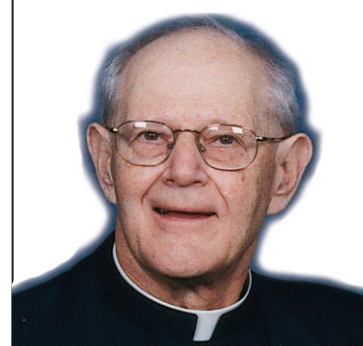
"Oh, my Lord! How shall I have a son when no man has ever touched me?" (3:47)

He (the angel) said: "So it will be, for Allah creates what He wills. When He decrees something, He says, 'Be' and it is" (3:48).

Today, if you travel to Jerusalem, you may visit the beautiful church called Dormition Abbey. According to legend, it's the place where Our Lady fell asleep in death surrounded by the apostles.

Very near to Dormition Abbey you will find the tomb of King David. If you travel down behind the Temple Mount, pass the Garden of Gethsemane and go a little way up the Mount of Olives, you will come to a green door. Open the door and walk down 47

VOICES



By Rev. Msgr. John Gilchrist

Gabriel the Archangel and carried off in the air on a horse named Buruq to Jerusalem to the Temple Mount. Then he was lifted up to the heaven.

As they rose in the night sky, Mohammed looked down at

Muslims all over the world have great respect, even love, for the mother of Jesus. It all comes from the Koran.

steps and you will meet an Orthodox Sister selling candles. Just to the right you will find the spot where Mary was laid to rest.

The tomb and the funeral wrappings of Our Lady, left there when her body was assumed into heaven, were there until the year 451 when they were brought to Constantinople by Emperor Marcianus and his wife Pulcheria. There they were revered until they disappeared.

However, the Muslims have a story that they repeat from the first biographer of Mohammed, a man named El Musharraf. In 620 Mohammed was visited by

Jerusalem and saw two bright lights gleaming on each side of the temple. "What are these lights?" he asked. Gabriel replied: "The one on the right is the Mihrab, (a place of prayer) for your brother David. The one of the left is the tomb of your sister, Mary."

In the Muslim world, wherever there are shrines to Mary, Muslim women can be seen praying. It is tolerated by the men. One day both sides will be brought together by Mary through her daughters and sons in both camps. It is not by accident that she appeared at Fatima, the town named for the prophet's daughter. Blessed be them all.

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'My son, fulfill your goal, you have my blessing'

Ordinandi recall milestones on road to priesthood

BY WARD MIELE

Managing Editor

With a dozen men to be ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop John J. Myers at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark on Saturday, May 29, at 10 a.m., the Archdiocese of Newark is again among the national leaders.

According to the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University in the nation's capital, the Archdiocese of Chicago leads the nation with 13 ordinandi. Last year that honor fell to the Archdiocese of Newark, when 13 men entered the priesthood (see *The Catholic Advocate*, May 20, 2009).

Commissioned by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), the CARA study found that the median age of the Class of 2010 nationwide is 33. The youngest is 25, while 11 men are being ordained at the age of 65 or older. On average, men were 18 when they first considered their vocation. CARA found too that 37 percent have a relative who is a priest or Religious. Two thirds, 67 percent, regularly pray the rosary while 65 percent participated in eucharistic adoration before entering the seminary. The entire CARA report on the Class of 2010 can be found online

(www.usccb.org/vocations/classof2010).

Commenting on the year's class, Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, said "most ordinandi have been Catholic since birth. Almost eight in 10 were encouraged to consider the priesthood by a priest. This speaks to the essential role the whole Church has to play in fostering vocations."

In Newark, the new priests come from Colombia, Portugal, the Philippines, the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua. Three have more local roots, with one having been born in Livingston, the other in Belleville and one raised in the Ironbound section of Newark.

Several members of the local Class of 2010 gained business experience prior to entering the seminary. One was employed at Verizon, another as a dental assistant, a pharmacist, one a physical therapist and one studied industrial engineering. Each man shared the path he took to answer God's call to service, citing the power of prayer, the rosary, World Youth Day trips, the Neocatechumenal Way, encouragement from a pastor, intervention of the Blessed Mother and the experience of seminary life as key elements influencing the decision.

The following offers profiles of members of the archdiocesan Class of 2010.

Father Edinson Enrique Ramírez Ardila

Having attended the seminary in his native country of Colombia and Immaculate Conception Seminary, South Orange, Father Edinson Enrique Ramírez Ardila enters the priesthood convinced "the Lord has shown His infinite love in my life."



A deacon at Saint Henry Parish in Bayonne, Fr. Ramírez Ardila, 36, was born in Bucaramanga (Santander), Colombia. He holds degrees in philosophy and business administration.

He remembers vividly a pivotal day during his first year of seminary study. Some of his grades were not the best so he went into the chapel during exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. He prayed and "talked to the Lord" and some 20 minutes later he became relaxed and began to see "the important and valuable things in my life and my vocation."

As a priest, his principle hope and aspiration will be to possess the conviction that his calling is the right situation for his "happiness and the happiness of others." He also wants to be compassionate, kind and joyful with the faithful.

He did his field education and summer work at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Jersey City; Saint Nicholas Parish, Jersey City; Saint James Parish, Springfield; Saint Mary Parish, Closter; and Saint Francis de Sales Parish, Lodi and Saint Henry Parish, Bayonne.

Fr. Ramírez Ardila will celebrate his first Mass of Thanksgiving on May 29, 5:30 p.m., at Saint Henry Parish. Rev. Msgr. Raymon Kupke will be the homilist.

Father Nicholas Vito Bellotti III

A home-grown priest in the Archdiocese of Newark, Father Nicholas Vito Bellotti III was born in Livingston. Receiving his seminary training at North American College in Rome, Fr. Bellotti attended West Orange High School, Montclair State University, Seton Hall University as well as Gregorian University and the John Paul II Institute both in Rome.



He holds advanced degrees in marketing and manage-

ment, theology, from Gregorian University and is in the process of obtaining a license in marriage and family ministry. Fr. Bellotti did his field education and summer preparations at Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish in Garfield and West New York's Saint Joseph Parish.

"I love being a deacon and I am really excited about being a priest," he declared.

Before entering the seminary, Fr. Bellotti practiced in the Protestant faith. He began to realize, however, that the Protestant church "did not have all of the truth that the Catholic Church has. It became obvious to me that, after starting to practice my Catholic faith, I wanted to go really deep into a relationship with Jesus. It was then that I prayed the rosary. The first time I prayed the rosary, I began to discern my call to the priesthood."

Looking back on seminary life, Fr. Bellotti, 29, said one of his "most outstanding" memories was when he started a prison ministry apostolate in Rome for himself and other seminarians. "To be able to see the prisoners so happy to have people visit them has been something that is really special to me and my future priesthood. I hope to be able to always visit the imprisoned and to help those who are poor and in need. By the grace of God I will be able to do so. At the end of my life I want to be able to say that I brought people closer to Jesus Christ."

Fr. Bellotti will celebrate his first Mass of Thanksgiving at Saint Joseph Parish in West Orange at 5:30 p.m. on May 29. He will be the homilist.

Father Camilo Ernesto Cruz Bahamón

Since childhood, Father Camilo Ernesto Cruz Bahamón, 28, had thoughts of the priesthood.

Born in Giradot, Cundinamarca, Colombia, Fr. Cruz Bahamón attended Immaculate Conception Seminary in both his home town and on the South Orange campus of Seton Hall University. He was a deacon at Saint Aloysius Parish in Caldwell.

Fr. Cruz Bahamón wants to be a priest who will "always be able to be the presence of Christ for the people I serve." He reflects too that he had always thought he would be a priest in his native country. But ultimately he realized that God was "asking me to leave my country (and) I decided to come here to the Archdiocese of



Newark." He considers it both a "challenge and blessing because embracing another culture and language is not easy." But, he stresses, God has shown him "a different world here in the United States. I am so happy to be able to serve the Church of Newark." He is a recipient of the Ciudadano de honor de Girardot (Honorary Citizen of Girardot) award.

Fr. Cruz Bahamón received his field education and summer preparation at Saint Elizabeth Parish in Wycoff, the Campus Ministry Office at Seton Hall University and Saint Leo Parish in Irvington.

He calls his seminary years "a very unique experience" because he became "closer to Christ" through "an intimacy with Him."

He is appreciative of the close friendships established in the seminary which also brought him closer to Christ because he sees in his fellow seminarians "the presence of Christ." What he "loved" about the seminary, Fr. Cruz Bahamón adds, were "the hours together as a community of men preparing for the priesthood. This is perhaps what I will miss the most."

As a priest, Fr. Cruz Bahamón wants to "walk with the people of God and the people of my parish in the spirit of service in the same way that Jesus did. I want to be happy in my ministry and share with others the happiness of encountering Christ by giving them the Gospel and the Good News of the Kingdom of God."

Before entering the seminary, Fr. Cruz Bahamón was a student. As he began to explore the "many possibilities" for his life, he explains, "I fell back on the thing that has been in the back of my mind for many years....the priesthood."

Rev. Msgr. Thomas P. Nydegger, vice rector of Immaculate Conception Seminary, will be the homilist at Fr. Cruz Bahamón's first Mass of Thanksgiving on May 30, 2 p.m., in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception on the campus of Seton Hall University.

Father Joseph Emmanuel Simon Dos Santos

Father Joseph Emmanuel Simon Dos Santos, who has a Master of Divinity degree in pastoral theology, was born in Portugal. He grew up in the Ironbound section of Newark and



Continued on page 10

Ordinations

Continued from page 9

attended Immaculate Conception Seminary. He was a student at Seton Hall University and Thomas Edison State College where he earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy.

Fr. Dos Santos, 46, was a deacon at Saint Cecilia Parish in Kearny. Prior to entering the seminary he worked at Verizon. While there he came to know someone who knew Antonio Nunco Rocha, who was studying to become an archdiocesan priest. Through this connection with now-Father Rocha, Fr. Dos Santos experienced a charismatic prayer group. The encounter, he explained, "helped me to deepen my spirituality and identify myself more clearly as a Catholic." For someone heavily involved in a business career, Fr. Dos Santos stepped out toward the priesthood, which involved "sacrifice and achieving a distance from superfluous attachments."

A music director at his home parish, Holy Trinity-Epiphany in Newark, Fr. Dos Santo recalled his pastor, Rev. Msgr. George Lutz, suggested he consider the priesthood. Initially he thought he would become a permanent deacon. Still he "prayed about it for many years" before he "finally understood" that indeed God was calling him to become a priest.

Discernment "is a long-term project with highs and lows, clarity and obscurity, confidence and doubt. We are in the Kingdom of God for the long run so the vocation process takes time."

Looking back on seminary life, Fr. Dos Santos says "strange as it may seem" the most memorable moments were when he almost left the seminary, "not because of anything serious or bad but because of the difficulty in obedience." Ultimately "obedience led me to an even closer relationship with Jesus. I learned that obedience is freedom from my own willfulness and selfishness. It is not about what I want; it is about what the people of God need."

As he prepares for ordination, Fr. Dos Santos said he hopes "my life in the priesthood of Jesus Christ becomes an invitation, a calling to be part of a communion of brethren called by the Lord Jesus to accompany Him on the journey to the kingdom of His Father. Priesthood is that unique communion of those who live a message of love, peace and hope in a difficult world."

He received his field education and summer preparation at Saint Joseph Little Sisters of the Poor Nursing Home in Totowa, Saint Michael's Hospital and hospice in Newark and he attended the Institute for Priestly Formation at Creighton University in Omaha, NE. Last year he was assigned to the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark where he worked with the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program and performed other pastoral duties.

Fr. Dos Santos will celebrate his first Mass of Thanksgiving at Holy Trinity-Epiphany Parish at 2:15 p.m. on May 30. Fr. Nunco Rocha will be the homilist.

Father Duverney Bermudez Giraldo

Reflecting on his decision to enter the priesthood, Father Duverney Bermudez Giraldo said he wants "to serve God and His Church, which I really love very much with my whole heart in total self-giving."

Fr. Bermudez Giraldo, 30, was born in Colombia. He did seminary studies in his native country and at Immaculate Conception Seminary. He received his field education and summer preparation at Saint Peter Claver Parish in Montclair, Saint Rose of Lima Parish in Short Hills and Saint Leo Parish in Irvington. He was a deacon at Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish in Garfield. He holds



degrees in philosophy, theology and systematic theology.

After completing high school in Colombia, Fr. Bermudez Giraldo entered the seminary. It was his pastor in Colombia who asked him if he wanted to become a priest. Finishing his philosophy studies, he was invited by the Archdiocese of Newark to come to this country. After completing his first year of theology study, Fr. Bermudez Giraldo came to the United States. He spent an academic year at Emmaus House of Discernment in Newark while studying English at Rutgers University. He entered Immaculate Conception Seminary four years ago.

A pivotal memory is his decision was to come to the United States, saying it was "one of the most difficult and, at the same time, one of the best decisions in my life." It was not easy to leave his country and his family, but it was for the best because he is now in "a beautiful and multicultural country, where I can serve in many different ways the great people of the United States."

Fr. Bermudez Giraldo will celebrate his first Mass of Thanksgiving at Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish on May 30 at 11:30 a.m. Father John Russell, O. Carm, will be the homilist.

Father Julius Joseph Banez Lucero

Priesthood is a distinct and sacred gift from God among men, according to Father Julius Joseph Banez Lucero. Born in the Philippines, Fr. Lucero, 36, attended the University of Perpetual Help in his native country. He prepared for the priesthood at Immaculate Conception Seminary. He has a Master's of Divinity degree in Pastoral Ministry.

Looking back on seminary life, Fr. Lucero cites the "joy and gratitude toward God for being there with me throughout my formation." He always had a strong connection of love and communion with God. "His love for me and for all gives me the inspiration to follow Him and fulfill my vocation to the priesthood." He wants to share that love with the others "especially in today's world where many are longing for God's love. The priesthood is being called to serve and love the people of God."

A deacon at Saint Anthony of Padua Parish in Belleville, Fr. Lucero received his field education and summer preparation at Saint Joseph's Home for the Elderly in Jersey City, the Institute of Priestly Formation in Omaha, NE, and Hospice at the Center for Hope at Saint Michael Medical Center in Newark and Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish in Garfield.

While living in the Philippines he was a youth minister and worked in a hospital as a physical therapist for three years. Fr. Lucero also went to Emmaus House of Discernment in Newark before entering the seminary.

He recalls that when he was seven he told his father of wanting to become a priest. He even wrote a letter to God. His father, at the time, discouraged him because he was the oldest and his father "wanted me to have a successful business career."

A pivotal event in his life came at the age of 16 when he was the sole survivor of a serious car accident. "My mother told me that when I was rushed to the hospital, she noticed that I was tightly holding on to a rosary in my pocket. I know the Blessed Mother interceded in that incident."

Another important event was when his father was on his death bed. His last words were: "My son, I know it has always been your dream to become a good and holy priest. Go on, fulfill your goal and you have my blessing." At that very moment, Fr. Lucero remembers "tears flowed from my eyes."

Fr. Lucero will celebrate his first Mass of Thanksgiving at Saint Anthony of Padua Parish at 4 p.m. on May 30. The pastor, Father Joseph A. Ferraro, will be the homilist.



Father Anthony Lorenzo Marcantuono

Another homegrown priest, Father Anthony Lorenzo Marcantuono, 28, was born in Belleville. He attended Montclair State University, Seton Hall University and Immaculate Conception Seminary, earning a bachelor's degree in liberal studies and master's degree in divinity.

Fr. Marcantuono served as a deacon at Queen of Peace Parish, North Arlington. He did his field work and summer preparation at Holy Family Parish, Nutley; Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, West Orange; the Institute for Priestly Formation, Omaha, NE; at a hospice; Saint Leo Parish, Elmwood Park and Saint Michael's Medical Center, Newark.

He recalled having a desire to become a priest at the age of 18, "but held off." Before entering the seminary, Fr. Marcantuono worked for seven years in a pharmacy. "I worked for an evangelical pastor who really strengthened my faith in God—not only through his beliefs, but also through the challenging questions he posed to me."

His years at the pharmacy enabled him to "converse and grow into loving relationships with workers and customers from different age groups." This experience affected his discernment, Fr. Marcantuono noted, because he developed "an understanding that to love someone is to give yourself to others."

Another factor in his discernment was his time on the gridiron playing for Belleville High School. "I learned to follow a leader, the coach, and I learned to become a leader." He also learned about the importance of teamwork, he said. This was a key factor in his discernment "because a priest must follow a leader: Jesus Christ." He looks forward to working with other priests and lay people "to help the body of Christ grow more fully."

A milestone in his discernment journey came after Montclair State University, where he was pursuing a degree in physical education. He took a year off and during that time he "was able to let go and follow the Lord into the priesthood."

Fr. Marcantuono considers the relationship he has with his family as greatest factor that solidified his discernment. "In my family I found a deep love for Christ and His Church, a deep and loving relationship between all family members. I also was able to develop a deeper life of prayer with my family who prayed together. I remember as far back as I can, my grandmother, my father and my mother teaching me to pray, read Scripture, and how to live in life as a person of integrity, faith, hope and love. I truly found the calling of God there."

Fr. Marcantuono's hope for his priesthood is that "I will be able to give myself, without reservation, to the Lord and to the people He sends me to serve. I aspire to be a man of God and a man of selflessness."

Fr. Marcantuono will celebrate his first Mass of Thanksgiving on May 30, 12:15 p.m., at Saint Lucy Parish, Newark. Father James Spera will deliver the homily.



Father Viktor Markovic'

For Father Viktor Markovic', his journey to the priesthood began in Russia. Fr. Markovic', who attended Seton Hall University and Redemptoris Mater, the archdiocesan missionary seminary in Kearny, was born in Belgrade, Serbia, and went on to reside in Croatia. The Balkans region, at the time was under Communist rule and his



ideas “about the Church were negative. For me, God did not exist.”

Trying to achieve his life’s goal at the time “through money,” Fr. Marković entered the workplace in Moscow. “I realized all my relationships were based upon (worldly) interests and that no one loved me.” That realization, he notes, resulted in an “existential crisis.” As a result, he attended Sunday Mass at one of only two Catholic churches in Moscow.

At Mass he was given a flyer inviting him to a catechesis. He attended and discovered that “God really loves me.” He entered a small community of the Neocatechumenal Way and was baptized during the Easter Vigil 11 years ago. He then went home to Croatia.

The first insight into a vocation occurred during World Youth Day in 1997, which was held in Paris. “I did not have the courage or strength to answer it.” Another strong calling to the priesthood took place three years later at World Youth Day in Rome. He said “yes” to the Lord during that pilgrimage.

Looking back on his seminary life, Fr. Marković focused on two areas. First is the variety of services “for the brothers that flourishes the spirit of communion and is a very good preparation to serve one day in a parish community.” The second is the formation process itself found at a missionary seminary. “It is wonderful to experience how the Lord manages to pour out beautiful fruits in spite of the many obstacles that every mission suffers.”

Fr. Marković was a deacon at Saint Aedan Parish in Jersey City. He did his field education and summer formation at Saint Joseph and Saint Michael Parish, Union City; Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Boston; and Sacred Heart Parish, Lyndhurst. He has a degree in Physical Education obtained in Croatia and Master of Divinity degree.

“I hope that God will make me a holy priest,” Fr. Marković declared. He will celebrate his first Mass of Thanksgiving at noon, May 30, at Saint Aedan Parish. The administrator, Father Joseph Astarita, will deliver the homily.

Father Wellington Manuel Muñoz



As he approaches ordination to the Priesthood, Father Wellington Manuel Muñoz says “I cannot be but thankful to God.” He attended school in his native Dominican Republic and at Seton Hall University. Fr. Muñoz has a bachelor’s degree in education and masters degree in systematic theology.

During his time at Redemptoris Mater Seminary, he served as a deacon at Immaculate Heart of Mary and Saint Patrick Parish in Elizabeth. He received his field education and summer preparation at Saint Joseph and Saint Michael Parish in Union City, Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Newark, Holy Redeemer Parish in West New York, Our Lady of Providenciales Parish in Turks and Caicos Islands and Immaculate Heart of Mary and Saint Patrick Parish in Elizabeth.

He said the most remarkable experience of seminary life was “to come to know God as Father.” With values instilled by his grandparents and mother, Fr. Muñoz realized as he grew older that “the success I obtained both at school and work as an apprentice in industrial engineering could not fill the void of growing up without a father.”

Because of that, he explains, he looked for happiness “away from God and His commandments.” However, Fr. Muñoz said “God saw my sufferings” and the future priest ultimately realized “God loved me in spite of my rebelliousness and wanted to reveal His plan of love for me.” It was then that he entered the Neocatechumenal community at his parish where he experienced the liberating power of Jesus. He also credits his superiors at the seminary for helping him to be more receptive to God’s will.

He asked the faithful of the archdiocese to “please pray for me so that God, our Father, may grant me the grace to conform each day of my life to His Son, Jesus Christ, and to be able to serve Him with love and simplicity.”

Fr. Muñoz will celebrate his first Mass of Thanksgiving on May 30, 12:30 p.m., at Immaculate Heart of Mary and Saint Patrick Parish in Elizabeth. The

pastor, Father Fabio Roy Rigoberto de Jesús Brenes-Chaves, will be the homilist.

Father Arokiadoss Raji



Attending Redemptoris Mater Seminary, Father Arokiadoss Raji, 38, served as a deacon at Saint Aloysius Parish in the Ironbound section of Newark.

He attended higher second school in his native India and then enrolled in Seton Hall University. He has a bachelor of arts degree and bachelor of science degree as well as a master of arts degree in theology.

Fr. Raji comes to the priesthood after 22 years as a member of the Neocatechumenal Way. God has called him to service in the Archdiocese of Newark “especially for evangelization.”

Before his call to the priesthood, Fr. Raji worked as a steward at the Madras Gymkhana Club in India. He comes to the priesthood, Fr. Raji explains, “from a background of pagan culture and society.” For a time he “lived as an atheist, but God saved my life by sending people who announced to me the Gospel and led me to a life of which I never dreamt.”

His call to the priesthood came during a small youth pilgrimage in India in 1992. Fr. Raji explains that “God has been faithful to His call even though I tried to reject this call many times. The faithfulness, mercy and forgiveness of God have given me the courage, obedience and strength I needed to be formed in the seminary.” The Blessed Virgin Mary, he adds, “helps me to have recourse with her Son everyday and to remain chaste with joy in the seminary.”

As he looks ahead to the priesthood, Fr. Raji credits “the pure work of God” for all that he will do. His hope, dream and aspiration for the priesthood will be “to carry in my body the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and to be an instrument of His love,

Continued on page 12

Congratulations and Thank you.

A lifetime commitment to the work of God and His Church is like no other.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church
Bayonne

Our Lady of Czestochowa Church
Harrison

Our Lady of Sorrows Church
Kearny

Advocate Publishing Corp.
Newark

TO THE CLASS OF 2010

The office and staff of Catholic Cemeteries extend a Thank you for answering God’s call.

May every good grace be with you as you fill the spiritual needs of God’s people here in the Archdiocese of Newark

We Remember ~ We Believe

Ordinations

Continued from page 11
mercy and forgiveness.” Today’s society, he feels, “needs to see not just a priest who performs rituals, but a holy priest who speaks the truth of God without compromise and who is ready to be a martyr for Christ.”

Fr. Raji will be the homilist at his first Mass of Thanksgiving on May 30, 11:30 a.m., at Saint Aloysius Parish in Newark.

Father Francisco Javier Rodríguez

What helped most in his discernment, says Father Francisco Javier Rodríguez, was his Neocatechumenal community and a national pilgrimage

organized by the catechists who confirmed God’s call. Inspired by this experience, he said he hopes “to be a priest who can bring people to God.”

Fr. Rodríguez, attended Universidad Católica in his native country of Nicaragua and Seton Hall University. He has advanced degrees in education and systematic theology.

On the cusp of the priesthood, Fr. Rodríguez, sees people “thirsting for answers about their life; not human words, but words of eternal life.” Addressing that thirst, he continued, will define his mission as a priest. Above all, he wants to “seek the lost sheep as God came to look for me. He in-



vites me to go and look for them now.”

He entered the seminary after high school. “It was not really my plan for life, but God had this in mind.” He remembers that God kept insisting until “through His love He showed me that is (the priesthood) where He wants me to be happy.”

During seminary life Fr. Rodríguez enjoyed the opportunity “to work with people during pastoral assignments.” Being at Redemptoris Mater, he had the chance to do missionary work in several locales and it was doing so where he experienced “how God is so fantastic.”

Fr. Rodríguez was a deacon at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart. His summer preparation took place at Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish in Bloomfield, Holy Family Parish in Nutley, Our Lady of Assumption Parish

in Tartu, Estonia, and Saint Columba Parish in Newark. His field education was at Saint Anthony of Padua Parish in Union City.

The Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart is where Fr. Rodríguez will celebrate his first Mass of Thanksgiving on May 31 at 10 a.m. in Spanish and at noon in English. He will be the homilist.

Father Juan Carlos Vargas

When he first entered Immaculate Conception Seminary in Colombia it was, Father Juan Carlos Vargas remembers, “one of the



most exciting days of my life.” Fr. Vargas, 28, earned an advanced degree in divinity and pastoral ministry.

His work as a deacon was served at Saint Aloysius Parish in Jersey City. Last year he was given the Xavier Cabrini Academic Award for English as a Second Language.

When he entered the seminary in Colombia, Fr. Vargas had mixed feelings of “excitement, fear, anxiety and expectation.” This reaction nurtured the realization that “I am able to face whatever comes into my life if I do it for a noble cause and, even more, if I do it to contribute to building up the kingdom of God on earth.” Eventually, he accepted his mixed feelings as a “most-exciting challenge.”

Before entering the seminary, he worked as a dental assistant and many seminarians were patients. “Little by little the seminarians introduced me into their style of life,” he said. “I was interested to know more about the life of a priest.”

He looks forward to the challenge of the priesthood. “I ask God’s people for their prayers so I can give the best I have to respond fully to His call and to draw nearer to God many of our brothers and sisters who do not yet know fully the love of God.”

Fr. Vargas will celebrate his first Mass of Thanksgiving at Saint Aloysius Parish on May 30 at 1 p.m. The pastor, Father Joseph D’Amico will be the homilist.

*Our prayers are offered for
our newly-ordained priests
of Newark and for their families.
May their love of the priesthood
grow for a lifetime.*



St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish

Saddle River

Msgr. Robert J. Fuhrman, Pastor
Fr. Raphael Lee, Parochial Vicar

Rev. Edinson Enrique Ramírez Ardila

Congratulations and Best Wishes
on your ordination.

May God continue to bless you
in His service.



St. Henry Parish, Bayonne
Most Rev. Thomas A. Donato, D.D.

The people of Saint Joseph Parish, West Orange

Congratulate

FATHER NICK BELLOTTI

as he is ordained

to the priesthood of Jesus Christ.



“Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening”

1 Samuel 3: 9b



ad multos annos



*Father
Edinson
Ramírez
and All the
Newly Ordained*
may the joy of
the priesthood
be yours always



MSGR. BILL HATCHER
FR. JIM WORTH
AND THE PEOPLE OF
SAINT JAMES THE APOSTLE
CATHOLIC CHURCH
SPRINGFIELD, NEW JERSEY



A Welcoming Community of Faith

A priest's mission: be a bridge to unite men, women with God

(Editor's note: Most Rev. Peter Leo Gerety, D.D., who served as the archbishop of Newark from June 1974 to June 1986, delivered this homily Feb. 27 to the priest community at Saint John Vianney residence, located at 60 Home Ave., Rutherford. Though at the time he was addressing retired priests, Archbishop Gerety's homily also speaks to the new archdiocesan priests who will be ordained on May 29, offering his wisdom on the mission and meaning of the priesthood.)

**BY ARCHBISHOP EMERITUS
PETER L. GERETY**

Special to The Catholic Advocate

On Feb. 18 the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, met with priests of the Diocese of Rome. His words to them are worth meditating upon. He talked about how our Lord is true King, the Son of God. "But He also is true man and priest, a priest in whom all worship, all the reality of sacrifice finds its key in its fulfillment," he said. The pope said that as true man the Son of God is able to become a priest—the perfect priest.

What is the mission of a priest? According to the pope, the mission of a priest is to be a mediator, a bridge that unites and thus brings men and women to God, to His redemption, to His true light, to His true life.

We priests are united with Christ in His priesthood by our ordination. What an enormous role we assume when the bishop imposed his hand upon us and we were made one with the Lord Jesus, the great High Priest. He is our truly perfect role model for the priesthood.

The more we make ourselves like Him through prayer and sac-

rifice, the more we imitate Him and strive to be like Him in our thoughts, words and deeds, the more we will be close to the goal we had when we first gave ourselves to Christ, the priest.

I think of a couple of aspects of the life of our Lord that priests must imitate if our priesthood can be truly one with His. The first is that we must strive to unite our lives with that of the prayerful

Christ so that we may truly be what we are often called: "other Christs." It's a designation that requires we must be men of prayer. That is the first requirement if we are to be one with Him.

Secondly, we must look constantly at the Christ of the Gospels to see Him in His prayer life; to see how He thinks, how He relates to His heavenly Father and to those around Him. How many times is Christ seen going off by Himself to give Himself in prayer. That is one of the Lord's salient characteristics. If we are to merit the title of "other Christs," then let us deepen our life of prayer. One of the benefits of living in retirement in this

house (Saint John Vianney residence in Rutherford) is that we have time to do so with our chapel close by.

As men of prayer we must strive to be ever more familiar with Christ as He is portrayed in the Gospels. We must be constantly striving to deepen our knowledge of the Christ in the Gospels. We must be welcoming to all our brothers and sisters as He was—particularly to the poorest and most insignificant in the eyes of the world.

We must be men of burning charity and burning love so that our brothers and sisters may see us as truly exemplifying Christ the Lord in all our words and actions. We are, after all, priests. We cannot be mediating Christ to all people if they do not see us as men who are striving to be like Him, united with Him.

We are not only charged with



Archbishop Peter Gerety

teaching our brothers and sisters to live with Him, but also to strive in all we do and in our attitudes to be Christ-like. We are priestly mediators between God and our brothers

Continued on page 14

Congratulations

Rev. Duverney Bermdez



*Loving you always,
Fr. Peter & Fr. Bismarck
and your family at
Mt. Virgin
Garfield*

Queen of Peace Church

10 Franklin Place

North Arlington, N. J.



*The Parish Community of Queen of Peace
extends heartfelt congratulations to*

FATHER ANTHONY L. MARCANTUONO

on his ordination to the priesthood.

*May Our Lady Queen of Peace
continue to watch over and guide him.*

*Reverend Monsignor William J. Fadrowski, Pastor
Reverend Stephen A. Kopacz Reverend Scott F. Attanasio
Reverend Charles M. Kelly
Deacon William R. Benedetto Deacon William H. Myers
Br. Francis M. Farrell, FMS Sr. Anita Maria O'Dwyer, SSJ*

It is with great joy that the Parish Family of Sacred Heart, Lyndhurst celebrates:



**The 25th Anniversary of Fr. Marek B. Wysocki's
Presbyteral Ordination**

25 Years of Serving God's People

*Fr. Marek, your parish family sends you
love and greetings on this joyous occasion.*

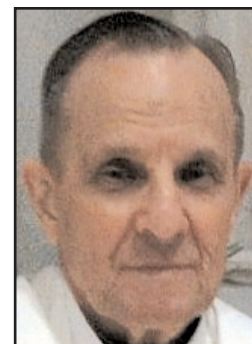
*Thank you for bringing the presence of Christ to us
through your compassionate and humble service.
Our prayer is that the Lord will bless you greatly
as you continue in your ministry to us!*

**The 60th Anniversary of Fr. Thaddeus F. Zuber's
Presbyteral Ordination**

60 Years of Serving God's People

*Fr. Zuber, we thank God for the wisdom and the witness
your ministry brings us.*

Congratulations on this blessed occasion!



*The parishioners of
Holy Trinity/Epiphany
Parish of Newark send their
prayers and best wishes to*

**Rev. Joseph
Emmanuel Simon
Dos Santos**



*on the occasion
of his
ordination to
the priesthood
and place him
under the
protection of
Our Lady of
Fatima*

Priests impart durable wisdom to ordinandi of Class of 2010

BY WARD MIELE
Managing Editor

NEWARK—From members of the Ordination Class of 1966, who are now eligible to retire, comes some sage advice and valuable perspectives on spiritual life for the dozen men who will be ordained to the priesthood for service to the Church of Newark on Saturday, May 29 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

Two classmates—one still in active ministry, the other retired—offered their unique insight into a lifetime of service to God and His people. Rev. Msgr. Edward G. Bradley, M.A., director of the archdiocesan Ministry to Retired Priests, and Rev. Msgr. Charles W. Gusmer, most recently pastor of Saint Catherine of Siena Parish in Cedar Grove, shared their experiences and prayers for members of the Class of 2010.

Msgr. Bradley described his priestly journey as somewhat unique in that he has never been a parish priest. Why? Because, as he explained it, “something always came up.” The major part of his priestly journey was in the classroom at Seton Hall Prep in West Orange. The first few years he taught Latin and theology but for the majority of time he was an instructor of theology.

He went on to head the Seton Hall Prep Theology Department and was the school’s spiritual director. Msgr. Bradley has been in his current archdiocesan position the past eight years.

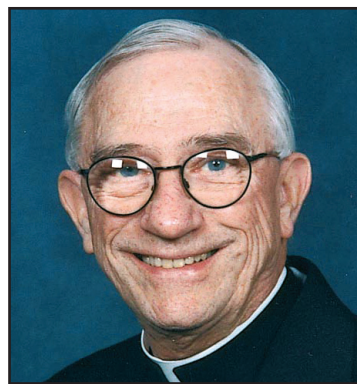
When asked for his advice to the Ordination Class of 2010, Msgr. Bradley motioned to a picture on his desk of Jesus washing feet. The new priests, he said, should always keep that image in mind. “Be loving, joyful, caring

servants of the Word and God’s people,” he stressed.

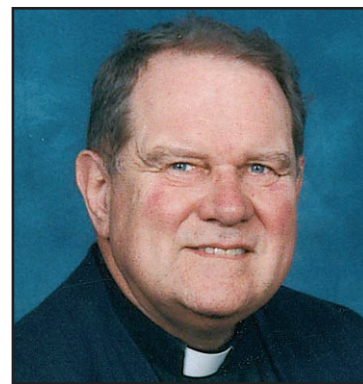
Serving as a parish priest and an educator, Msgr. Gusmer said he feels fortunate to have had “the best of both worlds.” He taught for 28 years at Immaculate Conception Seminary and spent 18 years as a pastor.

He was fortunate to have gained an international perspective over the years. Citing his studies in Austria, where he was ordained, and obtaining a doctorate in Liturgy at the University of Trier in Germany, Msgr. Gusmer advised the Class of 2010 to “never be afraid to take a risk.” New priests, he said, should “rise up to the challenge of Jesus’ calling. You have to be in touch with Jesus and make Him the center of your life.”

In a column published earlier this year in America magazine, Rev. Msgr. David A. Rubino, senior vice provost at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Erie, PA, offered similar advice to new priests. Newly ordained priests are “unseasoned transformational agents of the Church,” Msgr. Rubino de-



Rev. Msgr. Edward Bradley



Rev. Msgr. Charles Gusmer

Be a bridge

Continued from page 13

and sisters. To fill that task we must strive in all we say and do to be “other Christs.”

What an enormous charge our Lord gave us when He received us into the holy priesthood. We are brothers to all, but also their leaders along the path trod by our Savior. What higher calling could there be on this earth?

A priest is a bridge bringing mankind into communion with God. Therefore, we must be men full of the spirit of God. Prayer and Eucharist must be central to our lives. The Lord Himself gave us our call to the priesthood. We must be obedient to that call in every moment of our lives, even in retirement.

It is in God alone that we find our true identity. He called us. Let us strive even in retirement to do all He wishes as we respond to Him. He called us to be members of the greatest body of men on earth—the holy priesthood of Jesus Christ. And the wonder of that calling is that it is forever.

In the Gospels there is a wonderful example of the heights to which Our Lord calls us to be Christians. “My command to you is to love your enemies and pray for your persecutors. You must be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect. His sun rises on the bad and the good.”

We must stand before our people as exemplars of Christ’s rule of love for all and of His call to perfection. Many of our priest brothers have died for this ideal. Let us strive to be truly other Christs in all our thoughts, words and deeds. We are men who must be filled with Christ’s love; never deviating from the path of love, the universal love that He laid out for us in His loving sacrifice for us and for all.

CONGRATULATIONS



**Rev. Francisco
Javier Rodríguez**
on your ordination
into priesthood.

May God continue to Bless you.

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA-UNION CITY
REV. JOSE MARGUEZ

The parish of St. Joseph of the Palisades congratulates

Rev. Nicholas Bellotti
for his ordination to the priesthood of Jesus Christ!



Rev. Msgr. Gregory J. Studerus
Priests and People
St. Joseph of the Palisades

Congratulations



**Rev. Wellington
Manuel Muñoz**
on your Priestly
Ordination.



Holy Redeemer
West New York
Rev. Carlo Fortunio



With great joy and in gratitude to the Lord
The Parish Community of
St. Anthony of Padua Church
Silver Lake - Belleville
Celebrates the ordination to the priesthood of

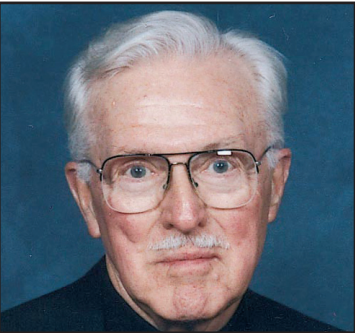
Father Julius Joseph Banez Lucero

May God Bless you for your service in our parish
And as you begin your journey into the Priesthood

Rev. Joseph A. Ferraro, Pastor

Rev. Edito Gamallo • Rev. Dave Sison
Deacon Louis C. Acocella

Fr. Joseph Stulb
succumbs April 25



Fr. Joseph Stulb

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated April 30 at Saint Catharine Parish, Glen Rock, for Father Joseph A. Stulb, 84, who died April 25.

Raised in the Greenville section of Jersey City, Fr. Stulb was a 1939 graduate of Saint Paul's Parochial School, Jersey City. A veteran of the U.S. Navy during World War II, he was a member of American Legion Post 145 of Glen Rock for 50 years and a chaplain with the American Legion.

After serving in the Navy, Fr. Stulb married Thecla Mary Mansfield in 1949, and they welcomed a daughter, Margaret Ann Stulb, in 1951, who passed away in infancy.

After the passing of his wife in 1952, his strong faith led him to the decision to dedicate his life to the Lord.

Fr. Stulb attended Seton Hall University Divinity School, South Orange (1953-1955), and Immaculate Conception Seminary, Mahwah (1955 to 1961). His priestly ministries with the Archdiocese of Newark included: Queen of Angels Parish, Newark (1961-1968); All Saints Parish, Jersey City (1968); Blessed Sacrament Parish, Newark (1968-1979); vicar for the Inner-City Apostolate (1969-1971); Saint Catharine Parish, Glen Rock (1980 -1993); and chaplain with The Valley Hospital Pastoral Care, Ridgewood (1993-1998).

When he retired from active ministry, Fr. Stulb was also a chaplain of the Knights of Columbus Saint Ann's Council Post 2853 in Fair Lawn.

Sr. Mary John Regan, S.C.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated May 11 at Saint Anne Villa, Convent Station, for Sister Mary John Regan, S.C., 90, who died May 7.

A Jersey City native, Sr. Mary John entered the Sisters of Charity Sept. 8, 1936 and was a member for 73 years. She graduated from the College of Saint Elizabeth, Convent Station, and earned a master's degree in counseling from Scranton University, Scranton, PA.

Sr. Mary John served as an educator throughout the Arch-

diocese of Newark. Her assignments included: Our Lady of Grace School, Hoboken (1937-1944); Saint Rose of Lima School, Short Hills (1944-1953); Saint Catharine, Glen Rock (1953-1955); Our Lady of Sorrows, South Orange (1955-1965); Saint Mary School, Plainfield (1965-1966); Our Lady of Victories School, Jersey City

(1966-1969) and Saint Cecilia School, Kearny, (1969-1971).

She served as principal at Saint Cecilia School (1971-1972), a guidance counselor in Paramus Catholic High School (1972-1994) and was a part-time counselor in Mount Saint Andrew Villa, Paramus (1994-1995). She retired to Saint Anne Villa, Convent Station, in 2001.

ST. CECILIA PARISH
KEARNY

Congratulates

REV. JOSEPH
EMMANUEL SIMON
DOS SANTOS
ON HIS PRIESTHOOD

Fr. Victor Marković
Fr. Wellington Muñoz
Fr. Francisco Rodríguez
Fr. Anthony Maracantuono

*In gratitude for your service & ministry
at Holy Family Parish*

**The Priests & People
of Holy Family, Nutley**



*The Faculty, Administrators, Staff, Seminarians and Students
of
Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology
Congratulate the Newly Ordained*

- | | |
|--|---|
| Reverend Nicholas Vito Bellotti, III | Reverend Viktor Marković |
| Reverend Duverney Bermudez Giraldo | Reverend Wellington Manuel Muñoz |
| Reverend Camilo Ernesto Cruz Bahamón | Reverend Arokiadoss Raji |
| Reverend Joseph Emanuel Simon Dos Santos | Reverend Edinson Enrique Ramirez Ardila |
| Reverend Julius Joseph Bañez Lucero | Reverend Francisco Javier Rodriguez |
| Reverend Anthony Lorenzo Marcantuono | Reverend Juan Carlos Vargas |

May God continue to bless all of you and your priestly ministry.

Help Wanted

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/
PRINCIPAL ACCOMPANIST:**

St. Mary's Church 17 Pompton Ave. Pompton Lakes, NJ
E-mail: cdlimey@stmarys-pompton.org
 Spirit-Filled, Vatican II, Franciscan Parish seeking energetic, motivated accompanist for part-time position on music team for parish of 3,700+ families. Bachelor's degree in music required (or equivalent skills preferred); creativity, collaborative ability, and pastoral skills prerequisite. Strong piano, sight reading, open score and improvisation skills required. Vocal skills desirable. Principal accompanist for all parish liturgies, including: a minimum of 4 weekend, holyday, seasonal, sacramental and school liturgies, 4 weekly rehearsals, weddings and funerals. Basic understanding of Roman Catholic liturgy essential. E-mail résumé and cover letter to above address. More detailed description may be found on parish website – www.stmarys-pompton.org

ACCOMPANIST-PART TIME

Our Lady of Lourdes Church, West Orange
 Parish is currently in search of a part-time accompanist. Must be proficient on both organ and piano. **Responsibilities** include four weekend masses, all seasonal/holy day liturgies, and an annual Christmas concert. Availability for weddings and funerals a plus. **Please send resume to:** Rev. Robert K. Suszko rksuszko@gmail.com 973-325-0110

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Barnegat Light: L.B.I. 1 bedrm condo, sleeps 4, water view, quiet location, families, no pets/smoking. AC, Summer Rental beginning mid June \$700 wk. Email 4 pictures barnegatlightcondo@yahoo.com, (201)214-4638.

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Novenas

**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.

R.C.

PRAYER TO ST. CLAIRE

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

M.I.



YOUR NOVENA COULD BE HERE
 Call Mona at (973) 497-4203 or
 email: westbbr@rcan.org

PRAYER TO ST. THERESA

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

J.P.T.

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.

R.C.

PRAYER TO ST. CLAIRE

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K.D.

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.

J.L.

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.

M.J.P.

How to report abuse

The Archdiocese of Newark takes very seriously any and all credible complaints of sexual misconduct by members of the clergy, Religious and lay staff of the archdiocese. We encourage anyone with knowledge of an act of sexual misconduct to inform the archdiocese immediately so that we may take appropriate action to protect others and provide support to victims of sexual abuse.

Individuals who wish to report an allegation of sexual misconduct may do so by calling the Archdiocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection at (201) 407-3256.

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Archdiocesan parishes prepare to display blessed Silver Rose

AREA—Knights of Columbus members from throughout the Archdiocese Newark are joining with the state organization as part of a North American effort to pay tribute to Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas.

The tribute involves transporting the Silver Rose from Ontario, Canada, through the United States and ending in Monterrey, Mexico.

The Silver Rose is scheduled to journey through the Archdiocese of Newark May 26 through June 2. The handoff from the New York Knights will take place at the George Washington Bridge and end when the Newark Knights transfer the Silver Rose to the Diocese of Paterson.

The local route will take the Silver Rose to three parishes within the Archdiocese of Newark. Overnight stops and special exhibitions are planned. A prayer service in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe will take place at

each exhibition location.

At press time, the first stop in the archdiocese had not yet been finalized, but it's slated for either May 27 or 28 at Madonna Parish, 340 Main St., Fort Lee. The second stop is scheduled for Monday, May 31 (Memorial Day) at Saint Rocco Parish, 4206 Kennedy Blvd., Union City, at 7 p.m. The bi-lingual prayer service will be led by council chaplain, Father Juan Luis Calderon.

The final stop for the Silver Rose in the archdiocese is Tuesday, June 1, 7 p.m., at Saint Mary Parish, 17 Monsignor Owen Pl., in Nutley. Most Rev. Charles McDonnell, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Newark and the Knights' state chaplain, will preside.

It's suggested that those interested in viewing the Silver Rose should contact the above-mentioned parishes to verify dates and

times. The exhibition schedule is subject to change.

"Through the Silver Rose program, the Knights of New Jersey show our support for the Church and its bishops and priests as we pray for the continued strength to do so in these troubled times," explained Herb Meyer, state deputy and chief executive of the Knights of Columbus, who is a parishioner at Saint Mary Parish in Rutherford.

"The Silver Rose also symbolizes our commitment to restoring

respect for the sanctity of human life from conception until natural death," he continued. "As we think in terms of 'One Life, One Rose,' it is most appropriate that we turn to Our Lady of Guadalupe who made known her will through Juan Diego and the miracle of the roses."

The Our Lady of Guadalupe Silver Rose Program began in 1960 as a project of the Columbian Squires of North America to honor the Blessed Virgin under her title of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas. The program has continued since then as a project of Squires Circles, councils and Fourth Degree assemblies in several jurisdictions. In 2001 Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson expanded the program by beginning the "Running of the Rose."



Official Appointments



Archbishop John J. Myers has announced the following appointments:

PAROCHIAL VICAR

Reverend Arcadio B. Munoz, Parochial Vicar of Ascension Parish, New Milford, has been appointed Parochial Vicar of Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Bergenfield, effective June 16.

Reverend Jerzy Pikulinski, O.F.M., Cap., Parochial Vicar of Saint Elizabeth Parish, Wyckoff, has been appointed Parochial Vicar of Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Wallington, effective June 16.

CHAPLAIN

Reverend Livinus Onwuzurike, C.M.F. was appointed part-time Chaplain at Saint Michael Medical Center, Newark, effective May 4.

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Reception honors generous hearts of Legacy Society

BY ANNE DEVIVO DEMESA
Special to The Catholic Advocate

NEWARK—The Archdiocese of Newark held its annual prayer service, reception and tea for members of the Legacy Circle Planned Giving Society on April 27, which was hosted by Archbishop John J. Myers and held at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart and his adjacent residence.

The Planned Giving Office of the Archdiocese of Newark organized and sponsored the event, which each year recognizes members of the Archdiocesan Legacy Society. The society was established to honor the generosity of those who have made a commitment to the future of the archdiocese and her parishes by including the Church in their estate plans through a planned gift.

More than 40 guests attended the event, which included five of the 21 new members welcomed to the Legacy Society this year. The afternoon began with the prayer service in the Cathedral Basilica, followed by an afternoon tea and reception.



Rev. Msgr. Kevin Hanbury, Vicar for Education and Superintendent of Schools, provided a warm welcome to Legacy Society members. During their remarks, Archbishop Myers and Msgr.

Hanbury explained they have a personal dedication to encouraging support for the charitable mission of the Church of Newark, since they are themselves members of the Legacy Society, having made planned-gift commitments to the archdiocese.

Each member of the Legacy Society was presented with a certificate, special recognition pin and commemorative medal featuring the insignia of the Legacy Society. The insignia features the Sacred Heart of Jesus symbolizing the cathedral—the spiritual center of the Church of Newark.

Legacy Circle members who were recognized at this year's event included: Rosemarie Brodeur, a member of Saint James Parish, Springfield; Antoinette Chiaro, Sacred Heart, Lyndhurst; Adele Ciccone, Sacred Heart, Lyndhurst; Mary Coleman, Queen of Peace, North Arlington; Eileen Connolly, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Newark; Eileen H. Cruickshank, Saint Aloysius, Caldwell; Mary Anne Fahey, Our Lady of Peace, New Providence; John M. Fleck, Saint John, Newark; John Giannuzzi, Saint Joseph, East Rutherford; Dot Hagemann, Our Lady of Peace, New Providence; Jeanette



Submitted photo

Joan Waltman (left) and Adele Ciccone, parishioners at Sacred Heart Parish, Lyndhurst, were among the faces in the crowd at the Legacy Circle reception. The Planned Giving Office of the Archdiocese of Newark hosts seminars on estate planning throughout the year. Contact Anne DeVivo DeMesa, archdiocesan director of planned giving, by phone at (973) 497-4048 or through e-mail (demesaan@rcan.org) for details.

Keyser, Our Lady of Peace, New Providence; Doreen T. Kovach, Saint John the Evangelist, Leonia; Dr. Ervin Lepko and Judith Lepko, Saint Cecilia, Englewood; Dorothy H. McGrath, Saint Aloysius, Jersey City; William and Feldicia McLaughlin, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Scotch Plains; Eugene Papay, Our Lady of Mercy, Park Ridge; Mary Rogers, Our Lady of the Visitation, Para-

mus; Janet Rullo, Sacred Heart, Lyndhurst; Joseph and Carol Trovato, Holy Spirit, Union; and Joan C. Waltman, Sacred Heart, Lyndhurst.

As discussed at the reception, a growing number of parishioners have made planned gifts in support of the many services and programs of the archdiocese. These contributions, such as charitable-gift annuities, provide lifetime payments in exchange for a charitable donation, offering significant financial benefits and tax savings not available with other forms of financial planning.

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Holy Name garners award for 'Insight'

TEANECK — Holy Name Medical Center has been recognized with an "Excellence Through Insight" award for emergency-department satisfaction in 2009 by HealthStream Research, Nashville, TN.

To qualify for the award, a hospital must secure patient-satisfaction scores in the 75th percentile or higher. Patients were randomly selected and interviewed by HealthStream Research representatives for a survey that covered a wide range of attributes for a hospital emergency department. Holy Name has scored no lower than the 96th percentile since April 2009, with scores in the 99th percentile during the second and fourth quarters of last year.

Founded in 1925 by the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Peace, Holy Name is a 361-bed acute-care medical center.

Decision Day reviews benefits of advanced medical planning

ELIZABETH—Trinitas Regional Medical Center joined national, state and community organizations in a coordinated effort to emphasize the importance of advanced healthcare decision making on National Healthcare Decisions Day (NHDD), which was held April 16.

“Trinitas Regional Medical Center takes a pro-active position on the wisdom of having such documents in place before patients, their families and their healthcare providers may actually need them,” explained Sister Mary Corrigan, S.C., vice president, mission effectiveness, and

director of the Trinitas Pastoral Care Department.

Sr. Mary’s department, along with medical and nursing staffs, always takes time to explain the value of advanced directive whenever anyone is hospitalized. Trinitas distributed free information on NHDD regarding advance-care planning as well as advance-directive forms. Both are recognized as important tools for the public to use to discuss their wishes with family, friends and healthcare providers. The observance of NHDD underlined the importance of written advance directives, also referred to as healthcare power of

attorney or living wills, in accordance with New Jersey state laws.

“As a result of National Healthcare Decisions Day, more people are encouraged to have thoughtful conversations about their healthcare decisions and make an effort to complete reliable advance directives to make their wishes known,” Valerie Ramsberger, R.N., Trinitas director of Palliative Care, said. “With greater awareness of the importance of advance planning, more families and healthcare providers will be better able to honor patient wishes when the time comes to do so.”

Sr. Mary at (908) 994-5011 and Ramsberger at (908) 994-5851 are the primary resources at Trinitas Regional Medical Center for necessary forms. Information on NHDD also is available online (Web site: www.nationalhealthcaredecisionsday.org).



Submitted photo

RULES OF THE ROAD—Students from the occupational therapy program at Seton Hall University’s School of Health and Medical Sciences (SHMS), South Orange, recently visited Winchester Gardens Retirement Community in Maplewood to perform a CarFit auto safety assessment. The program is a 12-point checklist—developed by the American Automobile Association (AAA), the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) and the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)—designed to enhance safer driving for senior citizens. Pictured here, an occupational therapy student is helping Renee Schwartz adjust her steering wheel to ensure she can safely see over it. Call Debra Olszewski, SHMS department secretary, at (973) 761-7145 for more information on the Car-Fit program.



Submitted photo

Sister Mary Corrigan, S.C., second from left, director of Pastoral Care, Trinitas Regional Medical Center, reviewed the importance of the “Five Wishes” document with employees during NHDD. The document helps individuals express healthcare options and preferences.

Elder Law - Estate Planning

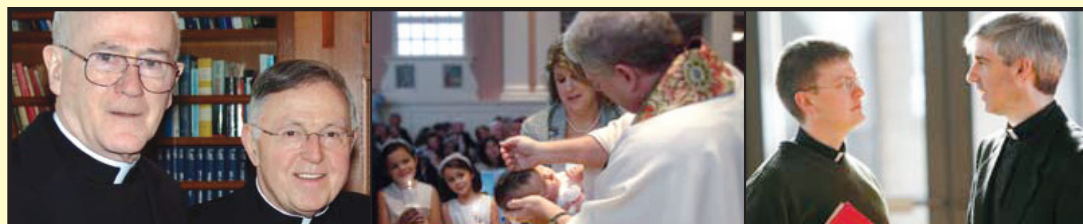
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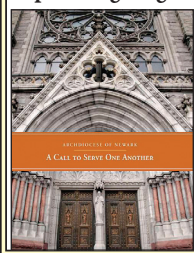
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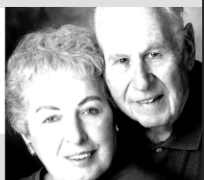
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