

Season of Lent

With Ash Wednesday this year on Feb. 13, the Archdiocese of Newark has released its annual listing of Lenten regulations. The days of both fast and abstinence during the season of Lent are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence. On a day of fast, only one full meal is permitted. Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast. On a day of abstinence, no meat may be eaten. Those who have reached the age of 14 are obliged by the law of abstinence. The obligation to observe the laws of fast and abstinence “substantially,” or as a whole, is a serious obligation. The Fridays of the year, outside of Lent, are designed as days of penance, but each individual may substitute for the traditional abstinence from meat some other practice of voluntary self-denial as penance. The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter duty*) extends from the First Sunday of Lent, Feb. 17, to the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, May 26.

(*Canon 920, “All the faithful, after they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year.)

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Confessions during season of Lent ‘Light’ creates a beacon for Reconciliation

BY WARD MIELE
Managing Editor

NEWARK — During the upcoming Lenten season, Archbishop John J. Myers has issued a special Year of Faith invitation to Catholics throughout the local Church to experience the unique and powerful spiritual renewal awaiting them in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Declared by Pope Benedict XVI in his Apostolic Letter *Porta Fidei* (Door of Faith), the Year of Faith began last Oct. 11 and ends Nov. 24.

The program outlined by Archbishop Myers, “The Light is on for You,” is a special nationwide initiative to experience Christ’s forgiveness and love in the confessional. To that end, archdiocesan priests will be available to hear confessions in churches and college or school chapels on Wednesdays during Lent from 7 to 8 p.m. The exact dates are Feb. 20, 27 and March 6, 13, 20 and 27.

These celebrations consist of a Liturgy of the Word to help penitents prepare for the Sacrament followed by the opportunity to meet individually with a priest

for confession, penance and individual absolution.

Communal celebrations can be part of the Wednesday evening celebrations of The Light is on for You. Individual parish schedules for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will remain intact.

To help prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the archdiocesan Year of Faith Web site is available. To specifically obtain information about going to confession, visit the Web site (below). The Web site has a video on the sacrament, guidance on how to make a good confession, answers to frequently asked questions and pertinent resource material.

In announcing the special initiative to his priests, Archbishop Myers cited the importance and power of the sacrament as contained in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. It states “interior repentance is a radical reorientation of our whole life, a return, a conversion to God with all our heart, an end of sin, a turning away from evil, with repugnance toward the evil actions we have committed. At the same it entails the desire and resolution to change one’s life,

with hope in God’s mercy and trust in the help of His grace.”

Father Thomas Dente, director of the Office of Divine Worship and chairman of the archdiocesan Year of Faith program, stressed that The Light is on for You is offered to practicing Catholics but also has special emphasis on the faithful who have fallen away from the Church.

Fr. Dente stressed the benefits of “celebrating this important Sacrament.” Doing so, he explained, the penitent is able to “recognize their sinfulness, it is an opportunity to recover from one’s sins.” The “key” element, he emphasized, is the healing that occurs through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

It is, Fr. Dente went on to say, reconciliation both with God and the larger Church community. He felt it important to point out too that during The Light is on for You, both anonymous and face-to-face confessions will be available. Fr. Dente made a special point to remind penitents of the anonymity and complete secrecy of the confessional.

In a recent pastoral, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

Interior repentance is a radical reorientation of our whole life; a return, a conversion to God with all our heart.



(USCCB) explained that in the confessional “we meet the Lord, who wants to grant forgiveness and the grace to live a renewed life in Him. In this sacrament, He prepares us to receive Him free from serious sin, with a lively faith,

Continued on page 5

www.YearofFaithArchNewark.org/reconciliation.htm



Advocate photo – Ward Miele

PRO-LIFE PROCLAIMED—In advance of the 40th annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 25 (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Jan. 9), which contained a large contingent from the local Church protesting the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Roe v Wade* decision legalizing abortion, Most Rev. John W. Flesey, Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, celebrated the annual Pro-Life Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark on Jan. 20. Father Joseph A. Meagher, the director of the archdiocesan Respect Life office and the pastor of Saint Antoninus Parish in Newark, was a concelebrant. Following Mass and braving strong, frigid winds, the faithful—as pictured—marched to nearby Saint Lucy Parish for a Eucharistic Holy Hour, displaying a pro-life banner. In his homily, Bishop Flesey declared each person “has a destiny and the opportunity to be all they were meant to be by God who created them.” He stressed the point that “every pregnancy means a baby. Pray everyone realizes that.” In addition to the Mass at the Newark Cathedral and the annual march in Washington D.C., the Piscataway-based New Jersey Right to Life held a pro-life rally in Trenton on Jan. 22.

Archbishop sees gun control in light of the Gospel

In the month since the tragic shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut many of our country's political and moral leaders have entered into a discussion about our present gun control laws and how best to move forward as we look into the future. Once again we need to look at this as another aspect of the "culture of death" that threatens our nation and its citizens. As chief shepherd of this local Church of Newark, I want to share my thoughts and reflections on this important issue.

First of all, we reiterate that we are always a people of prayer. As was stated in "Call to Action in Response to Newtown Tragedy" on Dec. 21, 2012 (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Jan. 9), several of my brother bishops said: "As Catholic bishops, we join together with the president of our conference, Cardinal Timothy Dolan, who on the day of the horrible tragedy expressed his profound solidarity with and prayers for the families, friends, neighbors and communities whose hearts have been rent by the loss of a child or loved one." As I did soon after the tragedy I reiterate the need for our parishes and faithful to continue to pray for all those involved and affected by this incident.

Yet, we can also use this tragedy as an opportunity for moral growth. Again I quote from my brother bishops who wrote: "Sacred Scripture reminds us time and again to 'be not afraid.' Indeed, we must find within ourselves the faith-filled courage to address the challenges our nation faces, both in our homes and in our national policies."

The issue of gun control has always been one charged

Sincerely
in the Lord

By Archbishop John J. Myers



I call upon both the president and Congress to lay aside partisan politics and work for the common good of our people.

with emotion and I recognize that this can be magnified after a tragedy like Newtown. However, we are called not to shrink away from such issues, but look at them in light of the Gospel and the teaching of the Church. For us this is indeed, a moral issue.

In speaking in 2000 on the statement "Responsibility, Rehabilitation and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice," the U.S. bishops asked legislators and all Catholics and people of good will to follow some basic options:

- Call for sensible regulations of guns
 - Support legislative efforts that seek to protect society from the violence associated with easy access to deadly weapons including assault weapons.
 - Make a serious commitment to confront the pervasive role of addiction and mental illness in crime.
- Do these sound familiar? It seems that 13 years later, despite the hard work and efforts of many, these same concerns are present. How many tragedies have to occur before we take seriously the call of the Gospel to be peacemakers.

After reviewing recent proposals, I see a very good beginning of a dialogue that will finally address these issues. I know well the twists and turns that seem so common in our legislative process. However, I call upon both the president and Congress to lay aside partisan politics and work for the common good of our people. I believe that people of good will from diverse political opinions can come to a common ground on these issues. Our people will be the first to benefit.

I call too upon the faithful, not to let this important issue fade from memory as other issues important to our country arise. We cannot afford to let another tragedy to happen to make us remember.

Please support all reasonable efforts of gun control as they work through the legislative process. Be in touch with your representatives and let them know how important this is to us, our children, and future generations.

Faith Quest program begins Feb. 27 with a roster of scholarly speakers

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE
Editor

CALDWELL—Faith Quest 2013, a four-week Catholic adult faith-formation forum will open Wednesday, Feb. 27, 7:30-9 p.m. at Saint Aloysius Parish, 219 Bloomfield Ave.

Saint Aloysius also will host the three additional weekly sessions, presented on Wednesdays evenings during the Season of Lent: March 6, 13 and 20—all starting at 7:30 p.m. Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Desmond is the pastor of Saint Aloysius.

The four-part series, which is open to the public, features "stand-alone" presentations, meaning that those interested in attending Faith Quest can attend some or all of the sessions. A small "free-will" donation is suggested for those who attend in order to defray expenses. To obtain a

series brochure and registration form, call the Saint Aloysius office at (973) 226-0209, ext. 8, or any of the other sponsoring parishes. Contact Patricia Fitzpatrick, a member of the Faith Quest steering committee, at (973) 994-0173 for additional information.

Along with Saint Aloysius, other parishes in northwestern Essex County that sponsor the annual adult-education series include: Notre Dame, North Caldwell; Saint Thomas More, Fairfield; and Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, Roseland. The three primary topics to be addressed by speakers include prayer and spirituality, understanding Sacred Scripture and faith in practice. Father Anthony J. Randazzo, the pastor of Notre Dame, will discuss "Living with the Vatican II Visionaries." Father James Manos, pastor of Saint Thomas More, will

speak on "The Eucharist." Father Robert G. Laferrera, pastor of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament will address "The Easter Triduum: Entering into the Dying and Rising of the Lord."

Sister Alice Uhl, O.P., the coordinator for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) at Saint Aloysius, serves as the chair of the Faith Quest steering committee. "Faith Quest taps the talents of the Archdiocese of Newark," Sr. Alice said.

The list of speakers making presentations in the Faith Quest series includes Sister Vivien Jennings, O.P., former president of Caldwell College; Father Thomas A. Dente, director of the archdiocesan Office of Divine Worship; Dr. Zeni Fox, Ph.D., an author and the recipient of the "Wisdom and Service Award" from Saint John's University, New York, and the "Servant Leader



Submitted photo

Saint Aloysius Parish in Caldwell will host the 2013 Faith Quest Catholic adult faith-formation series, which began in 2007 as part of the Archdiocese of Newark's New Energies Program. Pictured are members of the Faith Quest steering committee, preparing to mail out brochures for the four-part program.

Award from the College of Saint Elizabeth (CSE), Convent Station; Catherine Martin, Ph.D., author and professor of Theology at CSE; Mary Bertani pastoral minister and licensed therapist; John Pascal, a teacher at Seton Hall Prep, West Orange, and an adjunct professor at CSE; Rev. Jeff Markay,

senior pastor at Caldwell United Methodist Church and convener of the West Essex Ministerial Association; Ginger Grancagnolo, Ed. D., O.P.A., author, private counselor and adjunct professor at Bloomfield College; and Dr. Nancy Blattner, Ph.D., O.P.A., the president of Caldwell College.

The Catholic
Advocate

The community newspaper
of the Archdiocese of Newark

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PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT:

The Catholic Advocate is published by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark at 171 Clifton Ave., Newark NJ 07104-9500. Periodical postage is paid at Newark NJ and at additional offices. Postmaster: Please send address changes to: P.O. Box 9500, Newark, NJ 07104.

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday thru Friday • 8:45 am to 4:45 pm
Tel: 973-497-4200 • Fax: 973-497-4192 • Web: www.rcan.org/advocate

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FREQUENCY FOR 2013:

February 20, March 6 & 20, April 10 & 24, May 8 & 22,
June 5 & 19, July 17, August 14 & 28, September 11 & 25,
October 9 & 23, November 6 & 20, December 4 & 18



NJPA
New Jersey Press Association

USPS-008-380
ISSN# 1084-3213

Business, labor reception plans to applaud Creamer and Lalevee

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE
Editor

NEWARK—The 20th annual Archbishop's Business and Labor Recognition Reception will be held Tuesday, March 12 at Mayfair Farms, 481 Eagle Rock Ave., West Orange.

The fund-raising event begins at 5:30 p.m. as guests will have the opportunity to have their pictures taken with Archbishop John J. Myers. Cocktails and food stations will open at 6 p.m., while the program is slated to start at 7:15 p.m.

Tickets are priced at \$200 per person or \$1,800 for a group of 10.

Call Geraldine Ricci-Menegolla at (201) 998-0088 to reserve tickets. Proceeds of the reception benefit programs sponsored by the Archdiocese of Newark's CYO/Youth and Young Adult Ministries, based at the Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center, located at 499 Belgrove Dr., Kearny. Thomas G. Conboy is the director of the CYO and Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, while Father Timothy Graff serves as pastoral moderator.

Gregory Lalevee, the business manager of International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 825, Springfield, and J. Fletcher Creamer, Jr., chief executive officer of J. Fletcher Creamer and Son Inc., Hackensack, will be honored at the event.

Lalevee was elected as the business manager of Local 825 in 2010. In May 2011 he was named to the IUOE's general executive board. One month later Gov.

Chris Christie tapped him for the state's Transportation Trust Fund Authority.

Creamer runs the 90-year-old family business, which ranks among the top-200 construction companies in the United States. A graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson University, Teaneck, he has risen through the ranks of the business during the last 40 years. Creamer and Son is involved in heavy-construction infrastructure projects—roads, bridges, rail installations and water, electrical, gas and telecommunications utility contracts.

William T. Mullen, president of the NJ State Building and Construction Trades Council serves as the reception chairman, while Charles Wowkanek, the president of the NJ State AFL-CIO and Thomas P. Giblin, business manager of Local No. 68, IUOE are co-chairmen.



Submitted photo

J. Fletcher Creamer, Jr., (left) chief executive officer of J. Fletcher Creamer and Son Inc., and Gregory Lalevee, the business manager of International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 825, will be honored at the 20th annual Archbishop's Business and Labor Recognition Reception, which will be held March 12 at Mayfair Farms, West Orange.

Interfaith breakfast set for Feb. 18

NEWARK — The Interfaith Brotherhood/Sisterhood of Bergen County will hold its 27th annual breakfast on Monday, Feb. 18, 10 a.m. at the Hasbrouck Heights Hilton, 650 Terrace Ave.

Tickets for the breakfast are \$25 for adults and \$15 for children under the age of 12. Contact Father Phillip F. Latronico, M.A., chairman of the archdiocesan Commission for Inter-religious Affairs, by phone at (201) 935-6492 or via e-mail (pfal1@aol.com) for more information.

Members of the interfaith organization's Sikh community will be the hosts for the gathering. Harinder Singh, co-founder and chief programming officer of the Sikh Research Institute, based in San Antonio, TX, will serve as the keynote speaker. Singh's presentation is titled "Harmony in a World of Difference."

Fr. Latronico recalled that last year a lone gunman killed and wounded worshipers at a Sikh temple in Oak Creek, WI (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Aug. 22, 2012).

Along with the Catholic and Sikh faiths, communities represented in the Interfaith Brotherhood/Sisterhood of Bergen County include Jewish, Muslim, Protestant, Baha'i, Hindu and Jain.

The Sikh religion has a following of over 20 million people worldwide. Sikhism preaches there is only one God for all religions and that all people are equal in the eyes of God.



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John 1:38-39

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At March for Life gathering Jan. 24, 25

Bishop, in homily, tells faithful: don't lose hope

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE
Editor

WASHINGTON—Pilgrims from throughout the United States gathered at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on Jan. 24, praying for an end to abortion during the Opening Mass of the National Prayer Vigil for Life.

The Vigil Mass, celebrated on the eve of the annual March for Life rally on the National Mall, coincided with the 40th anniversary of the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision on Jan. 22, 1973, which legalized abortion nationwide. Since the decision was handed down, an estimated 55 million abortions have been legally performed in the United States.

As reported, members of the Archdiocese of Newark took part in the annual March for Life, held on Jan. 25 (see *The*



Submitted photo

Caldwell College students participated in the annual March for Life. The group included (front row, left to right) Elizabeth Hooban; Melissa Brady; Lindsay Hulin; Alexandria Pascucci; (middle row) Courtney Privett; Rosalie Burke; Amy Ondrejack; Samantha Rivera; Melissa Pascucci; Laura Schreiber; (back row) Christopher Petillo. Hulin and Ondrejack attended the "Students for Life of America" national conference the day after the March for Life.

Catholic Advocate, Jan. 9).

"Marking the anniversary of the *Roe* decision each year could be disheartening in light of the lives lost and the lives shattered by abortion," Susan Wills, assistant director of the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), said. "But this Mass

and events this week are also a time to pray with faith and hope in God's mercy. The commitment and energy of hundreds of thousands of young people who are here to pray and to march on behalf of unborn children and grieving post-abortive mothers is proof that the pro-life movement is alive and growing and stronger than ever."

Cardinal Seán O'Malley of Boston, chairman of the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life

Activities, was the principal celebrant and homilist at the Jan. 24 Vigil Mass. Following the Opening Mass, the vigil continued in the Crypt Church of the Basilica with confessions, a National Rosary for Life, night prayer according to the Byzantine Rite, and holy hours led by seminarians from across the country.

On Jan. 25, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception hosted morning prayers in the Crypt Church and the closing Mass in the Great Upper Church. Most Rev. Kevin J. Farrell, the Bishop of Dallas, was the principal celebrant and homilist. The Diocese of Dallas' Web site posted Bishop Farrell's homily.

"Over the past 40 years we have labored in the name of Jesus to rid our nation of the tragic scourge of abortion," Bishop Farrell said. "We have had some success. Today, there is a nationwide decline in both the number and rate of abortions. More and more people understand the truth that the child in the womb is a human being. Sadly, over 1 million innocent children lose their lives each year through abortion. After these 40 years of hard work we may feel like the 'chosen peo-



Bishop Kevin Farrell

ple' of the Old Testament who wandered through the desert for 40 years. The Lord made a covenant with them that they would inherit the Promised Land, but with all the setbacks—the discouragement, the suffering and pain and the passage of time—they began to lose hope. Without faith, we too can begin to lose hope of ever changing the hearts of those who do not believe in the sanctity of human life.

"We cannot lose hope," he continued. "We must continue the struggle in positive, life-affirming ways. We must pray and we must continue to make our voices heard so that our elected leaders know that there are many who stand for life. We must never give up."

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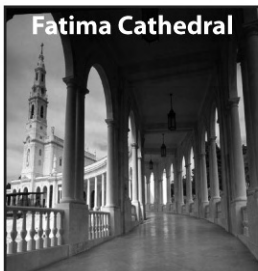
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40 Days effort seeks volunteers to join pro-life prayer campaign

AREA—The 40 Days for Life campaign, which begins Ash Wednesday (Feb. 13) and ends Palm Sunday (March 24), is seeking volunteers for pro-life prayer vigils in Montclair, Plainfield and Hackensack.

LIFENET of Montclair is coordinating the “40 Days for Life” plans in Montclair. Chris Flaherty, a member of the archdiocesan Pro-Life Commission, is the executive director of LIFENET. The archdiocesan Respect Life Office, based in Linden and led by Father Joseph A. Meagher (the pastor of Saint Antoninus Parish in Newark) is organizing prayer vigils. Contact Flaherty

by phone (973-509-8123) or e-mail (lifenetcf@verizon.net) for more information.

The prayer vigils run from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. In Montclair, the vigil will be held at the Social Security Building (across the street from high-volume abortion center) at 396 Bloomfield Ave.; in Hackensack at The Women’s Choice, 10 Zabriskie St. (call 551-265-8121 for details); in Plainfield at the Options for Women abortion facility, 1024 Park Ave. (908-322-6763).

The local efforts are part of a national campaign of fasting and public prayer outside abortion centers and Planned Parenthood

facilities. The 40 Days for Life national headquarters is based in Fredericksburg, VA. The vigils were held last year in the Archdiocese of Newark.

Citing information provided by the 40 Days for Life national headquarters, Flaherty said that since 2004 more than 15,500 church congregations throughout the United States have participated in the 40 Days for Life campaigns; more than 6,700 children have been spared from abortion; and 25 abortion facilities completely shut down, following local 40 Days for Life campaigns.



Submitted photo

Last year Chris Flaherty (second from left), the executive director of LIFENET, demonstrated with archdiocesan seminarians during the 40 Days for Life campaign. The group, pictured on Bloomfield Avenue in Montclair, includes (left to right) Cerilo Javinez, Flaherty, Michael Tabernero and Angel Gamba Malagon.

Organizers of March forums remind faithful to register

www.rcan.org/menscommission

<http://www.rcan.org/womcom>

NEWARK—Organizers of the annual Catholic Men’s Conference and Women’s Commission Day of Reflection have placed special emphasis on early registration. Both events will be held at Seton Hall University, South Orange. The men’s conference will take place March 2 followed by the women’s Day of Reflection on March 9. Their hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., respectively, and include a continental breakfast and lunch.

The registration cost of both events is \$25 for adults, \$20 for students and senior citizens (those 65 years and older) with free admission for clergy and Religious. Online registration can be done through the Web sites posted above. Call (973) 497-4545 for information on both venues.

“We Walk by Faith” is the theme for the men’s conference; “Rediscovering the Joy of Believing” is the theme for the women’s forum.

‘Light’

Continued from page 1

earnest hope and sacrificial love of the Eucharist.” The bishops go on to point out “The Church sees confession as so important that she requires that every Catholic go at least once a year.

“The Church also encourages frequent confessions in order to grow closer to Christ Jesus and His Body, the Church. By the grace of the Holy Spirit, we seek forgiveness and repentance, let go of the patterns of sin, grow in the life of virtue and witness to a joyful conversion.” In urging all Catholics to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the U.S. bishops declared: “come to the Lord and experience the extraordinary grace of His forgiveness.”

(Editor’s note: The following text represents excerpts on the

Sacrament of Reconciliation found on the Year of Faith Web site.)

How does a person prepare for the Sacrament of Penance?

Ask God for the Holy Spirit’s help to examine your conscience well by prayerfully reviewing your conduct in light of the commandments and the example of Christ. Tell the priest the specific kind of sins you have committed and, to the best of your ability, how many times you have committed them since your last good confession.

What does a person need to do to make a good confession?

The sacrament consists of three actions on the part of the penitent: contrition, which is sorrow for one’s sins; confession, that is examining one’s conscience and telling one’s sins to the priest; and penance, namely a desire to make up for one’s sins and amend one’s life. Together the three are called the “acts of the penitent.”

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A season to reconcile, reflect and refresh

With the start of Lent only a week away, we begin to turn our thoughts to what might be the most appropriate sacrifices and/or charitable initiatives to undertake during this holy season.

Considering that it has been 40 years since the Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion and conscious of the more recent threats to religious liberty included in national healthcare reform, the bishops of the United States are inviting us this coming weekend to participate in a post card campaign, "Project Life and Liberty," in defense of human life and religious liberty.

The bishops have found this an effective tool in the past and are asking us to once again remind our government representatives and legislators in the Congress and Senate of some of the issues that really matter to us as Catholics and ought to matter to the citizens of our country, regardless of religious denomina-

tion—namely, that the government must not force Americans to violate their religious and moral beliefs on respect for life when they provide healthcare or sponsor or purchase health coverage.

The pre-printed postcards make it easy to express your views in a concise and consistent way, although individual letters to senators and representatives at this time and throughout the year are always appropriate.

The following weekend, hundreds of adult candidates for completion of their Sacraments of Initiation will present themselves to Archbishop John J. Myers, who will call them to ongoing conversion and holiness. Several hundred more catechumens who have been preparing for two years to become members of the Church through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at this year's Easter Vigil will be "elected" or formally chosen by the archbishop to proceed through the Scrutiny rites of

this Lenten season to prepare themselves spiritually for this special moment in their lives.

For the rest of us, we will engage ourselves in the disciplines of Lent, including resolutions for growth in holiness, from fasting and abstinence to daily Mass and Communion to Stations of the Cross and days of recollection in our parishes and those sponsored by our Archdiocesan Men's and Women's commissions in March.

Many will also participate in Lenten Communal Penance Services or individual confessions. This Lent, the Archdiocese of Newark will mark the Year of Faith by guaranteeing confessions in every parish on the Lenten Wednesdays (excluding Ash Wednesday) from 7 to 8 p.m., in addition to whatever the usual parish times for confession may be. Hopefully, this universal schedule, entitled "The Light is On for You," will provide the moment of grace for many who have been away from the Church or the serious practice of their faith to "come home" and be reconciled to God (see story on page 1).

Ultimately, any Lenten practice we take on should be something that changes our direction

for the better or reinforces the good we may already be doing. Ideally, it not only includes interior or spiritual growth but also exterior or charitable action that should be a part of our lives year 'round.

Regular prayer should always be the foundation of our daily routine, and concern for the poor should always be expressed in tangible ways through helping at a food pantry or soup kitchen with your time or material resources. Faith in action always leads to a deeper faith more alive with the love of Christ!

(Rev. Msgr. Richard J. Arnholz is pastor of Saint John

SEEING & BELIEVING



By Rev. Msgr. Richard J. Arnholz

the Evangelist Parish in Bergenfield, and archdiocesan vicar for pastoral life.)

Cathedral prepares to host Conversion, Election rites

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE
Editor

NEWARK—The Archdiocese of Newark will conduct the annual Call to Continuing Conversion and Rite of Election Feb. 16 and 17, respectively, at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

The two liturgical rites, celebrated in the United States during

the first weekend of the Lent, represent important steps in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), the process by which an adult becomes a Catholic. The Rite of Election marks the "choosing" of those who have been preparing for initiation into the Catholic Church.

Father John J. Chadwick, S.T.D., the archdiocesan director of RCIA, said the Rite of Election focuses on catechumens—unbaptized adults. The Church's ministry of formation and preparation of catechumens is called the catechumenate, a period that typically lasts for one year. The period of the catechumenate is part of a process of conversion and catechesis (Church teaching) for those who wish to join the Catholic faith. He said the season of Lent is a period of intense spiritual preparation. "Catechumens find strength in God's grace and through the support of our (archdiocesan) community," Fr. Chadwick said.

Parishes throughout the four counties of the Archdiocese of Newark develop their own catechumenate formation ministry, but all incorporate catechesis, individual faith formation through the study of Scripture, prayer and participation in parish life.

The Call to Continuing Conversion is the rite for those candidates who are already baptized and are completing their initiation. It recognizes these candidates now wish to profess their faith as full members of the Church. They're called to an ongoing conversion to compete their sacramental initiation into the Church. These baptized adults formally are known as "candidates," to distinguish them from unbaptized catechumens.

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Repollet points out: 'every gift to AAA makes a difference'

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE
Editor

NEWARK—Moving forward with its theme of “We Are One Body,” the 2013 Archbishop’s Annual Appeal (AAA) will look to gather donations to help the poorest and most vulnerable members of the Archdiocese of Newark.

The AAA campaign began Feb. 2 and 3 with “pledge week” at the 218 parishes throughout the four counties of the Archdiocese of Newark (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Jan. 23).

Carla Repollet, executive director of the archdiocesan Office of Stewardship and Development, said the final tally for the 2012 AAA was \$10 million in pledges, down 3 percent from the previous year. Repollet acknowledged tepid economic conditions, concerns over unemployment, the damage caused by Hurricane Sandy and even the focus on the presidential election were all seen as factors contributing to the mild decline in 2012 pledges.

“We faced many challenges last year,” Repollet said, addressing the Jan. 17 gathering at the Archdiocesan Center—the annual “appreciation reception” for AAA parish coordinators and pastors. “Many of those who give consistently just could not do it last year. Therefore the number of donors declined. Knowing this, we all have to think of new ways to invite more parishioners to give to the (2013) AAA.

On the bright side, she said AAA rebates to parishes totaled nearly \$900,000 as 106 parishes achieved their goal for pledges. The top five parishes that achieved the highest percentage above and beyond their goal for 2012 were: Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Ridgewood; Holy Trinity, Fort Lee; Holy Rosary, Edgewater; Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Montclair; and Saint Augustine, Newark.

Offering words of encouragement to parish representatives for this year’s effort, Repollet said the AAA campaign succeeds through a steady, collective effort from all parishes. “Every gift makes a difference,” she said, noting that if every family currently not giving to the AAA simply gave a \$1, it would yield an additional \$250,000 to the pledge total. She said current figures indicate

only 20 percent of households contribute to the AAA.

“Every year many pastors and lay leaders ask: what are the best methods in getting people to give or continue to give?” Repollet said. “The pastor should make his own gift to the AAA and inform his parishioners of his support of the appeal. Get someone to speak about how their life was impacted by programs funded through the AAA.”

In addition to practical suggestions, Repollet stressed it was es-

Continued on page 10



Advocate photo – M. Gabriele

Last month the archdiocesan Office of Stewardship and Development hosted the annual “appreciation reception” to launch the 2013 AAA campaign. Pictured at the event, held at the Newark chancery, are (left to right) Carla L. Repollet, executive director of the Office of Stewardship and Development; Father Anthony J. Lionelli, pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Montclair; Archbishop John J. Myers; and Peggy Frazza, AAA coordinator at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Ridgewood. Call the archdiocesan Development Office at (973) 497-4129 for more information on donating to the AAA.

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world. — Harriet Tubman

Special to
The Catholic
Advocate
February 6, 2013

SMA leader recalls days of danger, hope in Liberia

BY MELISSA MCNALLY
Staff Writer

“I’ve been arrested a number of times, shot at and even accused of being an Israeli spy,” Father Michael Moran, S.M.A., Provincial Superior of the Society of African Missions, Tenafly, said

candidly during an interview last month. Describing his tumultuous time as a missionary in Liberia during the country’s brutal 14-year civil war, he witnessed atrocities first-hand while serving as the regional superior of the congregation in Africa’s oldest republic.

These vivid recollections shared by Fr. Moran paint a pic-

ture of his missionary journey as the Archdiocese of Newark celebrates Black History Month during February.

The initials “SMA” stand for the group’s name in Latin: *Societas Missionum ad Afros*. SMA is a global network of over 1,000 Catholic missionaries—women and men—who serve people throughout Africa as well as people of African descent throughout the world. French-born Bishop Melchior de Marion Bresillac founded SMA in Lyon, France, on Dec. 8, 1856. The American Province of SMA was established in 1941.

As a missionary, Fr. Moran served in Liberia from 1984-2002 in the Buah District of Grand Kru County. Some of his responsibilities included working as a pastor and managing an elementary school. The country erupted into two civil wars from 1989-2003. According to estimates by BBC News, 250,000 people were killed during the wars and many thousands more fled the fighting. The conflict left the country in economic ruin.

“Our compound was surrounded by a brick wall and parents felt it was safer to send their children over to my house during

the night. The house was filled with kids, some even sleeping on the floor. At night, soldiers would shoot their weapons in the air and once a bullet grazed someone inside the house. We moved a dresser in front of the windows so no stray bullets would come in. Most soldiers respected the Church and wouldn’t bother us unless they were desperate for money,” he recalled.

Not only did he provide a safe haven for children, but soldiers who wanted to abandon the fight would also seek refuge within the SMA confines. Soldiers, some of them children themselves, were recruited by tribe. The ethnic group in power was the Krahn tribe and in opposition were the Gio and Mano. Fr. Moran encouraged soldiers to leave their weapons outside after conflict erupted inside the home between children and soldiers from opposing tribes.

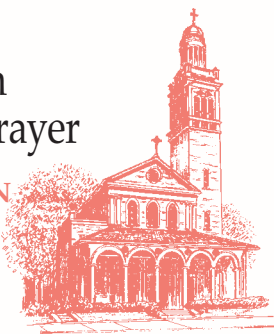
The relationship between the Church and soldiers during the war was tenuous. Catholic religious leaders in Liberia, at the time, spoke out against atrocities committed by those in power and by extension, some soldiers viewed priests as the enemy. In one instance, Fr. Moran’s vocation helped save one woman’s life.

“A soldier held a Krahn woman at gunpoint just outside my door. I intervened and said the woman was in my care and I could not allow her to be killed. The soldier threatened both of our lives and brought us to a higher ranking officer. The senior officer happened to attend Catholic school as a boy and pardoned us. However, if the woman was ever caught and I was not present, she would be killed.” He said the woman survived and is still in contact with the priest who helped rescue her.

The SMA missionaries were evacuated several times during the war, Fr. Moran explained. Soldiers would take everything from the homes and did not want anyone, the Church included, to intervene. The missionaries moved from town to town, and eventually were led out of the

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county. Fr. Moran spent 18 years in war-torn Liberia and felt he had a duty to the people with whom he had formed a relationship.

"To keep us going, (the SMA) reinforced among ourselves that what we were doing was important. Our presence said that the Church was faithful to its people. We not only served Catholics, but all people and we couldn't abandon them. We came to know the people better than the non-government organizations (NGOs) who were sent to Liberia. We could get the organizations and the local people to work together. Because SMA has been there for so long, the people trusted us and knew we were there to help," he explained.

Fr. Moran returned to the United States in 2002 and confessed he felt "burned out." He has visited Liberia many times since he left and keeps in contact with some of his former students. "Whenever I go back, people still say hello and remember me. One of my former students is a nurse and another works for the United Nations."

The political situation in the West African nation, which sits on the Atlantic coast and borders Sierra Leone, Guinea and Cote d'Ivoire, has improved dramatically. In 2003, a peace agreement was reached in Liberia. Democratic elections took place in 2005. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, a Harvard-trained economist and former Minister of Finance, was elected as the first female president in Africa.

"Things are getting better in Liberia and people move around more freely; there is hope," Fr. Moran said. "People have to begin to trust each other again. There are still a lot of weapons in the country. Weapons give people a great sense of empowerment—if you are a 13-year-old boy holding a gun, you have 'a say' over everyone."

Fr. Moran's faith journey to Africa began thousands of miles away while at seminary in his home state of Missouri. He was always interested in traveling to the continent and finally visited Tanzania with the SMA in 1978. "During my first night at the mission station I heard drums beating loudly at around 2 a.m. I was nervous and thought someone was attacking us. It turns out that it was harvest season and the farmers were gathering before dawn to head to the fields. The people were really excited to meet us and were very open and friendly. While there, I learned what things are of value," he recalled.

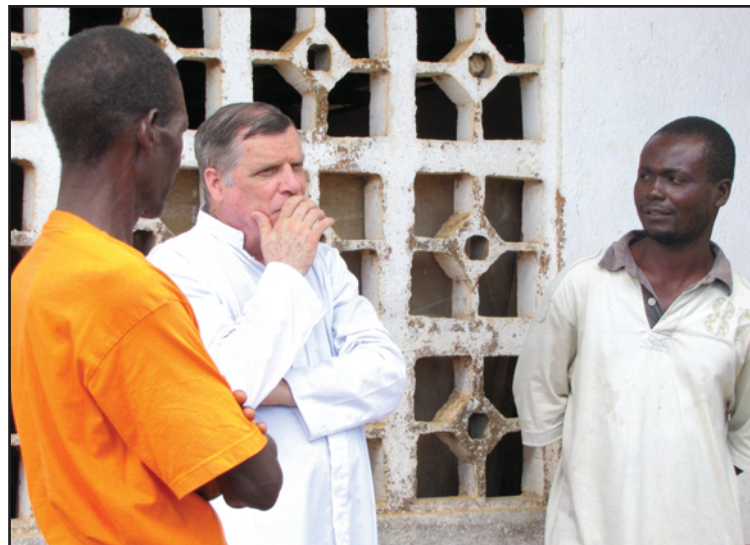
Regarding the dynamics of

missionary work, Fr. Moran said it takes time to build a relationship with members of a community and to gain their confidence. Understanding the culture is imperative when trying to serve others. "We are there to discern God's presence among the people. We have to be open to see God's presence in different cultures and lifestyles. For example, Americans are very goal-oriented. In Liberia, the object was to work together in community. They were more interested in how they related to each other. For us, the goal is all that matters. For them, the people themselves are what mattered."

In the United States, there are only 27 SMA priests. As provincial superior, Fr. Moran is responsible for the elderly re-

tired priests and upholding finances of the missionary society. There are many expatriate clergy working in this country from Africa and India. SMA hosts an orientation for the visiting priests to help them understand and adapt to the culture.

For over 150 years SMA missionaries have provided both spiritual and practical care in Africa as pastors, teachers, healthcare workers, construction workers, farmers and other various roles. The missionaries of the American Province primarily minister in Liberia, Ghana, Kenya and Tanzania. The organization also strives to preserve and encourage African art and culture and maintains several museums throughout the world. The SMA's international administrative headquarters is in Rome.



Submitted photo

Father Michael Moran, S.M.A., center, speaks with members of Barkleyville Parish in the Cape Palmas Diocese, Liberia. Fr. Moran returned to the West African country in 2010 after serving there for 18 years. Founded in 1822 by freed American and Caribbean slaves, Liberia endured two civil wars between 1989-2003.

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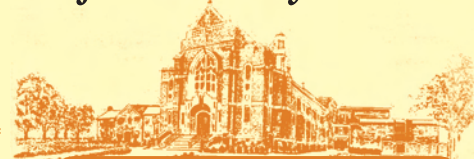
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Caldwell looks to attain university status

CALDWELL — Nancy Blattner, Ph.D., O.P.A., president of Caldwell College, said the college's board of trustees has unanimously passed a resolution charging the college to move forward with the necessary steps towards achievement of university status.

"This is certainly a defining moment in the history of Caldwell College and in its future," Blattner

said. "The campus community is excited about the possibility of claiming the designation of university, a name that many of us believe already describes Caldwell College with the offering of our first doctoral program in Applied Behavior Analysis in 2009, our strong master's degrees in multiple disciplinary areas, and our diversity and growth."

A task force has been charged and is working to compile the proposal that will be submitted ultimately for approval to the Office of the New Jersey Secretary of Higher Education. The process is expected to take at least two years to complete. Blattner said she is hopeful that the change in status will occur during Caldwell's 75th anniversary during the 2014-2015 school year.

Becoming a university has been part of Blattner's vision since her arrival at Caldwell in July 2009. In her remarks to the college's strategic planning committee in spring 2010, she first outlined this vision, and subsequently, university status became part of Caldwell College's five-year strategic plan. The college has seen significant growth in recent years.



Nancy Blattner

Parish to host job-seeker workshop

RIDGEWOOD — The Career Resources Ministry of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, 1 Passaic St., in its continuing effort to provide help to people seeking employment, will present the first of four winter/spring career workshops on Sunday, Feb. 24, at 1 p.m.

Workshops are held in the meeting room located in the lower church. Anyone seeking employment or anticipating possible unemployment is invited to attend. There is no pre-registration needed to participate in any or all of the four workshops. The ses-

sions are free, open to the public and parish membership is not required.

Members of the parish ministry are career consultants and human-resource professionals dedicated to helping people seeking employment. For additional information, call Carol Shea at (201) 447-4215 or Tom Lewis at (201) 445-1864.

"Create Your Communications Strategy and Resume" is the topic of the first workshop session. Those attending should bring a copy of their current resume.

2013 AAA

Continued from page 1

essential for parishioners to reflect on the grand scheme of Catholic life and spiritual values, and re-examine their material possessions and

monetary wealth. She cited a recent study by Notre Dame's Catholic Social and Pastoral Research Initiative, which concluded Catholics tend to separate their monetary wealth and material possessions from their spiritual life.

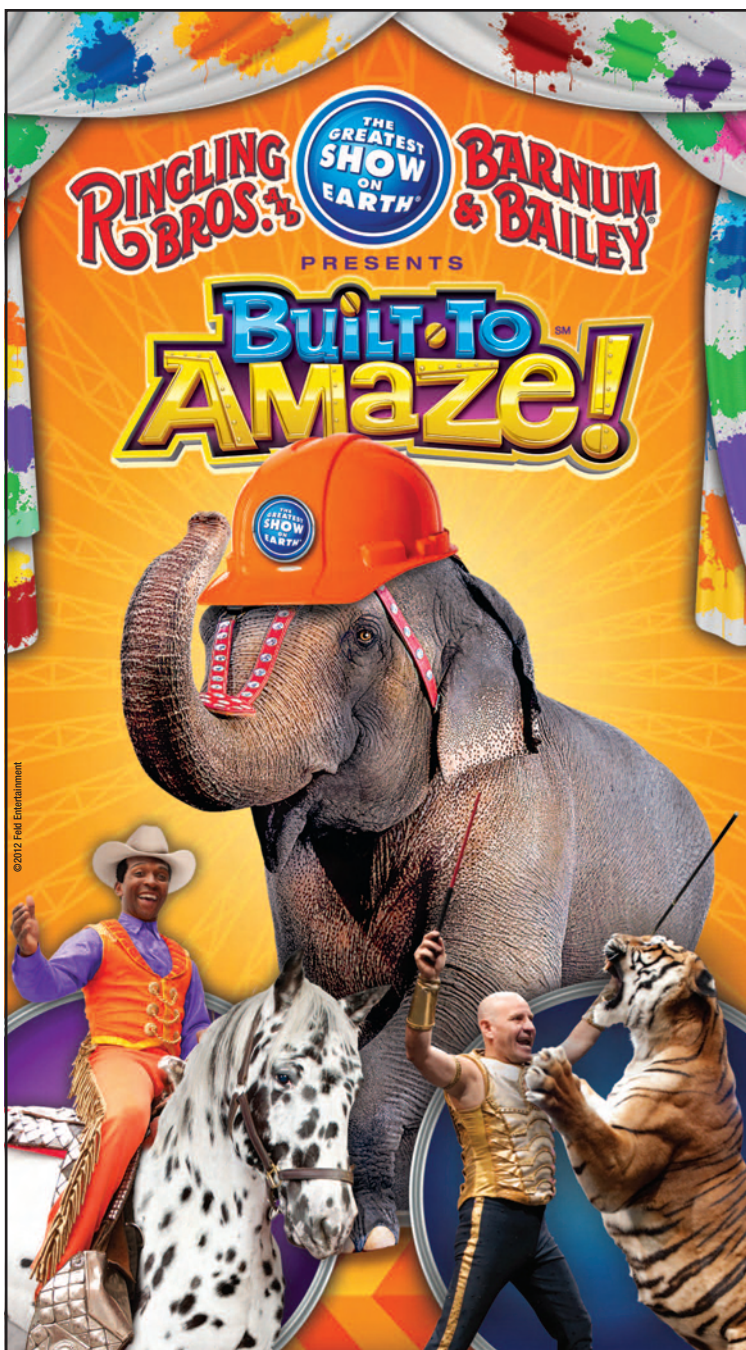
"We must get them to see that

everything we have is a blessing from God, which we must share with others who are in need," she said.

Archbishop John J. Myers also addressed the Jan. 17 assembly at the chancery, thanking everyone for their efforts in 2012 and encouraging them to continue their work this year. Archbishop Myers spoke of the difficulties many parishes, schools and communities faced last year due to the impact of Hurricane Sandy.

"Most of us experienced what life was like without electricity and many had to deal with the devastating effects of flooding and other storm-related damage," Archbishop Myers recalled. "This, understandably, affected our donors' ability to give. Hopefully we will not have storms of that magnitude this year. However, I am very grateful to our many parishioners who were generous, allowing the many programs funded by the appeal to continue to serve the poor and our other ministries."

The archbishop also shared thoughts on this year's AAA theme. "Though we are many, we are one Body in Christ and individually parts of one another," he said. "This is very relevant to how all of us here participate in the mission of the Church. We each have our individual responsibilities and collectively we accomplish the mission of the Church. Our mission to assist the poor, the old, the sick and the vulnerable is only accomplished if we all work together in making the appeal a success."



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Isaiah experienced cleansing of his sins

Readings: Isaiah 6:1-8; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

How do we perceive our relationship with God? Does the beauty of a sunrise or a rainbow inspire a prayer of thanks for the wonders of creation? Indeed, divine goodness, mercy and righteousness should be perceived through the veil of creaturehood.

"All the earth is filled with God's glory!" But some people are oblivious to the ways in which God's power and wisdom permeate all reality. Many would miss as well the insight that we must live conscious of the challenge to conform our lives to a sublime model of excellence. "Be holy as I, the Lord your God, am holy!" (Lev 19:2). So a continuing education in a spirit of prayer is necessary for all.

The ancient Israelites recognized that personal and community existence is bound by space and time. Their laws governed the rhythms of life by careful designation of specific times and places for worship. Moreover, coming to worship involved a transition from secular to sacred

with prayers and ceremonies that called for an examination of conscience. Thus pilgrims to the Temple in Jerusalem were challenged: "O Lord, who shall sojourn in your tent? Who shall dwell on your holy mountain?" (Ps 15:1). The person was expected to live with integrity in day-to-day existence, dedicated to the one God and honest in human relationships (see also Ps 24:3-6).

The drama of worship in the Temple evoked an awareness that we live in God's presence, called to reflect the divine image in the fabric of our daily lives. Thus, in the year 742 B.C., an aristocrat of Jerusalem named Isaiah was overwhelmed by the divine majesty in the Temple. He perceived two mysterious seraphim, aflame with intensity of their love, worshiping in humble modesty and awe before the creator and king of the universe. They proclaimed God's supreme holiness, because repetition of a term in Hebrew conveys the notion of the superlative. Complete separation from all that is tainted is essential to the concept of holiness in Hebrew, so Isaiah expressed his sense of human sin-

fulness. "Woe is me, I am doomed! For I am a man of unclean lips, living among a people of unclean lips..." (Is 6:5).

Well aware of the truth that no one shall see God and live (Gn 16:13; 32:31), Isaiah acknowledged his unworthiness. No doubt he had recited a prayer of confession as he entered the Temple, but now the transcendence of God took on a deeper meaning.

God never leaves the honest, humble person to wallow in a sense of inadequacy. There is work to be done and that is why Isaiah was privileged to know God and himself in a new way. Important as our own prayers and ablutions are when we enter God's presence, divine action is necessary for us to be transformed.

The Israelites used water and fire for purification, so Isaiah experienced cleansing by an incandescent coal from the altar of incense. Words interpret the experience: "Now that this has touched your lips, your wickedness is removed, your sin purged" (6:7). Then he is capable of responding to the divine commission to teach and admonish, uplift and guide

the rulers and people of Judah.

The sublime vision of Isaiah has exerted a powerful influence on Jewish and Christian liturgy and spirituality. We all recognize that this text is the source of the "Sanctus" of the Mass. How many have noticed the priest or deacon bowing in prayer before proclaiming the Gospel? "Cleans my heart and my lips, O Lord, as you cleansed the lips of the prophet Isaiah, so that I may worthily proclaim your holy Gospel." An awe-inspiring responsibility is the mission of continuing Christ's work. Do pray that God's servants be ever more worthy of the task.

The Gospel might occasion a smile. Simon, the experienced fisherman, hears a carpenter telling him how to make a catch. How many of us would have ridiculed the advice? But Simon had already seen the carpenter rebuild the lives of the afflicted, so he obeyed.

What was his reaction to the marvelous catch? "Leave me, Lord, for I am a sinful man" (Lk 5:8). In the midst of the mundane he recognized that Jesus manifested God's holiness. There was

SUNDAY READINGS

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
(Feb. 10, 2013)



By Rev. Lawrence Frizzell

no dramatic act of purification at this point, but the assurance of divine care. "Do not be afraid." These words, heard by Zechariah (Lk 1:13), Mary (1:30) and the shepherds at Bethlehem (2:10), prepare for a commission of service. "From now on you will be catching people!" But first the fishermen became learners at the feet of the Master so that they could draw others to the flame of divine love.

(Father Lawrence E. Frizzell is the director of the Institute of Judaean-Christian Studies at Seton Hall University, South Orange.)

USCCB praises bipartisan tone of immigration reform dialogue

WASHINGTON—Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Migration, lauded the principles set forth by a group of eight Senators as a blueprint for reform of the nation's immigration system.

"I welcome the introduction of a bipartisan framework to help guide Congress on immigration reform," Archbishop Gomez said on Jan. 28. "It's an important first step in the process and sets a bipartisan tone."

The framework released by the bipartisan "Group of Eight" would include a path to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented in the United States. It also would reduce family backlogs in the immigration system, which requires family members to wait years to reunite with their loved ones.

"It's vital that the framework includes a path to citizenship, so that undocumented immigrants can come out of the shadows and into the light and have a chance to become Americans," Archbishop



Archbishop John J. Myers

Gomez said. "It gives hope to millions of our fellow human beings."

Archbishop Gomez noted the framework has room for improvement, as it fails to restore due process protections to immigrants lost in the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) or address the root causes of migration, such as the absence of living-

wage employment in sending communities or protection for refugees fleeing persecution. Nevertheless, he pledged the support of the USCCB in pushing sound immigration legislation forward and working with Congress to create an immigration system which respects basic human rights and dignity while also ensuring the integrity of our borders.

"A reformed system can protect human dignity and the homeland at the same time," Archbishop Gomez said.

Last month churches throughout the United States observed National Migration Week, which began Jan. 6 and carried the theme: "We are Strangers No Longer: Our Journey of Hope Continues" (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Jan. 9). The campaign celebrated the 10th anniversary of the joint pastoral letter, "Strangers No Longer: Together on a Journey of Hope," issued in 2003 by the USCCB and the Conferencia del Episcopado Mexicano. In the pastoral letter, the bishops reflected on migration between Mexico and the United



Archbishop José H. Gomez

States as a "sign of the times" that is necessary and beneficial, with promises and challenges.

Archbishop John J. Myers issued a letter on Dec. 28, 2012 to priests throughout the Archdiocese of Newark, expressing his support of the USCCB efforts. Archbishop Myers said the USCCB's pastoral "reminds us of our responsibility as Catholics to help newcomers integrate in ways that are respectful, culturally sensitive and responsive to social needs, and of the ongoing need for comprehensive and compassionate immigration reform." He described the Church's con-

'I welcome the introduction of a bipartisan framework to help guide Congress on immigration reform.'

—Archbishop José Gomez

cern for migrants as "a tangible expression of the Year of Faith that we are now celebrating."

In his letter, Archbishop Myers also cited the words of Pope Benedict XVI on the World Day of Migrants and Refugees. "Our Holy Father writes faith and hope are inseparable in the hearts of many migrants, who deeply desire a better life and not infrequently try to leave behind the 'hopelessness' of an unpromising future. During their journey many of them are sustained by the deep trust that God never abandons His children."

Around the Archdiocese

February 9

OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH, West Orange, Mardi Gras Dinner, following 5:30 p.m. Mass, cost: \$12 for adults/\$6 for children under 12, (973) 325-0110.

February 10

HOLY FAMILY CHAPEL, Lakewood, Divine Mercy Healing Mass, 2 p.m., (732) 803-2539.

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH, Montclair, Mardi Gras celebration, 4 p.m., cost: \$25 for adults/\$15 for children over 6, (973) 744-1074.

February 11

ST. ROCCO/ST. BRIGID PARISH, Union City, pizza with Bishop Manuel A. Cruz, sponsored by the Vocations Office, 7 p.m., (201) 863-1427.

February 12

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 3428, North Arlington, Shrove Tuesday Celebration, 6:30 p.m., cost: \$20 for adults/\$15 for seniors/\$10 for children, (201) 988-0183.

February 13

ST. MARY PARISH, Nutley, Fish and Chips Dinner, 5-6:30 p.m., cost: \$15 for adult portions/\$7 for child portions, (973) 235-1100.

February 14

OUR LADY OF VICTORIES PARISH, Harrington Park, dance and fitness "Zumbathon" in support of Shelter our Sisters, cost: \$10, call Betty Ann Niece at (201) 768-1400.

February 15

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 2396, Lyndhurst, Tricky Tray, 6:30 p.m., cost: \$10, call Sal Russo at (201) 446-7244 or Nick Garafo- lo at (201) 935-5988.

February 16

ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE SCHOOL, Clark, Irish Night fund-raiser, 8 p.m., cost: \$35, call John McSharry at (908) 868-8525.

February 17

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH, Norwood, Lenten Parish Mis- sion, led by Augustinian Preach- ing Associate Father Michael P. Sullivan, O.S.A., through Feb. 20, 7 p.m., (201) 768-1600.

NJ BLOOD SERVICES, blood drive at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Mountainside, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., call Marie Forrestal at (732) 616-0798 or e-mail mforrestal@nybloodcenter.org.

February 18

INTERFAITH BROTHERHOOD/SISTER- HOOD OF BERGEN COUNTY, break- fast and presentation "Harmony in a World of Difference," keynote speaker Harinder Singh, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at Hasbrouck Heights Hilton, cost: \$25 for adults/\$15 for chil- dren, RSVP by Feb. 8, (201) 288-6100.

February 23

ST. CATHERINE PARISH, Cedar Grove, Texas Hold'em Tourna- ment, 7 p.m., \$100 entry free,



Advocate photo — M. Gabriele

CARDINAL ROMEO VISITS GARFIELD PARISH—Cardinal Paolo Romeo, S.T.L., J.C.D. (seated, center), who hails from Marineo, Sicily, last month visited of Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish in Garfield. Cardinal Romeo was hosted by the San Ciro Society and presided at an Italian Mass on Jan. 27 at the Bergen County parish to honor the society's patron, San Ciro. Pictured with the cardinal are (left to right) seminarian Gabriel Curtis; Rev. Msgr. Giuseppe Randazzo; Father Peter J. Palmisano, the pastor of Our Lady of Mount Virgin; Father Fredy Sanchez, the parish's parochial vicar; and Father Leo Pasqua. Msgr. Randazzo and Fr. Pasqua accompanied Cardinal Romeo from Marineo, Sicily. In his online note to parishioners, Fr. Palmisano stated the Garfield faith community was honored to wel- come Cardinal Romeo, Msgr. Randazzo and Fr. Pasqua. "They were our guests at the rectory this past week and were a blessing and inspiration to me and Fr. Fredy," Fr. Palmisano wrote. "God bless them as they return (to Sicily) and, as they were assured, they always have a home at Mount Virgin." According to online biographical information, Cardinal Romeo serves as the Archbishop of Palermo, Sicily. Born on Feb. 20, 1938, Cardinal Romeo was ordained as a priest in March 1961.

RSVP by Feb. 15, call Jerry Oehm at (973) 943-0506 or e-mail jerryoehm@yahoo.com.

ST. ALOYSIUS PARISH, Jersey City, Women's Cornerstone Retreat, following 8:30 a.m. Mass until 3:30 p.m., (201) 433-6365.

February 24

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH, Hills-

dale, Franciscan Mystery Players performance of "Jesus the Healer, A Living Meditation on Heal- ing," 7:30 p.m., (201) 664-3131.

ST. PETER CLAVER PARISH, Montclair, "A Walking Tour," 3 p.m., (973) 783-4852.

March 8

ANNUNCIATION PARISH, Paramus,

Women's Cornerstone Retreat, through March 9, RSVP by Feb. 14, (201) 261-6322 ext. 500.

Other

ST. PETER THE APOSTLE SENIOR RESI- DENCE, River Edge, open house, Sundays 10 a.m.-2 p.m., through the end of February, (732) 635-1000 ext. 114 or visit www.bwpurpose.org.

U.S. bishops petition Supreme Court to uphold DOMA

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) on Jan. 29 filed amicus briefs in the United States Supreme Court in support of the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and California's Proposition 8, both of which confirm the definition of marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

The move by the USCCB comes as the Church prepares celebrate World Marriage Day on Feb. 10.

DOMA was passed by Congress and signed by President Clinton in 1996 and defines marriage for federal and inter-state recognition purposes. Proposition 8 is a state constitutional amendment approved by the citizens of California in 2008. Both laws have been challenged because they define marriage exclusively as the union of one man and one woman.

Urging the Supreme Court to uphold DOMA, the USCCB brief in *United States v. Windsor* says that "there is no fundamental right to marry a person of the same sex."

The brief states that "as defined by courts 'sexual orienta- tion' is not a classification that should trigger heightened scrutiny," such as race or ethnicity would. The brief adds that "civil recognition of same-sex relationships is not deeply rooted in the nation's history and tradition—quite the opposite is true."

In a separate brief filed in *Hollingsworth v. Perry* urging the Court to uphold Proposition 8, the USCCB states that there are many reasons why the state may reasonably support and encourage marriage, understood as the union of one man and one woman, as distinguished from other relationships. Government support for marriage, so understood, is "recognizing the unique capacity of opposite-sex couples to procreate" and "the unique value to children of being raised by their mother and father together."

Marriage, understood as the union of one man and one woman, is not an historical relic, "but a vital and founda- tional institution of civil society today," the USCCB brief

states. "The government interests in continuing to encour- age and support it are not merely legitimate, but com- pelling. No other institution joins together persons with the natural ability to have children, to assure that those children are properly cared for."

Last September Archbishop John J. Myers issued a pas- toral letter: "When Two Become One: A Pastoral Teaching on the Definition, Purpose and Sanctity of Marriage" (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Sept. 26, 2012). Archbishop Myers wrote in the letter that "marriage is a natural and pre-politi- cal institution. As such, it is not created by law or the state. Our understanding of how best to live out the meaning of marriage may have evolved over time, but the nature, es- sential properties and purposes of marriage are not ours to change."

One year ago the Catholic Bishops of New Jersey issued a statement titled: "Marriage as a Union of One Man and One Woman" (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Feb. 8, 2012).



Parish plans programs for Lenten season

NORWOOD—A four-day presentation by Augustinian Preaching Associate Father Michael P. Sullivan, O.S.A., Feb. 17-20, begins a series of programs to celebrate the Lenten season at Immaculate Conception Parish, 211 Summit St. The program is designed to coincide with the worldwide celebration of the Year of Faith, as proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI.

Fr. Sullivan’s ministry concentrates on an understanding of the sacraments of the Church. His presentation at Immaculate Conception is broken out over four sessions. Sunday, Feb. 17, deals with baptism, confirmation and the power of the Holy Spirit. On Feb. 18 the topics are reconciliation, healing and forgiveness. Fidelity and commitment will be examined on Feb. 19. He concludes his program on Wednesday, Feb. 20, addressing the topic: “Called to be One Bread, One Body.”

The starting time for each session is 7 p.m. A hospitality reception will follow in the church hall after the final presentation.

In a separate program at Immaculate Conception, the Franciscan Mystery Players of North Caldwell will perform “Jesus the Healer” on Sunday, March 3, at 7:30 p.m.

Father James White, who serves as the chaplain at Seton Hall Prep, West Orange, will give a talk titled “A Look at the Mass Through Hebrew Eyes” on Thursday, March 7, beginning at 7 p.m. On Friday, March 22, Immaculate Conception will present a contemporary musical rendition of the Stations of the Cross with the approach of Holy Week. The program starts at 7:30 p.m.

Father Leo J. Butler is the pastor of the Bergen County parish. Call Immaculate Conception at (201) 768-1600 for details.



Submitted photo

FOOD FOR THOUGHT—Bailey Ramirez, Raymond Berry, Kristen Nugent and Nicolle Kott, four freshmen at Union Catholic Regional High School in Scotch Plains, recently were awarded the 2012-13 Navin Brothers’ Food Service Scholarship. The company, based in Newington, CT, oversees all food service operations at the Union County school. The scholarship was established in memory of Mary Ellen Swinden, a Navin Brothers employee, who worked at Union Catholic and passed away five years ago. Pictured at the presentation are (left to right) Sister Percylee, R.S.M., principal of Union Catholic; Ramirez; Nugent; Kott; cafeteria worker Joan DeLuca; Berry; and Joseph Navin, Jr.



Submitted photo

HUNGER SUMMIT ATTENDEES—Representatives from the Academy of the Holy Angels (AHA), Demarest, attended the Teen Hunger Action Summit, sponsored by the Community Food Bank of New Jersey, on Jan. 16 at Seton Hall Preparatory School in West Orange. Pictured (left to right) are AHA seniors Esther Pierre-Michel of New City, NY; Aminat Ologunbe of Bloomfield; and freshman Grace Redford of Jersey City. The three AHA students attended the summit’s workshops dealing with poverty and hunger in New Jersey and the United States. They learned that 400,000—or approximately one in five children in New Jersey—struggle with hunger and poverty in their daily lives. Maryanne Miloscia, AHA assistant campus minister, encouraged the students to participate in the event. Miloscia noted the outreach to help those in need is tied closely to the AHA’s mission and the charism of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, who sponsor the academy. “Our philosophy at AHA is all about transforming the world through education and sharing our gifts with others,” Miloscia said.

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The Academy of the Holy Angels is seeking applicants for the position of President, effective as of July 1, 2013. A private, Catholic college preparatory school, the Academy is known for the rigor of its academic excellence in preparing young women in grades 9 – 12 for acceptance to highly or most selective colleges and universities. Located in northern New Jersey on a beautiful 25-acre campus, the Academy educates the whole person and empowers each student to reach her full potential. Grounded in the tradition and charism of the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND), the Academy is committed to the highest standards of excellence in its academic and co-curricular programs. A special feature is the totally wireless teaching and learning environment.

The President reports to the Academy's Board of Trustees who, in consultation with the SSND Corporate Board and Presidential Search Committee, will select the next President. As the leader of this storied institution, the President has seven direct reports: Principal, Dean of Students, Director of Admissions, Director of Development, Finance Administrator, Plant Manager, and Mission Integration Coordinator.

Priority will be given to applications received by February 22. A cover letter, resume, and contact information for five references should be sent only electronically to: mquinn@holyangels.org. Please visit our website at www.holyangels.org/employment for more information.

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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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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Description: Our Lady of Good Counsel School, located in Moorestown, New Jersey, is seeking a new Principal starting with the 2013-2014 school year. For more information, see <http://www.olgcnj.org/principal-search>

Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish School is dedicated to providing a Christ-centered environment in which academic excellence is maintained. The faculty, parents and students endeavor to bring the light of Christ into the school on a daily basis by living and practicing the school mission; namely, "to form young minds and hearts in the image of Jesus spiritually, academically, physically, and socially through authentic Catholic teaching within a faith community of respect and compassion for others."

Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish School is seeking a highly qualified, experienced, and motivated Principal to provide a strong academic and spiritual leadership for our school community. Candidates must be practicing Catholics who are committed to Catholic education. In addition, candidates must possess a New Jersey Principal Certification or Certificate of Eligibility, hold a Master's Degree, optimally in Educational Leadership, and have five years experience in teaching preferably in a Catholic school. Administrative experience in a Catholic school is desired. The Principal will report directly to the Pastor and work collaboratively with staff, faculty, and school board.

**The deadline for receipt of applications is February 27, 2013.
Please e-mail letter of interest, resume, and certifications to: search@olgcnj.org.**

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QUEEN OF PEACE HS SEEKS PRINCIPAL

Queen of Peace High School (North Arlington, NJ) invites letters of interest from candidates for the position of principal/headmaster for academic year 2013-2014. Qualifications: secondary school teaching and administrative experience; appropriate professional credentials; excellent leadership and communications skills; ability to work with the Pastor/President, Board of Overseers, parents, teachers, students, QP community and alumni; track record of motivating students and faculty; commitment to the Catholic faith.

To request application, email: Chair, QPHS Board of Overseers Search Committee, c/o Mrs. Maureen Hennessy at mhennessy5@yahoo.com. Candidates should submit requests for applications by February 22, 2013.

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.

D.O.S.S.

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J.G.

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B.L.

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L.A.

PRAYER TO ST. CLAIRE

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

J.M.D.

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J.K.

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Sister Theresa Caruso, M.P.F.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Dec. 4 in Saint Lucy Chapel, Villa Walsh, Morristown, for Sister Theresa Caruso, M.P.F., 95, who died Nov. 30.

Born in Newark, Sr. Theresa entered the Religious Teachers

Filippini in 1934, received the habit a year later, and made her religious profession in 1938.

Sr. Theresa taught at the following archdiocesan schools: Holy Rosary, Jersey City; Saint Francis, Hackensack; Our Lady of Assumption, Bayonne; and Our Lady Queen of Peace, Maywood.

She served as director of Religious Education at Epiphany

Parish, Cliffside Park. She also ministered in Connecticut, Rhode Island and New Hampshire.



Father Thomas Green, S.J., 83

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Dec. 31 at Fordham University Church,

Bronx, NY, for Father Thomas Green, S.J. 83, who died Dec. 26.

A Jersey City native, Fr. Green was a Jesuit for 64 years, and a priest for 51 years. After high school at Saint Peter's Preparatory School, Jersey City, he entered the Jesuit novitiate of Saint Andrew-on-Hudson at Poughkeepsie, NY, in 1948. Following his novitiate and first vows, he studied philosophy

(1952-1955) at Bellarmine College, Plattsburgh, NY, receiving the Licentiate in Philosophy in 1955.

Fr. Green's first assignment after priesthood was teaching physics and religion at his alma mater, Saint Peter's Prep, from 1963-1967. While serving as teacher, he began assisting at Saint Peter Parish, Jersey City, from 1967 to 1970.

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Sometimes our community extends beyond our borders...

Holy Name Medical Center's mission calls us to provide the highest level of health care to our community, to all those in need. In this case, as far away as Haiti.

Michael Maron, President & CEO of Holy Name Medical Center —
passionate about rebuilding Hôpital Sacré Coeur in Milot, Haiti

How did Holy Name get involved?

Holy Name first came to know Hôpital Sacré Coeur through Dr. David Butler's medical mission work. His dedication during the last 20 years has inspired other Holy Name staffers to join the effort. After the devastating 2010 earthquake, it became clear that our involvement was critical to the survival of the people of Milot. As a result, Holy Name has pledged an even deeper commitment to Hôpital Sacré Coeur.

What is Hôpital Sacré Coeur?

Hôpital Sacré Coeur is the only reliable medical resource in northern Haiti, responsible for providing healthcare to 225,000 people.

Why is Hôpital Sacré Coeur so essential?

"Hôpital Sacré Coeur is the sole economic engine in the entire region," says Holy Name's CEO Michael Maron. In addition to medical care, the hospital provides leadership, employment and an element of stability.

What does Holy Name want to do?

We are working with our Haitian counterparts to design, implement and fund a sustainable, quality-driven healthcare system in Hôpital Sacré Coeur.



What specific initiatives is Holy Name working on?

- Purchasing and installing desperately-needed medical equipment
- Bringing supplies and pharmaceuticals
- Lending medical, nursing, administrative and operations expertise
- Developing systems for information technology, finance, hiring and other key functions
- Educating Haitian healthcare professionals in current medical practice and hospital management

**"The Hôpital
Sacré Coeur
is everything
to everybody in
Milot, Haiti."**



David Butler, MD, Holy Name Medical Center
Obstetrician/Gynecologist, and 20-year Haiti volunteer

This is our passion. This is our promise. This is our *pledge*.

Learn more

Watch ***Make a Difference: Have a Heart, Help Haiti***


Feb. 14 at 5:30 p.m. (WHYY)

Feb. 14 at 7:00 p.m. (NJTV)

Feb. 14 at 11:30 p.m. (WLIW)

Feb. 15 at 12:30 a.m. (WNET)



Holy Name Medical Center 
718 Teaneck Road | Teaneck, NJ 07666

Visit **www.HolyName.org**