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# The Catholic Advocate



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The community newspaper of the Archdiocese of Newark

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## Lenten Retreats



ARCHDIOCESE  
OF NEWARK



Women's  
Commission  
of the  
Archdiocese  
of Newark

The annual Catholic Men's Conference and Women's Day of Reflection will be held March 2 and March 9, respectively, on the South Orange campus of Seton Hall University. Archbishop John J. Myers will celebrate Mass at both gatherings.

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## Pontiff visited United States in 2008

# Pope lauded for 'profound, stalwart faith'

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE  
Editor

NEWARK—In the wake of the stunning resignation by Pope Benedict XVI, there were swift expressions of praise—in the Archdiocese of Newark and beyond—for the pontiff who served for eight years as spiritual leader of the 1.2-billion worldwide members of the Catholic Church.

Saying he no longer had the strength to exercise his ministry over the Universal Church, Pope Benedict, speaking from the Vatican, announced Feb. 11 he would resign at the end of the month. Pope Benedict was elected in April 2005, at the age of 78, and is the first pope to resign in almost 600 years. Pope Gregory XII resigned during a period in Church history known as the Great Western Schism. His papacy began in November 1406 and ended in July 1415.

"The announcement by Pope Benedict XVI surprised us, but also left us with sentiments of a certain sadness and of deep gratitude," Archbishop John J. Myers said in a statement, following the pope's announcement. "His decision clearly reflects his love for the Lord and for the Church. Over the decades our Holy Father has proven to be a sensitive pastor, a brilliant scholar and teacher with a profound and stalwart faith in our Loving God and His Son Jesus Christ.

"We pray for him as he completes his service as pope and begins a life of meditation and prayer for the Church and for the world: 'May God, who chose you to preside over your whole people,' keep you safe and continue to accompany you and support you."

Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), described the Holy Father as having "the tender heart of a pastor, the incisive mind of a scholar and the confidence of a soul united with His God in all he did. His resignation is but another sign of his great care for the Church. We are sad that he will be resigning, but grateful for his eight years of selfless leadership as successor of Saint Peter. He set out to meet his people and they were of all faiths, all over the world. He visited the religiously threatened—Jews, Muslims and Christians in the war-torn Middle East, the desperately poor in Africa, and the world's youth gathered to meet him in Australia, Germany, Spain and Brazil."

Pope Benedict, on Feb. 11, revealed his plans to cardinals, who had gathered for a public consistory to approve the canonization of new saints. "After having repeatedly examined my conscience before God, I have come to the certainty that my strengths, due to an

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Advocate file photo

Archbishop John J. Myers, along with active and retired bishops and members of the curia from the Archdiocese of Newark, traveled to the Vatican in late 2011 and met with Pope Benedict XVI for the regularly scheduled *Ad Limina Apostolorum* (Threshold of the Apostles) visit.

**Archbishop Myers will celebrate noon Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark on Sunday, March 3 in honor of Pope Benedict.**



Advocate photo — Melissa McNally

**ASH WEDNESDAY**—Deacon Leonides Aponte of Saint Patrick Pro-Cathedral in Newark, distributed ashes to the faithful at the parish's annual Ash Wednesday Mass. Archbishop John J. Myers has celebrated the noontime Ash Wednesday Mass at Pro-Cathedral each year since his 2001 installation. In his homily, the archbishop urged faithful to "return to Him with your whole hearts" during the season of Lent. "We need to be cleansed of our personal guilt through reconciliation, prayer and mediation. We have to learn to say no to our impulses. During Lent, we must let the beauty of Jesus Christ and His faith shine forth."

## New head of Catholic education is named

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE  
Editor

NEWARK — Margaret A. Dames, Ed. D., has been selected as the new superintendent of Catholic education for the Archdiocese of Newark, a role that will involve overseeing the implementation of a strategic "roadmap" to regionalize Catholic elementary schools in Bergen, Hudson, Essex and Union counties.

Archbishop John J. Myers in-

troduced Dames during a press conference at the Archdiocesan Center on Feb. 15. Her appointment takes effect March 15, replacing Rev. Msgr. Kevin M. Hanbury, 66, who died last October (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Oct. 10, 2012).

Since 2004 Dames has served as the superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Bridgeport, CT. While at Bridgeport, she presided over the implementation of a governance plan designed to revitalize schools in that diocese. This expe-

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# Mass, statue celebrate courage of Four Chaplains

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE  
Editor

KEARNY—Saint Stephen Parish, 676 Kearny Ave., observed the 70th anniversary of the Four Chaplains with a noon Mass and a dedication of a dramatic monument. The Mass and ceremony recalled the ultimate act of bravery by the four men of faith during World War II (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Jan. 23).

The climactic, emotional moment of remembrance for the courageous Four Chaplains occurred at the noon Mass when the Saint Columille United Gaelic Pipe Band performed "Amazing Grace."

Most Rev. Timothy P. Broglio, J.C.D., Archbishop of the Military Archdiocese of the United States, Washington DC, was the main celebrant and homilist at the Mass. Most Rev. Charles J. McDonnell, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Newark, and Father Joseph A. Mancini the pastor of Saint Stephen, were among the concelebrants.

During his homily, Archbishop Broglio said the brave sacrifice of the Four Chaplains (Lt. Father John P. Washington, a Catholic Priest and Newark resident; Lt. Alexander D. Goode, a Jewish rabbi; Lt. Clark V. Poling, a Dutch Reformed minister; and Lt. George L. Fox, a Methodist minister) "was a response in concrete circumstances, but it did not occur in a vacuum." He said the Four Chaplains "did not wake up on Feb. 3, 1943 and decide that they were going to be heroes. They were men for others with the courage of their convictions long before that day dawned."

"It is significant that a Jewish rabbi, a Catholic priest, and two Protestant ministers served together to meet the religious needs of those soldiers transported by the (United States Army Transport—USAT) *Dorchester*," he continued. "They testify 70 years later to the very foundation of our nation on values inspired by a Judeo-Christian heritage. Their sacrifice repeats the firm belief that each

person has a unique value, not conferred by man or the State, but by God Himself.

"When we profess that human dignity, from the moment of conception to natural death, we find ourselves in a continuum of faith and practice. We continue the commitment affirmed by the chaplains in the gift of their lives," Archbishop Broglio said.

Fr. Mancini offered heartfelt words during the Mass, saying it was the parish's responsibility to share the story of the Four Chaplains with the world. "We can't keep Father Washington for ourselves," he acknowledged.

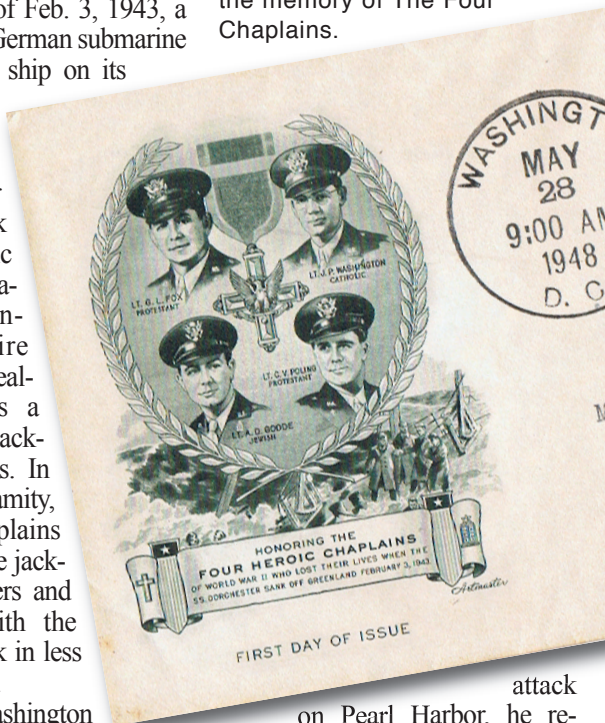
Seventy years ago, the four chaplains were onboard the U.S.A.T. *Dorchester* in the waters of the North Atlantic. The *Dorchester* was part of a convoy headed to a U.S. military base in Greenland. The convoy sailed on Jan. 29, 1943 and immediately ran into stormy weather. In the early morning hours of Feb. 3, 1943, a torpedo from a German submarine (U-223) hit the ship on its starboard side.

Fire and explosions erupted. The *Dorchester* began to sink rapidly and panic ensued. The situation became increasingly dire when it was realized there was a shortage of life jackets and lifeboats. In the face of calamity, the Four Chaplains gave up their life jackets to save others and went down with the ship, which sank in less than 30 minutes.

Fr. John Washington was born in Newark on July 18, 1908, and was ordained a priest on June 15, 1935. He first served at Saint Genevieve Parish in Elizabeth, and then went to Saint Venantius Parish in Orange. In 1938, he was assigned to Saint Stephen Parish in what was then the town of Arlington (today a section of Kearny). Shortly after the



Illustration below is a cachet created in 1948 and printed on mailing envelopes to honor the memory of The Four Chaplains.



attack on Pearl Harbor, he received his appointment as an Army chaplain and went on active duty May 9, 1942.

Prior to the Mass on Feb. 3, the Kearny parish hosted a morning reception dedicated to Fr. Washington, a gathering of local residents, members of the Saint Stephen faith community, veter-

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Advocate photos — M. Gabriele

A monument honoring the Four Chaplains, created by Canadian artist Timothy P. Schmalz, now stands on the front lawn of Saint Stephen Parish in Kearny. Following the Feb. 3 Mass, the monument was dedicated in a solemn ceremony. Pictured above, laying a wreath at the base of the monument, are (left to right) Mary Ann McHugh, Paul Fried and James McHugh. Mary Ann McHugh is a cousin of Fr. Washington. Fried was married to Rosalie Goode, the only child of Rabbi Goode. Rosalie Goode died Feb. 10, 1999. The Four Chaplains posthumously received the Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart on Dec. 19, 1944. They also received a posthumous "Special Medal for Heroism," which was authorized by Congress and presented to family members by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on Jan. 18, 1961. Fr. Washington's gold medal is at the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps Museum, Fort Jackson, SC, donated by members of his family in 2005.

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of the Archdiocese of Newark

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# Newark to wear green for Saint Patrick's Day parade

NEWARK—The 78th Newark Saint Patrick's Day Parade will be held Friday March 15, with a step off time of 1 p.m. Patrick C. Dunican Jr., the chairman and managing director of the Gibbons P.C. law firm, is this year's grand marshal. Eileen P. Gilleece, D.S.F.C., a member of the NJ State Police, is the deputy grand marshal. Michael D. Byrne serves as the parade's general chairman.

Grandstand ceremonies will begin at noon followed by the start of the parade at 1 p.m. The parade will begin in downtown Newark on Mulberry Street at the Prudential Center, then will make its way past the Gateway Complex; to the New Jersey Performing Arts Center; passing Military Park on Center Street; to Central Avenue; to Saint Patrick's Pro-Cathedral, located at the corner of Washington Street and Central Avenue; and ending in front of the Newark Museum and Washington Park.

"We are very pleased to have Patrick Dunican and Eileen Gilleece lead the Saint Patrick's Day Parade," Byrne said. "We hope Irish-Americans in the city and across the state will support this year's parade."

For more information on the parade activities, call Byrne at (973) 746-3280 or visit the parade Web site posted above.

Byrne said the 2013 grand marshal and deputy grand marshal have distinguished themselves in their commitments to their professions and their Irish heritage. Dunican was elected chairman and managing partner of his firm at the age of 36 and has presided over a tremendous growth of the firm. During his tenure, Gibbons PC raised their profile both as a business and as a member of the greater Newark community. He was named as

[www.newarkparade.org](http://www.newarkparade.org)



the "Distinguished Graduate" of the Seton Hall University School of Law in 2011. He is listed among the Irish Legal 100, a nationwide network of the most distinguished and accomplished lawyers of Irish heritage. He serves on the Board of Advisors of the Irish American Bar Association of New Jersey (IABANJ). All four of Patrick's grandparents emigrated to the United States from Ireland, coming from the counties of Sligo, Offaly, Mayo and Donegal.

Gilleece was honored for her role with the NJ State Police, working with the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security. She has been a leader in the Irish-American community, having served as president of the Women of Irish Heritage. She was named Irishwoman of the Year by the Friends of Brian Boru in 2010. She is also a member of the Essex County Emerald Society and Nugents Association.

The parade is dedicated to the memory of Terence Pellegrino, who died last year at the age of 67 and was a 31-year veteran of the Paterson Fire Department, serving as battalion chief. Pellegrino, a resident of Wayne, was a member of the Essex County Police and Fire Emerald Society Pipes and Drums and the Essex County Shillelaghs.

According to information in his obituary, which ran in the March 17, 2012 edition of *The Record*, Pellegrino was a great lover of Irish music and enjoyed playing the drums in marching bands.

He graduated from Passaic Valley Regional High School and was an Army veteran. He graduated from William Paterson University with a Bachelor of Science degree in public safety and was a member of the state Firefighters' Mutual Benevolent Association.



Patrick Dunican



Eileen Gilleece

## Chaplains

Continued from page 2

ans, active service men and women and members of the Knights of Columbus. Bob Carmichael, commander of Catholic War Veterans Father John Washington Post No. 1710, Paramus, and 20 members of the post also attended. Members of Post No. 1710 served as the color guard for the noon Mass

procession.

Gene Swarbrick, a former NJ resident and now the commander of the Father John Washington Post No. 1944 in Daytona Beach, FL, addressed the reception and recalled the days when he served as an altar boy for Fr. Washington in the mid-1930s.

The Kearny High School Concert Band performed during the morning reception. The Saint Stephen Music Ministry provided music during Mass.



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## Pope Benedict

Continued from page 1

advanced age, are no longer suited to an adequate exercise of the Petrine ministry,” the pope declared. “Well aware of the seriousness of this act, with full freedom I declare that I renounce the ministry of bishop of Rome, successor of Saint Peter, entrusted to me by the cardinals on April 19, 2005, in such a way, that as from Feb. 28, 2013, the See of Rome, the See of Saint Peter, will be vacant and a conclave to elect the new supreme pontiff will have to be convoked by those whose competence it is,” Pope Benedict solemnly declared to the cardinals.

The option of a pope to resign is explicitly written into the Code of Canon Law. It says a pope may step down, but stipulates that the decision must be made freely and duly manifested. It is now up to the dean of the College of Cardinals, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, to make preparations for a conclave to elect a new pope. Of the 118 Cardinals who will gather for the election, 67 were appointed by Pope Benedict.

Catholics in the Archdiocese of Newark will recall when Pope Benedict traveled to the United States in April 2008, highlighted by his visit to the site of the Twin



Pope Benedict XVI

Towers in lower Manhattan on the morning of April 20, where he prayed with survivors and family members of the 9/11 terrorist attack. Later that day he celebrated Mass at Yankee Stadium in The Bronx, which capped his six-day tour. On April 19 he celebrated Mass at Saint Patrick's Cathedral, issuing a call for the Catholic Church in America to move past scandal and division and enter into a “new sense of unity and purpose.” On April 18, the pope addressed the United Nation's General Assembly and called on representatives to defend human rights.

Joseph Ratzinger was born in Bavaria on April 16, 1927 and in 1939 entered the minor seminary in Traunstein, Germany. In 1943,

at the age of 16, he and members of his seminary class are drafted into the German anti-aircraft corps. Two years later he deserted the army, returned to Traunstein and was briefly held by American forces in a prisoner of war camp. After his release, he re-entered the seminary.

In 1951 he was ordained into the priesthood by Cardinal

Faulhaber of Munich. In 1953 he received his doctorate in theology from the University of Munich. He participated in all four sessions of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) as theological adviser to Cardinal Joseph Frings of Cologne, Germany. In 1977 he was named Archbishop of Munich and Freising and later was elevated to Cardinal of Munich.

Pope John Paul II, in 1981, named Cardinal Ratzinger the prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith by. In 1998 Cardinal Ratzinger was named vice dean of the College of Cardinals and in 2002 was elected dean of the College of Cardinals. He was elected as the 265th pope on April 19, 2005, choosing the name Pope Benedict XVI.

## Roadmap

Continued from page 1

rience figured into her selection in the Archdiocese of Newark, according to Archbishop Myers. She described the Bridgeport effort as successful, saying during her nine years there the student population rose 2 to 5 percent.

Archbishop Myers said the roadmap for elementary schools, known as “Lighting the Way: Building a New Era in Catholic Education,” is slated to be formally unveiled in the fall of 2014. He revealed the plan will include the “regionalization” of archdiocesan elementary schools to create a sustainable model that can expand the current student headcount. There are more than 19,650 students in grades Pre-K to eight in 74 archdiocesan elementary schools. While the goal is to grow the

student population, Archbishop Myers indicated there “may not be the same number of schools” in the regionalization plan. “But that’s part of the study,” he said.

In 2011, Archbishop Myers appointed an archdiocesan Catholic Education Commission, composed of pastors, principals, educators and parents, to develop the roadmap. He explained the traditional “parish-based” model for Catholic elementary education—one school connected to a single parish—has shifted dramatically in recent years due to financial pressures, school and parish mergers and changing demographics.

Dames proudly declared that, because she is a product of Catholic education, her life and career have been blessed with a “spiritual stamina. The Lord has been with me through good times and bad times.” She said her personal goal will be to “pass on” that



Margaret A. Dames

spiritual stamina to all students, teachers and administrators in the archdiocese.

“We have a strong foundation in the Archdiocese of Newark,” Dames said. “You need a strong foundation and leadership and then you can move mountains. My goal is to bring faith to life and life to faith.”

# Catholic newspapers turn the page, develop content for online readers

BY MELISSA MCNALLY  
Staff Writer

NEWARK—Many newspapers throughout the country have suffered a severe decline in subscriptions to their print publications. Formerly avid readers of print now get their news online or through electronic sources such as tablets and smartphones. Everyday there is news of rising printing costs, shrinking pages and rumors of well-respected traditional papers on the verge of collapse.

To stay afloat, print publications are working in tandem with online resources to broaden their audience, retain subscriptions and embrace the technological shift. Catholic newspapers across the country are also following the secular trend. *The Catholic Advocate* launched its own “e-edition” last month, as reported on the front page of the paper’s Jan. 9 edition.

In advance of February’s Catholic Press Month, *The Catholic Advocate*’s e-edition is now available the same day each



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issue is published. Readers have the opportunity to view the entire publication electronically, browse pages and access live links in articles and advertisements. Within the e-edition, links to schools, parishes and other Catholic organizations’ Web sites will be immediately accessible. Advertisers are able to expand their reach by including links to video feeds, photos and music within their ads.

The e-edition also allows the editorial department to post the most updated news on the home page. Articles that did not make

the print publication are available online to provide the most complete coverage of local and international events. Breaking news stories are disseminated in a more timely fashion for readers on-the-go. For example, the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI was posted on the Web site Feb. 11, within hours of the pontiff’s stunning announcement and over a week before this edition of the paper was published.

Staff writer Melissa McNally is the point person for the newspaper’s Web site. Marge Pearson-

McCue, director of advertising and operations for Advocate Publishing Corp., has seen a positive response of the e-edition from advertisers and readers alike. “The advertisers are happy because they now have another opportunity to reach new clients. It has been fabulous for *The Catholic Advocate* to broaden our audience and the editorial staff has more flexibility to post news stories on the main Web site.”

Numerous Catholic newspapers across the country have created sophisticated Web sites and are launching their own e-editions. Tim Walter, executive director of the Chicago-based Catholic Press Association, sees the trend as a way for religious publications to compete with secular newspapers. “The e-editions are growing in popularity,” Walter said. “*The Observer* (the official newspaper of the Diocese of Rockford, IL) sells electronic subscriptions. Most Catholic newspapers are using the technology to increase their readership and the promotion draws people in to sell the hard copy of the paper. Our newspapers do a great job of using social media, such as Facebook and Twitter, to get the word out,” he said.

During the annual Catholic Media Conference, which takes place this year June 19-21 in Denver, CO, Walter noted that workshops focusing on social media and online resources are expected to draw the biggest crowds. He explained that online editions are used to expand readership, not replace print publications. “The hard base is still with print readers of Catholic newspapers. We had a commission study the affect of online resources and we found that using a Web site draws people in to read the actual printed copy. It is almost the same demographic of people getting the newspaper in their homes and visiting the corresponding Web sites. Catholic papers use digital platforms for immediate response to events.”

Catholic newspapers are on the forefront of the digital revolution and are progressing with changing times, Walter believes. Tradition still dictates content; only the method to disseminating the message has changed. “Our newspapers have a great desire to embrace all forms of technology and seem excited about it. The foundations of Catholic newspapers are still through print publication. Technology does not eradicate the paper.”



# A history lesson: greed, promiscuity scuttled an empire

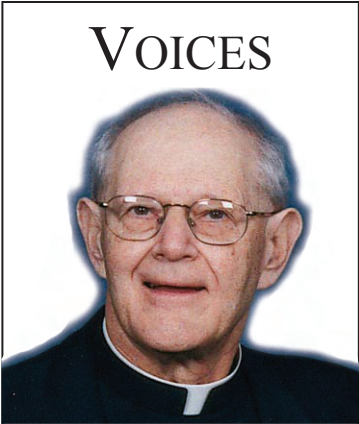
Recently I was reading some of the writings by a Roman poet and satirist named Juvenal (65 AD-130 AD). Not much is known about his life (he only left 16 writings), but he casts a sharp disapproving gaze on the foolishness of the life about him and with satire and a sharp wit, he makes fun of all that the Romans of his time hold dear—power, greed, fame, riches, long life, the vanity of physical beauty, pleasure and promiscuity. His satire (Number Ten) probably dates from 100 AD.

One of the most famous lines is on the state of Roman Society. “Already long ago, from the time when we sold our vote to no man, the people have abdicated our duties; for the people who once upon a time handed out military command, high office, legions. Everything now restrains itself and anxiously hopes for just two things, bread and circuses (*panem et circenses*).” He is referring to a grain dole that was handed out freely since 123 BC.

As Juvenal saw it, the great Roman Empire had deteriorated because the heart of the empire—the senate and people of Rome—had become soft, self-indulgent and morally degenerate. Originally, the republic had been a democracy wherein the elected senate held in check those who would lead Rome: the military; the patrician wealthy class; and the merchants. In the republic there was a mobility whereby even the Plebes could move up the social ladder and the outsiders could achieve citizenship.

There was, unfortunately, also slavery and cruelty. But almost everyone shared in the booty of Roman conquest. Originally, they were also a religious people. There were two major groups of priests with a high priest (*pontifex maximus*) over the various cults of gods and goddesses. This moral code reflected their roots in the early republic. Family meant everything. There were laws against adultery. Divorce among the common people was rare. The average Roman knew and followed the “Twelve Tables” that set the code of civil and religious law. They were similar to our Ten Commandments.

What happened? The Roman




By Rev. Msgr. John Gilchrist

Empire became wealthy. After Julius Caesar, a truly Roman man of the people, a long series of rulers carrying the title of “Augustus” began to rule. Life had become easy. Ultimately, the people relied upon “bread,” which included everything necessary for life, and “circuses,” entertainment to divert their minds in the arenas and theatres. At the end, Imperial Rome was even relying on foreign soldiers to fill the ranks of the formerly invincible Roman legions. Their sons were too soft to fight.

All empires have a beginning, a period of growth and stability, and finally they decline. As we gaze upon the United States we must honestly ask, “Are we in decline?” Has a reliance on government sapped the strength of the masses as it has in Europe? Has our culture become godless? (Twenty percent of the United States populace call themselves atheists.) The moral lives of our citizens seem to be exemplified by dishonesty in public office, criminality in the world of business, defiance of the natural law in social life by open profligate sexuality, broken marriages, 55 million abortions and a pursuit of pleasure in the possession of “things.” The easy life seems so sweet but it ultimately leads to grief and pain.

Eventually, Rome had become so decadent that its downfall was an inevitable consequence. Rome was sacked and destroyed in the year 410 by the Visigoths—a Germanic barbarian tribe led by a king named Alaric. It had taken time, but it had been a downhill moral slide from the glory of Rome to its destruction.

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Patrick is the best-selling author of 16 books and the host of four EWTN television and radio series, along with publishing the award-winning Envoy magazine. He has a bachelors in Philosophy and a masters in Theology. Patrick has been invit-ed by numerous bishops and priests to conduct hundreds of apologetics and evan-gelization conferences around the world.

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3:00 pm—Benediction and closing of Adoration  
\*\*\*\*\*  
7:00 pm— “Coffee style” Mission talk on Apologetics with Q & A session in the Parish Hall.  
Opportunity for Confession on last evening  
Mr. Madrid’s books, CD’s etc. will be available for purchase each session in the Parish Hall.



# Good Counsel remains steadfast in its pro-life advocacy mission

BY FR. ALEXANDER SANTORA  
*Special to The Catholic Advocate*

Last month, as we marked the 40th anniversary of Roe v Wade (Jan. 22), which legalized abortion, the debate between

pro-life and abortion advocates rages on. Pro-life supporters from the Archdiocese of Newark and throughout the country traveled to Washington D.C. to take part in the 40th annual “March for Life.” Abortion supporters often chal-

lenge pro-lifers to “feed” (what they claim would be) all the unwanted babies who would be born without abortion. However, that daunting task does not frighten Christopher Bell. In fact, Bell embraces it more than anybody as the founder and executive director of Good Counsel, a pro-life advocacy and support group established in 1985 and headquartered in Hoboken. The group also has an office at Our Lady of Grace and Saint Joseph Parish, 400 Willow Ave., Hoboken.

Bell said he does this work because “I cannot think of a greater evil than taking the life of a child in the womb.”

According to Good Counsel’s estimates, the group has provided 540,000 nights of shelter to nearly 6,000 women for nearly 30 years. And 840 babies have been born to mothers in their homes in the same period. Good Counsel operates



Submitted photo

Christopher Bell welcomes mother and child to Good Counsel. The organization’s national office is located at 411 Clinton St., Hoboken; phone: (201) 795-0637. To learn about the Lumina post-abortion counseling program, call (877) 586-4621. Good Counsel’s 24/7 helpline is (800) 723-8331.

five homes in the greater metropolitan area and has close to 100-percent occupancy rate, yet will always help a mother to find an emergency shelter.

Last year the organization counseled 6,400 individuals and

1,200 took life-skill classes. Good Counsel employs 55 full-time employees, but also relies on hundreds of volunteers. Mothers may remain in the home for up to one year after the baby is born. During this time, mothers prepare to go to school or find a job. The Good Counsel staff also assists the mothers with parenting skills and they share in the tasks at the home. Good Counsel’s latest program is called Lumina, which helps women heal after abortions through counseling and retreats.

The group tracks residents after they leave and claims that 75 percent were employed last year. Bell said that expectant mothers needed “encouragement” after they get kicked out of a home or apartment or lost a job. Additionally, the Good Counsel’s 24/7 helpline received 2,844 calls last year. More than 30,000 people have been helped through this service since it began in 1995.

Silvana Cowden, the office manager, has been with Good Counsel for 17 years. She focuses on fund-raising—\$4 million each year—to keep the homes and services going. It costs \$600,000 annually to operate a residence. Most of the funding comes from individual donations. Bell said Most Rev. John J. Myers has been personally generous since he has been the Archbishop of Newark.

Good Counsel’s next social event and fund-raiser is the “From the Heart” dinner dance, which will be held March 9 at The Metropolitan, 3 Pratt Blvd., Glen Cove, Long Island. Tickets are priced at \$200 per person. Call Cowden at (201) 795-0637 for reservations.

(Editor’s note: Fr. Alexander M. Santora is the pastor of Our Lady of Grace and Saint Joseph Parish, Hoboken.)

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# Hibernians to honor three luminaries at festive green dinner

MONTCLAIR—The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Michael L. Delahunty Division 9, will hold its 113th anniversary Saint Patrick's Day dinner and dance on Saturday, March 2, at Mayfair Farms, 481 Eagle Rock Ave, West Orange.

Cocktail hour will begin at 6:30 p.m. An open bar, featuring beer and wine, will be available throughout the evening.

The Eamonn Ryan Showband will provide entertainment for the event. Sean O'Neill, Patrick Millar and Robert P. Lynch will be honored for their accomplishments and contributions to the New Jersey Irish-American community.

Tickets for the event are priced at \$90 per person. Call Michael Clifford at (973) 271-8146 or Jim Fallon at (201) 245-2267 for reservations. The organization also will print a souvenir journal to mark the festive occasion and there will be a silent auction of prizes.

O'Neill is a past president of the Ironbound Irish American Association and served as the 2006 grand marshal of the Nutley Saint Patrick's Day Parade. Millar is serving in his third year as president of the Belleville Irish American Association. Lynch is a past

president of AOH Michael L. Delahunty Division 9 and was honored as a recipient of the Newark Saint Patrick's Day parade committee's Irish Heritage Award for "Businessman of the Year."

The Michael L. Delahunty Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians was founded in 1900 to foster charitable community work and Irish-American activities in Essex County.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians, a Catholic, Irish-American fraternal organization, was founded at Saint James Parish, New York, on May 4, 1836. The order can trace its roots back to societies that existed in Ireland for more than 300 years.

The dictionary defines the term "hibernian" as a native or inhabitant of Ireland or something that is related to or characteristic of the Irish culture. Popular usage of the word dates back to the 1630s. "Hibernia" is derived from the classical Latin name for the island of Ireland and is believed to have roots in Roman and Greek terminology. According to information found online, the original meaning of the name was translated as "abundant land."



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Sean O'Neill



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## Knights Council 5427 plans gala gathering on March 16

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP—The Knights of Columbus, Mother Seton Council No. 5427, is hosting its annual Saint Patrick's Day Dinner Dance on Saturday, March 16, from 7 to 11 p.m. at its council hall located at 79 Pascack Road.

Dinner includes traditional corned beef and cabbage, dessert and coffee, along with an open bar.

Entertainment for the event features The Patsy McLaughlin Irish Dancers; bagpiper Dan Boyce; and music from Sound Illusions, providing a mix of dance and sing-along Irish tunes.

Paid-in-advance reservations are required as seating is limited. The deadline to purchase tickets, priced at \$40 per person, is March 9. Call Jim Dugan at (201) 666-3425 or Paul Kearney at (201) 263-9229 to make reservations. Dugan and Kearney serve as the co-chairmen for the gathering.

Founded in 1882 at Saint Mary's Church in New Haven, CT, by Father Michael J. McGivney, the Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic, family, fraternal, service organization with over 1.8 million members in 13,700 local councils. Last year individual Knights spent 69 million hours of volunteer community service and donated \$151 million in contributions to charitable causes.

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# Jersey City was a hub for the Underground Railroad

*(Editor's note: The following report draws from a collection of articles on the Underground Railroad in Jersey City. The information is presented here to uncover footprints of the Abolitionist movement of the 1800s within the geographic confines of the Archdiocese of Newark. Editor Michael C. Gabriele gathered excerpts of articles from the following sources: Christopher Zinsli, Jersey City Magazine editor of the Hudson Reporter; Jersey City author Anthony Olszewski; and information posted on the Web site "Jersey City: Past and Present," sponsored by New Jersey City University—Dr. Carmela A. Karnoutsos and Patrick Shalhoub. The Catholic Advocate is most grateful for the use of this material.)*

The story of New Jersey's role in The Underground Railroad is a chapter of history that dates back more than 170 years. Set against the backdrop of the celebration of Black History Month, it's a story of social justice that extends to people of all faiths as part of the movement that fought against the institution of slavery. From the perspective of the Archdiocese of Newark, it's a story worth recalling as it's tied to the early history of Jersey City.

The Underground Railroad was part of the Abolitionist movement—a network of individuals and organizations that operated during the early to mid-1800s and helped fugitive slaves escape to the North and to Canada. In the early 1830s, the term "Underground Railroad" was coined to describe the secret escape routes, with "depots, stations" and safe houses along the

way. Neither underground nor an actual railway, the Underground Railroad ran throughout the nation, stopping wherever there was someone willing to provide assistance to runaway slaves.

During the "antebellum era" (the period prior to the Civil War), its estimated that more than 50,000 fugitive slaves passed through Jersey City. They traveled from as far as Virginia, North and South Carolina, and Maryland or crossed the Delaware River from Pennsylvania.

Some came from Newark and used the Belleville Turnpike to get to Jersey City. Once the fugitive slaves reached Jersey City, they moved on to Canada or New York. From Five Corners (Newark and Summit avenues), they were taken to the waterfront. There, and at the Morris Canal basin, abolitionists hired boats to take the fleeing slaves across the Hudson River to New York. The boats arrived at the Hudson River Passenger Station at the corner of Church and Chambers Streets in New York City."

Even though Jersey City was a critical link in the Underground

Railroad movement, New Jersey remained a slave state even after other Northern states had abolished slavery. Northern New Jersey was considered a dangerous place for runaways, particularly after the passage in 1850 of the Fugitive Slave Act, which made aiding a runaway slave a criminal offense. However, abolitionism did find its voice in Jersey City during the 1850s. Perhaps the best-known abolitionist was David L. Holden, who owned a "safe house" at 79 Clifton Pl., which hid fugitive slaves. As an amateur astronomer, Holden had an observatory on the roof of the house from which he received signals for the movement of the slaves he sequestered in his home.

President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation on Jan. 1, 1863, during the middle of the Civil War, ended the need—at least legally and officially—for the Underground Railroad. The proclamation declared all persons held as slaves within the rebellious states "are, and henceforward shall be free."

## President Abraham Lincoln arrives in Jersey City

On the morning of Thursday, Feb. 21, 1861, Abraham Lincoln arrived in Jersey City. President-elect Lincoln was travelling by special train to the inauguration in Washington DC. The journey began at Lincoln's hometown of Springfield, IL, on the day before his 52nd birthday and ended at the nation's capital two weeks later.

Lincoln and his party were



Photo courtesy of Patrick Shalhoub

The most famous of the Jersey City "safe houses" for the Underground Railroad is the Hilton-Holden House, previously known as Holden Mansion, which still stands today at 79 Clifton Pl. It was built in 1854 by David Le Cain Holden, a banker and amateur astronomer. The house is a four-story frame, 18-room building. The cellar of the mansion provided refuge to fugitive slaves traveling on the Underground Railroad. Holden served as an alderman under John Hilton, the first mayor of Bergen (Jersey City). Holden's daughter married the son of Mayor Hilton, eventually leading to the renaming of the house for the two families.

brought to the passenger depot of the New Jersey Railroad and Transportation Co., located just north of Montgomery Street at Hudson Street. Even though it was early morning, the station was filled to capacity. Lincoln ascended to a platform car converted to a stage. People filled the galleries and the surrounding streets. Everywhere could be seen

the waving of American flags and red, white and blue bunting.

Local newspapers throughout the antebellum era were pro-slavery. Prior to the 1860 presidential election, they had opposed the candidacy of Abraham Lincoln. The publications described abolitionists as "dangerous radicals" and "separatists." Despite the editorial policies of the newspapers, an estimated 25,000 people cheered for Lincoln that day, conveying to him where the citizens of Jersey City stood on the issue of keeping the nation united.

Overcome by the applause, Lincoln addressed the enthusiastic crowd. "Ladies and gentlemen, I shall only thank you for this very kind and cordial reception, given not to me, personally, but to the temporary representative of the chief magistracy of the nation."

Four years later, a throng again assembled in Jersey City to meet Abraham Lincoln, but this time silence replaced the cheers. They saw his coffin carried through the same terminal where he was cheered in 1861. As the Civil War was drawing to a close, Lincoln was assassinated on Good Friday, April 14, 1865, at Ford's Theater in Washington DC and he died the next morning.

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# LENTEN Retreats & Shrines

## Men, women evangelization gatherings set for March

BY WARD MIELE  
Managing Editor

[www.rcanmenscommission.org](http://www.rcanmenscommission.org)  
<http://www.rcan.org/womcom>

With emphasis on the worldwide Year of Faith celebration, powerful and spiritually uplifting speakers will be featured at next month's annual Catholic Men's Conference and Women's Day of Reflection. Declared by Pope Benedict XVI in his apostolic letter *"Porta Fidei"* (Door of Faith), the Year of Faith began Oct. 11, 2012 and ends Nov. 24.

Archbishop John J. Myers will celebrate Mass at both Saturday gatherings. The Men's Conference takes place March 2 and the Women's Day of Reflection a week later on March 9. Once again, the site for both events is the South Orange campus of Seton Hall University.

Concern over the logistics involved with expansion construction work under way at the field house has prompted organizers to issue a special plea for early on-line registration. A head count as early as possible is vital to the smooth operation of both events.

"We need to know how many men will be attending as soon as possible in order to properly prepare for the flow of people registering on March 2, have the right amount of food on hand and for arranging confessions," Jorge Repollet, men's commission chairman, said.

Both events begin at 8 a.m. with the Men's Conference ending at 4 p.m. and the Day of Reflection at 5 p.m. Registrations begin at 8 a.m. A continental breakfast and lunch are included. 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. In addition to the preferred online registration, an alternative is to call (973) 497-4545.

Repollet made special mention of two changes from previous conferences. The Holy Hour will now take place from

2 to 3 p.m. followed immediately by Mass.

Pamela Swartzberg, women's commission chairperson, noted her group "looks forward to welcoming the women of the Archdiocese of Newark and beyond to our annual Day of Reflection." Stressing the significance of the Year of Faith, Swartzberg added "we will encourage women to fulfill their unique role in the New Evangelization." Blessed John Paul II, she noted, said "each be-

liever in Christ has the supreme duty to proclaim Christ to all peoples."

Swartzberg said that "as women we have been created in a special way to do this, as women of the New Evangelization, we find our vocation and mission in using the beauty bestowed on us in our creation to profess the faith in fullness with renewed conviction, with confidence and hope." With the Blessed Mother as a model, "we will emulate her joy and humility in prayer. As women

of faith confident in the Blessed Mother's guidance, we will rediscover our joy in believing and go out into our communities to evangelize with joy in this Year of Faith." The theme for this year's Day of Reflection is "Rediscover the Joy of Believing."

Repollet too cited the focus on the yearlong Year of Faith celebration. Underlining the theme of this year's conference "We Walk by Faith," he said the March 2 gathering will be among the "most important evangelization efforts during this 'Year of Faith.' This is one of the premiere opportunities for Evangelization in this Archdiocese, and during this Year of Faith, we are making a special

effort to be present to the people of this local Church as they seek to deepen their relationship with Our Lord Jesus Christ."

Father Thomas Dente, director of the Office of Divine Worship, echoed those sentiments commenting that the Year of Faith is "a golden opportunity for all of us to take a new step forward in our relationship with Christ through the Church. 'We Walk by Faith' reminds us that we can do nothing without our belief in God to guide us, comfort us and sustain us. Let us respond to the Holy Father's call to make this a powerful Year of Faith in which we all grow closer to God and His

Continued on page 10

### Looking for More this Lent?

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#### Lent and Easter Retreats

**Ash Wednesday Day of Reflection**  
Wed., Feb. 13 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Women Afire** Fri., Mar. 8-Sun., Mar. 10

**RCIA Lenten Retreat** Sat., Mar. 23 - For men and women elect and candidates, godparents, sponsors and RCIA teams.

**Traditional Men's Retreats During Lent:**

Feb. 15-17  
Feb. 22-24  
Mar. 1-3  
Mar. 8-10  
Mar. 15-17  
Mar. 22-24  
Mar. 28-30

**Traditional Women's Retreats During Lent:**

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#### Upcoming Retreats

**Retrouvaille Retreat for Married Couples**  
Fri., Feb. 8 - Sun., Feb. 10

**Valentine Evening of Reflection for Couples**  
Sun., Feb. 10. Elegant candlelight dinner, inspirational talk by Fr. Chris Walsh, and Mass with renewal of vows for married couples.

**Retreat to Support the Unemployed and Underemployed - and Their Loved Ones**  
Sun., Feb. 17 from 2:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.  
Free retreat; babysitting provided

**In His Sign - 6th Annual Healing Retreat**  
Fri., May 31-Sun., Jun. 2

**Eileen George Healing Retreat**  
Mon., Jul. 8-Fri., Jul. 12

**Benedicta Leadership Institute for Women**  
Thurs., Jul. 11-Fri., Jul. 12 with Johnnette Benkovic of EWTN

**Women of Grace 7th Annual Retreat**  
Fri., Jul. 12-Sun., Jul. 14. Join EWTN's Johnnette Benkovic with Fr. Philip Scott

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# Gatherings

Continued from page 9

Church and live as witnesses to Christ, drawing others into His wondrous light.”

In writing recently to his fellow clergy, Deacon Tim Kennedy, pastoral associate at both Saint John the Apostle Parish in Clark/Linden and Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Scotch Plains, stated each year he “looks forward to meeting and praying with many great men of faith from our archdiocese and beyond. It is a time to build or rekindle friendships, to affirm one another and pray with and for each other, to support through prayer our families, our parishes, our priests and bishops and our great Archdiocese of Newark.”

Speakers at the Men’s Conference come from a cross section of the Catholic experience. Slated for the English track are Michael Barber, Ph.D., Thomas Smith and Richard Moore. Barber, a Research Fellow for the Saint Paul Center for Biblical Theology in Steubenville, OH will address the topic “Overcoming Temptations in the Wilderness: Jesus as the Model of Faith.” Barber is also a professor of Theology, Scripture and Catholic Thought at the University of San Diego. He is a

prolific author of books on Scripture.

A frequent guest on EWTN and Catholic radio, Smith is co-author of “Revelation: The Kingdom Yet to Come.” He is also an international presenter for “The Great Adventure Bible.” Smith does all this against a backdrop of his conversion to Catholicism from the Mormon faith. He will share with his audience the seven key characteristics for “fearlessly, faithfully and fruitfully sharing the Word to a world longing for Jesus.”

Blinded in 1972 on the way home from school in Northern Ireland at the age of 10 by a soldier who fired a rubber bullet at point-blank range, Moore has since forgiven his assailant and they have become good friends. He has received worldwide recognition for his effort at fighting poverty through his founding of Children in Crossfire in 1996.

Taking to the podium at the Spanish track at the Men’s Conference will be Ruben Quezada and Jose Prado Flores. Quezada is director of the Catholic Resource Center and Saint Joseph Communications, Inc. in Southern California. An expert on the persecution of the Catholic Church in Mexico, he is a worldwide speaker and author of “For Greater Glory: The True Story of Cristiada—The Cristero War and Mexico’s Struggle for

Religious Freedom.” Prado Flores is founder of the San Andres School of Evangelization.

English track speakers for the Day of Reflection are LifeNet project director Holly Wright and Kelly Wahlquist, assistant director of the Evangelization and Development Office for Parish Evangelization for the Association of Marian Helpers in Stockbridge, MA.

LifeNet is a Garden State-based non-profit educational organization dedicated to bringing the truth about abortion to the public while promoting chastity as part of a multi-pronged mission of ending abortion and protecting the unborn. Wright spent seven years as a Catechetical Leader and youth minister at Saint Cecilia Parish in Kearny. She currently serves as director of Casa Guadalupe, a house of discernment and healing for women.

Wahlquist is also program manager for the Archbishop Harry J. Flynn Catechetical Institute, an ongoing Catholic formation resource. The program serves Catholic adults in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. In addition she is a contributing writer for “The Integrated Catholic Life,” an online magazine about faith, family life and work. Her blog is entitled Hearts Afire. Wahlquist writes too for CatholicMom.com. She is



Thomas Smith

pursuing a Masters in Sacred Scripture at the Augustine Institute in Denver.

Spanish track speakers include Martha Fernandez-Sardina, director of the Office of Evangelization for the Archdiocese of San Antonio, TX and a familiar face, Yamilka Genao, associate director of Hispanic Family Life Ministries for the Archdiocese of Newark.

Fernandez-Sardina has over two decades experience in youth and young adult ministries as well as in planning and speaking at conferences, retreats, prayer workshops and parish missions, forming evangelization teams and developing and training outreach programs. Before moving to Texas, Fernandez-Sardina



Yamilka Genao

worked in Washington, D.C. for 11 years as director of the Office of Evangelization for the Archdiocese of Washington.

Genao has extensive experience in evangelization. In her position with the local Church she says her “motto and goal is raising up a Christ-exalting, God-glorifying Hispanic Family generation which is in turn equipped and inspired to raise up many such generations to come.” Genao is a professor at the School of Evangelization Juan Pablo II in the Diocese of Brooklyn. She is an active member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Ridgewood and is enrolled in the master’s degree program in Pastoral Ministry at Seton Hall University.

## The Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry Present in a Special Series for the Year of Faith

# Tony Melendez and the Toe Jam Band!

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St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 60 Byrd Street, Bloomfield

**Tuesday March 5th in UNION COUNTY  
with Bishop Marconi**

St. Theresa Church, 541 Washington Ave, Kenilworth

**Wednesday March 6th in BERGEN COUNTY  
with Bishop Flesey**

Our Lady of the Visitation, 234 Fairview Ave, Paramus

**Thursday March 7th in HUDSON COUNTY  
with Bishop Donato**

Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center Gym, 499 Belgrove Drive, Kearny



◆ These nights are open to all Athletic Teams, Scouting, Middle/High School Youth Ministry and Religious Education Programs and their teens and families, High School and College Campus Ministry Groups and Young Adults.



Tony Melendez is a popular speaker and performer and has performed for Popes, Presidents and appeared at past World Youth Days and National Conferences around the country. Tony was born without arms, due to a drug his mom was prescribed during her pregnancy, Tony learned to play the guitar with his feet! Tony was one of the Keynote Speakers at the 2007 National Catholic Youth Conference, speaking in front of over 20,000 teens! Tony tours the world spreading God’s love with his band, the “Toe Jam Band.”

### Our Schedule For Each Night

7:00pm Venues opens - meet and greet with the Bishop and Guests  
7:35pm Welcome, Opening Prayer  
7:40pm Reflection on the Year of Faith led by our Bishop  
7:50pm Tony Melendez and the Toe Jam Band  
9:00pm Our Night Ends!

For more information on these nights please contact Rich Donovan, Associate Director at [donovari@rcan.org](mailto:donovari@rcan.org) or 201-998-0088 x 4150.



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# Kearny center slates workshops geared for teens, young adults

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE  
Editor

[www.newarkoym.org](http://www.newarkoym.org)

KEARNY—The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries will host a slate of retreats and workshops during the season of Lent and beyond, designed for teens and young adults. All events listed below will be held at the Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center, 499 Belgrove Drive.

The annual “Rejoice” retreat weekend will be held Friday, April 12 to Sunday, April 14, following the Church’s Easter celebration. Rejoice is geared for older teens and young adults. The weekend retreat features musical programs, workshops and break-out group sessions, inspirational speakers, daily Mass, recitation of the rosary, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Catholic fellowship and Eucharistic adoration.

“Voices That Challenge,” Thursday, Feb. 28, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., is open to Catholic high school students. This retreat is designed to give teens a chance to examine issues of social justice and learn about current events around the world. The day will consist of a keynote address, workshops, lunch and a wrap-up session with discussion groups.

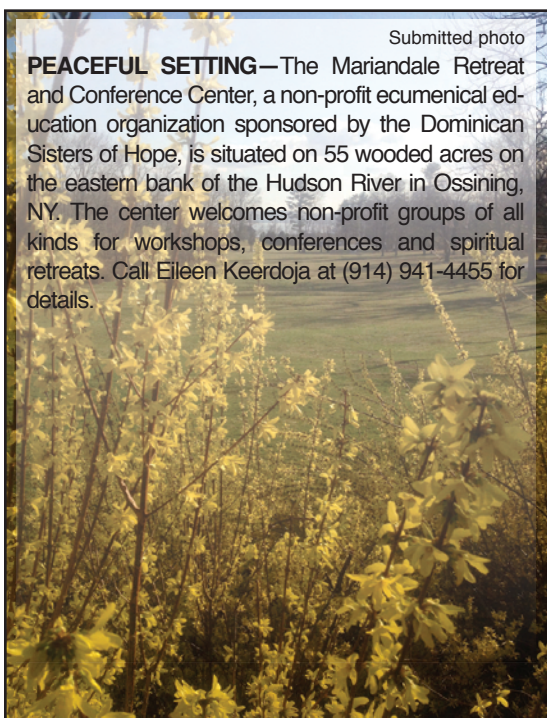
“Evangelizing Youth—Engaging a New Generation of Disciples,” will be held Thursday, March 14, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. The workshop, presented by the Center for Ministry Development, will deal with discipleship building for those young adults interested in serving as leaders for the Church’s “New Evangelization” movement.

“Youthfest,” the bi-annual rally, is slated for Sunday, April 28, with music, guest speakers, Mass and workshop sessions.

Tom Conboy is the director of the archdiocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry; Rich Donovan is the associate director and Brian Caldwell

is the director for retreats and spirituality. Rev. Msgr. Richard J. Arnholts, archdiocesan vicar for pastoral life, oversees the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

Contact: Donovan (201-998-0088, ext 4150; donovari@rcan.org) or Caldwell (201-998-0088, ext 4153, caldwebr@rcan.org) for more information on the retreats and workshops, or visit the Web site, posted above.



Submitted photo

**PEACEFUL SETTING**—The Mariandale Retreat and Conference Center, a non-profit ecumenical education organization sponsored by the Dominican Sisters of Hope, is situated on 55 wooded acres on the eastern bank of the Hudson River in Ossining, NY. The center welcomes non-profit groups of all kinds for workshops, conferences and spiritual retreats. Call Eileen Keerdoja at (914) 941-4455 for details.

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<b>FRANCE</b> <i>Lourdes, Lisieux, Normandy, Paris</i>	JULY 7-16	REVEREND BOB COLARESI, O.CARM.
<b>HOLY LAND</b> <i>The Holy Land; The Fifth Gospel</i>	APRIL 1-9	REVEREND JOHN MADRID & JAN FIGENSHU
<i>The Holy Land; The Fifth Gospel</i>	APRIL 29-MAY 7	MOST REVEREND ARTHUR J. SERRATELLI
<b>IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE POPES</b> <i>(Benedict in Germany &amp; John Paul III in Poland)</i>	OCTOBER 15-24	REVEREND PETER FUNESTI/JOHN GABRIEL/JAMES WEINER/MANNY RIOS
<b>IRELAND</b>	SEPT. 29-OCT. 9	REVEREND COLIN KAY
<b>ITALY &amp; SWITZERLAND</b>	APRIL 15-26	REVEREND DAVID MC DONNELL
<b>POLAND</b>	OCTOBER 19-26	REVEREND PATRICK RICE
<b>SPAIN</b> <i>Madrid, Segovia, Avila, Salamanca, Seville, Granada, Toledo</i>	APRIL 7-19	REVEREND BOB COLARESI, O.CARM.
<i>Santiago de Compostela, Salamanca, Avila, Madrid, Toledo</i>	SEPT. 26-OCT. 5	REVEREND BRIAN PLATE
<b>SPAIN &amp; PORTUGAL</b> <i>Barcelona, Lisbon, Fatima, Oporto</i>	OCTOBER 7-17	REVEREND CHARLES PERRICONE

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## Mariandale Retreat & Conference CENTER

Preview  
Summer  
Retreats  
Save the Dates!

### JUNE

#### Artists' Contemplative Retreat

Coordinator: Lucianne Siers, OP  
Thursday, June 6 – Thursday, June 13  
Fee: \$475 – \$500 (as you are able)

#### Seasons of the Heart: Embracing Life's Changes

Presenters: Gaynell Cronin and Jack Rathschmidt, OFM Cap.  
Sunday, June 16 – Friday, June 21  
Fee: \$400 – \$425 (as you are able)

#### Adult Faith Development in the 21st Century

Presenter: Diarmuid O'Murchu, MSC  
Friday, June 21 – Sunday, June 23  
Limited space; register early!  
Fee: \$325 – \$350 (as you are able); Commuter: \$225 – \$250 (as you are able)

#### Healing the Hole in the Heart

Presenter: Don Bisson, FMS, D.Min  
Thursday, June 27 – Sunday, June 30  
Fee: \$325 – \$350 (as you are able); Commuter: \$225 – \$250 (as you are able)

#### Directed Retreat

Directors: Aedan McKeon, OP; Elizabeth Anne DiPippo, SU; Nancy Ertz, OP and Judy Schiavo  
Sunday, June 30 – Saturday, July 6  
Fee: \$450 – \$475 (as you are able)

### JULY

#### Crafters' and Quilters' Retreat: Leaf Your Worries, Come on Get Happy

Prayer Facilitator: Nancy Ertz, OP  
Craft Instructor: Patricia Werner  
Wednesday, July 10 – Sunday, July 14  
Fee: \$350 – \$375 (as you are able); Commuters: \$250 – \$275 (as you are able)

#### Discovering a New Window of Opportunity

Presenter: Beverly Musgrave, Ph.D.  
Sunday, July 14 – Friday, July 19  
Fee: \$400 – \$425 (as you are able)

#### Directed Retreat

Directors: Ned Coughlin, SJ; Nancy Ertz, OP; Rose Marie Harkins, OP and Judy Schiavo  
Sunday, July 21 – Saturday, July 27  
Fee: \$450 – \$475 (as you are able)

#### Directed Retreat

Directors: Dianne Carlson, RSM; Mary Kay Flannery, SSJ; Francis Gargani, CSSR; Justine Lyons, RSCJ; Beverly Musgrave, Ph.D.; Honora Nicholson, RSM; Nancy Pluta and Anne L. Simmonds, D.Min  
Sunday, July 28 – Sunday, August 4  
Fee: \$500 – \$525 (as you are able)

### AUGUST

#### The Healing Power of Christian Virtue

Presenter: Michael Laratonda, FMS  
Sunday, August 4 – Saturday, August 10  
Fee: \$450 – \$475 (as you are able)

#### Pausing to Grow in Awareness

Presenter: James Friedel, OSA  
Sunday, August 11 – Friday, August 16  
Fee: \$400 – \$425 (as you are able)

#### Becoming Earth-Wise: Through the Books of Nature and Scripture

Presenters: Carol DeAngelo, SC and Nancy Ertz, OP  
Sunday, August 18 – Friday, August 23  
Special Fee: \$325 – \$350 (as you are able)



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# Deaf priest from Boston to address March 9 DeaFest

BY WARD MIELE  
Managing Editor

NEWARK—Incorporating the Church's celebration of the Year of Faith, the third annual New Jersey Catholic DeaFest on Saturday, March 9 will continue ongoing efforts to, as Deacon Tom Smith, C.S.W., director of

the archdiocesan Pastoral Ministry of the Deaf sees it, "make the Church more welcoming and relevant to Deaf Catholics."

The statewide event—to be held at Saint David the King Parish in Princeton Junction, part of the Diocese of Trenton—is sponsored by the Deaf Ministries of all five dioceses in the Garden

[www.deafcatholicnj.net](http://www.deafcatholicnj.net)

State. Echoing the spirit of the worldwide Year of Faith, the theme of Catholic DeaFest is "Growing Strong in Our Faith."

Highlighting this year's event will be the keynote speaker, Father Shawn Carey from the Archdiocese of Boston, one of only 11 Deaf priests in the United States. Ordained four years ago, Fr. Carey ministers with both the Deaf and the Hearing in the Boston area. He will share reflections on a Deaf person's faith journey through the perspective of the Year of Faith.

DeaFest begins at 9 a.m. Fr. Carey will make his presentation from 10 to 10:45 a.m. Lunch follows from noon to 1 p.m. Two other speakers follow at 1:15 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Fr. Carey will end the day celebrating Mass at 4 p.m. Father Pedro Bismark Chau, with the Archdiocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, will be one of the concelebrants, along with all the signing priests from the other New Jersey dioceses. Fr. Chau is fluent in American Sign Language (ASL) and also serves as archdiocesan chaplain for the Deaf.

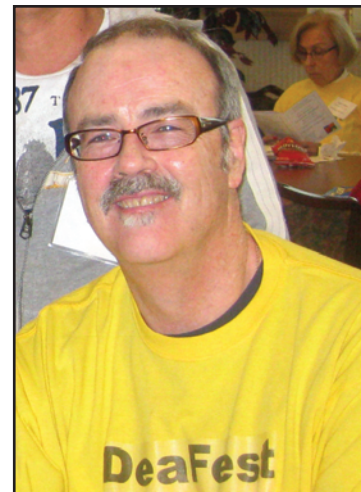
Fr. Chau called Fr. Carey "a great witness" for the Deaf. Reflecting sentiments expressed by Deacon Smith, Fr. Chau underlined the importance of Catholics from the Deaf community getting together socially and becoming

"visible." DeaFest, he continued, is the powerful opportunity for Deaf Catholics to "proclaim their faith together as one and to enhance their spiritual growth."

"There is a growing need for reconciliation with the Church," Deacon Smith said, regarding spiritual outreach to the Deaf. It's vital, he continued, "for Deaf Catholics of the state and surrounding areas to come together once a year socially, since socialization is very important part of Deaf culture." The Church should acknowledge the contributions of Deaf Catholics to the life and mission of the Church, Deacon Smith added.

The first speaker at the March 9 event will address a topic of particular relevance to the Deaf community. Annmarie Buraczeski, preparedness coordinator from the New Jersey Department of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and a Certified Community Response team member, will speak on emergency preparedness in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. Such information, Deacon Smith explained, is vital since the Deaf are particularly vulnerable during any kind of emergency.

As an example he noted that news bulletins during an emergency are not close-captioned resulting in Deaf people being "left out from obtaining vital informa-



Deacon Tom Smith

tion," such as how to get FEMA assistance. It is, he lamented, another example of "the isolation of deafness." Buraczeski is also a member of the New Jersey Association of the Deaf.

The second speaker, Peter Noyes, will address the topic "Leadership and Faith." Noyes, from the Washington, DC area, is a former president of the International Deaf Association.

March 1 is the registration deadline. Registration forms may be mailed to Pat Langon, 348 Lafayette Ave., Trenton, NJ 08610. Langon's telephone numbers are (voice) (609) 393-0270 and (VP) (856) 283-3962. The e-mail address for registration is CatholicDeafest@gmail.com.

Catholic DeaFest joins several other faith-based initiatives for the Deaf including the annual Catholic Deaf Retreat and regularly scheduled American Sign Language Mass celebrated each Sunday at 1 p.m. at Newark's Saint John Parish, 22 Mulberry St.

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## Voices

Continued from page 5

However, a small group from a new religion called Christians had arrived on the scene. They were hated and persecuted because of their faith. Their morality was a reproach to Rome's degeneracy. Yet, their goodness began to permeate the Roman world. So as Imperial Rome decayed and disappeared, a new world was born—a Christian society that flourished in the Middle Ages.

Today, one can only wonder if the glory of America is fatally tarnished. Must this nation pass through a "dark age" and follow the path of so many other great nations? Or will a small band of believers stay the hand of God? The future will tell the story.



## February 23

**THE COUNCIL OF IRISH ASSOCIATIONS OF GREATER BERGEN COUNTY**, 32nd Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade Installation Dance, at the Gray-cliff, Moonachie, 8 p.m., cost: \$50, call Quentin Kennedy at (201) 784-9626 or Eileen Swift at (201) 568-6654.

**SAINT DOMINIC ACADEMY (SDA)**, Jersey City, which plans to offer a seventh and eighth grade with the new school year, mandatory entrance exam, for additional information visit the school's Web site at [www.stdominicacad.com](http://www.stdominicacad.com).

## February 24

**IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY PARISH**, Scotch Plains, "Two Kingdoms and Divided Self" parish mission, presented by Father Richard HoLung, M.O.P., through Feb. 26, 7-9 p.m., (908) 889-2100.

## March 1

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH**, Bloomfield, Alliance of the Two Hearts, Reparation Vigil, through March 2, 7:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., (973) 338-9190.

**MOTHER SETON REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**, Clark, "Malt Shop Memories" gift auction, doors open at 6 p.m., calling at 7:30 p.m., advance tickets only, cost: \$15, (908) 468-0422.

## March 2

**THE SODALITY OF THE CHILDREN OF MARY OF ST. TERESA**, Jersey City, gather at 8:45 a.m. for Mass at St. Peter's Hall Chapel, followed by monthly meeting and breakfast, call Katherine T. Crossan at (201) 689-1471.

**MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS PARISH**, Wallington, "White Ele-

phant (Rummage) Sale," 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., call Carol at (201) 935-0273 or Pat at (201) 438-0636.

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH**, Mahwah, St. Patrick Dinner Dance, 6:30-11 p.m., cost: \$45, (201) 327-1267.

## March 5

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 3428**, North Arlington, bus trip to Mount Airy Casino, PA, departing from parking lot at 10:30 a.m., will return at approximately 7:30 p.m., cost: \$32, call Nicholas Cerchio at (201) 230-3428.

## March 6

**HOLY SPIRIT PARISH**, Union, bereavement support group, for eight consecutive Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., (908) 687-3327.

**HOLY SPIRIT PARISH**, Union, Holy Hour for Life, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m., for information call Jim at (908) 451-0876 or e-mail [jsondey@comcast.net](mailto:jsondey@comcast.net).

## March 8

**BENEDICTINE SISTERS**, Elizabeth, vocation discernment retreat, through March 10, call Sister Mariette Therese Bernier, O.S.B., at (908) 352-4278 ext. 274 or e-mail [SrMariette@aol.com](mailto:SrMariette@aol.com).

**FELICIAN COLLEGE**, Lodi, annual auction and dinner, at Il Villaggio, Carlstadt, 6 p.m., cost: \$75, call Lori Walker at (201) 355-1308.

## March 9

**ACADEMY OF OUR LADY**, Glen Rock, Irish Pub Night, featuring Celtic Cross Irish Band, 7-11:30 p.m., cost: \$50, must be 21 and over, RSVP by March 1, visit

[www.academyofourlady.org](http://www.academyofourlady.org) to download the form or call (201) 445-0622.

## March 10

**ST. CATHERINE PARISH**, Glen Rock, "Conversion of the Spirit" parish mission, preached by Father Tom Donaldson, C.Ss.R., through March 12, 7:30 p.m., call Annette Gallagher at (201) 612-4660.

**ST. JOSEPH OF THE PALISADES PARISH**, West New York, "The Way of the Cross," presented by the Franciscan Mystery Players, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel, North Bergen, 4 p.m., (201) 854-7006.

## March 13

**RESPECT LIFE OFFICE**, Archdiocese of Newark, Our Lady's Prayer Vigil for Life, at St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Parish, Linden, 7 p.m., (732) 388-8211.

## March 15

**SACRED HEART SCHOOL**, Lyndhurst, annual spring auction, cost: \$10, RSVP by March 8, call Patty at (201) 803-9580 or the school at (201) 939-4277.

## March 16

**MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS PARISH**, Wallington, rice cake and butter lamb sale, 12-5 p.m., cost: rice cake-\$5 per lb, \$30 for whole cake; butter lambs-\$5 each, advance order by March 2, call Ginny Topolski at (201) 715-2087 or MaryJane Kowalczyk at (201) 939-8576.



Submitted photo

**CELEBRATING A FEAST AND AN ANNIVERSARY**—Archbishop John J. Myers (center) visited Our Lady of Lourdes, 300 Central Ave., Mountainside on Feb. 9 to concelebrate 5 p.m. Mass for the Patronal Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and commemorate the 13th anniversary of the Union County parish's perpetual adoration chapel. Pictured with the archbishop are Irene Ciccario (left), adoration chapel coordinator, and Very Rev. John M. McCrone, V.F., pastor of the Mountainside parish, which was founded in 1958. "It's always nice when Archbishop Myers can celebrate with us. It's an honor for us to have him here," Fr. McCrone said, noting that the Feb. 9 snow-storm failed to dampen the spirit of the faith community. "The archbishop reminded us of the importance of our adoration chapel," Fr. McCrone said, recalling Archbishop Myers' homily. "He told us the chapel is a blessing to the parish and to the archdiocese as whole."

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 5427**, Washington Township, St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance, featuring Patsy McLaughlin Irish Dancers, 7-11 p.m., cost: \$40, RSVP by March 9, call Jim at (201) 666-3425 or Paul at (201) 263-9229.

**SS. PETER AND PAUL PARISH**, Hoboken, Holy Hour, Fridays during Lent, 11 a.m., (201) 659-2276.

**THE IGNATIAN VOLUNTEER CORPS** will hold information sessions at the Archdiocesan Center, Newark, March 12, Apr. 16, May 14 and June 11 from 11 a.m. - noon. The Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) is an opportunity for adult men and women 50+ to share their life skills and wisdom in direct service to the economically poor and marginalized. Call Nancy Gordon at (201) 410-4615 or [gordonnc@hotmail.com](mailto:gordonnc@hotmail.com).

## Other

**ST. JOSEPH'S HOME FOR THE ELDERLY**, Totowa, Divine Mercy Holy Hours, Fridays during Lent, 6:30-7:30 p.m., (973) 942-0300 or (917) 921-6476.

# Business, labor reception to honor Creamer, Lalevee

**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.

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, ext. 4154 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, 499 Belgrove Dr., Kearny.

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.

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



Submitted photo

**HOOPS FOR HEART**—Students at Mother Seton Regional High School, Clark, recently participated in the fourth annual "Hoops for Heart" program on Feb. 11. Students from all grade levels took part in fun athletic events and activities, designed to demonstrate the lifelong benefits of exercise and heart-healthy diets. Jennifer Korneski (bottom row, left), a member of the school's physical and health education department, led the Mother Seton students. Heather Lopardo (bottom row, right), regional director for Hoops for Heart, attended the event and thanked the students for their support and interest in promoting healthy lifestyles. A total of \$759 was raised in donations for the American Heart Association.



## Father Bernard Lickteig, 91

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Dec. 3 at Saint John the Baptist Parish, Greeley, KS, for Father Bernard Lickteig, O.Carm., 91, who died Nov. 26.

Born Fabian Phillip Lickteig, he joined the Carmelites and received the habit Aug. 14, 1939, taking the religious name Bernard. After three years in Texas, he served as pastor of Saint Cecilia Parish, Englewood.

During his time at Saint Cecilia Parish, Fr. Lickteig was elected as second councilor for the Most Pure Heart of Mary Province, an office he held for the next three years. After nine years as pastor, he moved to Phoenix.

In 1978, he returned to New Jersey and became pastor of Saint Therese Parish, Cresskill. During his ministry, he served throughout Illinois, Massachusetts, Arizona, Texas and Kansas.

## Sister Maureen Delaney, O.P.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Jan. 8 at Mount Saint Mary College, Newburgh, NY, for Sister Maureen Delaney, O.P., 81, who died Jan. 4. Sr. Maureen worked at several schools in the Archdiocese of Newark.

Sr. Maureen entered the novitiate of the Dominican Sisters of Newburgh in September 1949, made her first profession in June 1951, and final profession in August 1954.




She attended Villanova University, PA, and earned her master's degree from Wesleyan University, OH.

Her assignments in the Archdiocese of Newark included: Saint Paul School, Jersey City (1951-1955); Science High School, Newark (1979-1993); and at the Academy of the Sacred Heart, Hoboken (1994-2001).

Along with working at archdiocesan schools, Sr. Maureen was program assistant in the early intervention program at Saint Joseph Children's Hospital, Paterson. In addition to her regular ministry, she volunteered in a soup kitchen, tutoring program and church youth group in various locations throughout the state.

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### Novenas

#### PRAYER TO ST. CLAIRE

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

M.L.

#### PRAYER TO THE HOLY FAMILY

Lord Jesus Christ, being subject to Mary and Joseph, You sanctified family life by Your beautiful virtues. Grant that we, with the help of Mary and Joseph, may be taught by the example of Your holy Family, and may after death enjoy its everlasting companionship. Lord Jesus, help us ever to follow the example of Your holy Family, that in the hour of our death Your glorious Virgin Mother together with Saint Joseph may come to meet us, and we may be worthy to be received by You into the everlasting joys of heaven. You live and reign forever. Amen. Prayer to be published in gratitude.

R.C.

#### PRAYER TO ST. LUCY

Saint Lucy, Whose beautiful name Signifies light. By the light of faith which God bestowed upon you, Increase and preserve His light in my soul, So that I may avoid evil, be zealous in the performance of good works, and abhor nothing so much as the blindness and the darkness of evil and sin. Obtain for me, by your intercessory with God, perfect vision, for my bodily eyes and the grace to use them. For God's greater honor and glory and the salvation of souls. St. Lucy Virgin and martyr, here my prayers and obtain my petitions Amen. Prayer to be published in gratitude.

R.C.

#### 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.

J.G.

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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.



# Lent lessons: Young trio puts faith into practice

BY MELISSA MCNALLY  
Staff Writer

SCOTCH PLAINS—When 10-year-old Bobby Root arrived at the doorstep of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish with a business plan, Deacon Tim Kennedy couldn't help but listen.

"He's a pistol, a really smart kid," Deacon Kennedy explained.

Bobby, accompanied by his mother Melanie and younger brother Ben, presented the deacon with a unique way to commemorate the Lenten season. An ice cream social to celebrate Mardi Gras on Feb. 12 would be the kickoff to preparing sandwiches for the homeless during Lent. Following Stations of the Cross at the parish, Bobby, his friends and other volunteers will assemble sandwiches to feed the poor Feb. 22, March 8 and March 22. Each volunteer contributes three pounds of meat and cheese along with two loaves of bread.

The project originated last year when the eldest of the Root brothers—Billy, age 12—had to develop a service project for school. Unable to find enough space to accommodate all the volunteers, the team assembled at Forest Road Park in the Union County town of Fanwood. Over three days, participants put together 2,952 sandwiches that were delivered to Goodwill Rescue Mission, Newark, Saint Joseph Social Service Center, Elizabeth, and the Salvation Army in Plainfield.

When the time came for middle son Bobby to inherit the project, his public school no longer had a community service requirement for his 5th grade class. He decided to initiate the project anyway and believed his home parish would be the best place to host.

Deacon Kennedy was impressed by the young man's presentation and his decision to help those in need, even though it wasn't a requirement. "Bobby is reaching out to the poor and involving his friends in serving the community during Lent," he said. "He covered all the bases—the feasting and fasting of the season, along with almsgiving. We at the parish jumped on the idea. Bobby is a great example of how Jesus has blessings for each of us. Through almsgiving and helping others, our blessings will come. Kids get that."

Father William J. Halbing, pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, believes the Root brothers are a great example for young Catholics. "Usually, it is older people thinking about ways to help the less fortunate but in this case, it is the other way around. This project is exciting because it shows that young people are thinking about the poor. The Holy Spirit is working with our young people and they are listening to God, too. They must also contribute to the world, even in a small way. This project may turn out to be a big contribution."

As faithful Catholics, the Root family incorporated Lenten themes into the original service project. "The family tied the idea together around our kitchen table," Melanie Root explained. "Last year we had the ice cream social at my house. At first, Billy didn't have many friends volunteer because it wasn't the 'cool thing' to do but slowly other boys asked to join in. It was a nice service project and it was fun for everyone. We had an assembly line going as we bagged all the sandwiches and put them in boxes. It was an all-around home run. They are excited about the ice cream social, but they also know why we have the celebration. Kids learn through doing, so making sandwiches for the poor is a great example of what Lent is about."

All three of Melanie's sons are involved in sports, including football, wrestling and lacrosse. Their friends and parents made up a majority of the volunteers. She insisted that during the initial meeting with Deacon Kennedy, Bobby did "most of the talking." An "Evite" invitation was sent out to the community from "Billy, Bobby and Ben" and as of press time, 102 volunteers already signed up.

Billy is excited to start the Lenten season and to once again help the homeless. "I had a lot of fun last year; we had a system. It was a good learning experience for the kids and I learned more about my faith. Even if you do a little bit everyday or every week to help others, it can make a big difference."

Bobby was "a little bit nervous" about presenting the service idea to his parish and was "excited that they accepted" his proposal. "It was fun making the sandwiches last year and I got to hang out with my friends. It was kind of like a party. I think the homeless people who get the sandwiches will be happy to know that someone cares about them. It feels good to help out. It's the right thing to do."



Submitted photo

The Root brothers are (left to right), 9-year-old Ben, 12-year-old Billy, and 10-year-old Bobby. "Easter is not about eggs and chocolate, and my children know that," Melanie Root said. She believes planning events that incorporate Lenten traditions strengthens the faith of her children.

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**HEALING GARDEN**—The Margaret Anna Cusack Care Center at Saint Joseph's Home for the Blind, 537 Pavonia Ave., Jersey City, recently broke ground for construction of a "healing garden," which will provide a peaceful oasis for residents of the center, their families and employees. The garden will feature wheelchair-friendly pathways, a gazebo, trees, shrubs and flowers. Pictured at the ground-breaking ceremony are (left to right) Thomas P. Sheehy, chief executive officer; John J. Prout, Jr., board chairman; Bernadette Hoehl, board member; Sister Cabrini Delaney, C.S.J.P.; and Joy Barry, board member. Call Sue Sims at (201) 653-8300, ext. 2161, for information on programs at Cusack Care Center.

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Work is under way for a June opening of a 25-unit senior citizen housing facility in River Edge, the former convent of Saint Peter the Apostle Parish. Redevelopment work by Build with Purpose at the Bergen County site began early last year. Amenities at the facility will include three meals a day; housekeeping; transportation; recreation; private rooms; and 24-hour, on-site staff.

## ‘Build with Purpose’ converting convent for senior housing

[www.bwppurpose.org](http://www.bwppurpose.org)

RIVER EDGE—“Build with Purpose,” a non-profit organization, plans to open the former Saint Peter the Apostle Convent as a 25-unit affordable senior housing facility in June.

The facility is located at 415 Fifth Ave. The concept sprang from Build with Purpose’s goal of providing an appropriate place to live at more affordable rates than traditional assisted-living communities.

Based in Metuchen, Build with Purpose was founded in 2003. It has developed 300 units of housing in New Jersey and Delaware.

“We’ve come to learn that many seniors can’t afford or simply don’t want to live alone. Many can’t afford the high cost of traditional for-profit assisted living facilities. We think this approach will help to fill the gap between living alone and assisted living,” Brian Keenan, director and president of Build with Purpose, explained.

The project is designed to create a community of seniors with a supportive environment, close to family and loved ones, while also offering a degree of independence. Monthly costs at Saint Peter’s Residence will start at \$2,300, a fraction of the state average of \$4,286 for assisted living facilities. It will provide independent seniors with much of the same care and services provided in traditional for-profit assisted living at more affordable rates.

For those interested in learning more about the facility, Build with Purpose is holding open-house sessions on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Wednesdays 2 to 6 p.m. and by appointment throughout February and March.

Call Tiffany Pryce at (732) 635-1000, ext. 111, for additional information or visit the organization’s Web site, posted above.

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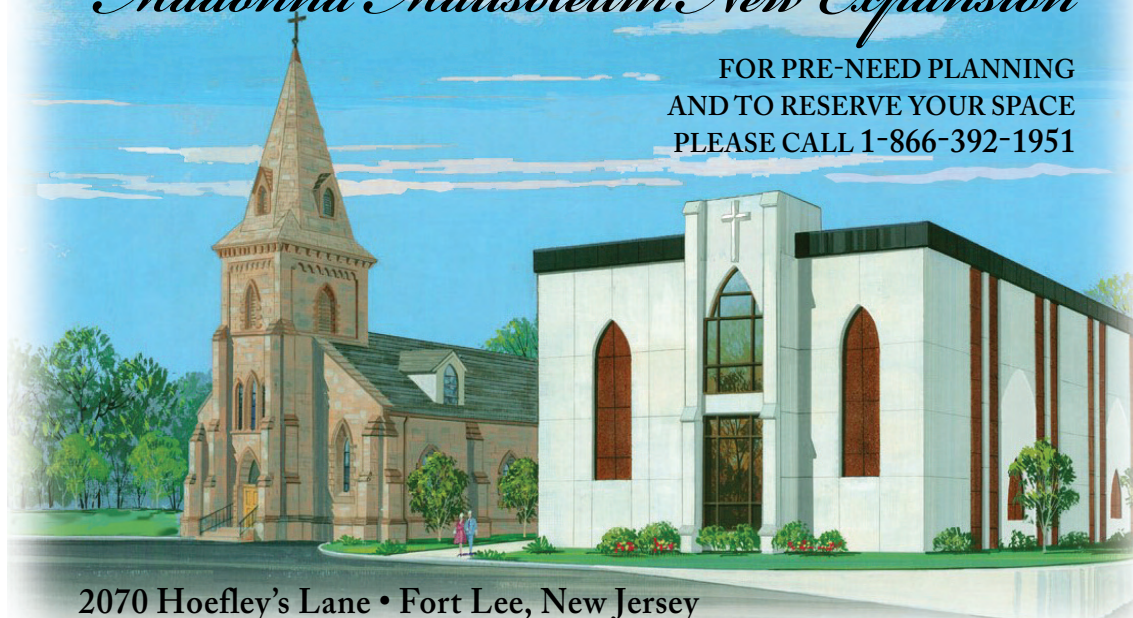
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