

Advertable Catholic Cate

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PAGES 8-9



Advent

Commentary and a review of traditions offer a preview of the Advent season, which begins on Sunday, Nov. 28.

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

A full listing of events events throughout Bergen, Hudson, Essex and Union counties can be found on our Web site.

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Bergen, Union interfaith groups reach out to homeless families

BY MELISSA MCNALLY Staff Writer

AREA—"Everyone has a story," said Kate Duggan, executive director of Family Promise of Bergen County. From a recently divorced mother who once lived in a \$1-million home, to a single father who saw his business crumble under an unstable economy—all of them are now homeless.

The stories of homelessness are told throughout the year but are especially compelling during the Thanksgiving season, a time for families to unite. Formerly the Interreligious Fellowship for the Homeless, the organization has assisted the working poor of Bergen County for over 20 years. Saint Cecilia High School in Englewood donated their space to the organization where families would stay during the evening. During daytime hours while the children were at school, parents who were unemployed would work with case managers at the organization's main headquarters in Teaneck.

In July of 2009, the shelter in Englewood closed its doors and in March of this year, the organization became an affiliate of Family Promises. The new center, which will be located in a Methodist church in Ridgewood, will open in early 2011.

A national organization, Summit-based Family Promises provides a network of case managers, volunteers and community members who guide the homeless toward self-sufficiency and independence. Fifteen host congregations throughout Bergen County, including Saint Anastasia Parish, Teaneck, and Our Lady Mother of the Church Parish, Woodcliff Lake, host three to four families each evening. The congregation provides food, shelter and volunteers who interact with the families for three non-consecutive weeks per year on a rotating basis.

Duggan noted that the volunteers, some who stay overnight with the homeless families, create a caring, family-like environment in the host congregation. She explains that at the previous shelter, the homeless families would stay for up to a year. The new structure

encourages the homeless to work toward stability with volunteers and the community forming an interfaith network that could eventually lead to economic stability.

"Some people think it is inhumane to constantly move the families from congregation to congregation every week," Duggan said.

No matter what your denomination, your religious roots dictate that you care for the poor.'

—Kate Duggan

"The program is designed to help them get back on their feet. Becoming homeless is a traumatic, demeaning experience and the

families are vulnerable.

Families that stay at the congregations give 30 percent of their gross income into a savings plan. A financial mentor at Family Promises teaches the heads of households about budgeting and debt management. Ending the cycle of homelessness through education is the key to success. "Most families wait until the last minute to ask for help; they have exhausted other options. Most families have already stayed at hotels, maxed out their credit cards and are in serious debt. One woman saved almost \$10,000 while staying at the shelter," Duggan noted.

There are 10 families already on the waiting list for the new program when it launches next year, while there are only three to four families that can be serviced at a time. Duggan believes the increase in need is due to the recession and high unemployment rates. Over the last two years, the face of the homeless has undergone a massive shift. "Changing the perception of those who are homeless is our biggest challenge. There is a stereotype that they are all bag ladies and

Continued on page 10



Submitted photo
The Sacred Heart of Jesus is one
of the 13 treasured stained-glass
windows installed at Holy Name
Chapel Mausoleum. Archbishop
John J. Myers will formally bless
the mausoleum in April 2011.

Treasured windows adorn, illuminate chapel mausoleum

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE Editor

NEWARK—Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Newark unveiled Holy Name Chapel Mausoleum, 823 West Side Ave., Jersey City, on Nov. 6, a two-story neoclassical granite structure that serves the Hudson County community as a house of worship, a place for quiet prayer and reflection and an archive of treasured, newly restored stained-glass windows.

According to information provided by Catholic Cemeteries, the mausoleum features 13 windows that were removed from Saint Boniface Parish in Jersey City. Andrew P. Schafer, executive director of Catholic Cemeteries, said that from the outset the chapel mausoleum was designed specifically to accommodate these windows.

Saint Boniface Parish, now closed, was organized in the early 1860s, which served the large immigrant German population of lower Jersey City. The windows, completed in 1896, were designed by the Tyrolean Art Glass Studio of Innsbruck, Austria. Each window was given by either a family or organization of the Saint Boniface Parish community and depict figures such as Saint George, Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, Saint Paul and Saint John the Evangelist.

The windows were rescued through a collaboration of Catholic Cemeteries and the Ecclesiastical Patrimony Commission of the Archdiocese of Newark. Catholic Cemeteries contracted with Gil Studios of

Continued on page 5

RFR collection supports elderly Sisters, Brothers

NEWARK—Catholics in the Archdiocese of Newark will have the opportunity to "Share in the Care" of senior Religious by participating in the annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious (RFR), to be held Dec. 11 and 12 at parishes throughout Bergen, Hudson, Essex and Hudson counties.

The RFR collection is coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO), Washington D.C., and provides financial support for the daily care of thousands of elderly Catholic Sisters, Brothers and religious-order priests.

Last year, the Archdiocese of Newark contributed \$594,730 to this collection. In 2010, the Marist Brothers, Order of Friars Minor Capuchin, Dominican Nuns, Augustinian Recollects, and the Sisters of Saint Dominic received financial assistance made possible by the RFR.

In addition, women and men Religious who serve or have served in the Archdiocese of Newark, but

whose institutes are headquartered elsewhere may benefit from this fund. Since 1988, Catholics in the United States have donated \$617 million to this initiative. Nearly 95 cents of every dollar is used to aid senior Religious.

Despite the overwhelming generosity to this fund, many religious communities continue to lack resources sufficient to support retirement and elder care. Of 573 communities submitting data to the NRRO in 2009, fewer than seven percent were fully funded for retirement.

Traditionally, religious served for small stipends that did not include retirement benefits. Their sacrifices now leave their religious communities without adequate savings for retirement. Compounding the funding shortage are the rising cost of healthcare and the substantial loss of income that has resulted from the declining number of Religious able to serve in compensated ministry.

"As the number of wage-earn-

ing Religious drops, so does income," said Sister Janice Bader, NRRO executive director and a member of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood of O'Fallon, MO. "Census projections indicate that by 2019, Religious past age 70 will outnumber those under 70 by nearly four to one. We want to do everything possible to help religious communities prepare for the dramatic income reduction that will accompany this demographic shift."

As a result of the 2009 collection, which garnered over \$28.1 million, the NRRO was able to distribute more than \$23 million in financial assistance to 477 communities, representing more than 45,000 women and men religious. By underwriting necessities, such as prescription medication and nursing support, these funds help religious communities provide for the ongoing care of elder members. Additional funding was allocated to initiatives targeted for religious institutes with the greatest needs.



Last year Sisters of Saint Dominic, Caldwell, Gerardine Mueller, O.P., Margaret Virginia Blum, O.P. and Mary Amelia Cetera, O.P. celebrated their 70th Jubilee. The annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious will be held Dec. 11-12 at parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Newark.

Like many other Americans, religious communities struggle with the ever-rising cost of healthcare. In 2009 alone, the total cost of care for nearly 35,000 women and men Religious past age 70 exceeded \$1 billion.

"Despite the troubling statistics, many religious communities have made great strides in addressing their funding deficits,"

Sr. Janice said. "Religious are humbled by the generous donations to this fund and determined to make the most out of every dollar."

Call Sister Joanne Bednar, S.C.C., archdiocesan delegate for religious, at (973) 497-4582 for more information or visit the NRRO Web site (www.retiredreligious.org).

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FREQUENCY FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2010:

Frequency for 2011:

January 12 & 26, February 9 & 23, March 9 & 23, April 6 & 20, May 4 & 18, June 8 & 22, July 13, August 10 & 24, September 14 & 28, October 12 & 26, November 9 & 23, December 7 & 21

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FAITHFUL NOURISHMENT-Around 750 faithful of the Archdiocese of Newark attended the second annual Nourishing Your Faith Dinner held Nov. 10 at The Venetian in Garfield. Archbishop John J. Myers, center, was in attendance along with honorary dinner co-chair Mary Higgins Clark, left; Most Rev. John M. Smith, right, Bishop of Trenton; and featured speakers Teresa Tomeo, the host of "Catholic Connection," and Jeff Feagles, the former punter for the New York Giants. Tomeo commended the large audience for their donations, especially during these difficult financial times. She believes the Catholic Church is greatly misrepresented in the secular media and cited the negative affects pervasive violence has on young people. "What can we do to nourish our faith? Give yourself some silent time, know your faith and be willing to speak up in the public sphere," she noted. Stephen Doocy, the co-host of the TV show "Fox and Friends," served as master of ceremonies. Proceeds from the fund-raiser will be used to support faith initiatives and evangelization outreach programs of the Archdiocese of Newark, including the Men's Conference and Women's Day of Reflection.

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Shepherds of Service allow volunteers to give a 'gift of self'

CEDAR GROVE—Responding to the cry of the poor—one parishioner, one task—is the focus of a major, new service ministry known as Shepherds of Service (SOS), which was unveiled at Saint Catherine of Siena Parish.

The ministry was planned, created and will be facilitated by the parish's stewardship council. Introduced recently to parishioners in a PowerPoint presentation at weekend masses, SOS consists of over 50 varied, short-term, one-time, 2011 activities, which will benefit at-risk, impoverished individuals served by four, chosen charitable organizations: Covenant House; Eva's Village; the Community Food Bank of New Jersey; and Bridges.

The initial activity for SOS is participation in the Dec. 5 "Family Day" for parents and children sponsored by the Hillside Warehouse of the Community Food Bank of New Jersey. The food bank provides groceries to over 1,600 non-profit organizations which supply shelters, emergency food pantries, soup kitchens and senior feeding programs.

Volunteers in the SOS program are urged to give of themselves in an activity that "matches" their abilities and interests. The cumulative effect of the hundreds of individual parishioner "gifts of self" is anticipated to witness Christ to countless poor and bring faith far beyond the geogra-

"SOS generates three sets of winners: the impoverished whom we will serve, our parishioners whose personal faith will mature through direct service to the poor and our parish, which will grow and bond as a faith family by serving together," Patricia Braun, chair of the parish stewardship council and SOS, explained.

The SOS PowerPoint presentation, as well as its brochure and sign-up form, can be accessed on the parish Web site (www.scscedargrove.org). For additional information, contact Braun at





Syriac bishop denounces terror attack in Baghdad

Special to The Catholic Advocate

BAYONNE—The Memorial Mass and the Prayer Service for The Martyrs was held at Saint Joseph Syriac Catholic Cathe-

dral on Nov. 5 to mourn the victims of the terrorist attack on Our Lady of Deliverance Syriac Catholic Cathedral in Baghdad, Iraq on Oct. 31.

In a solemn, somber climate of prayer and sadness, the community mourned all those who gave their lives for Christ. His Excellency Mar Barnaba Yousif Habash, Bishop of the Diocese, celebrated the divine liturgy in the presence of several Eastern and Latin Rite Bishops and 40



Cathedral included (left to right) Bishop Thomas A. Donato and His Excellency Mar Barnaba Yousif Habash.

Concelebrants at the Nov. 5 Mass at Saint Joseph Syriac Catholic

priests and deacons.

Most Rev. Thomas A. Donato, Auxiliary Bishop of Newark and Regional Bishop of Hudson County, concelebrated the Mass. Numerous Eastern bishops assisted the celebration; His Eminence Archbishop Mar Cyril Aphrem Karim, head of The Syrian Orthodox Archdiocese for the Eastern United States; H.E. Bishop David, General Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Archdiocese of North America and a dozen Coptic priests; His Eminence Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan, Prelate of the Armenian Apostolic Church; and the Most Rev. Bishop Anoushavan Tanielian, his vicar.

Syriac Catholics in Baghdad were celebrating Oct. 31 as the first Sunday of the new liturgical year—a time of reflection and preparation, which launches the advent season by celebrating the Feast of the Consecration of the Church. As the faithful celebrated Mass, terrorists stormed the Cathedral and murdered innocent people. Among the victims were several infants, children and a pregnant woman.

Almost 100 people were martyred and 80 were injured. Two priests were killed: Father Thaer Abdal, 32, and Father Wasim Al-Qas Boutros, 27. A third priest, Father Raphael, was seriously wounded. A deacon also was shot and killed.

Eyewitnesses told the story of a three-year-old boy named Adam who was murdered along with his parents. Little Adam survived the first round of killing. This courageous boy, not understanding anything except that bad things were happening, went up to the terrorists and kept telling them to stop until Adam was himself murdered by the terrorists.

In the wake of the terrorist attack, His Excellency Mar Barnaba Yousif Habash, in a statement, urged all people of good will in the Archdiocese of Newark to write to their government representatives about this tragedy.

'My brothers and sisters in Christ, you need to call upon the United States not only to condemn this ferocious attack on the Cathedral but also to alert people to our current crisis," he said. "It is time for the United Nations to take an affirmative action and send peace keeping troops to Iraq to protect the Christians from genocide. It is time to call on the Iraqi government to adopt proper response and security to Christian places of worship and neighborhoods. We need to send an urgent message to the Iraqi Christians to tell them that we shall not forget them."

(Editor's note: Sami Dib is secretary to His Excellency Mar Barnaba Yousif Habash.)

Retirement Fund for Religious



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National Religious Retirement Office/NEW 3211 Fourth Street NE Washington DC 20017-1194 Make your check payable to Retirement Fund for Religious.

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Radio Maria On AM dial

AREA-Radio Maria, one of the world's largest networks of Catholic radio programming, is now available in English in the metropolitan area over radio station WSNR at 620 on the AM dial.

Programming is available Monday through Thursday from 10 p.m. to midnight and weekdays from 12 a.m. to 6 a.m.

Radio Maria features prayers, readings and Catholic teachings. It is also available on the internet at www.radiomaria.org.



Submitted photo

Pictured at the Nov. 6 opening of Holy Name Chapel Mausoleum are (left to right) Patrick Giresi, memorial counselor; Donal Finan, superintendent; Rev. Msgr. William B. Naedele, retired director of Catholic Cemeteries; and Joseph J. Verzi, executive assistant director of Catholic Cemeteries. The mausoleum has numerous skylights to create a warm, comforting environment and highlight the dazzling mosaic.

Holy Name

Continued from page 1

New York for their complete restoration and installation. Rev. Msgr. Robert Wister, a professor of Church History at Immaculate Conception Seminary, South Orange, who heads the commission, lauded the restoration project, describing the windows as being "museum quality."

In addition to the vintage windows, Catholic Cemeteries commissioned Rambusch Studios of Jersey City to design and install a new "Holy Name of Jesus" mosaic, the centerpiece of the mausoleum's two-story chapel. The grand, colorful mosaic features the images and names of saints who

have been devoted to the Holy Name of Jesus in Church history.

Beginning in January 2011, Holy Name Mausoleum will be a site to celebrate Mass on a monthly basis, an underlying goal of the project, according to Schafer. "To be able to provide a place where our families can celebrate Mass—that's the most important thing to me in this project," he said. "Chapel mausoleums console and inspire families. Our Catholic cemeteries are fields of hope. Families that choose a Catholic cemetery are making a statement of faith for future generations."

Along with the spiritual significance, the installation of treasured stained-glass windows at Holy Name is another example of the archdiocese's patrimony efforts to

preserve valuable religious artwork and artifacts. Two years ago Catholic Cemeteries managed the relocation of three stained-glass windows at Saint Gertrude Chapel Mausoleum of the Crucifixion in Colonia (see The Catholic Advocate, Nov. 26, 2008). The windows had been part of Saint Brigid Parish in North Bergen. More recently, Catholic Čemeteries unveiled a newly commissioned stained-glass window at Gate of Heaven Cemetery and Mausoleum in East Hanover, which depicts Jesus the Eternal High Priest (see The Catholic Advocate, Oct. 27).

Archbishop John J. Myers, in previous interviews, explained that "as Catholics, we believe those who have died remain part of the



Submitted phot

CATHOLIC HERO—Lauretta Miller (right), a Washington Township resident who has taught math at Immaculate Heart Academy (IHA) for 15 years, was named a "Catholic Hero" in the November edition of *Catholic Digest* magazine. IHA Campus Minister Stephanie Licata nominated Miller for her passion for teaching, the dedication she shows to her students and the unconditional love and support she gives to her daughters, including 22-year-old Kristen who has Down syndrome. "Lauretta is the most dedicated mother I have ever seen," Licata said in the magazine article. "Her ability to be attentive to Kristen's needs and balance her role as a teacher is, in a word, heroic." Reflecting on the award, Miller said she hopes her students know that, "no matter what we're dealt in life, when sharing it with our Lord, we'll have the ability to handle it."

community, part of the body of Christ. Our liturgy, our funeral practices and our commitment as Church to maintaining places of final rest for all who have died in Christ are a sincere and solid expression of respect and reverence."

Catholic Cemeteries operates 10 cemeteries—some with mausoleums—throughout northern

New Jersey. The Archdiocese of Newark observed Cemetery Sunday on Nov. 7 (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Oct. 27) as a special day to remind the faithful of the importance of continued prayer for the beloved dead as well as to also remember those faithful departed who may have no one to pray for them.



HAPPY SPACE CAMPER-Nyasia Castenada, a junior at Immaculate Conception High School, Montclair, is pictured at the controls of her space craft during a visit last summer to NASA's Space Camp in Huntsville, AL. During camp she learned about science and explored the far reaches of the universe, an education adventure funded by the Archdiocese of Newark's Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children (SFIC). Her most-intense experience was serving as a pilot during the six-hour Extended Duration Mission (EDM), when she



had to operate switches and maneuver her craft, the U.S.S. Enterprise, to avoid a myriad of interstellar obstacles. The first learning experience during camp was rocket building, where students used parachutes, rocket sections and foam protection to send an egg payload skyward and back safely. Students

also participated in team-building exercises on "high-rope challenges," at a site humorously named Area 51 (no aliens were detected).



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

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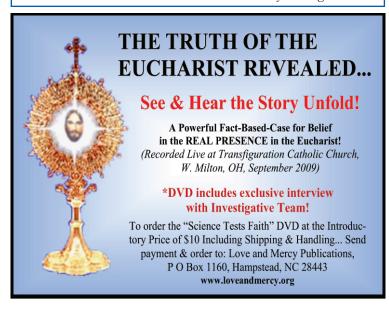
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Brittany Henderson reaches high as a rising star in $J\Pi ZZ$ program

NEWARK—Imagine what must it feel like to be invited to perform on stage at the "WBGO Champions of Jazz Benefit" at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) when you are only 16 years old. Consider finding yourself on a musical program with big-name jazz recording

Brittany Henderson, a junior at Benedictine Academy, Elizabeth, can tell you how it feels. Her beautiful voice and steady progress in studying jazz performance at NJPAC earned her a spots in the opening act of radio station WBGO's "Champions of Jazz Benefit" at the Victoria Theatre. Henderson is in her second year of NJPAC's "Wachovia Jazz for Teens Program." She and Destiny Reese, a student from Collingswood High School, shared the spotlight as the program's opening act on Nov. 10.



Submitted photo

"It's exhilarating to be performing in the WBGO Champions of Jazz Benefit," Henderson said. "I am extremely excited but also nervous to be the opening act for such big name artists. But I am definitely up to the challenge. I am truly appreciative of the talent God has bestowed upon me and I plan to rejoice in His name."

Henderson, a

Benedictine

Academy, is

pictured in a

sound studio.

part of her ed-

ucation as a

recording

Henderson

she was two

years old, she

has "jumped at

any and every

opportunity to

said that, since

artist.

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Henderson started taking youth performance classes at NJPAC four years ago. She auditioned for vocals and was accepted into NJPAC's program. At age 13 she participated in a talent pageant—"Hal Jackson's Talented Teens"—and was crowned "Miss Essex County 2007." That same year, she also participated in the "Union County Arts Festival" and won first place in the singing

During her freshman year at Benedictine Academy she performed in a school play, "Quilters." The show's director and producer, Liz McConahay Wanfried, invited Henderson to enroll in a NJPAC musical theater class, which Wanfried taught. Since then Henderson has participated in the "Young Artist Institute" studying vocals twice a week in the evenings. She was also accepted into the "Wachovia Jazz for Teens Program."

She has developed her singing talents as a student at Benedictine Academy, providing vocals for numerous school events and projects. A member of the school's gospel choir, Henderson was inspired to use her gifts to write and record a song, "Stand Up for Love." Although the song can be used for many social justice issues, Brittany decided to take a stand to help eradicate malaria, a preventable disease. The school's campus ministry raised several hundred dollars last spring to purchase medicine and mosquito nets for the "Malaria No More Foundation" in New York City.

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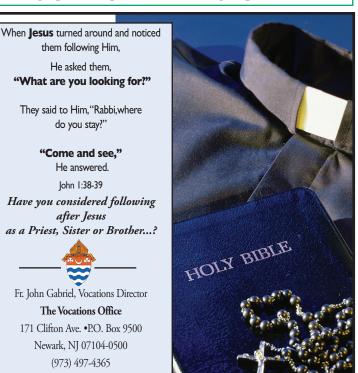
Presenter: Sr. Helen Beairsto, rc
December 8, 2010 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m

ADVENT DAY OF REFLECTION: A DECADE OF ADVENT

Presenter: Fr. Anthony Randazzo

December 11, 2010 10:00 am-3:00 pm

Registration is necessary. Please call. Meeting space for parishes & other groups is available.

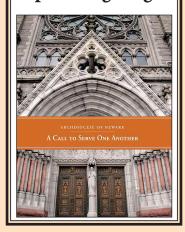




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- Or, contact us directly by phone or e-mail, PGINFO@rcan.org.

The Office of Planned Giving will be offering two programs in December:

Dec. 1, 2010 – Estate & Financial Planning from a Catholic Perspective at Saint John the Evangelist, Bergenfield at 7:30 p.m. (including wine, refreshments & a light supper from Market Basket). Free seminar, but reservations are required.

Dec. 2, 2010 – (For CPAs and other professionals) Continuing Professional Education Seminar Breakfast and networking included. \$40.00 per person (\$50.00 at the door). 8:30 am – 1:00 pm. Archdiocesan Center, 171 Clifton Avenue, Newark, NJ 07104. Earn three continuing education credits. To view full invitation and register online please go to www.rcan.org/cpeseminar

or call (973) 497-4042 for more information.

Please call Anne DeVivo DeMesa today for more information (973) 497-4048 or PGINFO@rcan.org. www.rcan.org/plannedgiving

Reflecting on the cosmic questions of life

Thanksgiving holiday, we know the Christmas season is nearly upon us. It comes each year with a vengeance as the marketing process goes into action. Even as early as the first of November, the psychological pressure to get out and buy comes by mail, through the media and in outdoor advertising.

But for Catholics, who try to live the faith, Advent time arrives in our Church calendar with an Advent wreath and readings from Isaiah and about John the Baptist. Advent lasts for four weeks. It signifies not only a present time of prayer and preparation for the coming of the Lord on Christmas day, but also it symbolizes that huge space of time between the creation of the universe and the birth of the Lord Jesus.

Christmas by its very nature is a warm, family-oriented feast. Especially the children can relate to an infant, a mother and father, shepherds and sheep. Add some kings, camels and gifts and the story of the Messiah's birth tells a beautiful story of God's love.

However, I would like to bring to your mind some more

difficult mysteries that have puzzled the human race from the time we first found ourselves in this wondrous world. From the beginning, when humans first contemplated the stars, scholars, philosophers and scientists have gazed upon this universe and have been baffled by this question: How did we get here? Who made this cosmos and all of its living beings?

The great science historian and Catholic priest Stanley L. Jaki, a renowned scholar who lived at Seton Hall for some years, said many great civilizations, namely, Confucian, Indian, Aztec, Mayan and Inca, Egyptian, Babylonian, Sumerian, Assyrians and Greek, all were prevented from entering full scientific discovery because they believed that humans lived in a "bubble in an inexorable sea of events." For them, life was an endless cycle of blind repetitions. They saw the world as a living thing and man was a part of an eternal and purposeless pantheistic universe.

Jewish history changed all that when Yahweh broke into time and said: "I am who am" and when Genesis proclaimed, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." From that time on, time for the human race was linear not circular. It had a beginning. It had a purpose. And it had a direction as it ran its

a direction as

But yet it wasn't all that clear about how God created the heavens and the earth. There was still a question. Did God make everything out of nothing or did God reorder what was already there? At any rate, for Jewish people, the universe had a beginning and a destiny in the kingdom yet to come.

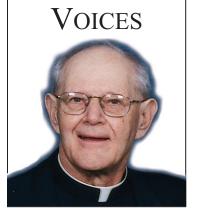
Now, let me jump ahead to our own time. In our age, atheists, scientific materialists and free thinkers of all sorts have become certain of several things. The universe is eternal. It had no beginning. Therefore time had no beginning. The world as we know it has simply evolved. They were smug in their certainty. That is

until now.

In 1914 an American
astronomer, named Vesto
Slipher discovered that
the galaxies were moving away from the
earth. In 1924 two
other American astronomers, Hubble
and Humason, calculated the speed of the galaxies and how far away the

galaxies actually were. By 1929 Hubble had figured out that at one time the galaxies had once been on top of each other. Almost at the same time a

Almost at the same time a Belgian priest, LeMaitre, proposed that originally all of cre-



By Rev. Msgr. John Gilchrist

ation had been concentrated in an incredibly dense "primeval atom" that had exploded. Thus ordinary people came to know of the "Big Bang" that had produced the universe more than 13 billion years

But let us return to the crib. Saint John wrote, "In the beginning was the Word. And the Word was with God. And the Word was God.... All things came into being through Him and without Him, nothing came to be."

Thirteen billion years ago, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, he whom we adore as an infant at Christmas, was the power, the reason, and the cause of all that is, that ever was, and ever will be. He caused the "Big Bang" and all that followed. And in that knowledge let all flesh keep silent. We have more than mystery here. *Venite Adoremus* (O come let us adore Him)!









Reflections, traditions kindle celebration of a sacred season

dvent (ad-venio in Latin or "to come to") begins the Church year and consists of the four Sundays before Christmas, beginning on Nov. 28. The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and also to the anniversary of the Lord's birth on Christmas.

The four candles on the Advent wreath represent the four weeks of Advent. Three candles are purple and one is rose. The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, preparatory sacrifices and goods works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, which is known as Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass.

Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our

Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead.

Prayers during the Advent season call to mind the preparation for the Lord's coming on Christmas and His second coming at the end of the world. The Advent theme of preparing one spiritually requires special prayers focused on waiting, watching and hoping for the Lord's coming.

Many Advent prayer books include daily prayers, while others involve the writings of popular Catholics including Pope John Paul II or Archbishop Fulton Sheen. Other prayers are meant specifically to be said along with an Advent wreath.

The Advent calendar is believed to have been created in the early 19th century to mark the days of Advent leading up to Christmas. Advent calendars of today usually count down the 24 days of December ending on Christmas Eve. As an education tool, Advent calendars can help children learn about preparing for Jesus' birth.

Father Thomas A. Dente, di-

rector of the archdiocesan Office of Divine Worship, said the Church teaches that Advent is a season with a twofold focus. First, it looks forward to the second coming of Christ, and secondly, it looks to the past, to the first coming of Christ at Christmas.

"It is a time for celebrating the mystery of the incarnation—God's coming in human form—but it's also a time of preparation for the second coming of Christ," Fr. Dente said.

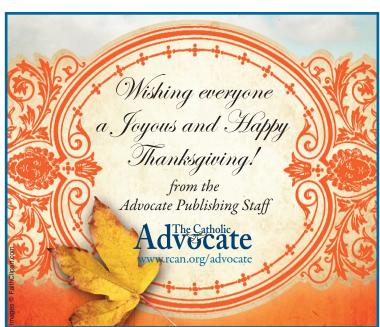
The restrained liturgical celebrations and the simple décor of churches during the season of Advent should reflect an inner reality—putting aside distractions in order to be alert and ready for the second coming of Christ, according to Fr. Dente. "As the Advent wreath grows brighter from week to week, we are reminded that God's light is dawning upon us, but our hearts need to be ready to receive it."

(Editor's note: Except for the reflections by Fr. Dente, information on the season of Advent was provided by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C.)











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Families

Continued from page 1

drug addicts; no one thinks of families. No one thinks of homeless children. Homelessness can happen to any family, especially today. People are accustomed to having money in the bank but not everyone has that safety net anymore," Duggan explained.

There has also been a change in family dynamics in the shelters. The majority was once single mothers with young children but recently, there are an increased number of two-parent families with older children. "The fathers are hardest hit when faced with homelessness. They feel as though they have failed to support their families. One father stayed outside in his car in front of the shelter because he was too embarrassed to come inside. Mothers

usually hold the family together," Duggan noted. She cited a 2009 survey that stated there are 1,436 homeless people in Bergen County and 548 of them are children. The number is grossly underestimated, she believes, because homeless families do not want to be identified.

The various religious congregations coming together at Family Promise of Bergen County to aid those less fortunate is an example of how everyone can be united in faith, said Duggan. "No matter what your denomination, your religious roots dictate that you care for the poor. Working with Family Promises gives people the opportunity to live out their faith. You don't have to go out of the country or even out of the state to help. Most people are not even aware that this problem existed."

During the holiday season,



Kate Duggan

people are more inclined to give, with more volunteers willing to donate food for Thanksgiving and Christmas. The organization also sponsors a Thanksgiving dinner at the Health and Human Services Center and Christ Church, both in Hackensack, where congregations prepare food and distribute



meals to 400-500 families. There is such an overwhelming response that the organization cannot accommodate all the volunteers. However, the need doesn't end after the holidays.

"People are still hungry in April; they are still homeless in August," Nancy S. Woods, president of the Board of Trustees for Family Promise of Bergen County said. Woods was director of the family shelter in Englewood for over 20 years. She noted that volunteers at the Bergen County congregations are anxious to participate in the new program.

A mother of 14 children, she said her faith first motivated her to help the homeless. "Seeing all these religions working together shows just how similar we are; we are all doing God's work," she said.

Separately, Homefirst Interfaith Housing and Family Services, based in Plainfield, is another organization that uses interreligious congregations to aid homeless families. Founded in 1986 as the Interfaith Council for the Homeless of Union County, the organization contains the Interfaith Hospitality Network that functions similarly to Family Promise. Sixty-two congregations throughout Union County host three to four families each week and Homefirst offers services like job placement, grief and loss counseling, and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes.

Homefirst rehabilitates houses for low-income families. The organization currently has 43 units of housing available and clients are required to pay 30 percent of their family income toward rent. Homefirst relies on a combination of funding sources from foundations, government, congregations, businesses and individual donors. Their Family Success Center opened in November 2009 in Plainfield that offers essential services and recourses to the community.

The organization is also involved in affordable housing advocacy and recently attended a demonstration in Trenton opposing bill A-3447. The bill, approved by the state assembly on Nov. 8, would abolish the Council of Affordable Housing and could create exclusionary zoning for the poorest in the state. Homefirst and interfaith communities protested the legislation that, although it includes a 10-percent affordable housing requirement, could build \$600,000 homes that are out of reach for low-income families. New Jersey has the highest total housing costs in the country and workers earning minimum wage woud have to work 136 hours per week, 52 weeks a year, with no holidays or time off in order to afford a two-bedroom apartment valued at \$1,279.

Susan Oldroyd Laffler, director of development and public relations at Homefirst, believes that



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The twenty-six students in Mrs. Bernardo's third-grade class are enhancing their learning by using the SmartBoard and MacBooks. This class uses the technology to take learning nouns and verbs to a whole new level. The school has SmartBoards in all classes Kindergarten through 8 and two mobile carts containing a total of 69 MacBooks. Teachers schedule use of the MacBooks during the day in their individual classrooms.



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breaking the cycle of homelessness starts with creating affordable housing. "Roaming shelters are more effective in other areas of the country where monthly rent is around \$700 per month. We have to address the underlying cause. Homefirst aims to educate people about the housing problem and that is when we get a huge response; it's just basic math. Even if a minimum wage earner doubles their salary, they still could not afford an apartment. People just need a decent place to live—that is not too much to ask."

Ellen McGovern, executive director of Homefirst, believes that homeless families are often "running in place" because they cannot afford a place to live. She noted an increase in families staying in the shelters that have stable income and earn too much to be on public assistance yet cannot make ends meet. Communities also have prejudices when asked to build low-income housing and fear "outsiders" coming into their neighborhood.

"These communities don't want to build starter homes," Laffler explained. "Homefirst believes in the de-concentration of poverty. We purchase existing homes, rehabilitate them and provide a place for low-income families to live. Municipalities don't want to change their zoning and you just have to be creative. Why build something new when there are already houses available? Our homes are often the nicest houses on the block."

Unlike other non-profit organizations, Homefirst does not have a sign outside the home and does its best to have the families feel like members of the community, preserving their anonymity. "People have the misconception that having low-income families results in an influx of people putting a drain on the community, like the school systems. We try to educate the town, mayor and congregation," McGovern added.

The executive director notes that the organization is intrinsically tied to each of the families. Their relationship is a long-term investment and the homeless families that once lived in their shelters live in their homes for life. "We have a child that came in this organization at five-years-old and recently graduated from Rutgers University. We stay connected with our families. There is a true sense of community," McGovern said.

Homefirst has around 1,000 volunteers that aid in their services. The religious congregations are especially important and McGovern noted how compelling it is to have an interfaith network, which includes the participation of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish and Saint Bartholomew the Apostle Parish, Scotch Plains; and Saint Helen Parish, Westfield. "The churches have a mission and service goals. Religious leaders realize that homelessness affects members of their own congregation; it touches everyone."

The recession has had a negative impact on donations. "People's capability to give has changed but not their will. Very few people are in a position to make a donation. The increase in demand and decrease in resources is something we struggle with every year."

In spite of financial stains, Homefirst was able to build nine units of housing this year for low income families. The organization



Advocate photo-Melissa McNally

Susan Oldroyd Laffler (left) and Ellen McGovern

guides the family every step of the way; from the shelter to transitional housing and then to a permanent housing while using the Family Success Center as a resource in gaining financial independence. The religious congregations, according to McGovern, are the voice for the voiceless families in need. Seeing the weight of a homelessness lifted from a family is most rewarding, she said.

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Official Appointments

Archbishop John J. Myers has announced the following appointments:

AGENCY/MINISTRY

Reverend Timothy G. Graff, Director of the Office of Human Concerns of the Archdiocese of Newark, has also been appointed as

Social Concerns Representative of the Public Policy Committee of the New Jersey Catholic Conference through June 30, 2013.

Reverend Joseph A. Scarangella, Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Montclair, has also been appointed Associate Coordinator/Master of Ceremonies for Archdiocesan Liturgies in the Archdiocese of Newark effective Nov. I.

Deacon Thomas J. Bulgia,

Permanent Deacon at Saint. Andrew Kim Parish, Maplewood, has also been recommended as Liaison for Divine Mercy for the Archdiocese of Newark, for a three year term, effective Nov. I and ending Oct. 31,

Reverend Bryan F.J.

Adamcik, Pastor of Our Lady of Victories Parish, Harrington Park, has also been appointed as an Advocate for the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Newark, effective immediately, for a term of three years.

PAROCHIAL VICAR

Reverend Guillermo Mora,

Parochial Vicar of Saint Catherine of Siena Parish, Hillside, was appointed Parochial Vicar of Saint Francis of Assisi Parish, Ridgefield Park, effective Nov. 1.

Reverend David S.

McLaughlin was appointed Parochial Vicar of Holy Trinity Parish, Hackensack, effective Nov. 2 and ending June 30, 2011.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Reverend Carlos M. Viego,

Parochial Vicar of Saint John Parish, Orange, has also been appointed Spiritual Director of the Legion of Mary Newark Comitium, effective immediately.

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SHOULDER WOUND OF JESUS CHRIST PRAYER

O loving Jesus, meek lamb of God, I a miserable sinner, salute and worship the most sacred wound of Thy Shoulder, On which Thou didst bear Thy heavy cross, which so tore Thy flesh and laid Thy bones as to inflict an anguish greater than any other wound of Thy most Blessed Body. I adore Thee, Oh Jesus most sorrowful, I praise and glorify Thee, and give thanks fully to thee for this most Holy and sacred and painful wound, beseeching Thee by that exceeding pain, and by the crushing burden of Thy heavy Cross to be merciful to me a most miserable sinner, to forgive me of all my mortal and venial sins and to lead me on towards Heaven along the way of Thy Cross. In Jesus' name (mention request) Amen to all. Thank you for

This most powerful prayer must be said for requests and most urgent help. After you have said and asked for your requests- This prayer MUST be published immediately after being said.

SHOULDER WOUND OF JESUS CHRIST PRAYER

O loving Jesus, meek lamb of God, I a miserable sinner, salute and worship the most sacred wound of Thy Shoulder, On which Thou didst bear Thy heavy cross, which so tore Thy flesh and laid Thy bones as to inflict an anguish greater than any other wound of Thy most Blessed Body. I adore Thee, Oh Jesus most sorrowful, I praise and glorify Thee, and give thanks fully to thee for this most Holy and sacred and painful wound, beseeching Thee by that exceeding pain, and by the crushing burden of Thy heavy Cross to be merciful to me a most miserable sinner, to forgive me of all my mortal and venial sins and to lead me on towards Heaven along the way of Thy Cross. In Jesus' name (mention request) Amen to all. Thank you for your help.

This most powerful prayer must be said for requests and most urgent help. After you have said and asked for your requests- This prayer MUST be published immediately after being said.

PRAYER TO ST. CHRISTOPHER

O Glorious St. Christopher you have inherited a beautiful name. Christbearer, as a result of the wonderful legend that while carrying people across a raging stream you also carried the Child Jesus. Teach us to be true Christbearers to those who do not know Him. Protect all of us that travel both near and far and petition Jesus to be with us always Amen.

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.

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'I can' voices must ask whether we celebrate time or eternity?

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE **Editor**

NEWARK—"I can."

These were the two simple words used by Rev. Msgr. Anselm I. Nwaorgu, Ph.D., in his passionate homily during a Mass celebrated Nov. 6 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, to succinctly define the spirit, faith, vision, courage and leadership of Bishop Joseph A. Francis.

The Office of African American, African and Caribbean Apostolate for the Archdiocese of Newark hosted the third annual Bishop Joseph A. Francis Mass and Awards Luncheon. Archbishop John J. Myers presided at the 11 a.m. Mass.

Bishop Francis, who died in 1997, was ordained in 1976 as the first African-American bishop in the archdiocese and the fourth in the country (see The Catholic Advocate, Feb. 10). Born in Lafayette, LA, in 1923, Bishop Francis was ordained to the priesthood on Oct. 7, 1950 and became a national pioneer for social justice.

In his homily, Msgr. Nwaorgu, the pastor of Blessed Sacrament/Saint Charles Borromeo Parish, said "Bishop Francis never lacked the inner voice of 'I can' because of the One who strengthened him. Bishop Francis believed that God would see him through; that the strength of God strengthened him. If Bishop Francis never said 'I can,' we would not be here. Today we celebrate the man who moved and pushed the Church to justice."

However, Msgr. Nwaorgu pointed out that "I can" must be more than an individual declaration of faith. He also warned those gathered at the Cathedral of the corrosive "structures of unbelief," the insidious voices that prevent people from fulfilling the plan that God has called them to be.

"The words 'I can' must translate as a mission for a faithful community," Msgr. Nwaorgu said. "Today we must say 'we can' to speak hope to a society that is becoming more hopeless. We must

say 'we can' to young people and the poor. If my 'I can' and your 'I can' cannot join together and speak of power and faith to our society, then today we only celebrate time and not eternity."

Award recipients this year at the luncheon included Archbishop Emeritus Peter L. Gerety, who resides at Saint John Vianney Residence, Rutherford; Esperanza Martinez of Saint Anastasia Parish, Teaneck; Gregory Banks of Transfiguration Academy, Bergenfield; Father William Reed of Sacred Heart Parish; and Rev. Msgr. James Finnerty of Saint Paul the Apostle Parish, Jersey City.



Pictured at the Bishop Joseph A. Francis awards luncheon are (left to right) Rev. Msgr. Richard J. Arnhols, archdiocesan Vicar for Pastoral Life; Archbishop John J. Myers; Rev. Msgr. Anselm I. Nwaorgu, Ph.D., pastor of Blessed Sacrament/Saint Charles Borromeo Parish, Newark; and Sister Patricia Lucas, D.H.M., the director of the African American, African and Caribbean Apostolate.

Obituaries

Father McGovern, O.F.M., missionary

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Oct. 17 in Boston, MA. for Father Donan McGovern, O.F.M., 82, who died Oct. 12.

A Franciscan friar for 60 years. Fr. McGovern made his final profession of vows Sept.17, 1953, and was ordained to the priesthood at the Franciscan Monastery in Washington, June 9, 1955. He volunteered for the Province's mission in the Alto La Paz region of Bolivia, where he served for 12 years (1959-1971).

Fr. McGovern returned to ministry in the United States and served as parochial vicar at Saint

Joseph Parish, East Rutherford (1971-1975). He also served parishes in Rode Island and New York. From 1979 to 1989, he was promoter for the Franciscan Missionary Union, based at Saint Francis Friary, New York. In 1989, Fr. McGovern went to New England were he remained until his death.

Robert McGuinness

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Oct. 21 at Saint Mary Parish, Nutley, for Robert A. McGuinness, 83, who died Oct. 17.

Born in Irvington, he lived in

Caldwell before moving to Nutley 60 years ago. He served as a professor of mathematics at Saint Peter's Preparatory School, Jersey City, where he received the "Legends of the Prep" award Nov. 17, 2001.

A Marine Corps veteran of the Korean Conflict, he was a member and past Commandant of the West Hudson Detachment of the Marine Corps League, a member and past Commander of the United Veterans Organization, both of Kearny, the AIR-LAND-SEA Marine Corps League Detachment No. 710, Nutley and the Nutley Old Guard.

QPHS to host gala reception

NORTH ARLINGTON—Queen of Peace High School (QPHS), 191 Rutherford Pl., will celebrate its 80th anniversary with a gala reception Friday, Dec. 3, 6 p.m. at Forest Hill Field Club, 9 Belleville Ave., Bloomfield.

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Submitted photos

TENT CITY EXPERIENCE—On Nov. 7 and 8, Paramus Catholic (PC) Regional High School's athletic fields became the site for over 100 students to experience difficult living conditions faced by the homeless. Students participated in the school's fourth annual "Tent City" event, where for 28 hours they encountered a lack of food and shelter. Students participated in activities, such as prayer groups and preparing meals for local homeless shelters. Joseph Wilson, PC dean of campus ministry, said one of the school's primary education goals is to encourage students to make community service a way of life. "Tent City enables our students to relate to the people they serve. They receive a renewed sense of empathy and are called to action to make a positive difference in their communities."



Submitted photo

THEY'RE OFF TO SEE THAT GUY IN OZ—Students at Mother Seton Regional High School, Clark, performed "The Wizard of Oz," on Nov. 19-21. Soley Esteves, Sarah Derderian, Hannah Clark and Lauren Mateo (left to right) played the Cowardly Lion, the Scarecrow, Dorothy and the Tin Woodsman. Other cast members included Takisha Pierre, as the Wicked Witch of the West; Katherine Newton as Glinda The Good Witch; Catherine Serzan as Auntie Em; Ryan Durkin as Uncle Henry; and Paul Rosato as Professor Marvel and the Wizard. Margaret Hak directed the performance, Sister Theo Furniss served as the play coordinator, Lucille Obie was the music director and Megan Ferentinos was in charge of choreography.

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106-year-old Guardian Angel parishioner

Maryknoll cites Frykberg's life as journey of generosity, faith

Frykberg, a spry 106-year-old parishioner at Guardian Angel Parish, recently shared her life journey in the November edition of Maryknoll magazine. The article featured Frykberg as someone who supports the missionary spirit of the organization, which will celebrate its 100th anniversary

"I was born in Manhattan at 3285 Broadway," Frykberg said, noting there were farms right up

Knights plan food drive for Dec. 11

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP -Mother Seton Council No. 5427 of the Knights of Columbus will conduct its annual food drive Saturday, Dec. 11 to collect nonperishable food goods to help the needy through local food pantries. Personal hygiene items are also welcome.

Those interested in contributing to the drive are asked to bag donation items and leave them at the front door of homes before 10 a.m. on that day. Volunteers from the K of C will pick up the parcels as they cover every residence in the township. Food drive notices will be distributed to households prior to the pickup date. Oritani Savings Bank Charitable Foundation will cover the cost to distribute flyers.

Non-perishable food items needed include powdered milk, hot and cold cereals, canned fruits, vegetables, stew, fish, meats, soups, one-can meals, peanut butter, jelly, pudding, Jell-O, pasta products, rice, baby food, sugar, flour, coffee, tea and pancake mix.

In lieu of these items, monetary donations may be sent to the K of C Food Drive, 79 Pascack Road, Washington Township, NJ 07676. Parcels of food and other items may be left there as well. For additional information, call Jim McPeak at (201) 707-1519 or the K of C hall at (201) 664-0422. For general information on Mother Seton Council, visit the group's Web site (www.kofc5427.org). Last year the New Jersey Knights donated more than \$4.5 million to charities.

the road from her house. She remembers newspaper boys in 1912 yelling out the headline that the Titanic sank and running home to tell her father the grim news.

Her family eventually moved to New Jersey and she recalled commuting by ferry across the Hudson River to her job as a telephone operator in New York's financial district. She participated in the first coast-to-coast teletype call during the early 1930s. She recalled other historic moments, such as hearing the radio reports about the tragic attack on Pearl Harbor or seeing the Hindenburg zeppelin fly over her apartment in 1937 just hours before the gigantic airship crashed in Lakehurst Naval Air Station.

She considered becoming a nun when she was young, "but my mother told me I couldn't because I liked hats too much," she said with a smile. She eventually did find her vocation as a wife and mother. Among the many additional smiles were some sad times, but none of them stopped her from reaching out to those who have suffered. She inherited her compassionate concern from her mother. "Mom was generous to all sorts of charities," she said. "When she died in 1947, I took over her donations." Traveling throughout the world over the years increased her desire to help people in need.

A faithful Catholic, she embraced the changes of the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s but couldn't understand why many of her friends had such a difficult time adjusting to the Church's new direction.

Throughout her life Frykberg has had a special devotion to the Blessed Mother and prays the rosary daily. As matriarch of a large family, she constantly receives requests for prayers from her 12 grandchildren and 17 greatgrandchildren.

Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, the overseas mission outreach of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States, (Web



Soon after celebrating her 106th birthday, Mildred Frykberg, (center) visited the Maryknoll Society in Ossining, NY, and met many of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers whom she generously has supported over years. Pictured are (left to right) Father Richard Quinn, M.M., daughter Rosalind, Frykberg, daughter Audrey and Brother John Blazo, M.M.

site: www. maryknollsociety.org) said it counts on the generosity of people like Frykberg to serve the poor and others in need in 27 countries.

In anticipation of its centennial anniversary next year, Maryknoll has selected a theme ("The Gift of Mission-The Maryknoll Journey") to celebrate its mission to share God's love combating poverty, providing healthcare, building communities and promoting human rights.

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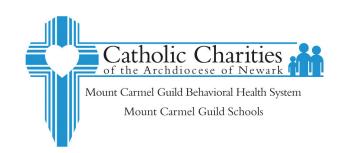
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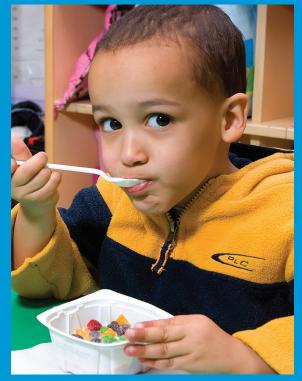


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