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The Catholic Advocate

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The community newspaper of the Archdiocese of Newark

December 22, 2010

PAGE 5



Prayer warriors plan to ring in the New Year

Mark Mattheiss and the Gratia Plena Evangelical Community will host a mission immersion program in Newark.

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Choose Life license plates get green light

Children First Foundation prevails as New Jersey is 26th state to approve the advocacy plates.

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The Light of the World

*“Whoever follows me
will never walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life”*

—John 8:12

Images © Faithfulpart.com



ALL IS CALM, ALL IS BRIGHT—The Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, hosted the 40th annual “Candlelight Carol Sing” on Dec. 15 and 16. Archbishop John J. Myers (above photo) welcomed the audience to the performance, which was conducted by John J. Miller, archdiocesan director of music ministries, and featured the Cathedral Choir accompanied by Vincent Carr on the organ, along with brass and percussion. “Christmas Cantata,” composed by Daniel R. Pinkham in 1957, was the featured composition of the concert. The Candlelight Carol Sing originated in 1969, when John Rose, then the director of music at the Cathedral, led a concert crowd in an impromptu singing of Christmas carols.



Photos courtesy of Ken Smith, Quiet Heart Images (Web site: www.quietheart.com)

The Catholic Advocate

*The community newspaper
of the Archdiocese of Newark*

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NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

Six assist orphanage in Vanaprastha

Saint Andrew seminarians discover passage to India

BY WARD MIELE
Managing Editor

SOUTH ORANGE—Working this past summer with a priest fighting poverty through education at an orphanage in a remote, desolate area of India has been a spiritual inspiration to six men studying at Saint Andrew's Seminary.

Making the trip to India were Martin Hipkins, Juan Jose Esteban, Danny Pabon, Brian Ebenau, Ben Emmel and Chris Conant. Emmel and Conant are from the Madison, WI, and

Paterson dioceses respectively.

The impetus for what all six agree was a unique experience came a year ago when Sister Mary Elizabeth of the Filippini Sisters spoke to seminarians about her order's work among the poor. Her presentation, explained Ebenau, peaked the interest of Rev. Msgr. Joseph R. Reilly, S.T.L., Ph.D., rector of Saint Andrew Seminary, who spoke to the seminarians about the Indian trip. Everyone, Ebenau recalled, was "all for it."

The seminarians worked at an orphanage in Vanaprastha, a region in southern India. The area is

one of the poorest in the world. It has dry land with clay-mixed soil that is deep red in color. There is very little rain and no river. Because of those conditions the soil is quite hard and farmers find it difficult to cultivate. Most of the villages remain organized following an age-old caste system. Many from Vanaprastha come from the lower casts.

According to the Vanaprastha orphanage Web site, its main objectives are to secure physical and mental well-being of the youngsters under its care, bring "educational revolution" to villagers, support the disadvantaged primarily women and the elderly and, finally, introduce "a new culture of co-existence" regardless of a person's religious beliefs.

Upon arrival the seminarians found the orphanage in rather dilapidated condition. In all some 80 youngsters between the ages of a year to 16 years are cared for by two priests and three nuns. Toddlers, however, are a small number of those who call the orphanage home. Most residents are between the ages of six and 12. More often than not, girls are the first to be turned over to the orphanage by their families.

The six seminarians interacted daily with the children, taught English at the school and did rou-

Continued on page 4



Submitted photo

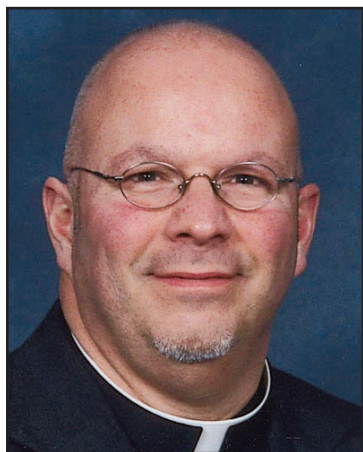
The orphanage where the Saint Andrew's contingent stayed was located in Vanaprastha, a remote region near the border between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu in southern India. Vanaprastha means "to heal, to humanize."

Discernment retreat slated Jan. 7-9 at site in Mahwah

NEWARK—The annual archdiocesan discernment retreat will take place on Jan. 7-9 at Carmel Retreat House, 1071 Ramapo Valley Rd., Mahwah.

Father John D. Gabriel, director of vocations for the Archdiocese of Newark, said the weekend is for any young man 18 years of age or older who would like to spend a weekend discerning God's call in his life, "especially if he feels God might be calling him to priesthood or religious life."

The retreat will include talks, sharing, Mass, eucharistic adoration and an opportunity to meet other men who are also discerning God's call in a relaxed atmosphere of faith and friendship.



Father John Gabriel

Those interested should call the Vocations Office at (973) 497-4365. The cost is \$100 for the weekend (financial assistance available for those in need).

Separately, Fr. Gabriel noted the monthly meetings at Emmaus House of Discernment, 91 Washington St., Newark. This group

consists of men who are discerning the Lord's call in their lives in a spirit of support and friendship.

All meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. Dates and topics of the Emmaus House meetings are: Jan. 19: "It Takes Time"; Feb. 9: "Your Peace is Found in Jesus, Your Fear from the Spirit Against Christ"; March 16: "God's Will is Found in Your Will When You Are In Christ"; April 13: "You Must Stand Firm in Faith"; and May 11: "Jesus Speaks to You Through the Church."

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BENEFIT FOR JOSEPHINE—The Livingston Council of the Knights of Columbus, Our Lady of the Mountains Council 3533, held a fundraiser dinner on Oct. 17 to benefit Josephine Senek of West Orange, cooking and serving pasta dinners to over 100 guests. On Nov. 14 the Knights presented at a check for \$5,100 to the Senek family. Josephine Senek is only one of 20 people in the world who has been diagnosed with Tetrasomy 8p Mosaicism, a rare chromosome disorder. She also is missing the connective tissue between the left and right half of her brain known as Complete Agenesis of the Corpus Callosum. Picture (left to right) are Tom DeNigris, deputy grand knight; Josephine and Krysta Senek; Carmine Iacullo, grand knight; Sheldon Senek and Sheldon Senek the third holding the check. The Livingston Council is located at 299 Eisenhower Parkway. Contact Iacullo via e-mail (grandknight@kofc3533.org) or call the council's office at (973) 533-9791 for more information.

Official Appointments

Archbishop John J. Myers has announced the following appointments:

PAROCHIAL VICAR

Reverend Michael E. Gubernat, Parochial Vicar at Saint Paul Parish, Ramsey, has been appointed Parochial Vicar of Saint Mary Parish, Nutley, effective Jan. 19, 2011.

Reverend James M. Moran, Parochial Vicar at Saint Leo Parish, Elmwood Park, has been appointed Parochial Vicar of Holy Trinity Parish, Westfield, effective Jan. 19, 2011.

Reverend Thomas D. Nicastro, Jr., Parochial Vicar at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Bayonne, has been appointed Parochial Vicar of Saint Mary Parish, Nutley, effective Jan. 19, 2011.



Obituaries

Sr. Joanne Blihar, O.P., educator

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Nov. 29 at Dominican Sisters' Chapel, Newburgh, NY, for Sister Joanne Blihar, O.P., 71, who died Nov. 22.

A native of Bayonne, Sr.

Joanne entered the novitiate of the Dominican Sisters of Newburgh, New York, in September 1956, made her first profession in June 1958, and final profession in August 1961.

Sr. Joanne taught at Saint Boniface School, Paterson (1958-59) and Saint Paul School, Jersey City (1959-70). She had other assignments in New York and West Virginia. She ministered as a pastoral associate at Saint Mary of the Assumption Parish, Elizabeth, from 1987-1990.

Sr. Mary Gertrude, O.S.F., teacher

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Oct. 26 at Assisi House, Aston, PA, for Sister Mary Gertrude DeLeonardis, O.S.F., 89, who died Oct. 21.

A native of Hoboken, Sr. Mary Gertrude entered the

Franciscan Sisters of Ringwood in 1938 (a congregation which later merged with the Sisters of Saint Francis of Philadelphia) and professed her first vows in 1940.

She ministered in the Diocese

of Paterson for many years and from 1998-2010, she in prayer ministry at Mount Saint Francis Parish, Ringwood. Sr. Mary Gertrude ministered in the Diocese of Brooklyn and taught at Assumption School, Emerson and Saint Anthony School, East Newark.

Seminarians

Continued from page 3

tine manual labor including landscaping and moving some 4,000 bricks made on site, which will be used for a new school building. Father Sibi Puthenpura, director of the orphanage, the seminarians explained, has a vision for the entire complex that will eventually include the orphanage and a school. Right now the school accommodates grades one through eight. Fr. Sibi wants to expand that to Pre-K through 12.

The school, Ebenau pointed out, is providing a quality education to children "who have nothing." Following up on that point, Hipkins said that the children want to go on to university studies and are very smart. Everything, Hipkins added, is "the vision of one priest. He is giving the children hope."

Esteban stressed that the seminarians were told by Fr. Sibi not to speak about religion. What the seminarians were all about, he explained, was "to spread the love." When the seminarians first arrived they were called "uncle" but when the children found out they were seminarians they started calling them "brother."

Emmel expanded on the directive to not speak about religion. It was given, he said, because the children are Hindu and Muslim. Yet, he went on, "the Catholics are the only ones providing any kind of help." What is being done at the orphanage, he emphasized, is "a concrete and physical example of our faith in action against all odds."

"We were witnesses first and foremost," Ebenau explained. "We brought them faith, hope and charity." He expressed his appreciation for having been able to "see a totally opposite role of the Church as a global institution."



Submitted photos

Chris Conant (left) and Danny Pabon were among the six Saint Andrew's seminarians who traveled to India to work with children at the Vanaprastha orphanage. The seminarians pointed out that many of the children are not actually orphans, but have been dropped off by their parents—poor farmers and laborer who cannot afford their care.

The trip to India said Conant "made me realize how much I have been given, these kids with nothing are being given hope."

Father Stanley Gomes, director of Campus Ministry at Seton Hall University, who is originally from that part of the world, said that the orphanage effort demonstrates "what it is possible to do with poor children when the Church becomes involved." He sees it as a vivid example of Church ideology of how "one person can help five others."



With a full stomach after cleaning his dinner plate, a young Indian boy at an orphanage in Vanaprastha, a remote region of southern India, stares contentedly over the table. Six men studying for the priesthood at Saint Andrew Seminary in South Orange spent part of their summer at the orphanage interacting with the children, teaching English and doing manual labor. The seminary's mission is to provide the foundation for young men discerning a call to the Roman Catholic priesthood by focusing on the four pillars of development: human, pastoral, spiritual and intellectual. Call (973) 313-6233 for more information.

Saint Antoninus Parish to host volunteers

Mission immersion seeks ‘prayer warriors for peace’

BY MELISSA MCNALLY
Staff Writer

NEWARK—Too often the true spirit of Christmas is marred by a consumer culture interested in getting the newest gadget instead of giving back to the community. The birth of Our Savior and His message of hope and giving are outshined by the glitzy decorations and lure of bustling shopping centers.

From Jan. 3-9, 2011, the Gratia Plena Evangelical Community at Saint Antoninus Parish, 337 South Orange Ave., will host volunteers in a “mission immersion” week.

Along with morning and evening prayer, volunteers will reside at the parish while helping out at a local soup kitchen, visit the elderly at a nursing home and build housing for the less fortunate with Habitat for Humanity. Plans also include a bus trip to New York to minister to the homeless and daily

Mass with eucharistic adoration.

Mark Mattheiss, one of the organizers of the evangelical community who is also music director at Ramapo College, Mahwah, said the idea for local ministry was sparked after a summer mission trip to Glenmary Farm, KY.

“You don’t have to go to Africa, Honduras or even out of the state to help out,” he said. “Newark is our mission field. You realize how blessed you and that we can be prayer warriors for peace.”

A South Orange native, Mattheiss renewed his faith and passion for ministry while volunteering with the Touch the World organization in 2004. “We helped build a school for 120 students in Juarez, Mexico. I thought I knew what poverty was until I went over there,” he recalled. “I always had faith but since that trip, I am not shy about sharing it. Our culture is not very Christian-friendly, but I

know what God has done in my life. I realized that if I just opened myself more to Christ, I would see greater things happen.”

Mattheiss has reached out to his own students at Ramapo College as well as other universities in the area to participate in the mission immersion. He encourages everyone, from college students to retirees to stay-at-home moms, to come out and volunteer.

Making sacrifices for the good of others is Jesus’ message and the true spirit of the season, according to Mattheiss. “Mission immersion is about living in a Catholic community and loving others with the love God gives us. That’s what Christmas is

really about; emulating what Jesus did and bringing His love to all people.”

College students, during the break between semesters, are most likely looking forward to a few weeks away from their hectic academic lives. However, Mattheiss encourages young people to look deeper and assures that volunteering not only benefits the community, but also those who help out.

“There is no way I can describe to you what it feels like to minister to others,” he said. “I tell the students that it will be a life-changing experience. It is so rewarding; we are blessed even more than the people we help.”

Father William P. Sheridan, the pastor of Immacu-

late Conception Parish, Mahwah, said he admires Mattheiss’ work with students at Ramapo College. The two have worked together during the last four years through Ramapo’s Catholic Campus Ministry program.

“Mark is a very upbeat individual,” Fr. Sheridan said. “He has the love of the Lord and is on fire with the Word. Mark is very energetic. He brings that kind of love and commitment and shows it to students.”

Saint Antoninus Parish can accommodate up to 20 volunteers for the mission immersion week. Each day begins with 7 a.m. prayer and 8:15 a.m. Mass. Busses commute the group to different work sites throughout the area. Participants return to the parish by 4 p.m. followed by dinner and evening prayer. For more information, contact Mattheiss by phone at (973) 489-0509 or e-mail (mark@mjlmmusic.com).



Mark Mattheiss

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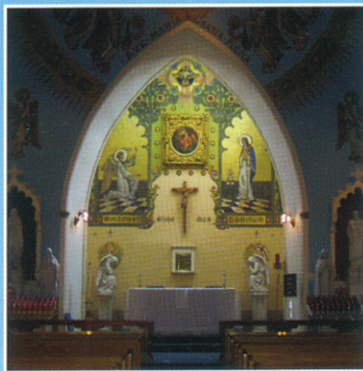


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A season to share the joyful prayers of Eastern churches

Christmas is here with all of the mystery of the season. The word, the logos, has become man. In silence and peace, the vision of an infant, a Virgin mother and a watchful foster father places us in spirit beside the shepherds and the wise men.

A great Scripture scholar Hans Conzelmann in his study of Saint Luke noted that Jesus in Luke's Gospel stands in the center of history. Saint Luke, without expressly saying so, sees all time in three stages. The first era is from creation to Saint John the Baptist.

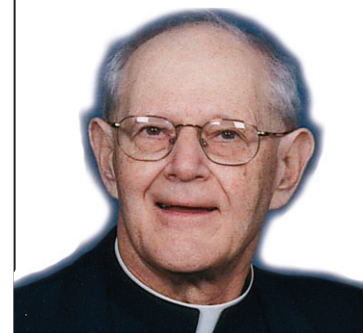
The second era is the birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension of Our Lord. The third is the age of the Holy Spirit, where we stand now awaiting the return of Jesus at the end of earthly time.

The ancient Eastern churches, in their liturgies, live and relive these periods more completely than we do in the West. Let me place before you a prayer from the Byzantine Liturgy for Advent. Note their spirit of joy and how they close they feel to the Old Testament saints.

"Lift up you voice Zion, Holy City of God. Proclaim the blessed memory of the fathers. With Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, we praise them with our songs. Behold, how, with Judah and Levi, we glorify Moses and Aaron, inspired of God. We celebrate with David, Joshua and Samuel. Let our songs preview the Divine Birth of Christ. Let us beg

Continued on page 9

VOICES



By Rev. Msgr. John Gilchrist

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The birth of Jesus reveals savior who gives care to all

BY MSGR. ANSELM NWAORGU

Special to The Catholic Advocate

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel” (Isaiah 7:14).

The prophesy of Isaiah regarding the birth of Christ came at time when the Arameans and the rest of Israel threatened to attack the land of Judah and make it desolate. The king of Judah, Ahaz was so disturbed and did not know what to do. The Lord sent Isaiah to reassure Ahaz that the threat of these enemies of God’s people “will not stand. It shall not be.” (Verse 7) and requested that Ahaz ask for a sign that this promise shall be so. But Ahaz refused. For him, to relate to God at that level was to tempt God since the relationship between God and man was that of fear and trembling, not that of friendship and love.

It became important to God that this relationship be changed; that He needed to become one of us so that we can have Him at our beck and call to take of matters and situations that trouble us. He needed to establish His kingdom here on earth so as to take care of every other kingdom that

dares to threaten to annihilate His people. He therefore promised the birth of “Emmanuel”—God with us, to reassure His people of His physical presence and His determination to take care of matters that trouble them.

“Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, He comes with vindication; With divine recompense he comes to save you. Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf cleared; the lame leap like a stag, the tongue of the dumb will sing. Streams will burst forth in the desert, and rivers in the steppe” (Isaiah 35:4-6).

The dangers that faced Judah because of which God made the promise of Emmanuel symbolizes the many tribulations and iniquities that threaten to stultify our growth, pollute our anointing, and frustrate our blessings. Our times are filled with threats to our well being—many failed hopes and broken promise,

failed relationships and broken homes, illnesses that devastate lives and families, drug abuse, hopelessness, helplessness and depression.

Many have lost their jobs, homes, investments, and by implication, their hope for the future. In many quarters, the pursuit of power, wealth, fame, and prestige has replaced the quest for righteousness, dignity, piety and justice. These are the things that threaten to make our lives desolate and it is to remedy these iniquities that God became Emmanuel.

Christmas, therefore, reminds us of this great deed of God; the establishment of His kingdom on earth so that we can become citizens of a kingdom with a King who has the power to strengthen us to do all things and to overcome everything. That means, we now have a King that we can take every matter that pertains to our lives to with the assurance of hope

that He will take care of it because nothing can say no when He says yes. As Scriptures says: “My Father is greater than all” (John 10:29).

The solution to a problem, many times, depends on to whom we take it for help. When problems are taken to the wrong quarters, disappointments abound. When Israel was besieged by Assyria, instead of taking the matter to God, they decided to seek alliance with Egypt and Ethiopia. When Assyria decimated these two nations, the Israelites cried: ‘Behold, this is what has happened to those in whom we hoped and to whom we fled for help to be delivered. And now, where shall we go?’ (Isaiah 8:23).

God had always asked His people to bring every matter to Him. But more often than not, they chose to do it their own way. The birth of Christ means that we now have the right person to take the issues in our lives to. When, at the wedding in Cana, they ran out of wine, Mary took the matter to Jesus. When Jairus was in desperate need of saving her daughter, he took the matter to Jesus. When



Msgr. Anselm Nwaorgu

all medical help failed the woman with the issue of blood, she took the matter to Jesus. When Zacchaeus needed to turn things around in his life, he took the matter to Jesus. When the adulterous woman needed to rediscover herself as a child of God, she took the matter to Jesus. When the thief on the right side of Christ at crucifixion needed to save his life, he took the matter to Jesus. When storm threatened to sink the boat in which the Apostles were traveling, they took the matter to Jesus. When Peter began to

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10:30 am, 12:00 noon
No Evening Mass



Prayers

Continued from page 7
that His kindness will grant great mercy to our world.

“Come, Elisha, who saw Elijah carried off in a heavenly chariot. You inspired prophets, rejoice! Lead the dance for the nativity of the Lord. Sing, you just ones; blessed children who by the dew of the Spirit were able to withstand the fiery furnace, pray for us in holy awe.

“With them dances Sarah, most honored among women, Rebekah and Rachel, Anna and Moses’ glorious sister Miriam. The ends of the earth rejoice with them all. All creation celebrated, for God will come to be born in the flesh and fill the world with his mercy.”

And they praise Our Lady. “Behold the Virgin proclaimed by the prophets throughout the ages. She comes to the cave to give birth to the eternal Word. May the universe leap with joy when it learns of it. May all creation, together with the angels and the shepherds, glorify Him the new born child, the eternal God.”

Our hearts, hopefully at this Holy Season, will be filled with the same sentiments of joy that the Eastern Church places in the hearts of the ancient ones. And may we experience the joy and wonderment that filled the angels as they sang “Glory to God in the highest” on the Christmas night. May the silence and peace of that holy place—the cave of Bethlehem—permeate our being so that we are one with the Holy Family.

If Christians can unite in spirit with the entire host of heaven, with the saints of the past, and all people of good will on earth on Christmas Day, then can the full realization of the Word Made Flesh enter our hearts.

Be happy my friends! Christmas is not just a day for children. The Christ child sends his light upon us all—if only we will open our hearts to receive it.

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



Submitted photo

ARCHDIOCESAN WINNER— John Lin, a member of the CCD program at Newark’s Holy Trinity-Epiphany Parish, was among only 24 winners selected from over 10,000 entries in this year’s Holy Childhood Association-sponsored Christmas artwork contest. Lin’s work and the other winners are on display at the National Shrine of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Msgr. Robert Fuhrman, a former archdiocesan priest who is now assistant national director of the Pontifical Missions Societies, was the main celebrant and homilist at a Dec. 10 Mass for the contest winners at the National Shrine.

May the silence and peace of that holy place—the cave of Bethlehem—permeate our being so that we are one with the Holy Family.

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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



Church to celebrate vocations awareness

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Catholic Church will celebrate National Vocation Awareness Week, Jan. 9-15, 2011. The week begins on the Church's celebration of the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which falls on Sunday, Jan. 9. The feast marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry.

Vocations week celebrates vocations to the priesthood, diaconate or consecrated life. During these days families and the parish community are urged to nurture the faith of their children to prepare them to respond to whatever God's call is for them.

"National Vocation Awareness Week gives parishes across the country a chance to promote vocations through prayer and education," said Archbishop Robert Carlson of St. Louis, chairman of the Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

Father Shawn McKnight, executive director of the USCCB Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations (CCLV), noted the many voices that can communicate God's call.

"Just as Jesus needed to hear with his human ears the voice of the Father, so our young people need to hear words of encouragement."

Suggested prayers of the faithful and bulletin-ready quotes, are available from the USCCB vocations Web site (ForYourVocation.org).

May the joy of
Christmas
live in your heart
all year long.

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of the Sacred Heart**
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Jersey City

Our Lady of Sorrows Church
Kearny

Saint John the Evangelist Church
Bergenfield

Saint Francis de Sales Church
Lodi

Most Blessed Sacrament Church
Franklin Lakes

Queen of Peace Church
North Arlington

**Our Lady of Czestochowa
Church**
Harrison

Saint Michael Church
Palisades Park

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*Merry
Christmas*

and a Happy New Year!



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Care for all

Continued from page 8

sink after daring to walk on water, he took the matter to Jesus. In all these cases, needed help arrived quite on time.

Christmas, therefore, is about celebrating what God has done for us in giving us a solution maker and a problem solver in Jesus Christ. This is the right reason for this season. As Scripture says: "There is no other name given unto man by which we can be saved" (Acts 4:12). The word "to save" comes from the Greek word "soteria" which means to be made whole, deliverance, restoration, healing, and power to overcome. Emmanuel, in essence, means that God has established in our midst the power by which every iniquity can be overcome.

No wonder Job declared: "Call now! Will anyone respond to you? To which of the holy ones will you appeal? None! In your place, I would

appeal to God, and to God I would state my plea. Out of six troubles he will deliver you, and at the seventh no evil shall touch you. In famine he will deliver you from death, and in war from the threat of the sword" (Job 5: 1, 8, 19-20).

No matter what may be going on in our lives right now, Christmas reminds us that there is a place we can take the matter to and get needed help. There is a name we can bring to every iniquity and dominion of darkness in our lives and overcome them. There is a power that we can now appeal to and turn things around for our good. There is a light that has come to overcome the dark places in our lives.

However, this privilege comes with a responsibility. We need to do what we must to receive Christ and to maintain the status of our citizenship in this new kingdom so that we can be beneficiaries of all the rights and privileges that pertain to it. Receiving Christ means receiving all that He is and all of His

Christmas is about celebrating what God has done for us in giving us a solution maker and a problem solver in Jesus Christ. This is the right reason for this season.



promises for our lives. This means we must keep our hearts open and receive by faith every gift, every promise and every blessing in His Word.

We receive by saying thank you. We receive by declaring the truth about Christ over our lives. We receive by obeying the Word of God and putting it into practice in our lives. As Scripture says: "If you remove all iniquity from your conduct, and let not injustice dwell in your tent, Then your life shall be brighter than the noonday; and you shall be established" (Job 11:14-18).

We must stay committed to Christ for scriptures says: "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62). Isaiah tells us: "Unless your faith is firm you shall not be firm" (Isaiah 7:9).

We need to develop a habit of praying the Scriptures—reading and listening to God's word daily and using the Word of God in prayer. Scripture tells us that it is the Word of God that makes all things happen and that nothing becomes without its power.

May we bring the hope of Christmas into our lives, into our relationships, into the workplace, and into every nook and corner of our being.

Merry Christmas!

(Editor's note: Rev. Msgr. Anselm I. Nwaorgu, Ph.D., is the pastor of Blessed Sacrament/Saint Charles Borromeo Parish, Newark. He delivered the homily at the third annual Bishop Joseph A. Francis Mass, held Nov. 6 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark.)

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TOYS AND JOYS OF CHRISTMAS—Saint Rocco’s Emergency Family Shelter Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark received a generous toy donation from the Riverton-based Institute of Real Estate Management New Jersey Chapter No. 1 (IREM) just in time for the Christmas season. Pictured with the baby is Dr. Phillip Frese, Catholic Charities chief executive officer, and Elizabeth McClendon, executive director. This marks the second year Saint Rocco’s has been selected as beneficiary of IREM’s annual toy drive. Saint Rocco’s, located at 368 South 7th St., Newark, serves as an emergency shelter that ensures safety and builds stability in the lives of homeless women and their children. For more information on Catholic Charities’ programs, visit the organization’s Web site (www.ccannj.com) or call (973) 266-7989. During its 2010 annual appeal (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Nov. 10), Frese underlined the organization’s faith-based mission, saying that each year 70,000 people throughout the four counties of the archdiocese turn to Catholic Charities for food, shelter, counseling and compassion.

CELEBRATING IN SONG—The choir from Our Lady of Guadalupe Academy, 227 Centre St., Elizabeth, sang at Trinitas Regional Medical Center’s Christmas Tree lighting ceremony on Dec. 10. Students performed morning and afternoon sessions at Trinitas. Diana de Lazina Sierra is the academy’s choir director and Deacon Joseph R. Caporaso is the principal.



Submitted photo



Submitted photo

SUPPORTING THE SHELTER—Students and their families at Bergen Catholic High School, Oradell, during this year’s Christmas toy drive, collected more than 2,000 individual gifts and \$800 worth of gift cards, which were donated to “Shelter Our Sisters” of Hackensack, an organization that assists women and children who are victims of domestic violence. Pictured are (left to right), Kyle Smyth, Peter McPartland, Domenick Mattia, Michael Suarez-Bonet, Connor Cole, Ryan Smyth, Christopher Spada, Timothy Corcoran, Louis Siracusano and Christopher Tucceri.

Academy students to explore careers

UPPER MONTCLAIR—In an effort to fine tune career choices at the college level and beyond, Lacordaire Academy, 155 Lorraine Ave., will hold an intercession week Jan. 24-28, 2011 that will allow students to interact with members of the area’s business community. Each student will “shadow” a professional business person for a minimum of four hours each day. At least once during that week, students will be visited by a supervising teacher from the school. Businesses scheduled to take part in the school’s program include New Jersey PAC, MTV 3, the local ASPCA and a New York radio station. For additional information or if a business would like to volunteer and participate in the intercession-week program, call Margaret Farrell at (973) 744-1156, ext. 17, or e-mail her at mfarrell@lacordaire.net. Farrell serves as the assistant head of academy’s secondary division (grades 9-12). Founded in 1920, Lacordaire Academy is an independent college preparatory school

rooted in the Dominican tradition serving a diverse student body: coed Pre-K-8; and young women in grades 9-12. Brian F. Morgan is Lacordaire’s head of school. The academy is governed by the Sisters of Saint Dominic of Caldwell with a faculty of lay teachers. The academy is named for Father Pere Henri Lacordaire, a Dominican priest who brought the good news of Jesus Christ to post-revolutionary Paris.



Mary Sikora Brown

Mary Sikora Brown of Pompton Plains, formerly of Piscataway, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, December 14, 2010. Born in Passaic, Mary was the daughter of Philip and Mary Sikora. Mary’s parents established Sikora Church Supply in 1925 and Mary was very involved in the family business until her retirement in 2001. Mary was a devoted wife, loving mother, and adoring grandmother. Mary is survived by her husband, Arthur; her daughters, Barbara Brown, Patricia Brown, and Theresa Calabrese and her husband Frank; her brothers, Edward and Philip; her sisters, Joan Tozzo and Claire Freemyer; her grandchildren, Frank and Nicole Calabrese; and many nieces and nephews. A funeral mass will be celebrated 11 am on Friday, December 17, 2010 at the Cedar Crest Chapel, Pompton Plains. The family will receive visitors at the M. John Scanlan Funeral Home on Thursday from 2-4 & 7-9 pm. *In lieu of flowers, donations in Mary’s memory can be made to Dominican Sisters of Hope, Attn: Development Office, 320 Powell Ave, Newburgh, NY 12550.*

The Monks of Newark Abbey invite you to start the New Year with Thanks and Praise.
Saturday, Dec. 25, 2010
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.....

New Year’s Eve, Friday, Dec. 31, 2010
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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

Felician puts pedal to metal for nursing program

LODI—Felician College has launched a new program for individuals who have a bachelor's or master's degree wanting to enter the nursing profession. The Accelerated Bachelor's to BSN Degree in Nursing, a full-time, 18-month program, is designed for students who already have a degree in another discipline and now seek a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing.

Upon completion of the program, students are eligible to take the NCLEX-RN examination required for licensure as a registered nurse.

"Accelerated nursing programs for adults with non-nursing degrees are growing nationwide" explained Dr. Muriel Shore, dean of the Division of Nursing and Health Management at Felician. "Given the economy and other factors, many adults are changing careers and are finding the nursing profession very attractive."

The program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) and approved by the Middle State's Association of Colleges and Schools.

"Accelerated program students possess good study skills and work experiences that contribute to their success in these programs," Shore said.

Students enrolled in the Bachelor's to BSN Degree in Nursing program must complete 32 credits of prerequisite courses prior to beginning their nursing coursework. Upon completion of all prerequisite courses, students complete an additional 72 credits of

pre-licensure nursing courses. With a maximum of 20 students per class, the program provides the adult learner with a supportive and collaborative environment in which to achieve success.

The 12-week sessions combine the theoretical component with the clinical experience in order for students to apply the theory to practice. At the end of the program, students participate in Felician's clinical residency program, which is designed to help the student transition to nursing and is in collaboration with Saint Barnabas Health Care System.

"Students will experience a variety of classroom and clinical experiences," Shore noted. "Our state-of-the-art Nursing Resource and Simulation Center gives students the opportunity for hands-on clinical lab experiences."

Students will also receive support and mentoring from the nursing faculty and staff. Student clinical experiences will be primarily at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, a joint commission on the Accreditation of Health Care Organizations accredited healthcare facility. Students will also experience a variety of community settings and facilities.

"At the end of the program students will be able to meet the challenging needs of today's healthcare environment" Shore said.

The program has an open enrollment throughout the year. For more information contact Nicole Vitale, adult academic admissions, via e-mail at vitalen@felician.edu.



Submitted photo

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), through the RWJF New Careers in Nursing (NCIN) Scholarship Program, recently awarded grants to students in Felician's new accelerated Bachelor's-to-BSN nursing program. Pictured are (seated, left to right) Kathleen Kavanagh, chair of the Felician College Bachelor's to BSN Nursing Program; Dr. Muriel Shore, professor and dean of Nursing and Health Management. Standing, left to right, are three Felician College RWJ scholarship recipients: Kanan Thakkar, Gregory Sheehan and Carina Figurasin.



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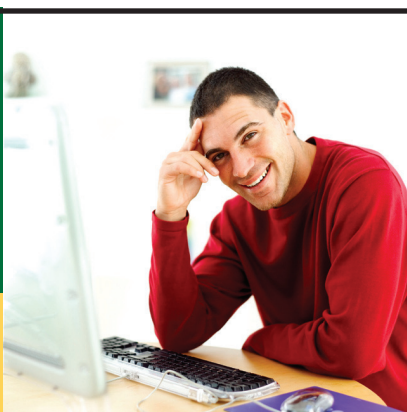
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Church management program geared to aid new pastors

SOUTH ORANGE—Priests serving in their first parish leadership role can get training and support in managing parishes at Seton Hall University (SHU) thanks to a grant from the Lilly Endowment.

SHU's International Institute for Clergy Formation, in partnership with the National Leadership Roundtable on Church Management, has developed a pastoral leadership program for Catholic priests. A three-year grant of nearly \$722,000 from the Lilly Endowment will support the "Pastoral Leadership Development Program." The program is a collaborative effort designed to help new pastors understand the management, finance and human resource responsibilities that are a daily part of parish life.

"Today, the Catholic Church

often calls upon new priests to serve as pastors shortly after ordination," Father Paul A. Holmes, SHU distinguished professor of servant leadership, said. "This program provides them with the skills they'll need to more effectively lead and manage the complexities of a 21st century parish."

The Pastoral Leadership Development Program consists of two components. The first is the Toolbox for Parochial Management, a six-day seminar for new pastors that has been piloted over the last two summers. The "toolbox" offers 15 interactive sessions led by bishops, priests and lay leaders who are recognized experts in the fields of church management, administration and parish life.

The sessions feature Most Rev. Arthur J. Serratelli, S.T.D., S.S.L.,

D.D., Bishop of Paterson; Father Jack Wall, president of the Catholic Church Extension Society; and Kerry Robinson, executive director of the Leadership Roundtable.

Christian stewardship, risk management and parish mergers are just a few of the topics that the sessions explore. At present, the seminar takes place at a retreat center in Long Branch. The grant will fund the seminar's expansion to a second location.

The second component of the program is a virtual mentoring community for Catholic pastors to meet and address parish management issues online. Using technology to bridge distance, the virtual "community of practice" allows pastors from all over the country, and the world, to join together in a trusted, private forum to share

their ideas, best practices, advice and support. The endowment will allow for the development of two additional virtual communities within the next two years to serve congregations of religious women and lay parish leaders.

Having recently received the grant from the Lilly Endowment, Fr. Holmes said there are two toolbox conferences being planned for next summer along with the development of a Web site (CatholicPastor.org).

Through a collaboration of clergy, religious and laity with senior levels of leadership experience from the secular world and from the Church, the Leadership Roundtable provides over a dozen programs nationwide that serve the Church and strengthen apostolic governance.

Contact Fr. Holmes by phone at (973) 495-7817 or via e-mail (paul.holmes@shu.edu) for more information about the Pastoral Leadership Development Program. For details on The Lead-



Father Paul Holmes

ership Roundtable, contact Michael O'Loughlin (e-mail: michael.oloughlin@nlrcm.org) (phone: 202-223-8962).

Founded in 1987, the International Institute for Clergy Formation provides for a graduate teaching and learning environment for Catholic priests. The National Leadership Roundtable on Church Management was founded in 2005.

Seminary library gets ancient Scripture text

SOUTH ORANGE—Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology is excited to announce the arrival of the *Codex Vaticanus*, the newest addition to the Monsignor James C. Turro Seminary Library collection. With a fourth century A.D. provenance, the *Codex Vaticanus* is a facsimile reproduction of one of the oldest and most magnificent Greek Bible manuscripts.

"In preparation for the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000, Pope John Paul II asked that the Vatican Library prepare a facsimile reproduction of the *Codex Vaticanus*," Father Christopher M. Ciccarino, S.S.L.,

S.T.D., assistant professor of biblical studies, explained. "A total of 450 copies were produced and number 264 has found its home here."

"In studying the biblical text of the *Codex Vaticanus*, one interacts with Scripture as the early Christians did and one begins to understand the joys and challenges they faced in preserving and transmitting the text," he continued. "It's like having the chance to drive a classic car: the road is the same, but the journey is different. Moreover, with the Codex you get to see, literally on the page before you, the process of correcting and collating, editing and interpreting."

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DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION-The Parish of St. Clement in Rockaway Township is accepting applications for the position of Director of Religious Education (Grades K-8 plus the High School program for the Sacrament of Confirmation). This is a full time salaried position which will begin on July 1, 2011. Ideal Candidate holds: Master's Degree in Religious Education or related fields (theology, education); strong leadership and administrative skills; strong oral and written communication skills; basic skill in using the computer; active practicing Catholic. Application deadline: February 18, 2011.

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PRAYER TO ST. THERESA

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

R.C.

PRAYER TO ST. THERESA

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"Merry Christmas" R.C.

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Photo courtesy of Mark J. Papianni

CELEBRATION IN GARFIELD—Archbishop John J. Myers, second from left, presided at Mass Dec. 11 at Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish, Garfield, and then was a guest of honor at a reception and dinner that followed. Pictured at Mass are Father Peter J. Palmisano, pastor; Deacon Juan Pablo Morales (standing behind the archbishop); Father P. Bismarck Chau, parochial vicar; Rev. Msgr. Michael A. Andreano, Vice Chancellor and Secretary to the Archbishop; and Father George Reilly, in residence.

Young adults plan 2 events

KEARNY—The Archdiocesan office of Youth and Young Adults Ministries and Youth Retreat Center, 499 Belgrove Dr., will host two activities on Saturday, Jan. 29, 2011: “Sons and Daughters of Light” (9 a.m.-4 p.m.) and “Holy Ground” evening prayer and eucharistic adoration (7:30 p.m.).

Call Sister Marilyn Minter C.S.S.F. at (551)-655-6027 or the Kearny center at (201) 998-0088 for details.

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SLAM DUNK—CYO basketball players from the Saint Joseph League, a shared parish ministry with Saint Joseph’s in Maplewood and Our Lady of Sorrows in South Orange, recently took turns in front of a local super-market from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. accepting donations for local food pantries. In addition to the food the hoopsters collected \$620. Pictured with Pee-Wee girls’ coach Elena McDermott are (left to right) Abigail Valente, Rosalie Chisolm, Cecelia Clark, Abigail Garaban and Grace Petroccia.


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

He asked them,
“What are you looking for?”

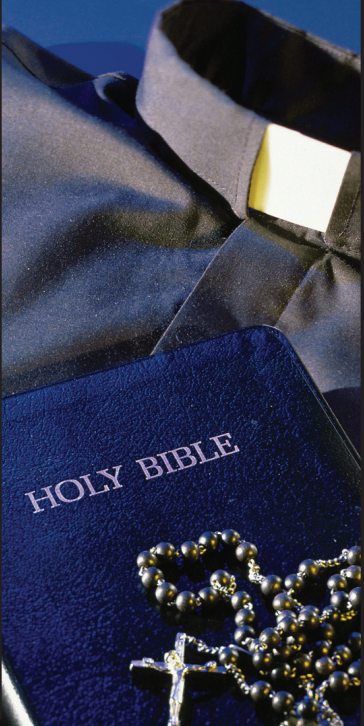
They said to Him, “Rabbi, where do you stay?”

“Come and see,”
He answered.
John 1:38-39

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Hispanic outreach marks first year

TEANECK — Holy Name Medical Center's Hispanic Outreach program is a year old.

Armando Correa, editor-in-chief of *People en Espanol* was featured guest at a Marian Hall reception. Yadyra Rivera, MD, hematologist/oncologist, was honored for the care she has provided to the Hispanic community during her career.

"Our program is designed to encourage and provide education about the importance primary care plays in the prevention of disease and illness" explained Henry Fernandez-Cos, MD, medical director of Hispanic Outreach

Dr. Fernandez-Cos acknowledged Silverio Vega, mayor of West New York; Father Peter T. Sticco, pastor of Our Lady of Grace Parish, Fairview; Filomena Ranaudo, vice principal, Our Lady of Grace School; Sue Colacurcio,

teacher, Memorial Outreach program; and Lourdes Vereia, The Rebeka Foundation, for their "outstanding leadership and support."

Assemblywoman Valerie Vainieri Huttie presented two proclamations to Dr. Fernandez-Cos. The first celebrated the Hispanic Outreach program's anniversary and the second, from the State Legislature, was in observance of Hispanic Heritage Month.

The Hispanic Outreach Program at Holy Name Medical Center was established to create awareness of Holy Name's commitment to assuring the highest level of healthcare to members of the Hispanic community.

For more information on the program or to inquire about upcoming events contact Dr. Henry Fernandez-Cos, medical director at (201) 833-3308.



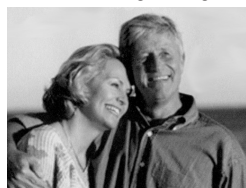
Submitted photo

THUMBS UP—A blood drive at Queen of Peace High School in North Arlington, aimed at supply demands during the crucial Christmas season, generated over 20 pints. Giving their "thumbs up" to the drive were, left to right, kneeling, Parth Thakkar and Anthony Scudieri and, standing, left to right, Larry Flores, Pattek Suvaranker, teacher Vincent McMahon, David Nagamine, guidance counselor Linda Chen, Kyle Ryan, Caitlin Dickinson, Dylan Young and Jonathan Kelley.

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Second location for sleep care now open

CRANFORD — The Comprehensive Sleep Disorders Center at Trinitas Regional Medical Center has opened a second facility within the Homewood Suites Hotel at 2 Jackson Dr.

All testing at the Cranford site will be reviewed by board certified sleep specialists at the Williamson Street center in Elizabeth.

The sleep disorders center last year received reaccreditation from the American Academy of Sleep Medicine. Trinitas Regional Medical Center is sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth in partnership with Elizabethtown Healthcare Foundation.

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Pediatric center is renovated

PATERSON—The infusion room at the Center for Pediatric Cancer and Blood Disorders at Saint Joseph's Children's Hospital recently received a makeover by NBC's home improvement expert George Oliphant on his show "George to the Rescue." After seeing the unit from a parent's perspective, Oliphant wanted to give back to the care team that helped his son. Patient art, specialized furniture, gaming systems and iPads are just a few of the features of the new and improved space. The infusion room is now larger and more patient- and family-friendly.

"The infusion room is the 'hub' of the Center for Pediatric Cancer and Blood Disorders" explained Jill Menell, MD, chief of the Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Division. "This remodel gives us more space, including four new infusion chairs, to treat patients affected by hematologic and oncologic conditions."

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Advocacy plates get green light to display ‘Life’ message in NJ

BY WARD MIELE
Managing Editor

AREA—“We did it!” That was the reaction of an exuberant Elizabeth Rex, Ph.D., president of The Children First Foundation (CFF) to approval Dec. 8 by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (NJMVC) of “Choose Life” license plates.

New Jersey is the 26th state to approve the specialty plates. It joins Massachusetts, Delaware and North Dakota in doing so this year. CFF first began seeking approval of the plates in the Garden State in 2002.

Last summer Rex declared prophetically “we’re getting closer, we’ll never give up” (see *The Catholic Advocate*, July 14). She described CFF at the time as an or-

ganization that actively promotes and supports adoption as “a positive choice” for women facing unwanted pregnancies.

Rex, who is Catholic, and her husband, Charles, founded CFF almost a decade ago. They are the adoptive parents of two children who joined the family after their first child was born. CFF is the official sponsor of the “Choose Life” plates. The group’s tri-state headquarters is in Eastchester, NY.

“The ‘Choose Life’ license plate program is so much more than a ‘traveling billboard’ to promote adoption and safe haven programs in the Garden State and raise awareness about the positive,” Archbishop John J. Myers, a staunch supporter of the CFF effort, said. “At this particular time in New Jersey’s economic history,

such a private/public partnership is truly welcome and truly needed. As women in crisis face the challenge of bearing and raising a child in difficult times, the ‘Choose Life’ license plate program can help offer them a viable and life-sustaining alternative for them and their unborn or newborn children.”

Rex expressed gratitude for the solid backing of both Archbishop Myers and the Trenton-based New Jersey Catholic Conference. She cited too the attorneys of the Alliance Defense Fund headquartered in Washington, D.C.

“Choose Life” license plates are not available through NJMVC offices but rather must be ordered through CFF. That can be done by calling (888) 652-4667 (888-NJChooseLife) or by visiting the group’s Web site (NJChooseLife.org).

Funding for the “Choose Life”



plates comes primarily from the annual \$25 tax-deductible CFF membership donation. Locally \$20 is earmarked for 66 pregnancy resource centers, maternity homes and non-profit safe haven programs throughout New Jersey. The remaining \$5 is used to cover administrative costs and legal expenses. Since 2000, according to CFF, over \$13 million has been raised to help pregnant women “choose life.”

A setback in the eight year struggle to get the plates on New Jersey roads occurred several years ago when the “Choose Life” plate had reached the manufactur-

ing phase when it was abruptly rejected by lawmakers in Trenton. That promoted a CFF federal lawsuit in 2004. CFF was told at the time, Rex explained, that slogans and advocacy messages cannot be put on the state’s license plates. She saw Trenton’s thumbs down at the time as “government censorship and discrimination.”

The latest round on the legal front came last spring when CFF’s federal lawsuit was revived by the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. A three-judge panel reinstated the case on the grounds that the state’s decision may have amounted to “viewpoint discrimination.”



Submitted photo

EARLY CHRISTMAS GIFT—The Mothers’ Auxiliary of Seton Hall Prep, during the West Orange school’s annual Christmas social, presented Headmaster Rev. Msgr. Michael Kelly with a gift of \$97,000—the proceeds of this year’s “Girls’ Night Out” fashion show. Holding the check with Msgr. Kelly are (left to right) Linda Pallis, fashion show co-chair; Noreen Ryan, former auxiliary president; Patty Giordano, auxiliary president; and Pat Millea, former president. The gift is the largest ever in the long history of major gifts presented to the school by the volunteer organization.



Advocate photo – M. Gabriele

EIGHTY-YEAR MILESTONE—Queen of Peace High School (QPHS) celebrated its 80th anniversary with a gala reception Dec. 3, at Forest Hill Field Club, Bloomfield. Pictured at the event are (left to right), Brother Larry Lavallee, F.M.S., principal of QPHS; Rev. Msgr. William J. Fadrowski, pastor of Queen of Peace Parish; Buddy and Anne Filippone (QPHS Class of 1962 and 1963, respectively), and Pamela Pisarri, QPHS director of development.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Years from everyone at Advocate Publishing Corp.!





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I extend the blessings of the Christmas season to you and your family. Thank you for your partnership in our charitable mission to care for all those in need.

Merry Christmas!

✠ Most Reverend John J. Myers



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