

Genocide survivor describes power of forgiveness at Day of Reflection

By Melissa McNally
Editor

The annual Women's Day of Reflection at Seton Hall University hosted a record number of 1,600 faithful in a day of prayer, contemplation and worship on March 7. Sponsored by the Women's Commission of the Archdiocese of Newark, the large crowd was enthralled by the message of forgiveness by Rwandan genocide survivor Immaculee Ilibagiza.

During the 1994 massacre, Ilibagiza survived by hiding for 91 days with seven other women in a small 3x4 ft. bathroom. Over three

months, in a country about the size of Maryland, about 1 million people were killed during the genocide.

Most of her family was killed by Hutu soldiers, including her mother, father and two brothers. A fervent Catholic, she now travels the world and describes her eventual forgiveness and compassion toward her family's killers.

"Forgiveness is freedom—it is a gift," she explained. "When you let go, grace fills your heart and it feels like peace."

Through her painful ordeal, she learned that "God is real" and encouraged the audience to appreciate their loved ones. "The people in our lives are a gift to us from God.

Remind them that you love them because they might not be here another day."

Ilibagiza credits prayer and devotion to the rosary for keeping her alive during the tense months in hiding. "The heart is stronger than the mind. God can do anything. I wouldn't be here today if I didn't pray the rosary. The rosary put words in my mouth, like Mary was holding my hand, like a child, teaching me how to pray," she explained.

In that tiny space, Ilibagiza prayed 27 rosaries and 40 Divine Mercy chaplets, from 6 a.m. - 10 p.m. every day. Through reciting the litany of prayers, the fear and

Continued on page 2



Immaculee Ilibagiza

Catholic Men's Conference gathers thousands at Seton Hall



Keynote speaker Tom Peterson

By Al Frank
Associate Publisher

Keynote speaker Tom Peterson, founder of catholicscomehome.org regaled and challenged the 1,500 participants in this year's Catholic Men's Conference sponsored by the Men's Commission of the Archdiocese of Newark.

With a talk sprinkled with anecdotes, Peterson urged men gathered

in the field house at Seton Hall University to find ways they can use their talents to promote the faith in their daily lives.

The 25-year corporate advertising executive said it was a 1997 men's retreat that led him to begin using his Madison Avenue skills to lure disenfranchised Catholics back to the faith.

"Millions are aching to return to faith," he said. "How hard is it to invite someone to church?"

To prepare, he urged the men

to cultivate a spirit of detachment from possessions, go to confession and respond "I'm blessed" whenever anyone asks how they are. Such a response can "plant a seed," if not open a conversation about God. And, when someone tells them of a problem, Peterson said they should respond by saying "how can I pray with you? (because) God uses that as a supernatural moment."

With vibrant music, opportunities for confession, Eucharistic adoration and a Mass with Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda, the March 14 event enriched many, participants said.

"Just being among all these men here and seeing their excitement is

very uplifting," said Walter Mack, a parishioner at Holy Redeemer in Guttenberg.

The retired federal officer said he felt he had to return for a second year, because "I wanted to know more and, a lot of times, there's not enough time to do that in church."

"It's never gets old; there's something new every time you come," said Raul Blancas, a jewelry company manager and parishioner of Saint Cecilia in Kearny, back for a third year.

In addition to Peterson, Father David Vargas addressed Spanish-speaking attendees.

In his opening, Newark Auxil-

Continued on page 2

APPOINTMENTS
Page 3
AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE
Page 3
CLASSIFIEDS
Page 10

Men's Conference

Continued from page 1

iary Bishop Manuel A. Cruz urged the men to be open to the graces all around them. "When this day comes to an end, go and serve and give witness to the great faith we share."

"It's an opportunity to have a retreat and I got so much out of it spiritually last time I just had to come again," said John Mihalko, an electrical engineer from Assumption in Morristown.

"We strengthen ourselves when we gather together," said John Patti, a parishioner of Immaculate Conception in the Annandale section of Clinton Township. "I wish it was semi-annual, because it's something people are hungry for," the father-of-six added.



Bishop Manuel A. Cruz

Day of Reflection

Continued from page 1

anger that consumed her subsided. She reflected on the crucifixion of Jesus, and recalled how He forgave before his death.

"I didn't think God could help me forgive. But I realized that resorting to anger and violence would only add to the madness. People on the side of love and justice, like Mother Teresa and Gandhi, have known injustice and hatred. I choose to stand for love," Ilibagiza explained.

Her belief that all people are "children of God" helped to heal the wounds of tragedy.

"Our Church is still standing because we believe that people really do change. The killers were not evil, they just did evil things. The Hutus were people just like me. We all have the ability to change," she said.

Ilibagiza encouraged the crowd to be "kind, compassionate and constructive" in the face of hardship and rely on "unlimited power" of God.

"The beauty of knowing you have God is that you have His support always. You can't do anything without God. No matter what happens to you, hold on to God. If I can forgive, anyone can forgive."



Notice of Laicization: Anthony Russell Lipari

Anthony Russell Lipari, a former priest of the Archdiocese of Newark, abandoned ministry as a Roman Catholic priest in 2003, and had not been permitted to function as a Roman Catholic priest since that time.

The Archdiocese had requested the Holy See to grant a Rescript of Laicization concerning Lipari on the basis of his abandonment of ministry as a Roman Catholic priest. On Jan. 7, The Congregation for the Clergy of the Holy See informed the Most Reverend John J. Myers, Archbishop of Newark, that the Holy Father, Pope Francis, had granted the laicization of Lipari effective March 5, 2015.

Laicization is the process by which an ordained minister of the Roman Catholic Church loses all rights, duties and responsibilities connected to the clerical state (CCC 1583). A priest who is laicized is no longer permitted to function as a priest of the Roman Catholic Church. He may not engage in ministry within a Roman Catholic diocese or religious institute. He may not celebrate Mass or confer the Sacraments. He may no longer be called "Father" or wear clerical clothing. A laicized priest returns to the outward life of a layman. (cf. cc. 290-293).

The Archdiocese has become aware that Anthony Lipari has affiliated himself with a group calling itself the American National Catholic Church, or ANCC. In spite of confusion created by the group's name, the ANCC is not in communion with the Bishop of Rome, Pope Francis, or the Roman Catholic Church. The Church does not recognize as licit any ministerial activities in which Lipari may have engaged since he abandoned the Roman Catholic Church in 2003.

Any Roman Catholic with doubts about sacraments received from Lipari after 2003 should consult immediately with a local Roman Catholic priest to determine their validity under the canons of the Roman Catholic Church.

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FREQUENCY FOR 2015:

ONLINE: July 15, August 19, November 18 and December 22

PRINT: MAY 13, JUNE 17, September 9, October 14

April 13

Immaculate Heart Academy, Washington Township, performance by harpists Gráinne Hambly and William Jackson, 7 p.m., cost: \$8 in advance/\$10 at the door, (201) 445-6800.

April 14

Don Bosco Preparatory High School, Ramsey, Jason Evert seminar "Talking to Your Teens about Sexuality and Chastity," 7 p.m., e-mail jkhanjian@donboscoprep.org.

Holy Name Medical Center, Teaneck, "Sharing the Journey" bereavement group, for eight weeks, Tuesday evenings 6-7:30 p.m., also available Wednesday mornings 10-11:30 a.m. beginning April 15, call Lenore Guido at (201) 833-3000 ext.7580.

April 18

Immaculate Conception School of Theology, South Orange, "Evangelii Gaudium: The Joy of the Gospel," a day of theological studies at Seton Hall university, 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., cost: \$75, call Anna Capizzi at (973) 275-2440 or e-mail anna.capizzi@student.shu.edu.

April 21

Don Bosco Preparatory High School, Ramsey, spring open house, 6:30 p.m., e-mail George Mihalik at gmihalik@donboscoprep.org.

April 22

Immaculate Conception School of Theology, South Orange, Cardinal Sean Patrick O'Malley, Archbishop of Boston discusses "Pope Francis and the Hispanic Presence in the Church," 6 p.m., (973) 761-9000.

April 23

Union Catholic High School, Scotch Plains, business networking luncheon, at Shackamaxxon Country Club, 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., call Susan Dyckman at (908) 889-1600 ext. 309 or register at www.ucbnl.eventbrite.com.

Felician College, Rutherford, annual President's Scholarship Gala, at The Venetian, Garfield, 6 p.m., call Shelley Tonner at (201) 355-1431 or e-mail tonners@felician.edu.

April 25

Knights of Columbus, Wyckoff, Comedy Night with "Uncle

Floyd," beer, wine and snacks will be served, 7:30 pm, cost: \$30 in advance/\$40 at the door, call Gene Gallagher at (201) 264-2256.

Catechetical Office, Archdiocese of Newark, "Spotlight on the Old Testament, Ancient Stories ever New: Revisiting the 'Old Testament,'" at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish, Roseland, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., call Eugene Tozzi at (973) 497-4288 or e-mail tozzieug@rcan.org.

Knights of Columbus, Washington Township, 12th annual testimonial dinner, to honor five individuals who have contributed to the community, call (201) 664-0422, or visit www.kofc5427.com.

April 26

Seton Hall University, South Orange, Spanish mass celebrating the beatification of Archbishop Oscar Romero, at Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, 6 p.m., call (973) 761-9702 or e-mail divisionofvolunteerefforts@shu.edu.

May 3

The Sister Rose Thering Fund

for Education in Jewish-Christian Studies, Seton Hall University, South Orange, 22nd annual Evening of Roses fund-raising event, 1:30 p.m., call Marilyn Zirl at (973) 761-9006 or e-mail marilyn.zirl@shu.edu.

May 8

Office of Family Life Ministries, Archdiocese of Newark, 28th annual liturgy for those whose children have died, Notre Dame Parish, North Caldwell, 7:30 p.m., call (973) 497-4327.

May 13

Serra International District 22, Archbishop's Vocation Fund Dinner, at Nanina's in the Park, Belleville, reception at 6 p.m. followed by dinner, cost: \$100 per person, call Joseph Pagano at (201) 954-1990 or jpagano18@comcast.net.

Our Lady of Peace Parish, New Providence, country fair, featuring food, rides, games, raffles and more, 6-10 p.m., also on May 14, 6-11 p.m. on May 15, and May 16 at 1-11 p.m., (908) 464-7600.

Official Appointments



Archbishop John J. Myers has announced the following appointments:

PASTORS

term ending July 1, 2021.

Reverend Kevin Gugliotta, Parochial Vicar of St. Bartholomew Parish, Scotch Plains, has been appointed Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish and Chaplain at Ramapo College, Mahwah, effective May 8.

Reverend Jozef Krajnak, Parochial Vicar of St. Joseph of the Palisades Parish, West New York, has been appointed Pastor of Holy Family Parish, Linden, effective July 1.

Reverend Dominick J. Lenoci, Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish and Chaplain at Ramapo College, Mahwah, has been appointed Pastor of St. Joseph Parish, West Orange, effective May 8.

Reverend Joseph A. Scarangella, Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Montclair, has been reappointed to a second six-year

CHAPLAIN

Reverend Jose Erlito Ebron, Parochial Vicar of St. Theresa Parish, Kenilworth, has also been appointed Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus, Council 5437, Garwood, effective immediately.

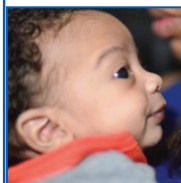
RETIREMENTS
(All effective July 1)

Reverend Raul E.L. Comesanas, Pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Newark, has been granted retirement.

Reverend Eugene Diurczak, Pastor of Holy Family Parish, Linden, has been granted retirement.

Reverend Michael Guba, Parochial Vicar of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Garfield, has been granted retirement.

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RENEW International announces gala honorees

PLAINFIELD—RENEW International will hold its 16th annual fundraising gala on June 4 at the Pleasantdale Chateau, West Orange. Sister Terry Rickard, O.P., RENEW International's president and executive director, will present awards to three notable Catholics who have played a significant role in fostering RENEW International's mission of spreading gospel values in daily life. RENEW International's gala raises funds each year to support the organization's mission of building dynamic communities of faith.

"We at RENEW International are truly blessed to pay tribute to the faithfulness, leadership, and service represented by these exemplary individuals," Sr. Terry said. "They are models of Catholic commitment in their personal and professional lives with a level of dedication that is exceptional."

These awards will be presented as part of RENEW International's gala reception, auction and dinner. The cocktail hour will begin at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m.

This year's President's Award will be given to Mary T. Flood, O.P., M.D., Ph.D. Sr. Mary is a specialist in infectious diseases and internal medicine and associate



Mary T. Flood

professor of medicine at New York Presbyterian Hospital, Columbia University Medical Center. She is a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Dominic of Blauvelt, NY. Sr. Mary began her practice in infectious diseases in the early 1990s in New York City and spent many years in the AIDS Clinic at New York Presbyterian Hospital. In 2010, Sr. Mary traveled to South Africa to provide AIDS education for many high school students and young adults in Durban. She is the president of the board of directors of Saint Dominic Home, Blauvelt, and serves on the boards of The Lavelle Foundation for the Blind and Dominican College.

Mario J. Paredes will receive



Mario J. Paredes

the Msgr. Thomas A. Kleissler Award, named in honor of RENEW's president emeritus and co-founder. Paredes serves at the American Bible Society as presidential liaison to Roman Catholic Ministry, and is founder and chairman emeritus of the board for Catholic Association of Latino Leaders. For 30 years, he directed the operations of the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops in the Northeast Region. He was founder and director of the Northeast Hispanic Catholic Center.

Tom Higgins will receive the Spirit of RENEW Award. Higgins served in the United States Navy, both active and reserve, and retired, after a successful career, with the



Tom Higgins

rank of captain. He served for a total of 24 years in the U.S. government in a variety of positions both in the United States and abroad and retired from the senior executive service in 2010. Higgins also founded the military and veterans affairs effort at JPMorgan Chase, including the 100,000 jobs mission. He serves as the chairman of the Tug McGraw Foundation.

Those interested in supporting RENEW International's mission can attend the event, place a journal ad, make a donation, or donate an auction item. For more information, please contact Sister Honora Nolty, O.P., at (908) 769-5400 x162 or horan@renewintl.org or visit www.renewintl.org/gala.

Oak Knoll students explore science



Submitted photo

SUMMIT—Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child held its first "Super Science Saturday" event on

Feb. 28, offering students in kindergarten to grade three a new and exciting way to experience subjects

ranging from science, technology and engineering to art and math.

Shortened to the acronym S.T.E.A.M., students and their parents separated into groups to explore all of the subjects as they related to science. Students earned S.T.E.A.M. badges as they completed each class, which were taught by Oak Knoll's faculty.

"Each activity was carefully planned to incorporate science and another component, either with technology, engineering, art, or math," said Tanya Grap, Oak Knoll's science teacher for grades three through six. "The activities that were developed helped to tie in age-appropriate concepts being taught in the science classroom, such as density of objects (sinking and floating), computer coding, forces in architecture design and

more. We also wanted to provide an experience of learning that is very hands-on and a lot of fun for the students, very much like what takes place in our science classrooms."

Grap called the students "natural scientists, who are curious about how their world works. Our school community prides itself on helping our students explore their world to make sense of it."

Students and parents came away from the S.T.E.A.M. event with a better understanding of the subjects, and a sense that they could explore science anywhere together.

"We hope that families will take these experiences with them explore more at home or on family trips," Grap said. "The more that we allow our children to explore, the stronger learners they become."

Union Catholic to honor Hall of Fame inductees

SCOTCH PLAINS—On May 1, Union Catholic will host its Hall of Fame Induction Dinner at Shackamaxxon Country Club from 6-7 p.m. Typically held once every two years, this year marks the high school's 11th Hall of Fame induction class. There are seven sports teams, two religious orders, and 35 individuals currently in the Hall of Fame.

This year, the Educator Award will be presented to Lou Merola and Myrna McManus. Merola is a member of Union Catholic's first graduating class (1966) and retired in 2009 after teaching at the school for 39 years. McManus joined the faculty in 1978 and made it her home for 24 years.

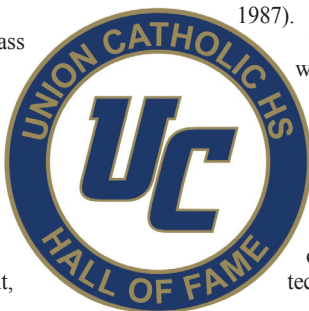
Ken Clifford (Class of 1974), managing director and chief financial officer at Metalmark Capita, will receive the Alumni Award.

The Athletic Award will be presented to Al Ashmont,

Class of 1984, a baseball pitcher that led Union Catholic to two Watchung Conference Championships, the 1984 Union County Championship and the 1984 State Parochial title. He was named New Jersey Player of the Year in 1984. The 1973-74 boys soccer team and the 1988-89 girls softball team will also be honored with the award.

Jane Albert will receive the Community Leader Award. She enjoyed a 44-year career in elementary and secondary education that included serving as principal of Union Catholic Girls High School (1979-1981) and principal of Saint Dominic Academy, Caldwell (1981-1987).

The Parents Award will be presented to Barbara and Bill Butler, whose three children attended the school. The couple was integral in the launching of Union Catholic's technological advances.



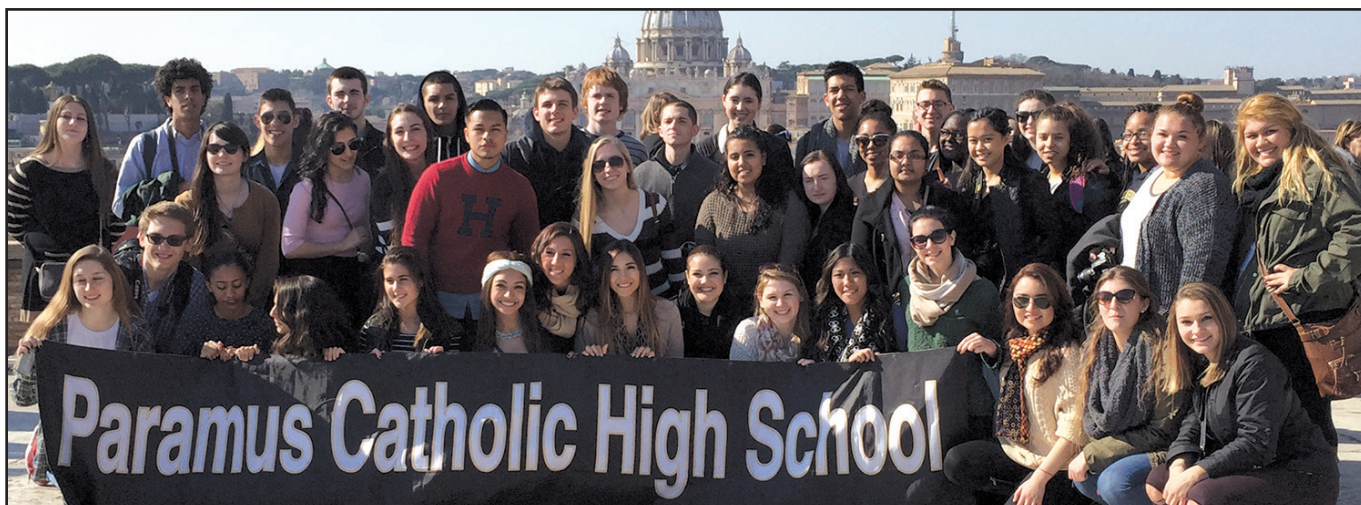
Tickets to this event are available to the public and all are welcome to attend. For ticket purchasing information, visit www.unioncatholic.org/alumni/hof.php.



Submitted photo

The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth and the Academy of Saint Elizabeth, Convent Station, announced the appointment of Lynn Burek as the new principal of the academy, effective July 1. On March 10, the leadership team of the Sisters of Charity unanimously approved the search committee's recommendation, the conclusion of a year-long process. Burek currently serves as vice principal for student services at Parsippany High School. She spent most of her professional career as a high school English teacher.

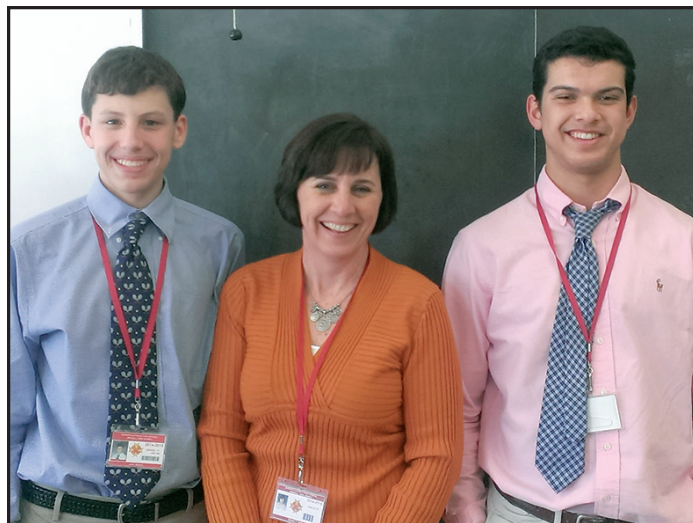
She holds an undergraduate degree in secondary education with certifications in English, speech and theater from West Chester University in West Chester, PA. She earned a master's degree in educational leadership at the College of Saint Elizabeth. An active parishioner at Our Lady of the Magnificat in Kinnelon, Burek integrates her faith and spirituality with a servant leadership philosophy that is consistent with the Sisters of Charity belief of leadership as service.



Submitted photo

During their recent winter break, 134 Paramus Catholic High School students and staff ventured to Italy. The group toured many cities including Milan, Naples, Rome and Florence. They visited landmarks including the Capua Amphitheater (Gladiator training site), the Colosseum, Trevi Fountain and the Pantheon. A highlight of the trip included a visit to Vatican City where they received a private after-hours guided tour of Vatican Museums/Sistine Chapel. The students also attended a private mass at Saint Joseph's Altar, Saint Peter's Basilica, with Cardinal Raymond Burke. The group also attended a papal audience where they received a blessing from Pope Francis. Paramus Catholic High School hosts a European trip annually to afford students the opportunity to learn abroad.

St. Patrick's Day Essay Contest



Submitted photo
Bergen Catholic High School students Jack Meloro, left, and Jeremy Magno, right, were awarded first and second place respectively in an essay contest sponsored by the Newark Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee. Both Bergen Catholic juniors, pictured here with English teacher Eileen Holt, were honored at the 80th Newark Saint Patrick's Day Parade, the oldest Saint Patrick's Day parade in New Jersey, on March 13. In the photo at left, Cassidy Deegan of Benedictine Academy was awarded third place at a breakfast for archdiocesan students at Newark Public Library. Cassidy, who has claimed a prize in 2012 and 2013, is pictured with Michael D. Byrne, general chairman of the parade committee, and Student Contests Chairwoman Mary Beth Brennan.

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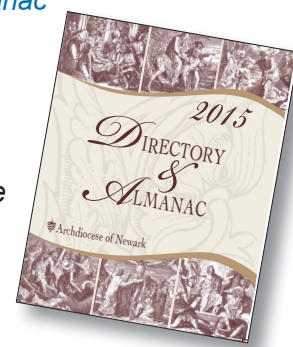
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Bishop Donato among honorees at SS. Peter and Paul gala

HOBOKEN—The Catholic Community of Saints Peter and Paul, hosted its annual Gratitude Gala March 5, benefitting the Hoboken Library Foundation. The celebration's four honorees were feted for fostering service and outreach in dedication to the community.

They were Bishop Thomas A. Donato, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Newark, David L. Roberts, mayor of Hoboken from 2001 to 2009, and parishioners Edward and Jennifer Yruma.

"Together, we demonstrate and take pride in the amazing acts of service that forge the framework of our community," said Rev. Msgr. Robert S. Meyer, pastor of Saints Peter and Paul. "It is my privilege to honor these individuals who continue to bring a positive impact and serve as role models where we live and worship."

The Gratitude Gala gathered nearly 300 well-wishers and supporters, including Hoboken Mayor Dawn Zimmer, who praised the honorees, citing their outstanding dedication to the greater community. Speaking about her predecessor, Zimmer encouraged the audience to think of the development in Hoboken that marked Roberts' tenure.

"When everyone is playing on 1600 Park, when the weather is finally nice, think of Mayor Roberts, because he was the one who bought that land and helped make that happen," Zimmer said. "And when you have an emergency, and you're really glad you have a hospital in Hoboken to go to, think of Mayor Roberts."

Bishop Donato spoke of his role as a family man, ministering to his relatives and to his Church family. He talked about his parents and his Hudson County roots, having been the fifth son of Italian immigrant parents who settled in Jersey City 92 years ago. "When I stop to think about my parents, I often remember the simplicity of their lives that has always encouraged me to do what I could for people like you," he said.

Speaking of the impact of Hoboken and Saints Peter and Paul on his life, Edward Yruma recalled the baptism of his daughter. "I could hear the people singing, I



Submitted photo

From left to right, Rev. Msgr. Robert S. Meyer, Jennifer and Edward Yruma, former Mayor David L. Roberts, Anthony Romano and Bishop Thomas A. Donato.

could hear the people clapping. We were there together to welcome my daughter and to pray for hope and peace," said Yruma. "For us, this is not just a parish. It is our family. It is our home."

Roberts thanked the many people who made an impact on his career. "We have many years of association, of love and care and we watched our families

grow," he said. He also spoke of the uplifting spirit of Msgr. Meyer and Saints Peter and Paul parishioners, particularly the counsel and support they gave to him and his family after the death of his wife Anna.

Quoting American writer, Robert Fulghum, he said: "I believe that imagination is stronger than knowledge. That myth is

more potent than history. That dreams are more powerful than facts. That hope always triumphs over experience. That laughter is the only cure for grief. And I also believe, that love is stronger than death."

The honorees also received proclamations from Zimmer recognizing their contributions to Hoboken.



Submitted photo

A talented cast of students from area high schools performed in Don Bosco Preparatory High School's production of "Footloose" from March 21-March 29. Front row, left to right: Megan Roche; Emma Piazza; Alexa Gonzalez; MaryKate Kelly; and Trevor DeLillo. Back Row, left to right: Victoria Duffy; Molly Dudas; Mark Settles; Jeffrey Lieto; and Matt Gysin.



Submitted photo

On Feb. 24, the varsity boys of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Ridgewood, were crowned CYO basketball champions following a 53-38 victory over Saint Leo Parish, Elmwood Park. This title not only earned the team the record for the longest running champs in Ridgewood's CYO program but was the final piece in completing an unprecedented "4-Peat", break-

ing records in the Archdiocese of Newark CYO. The team, coached by Paul Tornatore and Sean McCoee, was comprised of 10 seniors from Ridgewood High School. Eight of the players were present for all four championships. Present at the final game was Rev. Msgr. Ronald J. Rozniak, pastor of Mount Carmel, cheering on the players for a parish record. "I doubt any team in the future will challenge this record. Well done, guys," Msgr. Rozniak said following the win.

A note from the Office of Communications

Recently, there have been several news stories about a study of hospital services in the state and the potential for some hospitals either being closed or changed significantly in terms of the services they can or will offer.

Saint Michael's Medical Center in Newark has been mentioned as one of the hospitals that will be affected if the state implements its plan.

Sadly, some have misread or misunderstood these stories and have reached the conclusion that the Archdiocese is making the decision to shut down Saint Michael's and have called the Archdiocese to state that "because of our actions with Saint Michael's, they will not be giving this year to the appeal."

The facts here are simple: The Archdiocese of Newark has not been involved in ownership or management of Saint Michael's Medical Center, or any Catholic hospital, in almost 10 years. Saint Michael's Medical Center currently is owned by an organization called Catholic Health East, and has been in the news for about a year now because of a possible sale of the hospital to another hospital group, Prime Health.

We are not closing Saint Michael's Medical Center.



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Felician bowling team raise money for cancer research

RUTHERFORD AND LODI—The Felician College women's bowling team recently raised more than \$1,700 for cancer research during its inaugural "Striking for a Cause" event.

The funds will be split equally between The Lustgarten Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research, based in Bethpage, NY, and the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Santa Monica, CA. The charities were chosen by the Golden Falcon bowling team based on cancers that have affected the families of team members.

"We can't thank the Felician community enough for its participation, donations and support," said Felician head coach Andrew Toriello. "I am especially grateful to Jason Smith of the Office of Residence Life for his help in running the event."

An overflow crowd of 135 participants was treated to two games of bowling, music and food at the fundraiser. In addition to accepting gate donations, the team ran 15 separate charity raffles.

"The event was a lot of fun,"

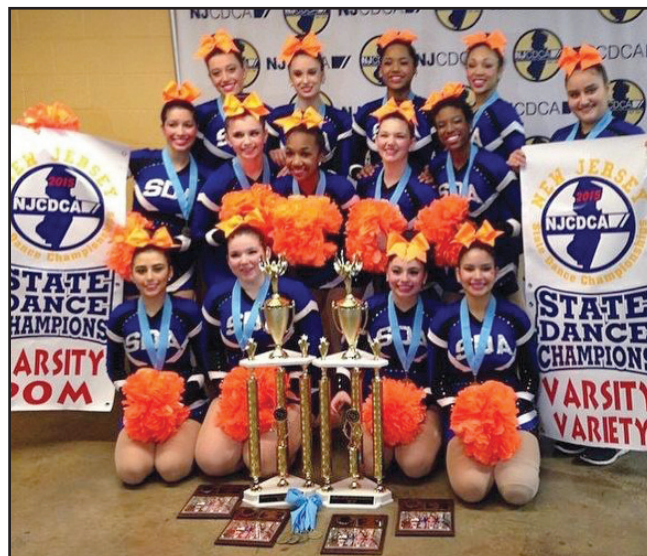


said freshman team member Kristen Keller. "We were able to bring many different groups from the College together for one night, for one cause. Hopefully we can turn this into a yearly thing."

The Golden Falcons are still accepting donations to the pair of foundations listed above. To donate, call Toriello at (201) 559-6185 or e-mail orielloA@felician.edu.

Submitted photo

Bowling team members, left to right, Kristin Natoli, Kaitlyn Stapleton, Kristen Keller, Dana-Marie Laloo, Michelle Gulino and Heather Androvich with Sister Theresa Soltys from the Campus Ministry office at the Golden Falcons' recent "Striking for a Cause" fund-raiser.



Submitted photo

The Saint Dominic Academy dance team has enjoyed an outstanding competition season that began with a first place finish in dance team pom at the 11th Annual Sweetheart Invitational held at Pascack Valley High School on February 8. On March 1, the Jersey City team became New Jersey State Champions when they took first place in both the varsity variety and varsity pom competitions at the New Jersey Cheerleading and Dance State Championships. On March 7 and 8 in Orlando, FL, the team captured several awards at the National Dance Alliance National Championships, beginning with second place in international pom. After the preliminary round in small varsity pom, the team was in first place out of 43 teams. However, in the final round, though they earned a score of 9.783, they dropped to fifth place. The team were ultimately awarded the technical excellence award and also the NDA Unleashed 2015 Award. In small varsity team performance, they placed eighth in the nation.



Submitted photo

Retta Desiderio, a member of the Faith Quest committee, chats with Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda while he visited Notre Dame Parish, North Caldwell, to speak on "Spirituality of the Domestic Church" March 4 as part of the Faith Quest Lenten series sponsored by the four Catholic churches of West Essex. Desiderio is a member of Our Lady of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Roseland.

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Teen raises man's best friend for the blind

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP— Lily Polster, a sophomore at Immaculate Heart Academy and a Park Ridge resident, is an animal lover. Combining her passion for pups and commitment to service, she has been raising guide dogs for the past three years.

Today, she is raising her second dog, Jewel, a seven-month-old German shepherd. Lily's first puppy was a female black lab named Fala who is currently receiving her formal training at The Seeing Eye, Inc. facility in Morristown.

She spends time every day working with and training her dog, and also attends bimonthly training and information meetings. She teaches the canines basic commands and exposes her dogs to daily life situations like sporting events; car, bus, and train rides; and walks through the mall. Typically, she trains her puppies for 12 to 15 months before they are introduced to The Seeing Eye formal training program.

Lily and her family first became familiar with guide dog training program when she was in kindergarten. The Polsters' neighbors trained a black Labrador retriever puppy for The Seeing Eye, and Lily wished for a dog of her own. When she was 12, Lily and her mother went to their first meeting with the organization and fell in love with its mission. Soon after, they decided to apply for their own dog.

This past fall, Lily was elected as the president of the Bergen County Chapter of The Seeing Eye. She said that being named president was nothing "extraordinary or celebratory," but simply a sign to herself that others in the club respect and trust her to fulfill the role. Although she was delighted to be named president, Lily said she didn't want to be elected simply for the title.

"This organization has really changed my life," she explained, "and I wanted to impact others' lives in a bigger way. Being named president has allowed me to do just that." According to Lily, her favorite part of the program is attending the meetings, where she can interact with the dogs in training.

"Bringing my puppy and seeing how happy she is with the other dogs always makes me smile," Lily said. "The meetings are like a time-

line; a new puppy arrives and an older puppy leaves to return to The Seeing Eye. It is wonderful to be able to watch these young puppies grow and mature into dogs ready to begin their formal training."

In January 2015, Lily received the Best Friends Award, an honor reserved for individuals who constantly demonstrate extraordinary commitment to advancing the mission of The Seeing Eye through volunteer support and spreading awareness about issues affecting people who are blind.

Although Lily's respect for and commitment to this program is apparent, she said it is bittersweet to send the dogs back to Morristown for their formal training.

"It is sentimental even watching someone else's puppy grow up and then return to The Seeing Eye. But raising a dog of your own for about 14 months and then having to send him/her back is simply heart-wrenching," Lily said. "These dogs have become your family and you depend on them as they depend on you to be fed, walked and groomed."

Although it is painful, she knows sending them on their way is for the best. Realizing that her dog is potentially going to become a blind person's companion is what motivates her to continue raising puppies for the organization.



Submitted photo

Lily and her Seeing Eye dog Jewel

Lily hopes to continue volunteering with The Seeing Eye, even while attending college, if the school of her choice permits it.

"When a person loses their sense of sight, they also lose much

freedom and independence," she said. "I would like to help blind people regain their freedom through the companionship of a Seeing Eye dog and that is why I will continue raising them."

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SEEING EYE, PLEASE VISIT WWW.SEEINGEYE.ORG.



Submitted photo

Union Catholic High School, left to right, seniors Tonna Obaze, Brianne Trollo and Elise Morano have been nominated to compete in this year's National Honor Society scholarship program. The program will award more than \$250,000 in college scholarships. National Honor Society chapters from across the country were eligible to nominate a limited number of senior members to compete. Applicants are selected on the basis of their leadership skills, participation in service organizations and clubs, achievements in the arts and sciences, and general academic record.

Father Robert A. Pachana

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated March 9 at Saint Joseph Parish, West Orange, for Father Robert A. Pachana, 45, who died March 3.



Fr. Pachana was appointed pastor of Saint Joseph on Aug. 1, 2014. Born and raised in the Ironbound section of Newark, he received a bachelor's degree from Kean University, Union.

He worked as a florist in Kean before entering Immaculate Conception Seminary, Seton Hall University, and was ordained a priest in 1998.

Fr. Pachana was initially assigned to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Bayonne, as parochial vicar, a post he held for over 16 years.

.....

Sister Anita Agnes Whalen, S.C.

A mass of Christian Burial was celebrated March 4 at Saint Anne Villa, Convent Station, for Sister Anita Agnes Whalen, 99, who died Feb. 27.



Born in Westfield, Sr. Anita Agnes entered the Sisters of Charity on Sept. 8, 1934 and was a member for 80 years.

She graduated with a bachelor's degree in Spanish from the College of Saint Elizabeth, Morristown, and a master's degree in Spanish from the University of Notre Dame, IN.

Sr. Anita Agnes was a teacher in the Archdiocese of Newark and served: All Saints School, Jersey City; Saint Mary Elementary School, Elizabeth; Academy of Saint Aloysius High School, Jersey City; and Paramus Catholic High School.

She taught catechetics in Bolivia and was a teacher in the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. Sr. Anita Agnes retired to Saint Anne Villa in 2004 where she resided until her death.

.....

Sister Suzanne Faulkner, S.C.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated March 11 at Saint Anne Villa, Convent Station, for Sister Suzanne Faulkner, S.C., 88, who died Feb. 28.



Sr. Suzanne entered the Sisters

of Charity on Sept. 18, 1973 and was a member for 41 years. She graduated from Caldwell College with a bachelor's degree in elementary education and from La Salle College, Philadelphia, with a master's degree in religious education.

Sr. Suzanne was a teacher and pastoral minister throughout New Jersey and Hawaii. She was a teacher in Our Lady of Sorrows School, South Orange, and Immaculate Conception School, Montclair. She was a legal secretary at The Lord's House of Prayer, Montclair, and secretary at Montclair State University.

She was in pastoral ministry at Saint Catharine Parish, Glen Rock, and served as an assistant sacristan at Holy Family Chapel, Convent Station. Sr. Suzanne moved to Saint Anne Villa in 2011 where she resided until her death, using her art in acrylic painting and in social media presentations.

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Father Thomas A. Kenny

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated March 18 at Saint Mary Parish, Barnegat, for Father Thomas A.

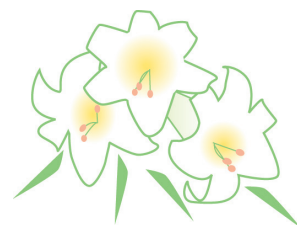


Kenny, 94, who died March 14.

Born in Newark, Fr. Kenny attended Immaculate Conception Seminary, Darlington, and was ordained June 5, 1946.

In 1952, Fr. Kenny joined the US Navy as a chaplain. He ministered to the troops on the ground with the Marines in both Korea and Vietnam where he served with distinction. He was wounded and received the Bronze Star for bravery, often accompanying the troops into battle.

Fr. Kenny retired in 1972 as a Lieutenant Commander. That same year he returned to the Archdiocese of Newark and was appointed as pastor at Saint Luke Parish, Ho-Ho-Kus, where he remained until his retirement in 1985. He remained active in retirement, helping out at Saint Mary following his move to Barnegat.



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