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The Catholic Advocate

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December 8, 2010



Advent

Forty years of candlelit carol singing

The Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart will host the 40th annual Candlelight Carol Sing on Dec. 15 and 16. Doors open at 7 p.m. John J. Miller, archdiocesan director of music ministries, will conduct the performances, which will feature "Christmas Cantata" by Daniel Pinkham.

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Event inspires, nourishes faith initiatives

BY MELISSA MCNALLY
Staff Writer

NEWARK—Over \$250,000 was raised to support the faith initiatives of the Archdiocese of Newark at the second annual Nourishing Your Faith dinner, which was held Nov. 10 at The Venetian, Garfield.

According to the archdiocese, the event was the largest fund-raising dinner of the year with proceeds benefiting the men's and women's commissions, evangelization efforts and Catholic education (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Nov. 24 and Oct. 27). Organizers said the event helps to raise resources that are essential for supporting the Church's faith initiatives throughout the four counties of the Archdiocese of Newark.

Attended by prominent area business and community leaders, the dinner attracted 750 faithful, an increase of 64 percent from last year. Archbishop John J. Myers was in attendance along with honorary dinner co-chair and world-

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Submitted photo
Seven-hundred and fifty faithful of the Archdiocese of Newark attended the second annual Nourishing Your Faith dinner. Pictured at the gala event are (left to right): Archbishop John J. Myers; world-famous author Mary Higgins Clark, honorary dinner co-chair; and Most Rev. John M. Smith, Bishop of Trenton.

"What The Star-Ledger story didn't tell you about our commitment to communication and to protecting children"

BY JAMES G. GOODNESS, KHS
Director of Communications and Public Relations

Jeff Diamant's Dec. 5 story makes a number of statements and draws conclusions about the commitment of Archbishop John Myers and the Archdiocese of Newark to the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. These statements and conclusions are either misleading or outright wrong.

For close to a year and a half, I worked with this reporter on this specific topic. I outlined steps that the Archbishop and the Archdiocese had taken in each of the cases that he cited in his story, as well as in others. However, most of the information I supplied was not incorporated into the story. As a result, his reporting was, at best, incomplete, and at worst, deceptive.

Mr. Diamant claimed in the

fourth paragraph of his story that the Archbishop and the Archdiocese were not abiding by the Charter, but then buried elsewhere in the story that the US Conference of Catholic Bishops has found regularly that the Archdiocese complies with the Charter in both the letter and spirit of the law.

Complying with the Charter means a diocese is doing everything it is supposed to do to protect children, to train clergy, Religious, and laypeople who work with children, and to be open in communicating with parishioners and authorities. The Archdiocese of Newark has passed every audit that has taken place since audits began in 2003. These audits have been comprehensive and lengthy, conducted largely by former agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

How can this reporter claim that the Archbishop and the

Archdiocese do not follow the Charter when the organization responsible for the Charter says that the Archdiocese and Archbishop do?

Mr. Diamant and *The Star-Ledger* cannot have it both ways.

This fact alone destroys Mr. Diamant's and *The Star-Ledger's* premise that the Archbishop and the Archdiocese are not being truthful or forthright in dealing with the issue sexual abuse. But readers of *The Star-Ledger*, and good people everywhere, should also consider some other problems with Mr. Diamant's reporting.

Contrary to what Mr. Diamant and *The Star-Ledger* reported, the Archdiocese has for many years distributed announcements to parishes stating that pastors have needed to go on leave after an allegation of misconduct is reported. That general practice was expanded in recent years to include all parochial vicars as well. The gen-

eral practice of the Archdiocese, based on Archbishop Myers' recommendation, is to announce an allegation in the parish that is the site of the allegation. If after an inquiry by the Archdiocesan Review Board there is sufficient information to undertake a canonical process under Church law, then that information is provided to both the parish where the priest was most recently serving and also to all parishes where that priest had served in the past.

If, however, civil authorities are conducting an investigation, the Archdiocese generally waits until the conclusion of the civil matter until it begins its process. This practice ensures that the Archdiocese does not appear to be influencing any court or criminal process.

With respect to the case involving Fr. Fugee, Mr. Diamant's concentration on some details of the

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Advocate photo – Melissa McNally

Father Thomas Dente, addressing the Nov. 22 forum at the Archdiocesan Center, said a meeting to provide resources to help parishes prepare to receive the Roman Missal is planned for Saturday, Dec. 11, 9:30 a.m., at the archdiocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, 499 Belgrove Dr., Kearny. Call the Office of Divine Worship at (973) 497-4345 for further details.

U.S. bishops slate Advent 2011 as time to unveil Roman Missal

WASHINGTON—After meeting last month in Baltimore for the annual fall general assembly of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), the Committee on Divine Worship issued a statement affirming the timeline of the implementation of the “Roman Missal, Third Edition.”

“There is assurance that the published text will be available in more than ample time for implementation in Advent 2011,” said Most Rev. Arthur J. Serratelli, Bishop of the Diocese of Paterson, the outgoing chairman of the committee. “It is good to note also that the catechetical preparation for implementation is already underway and has proceeded with much enthusiasm and wide acceptance by both clergy and laity.”

As reported earlier this year, U.S. Bishops issued a decree of proclamation that states that “the use of the third edition of the Roman Missal enters into use in the dioceses of the United States of America as of the First Sunday of Advent, Nov. 27, 2011” (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Sept. 8). The full statement is available on the homepage of the USCCB’s Committee on Divine Worship (www.usccb.org/liturgy).

The Roman Missal, Third Edition, the book of prayers used in the worship of the Roman rite, was promulgated by Pope John Paul II as part of the Jubilee Year 2000. The U.S. bishops completed their approval of the translation of the missal into English at their November 2009 meeting.

The translation received *recognitio* or approval, from the Vatican’s Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments in spring 2010.

In the Archdiocese of Newark, Father Thomas A. Dente, director of the archdiocesan Office of Divine Worship, addressed a gathering of 250 on Nov. 22 at the Archdiocesan Center, Newark. Fr. Dente’s office had requested that parishes form Roman Missal implementation teams to attend workshops to be held throughout the archdiocese. Implementation teams typically consist of representatives from clergy, religious education, music and liturgy coordinators from the respective parishes.

In a letter sent throughout the archdiocese, Archbishop John J. Myers stressed the importance of preparing for the changes to the missal. “While our initial focus on the changes in the liturgy will be on the words that are used, I strongly urge all parishes and institutions of the archdiocese to renew with vigor all aspects of their celebrations of the Mass, with a view to the full, conscious and active participation of the faithful,” Archbishop Myers wrote.

Fr. Dente noted that while change is always difficult, modifications to the Roman Missal are designed to enhance the liturgy. “The translation is much different and the workshops are designed to help people prepare. The change forces us to examine our liturgical celebrations and encourages us to stop and think about the words we are saying,” he said.

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES ANNUAL

Christmas Food Collection

We will be accepting any non-perishable food items for distribution to the local food pantries for those less fortunate in the Archdiocese.

Your donations may be dropped off during business hours in the office of any Archdiocesan Cemetery or Mausoleum between

Wednesday, December 1st through Monday, January 3rd.

The Church encourages frequent cemetery visits and prayers for the dead. Visiting the sick, clothing the naked, feeding the hungry are also works of mercy to be encouraged. Performing them on behalf of our deceased loved ones are Mitzvah (wonderful gifts that cannot be repaid) and truly honor the memory of the deceased in a tangible way.

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Most Reverend John J. Myers President and Publisher

Michael C. Gabriele	Editor & Associate Publisher	gabriemi@rcan.org
Ward Miele	Managing Editor	mielejos@rcan.org
Marilyn Smith	Production Supervisor	smithmai@rcan.org
Marge Pearson-McCue	Director of Advertising & Operations	pearsoma@rcan.org

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December 22

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NJPA
 NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

Annual Carol Sing concert to illuminate Cathedral



Photo courtesy of Ken Smith, Quiet Heart Images

In addition to the performance of "Christmas Cantata," the Cathedral Choir will lead the audience in traditional sing-along carols and Christmas favorites. Vincent Carr will be the featured organist for the concert.

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE
Editor

NEWARK — The Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, 89 Ridge St., will host the 40th annual "Candlelight Carol Sing" on Dec. 15 and 16. Doors open at 7 p.m.

John J. Miller, archdiocesan director of music ministries, will conduct the performance, which will feature the Cathedral Choir accompanied by organ, brass and percussion.

"Christmas Cantata," composed by Daniel R. Pinkham in 1957, will be featured composition of the concert. According to information on various Web sites, Pinkham was born in Lynn, MA, on June 5, 1923.

In 1958 he became organist and Music Director of Boston's historic Kings Chapel, a position he held for 42 years until his retirement in 2000. In 1990 Pinkham was named "Composer of the Year" by the American Guild of Organists. Pinkham died on Dec. 18, 2006.

Two years ago the annual Candlelight Carol Sing concert added a second night of performance to better accommodate the enthusiastic demand.

There are no reservations; seating is first come, first serve. The concerts are free and open to the public. There will be a

"free-will" donation available for those who wish to support the Cathedral's music ministry. For additional information call (973) 484-2400.

The Candlelight Carol Sing traces its roots back to 1969, when a blizzard disrupted a scheduled Christmas season organ recital at the Cathedral.

Basilica. With the organ soloist unable to attend due to the snowstorm, John Rose—then the director of music at the Cathedral—led the disappointed concert crowd in an impromptu singing of Christmas carols. The event was well received and the format was continued the following year.

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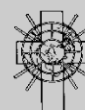
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"I have to be a mother to them."



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USCCB Web site offers insights into new book on Pope Benedict

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has launched an extensive new Web site dedicated to the new book “Benedict XVI: Essays and Reflections on His Papacy,” which was published this fall by the USCCB in conjunction with Sheed and Ward, an imprint of Rowman and Littlefield Publishers.

The Web site (www.popebenedictbook.com), went live Wednesday, Dec. 1.

Designed by Mach 1 Media, the Web site offers a full-color

tour of the new book, with a photo gallery, excerpts from the essays and a selection of the personal reflections featured in the book with several of the contributors. Video clips of Cardinal Sean O’Malley of Boston, Cardinal Francis George of Chicago, and Archbishop Timothy Dolan of New York add lively reflections from three of the book’s contributors. Visitors to the site can click to purchase the book from a variety of retailers.

Information on the Web site gives a sense of the unprecedented

look into the first five years of Pope Benedict’s reign, which readers will find in the publication. The book, edited by Sister Mary Ann Walsh, R.S.M., features forewords by King Abdullah II of Jordan and President Shimon Peres of Israel, and includes introductory material from Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I., and John Thavis, Rome bureau chief for Catholic News Service.

“With brief essays on various themes of this papacy, the book

serves as ‘Cliff Notes’ for understanding Pope Benedict XVI,” Sr. Mary Ann Walsh said.

The book has been praised by reviewers, including Michael Sean Winters of National Catholic Reporter Online, who called it “a splendid book...brings the human face of our faith, in the person of the Pope, closer to us.” Library Journal called the book “beautifully illustrated and skillfully edited work.”

Elegantly designed and produced, the book includes more than 100 full-color photographs. Images range from formal public appearances and meetings with leaders and lay Catholics around the globe, to quiet moments of personal study or contemplation.



Pope Benedict XVI

Commitment

Continued from page 1

court case masks the stark reality that the Archdiocese was extremely open about the issue. In 2001, at the beginning of the case, the Archdiocese removed Fr. Fugee from ministry and issued a statement to the local parish community and to local media interested in the matter at the time. He remained out of ministry during the entire eight-year life of the case. It was imprudent for the Archdiocese to issue statements or comments during this court process that could be seen as attempts to either influence the jury or the general public on the matter. At the end of the process—after court officials, the Archdiocesan Review Board, and even the Bergen County Prosecutor—deemed that Fr. Fugee could return to a ministry, the Archdiocese published in *The Catholic Advocate* (a matter of public record) his appointment as a hospital chaplain to a hospital that had no pediatric services. In fact, Mr. Diamant read the notice himself.

The court system ultimately determined that Fr. Fugee’s conviction was unlawful. Under our system of laws, such a decision should conclude a matter, regardless of how any individual, even a county prosecutor, may feel. Perhaps Mr. Diamant and *The Star-Ledger* feel that the laws of the State of New Jersey should be fair and impartial only to some people.

The discovery that Fr. Ruane did not follow the dictates of the Archbishop that he no longer present himself as a priest or be involved in ministry was, indeed, distressing to all, especially Archbishop Myers. As soon as he learned of it, the Archbishop immediately took measures to en-

sure that no such misstep should again occur and that this priest would rededicate himself to living a life of penance and prayer. In the time since those incidents reported in *The Star-Ledger* story, no further incidents have occurred.

Fr. Ruane’s case differs from the usual case that has come to the attention of the Archdiocese. He was not in any parish work, so a notice to a parish community was not considered at the time the allegation came to us.

With respect to Fr. Sita, Mr. Diamant and *The Star-Ledger* tried to blame Archbishop Myers for actions that occurred almost two decades before he arrived in Newark. When Mr. McAllister’s allegation came to the attention of the Archdiocese in 2007, Fr. Sita had left the priesthood some 15 years before, and the Archdiocese had no information about his whereabouts. When his allegation came to our attention, Archbishop Myers directed me personally to report the incident to both the County Prosecutor in Missouri and to the Hudson County Prosecutor. I also spoke at length with many members of the media about the charges made against Fr. Sita so that the public would have available information about this matter. Then, after the Archdiocese learned of his whereabouts, I reported this information to the same authorities. We believe that Fr. Sita is now awaiting trial in Missouri largely because the Archdiocese of Newark made law enforcement aware of the allegation.

Fr. Medina’s case is another matter where Archbishop Myers personally directed me to reach out to the Union County Prosecutor. I did so immediately after receiving the information about an allegation. I put the Prosecutor in touch with the mother of the alleged victim, and we co-

operated fully with the authorities throughout the long, complex time of this case. Because the matter involved possible immigration issues and the possibility of another allegation, the Archdiocese again was reluctant to issue any interim statements about the matter until 2008, after notifying the Bishops Conference.

For some reason, Mr. Diamant and *The Star-Ledger* are confused about the letters that the Archdiocese sent to the dioceses in Florida in 2004 about Fr. Gorak. The language that the Orlando Diocese used in its notification to Newark—that Fr. Gorak “MAY (*emphasis added*) have had physical contact” with a woman—was conditional, and so the letters that the Archdiocese sent were not specific as to the charge. The Archdiocese had no direct knowledge of possible wrongdoing, and so it would have been wrong to make a claim that wasn’t definitive. However, Msgr. Robert Emery, the vicar general of the Archdiocese at the time, was explicit. Do not give Fr. Gorak an assignment in Florida. Fr. Gorak was expected to return to Newark. Msgr. Emery was ready to respond verbally to any inquiry concerning Fr. Gorak.

Also, in the Spring of 2005, when the alleged victim in Fr. Gorak’s case finally wrote to the Archdiocese and identified herself and the allegation, legal counsel for the Archdiocese immediately turned over all of her information about an alleged attack to the Attorney General of the State of New Jersey. The Attorney General sent it to the authorities in Florida. That information, provided by the Archdiocese, resulted in Fr. Gorak’s immediate arrest and the resulting criminal prosecution.

That does not sound like failure to communicate.

Mr. Diamant also neglected to report in his story that Fr. Gorak failed to return to Newark, that he failed to communicate with the Archdiocese or Archbishop, and that the Archbishop directed Fr. Gorak be placed on leave without permission to be in ministry.

Fr. Gorak remains out of ministry today.

With respect to the Sita, Medina and Gorak matters, Archbishop Myers has directed that laicization, the canonical process of removing a priest from the clerical state, be instituted for all three priests. Medina also underwent a canonical trial and the results of that trial are currently being reviewed in Rome. All of these events are ongoing. The Archdiocese cannot comment on any cases while they are in process or in review, but when these matters are resolved, the Archdiocese will make the information public as well.

Mr. Diamant also neglected to mention in his story that the record of the Archdiocese of Newark in terms of dealing with clergy sexual abuse is long and broad. In 1985, the Archdiocese instituted its first policy of reporting and investigating allegations of abuse. In 1993, the Archdiocese of Newark instituted one of the first Review Boards—consisting largely of laypeople with extensive legal and investigative or law enforcement experience—to deal with investigating allegations. Archbishop Myers strengthened and broadened this volunteer panel, and also broadened the outreach process to victims through a Victim’s Assistance Coordinator, after he came to Newark.

The Archdiocese of Newark also helped develop and implement a program of sexual abuse awareness training that is in use in dioceses throughout the country.

Like all of the other Catholic dioceses in the State of New Jersey, The Archdiocese of Newark is a signatory to a Memorandum of Understanding—the only one in the State—among the Attorney General and County Prosecutors, and reports all allegations.

Finally, with few exceptions, the Archdiocese does notify the parish communities that are the site of an allegation of misconduct. Those exceptions can include: cases of a deceased priest, who is no longer able to defend himself against an allegation; a priest who already has been removed from ministry, or; a case where the Review Board determines quickly that there is no basis for an allegation.

There certainly are people in this country, which *The Star-Ledger* calls critics of the Archdiocese and Archbishop Myers, who think that the Archdiocese and Archbishop are not doing enough to deal with sexual abuse matters. That is their opinion, and they indeed have been and will continue to be vocal about it.

To be truthful, Archbishop Myers and the Archdiocese of Newark believe that there should be high and ethical standards in place for dealing with victims of abuse and parish communities affected. That is the promise made in the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People—a promise that the Archbishop pledged to keep in 2002, and does keep even today.

In contrast, the story that *The Star-Ledger* ran on Dec. 5, re-read with this additional information that Mr. Diamant conveniently left out, falls short on truth and transparency.

Even a dying newspaper must maintain high ethical standards.

Slam dunk—SFIC plans basketball tournament

NEWARK—Fourteen of the top boys and girls high school basketball teams in New Jersey will take part in the eighth annual Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children (SFIC) Basketball Festival on Jan. 8-9, 2011.

Four boys' games will be played Sunday, Jan. 9 at Kean University, Union. The afternoon is highlighted by a 2 p.m. matchup between two of the state's top teams: Saint Patrick's and Saint Benedict's. Later in the day, head coach Bob Hurley, a member of

the Basketball Hall of Fame, will lead his Saint Anthony's team against Saint Joseph's Montvale at 6 p.m. The other matchups will feature Seton Hall Prep versus Hudson Catholic at noon and Saint Peter's Prep taking on Trenton Catholic at 4 p.m.

The girls' teams will tip off the weekend with a tripleheader on Saturday, Jan. 8 at Paramus Catholic Regional High School. Holy Angels and Saint Anthony's will tip off at 1 p.m. followed by Paramus Catholic versus Roselle

Catholic at 2:45 p.m. and Immaculate Heart Academy against Mount Saint Dominic at 4:30 p.m.

To purchase tickets, call the SFIC office at (973) 497-4279 or visit the Web site (www.SFIChoops.com).

"The SFIC is thrilled to have

these talented teams participate and be part of our basketball festival" Bill Fitzpatrick, festival director, said. "It will be a great day of high school basketball for a worthy cause," Gerry O'Connor, the SFIC executive director, added.

The SFIC is a non-profit or-

ganization that invests in the future of disadvantaged children in the inner-cities through donations from corporations, foundations and individuals. The SFIC has generated over \$40 million in scholarships and this ongoing drive has led to about 90 percent of its students graduating and pursuing a secondary education.



Submitted photo

SENIOR HOUSING—Domus Corp., a non-profit housing development unit and affiliate of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark, held a ground-breaking ceremony Nov. 6 in Roselle Park for a 75-unit senior complex. Pictured at the ceremony are (left to right) Roselle Park Mayor Joseph De Iorio; Dr. Phillip Frese, chief executive officer of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark; Rev. Msgr. Kevin M. Hanbury, archdiocesan vicar for education and superintendent of schools; and Rev. Msgr. Christopher Hynes. Earlier this year Domus opened a senior citizen residence in Dumont (see *The Catholic Advocate*, March 24).



Submitted photo

MAKE A VENTURE—Catholic musician Tim Margiotta, a teacher at Summit Middle School, recently released his debut album, "Make a Venture," recorded at Fiat Ventures Studios, Berkeley Heights. The album offers songs written by guitarist Margiotta, which reflect everyday struggles confronting Catholics. "One way that I prayed was by writing songs," Margiotta said. "When I encountered a difficult situation at school, felt far from God, questioned why something happened, or just experienced such life through my faith, I picked up a pen and worked on a song. These songs are pieces of the journey that I have been on." He is a member of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Stirling. More information is available at Margiotta's Web site (www.timmargiotta.com).

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Students appreciate wisdom behind evacuation drill

BY BRIAN HARTNETT

Special to The Catholic Advocate

SCOTCH PLAINS—My second-period calculus class started off the same way any other class would, with the daily practice problem, prayer and introduction to our new topic. However, within a matter of minutes, the class was interrupted by an event that all the students had heard about but had not expected: Union Catholic Regional High School's first full-scale evacuation drill.

The drill, held last month, was conducted in compliance with the new state law, N.J.S. 18A: 41-1, which became effective on Nov. 1

and requires schools to conduct safety drills at least once a month, in addition to fire drills.

As the loudspeaker came on, I heard not the calm voice of the secretary but the friendly yet stern voice of our principal, Sister Percylee Hart R.S.M., who told the students and teachers: "evacuate now."

My class reacted swiftly, rushing to close windows and get out of the room while remaining calm. As I exited into the hallways, I noticed that nearly all students displayed the same reaction, filled with some concern but feeling an assurance that everything would be alright as soon as we exited the building.

As the drill moved out in front of the school, the first thing I noticed was the efficient organization of all the students and teachers. Used to these formations from fire drills, I nevertheless was impressed with the neatly organized rows in which each student stood in total silence.

After attendance was taken, I waited patiently, looking for the cue to move to our next location. The hand signal was given and in a short time the entire school population of over 900 people was moving together as a school community.

At our next location, I joined together with my homeroom as attendance was taken not once but three times, unquestionably a measure of the attention to the security that marked this drill. As the minutes of waiting finally ended and the drill concluded, I found myself not complaining but ap-



Submitted photo

Union Catholic teacher Michelle Scutieri-Goworek takes attendance minutes after students evacuated the building under a state-mandated monthly safety drill.

preciating the school's idea to run this drill.

Simple compliance with the law is not the only reason why Union Catholic has decided to implement safety drills. The main incentive is the school's commit-

ment to ensuring student security. The focus on safety addresses a wide range of potential threats to students and teachers, some of which have turned into deadly tragedies for U.S. schools in recent years.

"Safety and security have always been priorities here at Union Catholic," Sister Percylee explained. "Our teachers have always been 100 percent alert and responsive to ensure security."

Union Catholic closely monitors the safety of its students and works to prepare them in the event of a real emergency.

Ultimately, a drill can only be successful if students comply with the school's plan. I found student compliance to be a major reason for the success of Union Catholic's first security drill.

(Editor's note: Brian Hartnett is a member of the Union Catholic Class of 2011.)



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BISHOPS LIST MASS SCHEDULES

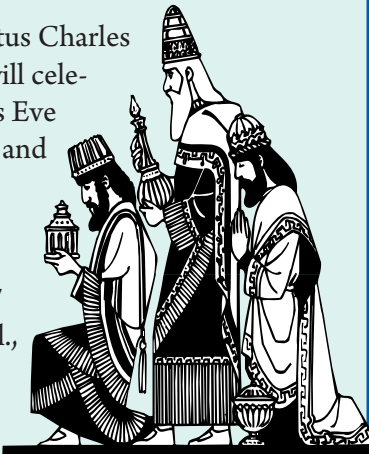
The following is the listing available at press time for Archbishop John J. Myers and the auxiliary bishops of the Archdiocese of Newark regarding their Mass schedules for the Christmas season.

- * Archbishop John J. Myers will celebrate Christmas Eve Midnight Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, 89 Ridge St., Newark

* Bishop Thomas A. Donato will celebrate, on Christmas Eve, the 4:30 p.m. family Mass and the 10 p.m. Mass, as well as the 10 a.m. Christmas Day Mass, all at Saint Henry Parish, 82 West 29th St., Bayonne

* Bishop John W. Flesey will celebrate Christmas Eve Mass at 10 p.m., Mass on Dec. 26 at 7:30 a.m. and Mass on Jan. 1 at 5:30 p.m., all at Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, 787 Franklin Lake Rd., Franklin Lakes
- * Bishop Emeritus Dominic A. Marconi will preside Christmas Eve at a blessing of a live crib scene, 1 p.m., at Saint Theresa Parish, 541 Washington Ave., Kenilworth. Later that same day at the same parish he will celebrate Christmas Eve Midnight Mass

* Bishop Emeritus Charles J. McDonnell will celebrate Christmas Eve Midnight Mass and the 9 a.m. Christmas Day Mass at Saint Mary Parish, 17 Msgr. Owens Pl., Nutley



Submitted photo

GATHERING APPAREL—The Knights of Columbus, Fourth Degree, First NJ District, recently organized a clothing drive known as “Sweats for Vets.” Athletic wear was collected and donated to the VA New Jersey Healthcare System, East Orange, and New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home, Paramus, as well as other area facilities for veterans. Robert Tarantula (left), faithful purser, Msgr. Peter B. O’Connor Assembly 1543, North Arlington, and Paul Pinkman (right), grand knight of Secaucus Council 12679, are pictured with Diane Minervini, owner of JAM Apparel, Hazlet, who was a major donor in the program.

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CHRISTMAS 2010

Christmas Eve
Friday, December 24th

4:00 pm Mass
with Children's Choir

6:00 pm Mass

8:00 pm Mass

10:00 pm Mass
9:30 pm Choir Prelude

Christmas Day
Saturday, December 25th

10:30 am Mass

12:00 noon Mass

Healing and reconciliation in gratitude for work of Christ

Readings: Is 35:1-6 and 10; Ps 146:6-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11.

Can a person measure the importance of a loving family and secure home setting for the tumultuous experience of growing from infancy through adolescence to adulthood? Some people recall that their entire childhood was lived in the same town or city neighborhood. Others acknowledge that the only stability in their lives came from their parents and siblings as they moved to a new country with its enormous challenges. What a tragedy to be separated from one's family! Most of us never imagine what the loss of home and work inflicts upon the

millions of people forced to flee because of persecution or war in the past century. Many never adjust to new situations but continually yearn to return to their native land. Such people would respond appreciatively to the message of hope offered in Isaiah the prophet.

The text proclaimed this Sunday belongs to the teaching of Isaiah's disciples who carried his spirit of consolation to the people exiled to Babylon. How could their dream of returning to the land of Israel be realized? The long journey through the parched wilderness was daunting, especially for the elderly and those suffering from physical handicaps.

First the prophet reminded

the community that God could transform the desert as quickly as the warmth of spring brings abundant blossoms to the desert wadis irrigated from flood waters brought by winter rains. Those returning will inherit the verdant pastures of Carmel and Sharon (the area from Haifa to Tel Aviv). Moreover, "they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God" (Is 35:2). The basis for Israel's hope is the impressive, illuminating presence (glory) of God. Physical or psychological weakness must be overcome through the challenge of the prophet: "Be strong, fear not!" This is a constant refrain of God's message to those facing danger or enormous challenges in their vocation. "Fear not, Abram! I am your shield!" (Gn 15:1). "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God" (Lk 1:30). The reason for the saints to have confidence in spite of human limitations is their faith that God is with them. "Here is your God, He comes with vindication; with divine recompense He comes to save

you" (Is 35:4). The righteousness of God will bring judgment upon the wicked so that the persecuted can find liberty.

Not only will the exiled return to their homeland, but those who are blind, deaf or lame will be enabled to make the journey and join in worship within the Jerusalem sanctuary. Thus would they be whole so that they could take on the tasks of living in community and serving in the Temple (see Lv 21:16-23).

The marvelous transformation of people's lives through divine power was a central aspect of Jesus' ministry. John the Baptist, however, had emphasized that the coming Anointed One (Messiah, Christ) would plunge people into the crucible of divine Judgment. "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire" (see Isa 11:1-4). His winnowing fan is in His hand. He will clear His threshing floor and gather His wheat into His barn but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire" (Mt 3:11-12). With a touch of impatience, perhaps, John challenged Jesus to take up this work. But in His reply, Jesus recalled the hope of the prophets for a healing of human ills so that people could fulfill their call to worship God. Of course, these works of mercy also became signs of the enlightenment of faith and the activation of good will on the part of those whose sins are forgiven.

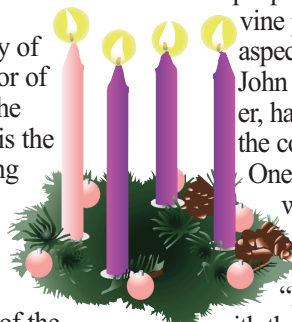
SUNDAY READINGS

3rd Sunday of Advent
(Dec. 12, 2010)



By Rev. Lawrence Frizzell

The only real handicap preventing a person from serving God and loving neighbor is sin. Various forms of selfishness cause people to be alienated from God and true liberation begins with freedom from the shackles of sin. Then they will return from spiritual exile and be restored to the fullness of life in God's presence, in the community of His people. In baptism God "delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins" (Col 1:13-14). During the season of Advent the Church provides opportunities for us to seek reconciliation through the sacrament of penance as our response in gratitude for the ministry of Christ in His work of restoring us to intimacy with the Father through the Holy Spirit.



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Navigating through an accelerated season

“The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom. They will bloom with abundant flowers, and rejoice with joyful song.” (Isaiah 35:1-2.)

This portion of Isaiah from this coming Sunday’s first reading was clearly made manifest by the Christmas cactus nurtured near the window of my rectory sitting room. It had several beautiful buds that burst into a breathtaking display of red, white and violet.

It seems, however, that it has picked up the ways of the world, or at least of the businesses in it. These magnificent blooms started on Halloween! Though still going strong in late November as I write this, I wait in anticipation to see if it will actually keep blooming ‘til Christmas.

Many people complain that the Christmas shopping season starts earlier each year. In my younger years, Santa’s coming at the end of the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade seemed early enough, coinciding roughly with the start of Advent. Now you can see some Christmas displays in September. Even Macy’s started their “Believe in the Magic of the Season” ads in early November.

For the liturgical purists among us, there should be no hint of things Christmas until we arrive at Christmas Eve, having dutifully observed the progression of the four weeks of Advent. Much like marriage preparation

programs that start way ahead of the wedding date, Advent tries to focus on the spiritual side of the occasion, understanding that all the other more mundane features of the day are going on simultaneously.

We can’t stop the march of the wooden soldiers from parading in our TV ads and photos-with-Santa displays, but we can call a halt to the dominance that all the other preparations sometimes seem to have over the spiritual in our lives.

Advent invites us, in the midst of the seasonal hubbub, to pause and reflect on what Christmas is really all about. Through communal Penance services and expanded confession schedules, it gently encourages us to be reconciled once again with God who through Jesus first reconciled all of us to Himself.

It suggests to us that the anticipation of the prophets can fill our souls too as we light the candles of the Advent wreath or join together with others in prayer. It reminds us that acts of charity are always appropriate ways to open our hearts through Parish Giving Trees, food and clothing drives, and so on.

Maintaining a spiritual focus can help us overcome guilt pangs when trying to reconcile realistic family budgets with the quantity of gifts on children’s lists to Santa. Knowing that for most children the luster wears off by

Dec. 26th, a move to the practical from the extravagant is not without its rewards.

Blessed are those families who make Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day the highlight of their celebration. Whether regular churchgoers or occasional visitors, there should always be room in our hearts along with our church pews for all who come to worship the King of Kings

and Lord of Lords.

As the alternative opening prayer for the third Sunday of Advent concludes, “Prepare our hearts and remove the sadness that hinders us from feeling the joy and hope which His presence will bestow.”

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

SEEING & BELIEVING



By Rev. Msgr. Richard J. Arnholds



Advocate photo Ward Miele

CHANCERY VISIT—Archbishop John J. Myers (seated, center) last month welcomed members of the Seton Hall University (SHU) Campus Ministry Missionaries, which included two brothers from the Community of Saint John, six missionaries from the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) and four missionaries from Saint Paul’s Outreach. Visiting the Newark chancery were, left to right (seated) Brother Peter Francis; Father Nicholas Figurelli, associate director; Father Stanley Gomes, director of SHU campus ministry; Father Gabriel Mary; (standing) Melissa Stadelman; Katie Krempf; A.J. Garcia; Teddy Ariniello; Rosabel Farruggio; Anthony Christenson of Saint Paul’s Outreach; Stevie Duraney; Lisa Greey; Rita Buganski; and Ed Moccia.



OPENS LAW PRACTICE—Cesar Martin Estela, Esq. recently opened his law practice in downtown Newark at 24 Commerce St. Born in Lima, Peru, Estela was raised in Newark (one block from the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart) and attended Saint Lucy’s Elementary School. He went on to graduate Magna Cum Laude from Seton Hall University (SHU), South Orange, in 2005 and Cum Laude from SHU Law School in 2009.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church
14th St. & Avenue C, Bayonne, NJ



Dec 24, Christmas Eve

5:00 pm Caroling Service

5:30 pm Christmas Vigil Service

9:00 pm Sacred Music

9:30 pm Solemn Vigil Mass

Dec 25, Christmas Day

Masses are: 7:30 am, 9:00 am,

10:30 am, 12:00 noon

No Evening Mass



Celebrate the Joy of Christmas!

The 17th Annual
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The Orchestra of
St. Peter by the Sea
Conducted by the Rev. Alphonse Stephenson

December 15, 2010

7:30pm

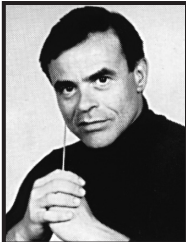
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Jubilarian event draws 7 with ties to archdiocese

HAVERSTRAW, NY — Salesians from across the eastern United States and all of Canada came together at the Marian Shrine on Nov. 14, to honor two dozen of their confreres who were celebrating major anniversaries of religious profession or priestly ordination.

Nearly 500 members of the Salesian family—priests, brothers, sisters, novices, cooperators, past pupils—took part in the event. Seven of the jubilarians come from or are serving in the Archdiocese of Newark.

Father Joseph Bajorek, S.D.B., 94, celebrated a double anniversary of 65 years of priesthood and 75 years of religious profession. A native of Yonkers, NY, he attended Don Bosco Prep, Ramsey, before entering Don Bosco Seminary, Newton, where he made his first profession as a Salesian on Sept. 8, 1935. He served at Don Bosco Prep and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Mahwah.

Father Gennaro Sesto, S.D.B.,



Submitted photo

Father Thomas Dunne, Salesian provincial, presided at the Mass at the Marian Shrine on Nov. 14 to honor Salesian jubilarians. During his homily he cited their faithfulness in serving others and proclaiming the message of Christ by the quality of their lives.

89, has been professed for 70 years and ordained for 60 years. Presently he is responsible for the Italian apostolate at Saint Anthony of Padua Parish in Elizabeth. Born in Biddeford, ME, he entered Don Bosco Seminary in 1935. After theological studies in Turin, Italy, he was ordained there on July 2,

1950. He served as director of Don Bosco Seminary (1963-1967) and of Don Bosco Prep in Ramsey (1981-1987).

Brother Michael Brinkman, S.D.B., 78, has been professed for 50 years. Born in Dayton, OH, he arrived at Don Bosco Seminary in 1958 and professed religious vows on Sept. 8, 1960.

Father John Grinsell, S.D.B., 68, professed religious vows on Sept. 8, 1960 and was ordained in Columbus, OH, in 1971. He has been pastor of Our Lady of the Valley Parish, Orange, since 2008.

Brother Gerald Meegan, S.D.B., 68, was born in Teaneck and was a member of the Saint Matthew Parish community in Ridgefield. He attended Don Bosco Technical High School in Paterson and made his religious profession on Sept. 8, 1960.

Father James Cerbone, S.D.B., 61, was born in Newark, baptized at Saint Anthony Parish, Belleville, and confirmed at Our Lady of All Souls Church, East Orange. He entered the Salesians at Don Bosco Seminary in 1967 and made his religious profession on Sept. 1, 1970 and was ordained in 1980.

Father Richard Crager, S.D.B., 58, as been ordained for 25 years. Born in Parsons, KS, he entered Don Bosco Seminary in 1976 and was ordained in Columbus, OH, on May 18, 1985. Since 2007 he has been associate pastor at Saint Anthony Parish, Elizabeth.

The Salesians' New Rochelle, NY, province includes the eastern U.S. and all of Canada. In 2015, the Salesian family and the Church will celebrate the 200th anniversary of Don Bosco's

birth. Saint John Bosco was a 19th century priest from Italy who began a worldwide movement to evangelize and educate young adults. He was known for his youthful style and methods of proclaiming the Gospel. He died Jan. 31, 1888 at the age of 72. On April 1, 1934, Pope Pius XI proclaimed him a saint.

Over the years the Salesian Society has grown to 16,000 priests and brothers, 14,000 Sisters, and 24,000 co-operators. Salesian youth centers and schools are present in 130 countries.

Cho among seminarians in Rome



ROME—H. Ray Cho, a seminarian from the Archdiocese of Newark, was among 30 seminarians of the Pontifical North American College ordained recently to the transitional diaconate during a celebration of the Eucharist.

Most Rev. Bernard Hebda, Bishop of the Diocese of Gaylord, celebrated the Mass. During the ordination, the new deacons promised to live a life of prayer, celibacy and obedience to their diocesan bishop.

The transitional deacons will have an additional year of theological studies and spiritual formation before being ordained to the priesthood.

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

He asked them,

"What are you looking for?"

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

"Come and see,"

He answered.

John 1:38-39

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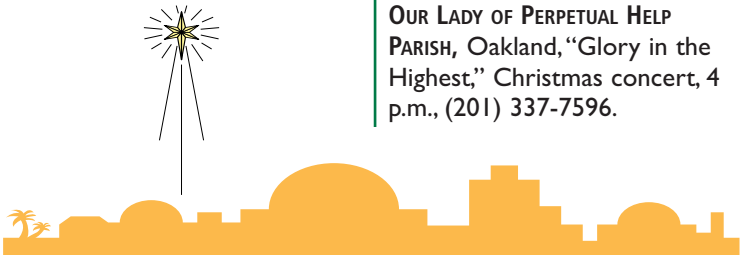
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December 10
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 3428, North Arlington, "Light Up for Christ," 7 p.m., (201) 230-3428.

December 11
ST. LUCY PARISH, Newark, toy collection concert and benefit, at Mexicali Live, Teaneck, 8:30 p.m., cost: \$10 in advance/\$12 at the door, call George Dassinger at (973) 890-1008.

December 12
IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY PARISH, Scotch Plains, in association with St. Bartholomew the Apostle Parish, Christmas Choir Concert, 3 p.m., (908) 889-2100.

December 13
RESPECT LIFE OFFICE, Archdiocese of Newark, Our Lady's Monthly Prayer Vigil for Life, at St. John the Evangelist Parish, Leonia, 7 p.m., (732) 388-8211.



December 15
IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY PARISH, Scotch Plains, Simbang Gabi Advent Novena, through Dec. 23, sponsored by the Filipino-American Working Committee, events begin at 7 p.m., (908) 889-2100.

December 18
OFFICE OF FAMILY LIFE MINISTRIES, Archdiocese of Newark, support group for fathers whose children have died, at Notre Dame Parish, North Caldwell, 10 a.m., (973) 497-4327.

December 19
OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL, Ridgewood, career resources ministry workshop, 1 p.m., call Tom at (201) 445-1864.


NOTRE DAME PARISH, North Caldwell, Christmas concert, featuring the orchestra and chorus of St. Peter by the Sea, 7:30 p.m., cost: \$35, (973) 226-0979.

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH, Oakland, "Glory in the Highest," Christmas concert, 4 p.m., (201) 337-7596.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH, Hillsdale, Christmas concert, 4 p.m., (201) 664-3131.

December 31
ASSUMPTION PARISH, Roselle Park, New Year's Eve party, 9 p.m. - 1 a.m., cost: \$35, RSVP by Dec. 19, (908) 425-1107.

Other
LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF WOMEN RELIGIOUS (LCWR), Women and Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America traveling exhibit; at the Ellis Island Immigration Museum, Statue of Liberty National Monument; through Jan. 22, visit www.womenandspirit.org.



Submitted photo

VISITOR FROM HAITI— Archbishop Bernardito Auza (left), nuncio to Haiti, visited Saint Teresa of Avila Parish, Summit, on Nov. 20 and 21 to celebrate the parish's confirmation ceremony and masses. He is pictured with Father Brian G. Plate, the pastor of Saint Teresa. During his homily Archbishop Auza thanked the people of the Archdiocese of Newark for their generous assistance this year to the people of Haiti in the aftermath of the devastating Jan. 12 earthquake. "God bless American Catholics," he said. "They are the most generous Catholics in the world."

U.S. bishops offering online Advent info

WASHINGTON—The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is continuing its tradition of providing online resources for the Advent and Christmas seasons with suggestions for daily prayer, reading and reflection.

The USCCB's Advent and Christmas Web site (www.usccb.org/advent) was created by the USCCB's Department of Communications with funding from the Catholic Communication Campaign.

As a special spiritual gift this season, USCCB is providing a downloadable book of scriptural reflections for Advent and Christmas featuring the words of Pope Benedict XVI from his homilies, speeches and other addresses during his papacy.

"This has become one of the more popular features on the bishops' Web site," Helen Osman, secretary of communications for USCCB, said. "It is a great one-stop resource for families and individuals."


Other material highlighted in the interactive online Advent and Christmas calendars is from the Vatican publication "Advent and Christmas with the Church Fathers" and "Reflections on Advent and Christmas: Cultivating the Gift of Self," new releases which are available from USCCB.

"A Festival of Lesson and Carols," which is a service of Scripture and song that dates to the late 19th century, can be heard live online or downloaded. The audio program features the Choir of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

The Monks of Newark Abbey invite you to start the New Year with Thanks and Praise.
Saturday, Dec. 25, 2010
Solemn Vespers of the Nativity
Join the Benedictine monks of Newark Abbey
In singing Christmas Vespers at 3:00 p.m.
Christmas afternoon in St. Mary's Church
Corner of King Boulevard & William Street, Newark NJ
.....

New Year's Eve, Friday, Dec. 31, 2010
All-Night Prayer Vigil
Welcome the New Year in an atmosphere of praise, thanksgiving and petition with the monks of Newark Abbey and the parishioners of St. Mary's, Newark.
Each hour will be marked by prayer for a special intention.
Our church will be open all night. Stop by any time!
Friday night, Dec. 31, 2010
9:30 p.m. Church is open for prayer
11:15 p.m. Annual Parish Vigil followed by New Year's Mass
Saturday, January 1, 2011
Exposition of Blessed Sacrament after Mass till 7:00 a.m.
2:00 a.m.- 6:00 a.m. Quiet adoration
7:00 a.m. Sung Lauds (Morning Prayer)
10:30 a.m. Mass
.....

For further information call (973) 792-5751






Rev. Msgr. Neil J. Mahoney

May God grant you every grace and blessing on your 40th Anniversary

Congratulations and prayerful good wishes

The Priests, Staff and Especially the People of St. Patrick's Pro-Cathedral & St. John's Church



Sr. Mary, S.S.N.D.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Oct. 30 at Villa Notre Dame, Wilton, CT, for Sister Mary Fidelis Ruwart, S.S.N.D., 92, who died Oct. 27.

Born April 24, 1918, Sr. Mary Fidelis entered the congregation of the School Sisters of Notre Dame in 1935 and made her first vows in 1938. After three years teaching at Saint Peter School in Cambridge, MA, Sr. Mary Fidelis was assigned in 1941 to Puerto Rico. For the next 15 years, she taught in schools in Puerta de Tierra, Aguas Buenas and Miramar.

In 1965, she returned to the United States and was director of religious education at Saint John the Evangelist, Bergenfield, from 1972 to 1974. In 1990, she returned to Wilton where she became coordinator of volunteers at the congregation's motherhouse.

At the age of 72, she became a



Sr. Mary Fidelis Ruwart

secretary to the Provincial Council in Wilton. She remained at the Provincialate, giving full-time or part-time secretarial assistance, until retirement at age 87 in 2005.

Fr. Ryan, C.P., 89

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Oct. 19 at the Passionist Monastery, NY, for Father John Chrysostom Ryan, C.P., 89, who died Oct. 15.

A native of Union City, Fr. Ryan graduated professed vows in the Passionist community at Saint Paul of the Cross Monastery, Pittsburgh, in 1941 and ordained to the priesthood in 1948.

Fr. Ryan was assistant novice master and director of Passionist students at Saint Michael Monastery in Union City, and Saint Ann Monastery in Scranton, PA, from 1949-1953. He was rector of Saint Michael Monastery from 1959-1965.

After serving three years in Passionist leadership, he was reappointed rector of Saint Michael Monastery in 1968. From 1971-1974 he conducted parish missions and retreats. He was assistant treasurer for the Passionist province from 1974-1980. He also served as assistant retreat director at Cardinal Spellman Retreat Center, Riverdale, NY, from 1980-1982.

Fr. Ryan served as pastor of Saints Joseph and Michael

Parish, Union City, from 1984-1990. In 1990 he moved to Immaculate Conception Monastery in Jamaica, NY. He served as assistant treasurer for the Passionist province from 1991-1993.

Father Olsen, 84

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Nov. 8 at Sacred Heart Parish, Bay Head, for Father Thomas F. Olsen, 84, who died Nov. 3.

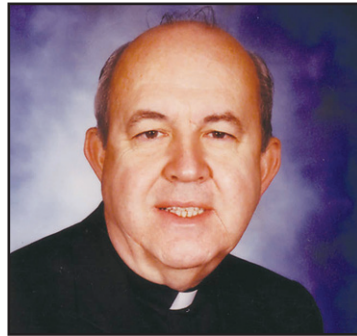
Born and raised in Bayonne, Fr. Olsen graduated from Seton Hall University, South Orange, and was ordained a priest May 30, 1953. His first assignment (1953-1968) was at Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish, Garfield.

In 1968 he was appointed the director of the Hudson County Catholic Youth Organization and the pastor of All Saints Parish, Jersey City, now closed, where he remained until 1979. That year he

was appointed pastor of Saint Paul of the Cross Parish, Jersey City, and served until 1991.

Fr. Olsen was appointed executive director of Boys Town, Kearny, in 1989. Two years later, was appointed pastor of Epiphany Parish, Cliffside Park, where he served until his retirement from active ministry for the Archdiocese of Newark in March 2000.

During his retirement Fr. Olsen settled in the Archdiocese of Trenton and celebrated daily Mass at Sacred Heart Parish, Bay Head.



Father Thomas F. Olsen

CLASSIFIEDS

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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.

S.A.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.R.

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.

S.A.L.

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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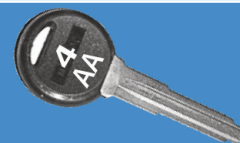
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Forum draws those dedicated to 'catechetical task'

BY WARD MIELE
Managing Editor

PARAMUS—Praising their ministry as a spiritual journey and “an awesome calling,” Rev. Msgr. Kevin M. Hanbury, Ed.D., vicar for education and superintendent of schools, welcomed 800 faithful from throughout the Archdiocese of Newark on Nov. 13 to the annual Catechetical Convocation, which was held at Paramus Catholic Regional High School.



Ronald Pihokker

Citing the substantial number of participants in the all-day gathering, Ronald L. Pihokker, M.A. Ed., director of the archdiocesan Catechetical Office, opened the program by joyfully declaring “we keep breaking records.” He told *The Catholic Advocate* the solid turnout is a definitive sign of the participants’ “commitment to their ministry.”

The number of those attending from the Spanish-speaking community practically matched the English-speaking attendees, Pihokker noted. Father Luis Calderon, parochial vicar at Saint Joseph of the Palisades Parish in

West New York and coordinator of *New Jersey Catolico*, sister publication of *The Catholic Advocate*, gave the keynote address in Spanish.

Fr. Calderon gave a presentation at the annual United States Oriental Orthodox-Roman Catholic Consultation held Sept. 20-21 at the Passionist Spiritual Center in the Bronx, New York (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Oct. 27). Fr. Calderon’s presentation at the Orthodox/Catholic consultation was titled “The Follower, the Seeker and the Convert: Hispanics and Their Experience of God.” He offered an analysis of why U.S. Hispanics are leaving the Catholic Church to become members of different Christian congregations.

Convocation participants had a choice of 35 English language workshops and 13 Spanish language workshops. Prior to the beginning of the workshop schedule, the day began with presentation of awards in recognition of many years of service to the catechetical ministry. Recipients included, for 25 years, Betty Hatler, Saint Mary Parish, Rutherford; Gail Bongiorno, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Nutley; Carol Bullock, SS Patrick/Assumption and All Saints Parish, Jersey City; Frances Fitzgerald, Saint Francis Parish, Hoboken; Margaret Flynn and Victoria MacFadyen, Saint Mary Parish, Rutherford; Joseph K. Olesky, Saint Michael Parish and Saint Joseph Parish, Bayonne; Joanne Roda, Saint Joseph Parish, East Rutherford; and Angela Rodin, Saint Joseph Parish, Demarest.

Other honorees included for 28 years, Claudina Clavero and



Advocate photos – Ward Miele

A noontime feature at the convocation was a performance of contemporary Christian music under the direction of Sister Marilyn Minter C.S.S.F. (right, with guitar). Also pictured is Sister Maria Magdalena, C.S.S.F. In addition, John Burland, the director of Office of Liturgy and Music for the Archdiocese of Sydney, Australia, offered two workshops on “Music for Celebrating the Sacraments” assisted by the choral group from the Academy of Our Lady, Glen Rock.

Alfredo Garcia, Saint Augustine Parish, Union City; Carmen Mota, 30 years, Saint Augustine Parish, Union City; Prospero Jimenez, 31 years, Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Bayonne; Angela Martinez and Maria Rivas, 34 years, Saint Augustine Parish, Union City and Rose Ostroski, 40 years, Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Bayonne.

An audible gasp followed by spontaneous applause filled the Paramus Catholic auditorium with the announcement of Janice Wernock of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Bayonne with 52 years.

Msgr. Hanbury told the convocation that in many archdiocesan parishes the catechetical programs are substantial. Young people, he stressed, need to be well prepared in the faith adding there is not much time during the school year

to teach them the “richness” of Catholicism. Students, as part of their spiritual journeys, will “learn to be the body of Christ,” he stressed.

Last September, marking the annual celebration of Catechetical Sunday, a special report previewed the gathering (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Sept. 8). The conference is geared to support the education and outreach needs of parish catechetical leaders, catechists, Catholic school teachers, Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) catechumenate teams, eucharistic ministers, parish sacramental teams, youth ministers, social justice teams, adult spirituality teams, liturgists, priests and deacons and adult faith formation teams.

According to Pihokker, the “catechetical task” of the Church is to take the Word received and

make it understandable and relevant to our world by applying it faithfully to the situations of daily life. Catechists and parish catechetical leaders, serving as educators, assist pastors in each parish to carry out this mission.

In addition to his duties in the archdiocesan Catechetical Office, Pihokker serves as the regional minister of the Secular Franciscan Order—Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity—of New York and New Jersey. In this capacity, he participated in the national gathering of the U.S. Secular Franciscan Order, which was held Oct. 29 at the Franciscan Renewal Center, Scottsdale, AZ. The national body represents 14,000 secular Franciscans.

The group issued a statement of “solidarity with migrants in our midst” and unanimously approved a statement declaring “some current harsh attitudes towards migration” as intolerable and deploring “the fear and anxiety paralyzing our immigrant brothers and sisters.”

“As Franciscans, we intentionally chose to come to Arizona to stand in solidarity with the migrants in our midst,” the statement read. “We endorse the United States Catholic Bishops’ urgent call for Comprehensive Immigration Reform, including their strong support for the DREAM act.” Pending legislation in the DREAM act would legalize immigrant high school graduates of good moral character who were brought to the United States at a young age without legal status.



ADVENT PROGRAMS:

DEC. 15, 2010: DAY OF PRAYER

“In the Beginning was the Word”
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9:30am-3:00pm
Includes Continental Breakfast, Lunch
Suggested Donation: \$35.00

DEC. 21, 2010: EVENING OF PRAYER

Hannah and Mary “Sisters in the Lord”
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7pm-8:30pm
Suggested Donation: \$15.00

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Speakers and dignitaries at Nourishing Your Faith included (front row, left to right): Mary Higgins Clark, honorary dinner co-chair; Archbishop John J. Myers; Most Rev. John M. Smith, Bishop of Trenton; (back row) John Conheeneey; Steve Doocy, master of ceremonies and co-host of the TV show “Fox and Friends”; Kathy Doocy, Dan Gregory, Martha MacCallum Gregory of “Fox and Friends,” Michelle Feagles, and Jeff Feagles, a former punter for the New York Giants.



Members of the event's silent-auction committee pictured with Archbishop Myers include (seated, left to right) Dorothy Bell, Linda Barba, (standing) Diana Zampolin, Jennifer Bell, Alison Edwards, Jackie Kobes, Trudy Zink, Michelle Williams, and Carol Zielinski and Toni Brower. Photos by Roy Groething.

Fund-raiser

Continued from page 1

famous author Mary Higgins Clark. Most Rev. John M. Smith, Bishop of Trenton, Teresa Tomeo, the host of EWTN's “Catholic Connection,” and Jeff Feagles, a former punter for the New York Giants, were featured speakers. Stephen Doocy, the co-host of the TV show “Fox and Friends,” served as master of ceremonies.

Archbishop Myers described Nourishing Your Faith as the single-most important fund-raising dinner for the archdiocese to strengthen the local Church. “This evening is about standing up as Catholics in modern America, where being Catholic is seen as antagonistic,” he said.

Tomeo echoed the archbishop's sentiment that today's society is increasingly secular. She praised the goals of the dinner and thought the amount of donations were impressive, especially during the turbulent economic times.

A journalist for 20 years, Tomeo was raised Catholic but separated from her faith until she had a reawakening. Today she travels the country discussing the media's influence on society.

“The media is so anti-Catholic and Catholicism is misrepresented as the oppressive Church,” Tomeo explained. “However, there are secular studies that support Catholic teaching. What we have in our faith is really true; I know, because I have lived it.” She believes that the faithful must speak up in the public sphere and the Nourishing Your Faith fund-raising event, she said, was a great way to show Catholic unity.

William T. Evans, executive director of the Office of Major Gifts

and Planned Giving for the Archdiocese of Newark, believes the event was such a success due to the efforts of the dinner committee volunteers.

“Because of the volunteer leadership, we were able to attract people of this caliber. The success of the event is a tribute to the volunteers who were enthusiastically committed,” Evans noted.

When Archbishop Myers entered the dinner, he was immediately greeted by an ovation by the hundreds of guests. “The Nourishing Your Faith Dinner was a great night to highlight the lead-

Swartzberg, dinner chairs; Linda Barba, silent auction chair; featured guest speakers Bishop John Smith, Steve Doocy, Teresa Tomeo, and Jeff Feagles; Linda Barba and others, silent-auction committee; Tom and Margaret Healey, dinner co-chair and cocktail hour sponsor; Linda Graves, last year's dinner chair and a major sponsor; Bob and Carol Gillespie, last year's dinner chair and a major sponsor; Dan Gregory and Martha McCallum, benefactors and FOX News host; Mario and Diane Di Domizio, president of Hudson Group and the Hudson Book Store and Newstands; Angelo Del Russo, Del Sano Contracting; Henry Amoroso, chair of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark; Alfonso Daloisio, speaker sponsor, development council; Jim Henderson, Italy Pilgrimage; Herbert C. Meyer, state deputy, Knight of Columbus; Richard Wolff, Knights of Malta; Paul and Becky Simpson, new finance council; Father Andrew Ostaszewski, Ph.D., pastor of Saint Casimir Parish, Newark; Anthony Amiano, mayor of Freehold; Bill and Lesley Collins; Sal Davino, Fidelity; John and Kathy Hayes, American Express; Brian and Jane McAuley, finance council; Peter and Pam McBride, finance council; Nicholas Miceli, TD Bank; Gerry and Colette Nolan, finance council; Larry and Elaine Raia, Raia Development; Ed and Sharon Reitz; Denise Rover, finance council; Dr. Dianne Traflet, associate dean, Institute for Christian Spirituality, Immaculate Conception Seminary, South Orange; Liza Walsh, Connell Foley; Bobby and Carol Williams; and Bob and Diana Zampolin, development council.

Archbishop Myers described Nourishing Your Faith as the single-most important fund-raising dinner for the archdiocese to strengthen the local Church.

ership of Archbishop Myers and celebrate the charitable mission of the Archdiocese of Newark,” Evans said. “In contrast to a society that is so aggressively secular, we celebrated the Catholic identity. It was an inspirational and faith-filled event that was also fun.”

The list of dignitaries, special friends and supporters and committee members who attended the event included Mary Higgins Clark and John Conheeneey, honorary dinner co-chairs; Art and Mary Conway, Mark and Pam



Archbishop Myers presents plaques of appreciation to the event's dinner chairs: Mary and Art Conway (middle photo); and Mark and Pam Swartzberg (bottom photo).





Advocate photo – Ward Miele

SAYING “THANK YOU” TO LAW ENFORCEMENT—Archbishop John J. Myers recently hosted members of the New Jersey law enforcement community in his residence to thank them for their efforts on behalf of the Archdiocese of Newark over the past year. During the evening, Archbishop Myers stopped to chat with members of the security detail of the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

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Advocate photos – Ward Miele

CENTER OF ATTENTION—Blessed Pope John XXIII Academy, West Orange, co-sponsored by Saint Joseph Parish and Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, opened its new gym, part of the Beatrice Kruglinski Parish Center, on Nov. 7. Most Rev. Dominic A. Marconi (center), Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus, led the blessing and dedication of the new facility. Pictured with Bishop Marconi are (left to right) Father Vinh Nguyen; Father Steven Kilcarr; Fr. Richard Francesco, pastor of Saint Joseph Parish; Lynda Wright, academy principal; Father James White; and Rev. Msgr. Thomas P. Ivory.