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Jan. 24, 2005
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Wednesday, January 5, 2005

A year of challenge, mission comes to end

When 2004 became history over the weekend it brought to an end a year for the Church of Newark that saw inevitable change and transition at several significant levels.

January

As the Office of Child and Youth Protection of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops releases summary results of its audit of compliance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, it is reported that the Archdiocese of Newark has met all criteria for compliance and implementing the Charter locally.... Archbishop John J. Myers issues a statement which says, in part, the audit demonstrates "our continued commitment to meeting the challenge of assuring the safety of all those entrusted to the care of our parishes, schools and other institutions."... Joining colleagues from across the nation, educators from the Archdiocese of Newark attend the centennial symposium of the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) and meet President Bush in the White House.... National Migration Week is marked by Archbishop

Myers who celebrates a special Mass in the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark.

February

With another strong contingent from the Archdiocese of Newark, the annual March for Life, protesting the 1973 Supreme Court decision making abortion legal, is held in Washington, DC.... Cathedral Healthcare System makes the reluctant but necessary decision to close the Hospital Center at Orange.... With prayer and a blessing from Archbishop Myers, the Cathedral Regional Cancer Care Center opens in Newark.

March

Faithful throughout the archdiocese react to Mel Gibson's film *The Passion of the Christ*.... Violent rebellions in Haiti prompt Haitians locally to call for conversion, reconciliation and rebuilding.... New Energies, the task force examining the future of parishes and schools in the archdiocese, complete the initial phase of their work setting the stage to expand the scope of the multi-year project... The Most Blessed Sacrament Friary, Newark, formerly the Monastery of St.

Continued on Page 14



Most Rev. John J. Myers, Archbishop of Newark, visited patients at Saint James Hospital, Newark on Christmas Day bringing blessings and comfort to those in the hospital. Stanley Rudinski, Union, talks with, left to right, the archbishop; C eu Cirne-Neves, administrator of Saint James Hospital; Father Arokiassamy Irudayanathan, hospital chaplain, and Henry J. Amoroso, Esq., vice chairman and CEO of Catholic Health and Human Services Corp. and chairman of the board of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark.

CHHS names Dr. Smith to new executive position overseeing health care policy

Catholic Health and Human Services Corporation (CHHS) has appointed Leon G. Smith, M.D., to the new position of executive vice president for health care policy.

Dr. Smith will serve as chief adviser on health-care policy for Cathedral Healthcare System, which comprises Saint Michael's Medical Center, Columbus Hospital and Saint James Hospital, Newark, and Saint Mary's Life Center, Orange, as well as for the Archdiocese of Newark.

Among his responsibilities will be the recruitment of medical staff for all Cathedral Healthcare System facilities, the development of new programs, and the forging of new relationships between CHHS affiliates and other institutions, agencies, and organizations, which includes establishing collaborative associations with medical schools.

Dr. Smith serves as chair of the residency program in internal

medicine at Seton Hall University School of Graduate Medical Education and has taught medicine and preventive medicine at New Jersey Medical School. Dr. Smith co-founded and participates in the Inter-City Infectious Disease Rounds Group, which meets weekly at New York City/

New Jersey area hospitals.

He recently founded and funded the Infectious Disease Hall of Fame at Saint Michael's Medical Center. Dr. Smith developed the first viral diagnostic laboratory in New Jersey, as well as the HIV and hepatitis C clinics at Saint Michael's Medical Center.

American Catholic agencies accept donations for victims of tidal wave

WASHINGTON (CNS) — International aid agencies are accepting donations for victims of the Dec. 26 earthquake and tidal waves that affected Indian Ocean countries.

The following American Catholic agencies, part of the Caritas International network, are working with partner agencies in affected countries and are accepting donations. Funds should be earmarked for "tsunami emergency."

Catholic Relief Services phone: (800) 736-3467; online: www.catholicrelief.org; or mail to Catholic Relief Services, P.O. Box 17220, Baltimore, MD 21298-9663.

Catholic Near East Welfare Association phone: (800) 442-6392; online: www.cnewa.org; or mail to CNEWA, 1011 First Ave., New York, NY 10022-4195.



Archbishop John J. Myers addresses the faithful who filled the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, for Midnight Mass on Christmas Day 2004.

Advocate photo- Frank Wood

Roy Groething photo

Remembering the wit and wisdom of Good Pope John

Early on in his pontificate, Blessed John XXIII (1958-63) had among his closest aides Msgr. Angelo dell'Aqua and Cardinal Nicola Canali. One day John, formerly Angelo Roncalli, Patriarch of Venice, was asked if he missed that enchanting, watery city.

In the presence of the two prelates he replied, "No. Things haven't changed all that much. As you can see, I am still surrounded by *Aqua* and *Canali*."

Inclined to poke fun at his considerable girth, John looked into a full-length mirror the day after his election and pondered the rotund figure in white. Then he remarked, "Oh brother, this profile will be a debacle on television!"

On another occasion, he contemplated his peasant face with its ample nose, double chin and floppy ears and lamented wryly, "Given that God knew from time immemorial that I would someday be the pope, you would think He would have made me better to look at."

Once again irreverent at his own expense, he told one visiting head of state—alluding to his election to the Chair of St. Peter at an advanced age, "Here I am at the end of the road and on top of the heap."

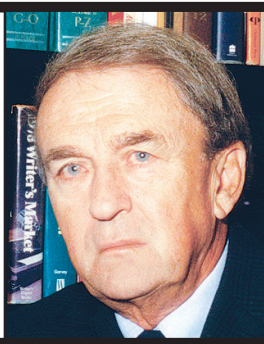
The thousand or so permanent residents of Vatican City never ceased to be amazed at how down to earth Pope John was and how often he liked to stroll among them. He had the simple geniality of a country curate.

One late summer day the Holy Father encountered a group of gardeners toiling under a copper sun. "This looks like thirsty work," he observed and sent an aide to fetch bottles of chilled white wine and glasses for everyone. Over the refreshing Frascati, John and his new chums sat on a low garden wall and gabbed about this and that.

Another day, ambling down a leafy lane, he introduced himself to a worker who said that his name was Papa Giovanni. Startled, the pontiff said, "But how can that be? I am Papa Giovanni." Then, realizing that Italians usually give their surname first and

A View from History

By Frank J. Korn



then their given name, he burst into laughter.

Taking seriously his primary role as Bishop of Rome, John XXIII could often be seen on the city streets mingling with his flock. In fact, he did this so frequently that the foreign correspondents assigned to the Holy See affectionately nicknamed him "Johnny Walker." Upon hearing about this, the pontiff chuckled heartily.

Cardinal Domenico Tardini, Pope John's brusque Secretary of State, had his office on the third floor of the Apostolic Palace, directly below that of the pope. Whenever a problem was brought to Tardini that he thought warranted the decision of His Holiness, he said, "You better see the one above."

When the pope learned of Tardini's manner of referring to him he dropped by the cardinal's office and in a mock reprimand said, "My dear Tardini, please stop causing confusion in the ranks. The One Above is Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I'm just the guy on the fourth floor."

Blessed John had an uncanny knack for putting his visitors instantly at ease. He had a serenity about him that he

imparted to others. One late afternoon, the aging Cardinal Alfredo Ottaviani, agitated by the way things were going during the first session of the Vatican Council, called on the Holy Father.

John listened sympathetically, then took his old friend by the arm and led him to the window. As the sun played its orange magic on the city's tiled rooftops he asked Ottaviani, "Isn't Rome truly beautiful? Isn't the sunset glorious?" The old churchman departed, his consternation defused, convinced that the Holy Father was in his corner.

During a stop at the Bambino Gesu Children's Hospital, just up the hill from the Vatican, he went from bed to bed, introducing himself to the kids thus: "They used to call me Angelo. Now they all call me John."

When John went one morning to call on the inmates at the Regina Coeli Prison he told the astonished men, "Since you could not come over to the Vatican to see me, I decided it was only right that I come to see you." When he left, many wept.

From the start, John had difficulty acclimating himself to papal protocol. When informed that his predecessors

customarily took their meals in solitude, he mildly protested. "But where in the Scriptures does it say that the pope must eat alone?" Thus he insisted that his closest aide, the rail-thin Msgr. Loris

Capovilla, break bread with him each evening.

As time passed, however, John playfully complained, "Ah it's no fun to dine with Capovilla, he eats like a bird." His Holiness, who had an appetite to match his bulk soon began to invite others to join him at table. "That's more like it!" he beamed when his dinner guests ate with a gusto to equal his own.

Frank J. Korn is an assistant professor of Classical Studies at Seton Hall University. His latest book is Hidden Rome (Paulist Press).

Blessed John had an uncanny knack for putting his visitors instantly at ease.

Stewardship

Christian discipleship is a responsibility

BY ANDREW KACZYNSKI

Associate Director of Stewardship for the Archdiocese

On Jan. 9 we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. Through our own baptism each of us is given a share in the discipleship of Jesus. In the context of our Christian lives, what does this really mean, what are we supposed to do as His disciples, and how does stewardship enter into this?

As Christians, all of us have been entrusted with unique gifts God. We are often tempted to use these gifts selfishly for personal and materialistic purposes. After Jesus' baptism, he went into the desert and was tempted by Satan. Jesus did not give in. We too are often presented with temptations that are not consistent with our moral convictions.

Through our baptism, however, we are given the strength to avoid these temptations. We will sometimes stumble in our daily living, but through the grace of God and responsible Christian stewardship, we can live out that discipleship.

Christian stewardship involves responsibility. Responsibility compels us to be accountable for who we are, what we have and what we do. This responsibility as it relates to Christian stewardship suggests that we fulfill our duty, no matter what obstacles we

may encounter, and that we bear even more responsibility when others hold back.

Oftentimes, we are tempted to not become involved, either with our talents or with our treasure, because we know others are not doing their fair share. The temptation to withdraw, to be possessive of our gifts, is great at times such as these.

We can either give in to that temptation, or take seriously God's call to full discipleship with Jesus.

The level of responsibility we as Christian stewards are willing to accept comes with maturity—the maturing of our relationship to God and others. As we do this, we tend to move from

a focus on self to God and to others. This maturity allows us to move beyond our families and ourselves to caring for others.

We must, as responsible Christian stewards, share our gifts with the Church and community and also in caring for the unborn, the poor, the sick, and the aging. We must not be tempted to ignore our responsibility to share our gifts with others.

Through prayer we will receive the strength necessary to eliminate the temptations that our society and world sets before us. We will be able to live as responsible Christian stewards and share in the discipleship of Jesus, which we are given in our baptism.

As Christians, all of us have been entrusted with unique gifts by God.



Poland pilgrimage: May 28 - June 8

Archbishop Myers invites all interested Catholics on an 11-day spiritual journey "In the Footsteps of John Paul II." For information, contact Father Miroslaw Krol, (973) 483-2255, or Teresa Frankiewicz at Doma Travel, (908) 862-7660.



Most Rev. John J. Myers, Archbishop of Newark, and Acting Gov. Richard Codey, made a little resident of Saint Rocco's Family Residence in Newark happy on Christmas Eve by presenting her with gifts. Saint Rocco's, operated by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark, provides short-term shelter to homeless women and children.

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Renewed evangelization effort begun with office, coordinator

BY GREG TOBIN
Editor & Associate Publisher

The words of Jesus are clear: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age. (Mt 18:19-20)"

How each parish and each Catholic Christian fulfills this commission to evangelize the world may not be as well-practiced in the Archdiocese of Newark as it needs to be—yet.

At the beginning of the year, a new coordinator, Liliana Soto, and a new Office of Evangelization have been put in place to serve the needs of the 200-plus pastors and 1,300,000 Catholics of the archdiocese in this vital mission.

We wish to confirm once more that the task of evangelizing all people constitutes the essential mission of the church. It is a task and mission which the vast and profound changes of present-day society make all the more urgent. Evangelizing is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists to evangelize.

—Pope John Paul II, *Evangelii nuntiandi* (On Evangelization in the Modern World) Dec. 8, 1975, §14

Most Rev. Edgar da Cunha, S.D.V., Regional Bishop for Essex County was appointed chairman of the Evangelization Task Force by Archbishop Myers in response to the Holy Father's emphasis on evangelization in the new millennium.

Representatives from the Archdioceses of Newark and Philadelphia and the Dioceses of Allentown, Brooklyn, Camden, Metuchen, Rockville Center, Trenton and Wilmington gathered last month to share resources and methods to foster the central mission of the church, as expressed in the theme of the discussions: "Making Disciples for Jesus Christ."

Bishop da Cunha stated that the Office of Evangelization "will not be just another program but will be a tool, a resource" to provide ongoing support to parishes in this crucial task.

Evangelization, he continued, means to "invite, welcome and feed" members of the Catholic community into the parishes of the local Church. All the bishops of New Jersey are "on board" with the renewed work of evangelization throughout the state.

"The Office of Evangelization will serve as a resource for programs, courses,

workshops and consultations intended to complement and enhance the evangelizing efforts in the Archdiocese of Newark," Liliana Soto said.

"When we evangelize, the Holy Spirit brings an individual to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and thus, to a more abundant life in Him as found in scripture": "A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly. (John 10:10)"

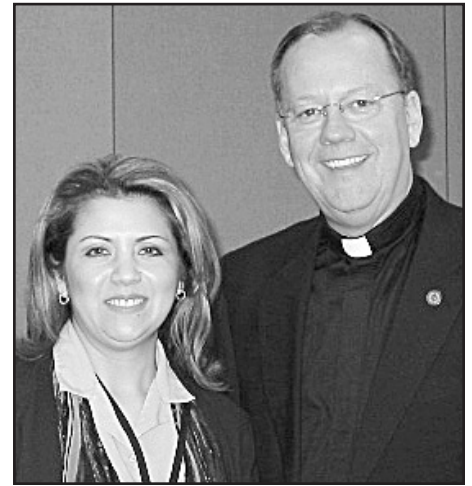
"How will we do this?" she went on. "By transforming our own lives as individuals through the power of the Holy Spirit and the life of the archdiocese as a whole. To be what Christ asks us to be and thereby to become role models. To know why we are Catholic and to act on that knowledge.

"This will be accomplished by using the local parish as a mission field to invite, welcome and feed all of God's children. The local parish is to become an evangelizing parish under the leadership of the pastor. It is important that we as the laity, empower our pastors, thanking and encouraging them—instead of criticizing—by helping and praying for them as they answer Christ's call.

"We are here to help pastors, clergy and committed lay Catholics to bridge the gap between Christ and all of us, each of us as individuals called to a more abundant life in Him."

The office, as Soto describes it, will field inquiries and coordinate information evenings, work with pastors and help to provide tools for them and their parishes, help shoulder the "burden" of their work.

Like Bishop da Cunha, she emphasized that the Office of Evangelization is not a "program" but a defined ministry and a clearinghouse for information on programs to enhance parish ministries—to share with others throughout the archdiocese and "be of help" in creating networks for those at all



Pictured at a convocation of Catholic evangelization representatives last month are Liliana Soto, coordinator of the Office of Evangelization of the Archdiocese of Newark, and Father John E. Hurley, C.S.P., executive director of the Secretariat for Evangelization for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

levels interested in the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Soto is herself bilingual and emphasized that element in the evangelization ministry. Information, workshops, publications will be available in Spanish as well as English.

She most recently served as assistant to the chancellor of the Archdiocese of Newark and has trained evangelization leaders in local parishes. She is a graduate of the Franciscan University of Steubenville, OH, and has been assistant to the director of the Boston regional office of Charismatic Renewal Services.

Liliana Soto is a parishioner of St. Antoninus Church, Newark and has been active in music ministry, proclaiming the Word and as an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist, as well as her involvement in the charismatic movement within the Church.

Two introductory workshops are scheduled for March 9 and 10 to give pastors information on two available evangelization plans: RENEW International's "Why Catholic?" and the Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association's "Disciples in Mission."

Official Appointments

Archbishop John J. Myers has announced the following appointments:

Archdiocesan/Agency/Ministry

Reverend Donald K. Hummel,
Pastor of St. Bartholomew Church, Scotch Plains has been appointed Director of Continuing Education and Formation of Priests, effective March 1.

Pastor

Reverend Monsignor Thomas P. Ivory,
Pastor of the Church of Presentation, Upper Saddle River, has been appointed to a second six-year term, which will end on Nov. 14, 2010.

Administrator

Very Reverend Robert A. Antczak, V.F.,
Pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Jersey City, has also been appointed administrator of Resurrection Parish, Jersey City, effective Jan. 1 until Jan. 19, 2005.

Releases

Reverend John Gordon
has had his release from service in the Archdiocese of Newark for work in the Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio extended through the Spring Semester of 2008.



Chaplaincy

Reverend James F. Spera,
Director of Campus Ministry of Seton Hall University and Vice Rector of the College Seminary at Seton Hall University, South Orange, has been appointed Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus Council #10563, Seton Hall University, effective Dec. 21.

Reverend George Joseph,
Chaplain of St. Mary's Hospital, Hoboken, has been appointed Chaplain of Jersey City Medical Center, Jersey City, with residence at St. Aloysius Rectory, Jersey City, effective January 1, 2005.

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Church agencies mobilize to help victims of Asian tsunami

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As the death toll from the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunamis soared past 150,000, Pope John Paul II invited international agencies and individuals to give generously toward relief efforts.

Speaking at his weekly general audience at the Vatican Dec. 29, the pope said he was especially concerned about the risk of

epidemics in the wake of the catastrophic flooding, which left beaches from India to Thailand littered with corpses. The magnitude 9 earthquake in the Indian Ocean and resulting tsunamis killed people in 12 countries, primarily in Asia, but also in Africa.

“The reports coming from Asia reveal more and more the enormity of this immense catastrophe,” Pope John Paul said.

He praised the international community for rapidly mobilizing aid efforts and said the church’s charitable agencies were doing the same. The previous day the Vatican said at least \$6 million in Church aid had already been earmarked for the affected areas.

In a Dec. 28 statement, the Pontifical Council Cor Unum said Caritas Italy earmarked \$4 million for disaster relief while Caritas International, the Vatican-based global confederation of Catholic social service and development organizations, already had collected \$2 million for relief operations.

In India, Caritas Asia’s executive director, Father Yvon Ambrose, said the more than 160 Caritas organizations around the world had pledged money, expertise and cooperation to

meet the tragedy.

In Baltimore, Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops’ international relief and development agency, committed an initial \$500,000, primarily to help partner agencies in affected countries get emergency relief to survivors and to help avoid disease. A CRS statement said the agency’s response was expected to climb into the millions as it helped the hardest-hit areas of India, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Indonesia.

The Epiphany of Our Lord Visitation of the Magi

The Magi asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.” On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasurers and presented him with gifts.

(Matt 2:1, 11)

The Bible records numerous accounts of people giving gifts to God. As with the Magi, to do so is an act of worship. The first commandment God requested was that people would not worship other gods. But it is easy for us to make our possessions more important than our relationship with God. That is why we have to give possessions back to God—so that we keep God as our top priority.

God is the Creator of everything that exists. He owns everything and we are simply stewards of what we have been entrusted with. God gives blessings to us, we give back to Him as a way to say thank you and to worship.



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CNS photo

Survivors in Cuddalore, India, survey the damage to their house that was destroyed when the tsunami hit Dec. 26. Thousands were killed.

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Sainthood efforts for Oblate Sisters founder ends inquiry

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Oblate Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange, Baltimore-based founder of the first Religious order of African-American women, is one step closer to sainthood.

After 15 years of meticulous research, the Archdiocese of Baltimore has closed an inquiry



Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange

into the life of the founder of the Oblate Sisters of Providence. Archdiocesan officials were expected to send six thick binders filled with pages of documentation to the Vatican Congregation for Saints' Causes in mid-December.

The papers detail how Mother Lange lived a life of heroic faith and heroic virtue while enjoying a reputation for sanctity. The

congregation will examine the work of the inquiry and accept or reject the cause.

If accepted, a "positio"—a kind of biographical position paper—will be formulated based on the results of the diocesan inquiry. After the positio is examined and approved, Mother Lange would be declared "venerable." A miracle attributed to the intercession of Mother Lange would then need to be recognized for her beatification, and another miracle for her canonization.

"We've done what we can," said Baltimore Cardinal William H. Keeler, who officially closed the archdiocesan inquiry Dec. 13 when he signed his name to the documents. "Now it's up to the Holy See."

Cardinal Keeler said he planned to speak with leaders of the Congregation for Saints' Causes in January when he visits Rome to make sure Mother Lange's cause is proceeding smoothly.

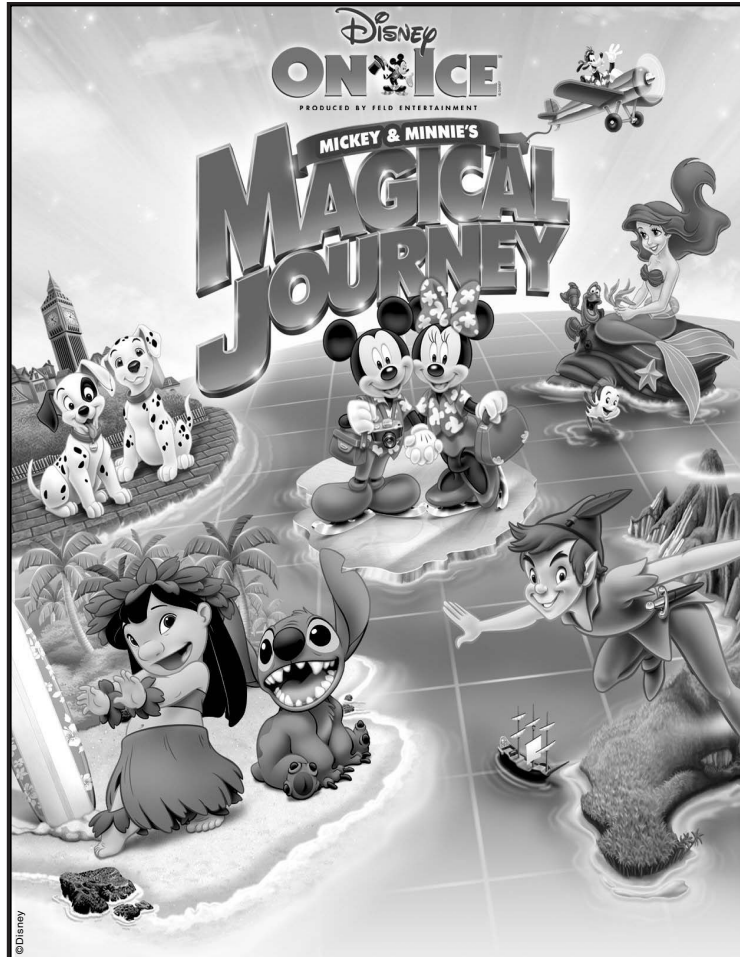
He has already spoken to Pope John Paul II about the life of Mother Lange, a woman of Haitian descent who arrived in Baltimore around 1812 as a refugee.

Mother Lange established St. Frances Academy in Baltimore to educate black children in an era of slavery. Members of her order would later staff other schools around the country and other parts of the world.

Msgr. Jeremiah Kenney, presiding judge on the archdiocesan board of inquiry, said he was amazed by Mother Lange's courage. Although she suffered numerous societal indignities as a woman of

color, Mother Lange carried herself with dignity and grace, he said.

"Everything was a fight uphill," he said. "She held her head high when others wanted her to hold it low."



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White Castle

Boys Tripleheader
Saturday, January 8, 2005
12:00 Noon - St. Benedict's Prep vs. St. Joseph's, Metuchen
1:45 - St. Patrick's vs. Paramus Catholic
3:30 - St. Anthony vs. CBA
at St. Peter's College in Jersey City

Girls Tripleheader
Saturday, January 22, 2005
3:00 - Academy of the Holy Angels vs. St. Dominic Academy
4:45 - Immaculate Heart Academy vs. St. Rose
6:30 - St. Anthony vs. Paramus Catholic
at Paramus Catholic High School

TICKETS call (973) 497-4279 to purchase tickets or order online at www.basketballfestival.com
General Admission Tickets (purchased prior to game day) are \$9 for adults, \$5 for students
Reserved Section Seats are \$25

Spirituality

• The Office of Ministerial Development will offer eight-week courses on the Gospel and Spirituality, the Year of the Lord, and Evangelization, beginning the week of Jan. 10. Call (973) 497-4350 or email stantovi@rcan.org for locations and details.

• The Lumen Center, Caldwell, will begin "The New Day" on Jan. 5, 6:45 p.m.-8:30 p.m., a nine-week seminar for men and women going through the early stages of grieving. Cost \$50. The Poetry of Self Discovery, Jan. 17, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., offers time for prayer and reflection. Cost \$40. Call (973) 403-3331, ext. 25 or email lumencenter@caldwell.org for a brochure.

• The Polish Cultural Foundation invites members and all interested for the annual Christmas program on Jan. 9 at 4 p.m. at the Banquet Hall, 177 Broadway, Clark. After the concert, there will be a sing-along of Christmas carols. Cost \$20, including traditional Polish buffet. Call (732) 382-7197.

Workshops

• Saint Aloysius Parish, Caldwell, will offer English as a Second Language (ESL) on Jan. 20, 7 p.m., and Jan. 30, 11 a.m. Call Sister Lenore DeCoster, (973) 226-0209, ext. 8.

• The Office of Continuing Formation of Priests of the Archdiocese of Newark will host "The Pastor as Spiritual Leader of the Worshipping Community," Jan. 11, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Cost: \$25. Call (973) 497-4225 or email downinfr@rcan.org.

• Felician College will host an information session on Jan. 19 for its nursing programs. The session will be held from 6-8 p.m. at the Lodi campus, in the Main College Building, 262 South Main St. Several nursing programs will be featured, including Generic Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing; Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program for Registered Nurses; Fast-Track Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program for Registered Nurses; School Nurse/Health Educator Certificate Program, and Master of Sci-

ence in Nursing Electronically Enhanced Curriculum. Call (201) 559-6055.

• A two-day Protecting God's Children facilitator training class has been scheduled for Feb. 4 and 5, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Archdiocesan Center, 171 Clifton Ave., Newark. All training will be conducted in English, but materials in Spanish will be available for bilingual facilitators. Attendees must complete the full two days of training in order to serve as facilitators. Pre-registration is required, and must be done by Feb. 1, 3 p.m. Lunch will be served on each day. Call Liz Kepniss at (973) 497-4187 at email kepnel@rcan.org.

Retreats

• Carmel Retreat, Mahwah, offers "Did St. Paul Hate Women?" on Jan. 9, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Cost \$25, including lunch. Call (201) 327-7090.

• Carmel Retreat will also offer Spirituality and Spiritual Direction on Jan. 16, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Cost \$25. Call (201) 327-7090.

Singles

• St. Phil's Singles has a number of events coming up for the month of January. They will go to the W.M.T.R. Classic Oldies Sock Hop Tour at the Holiday Inn, Springfield, Jan. 8, and play volleyball at the St. Philomena's School Gym, Livingston, Jan. 15, 7:30 p.m. Call (973) 340-4001. They will have a book night at Borders, Livingston, at Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m., and a Mexican Food Night at Qdoba Mexican Grill, Denville, Jan. 22, 8 p.m. Call (973) 248-9245. They will have a games night at St. Joseph's Hall, Livingston, Jan. 29, 7:30 p.m. Call (973) 340-4001 or visit www.homestead.com/stphilssingles for information on all events.

Miscellaneous

• The Knights of Columbus, St. Francis of Assisi Council 4524, will have a trip to Caesars Casino, Jan. 29. Buses will leave St. Joseph's Friary, 120 Hoboken Rd., East Rutherford, 9 a.m. and return 7:30 p.m. Cost \$20. Call Tom Moriarity, (201) 935-1561 or Jim Kenny, (201) 939-5134.

• St. Elizabeth Interparochial School, Wyckoff, is looking for all alumni (1954-1996) as well as parents, faculty and anyone else associated with the school to help in celebrating its 50th anniversary with a gala celebration on Feb. 5. Tickets are \$50. Call Karen Walther Mangin at (201) 848-4841 or email her at karenmangin@netscape.net.

Parish evangelization information sessions

Wednesday, March 9 or Thursday, March 10, 7:30 p.m. at Archdiocesan Center, 171 Clifton Ave., Newark. English and Spanish sessions available. Contact Liliana Soto, Coordinator of Evangelization, to reserve date and language preference. Phone (973) 497-4010 or email sotoli@rcan.org

Study hall, library are goals of fundraisers

BY LISA HADDOCK

Special to The Catholic Advocate

The Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Newark are sponsoring an annual fundraising dinner to benefit an orphanage run by their order in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Msgr. William J. Reilly, pastor of Most Holy Name Parish, Garfield, and a committee coordinate the event, now in its 10th year. This year's goal is to raise funds to build a study hall and library at the Heart of Jesus Children's Home (Hogar Infan-

tíl del Corazón de Jesús).

"None of these kids wear glasses, and it's not because they all see 20-20," the priest said. So the committee is also studying plans to finance eye exams for the 65 residents.

Over the years, the dinners have raised \$120,000. The 2005 event will be held Jan. 21 at 7:30 p.m. at Holy Spirit Parish, located at Morris Avenue and Suburban Road, Union. Tickets are \$30, and the deadline is Jan. 15. For details, call Msgr. Reilly at (973) 340-8863.

Icy plunge to aid NJ charity

The 12th annual Polar Bear Plunge fundraiser sponsored by New Jersey Law Enforcement for Special Olympics will be held Sun., Feb. 27 at noon in Point Pleasant Beach.

Last year more than \$420,000 was raised for the children and adults who participate in Special Olympics, currently more than 13,000 athletes from 400 communities throughout New Jersey.

Each participant in the event must raise a minimum of \$100.

Father John McCrone, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes, Mountainside, and Elizabeth Kepniss of the Office of Communications of the Archdiocese of Newark will be among the 3,000 "plungers" expected for the event.

For more information call (973) 497-4187 or email bbpinfo@sonj.org.

Remembering those in need

Students throughout the Archdiocese gave abundantly of their time, talent and treasure to help those in need during the Christmas season.

Students at **St. Rose of Lima School**, Short Hills, collected food and served the poor at St. Mary's Soup Kitchen, Elizabeth; created more than 50 Thanksgiving baskets for the poor; wrote letters to cheer up wounded soldiers in Iraq; donated books to their sister school, St. Rose of Lima, Newark; wrapped dozens of Christmas presents for poor children; gave supplies to a school in the Caribbean devastated by a hurricane; helped clean up the Franciscan Friary, Newark, and supported efforts to eliminate drugs from the community through the MMAC program, among other initiatives.

Students at **St. John the Apostle**, Clark/Linden, prepared for Christmas with a weekly Advent service prepared by each grade. The Kindergarten through fifth grade students, as well as the Schola, presented a Christmas concert. The first grade presented the story of "The Littlest Angel" to the entire school. Instead of having a grab bag, students offered gifts for the parish's Giving Tree and some classes participated in the "Hats and Gloves Drive" for a shelter in Elizabeth.

The **Academy of Saint Aloysius**, Jersey City, celebrated Christmas by helping the less fortunate. Sponsored by the sophomore class, a toy drive was held. A Christmas clothing drive also took place. The National Honor Society sponsored a "Cash for Trash" movement to collect cell phones and ink cartridges sponsored by Kastle Kreation. The Academy Angels also remembered those with AIDS throughout December by participating in the Mission Club's AIDS Awareness Month, raising money and awareness by selling red ribbons and baked goods. The Academy also sponsored a "Kindness Week," giving the opportunity for each student and staff member to extended acts of kindness and good will towards a "Secret Angel" exchange.

Students of **Resurrection School**, Jersey City, worked in St. John's Soup Kitchen, Newark, throughout the holiday season. They collected money to help the area's poor as well as in other countries. During Advent, they collected items needed by mental health patients at Secaucus Hospital.

At **Our Lady of Sorrows School**, South Orange, second grade students—as part of the school's "Make a Difference Program"—used allowance and chore money to participate in a Christmas stocking stuffer program. Some 70 stockings were sent to Our Lady of Sorrows School, Jersey City. Fifth grade students wrote letters to the troops in Iraq and collected loose change to buy shoes and toys for Iraqi children.

Holy Spirit School, Union, filled 100 bags of snack items to send to servicemen in Cuba. Eighth-grader Alessandra Araujo initiated this project since her father, Capt. Jurandir Araujo, is stationed in Guantanamo Bay.

Students of **St. Dominic Academy** (SDA), Jersey City, were extremely busy. The SDA Dominoes sang at the Jersey City Christmas Tree lighting at City Hall, and for senior citizens living at Fairmount Apartments, Jersey City. The Glee Club performed its annual Christmas concert to a full audience at St. Aloysius Parish, Jersey City, and at the Jersey City Women's Club. Students held a clothing/toy drive for infants at Hudson Cradle, Jersey City, which cares for abandoned babies, and had a giving tree for needy children of Sacred Heart Parish, Jersey City. Appalachian Experience Club members sold Christmas wreaths in preparation for their trip to help build homes for people in West Virginia. The SDA community held an Advent liturgy at St. Aloysius Parish, and seniors performed Christmas plays for underclasswomen, an annual tradition.

The students at the **Hillside Catholic Academy** conducted a food drive for Sister Jacinta Fernandez and her work at the St. Joseph Social Service Center. The students donated enough food for 11 complete Christmas dinners. The students paid a dollar to take part in a "dress down" day. The proceeds were to be used to buy additional supplies for the center. The fourth grade students under the direction of Donna Brumbaugh created Christmas stockings, which were filled with items for the residents of St. Joseph's. The students also collected \$225, which was to be donated to the Holy Childhood Association. This drive was kicked off on Nov. 29 with the students attending an assembly conducted by Sister Arlene.

How to Report Abuse

The Archdiocese of Newark takes very seriously any and all credible complaints of sexual misconduct by members of the clergy, Religious and lay staff of the archdiocese. We encourage anyone with knowledge of an act of sexual misconduct to inform the archdiocese immediately so that we may take appropriate action to protect others and provide support to victims of sexual abuse.

Individuals who wish to report an allegation of sexual misconduct may do so by calling the Office of the Chancellor of the Archdiocese at (973) 497-4009.

Nothing temporary about her parish

Editor,

I was surprised and disappointed to learn from Msgr. John Gilchrist's two recent columns (*The Catholic Advocate*, Nov. 17 and Dec. 8) that my parish is merely "a temporary answer to a passing phenomenon." I am of Polish and Italian descent, and a parishioner of St. Stanislaus Kostka, Garfield.

As a grandchild of immigrants, I am offended that the churches they built are referred to in this manner. The immigrants who came to this country and built our churches may not have understood the word "stewardship," but they practiced it. They gave of their time, talent and treasure to build the "huge, beautiful churches" that Msgr. Gilchrist seems to dismiss.

The now-outdated Archdiocesan Statutes from 1941, which Msgr. Gilchrist quotes, simply state that subsequent generations are not obliged to go to the language parish that their parents and grandparents went to, but that they may instead attend the territorial parish. Nowhere in the statutes does it say that the next generations must go to the territorial parish, nor that they are prohibited from attending the language parish.

Although "Catholic immigration from Europe has all but ceased" for some groups, many immigrants from Poland continue to come to this country every year, and our Polish parishes and priests are diligently serving their needs. The Polish parishes and indeed all ethnic parishes also help to preserve the heritage and traditions of the people and pass them on to future generations.

The Catholic Church in the United States has flourished in large part because of the rich diversity of its people. In no other country is the catholicity of the Church better expressed, and it is as a result of our ethnic parishes. It would be a devastating loss to our Archdiocese of Newark and to the Catholic Church in the U.S., if these parishes no longer existed.

Carol Luparella
Elmwood Park

Privacy is at issue

Editor,

Most of us recognize that the combined forces against life—most of which focus on the so-called "Constitutional" right to abortion before or during birth—are so extremist that they want abortion as the first—and only—choice for pregnant women who for any reason whatsoever do not wish to suffer the inconvenience of a pregnancy.

These abortion advocates insist that every kind of issue which has any impact at all upon the "right" to abortion, such as parental advise protection for underage women, be resolved in favor of restricting any and all who would seek to offer any choice or advise other than abortion.

This is the crux of the New Jersey law proposed to force all agencies and all parents to lose any right they might have to prevent public exposure of the biological parents to anyone who at anytime wishes to "discover" the parent.

The real pressure to force this public exposure is to remove one more reason for a woman to offer a child up for adoption. The pregnant woman will now be faced—if this law is enacted—with a lifetime of risk of exposure, something she wishes to avoid.

The abortion forces know that this threat of exposure is another way they can threaten her into having an abortion.

So, if you have any thought that there is some kind of compassion here, do not be deceived

One last thought. If a legal right is established, to violate the desire of the parent to remain anonymous, why would not that right extend to the multitude of illicit births which occur from adulterous relationships within marriage and the pregnancies which result from intercourse outside the bond of marriage?

Michael J. Donnelly
Lawrenceville

'Grace in action'

Editor,

On a damp, dreary winter's afternoon, a small band of intrepid folk set out on their annual Thanksgiving eve trek.

Their goal was to deliver home cooked turkey dinners to the good people of the Baptist Community Church in Englewood.

Since November 2000, the social concern's group of Our Lady of Victories Parish, Harrington Park, in northeast Bergen County, has organized this special food drive.

The president of the group told me that she first heard about donating cooked food, rather than frozen turkeys, from her sister-in-law who was a parishioner at Presentation Church in the Upper Saddle River (northwest Bergen County).

Although Our Lady of Victories is a small parish of approximately 600 families, this small group of dedicated people decided to take on the challenge.

This year for example, people brought containers of brown gravy, mashed potatoes, creamed spinach, squash, carrots, casseroles, corn bread, candied yams, corn bread, collard greens with ham bits, 18 pies, assorted desserts and even a tray of Irish Stew!

The need is great. The food delivered to the Baptist Church is then given to their neediest people. This year they were going to cut the turkeys in half in order to reach as many as possible. So, the spirit of the Lord continues to flourish through ordinary people doing extraordinary things.

I was able to accompany this group on their drive to Englewood and see grace in action.

What a blessed experience!

Paul Criqui
Waldwick

Service and progress mark past year

The milestones, challenges, transitions and accomplishments of the year made 2004 a historic time for this local Church of Newark. Of course, every season of time is unique. What will be best remembered in 2004 are the people, issues and events that affected the entire archdiocese and supported the mission of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ and building His Church.

In 2004 the Archdiocese of Newark continued to be in compliance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, instituted a new youth protection office, marched for the sanctity of life in Trenton and Washington, DC, moved forward with the New Energies Task Force parish project, ordained 14 priests and launched the Heritage Tour of landmark local churches.

Archbishop Myers led his assistant bishops and suffragan bishops on the quinquennial *ad limina* visit to the Holy See and called for a new and energetic emphasis on evangelization.

The year also saw the opening of the Bishop Francis Center for Immigration Services and a nationally recognized focus on helping the victims of human trafficking, key personnel changes and reorganization at the chancery, the retirement of two bishops and the translation of one to a neighboring diocese, as well as the episcopal ordination of two new auxiliary bishops.

The parishes under the leadership of our clergy continued to be the keystone of the faith of the 1,300,000 Catholics in this crucial year of action and self-examination.

Our schools and colleges, too, made progress as individual institutions and as an important, unified component of the local Church. Seton Hall University announced a major capital campaign to tie in with its upcoming sesquicentennial.

Grammar and high school students, especially during the Christmas season, lived out the meaning of the birth of Christ through prayer, study and service to others less fortunate, including our service personnel overseas.

Importantly, the three archdiocesan seminaries welcomed more candidates for the priesthood than they had in many years, visibly demonstrating the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of this local Church in union with Rome.

The sesquicentennial commemoration of the founding of the diocese ended in October, coincident with the golden jubilee of the dedication of the most visible symbol of the archdiocese, the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark.

In one way or the other all of these events touched the lives of those who call the Church of Newark home. The year that just passed into history again illustrates the vibrancy and holiness of the Archdiocese of Newark.

Today's Question: What must I do to be saved? (Acts 16:30) Jesus said in Mark 1:15, "Repent and believe in the Gospel." John 3:16 and 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 (as well as many other sources) say that God gave His Son to die for our sins. By believing in Him we have eternal life. Could this then be the simple answer to the above question? As it is written, "The just shall live by faith." Am I missing something? Is there anything more than faith in Jesus and love toward all? – Tom Blake

Yes, Tom, you basically answered your own question. The rich young man (Matthew 19:16-30; Mark 10: 17-31, and Luke 18:18-30), of course, also asked, "Teacher, what good must I do to gain eternal life?" Jesus replied, "Keep the commandments." Having observed them all, the man asked, "What do I still lack?" Jesus replied, "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then, come, follow me."

The Catechism of the Catholic Church puts it this way: "Believing in Jesus Christ and in the One who sent him for our salvation is necessary for obtaining that salvation. (Cf. Mark 16:16 and John 3:36, 6:40) 'Since "without faith it is impossible to please [God]" and to attain to the fellowship of his sons, therefore without faith no

one has ever attained justification, nor will anyone obtain eternal life "but he who endures to the end.""

"Faith is an entirely free gift that God makes to man. We can lose this priceless gift, as St. Paul indicated to St. Timothy: 'Wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting conscience, certain persons have made ship-

What's
the
Matter?

By Msgr. Richard J. Arnolds



wreck of their faith.' (1Timothy 1:18-19) To live, grow, and persevere in the faith until the end we must nourish it with the word of God; we must beg the Lord to increase our faith; it must be 'working through charity,' abounding in hope, and rooted in the faith of the Church." (161-2)

The Catholic Advocate welcomes questions from its readers about our Catholic faith and how it is practiced. Email your questions or comments to us at advnews@rcan.org.

The human person is still very much the issue

Forty years ago this month, a meeting that would have important consequences for the world Church was convened in Ariccia, just outside Rome. Bishops and lay experts had been called there to hammer out a final draft text for the hot potato of Vatican II: the document that would eventually be called the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World or, in its Latin title, *Gaudium et spes* ("Joy and Hope").

In those days it was known as "Schema XIII," and it had had a very rocky run through the council. Its original sponsors, the Belgian Cardinal Suenens and Milan's Cardinal Montini (who would be elected as Pope Paul VI in 1963), wanted the council to demonstrate that what the modern world experienced, celebrated, and suffered was also "the joy and hope, the grief and anguish of the followers of Christ" (as *Gaudium et spes* finally put it). It sounds unexceptionable today.

But the idea that an ecumenical council should address the political, economic, social and cultural conditions of the modern world with an appreciative as well as critical eye was thought dangerous nonsense by some council fathers.

It didn't seem nonsense in January 1965 to the newly appointed Archbishop of Krakow, a Pole named Karol Wojtyla. He joined vigorously in the debates at Ariccia, where his fellow participants included such theological luminaries as the French Jesuits Jean Danielou and Henri de Lubac, and Yves Congar, the French Dominican. Congar found in Wojtyla's personality "a magnetic power, prophetic strength, full

The Catholic Difference

by George Weigel



of peace and impossible to resist." Still, it was de Lubac with whom Wojtyla struck up an enduring friendship.

Schema XIII was finally approved at the end of the council's fourth session, in December 1965, but the argument over "the Church in the modern world" has continued ever since. Some found the document naively optimistic in its appraisal of modern society and culture—a critique they believed vindicated when the West seemed to come apart at the seams in 1968.

Others were inclined to think that *Gaudium et spes* was being read out of context, and that the pastoral constitution had to be understood in light of the council's most important theological product, the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (*Lumen Gentium*). Still others argued that *Gaudium et spes* "didn't go far enough" and should have embraced "progressive" views of sex, economics, ecology and politics more fervently.

Gaudium et spes 22 (Christ reveals the truth about our humanity) and *Gaudium et spes* 24 (life is to be lived as self-gift) have been the conciliar texts most frequently cited by John Paul II. Yet the process of reflection the Ariccia meeting intensified in Karol Wojtyla has also had an enduring impact on what it means to be "the Church in the modern world." In 1968, Wojtyla wrote his Ariccia colleague, Father de Lubac, about his new intellectual project:

"I devote my very rare free moments to a work...on the mystery of the person. It seems to me that the debate today is being played out at that level. The evil of our times consists in the first place in a kind of degradation, indeed in a pulverization, of the fundamental uniqueness of each human person. This evil is even much more of the metaphysical order than of the moral order...."

Awful things were being done to human beings; that was the evil in the "moral order." In many cases, those awful things were the by-products of desperately defective ideas of what a human being is. That was the evil in what the future pope called the "metaphysical order." Marry those bad ideas to modern technology, and you get Auschwitz, the Gulag, a "Prague Spring" crushed by Soviet tanks, Mao's lunatic cultural revolution, mayhem in Southeast Asia and all the rest.

That was 1968; but the basic issue remains the same today. As the challenge of the biotech revolution demonstrates, to be "the Church in the modern world" means to be a Church in defense of the inalienable dignity of the human person—a dignity that neither science and the state bestows, but which science and the state must acknowledge. The Ariccia debate, begun two generations ago, continues.

George Weigel is a senior fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, DC.

Awful things were being done to human beings; that was the evil in the "moral order."

God loves us throughout the march of time

New Year's Day is always a milestone. Aristotle defined time as a measure of motion according to a before and an after. Different people have measured time according to different standards.

For example, the Jewish people used several calendars over the years. New Year was once during the Passover time. Later it was changed from spring to fall. At one time the Jewish people followed a lunar month of 29 and a half days based on the phases of the moon.

Ultimately the Jews mixed a Babylonian system with their own astronomical calculations to develop the present day calendar that Israel uses today.

We ourselves used a Julian calendar and then changed it to a Gregorian calendar so that our time corresponded more exactly to our journey around the sun. But we still need to put in a leap year every four years to keep the years exactly correct.

It seems that every race and religion has a calendar. Every group also has a different New Year's Day. Every religion calculates the New Year from a different date. But one thing is certain; all of us keep two dates.

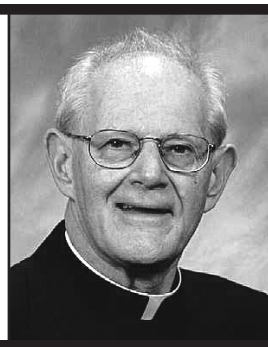
One is that day when we entered onto this mortal coil, this human stream of history—that is our birthday.

The second is that each year we join the human community in recording the course of history by the marking of years.

So we celebrate birthdays and for us older folks we usually say the same thing. "By gosh, the years go by quicker every year."

Voices

By Msgr. John Gilchrist



And we don't really celebrate New Year's Day. It is more like a person standing at the back of a train, on the platform, looking backward as the scenery and events of history stretch out behind us. Each year marks a stage where we have seen more and our view is longer as people and happenings are left behind.

We are watching personal and world events fade into the past.

But there is one aspect of our lives as Christians that never permits us simply to be observers on the world stage. We are people in waiting for the future. Catholics must be optimists because we know that God is in command and that for the Christian community

all things work together onto good.

No matter what happens—be it personal tragedies, or sickness, or persecution we know that God loves us. Every personal cross leads to a resurrection. Every sunrise means a new day that God has given us.

This old Church has been through a thousand forms of crisis. Our own lives have been a mixture of pain and joy. But always deep within us, we sense a presence. It is the Christ who loves us.

So, on every birthday and on every New Year, we may glance back at that passing panorama of our lives. But we quickly look ahead. God is our companion on this our journey.

So, pilgrim, look up. There is always a new day—a new adventure. Finally, one day we will reach the end of the journey. Then what a beautiful place awaits us.

It is that blessed paradise—that place where time is no more. We will have no more desire. We will be at perfect peace in the presence of "He who is." And all that we could ever hope for will be

there. A perfect fulfillment will be ours.

So, let's move on with joy and confidence. Our destination is glorious.

Msgr. Gilchrist is pastor of Holy Cross Parish, Harrison.

Every religion calculates the New Year from a different date.

Happiness lies with the Prince of Peace

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—In a Christmas plea for peace, Pope John Paul II said human suffering in Iraq, Sudan and the Holy Land demonstrates that the whole world needs the reconciling message of Jesus.

The Holy Father made his appeal in an annual Christmas blessing which he delivered *urbi et orbi* — Latin for “to the city and to the world.” It was televised to more than 70 countries, along with the pope’s Christmas greetings in 62 languages.

In a postscript the next day, the pope prayed for the more than 40,000 people killed in 11 countries when a massive earthquake spawned a series of tidal waves that inundated coastal areas from Sri Lanka to Indonesia.

After listening to Christmas carols on Christmas Eve, the Bishop of Rome celebrated midnight Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica. Although his voice was sometimes indistinct, the 84-year-old pontiff looked alert and pronounced the full text of his short sermon.

“Look upon us, eternal Son of God, who took flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary. All humanity, with its burden of trials and troubles, stands in need of you,” the pope said.

It was the first time since last August that the pope publicly celebrated the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the second part of the Mass that requires his presence at the altar. The increasingly common practice has been

for the pontiff to celebrate the Liturgy of the Word and have a cardinal celebrate the rest of the Mass.

The pope gave his Christmas blessing the next morning, in a ceremony that was more abbreviated than in previous years. An international crowd of about 20,000 people stood under a light rain in St. Peter’s Square, cheering and applauding when the pope said Merry Christmas in their language.

“May the birth of the Prince of Peace remind the world where its true happiness lies, and may your hearts be filled with hope and joy, for the Savior has been born for us,” the Holy Father said in English.

In his talk, delivered in the form of a prayer, the pope asked Jesus to enlighten people around the world and encourage attempts at dialogue and peace.

“You alone are the Redeemer of mankind. Before the crib where you lie helpless, let there be an end to the spread of violence in its many forms, the source of untold suffering,” he said.

“Let there be an end to the numerous situations of unrest which risk degenerating into open conflict; let there arise a firm will to seek peaceful solutions, respectful of the legitimate aspirations of individuals and peoples,” he said.

The pope said efforts to promote dialogue and reconciliation and to build peace were hesitant but “not without hope” in many areas of the world.

‘You alone are the Redeemer of mankind.’

The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II



Joy in Bethlehem

Dear brothers and sisters,

The liturgy of this Christmas season is a meditation on the great mystery of the Incarnation. The Letter to the Hebrews (Heb 1:1-2) describes it as God speaking to us his definitive word of salvation. In the traditional Nativity scene, the eternal and all-powerful Creator speaks to us through His only Son, who became a child living among us. Mary, His mother, is the first to receive Him and present him to the world. Near her we see St. Joseph, called to act as the father and guardian of our Redeemer. The angels are present, proclaiming glory to God and peace to mankind (Lk 2:14). The shepherds are also there, representing the humble and the poor. The Magi from afar will soon arrive to adore the King of the universe. The present liturgical season invites us to go with joy to the stable at Bethlehem and meet our Savior. Let us open our hearts to him so that he may come to us and stay with us every day of the new year.

Baptism and righteousness bring us into Paschal Mystery

Readings: Is 42:1-9; Ps 29; Acts 10:34-38; Mt 3:13-17

What do we know about John the Baptist? Besides the accounts in the Gospels and Acts of his work to prepare people for the coming of the Messiah, the Jewish historian Josephus (born A.D. 37) offered a brief account of his public life and death.

“To some Jews the destruction of Herod’s army (by the forces of Aretas, king of Petra) seemed to be divine vengeance, and certainly a just vengeance, for his treatment of John, surnamed the Baptist. For Herod had him put to death, though he was a good man and had exhorted the Jews to lead righteous lives, to practice justice toward their fellows and piety toward God, and so doing join in baptism.

“In his view this was a necessary preliminary if baptism was to be acceptable to God. They must not employ it to gain pardon for whatever sins they committed, but as a consecration of the body implying that the soul was already thoroughly cleansed by right behavior...” (Jewish Antiquities XVIII 5.2 116-117)

Probably Josephus was drawing on reminiscences of people contemporary with John, showing the remarkable impression that John made as a teacher. His eloquence and influential leadership were the reasons that Josephus gave for Herod’s demand that he be executed. The Gospels stress, more precisely, that he died for his witness to the divine laws of marriage.

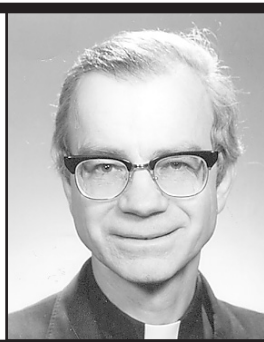
A similar emphasis concerning interior conversion was already integrated into the worship of the Qumran community, which produced the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Any hypocrite belonging to the group “shall not be reckoned among the perfect. He shall neither be purified by atonement, nor cleansed by purifying waters, nor sanctified by seas and rivers, nor washed clean by any ablution. Unclean, unclean shall he be!” (Community Rule III:3-5). The state of sinfulness is a spiritual leprosy (see Lv 13:45) that makes a mock-

Sunday Readings

The Baptism of the Lord
(Jan. 9, 2005)

By Father Lawrence Frizzell



ery of the person’s involvement in religious rituals.

The link between worship and daily life, taught by prophets and sages of ancient Israel, was a central focus among religious teachers in the late Second Temple period. Of course, such a message is never heard too often! Thus does the Church bring the teachings of John to our attention each year.

The righteous life to which John called his listeners had two aspects: justice in human relationships and piety in divine worship. The proper interior disposition implied an openness to God, who uses signs to educate people concerning divine gifts.

Did Josephus understand that “right behavior” itself brought forgiveness, or was he adapting his report to the limited understanding of his pagan readers?

The Gospel reports that John admonished the people to produce good fruit as the evidence of their sincere repentance (Mt 3:8). When Jesus joined those seeking baptism, John protested that he should be baptized by the Nazarene. John had declared already: “He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire” (Mt 3:11).

Jesus is committed totally to the right order demanded by the divine will.

But Jesus explained that “it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness” (3:15). To fulfill the Law and the Prophets (5:17), Jesus wanted to identify himself with a sinful humanity in need of righteousness as a divine gift. He thus accepted the work of John to show his obedience to the heavenly Father.

The New Testament shows that Jesus’ ministry begins with a manifestation of the Spirit and a hearing of the Father’s Word. Mark makes clear that Jesus is the beneficiary of this experience (1:9-11); Matthew probably records the statement, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased” (3:17), as addressed to Christian community listening to the Gospel.

As Son of the God, Jesus is committed totally to the right order demanded by the divine will. Thus he rejected the easy road suggested in the diabolical temptations (Mt 1:1-11) and persevered in spite of sorrow and distress (26:38). “My Father, if it possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not as I will, but as you will” (26:39).

Jesus offered an example of righteousness in his baptism and ministry that became the pattern for his disciples. He asked the sons of Zebedee: “Can you drink the cup that I am going to drink?” (Mt 20:22). Like Peter, they would learn in Gethsemani that prayer was needed to sustain their commitment.

Too fatigued to join Jesus in his prayer (26:36-46), they eventually did accept the service of his death. “The Son of man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many” (20:28).

On this feast and in daily life, we express gratitude for the way in which our baptism has integrated us into the Paschal Mystery of Jesus’ death and resurrection.

Father Lawrence Frizzell is Director of the Institute of Judaean-Christian Studies at Seton Hall University.

Serving parishioners central to pastor's mission

BY BRIAN FORES
Staff Writer

At first glance, Most Blessed Sacrament, a parish of 1,670 families in the affluent town of Franklin Lakes, seems to have it all—willing and generous parishioners, healthy Mass attendance, a thriving grammar school, a modern church located on spacious grounds, and foremost, the newest regional bishop of Bergen County as its pastor.

But Most Rev. John W. Flesey, appointed pastor there only last June, is the first to attest that there were challenges that needed to be faced at MBS (as parishioners and staff refer to it). “I think one of the hardest things [for the parishioners] has been that they’ve had many difficult transitions—I’m the fifth pastor in about the last 8 years,” he noted.

“It’s difficult when there’s that much change, but this parish has a long history of people being very involved, and they’ve been overwhelmingly welcoming toward myself and Father Mike [Father Michael Donovan, parochial vicar since June]. Whether it’s telling us verbally how glad they are that we are here, or asking if there is anything they can do to help or responding to our requests for help, people have been very gracious in greeting us as a new team.”

In fact, Kathy DiPiazza, assistant to the bishop in his dual role as pastor and regional vicar, said with a laugh, “People call them [Bishop Flesey and Father Donovan] the ‘dynamic duo.’ There was a constant turnaround in our priests, and people became discouraged. Now we have Bishop Flesey, who is always taking time out for people, even though he is so busy. And Father Mike works seven days a week.



The exterior of Most Blessed Sacrament Church is modern in design. The impressive bells, which date back to 1875, originate from St. Alphonsus Parish, Manhattan, which was demolished in the early 1980's.

He actively encourages parishioners to come to him for whatever their needs. People are starting to regain a sense of security.”

Bishop Flesey noted, “It’s an exciting time. But it’s also a time of big adjustment for both Father Mike and myself. For him, it’s his first time as a priest [Father Donovan was ordained last May], and for me, my first time as a pastor.”

Since his episcopal ordination last May, Bishop Flesey has been juggling a mind-boggling number of responsibilities, which have kept him from delving into his role as pastor as much as he would like to.

He said that one of the biggest challenges has been to finish out his responsibilities as director of ongoing formation for the archdiocese, for which he had committed to a number of retreats.

The retreats are arranged a year in advance, “It’s extremely difficult for people if you back out,” Bishop Flesey said. Good to his word, since May, he has conducted five one-week retreats for

priests, two weekend retreats for permanent deacons and their wives from Paterson and Newark, and a retreat for the Benedictine Sisters of Elizabeth.

In his role as an auxiliary bishop, he has taken three major trips for bishops’ conferences, to Denver, Rome [for the *ad limina* visit, which takes place every five years], and to Washington, DC. All these, in addition to numerous other important activities, have added up to a significant amount of time away from the parish.

“There are a lot of challenges, both at the local and archdiocesan level, and then as a member of the bishops’ conference, where the issues are national and international. It will probably take two years before I feel totally at home and relate all these roles to one another. But it’s exciting, and enables me to bring to bear my experience of 35 years as a priest,” he explained.

Luckily, Bishop Flesey has in Father Donovan an extremely capable and efficient parochial vicar. “Father Mike is doing a fabulous job, he is used to handling large responsibilities, and keeps in frequent communication with me. I guess I’m what you call a ‘cell-phone’ pastor,” he mused.

Father Donovan does not fit the mold of the typical new priest. “I was a lawyer for 24 years,” he noted. He said he thought that as a young man, “I might have a vocation,” but after completing a bachelor’s degree from Marquette University, he entered Fordham University School of Law, and began practicing law shortly thereafter.

Despite working his way to partner of a prominent law firm, and eventually forming a firm with Gary J. Cucchiara, Father Donovan said, “I was fairly successful, and happy,

but it was just a job.”

Father Donovan said that the listening skills he developed as a lawyer have helped him as a priest. “I’m 54. As a lawyer, you get to meet people with all types of experiences—nothing would really shock me too much. But, you learn to just listen to people, without feeling the need to interject. The most important thing is, I try to be present to people.”

Bishop Flesey outlined a similar philosophy, “I believe that we’re all called to serve in a parish; there’s a mission that the Lord wants me to accomplish, to serve the needs of the parish. And I am not only the giver, but the receiver, because the parishioners challenge me to be a good pastor, and Father Mike, to be a good new priest.”

The parish has a number of other dedicated staff and volunteers, among them, Sister Anne Lucille Coates, S.S.J., director of religious education, and at the parish since 1972. The program, which has some 900 students in grades K-9, has benefited from Sister Anne’s imaginative approach. “It’s hard to explain what I do, because I do so many things that are unconventional,” she offered.

Several years ago, for the Feast of All Souls, Sister Anne enlisted the local funeral director to donate a spare coffin for a day, which was used to teach students about death and the human body.

“The pastor at the time, Father McDade, was a little nervous about the parents’ reaction, but I wanted to show the children that we don’t just show reverence for the human body, but we show reverence for the human body because it is the dwelling place of God.

The parish also has a bustling grammar school of 260, which encompasses grades pre-K through eight, including a “Mommy and Me” program for toddlers ages 18-36 months.

JoAnn Mathews, principal there for two years, said that for the Christmas season, the children have decorated the school themselves. “It’s something phenomenal compared to what you typically see,” she said.

Bishop Flesey, who recently visited the school donning a Santa’s cap, concurred, “The decorations are amazing—so vibrant. It looks like you’ve walked into Macy’s.”

Mathews said the school has a laptop program, with the school providing computers for the students, as well as well-

developed sports and visual and performing arts programs.

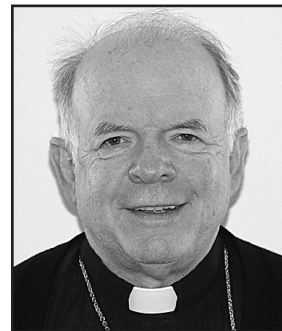
Mathews emphasized that fostering a sense of spiritual community is foremost. “The spiritual and academic blend beautifully here at our school. We have a great group of kids. They are excellent students and extremely caring—it takes nothing to ask them to help somebody; they are very giving and enthusiastic. I have no doubt that many will one day become church leaders. It’s a very Catholic atmosphere,” she said.

Bishop Flesey concluded, “The community is gifted materially in many ways, but at the core—as I’ve found in dealing with all types of people in my priestly experience—we all have the same basic spiritual needs, no matter how materially gifted we are.

“We all have the need of hearing the Gospel message in our lives, and that is why we are here, to serve that need.”

Most Blessed Sacrament Parish is located at 787 Franklin Lake Rd.

Meet the Pastor



Most Rev. John W. Flesey

Age: 62

Date of Birth: Aug. 6, 1942

High School: Saint Peter's

Preparatory School, Jersey City

College/Seminary/Graduate

School: Saint Peter's College,

Jersey City; Immaculate

Conception Seminary, Darlington;

Iona College, New Rochelle, NY,

M.A. in counseling, 1974; Pontifical

Gregorian University (Jesuit),

Rome, S.T.L., 1985; and Pontifical

University of St. Thomas Aquinas

(Dominican), Rome, S.T.D., 1990

Date of Ordination: May 31, 1969

Hero: “My father Joe”

Favorite Saint: Blessed John XXIII

Favorite Sport: Football

Favorite Food: Any pasta

Favorite Subject in School:

History

Last Book Read: Biography of

Benjamin Franklin

Proudest Moment: Priestly and

episcopal ordinations, and “as a

kid, scoring a touchdown for Saint

Peter's Prep”

Occupation if I Weren't a

Priest: History teacher



This small “meditation garden” located in a cove on the side of the church, is dedicated to the memory of those lost to abortion.

Plans for '05 apostolic visitation to nation's seminaries under way

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican is consolidating plans for the much-anticipated apostolic visitation of U.S. seminaries, viewed by Church officials as a crucial part of the response to the priestly sex abuse scandal.

Officials now expect the visitation to begin in the fall of 2005 with the start of the school year, sources in Rome said in December.

The Vatican is expected to publish soon an "instrumentum laboris" or working questionnaire that is about three pages long. It will act as an outline for the visits to more than 100 seminaries and other institutes of formation, which are expected to take several days each.

Already, the names of approximately 75 bishops and 100 priests who will carry out the visitations have been submitted and discussed by U.S. and Vatican officials. A facilitator to coordinate U.S.-Vatican contacts also will be chosen.

Sometime before the process begins next fall, the Vatican expects to publish a long-awaited and potentially controversial document on whether candidates with homosexual inclinations should be admitted to the priesthood.

The document on homosexuality has been in the works for more than five years. An early draft of the document took the position that homosexuals should not be admitted to the priesthood; in its current form, the document takes a more nuanced approach to the whole issue, sources said.

The seminary visitation is expected to focus particularly on formation for celibate chastity and on admissions criteria. It was first announced in April 2002, after U.S. bishops and Vatican officials held an urgent meeting to map out a response to the sex abuse crisis.

Bishop John C. Nienstedt of New Ulm, NM, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Priestly Formation, said in an interview in Rome that there were several possible reasons why it has taken more than two and a half years to prepare the seminary visitation.

He cited changes in the Congregation for Catholic Education, which is overseeing the visitation; the involvement of several other Vatican agencies

and the fact that "they wanted to do it right," with a clearer and deeper focus on formation programs and the spiritual dimension of seminary life.

'So I think it's going to be very helpful for us, because I think the results are going to be positive.'

—Bishop John C. Nienstedt

A key element of the visitation is that any faculty member or student will be allowed to speak with the visitation team about the condition of the seminary, he said.

"I personally think (the visitation) is going to be very helpful. I believe the seminaries today are not the seminaries they were 30 years ago. And I think that we have advanced tremendously in terms of teaching methodology, in terms of formation programs, in terms of our spiritual direction," Bishop Nienstedt said.

"So I think it's going to be very helpful for us, because I think the results are going to be positive. I also think there are things we can be doing better, and that will become clearer," he said.

The document is being prepared by the Congregation for Catholic Education in consultation with several other Vatican agencies, including the doctrinal congregation. In a report earlier this year, the education congregation described it as an "instruction on the criteria and norms for the discernment in questions regarding homosexu-

ality in view of the admission of candidates to the seminary and to sacred orders."

The expectation is that the education congregation's plenary assembly in late January would aim to discuss and approve the text.

"I think they intend to have it out by the time the visitation begins," said Bishop Nienstedt, who spoke during his "ad limina" visit to the Vatican.

"I think it's going to be a balanced document, because the whole question of homosexuality not only has psychological dimensions but also has varying degrees of a person acting out or not acting out," he said.

"So the whole question has to be nuanced considerably: 'What is homosexuality?' 'What are the homosexual attractions?' and that sort of thing. I think this document will be helpful because it is going to address those questions," he said.

Bishop Nienstedt said he expects the issue of homosexuality to be part of the visitation, since human sexuality is so important in terms of personal identity.

In a wider sense, he said, the visitation will take up the question of "how seminaries approach celibacy and chastity—either in relationship to heterosexuality or homosexuality—or the temptations or inclinations people have."

But Bishop Nienstedt indicated the visitation would not isolate the question of homosexuality.

The last apostolic visitation of U.S. seminaries took place in the 1980s and covered every aspect of priestly formation programs.

The humanitarian crisis deepens in Darfur, Sudan

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Hatred and hopelessness are brewing in Darfur as unrelenting violence still enflames western Sudan, according to Caritas Internationalis.

"Darfur is a tinderbox of war, dread and very little hope," according to a report released Dec. 20 by Caritas, the Vatican-based global confederation of Catholic social service and development organizations.

"Reports of armed clashes throughout the region continue to mount, fueling concerns that whatever humanitarian progress has been made faced new threats and potential obstacles," the report said.

Caritas International has joined forces with Action by Churches Together International in its emergency response to the humanitarian crisis in Darfur.

In a joint, ecumenical appeal, Caritas is working to provide shelter, water, sanitation and cooking materials to 500,000 displaced people in southern and western Darfur.

At least 1.2 million people have been forced to flee their homes in the almost two years of fighting among rebels, the Sudanese army and Arab militia groups.

Hundreds of thousands of people are living in overcrowded camps in Sudan and neighboring Chad.

Reporting on conditions in a camp near the city of Garsilla, in western Darfur, Caritas said violence continues to haunt refugees, especially women.

Women risk sexual assault and violence by roaming militias every time they leave the camps to collect firewood needed for fuel, the report said. Rape is "a problem on a daily basis," a humanitarian worker told Caritas.

Human rights groups claim Arab militia backed by the Sudanese government are waging a terror campaign against black Africans in order to push them from their lands in Darfur.

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Fosamax	10mg	90	\$234.19	\$212.37	\$230.99	\$155.97	27-33%
Glucophage	500mg	100	\$83.99	\$71.29	\$89.55	\$32.99	54-63%
Lipitor	10mg	90	\$225.09	\$204.81	\$202.99	\$161.99	21-28%
Advair	250/50	60	\$161.99	\$140.77	\$172.99	\$103.99	26-40%
Synthroid	100mcg	100	\$49.99	\$48.69	\$50.59	\$16.99	65-66%
Plavix	75mg	28	\$113.39	\$105.63	\$117.59	\$68.49	35-42%
Pravachol	20mg	100	\$337.48	\$275.49	\$325.30	\$183.30	33-46%
Premarin	.625mg	100	\$106.99	\$91.77	\$118.30	\$27.99	69-76%
Prevacid	30mg	30	\$129.99	\$123.07	\$144.99	\$61.99	50-57%
Evista	60mg	28	\$83.99	\$78.87	\$83.99	\$53.99	32-36%
Zocor	20mg	100	\$416.63	\$398.07	\$453.30	\$220.49	45-51%
Zyrtec	10mg	100	\$219.97	\$187.69	\$229.97	\$58.45	69-75%

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Schools celebrate the birth of Christ



Christina DePinto, at the microphone, and her classmates from St. Dominic Academy, Jersey City, celebrated the Christmas season with a performance at the Winter Garden in the financial center of downtown Manhattan. The Glee Club was joined by the Dominoes, also from the academy, and sang for 90 minutes for hundreds of passersby.

The troops and children of Iraq were on the minds of students at Our Lady of Sorrows School, South Orange, this Christmas season. Fifth graders, left to right, Kelly Pannone, Daniel Roman, Patrick Hartnett and Tatiana Johnson organize toys, shoes and letters for the troops and children.



Portraying the three wise men at this year's Nativity play at St. Michael's School, Cranford, were, left to right, first grade students Thomas Harris, Benjamin Parker and James Harris.



As part of the Christmas season at Mount St. Dominic Academy, Caldwell, five students were inducted as extraordinary ministers of the Eucharistic on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. With Father John Laferrera, pastor of St. Philomena Parish, Livingston, and celebrant of the Mass, and Sister Frances Sullivan O.P., principal, are, left to right, Megan Doyle, Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, South Orange; Erin Coughlin, St. Mary Parish, Nutley, and Marybeth Olsinski, St. Philomena Parish. Missing are Laura Sgalia, St. Stephen Parish, Kearny, and Bridie Burke, Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Verona.



At St. Mary Parish, Dumont, "angels" gathered for a procession as part of the festive Simbang Gabi evening Mass, part of a traditional Filipino pre-Christmas devotion, a nine-day Novena of Masses.



Chris Sommerhalter and Sanni Ojibara, students at Felician College, help prepare gifts to children at Project Youth Haven, Shelter Our Sisters and the Cherub Foundation of Lodi. Faculty, staff and students participated.



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Writing skills upped

For the past several years, Immaculate Conception High School (ICHS), Montclair, has been using the Writing Across the Curriculum program to help students take clearly defined steps toward clear, error-free writing, without requiring teachers to spend hours laboriously correcting papers.

Through a grant from the Sisters of Charity Ministry for Education, ICHS has been able to refresh its veteran teachers and introduce its new teachers to the program through a recent workshop.

But even more important, the school was able to spread the seeds of the program to seventh- and eighth-grade Essex County teachers invited to the workshop. "Because we see value in the program and because so many of our students are from the Essex County area, we wanted to find a way to share a successful writing method" said Jo Ann Degnan, principal of Immaculate Conception.

"I'm looking forward to using it in my classroom," said Mary Ellen Chandler of Our Lady of Lourdes School, West Orange. "Brainstorming, getting specific details, and working through the various types will be particularly helpful," added Janiki Watley of Marion P. Thomas Charter School, Newark.



Mikki Ann Campanile, a member of the student council at Garfield Catholic Academy, fingerprints Edinfran Albarian, Jr. for the student's National Child ID Kit supplied to the school by the Our Lady of Mount Virgin Council of Knights of Columbus. The kits were then sent home for completion by parents.

Student brain power is impressively on display

Roselle Catholic High School recently hosted 276 scholars from 19 Catholic grammar schools in Essex and Union counties for the 33rd annual Scholastic Olympics.

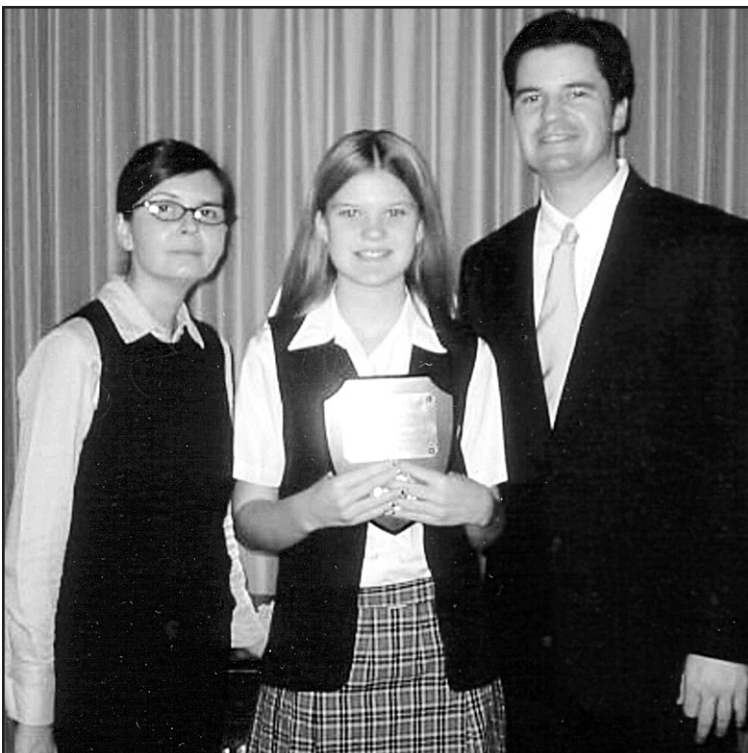
The students competed in art, current events, English, history, mathematics, religion, science and spelling.

Each contestant received an individual award with the winners taking home a scholarship to attend Roselle Catholic.

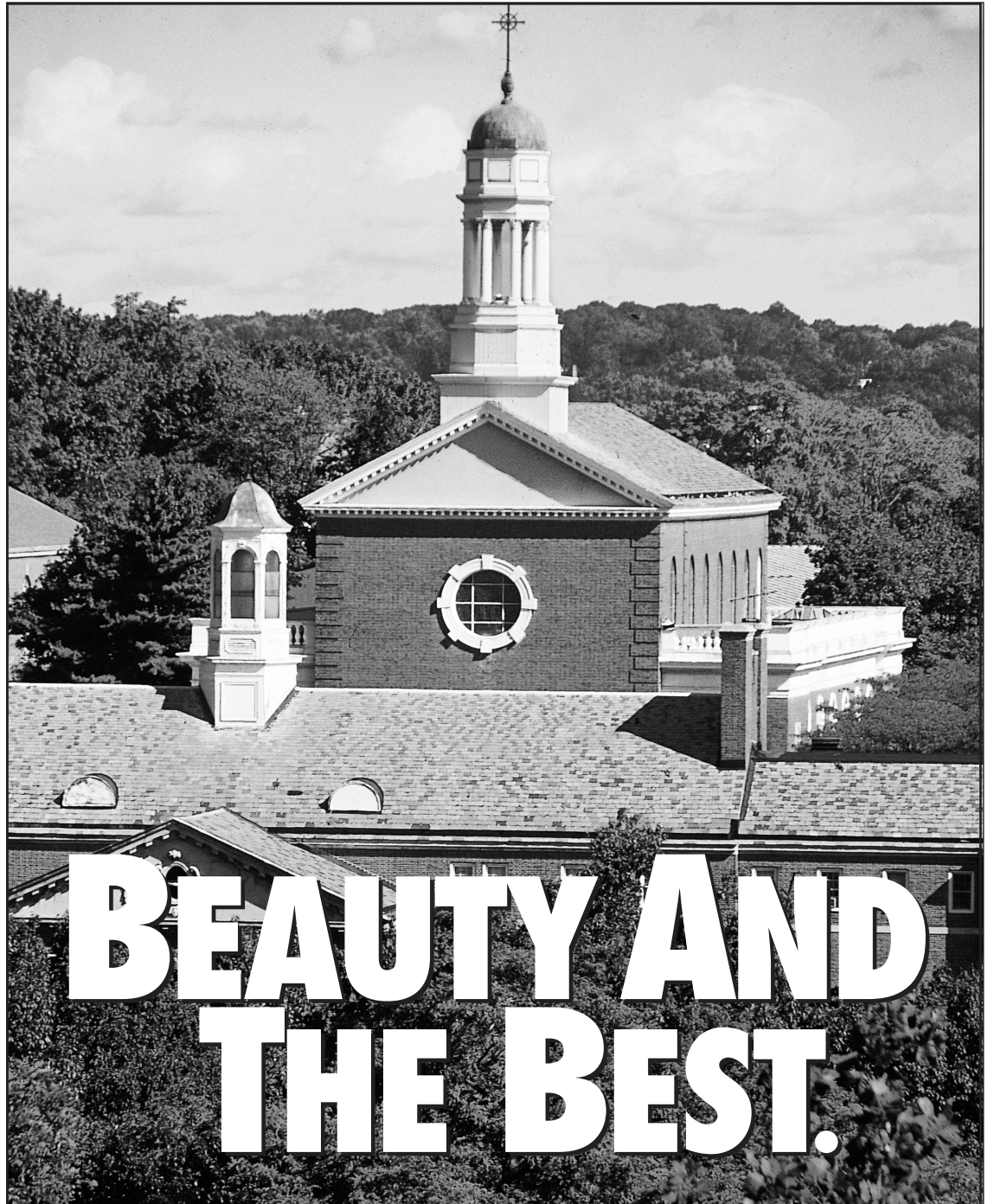
SS. Mary and Elizabeth Academy, Elizabeth, sent 17 of its top students to the Scholastic Olympics. Two, Colin Gates

and Anna Lough, each received scholarships to attend Roselle Catholic as members of the Class of 2009. Competing against 17 other boys, Gates came in first in spelling while Lough took second place in current events.

With her showing, Lough became the second generation to win the category at the scholastic competition. Her mother, Mary Pat Davis, won current events in 1982 representing St. Mary School, Rahway. Anna Lough was tutored by her uncle, Will Davis, and grandparents Bill and Mary Davis.



Anna Lough, center, with her mother, Mary Pat Davis, and uncle Will Davis.



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A look back at Year 2004

Continued from Page 1

Dominic, is formally turned over to the Friars of the Franciscan Renewal....A record turnout marks a pro-life rally held at Seton Hall University designed for those of high school and college age.

April

Easter is celebrated....The 2004 Archbishop's Annual Appeal, paced by strong parish participation, has its objective in sight....Priests from throughout the archdiocese renew their com-

mitment to priestly service at the annual Chrism Mass celebrated by the archbishop....Educators from the Church of Newark join members of the Catechetical Office at the annual National Catholic Education Association and the convocation of the National Association of Parish Catechetical Directors....As he has done every year, Archbishop Myers joins hundreds of faithful on Good Friday at the annual Stations of the Cross for Life outside an abortion clinic in Englewood.

SFIC hoops play nears

The finest in Catholic high school basketball, to benefit the Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children (SFIC), awaits fans this month.

The boys take the floor this Saturday at the Yanitelli Center, Saint Peter's College, Jersey City. For the girls, tourney play is slated for Saturday, Jan. 22, at Paramus Catholic High School.

Opening the boys' play at noon is a game between St. Benedict's Preparatory School, Newark and St. Joseph's of Metuchen. That will be followed by a 1:45 p.m. clash between St. Patrick's High School, Elizabeth, and Paramus Catholic High School. Play ends when St. Anthony High School, Jersey City, battles Jersey Shore powerhouse Christian Brothers Academy, Lincroft.

Girls' play opens at 3 p.m. when Academy of the Holy Angels, Demarest, takes on St. Dominic Academy, Jersey City. At 4:45 p.m. it is Immaculate Heart Academy, Washington Township, against St. Rose High School, Belmar, followed at 6:30 p.m. by St. Anthony High School, Jersey City, versus Paramus Catholic.

Founded in 1983, SFIC has raised over \$19 million to provide need-based scholarships to inner-city youngsters who seek alternative educational opportunities at independent and parochial schools.

For additional information log onto SFIC's website, www.BasketballFestival.com or call the SFIC office at (973) 497-4279.

May

Archbishop Myers issues a pastoral statement *A Time for Honesty*, which in its opening paragraphs says "Faith is a free and personal act inspired by the Holy Spirit, by which we entrust ourselves to the living God and to Jesus Christ His Son and our Lord."....The archbishop celebrates a Mass of Thanksgiving at the Friary of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Newark....A total of 14 men are ordained to the priesthood at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, by Archbishop Myers....Leaders of Catholic hospitals and social ministries throughout New Jersey rally at the Statehouse as the Catholic Coalition for a Just Budget calls for an increase in the 2005 fiscal budget for critical health and housing programs for the poor and underserved.

June

It is announced that Rev. Msgr. Thomas A. Donato and Rev. Msgr. John W. Flesey have been appointed Auxiliary Bishops of Newark and that Most Rev. David Arias, Vicar for Hispanic Affairs and Regional Bishop of Hudson County, and Most Rev. Charles J. McDonnell, Regional Bishop of Bergen County, have both resigned having reached retirement age....The Archdiocese of Newark establishes the Catholic Health and Human Services Corporation, making the Church of Newark among the first dioceses in the nation to implement a recommendation of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for a coordinated system to deliver health and social services.... The middle of the month is marked by transition at several levels with the graduation of the

Class of 2004, Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli's appointment as ordinary of the Diocese of Paterson and Father Robert E. Emery, pastor of St. Lawrence Parish, Weehawken and vice chancellor of the archdiocese, appointed Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia succeeding Bishop Serratelli.

July

Bishop Serratelli is installed as Bishop of Paterson....The Cathedral Foundation raises over \$560,000 for the Breast Center at Saint Michael's Medical Center, Newark....In an historic ceremony at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Archbishop Myers signs documentation papers for the beatification cause of Bayonne native, the late Sister Miriam Teresa, S.C.... Archbishop Myers visits the CYO Youth Retreat Center, Kearny.

August

Most Rev. Thomas Donato and Most Rev. John Flesey are ordained as auxiliary Bishops for the Archdiocese of Newark by Archbishop Myers on Aug. 4, the memorial of St. John Vianney, patron saint of parish priests.... Creation of a statewide task force, headed by the U.S. Department of Justice, to combat human trafficking, is launched during a press conference at the Archdiocesan Center; Archbishop Myers is cited for his leadership in the effort to combat the situation.

September

The first annual Heritage Tour of treasured churches of the Archdiocese of Newark is announced....Relief efforts are launched locally to help the independent mission of the Turks and Caicos Islands, under the auspices of the Archdiocese of Newark, which sustained substantial damage when struck by Hurricane Frances on Sept. 1....The Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, celebrates its Golden Jubilee of its dedication.... Archbishop Myers heads a local delegation to the Vatican for the *ad limina* visit with the pope, made every five years by bishops worldwide to report on the status of their churches.

October

The National Association of Black Catholic Administrators holds its annual meeting in Newark for the first time....The Development Office of the Archdiocese of Newark is recognized at the International Catholic Stewardship Conference, held in New Orleans, by capturing first place in the poster con-

test and placing in the top five for its brochures....More than 1500 Catholics worshipers with their bishops march on the Statehouse in support of life including a large contingent from the Church of Newark led by Archbishop Myers.... Stewardship Day 2004 is observed with workshops at Felician College, Lodi.... Archdiocesan and public officials preside at the opening of the Bishop Francis Center for Immigration Services, Newark.

November

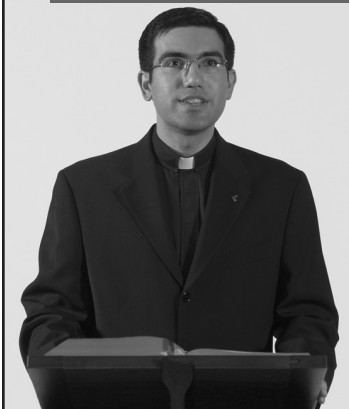
Key personnel changes are announced for Church of Newark: The Office of Chancellor is combined with the Office of Vicar General, a vice chancellor and assistant to the vicar general position is created, as is director of the Office of Child and Youth Protection.... The annual Blue Mass, honoring law enforcement, and Mass honoring the Youth Ministry are celebrated....The inaugural Heritage Tour takes place and is a major success....The Connie Dwyer Breast Center at Saint Michael's Medical Center, Newark, opens....The New Energies Parish Transition Project reaches a milestone when Archbishop Myers approves responses from several parishes affected by the recommendations of the Task Force on Parishes....Six busloads from the Archdiocese of Newark take part in a pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception led by Archbishop Myers....Father Renato Grasselli is installed at the new rector of Redemptoris Mater, the Archdiocesan Missionary Seminary, Kearny.

December

At the conclusion of its second annual review of policies and procedures established by the Archdiocese of Newark to protect children and youth and promote a safe environment, auditors from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops reaffirm that the Church of Newark is in total compliance with the requirements of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.... Immaculate Conception Seminary, Seton Hall University, South Orange, receives a \$2,000,000 grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc. for a pastoral ministry initiative....A special Mass is celebrated at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart to mark the 150th anniversary of the definition of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception.

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January 20, 9:00 AM
Tropicana Diner
545 Morris Ave.
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Union - Union

February 11, 9:00 AM
Huck Finn Diner
2431 Morris Ave.
Cross St./Burnet Ave.

Union - Roselle

February 16, 9:00 AM
Cavalier Diner
2401 N. Wood Ave.
Cross St./St. George's Ave.

Essex - Maplewood

January 12, 9:00 AM
Sage Diner
1958 Springfield Ave.
Cross St./South Pierson Rd.

Essex - Bloomfield

January 25, 9:00 AM
IHOP
1129 Broad St.
Cross St./Watchung Ave.

Essex - West Orange

February 8, 9:00 AM
West Orange Diner
270 Main St.
Cross St./King Rd.

Essex - Bloomfield

February 25, 9:00 AM
Nevada Diner
293 Broad St.
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Bergen - Westwood

January 12, 9:00 AM
Seville Diner
289 Broadway Ave.
Cross St./Jefferson St.

Bergen - Hackensack

January 19, 9:00 AM
The Arena Diner
250 Essex St.
Cross St./Polifly Rd.

Bergen - Hackensack

January 31, 9:00 AM
The Coach House Diner
55 Route 4 East
Cross St./Hackensack Ave.

Bergen - Fort Lee

February 10, 9:00 AM
The Plaza Diner
2045 Lemoine Ave.
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February 18, 9:00 AM
Land & Sea Diner
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SHU forum explores intolerance

BY WARD MIELE
Managing Editor

Discrimination and defamation faced by Italian-Americans, and how to combat the situation, were explored during a daylong forum at Seton Hall University.

Held Saturday, Dec. 4, "Real Stories: Discrimination and Defamation in the History of

Italian-Americans" was presented by the Alberto Italian Studies Institute and UNICO National.

N. Larry Paragano, chairman of the New Jersey Italian American Heritage Commission, told of coming to the United States at the age of eight and growing up in Newark.

He recalled an incident in

school when he was asked his name and was told he was an American now and his name was "wop." It was, he lamented, "not popular" to be an Italian during World War II. Paragano regretted too what he saw as his generation not keeping up with their culture and heritage. He urged the audience to "get back to your Italian roots."

Paolo Toschi, vice consul of Italy in Newark, told the standing room-only audience in Kozlowski Hall that it was "interesting to be experiencing" the day's program.

Citing a central theme of the importance of Italian identity, Toschi said education is the "key" in "this struggle against discrimination."

The "long tradition of anti-Italian bigotry" was chronicled by Emanuele Alfano, chairman of the Anti-Bias Committee of UNICO National.

Bigotry against Italians, he stressed, is "getting worse." What feeds that bigotry, Alfano declared, is television. Not only is the initial slur broadcast but the damage is perpetuated by syndication of old programs.

Abuse of Italian-Americans, he went on, is "unprecedented." Among the reasons for this, Alfano noted, is that Italian-Americans are left out of the politically correct equation.

As Alfano sees it, defamation and discrimination have replaced negative stereotyping. It is a situation that is tolerated by Italian-Americans, he said, emphasizing "we have the power to reverse this bigotry."



Advocate photo - Ward Miele

Joe Piscopo



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Antonio is from a small Guatemalan village. The house he shares with his family is made of wooden planks, with sheets of tin for a roof. Their meals are cooked over an open fire in homemade clay pots. Sponsorship helps ensure Antonio an opportunity for an education, offering hope that the cycle of poverty will be broken when he grows up and starts a family of his own.

Through CFCA, Antonio has new hope, a restored sense of dignity and a bright future.

Audience urged to return to "roots."

Another perspective came from Richard Bilotti, publisher of the *Trenton Times*. He cited the first amendment factor, saying that is what many playwrights and journalists "hide behind."

From Tom DeGenaro of the One Voice Coalition came the charge that the worst defamation of Italian-Americans is in the world of advertising.

Actor, director and producer Tony LoBianco centered on the entertainment industry.

Explaining he had done a pilot for Showtime in which he plays a police chief and is doing a traveling one-man show about New York Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, LoBianco urged those in Kozlowski Hall "to act on what you are hearing today."

Another figure from the entertainment world, New Jersey native Joe Piscopo, said during his Saturday Night Live days when he was first starting out, he was not conscious of bigotry against Italian-Americans.

He said he pitched to HBO a project of his, Bloomfield Avenue, about a Italian family in Newark. Calling it the "hardest sell I ever had," Piscopo said he ultimately decided to release the project as an independent film.

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22208

Collegiate fencer sharpening skills

Holly Marie Buechel, 19, a member of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, South Orange, competed recently in the individual junior women's epee event during the Pan-American Games and took home a gold medal.

The University of Pennsylvania sophomore was the only American to win over Bolovia in the semi-finals 15-14 and to defeat Columbia 15-10.

The games took place in Rio DeJaniero, Brazil. It also marked Buechel's first competition as a member of the United States Fencing Team.

Since then she has competed and done well in several other events. In November Buechel took part in the FIE Coupe du Monde (World Cup) in Louisville, KY placing 11th in the junior women's epee event.

Last month she and eight other female American fencers traveled to Osnbruck, Germany for the FIE World Cup, the Esnabrucken Rad. Buechel was one of three U.S. team members to advance to the direct eliminations where she placed 56th in the world.

Also in December, she placed tenth in the North American Cup's Division I women's event in Richmond, VA.

Buechel is ranked ninth in the nation in junior women's epee by the United States



Holly Marie Buechel with her medal in Junior Women's Epee competition won at the Pan-Am Games in Brazil.

Fencing Association.

She is a member of the University of Pennsylvania's women's fencing team which won this year's league crown. She was honored at the university's homecoming for capturing NCAA Fencing Tournament All-American Honorable Mention honors.



Felician College cross country team members included, left to right, kneeling, Matt Miller and Andrew Conklin and, standing, Sean Emmerling, Nick Freeman, Paul Chegwiddden, Alex Wright, Mike Burghoffer and Coach John Brennan.

Team effort captures CACC crown

Felician College was favored to win the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC) men's cross-country championship and it did recently in Philadelphia.

All seven Felician competitors placed among the top 17 runners, and four runners finished in the top seven.

"This team worked really hard and they earned it," said John Brennan, coach of the Golden Falcons men's cross-country team. "Our approach was to run your best, and not think about being the favorite to win."

Team members include: Mike Burghoffer, Jon Castro, Paul Chegwiddden, Andrew Conklin, Sean Emmerling, Dan Feliciano, Nick Freeman, Matt Miller, Chris Wilson, Alex Wright and Sergio Zea.

"We lost by four points last year, so we knew what we had to do," noted Conklin, sophomore team member. "We added awesome freshman runners who bring depth and strength to our team."

Burghoffer, Conklin, Emmerling, Freeman, Miller, and Zea were also named to the 2004 All-CACC team.

In addition, Brennan was named CACC Men's Cross-Country Coach of the Year by his peers. His Golden Falcon teams have also won championships in 2000 and 2001. He shares the credit with two assistant coaches, Jacqueline Brandt and Sebastian Powell, who assist with the workouts and recruiting efforts.

An assistant principal at H.B. Whitehorne Middle School in Verona, Brennan has five years coaching experience with Felician College.

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Sister Eileen Joseph, teacher

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Dec. 3 for Sister Eileen Joseph O'Donoghue, C.S.J.P., 81, who died Nov. 30.

Born in Tralee, County Kerry, Ireland, Sister Eileen entered the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace in Englewood Cliffs in 1938 and made her final vows in 1945.

Her assignments in the Archdiocese of Newark included ministering as an X-ray technician and in the dietary department at Holy Name Hospital, Teaneck; teaching at St. Luke School, Hohokus, and serving as a teacher and administrator at St. Anne School, Fair Lawn.

She retired to Villa Marie Claire, Saddle River, in 2002.

Father Alfred Sokol, had served for many years at Don Bosco Preparatory School

The Rev. Alfred Sokol, S.D.B., associated many years with Don Bosco Preparatory High School, Ramsey, died Dec. 19 at the Oradell Health Care Center. He had celebrated his 93rd birthday on Dec. 6 and had been a member of the Salesians of Don Bosco for 68 years.

At Don Bosco Preparatory School, Father Sokol served as a teacher and athletic director. While at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Parish, Mahwah, he was a parochial vicar.

Born in Hudson, NY, he entered the Salesian novitiate at Newton NJ, in September 1936 and made his first profession of Religious vows a year later.

Following graduation from Don Bosco College, Newton in 1940, he taught at Don Bosco Preparatory School three years and then did his theological studies at Don Bosco Seminary, Newton. He was ordained a priest on June 29, 1947, at Newton.

After a three years a parochial vicar at Immaculate Heart, he returned to Don Bosco Preparatory School as teacher and athletic director, 1962-1977. His teaching fields

were Latin and math. Father Louis Molinelli, S.D.B., had Father Sokol as a teacher when he attended Don Bosco Preparatory School in the 1970s. He remembers Father Sokol as "selfless, always seeking what was best for the students, a man with a rough outside but a very good, very gentle heart."

As Father Sokol's superior, Father Molinelli described him as "very pastoral, even in his illness constantly concerned with how his confreres and the Don Bosco boys were doing. He was very prayerful but very real. He knew how to live in this world while keeping his eyes also on the world to come."

Sister Mary Strazzire, 62

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Dec. 3 for Sister Mary Strazzire, M.P.F., 62, who died Nov. 30.

Sister Mary entered the Religious Teachers Filippini in 1957. She received a B.S. degree in education from Seton Hall.

Her assignments included teaching in the primary grades at the following schools: Holy Family, Nutley; St. Joseph, East Orange; Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Jersey City; St. Francis Xavier, Newark; Our Lady of the Assumption, Bayonne; St. Francis, Hackensack; Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Orange, and Our Lady of Mount Virgin, Garfield.

In 1986, Sister Mary was admitted to the infirmary at Villa Walsh, Morristown.

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O 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. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me that you are my mother. O 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. O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 times). I place this cause in your hands (3 times). Amen. Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. Novena is published in gratitude. Thank you.

E.D.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit, You who solve all problems, who light all roads so that I can attain my goals. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me, and that in all instances of my life, You are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things and to confirm once again, that I never want to be separated from You, even in spite of all material illusion. I wish to be with You in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. Amen. Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. Published in gratitude of grace attained and for many requests granted.

L.M.

PRAYER TO ST. JUDE

Oh, Holy St. Jude, Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near Kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and urgent petition. (make request). In return I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. Say three Our Fathers, three Hail Marys and Glorias. St. Jude pray for us all who invoke your aid. Amen. This Novena must be said for 9 consecutive days. Thank you for answering my prayer.

A.Z.

NOVENA TO ST. JUDE

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude helper of the hopeless, pray for us. Amen. Say this prayer nine times a day for nine days. Published in gratitude. Thank you St. Jude. C.H.

NOVENA TO ST. JUDE

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude helper of the hopeless, pray for us. Amen. Say this prayer nine times a day for nine days. Published in gratitude. Thank you St. Jude. L.M.

PRAYER TO ST. JUDE

Oh, Holy St. Jude, Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near Kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and urgent petition. (make request). In return I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. Say three Our Fathers, three Hail Marys and Glorias. St. Jude pray for us all who invoke your aid. Amen. This Novena must be said for 9 consecutive days. Thank you for answering my prayer.

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Visionary Couple–This year we had a couple, which wish to remain anonymous, create an endowment for their parish. For this article, we will call them George and Martha Wellspring. Martha passed away this year, but before doing so, George and she decided to establish an

endowment to ensure that their annual giving to their parish would continue in perpetuity. George started the fund in memory of his wife. He began the fund rather modestly, but he plans to enlarge it annually and then again with a larger bequest from their estate. For now, he can at least see how the Wellspring Endowment works and what he can expect from it in the future. George likes seeing his wife’s faith live on in the life of their parish.

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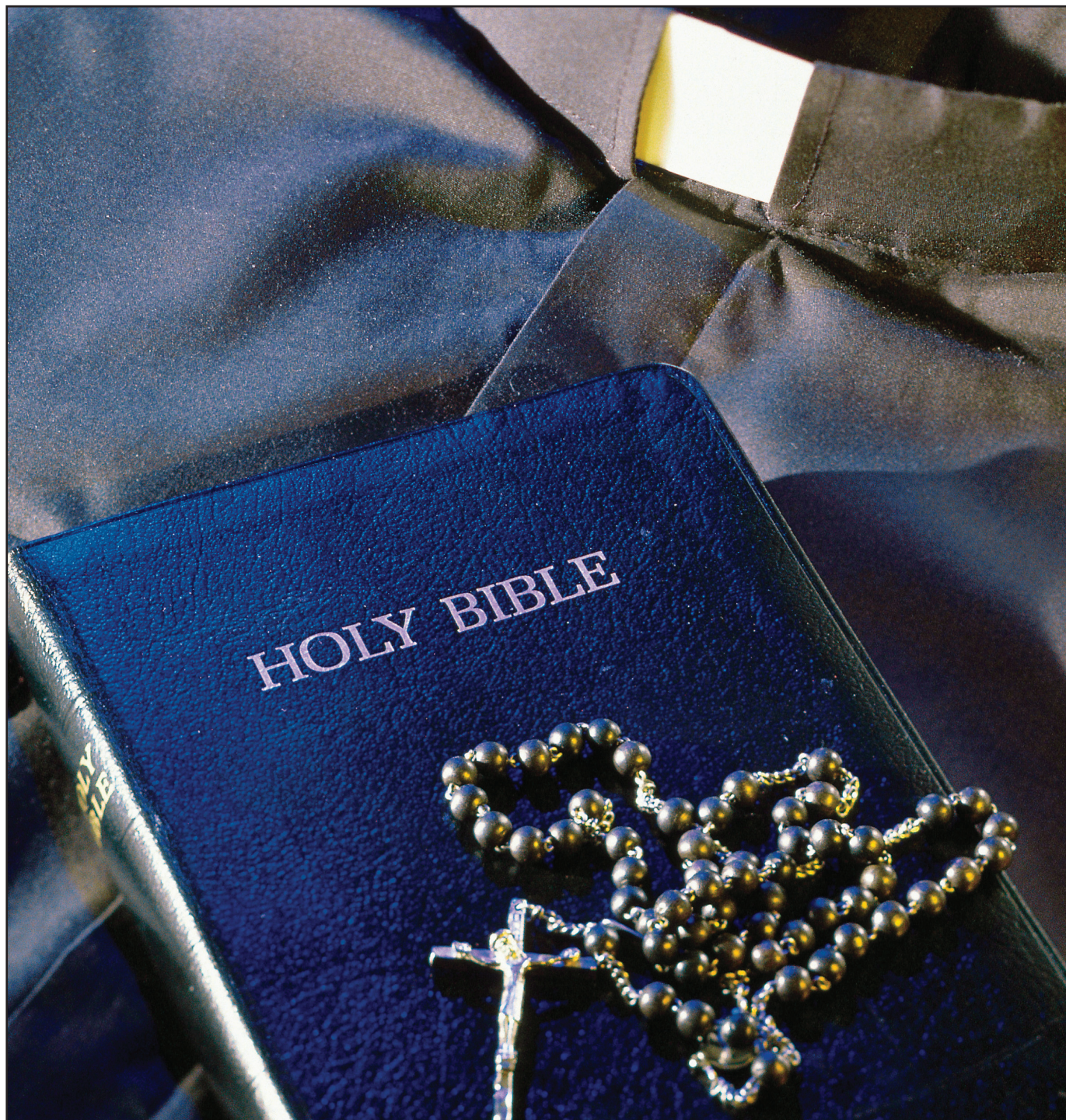
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VOCATION
AWARENESSES

Prayer and encouragement key in discerning the call

BY WARD MIELE
Managing Editor

Although subtle at times, God's call to the priesthood is eventually heard loud and clear.

The experiences of three men at various levels of study at Immaculate Conception Seminary on the campus of Seton Hall University, South Orange, followed a typical but often-winding path toward making the joyful decision to serve the Lord and His people for a lifetime.

John Prada, 30, a Colombia native, is in his first year at the seminary. A year ahead of him is 42-year-old Renato Bautista of Manila, Philippines. From the

Archdiocese of Newark comes Englewood native Rev. Mr. Thomas P. Quinn who will be ordained in May.

All three came to the seminary after receiving college degrees and entering the workforce. Sharing a strong faith, however, the Church was always an integral and important part of the lives.

College degree in hand, Prada worked for two years in Colombia as a plastic surgery assistant for a physician specializing in nose, throat and ear work. He did that for two years and then, Prada explained, "I felt a change in my life." It occurred when he

took part in a surgical program for poor people. That was when, said Prada, "helping people" made a significant impact on him.

In 1998 he came to the United States for a vacation. A year later he returned and felt the need to attend daily Mass in Union City. Doing so, Prada noted, he underwent another change in his life.

"Something was different," he recalled.

This year he decided to become a priest. Explaining the moment, Prada said "it was the best decision of my life, I am at peace." He views entering the seminary as "God's will in my life."

Prada is "very happy" in the seminary adding "I try to enjoy every moment." Admitting everything is still new to him and acknowledging he will have "to work hard" at his studies, Prada finds comfort being "among my own people from the Archdiocese of Newark."

He stressed too, "I love the Church, it has become my family."

At age 17, Bautista entered Dominican College Seminary in the Philippines. He dropped out two years later, however, because "I was too idealistic."

Bautista continued his college education while teaching religious education at the high

school level for five years. He eventually earned a B.A. in economics from Santo Tomas University.

It was then back to the classroom in the teaching ranks at Letran College, Manila, teaching theology to freshmen and sophomores.

Bautista eventually decided "to use my degree" and entered the world of banking in the Philippines.

He pointed out, however, that ever since leaving the Dominican College Seminary in his late teens, the "question" about becoming a priest was "always

Continued on Page S2

Joyful decision

Continued from Page S1

there," but "I put it aside." The primary reason, he said, was that he thought the priesthood was not an option once his father died and he had to help support his family. In the Philippines, Bautista added, conventional wisdom is that if one does not become a priest in his 20's, he is too old.

Throughout his working life, Bautista emphasized, he always maintained connections with priests at the parish level primarily as a choir member since his high school days.

As recently as two years ago, Bautista noted, thoughts of the priesthood "were not even there." It was about the same time that he told a priest if he retired he would like to work in some capacity at the parish level and "would be happy to be in the background."

It was in 2002 that Bautista sang at the Chicago wedding of a friend from the Philippines. Another stop was St. Aloysius Parish, Jersey City, where a music director from his native country was the assistance music director. He started singing again and was "very happy."

Eventually Bautista became a cantor at two other Jersey City parishes, Our Lady of Mercy and Our Lady of Victories. It was, he stressed, "a deep spiritual experience."

Attending daily Mass, Bautista often heard announcements about vocations and came to the conclusion that it was time to explore the matter further.

He spoke to Father Brian Plate, director of vocations for the Archdiocese of Newark, and was told to get a spiritual director. He also spoke with a Filipino priest at Our Lady of Mercy Parish which led to a meeting with Father Thomas Nydegger, vice rector of Immaculate Conception Seminary.

Bautista he asked Father Nydegger how he would know he had a calling to the priesthood and told him "I was really afraid."

It was after that talk, Bautista stressed, "I surrendered.... I knew what God was telling me."

He then began the process of applying for the seminary which he considers part of discernment. Especially supportive, he went on, has been Father Jack Cryan, pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Jersey City, where he is assigned. He also cites the parish-

ioners for being "so inspiring."

In an ironic turn of events, Bautista entered the seminary on Sept. 7, 2003 which just happens to be his birthday.

Calling his seminary experience "a new life," Bautista said

he was initially "overwhelmed" but that the decision to become a priest was "liberating, I let go of the fear."

Saying the seminary was not what he expected, "in a good way," Bautista said too the experience is "beyond my expectations, it is like heaven to me and very inspiring."

As far back as first grade at St. Cecilia's School, Englewood, Quinn recalled, he thought being a priest was "the greatest thing a guy could do."

Noting that "being able to help people get close to God always had great appeal," Quinn said he always had compassion for helping people and looked up to missionaries.

At the same time, explained Quinn, he "never stopped" receiving encouragement from parish priests which he said was done "strongly but gently." He was often told too, Quinn said, that he "had the qualities to be a wonderful priest." With his mother leading the way, he was encouraged by relatives to enter the priesthood. Quinn remembers being told as an infant his mother would hold her in his arms and say "this is my priest."

The encouragement continued at St. Cecilia High School where the priest who led the youth group mentioned entering the priesthood. But, Quinn noted, he still felt he could not lead a celibate life.

College followed where Quinn majored in journalism at Northeastern University, Boston. Graduating in 1979, he embarked on a life of aspiring actor, journalist and writer. All the while, however, Quinn attended Mass and considered himself "a privileged guy."

He continued to think about the priesthood believing all the time "the world would be in better shape if people let God into their hearts more." The idea of being a priest, he added, was "never completely gone."

Returning to the Garden State after working a year at a financial newspaper in Boston, Quinn pursued an acting career while working in the sales promotion department of a life insurance company.

Age 33, stressed Quinn, was a "turning point" in his life. He realized his acting career was "not going anywhere" and at the same time a longtime relationship came to an end. He realized through a self-examination that his "extended adolescence" had to come to an end.

It was then that Father Joseph O'Brien, his pastor at St. Cecilia's then who is now pastor of St. Therese Parish, Cresskill, took him aside. Quinn remembers vividly Father O'Brien tapped his collar and asked him "did you ever think of this?"

But not long after his mother died of a brain tumor. Seeing the work of the nurses, Quinn went on to Columbia University and

Continued on Page S3

*"I surrendered....
I knew what God
was telling me."*

—Renato Bautista

Contact:

Fr. Brian Plate, *Vocations Director*

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where do you stay?"

"Come and see,"
He answered.

John 1:38-39

Priestly mission

Continued from Page S2

became a registered nurse at Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital in New York. But, Quinn noted, what Father O'Brien said never left his mind.

Quinn eventually moved to Hackensack Medical Center where he worked in the Oncology Unit. After a year he went to the Hospice Division. He is convinced his nursing experience "really brought my priestly vocation to the surface."

He too went to see Father Nydegger who at the time headed the archdiocesan vocations office.

Quinn entered Emmaus House, a place provided by the Church of Newark to discern a vocation and to prepare to enter the seminary, but still did not begin his priestly studies for another year. He did so, Quinn recalls, "after a lot of prayer."


In early 2000 when he decided to become a priest, Quinn says, it was "a very peaceful" moment but at the same time "a little scary." He saw it as a perfect example of the proverbial "leap of faith." Saying everything came together, he called the decision "a fantastic feeling."

Reflecting on his upcoming ordination to the priesthood, Quinn says since becoming a deacon he has been having "the time of my life." Calling is "such a great privilege," Quinn explained people look at him "with their fears, hope, joys and anxieties." Having people look at him as a representative of Jesus, Quinn added, is "an incredible joy and responsibility, it is what I was born to do, this is me."

About his upcoming ordination, Quinn described himself as "excited, extremely humbled and a little overwhelmed over the responsibility and gift that will be bestowed on me." He already knows he wants caring for the sick to be part of his priesthood and wants to be in "a busy parish." God, he said, will present him with "opportunities and challenges I can't imagine now."

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Advocate photo-Ward Miele

Archbishop John J. Myers presided recently at an Evening Prayer Service for Vocation Awareness at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark. The archbishop addressed the young men and then posed with them and several priests at the conclusion of the service.

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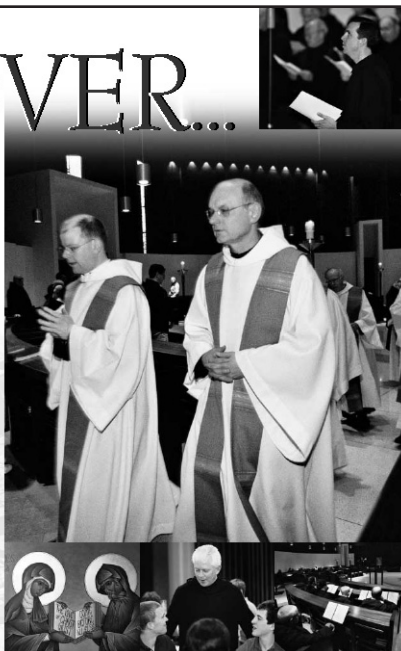
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Joan McKeon, R.S.M., of the Sisters of Mercy Regional Community of New Jersey, recently celebrated her 50 years of service at Mount Saint Mary, Watchung.

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Archbishop John J. Myers met recently at his office in the Archdiocesan Center, Newark, with new seminarians, left to right, Michael Koch, Julius Lucero and Greg Fedak.

Advocate photo- Ward Miele

Where discernment takes place

BY BRIAN FORES
Staff Writer

Father Marc Vicari was appointed Director of Emmaus House, Newark, where men discern a vocation to the priesthood, last July. With his own experience still fresh in his mind, having been ordained in 1997, Father Vicari is an accessible guide and teacher for these men, who are, above all, in need of spiritual guidance.

"There are a couple of reasons why someone might come to live here," Father Vicari explained. Among those discerning a vocation, there are those who have worked for several years and now wish to enter the priesthood, those coming from another country and who need to learn English, and in some circumstances, those who have not, and need to, complete a



Father Marc Vicari

Advocate photo- Brian Fores

quasi-religious living situation. It is not a community per se, but they are in a place where they can discern their vocation, live here, and still go to work and school."

Currently, there are five men living at Emmaus House, from Venezuela, the Philippines, Poland, Mexico and Colombia. Father Vicari stresses to the men that Emmaus House is more than just a place to live, but its very own community. To his delight, many former residents use the residence as a "home base" in the United States, returning for Christmas and other holidays.

Father Vicari described the program, "Each morning, we have morning prayer and Mass, and breakfast together. Most of the guys go off to school, either to Rutgers or Seton Hall University. We all meet for evening prayer and eat dinner together.

"Some nights we have formation, where visiting priests come in and give a talk or hold an open discussion, either once a week or every other week," he noted.

"Priests often come in for more informal visits to have dinner with us, and talk to the men about their priestly experiences. Both Archbishop Myers and Archbishop Emeritus Gerety have paid such visits to the residence," he said.

Father Vicari, who majored in English at Seton Hall University, often tutors them in their English classes. He said he realizes there are many demands placed on these men, who are often experiencing the United States, the English language and American culture, for the very first time. Some have up to eight years of education ahead of them.

"Personally, my style is to be very honest with the guys about why they are here. ... If someone is slipping, I encourage that person to try and get back into the swing of things. You can't be a priest without going to college. I always tell them that doctors study the human body for four years in medical school, and that we too must study in the seminary for four or five years, because we're dealing with the human soul."

However, Father Vicari said the rewards far outweigh the challenges, "I see a lot of development happening very quickly. I see them learning new prayers, improving their English and using new vocabulary when they speak, as well as improving in their spirituality, becoming theologically savvy, growing in their spiritual formation and learning how to serve the Church."

bachelor's degree. In some cases, the latter two reasons apply.

Father Vicari set forth the main purpose for Emmaus House, "For a person to discern by living in a



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