



The Catholic Advocate



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Greeting youngsters at an orphanage are, left to right, Lisa Citro, Laura Czerepak and Mary Jo Holuba.

Youths 'focus' on needs of students in Ghana

BY WARD MIELE
Managing Editor

SADDLE RIVER—Students in the African nation of Ghana now have a well-stocked library, thanks to a special delivery of books by the youth group of St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish.

Before attending World Youth Day in Germany last month, members of the Friends of Christ United in Service (FOCUS), established a year ago by Parochial Vicar Father Stephen Fichter, went to Ghana with the books.

Father Fichter, who studied for a dozen years in Europe, befriended Ghana native Father Caesar Atuire. Father Atuire founded Amicus Onlus, an international non-governmental agency headquartered in Italy, which runs Baobab Academy in Accra, the capital of Ghana.

With an average enrollment of some 100 students between the ages of 16-26, it is akin to a vocational school in the United States. Baobab Academy is a professional development center designed to provide managerial and vocational skill formation to those who want to start their own business. It also helps students with start-up funds.

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New Energies seeks its 'core'

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE
Editor

NEWARK—The New Energies Parish Transition Project, which will define the logistics of religious life for 230-plus parishes and 1.3 million parishioners, is

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Responding to the cries for help Archdiocese donates blood, money to aid Katrina victims

BY BRIAN FORES
Staff Writer

AREA—As the city of New Orleans and the affected Gulf Coast region begins to assess the loss caused by Hurricane Katrina and start down the road to recovery, the entire world has come forth offering prayers, concern and humanitarian aid.

In the Archdiocese of Newark, the sentiment is no different, with parishes, schools and other organizations continuously working to help in any way possible.

Responding to the call for help, archdiocese parishioners were described by pastors as "extremely generous." At press

time, parishes throughout the four counties of the archdiocese reported that church collections to aid victims of the killer storm totaled \$737,887.

Meanwhile, a South Orange resident who was enrolled at Xavier University of Louisiana, which is located in The Big

Easy, provided a first-hand account of the disaster.

At the direction of Archbishop John J. Myers, Catholic Health and Human Services Corporation (CHHS), which represents the healthcare and social service ministries of the Archdiocese, has ini-

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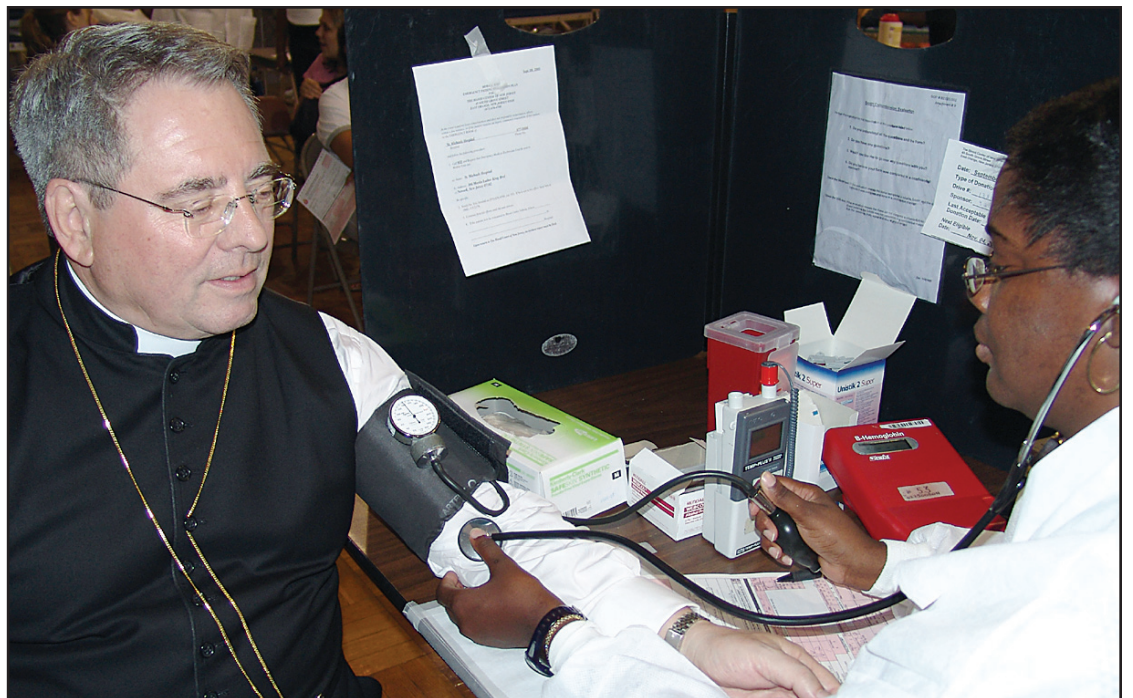
Schools eye region plan

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE
Editor

NEWARK—Regional planning will steer the unfolding sustainability strategy for archdiocesan schools. The long-

range plan requires a new mindset for the governance of schools, compelling pastors to dedicate significant time and effort to collaborate on educational stewardship.

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Archbishop John J. Myers gets his blood pressure taken by a medical technician shortly before donating blood at St. Michael's Medical Center on Sept. 9. More than 60 area residents also gave blood, which will be used to help victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Advocate photo — Brian Fores

Triple celebration
Oct. 9 at CBSH
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Pace of ER
a perfect fit
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Priest shares
journey's wisdom
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Katrina

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tiated a number of efforts to provide the urgent and basic needs of hurricane victims.

At an emergency blood drive held Sept. 9 at St. Michael's Medical Center, Newark, Archbishop Myers was on hand—not only to give blood, but to show support and appreciation for volunteers doing the same.

Archbishop Myers said he was “devastated” by the recent disaster and that utilizing the efforts of the Catholic healthcare system is “a practical way to provide the necessary relief to our brothers and sisters affected by the hurricane.” Addressing them directly, he said, “Simply, we love you and we stand by you.”

CHHS, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is also helping to recruit healthcare professionals (physicians, nurses and technicians), as well as grief counselors to volunteer at any of the 40 field hospitals being established in affected areas.

Volunteers are being directed to register with the American Hospital Association at www.AHA.org. In addition, Catholic Charities is collecting donations that will directly support volunteers.

Msgr. Manuel Cruz, archdiocesan director of the Office of Hospital Ministry, also was present at the blood drive to offer his support. “As a sign of unity in Christ, we are here to share in the suffering of our brothers and sisters, and to make a difference for all those in need,” he said.

Monique Wright, an area resident, was among the blood donors. Wright, who has no relatives or friends in the Gulf Coast region, said she was moved by news coverage of the disaster. “You hear so much in the media, I wanted to do something to help. I know they will get through this—everybody feels for them,” Wright said.

Albert Guadin noted: “I’m just helping. This impacted everybody—no one is untouched by this event. Anything people can do is helpful.”

Throughout the archdiocese, parishes have been holding collections to raise money for disaster victims. Some parishes, such as Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Newark, and St. Francis de Sales, Lodi, have already held a second collection.

Others, like St. Rocco, Newark, and Our Lady of the Valley, Orange, are also holding clothing drives. St. James Parish, Springfield, sponsored a food drive in conjunction with the FoodBank of New Jersey.

Area schools, too, are doing their part to bring relief to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. The parish school of St. Andrew, Bayonne, has last-minute matriculated the children of employees of International Matex Tank Terminals (IMTT), a New Orleans-based company that has relocated several of its employees to its Bayonne office. The school has taken in five students in all, according to Sister Charlene Schmitt, S.S.J., principal.

The admissions department of Caldwell College has offered any college students from affected areas a semester of free tuition and has contacted local residents willing to provide free housing for the displaced students.

Seton Hall has accepted 13 students from Xavier and Loyola universities, both in New Orleans, as well as other area colleges, granting them tuition remission for the semester. Rachel Bellamy, a South Orange resident majoring biology/pre-med at Xavier University is among them.

A junior at Xavier, Bellamy said she had already completed a week of classes when Katrina hit. “I was down there on Aug. 17. We started classes on the 21st,” she said.

Bellamy stayed with a friend in nearby Ponchatoula throughout the duration of the hurricane.



Advocate photo - Brian Flores

Msgr. Manuel Cruz, archdiocesan director of the Office of Hospital Ministry, standing, with one of the Friars of the Franciscan Renewal, C.F.R. The friars, who minister at St. Michael's, are known for their work with HIV/AIDS patients.

“Seeing the damage... it was extremely bad. Power lines were down, trees had crashed into cars and houses. We had no power at all. We spent the week in the dark,” she said, recalling the harrowing scene.

Bellamy obtained a flight home after much difficulty. She learned later that her dormitory, and the university campus in general, was flooded with four to six feet of water, and sustained other serious damage.

“My parents had heard that several colleges were accepting displaced students, and arranged

for me to attend Seton Hall,” Bellamy noted. Having already paid the semester at Xavier, she and her parents were “extremely relieved” by the Seton Hall offer. The university even provided her with a laptop.

Bellamy was able to begin classes with the rest of the student body at the start of the month. “I was going to take the MCAT in April, but I needed to take physics. Without the class, I’d have to wait until August to take the exam.” Thankful that she will be able to stay on track, Bellamy noted, “I am extremely grateful to Seton Hall.”

Ghana

Continued from page 1

The idea for the book donation project surfaced at Christmas time. Father Fichter made the suggestion and found the youth group members “fascinated” by the challenge.

The St. Gabriel young people and the books left for Ghana on Aug. 9. It took a full 24 hours of air travel, with a stopover in Germany, to reach their destination.

The nine youth group members, accompanied by Father Fichter and three other adult chaperones, each carried 100 pounds of books. Ghana had once been an English colony, so there was no language barrier.

Armed with a list of the type of books that Baobab Academy needed, the youth group members contacted their respective schools, neighbors and friends. A big hand came from parishioners following an announcement in the parish bulletin. They also supplied the youth group with the funds needed to fly to Ghana and get all of the inoculations that they needed before leaving the United States.

Once at the school, the first thing the Archdiocese of Newark visitors had to do was build the bookshelves.



Austin Carpenter planes an edge of the bookshelves. To his left is Father Fichter and in the background chaperone Andrew Czerepak.

Equally fulfilling and especially moving was a stop at a nearby orphanage. The FOCUS members spent two days at the Osu Home for Children, which at any one time cares for 130 residents ranging in age from newborns to the middle teens.

The youth group members helped the nurses and played with the orphans. When it came time to leave, Father Fichter recalled that “we all left in tears. Our hearts go out to them.”

The next stop was the city of

Cape Coast, which had been a major departure point for the slave trade hundreds of years ago. The Saddle River young people participated in a two-hour historical tour of the infamous dungeons of Elmina Castle, where thousands of slaves had been detained before their exile. It was, Father Fichter stressed, “a powerful experience.”

The FOCUS members went back to Germany for World Youth Day on Aug. 19. They stayed in the home of a friend of Father Fichter in Kronberg.

Youth group member Lisa Citro, 16, said the entire African trip taught her “not to take things for granted.” She said she “thanks the Lord for my parents, siblings and the community in which I live.”

“Unbelievable” was how Citro described going to the orphanage. She recalled vividly the youth group members walking into the building, doors flinging open and three-year-olds running up to each of them. Picking them up and seeing the smiles on their faces is something Citro is certain none of her fellow teenagers will ever forget.

Noelle Mastroangelo, 16, was also changed by her trip. She said she appreciates so much all that she has and realizes she may have taken it for granted. It hit her “how lucky I am,” the teen added.

Working at the school was “so exciting” Mastroangelo said. She cited students her age coming into the newly stocked library anxious to use the books.

Describing the orphanage visit, Mastroangelo said it was “so sad.” She was with infants who were malnourished. She was especially moved by feeding one child who started crying every time she took the spoon out of its mouth out of fear there would be no more food.

Going to Ghana, said 14-year-old Michael Marzitelli, “has changed me a lot.” He wants to become more involved in his community and raise awareness of poverty around the world in countries like Ghana. He, too, said he had taken all he has as an American for granted.

“The kids’ faces just lit up” when the youth group members walked into the orphanage, he stressed. Marzitelli cited the “harsh conditions” under which the orphans live.

Akumba Ben Asamoaning, country representative of Amicus Onlus, explained that because of the nature of Baobab Academy, the need for a library is essential. The St. Gabriel youths’ project “was very laudable and purposeful,” he said. The “well-resourced library will go a long way in developing reading habits of the beneficiaries of the program and also stimulate the growth and development of society at large,” he added.

Noting the youths’ stop at the orphanage, Asamoaning called it “laudable...the children need more care, support and attention than the staff has the capacity to offer.” The gifts of toys, clothes and books that FOCUS presented to the orphanage will be very useful in the development of the children,” he said.

'Spotlight' series opens throughout Archdiocese soon

AREA—The Catechetical Office of the Archdiocese of Newark has scheduled the latest Spotlight on the Catechism series for next month.

Following the Second Vatican Council, a number of bishops called for a new compendium of Catholic teachings that would gather in one place the perennial teaching of the Church and the particular insights that the Council and other recent documents had brought to that teaching. The result was the Catechism of the Catholic Church, a comprehensive volume of over 600 pages.

The Catechism was first issued in 1992 by the Vatican with the approval of Pope John Paul II. It was released in its official English translation in 1994.

Since the Catechism was first published, the Archdiocese of Newark has offered the bi-annual series to present the essentials of the Catechism to those who are not theologians.

The series is conducted by the Catechetical Office in cooperation with several local parishes.

The Catechism is divided into four parts, each concerned with a major area of faith.

Part one examines the Profession of Faith or Creed, the statement of core Christian beliefs about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and the Church that Catholics recite at Mass each Sunday, and that has guided the Church for 16 centuries. Part two explores the Mass and the seven sacraments. Part three focuses on moral life including an extended treatment of the ten commandments. Part four discusses prayer, different forms of prayer, and the Lord's Prayer as a central prayer of Christians.

Spotlight on the Catechism offers a series of four courses, one on each of the four parts of the Catechism, that rotate through a number of parish centers. Courses are offered each spring and fall so that participants at a single location can take courses on all four parts of the Catechism over a two-year period.

The courses are of general interest to all who might want to learn more about the central teachings of the Catholic faith. They may be of particular interest to parents or those active in parish activities. Catechists can also fulfill the requirements for doctrinal certifi-

cation by completing all four courses in the series.

Doctrinal certification is appropriate for catechists who work with adults in RCIA, Bible study, small faith sharing communities and other forms of adult faith formation, those who work with children in parish religious education programs and teachers in Catholic schools

Spotlight on the Catechism courses are offered throughout the Archdiocese. All sessions meet in the evening for two hours and include a break with light refreshments. The topics, locations, dates and times of courses offered this October follow.

◆ **Spotlight on Faith: The Creed: Our Catholic Faith**, Wednesdays, Oct. 5, 12 & 19, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, West Orange. Presenter will be Kevin Averill, a leader in Catholic education and catechetics.

◆ **Spotlight on Sacraments: Life in the Love of the Holy Trinity**, Tuesdays, Oct. 4, 11 & 18, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at St. Michael Parish, Union. Father Gerard McCarren, professor of Liturgy and Sacraments at Immaculate Conception Seminary, Seton Hall University, is the presenter.

◆ **Spotlight on Morality: Our Moral Life: Living in True Freedom**, Tuesdays, Oct. 11, 18 & 25, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at St. Therese Parish, Cresskill. Presenter will be Father Timothy Graff, Pastor of St. Francis De Sales Parish, Lodi.

◆ **Spotlight on Prayer: The Lord's Prayer**, Wednesdays, Oct. 5, 12 & 19, 7-9 p.m. at Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Jersey City. The presenter will be Sister Adrienne Bradley SSJ, Director of Religious Education at St. Anastasia Parish, Teaneck.

Registration for each course is \$25 per person. Courses are open to the general public. A certificate will be issued for participants after completing each course.

For more information, to request a brochure or to register, call Dr. Eugene Tozzi at the Catechetical Office of the Archdiocese of Newark, (973) 497-4288 or e-mail tozzieug@rcan.org. Brochures are also available in many parish, religious education and school offices and on line at www.rcan.org/catechet.

THE CHRISTIAN FOUNDATIONS FOR MINISTRY PROGRAM

expresses gratitude to

Archbishop John J. Myers

and Pastors of the Archdiocese of Newark who have offered their parishes as Formation Centers. We congratulate those who are now completing the program and the Pastors and Parishes who have supported them.

BERGEN COUNTY

Corpus Christi, Hasbrouck Heights
Paul Carris

Our Lady of Good Counsel, Washington Township
Eileen Hynes

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Ridgewood
Kathleen Marina Crocco
Ruth Theresa Fearon
Bridget Roddy

St. Anastasia, Teaneck
Laurence Bonnemere

St. Anne, Fair Lawn
Dorothy Pyryt

St. Catharine, Glen Rock
Robert Stickle

St. Francis of Assisi, Ridgefield Park
Charles Appel
William Beatty
Jose Ruiz de Somocurcio

St. John the Baptist, Hillsdale
Douglas Holmgren
Barbara Jansen
Tom McHugh
Robert Personette

St. Joseph, Bogota
Lillian Luck

St. Joseph, Lodi
Winnie Malez

St. Joseph, Oradell
Ellen Kozlowsky
Joan Murray
Mary Anne Olsen
Susan L. Walsh

St. Mary, Rutherford
Mary Claire Coston

ESSEX COUNTY

Holy Spirit and Our Lady Help of Christians, East Orange
Pierre Jacques Merceus

Holy Trinity/Epiphany, Newark
Lidia Nunes Aguiar
Maria João Apolinario Coniço

Notre Dame, North Caldwell

Michael DiChiara

Our Lady of Fatima, Newark
José S. Pinto

Our Lady of Lourdes, West Orange
Margaret Christiano
Paul F. Donohue
Alice McCauley
Rosaura Parada
Erlinda Petriello
Violeta Quizan
Sharon Rosario
Margaret Shelley
Katherine Sheridan
Ray Torres

Our Lady of the Lake, Verona
Joan T. Koch

St. Catherine of Siena, Cedar Grove
Doris Cocca
Jeanne Luehs
Ellen R. Morett

St. James, Newark
Engracia Ferreira
Ana Tércia T. Franco
Maria Judite Gavinho
Roberto M. Correia

St. Mary, Nutley
Barbara Fugazzi
Patricia McDowall
Elaine Tanimura

St. Michael, Newark
Damian Madera
Ramonita Madera
Elsie Valentin

St. Peter Claver, Montclair
Elena Scambio

HUDSON COUNTY
Assumption/All Saints, Jersey City
Luis L. Enriquez
Francisca Gonzales
Edgar Rodriguez
Jose J. Soza
Maritza Soza

Our Lady of the Assumption, Bayonne
Carlos A. McGuinness
Jorge E. Paredes

Jose H. Sosa

Resurrection, Jersey City
Rafael T. Alvarez
Nelida Cabrera
Pedro A. Castaño
Maria R. Cruz
Iris Diaz
Lorenza Garcia
Irma Matias
Maria O. Medina
Carmen Pichardo
Rafael Santos
Irene Santana
Yolanda Santos
Facunda P. Vasquez
Guillermina P. Vasquez

St. Aloysius, Jersey City
Ida Nakar-Meyrowitz

St. Cecilia, Kearny
Shirley Rivera

UNION COUNTY

Blessed Sacrament, Elizabeth
Silvana Quinteros
Lucia Solis
Francine Vindas

Immaculate Conception, Elizabeth
Marianela Bonnell
Armando Corrales
Luis E. Muñoz
Silvia C. Muñoz
July Andrea Suarez

Immaculate Heart of Mary Scotch Plains
Eileen Wagner

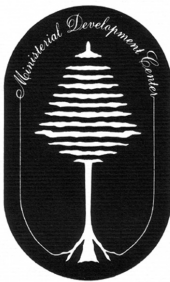
St. Helen, Westfield
Nancy Schwarz

St. John the Apostle, Linden
Grace Clementi
Michael Moore
Susan Moore
Jean Pencak

St. Rose of Lima, Short Hills
Jo-Ann Scott Marshall

DIOCESE OF PATERSON

Immaculate Conception, Franklin
Tomas S. Sinad



Prayer Service with Rite of Commissioning for those who are completing
CHRISTIAN FOUNDATIONS FOR MINISTRY

Sunday, October 2, 2005, 3 p.m.

Our Lady of Lourdes Church, West Orange
Presider, Bishop Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V.

ALL ARE INVITED

CFM classes for the Fall Cycle began the week of September 12, 2005
For information, call Ministerial Development Center
973 497 4350 or e-mail stantovi@rcan.org

The Christian Foundations for Ministry Program is accredited by United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

September 22

Saint Dominic Academy, Jersey City, women's choir auditions. Additional dates: Sept. 29 and Oct. 6. Call Joseph Napoli at (201) 434-5938 or email jnapoli@stdominicacad.com.

The Community of God's Love, Rutherford, "The Patriarchs and Genealogy," Deacon John DiMeo, presenter, 8 p.m. (201) 935-0344.

September 23

Serra Club, Religious Vocations 2005 Mid-Atlantic Conference, through Sept. 25, St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, Piscataway. (908) 387-0761.



Holy Rosary Parish, Jersey City, Feast of San Pio celebration. Father Philip Romano, O.F.M. Cap., homilist; testimonials and stories on San Pio, 6:30 p.m. (201) 795-0120.

St. Mark's Social Club, Rahway, meeting, James S. LaCorte, speaker on wills and estates, 7 p.m. Cost: \$3. (732) 499-9230.

September 24

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Wallington, parish picnic and sale of parish cookbook (\$15), through Sept. 25. Call Sister Vicky at (973) 777-9505 or Mary Jane at (201) 939-8576 for books.

Lumen Center, Caldwell, "Peacemaking," Catherine Warshaw, presenter, 9 a.m. Cost: \$15. Pre-registration required. (973) 403-3331, ext. 25 or lumencenter@Caldwellop.org.

Parish novenas honor saint

JERSEY CITY — Novena Masses to San Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila have begun at Saint Joseph Parish and Our Lady of Mercy Parish.

At St. Joseph Parish, a Mass for special prayers for priestly and Religious vocations was celebrated Sept. 20.

At 7:30 p.m., Sept. 21, the intention will be prayers for life.

The remaining Masses and intentions are: Sept. 22, victims of injustice; Sept. 23, parents;

Sept. 24, peace; Sept. 25, youth and children; Sept. 26, the unchurched; Sept. 27, the elderly and Sept. 28, families. All Masses are at 7:30 p.m. except for Sept. 24 at 5:30 p.m. and Sept. 25 at noon.

The Mass on the Feast Day, Sept. 28, will be celebrated by Pastor Father James V. Pagnotta. There will be fellowship at the school following Mass that day. Each day there will be recitation of the Holy Rosary at 6:45 p.m.

St. Joseph Parish, Bogota, annual international food festival through Oct. 2, at Olsen Park; youth ministry to collect funds for victims of Hurricane Katrina. (201) 342-6300 or www.stjosephbogota.org.

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish, Paramus, St. Francis: Blessing of Animals, 10 a.m. (201) 261-6080.

October 2

St. Peter Parish, Belleville, Rosary Society, annual communion breakfast at Branch Brook Manor. Father John Dennehy, guest speaker. Cost: \$14. (973) 751-2002.



Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Jersey City, pilgrimage to Blue Army Shrine, Washington Township. Cost: \$20. Call Vicky Silverstadt at (201) 333-0881, Caroline Tan at (201) 451-1436 or Letty Rada at (201) 324-1219.

Academy of the Holy Angels, Demarest, open house, noon-4 p.m. (201) 768-7822 or www.holyangels.org.

St. Aloysius, Caldwell, Rosary Altar Society Communion Breakfast, Father Benedict Groeschel, C.F.R., speaker, Essex Fells Country Club. Cost: \$20. Mail reservation to Pat Lepre, 42 Forest Ave., Caldwell, 07006.

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Mountainside, Rosary Altar Society, family Communion breakfast, Mass, 9:30 a.m., breakfast at L'Affaire, 1099 Rt. 22 East. Father Paul Prevosto, speaker. Cost: \$15. Children 12 and under: \$7. Call Julie at (908) 233-9684 or Jane Lape at (908) 317-0444.

St. Paul Parish, Ramsey, candlelight Living Rosary honoring Our Lady of Fatima, 7 p.m. (201) 327-0976.



St. Phil's Singles, Livingston, sports and activities day, 2 p.m.-7 p.m. Cost: \$5. Call Frank at (973) 340-4001.

September 25

The Holy Name Societies of Bayonne, citywide mini-parade beginning at St. Henry Church, 29th St. and Ave. C, 8 a.m., followed by Mass and breakfast, \$15 for adults, \$8 for children. Call Edward Gilligan at (201) 437-0192 or John Woolley at (201) 439-0197.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Irvington, Rosary Society annual autumn card party, 1 p.m. Cost: \$5. (732) 225-5965.

September 27

St. John the Evangelist Parish, Bergenfield, parish carnival through Oct. 1. (201) 384-0101.

September 29

St. Mary Parish, Nutley, "Key Figures in Modern Catholic Life," Msgr. Richard Liddy, Seton Hall professor, presenter, 7:30 p.m. Free. (973) 235-1100.

St. Michael Parish, Cranford, fall feast through Oct. 2. Call (908) 292-1003 or visit www.feastofst-michael.com.

September 30

St. Cassian Parish, Upper Montclair, concert series: Neos—a contemporary jazz quintet, including pipe organ, violin, vibraphone, bass and drums, 7:30 p.m. (973) 744-2850.

October 1

St. Mark Parish, social club (UMA), bus trip to Sleepy Hollow, NY. Cost: \$82. Call Anne at (908) 272-8796 or Nina at (732) 381-1298.

Rosary Shrine, Monastery of Our Lady of the Rosary, Summit, Rosary pilgrimage devotions, 3 p.m., outdoor procession in honor of Our Lady of Fatima. (908) 273-1228 or nunsopsommit@op.org.

October 3

St. Helen Parish, Westfield, "Discover God" parish mission, Father Frank McNulty, presenter. (908) 232-1214.

October 5

Holy Spirit Parish, Union, Holy Hour for Life, Benediction and "Rosary for Life," 7:30 p.m. (908) 687-3327.

October 7

St. Matthew Parish, Ridgefield, candlelight procession in honor of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, 7:15 p.m. (201) 945-3500. Sodality of the Children of Mary of St. Teresa, Jersey City, meeting, 3:15 p.m., St. Peter Hall, Jersey City. Oct. 8, recitation of the Rosary, 8:40 a.m., Mass, 9 a.m. (973) 689-1471.

Camden Diocese, annual Charismatic Conference, through Oct. 9, 7 p.m., Wildwood Convention Center, Wildwood. Cost: \$20; \$25 after Sept. 30. (609) 622-5010.

October 8

Mount Carmel Parish, Ridgewood, Rosary Altar Society Communion breakfast, 10:45 a.m. Call Betty Steen at (201) 444-5932.

October 9

St. Michael Parish, Union, blood drive at 1212 Kelly St., 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Bring social security card and signed for of identification. (908) 688-1232.

St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Bayonne, Fall craft fair, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Robinson Hall. Interested vendors should call (201) 436-2222.

October 15

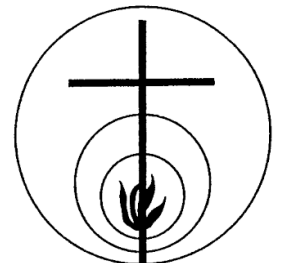
Family Life Ministries, Archdiocese of Newark, Spiritual Journey for Leaders in Action, Spanish, 171 Clifton Ave., Newark, noon-6 p.m. Cost: \$7. Call Reina Basualdo at (973) 497-4326.

October 16

Knights of Columbus, Washington Township, giant flea and craft market, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., 79 Pascack Rd. Call (201) 664-0422.

October 21

St. Walburga Monastery, Elizabeth, retreat for women, "Lectio Divina: Praying with Scripture," through Oct. 23. (908) 353-3028.

**Other:**

Office of Family Life Ministries, Archdiocese of Newark, sponsors two bereavement groups for parents, meeting on the first Wednesday of each month at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Bloomfield, and the third Monday of each month at St. Peter the Apostle Parish, River Edge. No registration or fee. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. Call (973) 497-4327.

St. Anastasia Parish, Teaneck, Third Order Carmelite meeting, second Saturday of each month, 8:30 a.m. Call Helen at (201) 567-3711.

Official Appointments

Archbishop John J. Myers has announced the following appointments:

PASTOR

Reverend Joseph C. Doyle, Pastor-designate of St. Anne Parish, Fair Lawn, has been appointed pastor as of Aug. 23.

ADMINISTRATOR

Reverend Jose Maria M. Parcon, Parochial Vicar at St. Columba Parish, Newark, will become administrator on Sept. 30.

PAROCHIAL VICAR

Reverend John Masiello, S.D.B., has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Elizabeth, as of Aug. 18.

**OTHER**

Reverend John E. Basil, Parochial Vicar at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Scotch Plains, has been granted retirement as of Oct. 1.

Reverend James J. Carroll, Parochial Vicar of St. John the Baptist Parish, Fairview, has been granted retirement as of Oct. 1.

'Heart-wrenching'

Editor,

Thank you for your front page story (Aug. 24, 2005), "Escaping the horrors of Sudan."

The heart-wrenching story of Father John Lugala Lasuba's journey in Darfur and all that he suffered, should motivate all of us to respond.

I applaud you and the Board of *The Catholic Advocate* for your courage in informing your readers of the genocide taking place in Darfur.

I urge all your readers to write to President Bush asking for his intervention. "Never Again" should be our motto as we take action. I recommend www.Africaaction.org, which networks with Catholic Relief Services, Church World Service and many other religious groups for action on behalf of the Darfurians facing genocide.

Marie Varley, Ed.D., Newark

Katrina aftermath

Editor,

The institutional acts of injustice against the poorest victims of Hurricane Katrina have been carved into the hearts and souls of the American people.

America, examine your conscience! The evil we witnessed is the result of the great divide between the rich and the poor, the majority and the minority, created by administrative public policy. The eradication of poverty and racism calls for revolutionary measures, setting new priorities, restructuring society and shifts in power.

The hope and mission of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. must continue through the work of Americans united for justice and peace in our land. His words resound today as they did forty years ago:

"Difficult and painful as it is, we must walk on in the days ahead with an audacious faith in the future. When our days become dreary with low-hoovering clouds of despair, and when our nights become darker than a thousand midnights, let us remember that there is a creative force in this universe, working to pull down the gigantic mountains of evil, a power that is able to make a way out of no way and transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows. Let us realize the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

Where do we go from here?

Mrs. J. Vance McIver
Jersey City
President, The Foundation for Justice and Peace Education

A question box about faith and practice

Today's Question: What is the Church's teaching regarding cremation? – Several questioners.

The Church's belief in the sacredness of the human body and the resurrection of the dead has traditionally found expression in the care taken to prepare the bodies of the deceased for burial.

Not only are we confronted by the mystery of life and death when we are faced with the presence of the body of the one who has died, but the body also forcefully brings to mind our belief that our human bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit and destined for future glory at the resurrection of the dead.

In addition, the body which lies in death recalls the personal story of faith, the past relationships and the continued spiritual presence of the deceased. The Church earnestly recommends that the pious custom of burying the bodies of the dead be observed after the example of Christ's own will to be buried.

Nonetheless, the Church does not forbid cremation. What is different when cremation takes place is only the final disposition of the body. Cremation takes place following the funeral liturgy, and then the ashes are to be interred or entombed, preferably in a Catholic cemetery.

The cremated remains of a body should be treated with the same respect given to the human body from which they come. This includes the use of a worthy vessel to contain the ashes, the manner in which they are carried, the care and attention to

What's the Matter?

By Rev. Msgr.
Richard J. Arnholz



appropriate placement and transport, and their final disposition.

The cremated remains should be buried in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium. The practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air, or on the ground, or keeping cremated remains in the home of a relative or a friend of the deceased, or, more recently, having the cremated remains made into jewelry, is not the reverent disposition that the Church requires.

Whenever possible, appropriate means for memorializing the deceased should be utilized, such as a plaque or stone that records the name of the deceased. The pastor should be advised at the time that the funeral arrangements are made as to the final disposition of the cremated remains. If at a nearby cemetery, a committal service at the time of interment or entombment can be readily arranged with a priest of the parish.

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. Please give your name and parish.

Meeting devastation with compassion

No one could prevent the unprecedented natural tragedy of Hurricane Katrina, but helping its victims is a responsibility to fellow human beings the Archdiocese of Newark took on without hesitation.

As the depth of the death and destruction of the category five storm became evident, Archbishop John J. Myers directed Catholic Health and Human Services Corporation (CHHS), representing the healthcare and social service ministries of the Church of Newark, to respond.

CHHS has done and is doing just that in impressive and compassionate fashion.

A blood drive, at which Archbishop Myers was among those rolling up their sleeves, was held at St. Michael's Medical Center. A call has been put out for volunteer healthcare professionals and grief counselors and, of course, donations are being sought.

As the evacuations go on and the toxic water recedes, schools, colleges and parishes of the Archdiocese of Newark continue to meet the dire needs of those who have literally lost everything.

It is important to remember those needs will continue long after Hurricane Katrina fades from the headlines. As they are now, those who call the Archdiocese of Newark home will be there.

'Home sweet home' at risk

Affordable housing is rapidly becoming a contradiction in terms throughout New Jersey. Something has to be done and fast.

Something is. On Sept. 22, busloads of concerned citizens, including those from the Archdiocese of Newark, will be in Trenton to demand action.

Homes for New Jersey, an advocacy group working to create affordable housing for middle and lower income residents, will hold a noontime rally on the steps of the State House.

It is intolerable that many who call the Garden State home may not be able to do so much longer if the price of a roof over one's head becomes out of reach.

The only realistic and fair way to combat what has become a genuine crisis for too many in New Jersey is to establish a comprehensive strategy.

That is exactly what those at the rally will be calling upon the acting governor and lawmakers to do. Specifically, Homes for New Jersey wants the creation and/or preservation of 100,000 affordable homes in conjunction with addressing the housing needs of those burdened with a very low income. There is no place for squalor in the Garden State.

A bus for the rally will leave from the Archdiocesan Center, 171 Clifton Ave., Newark, across the street from the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, at 9:30 a.m. To reserve a seat, call Kay Furlani of the Human Concerns Office at (973) 497-4341. Be there!

'It IS a basilica'

BY FATHER ARMAND MANTIA
Special to *The Catholic Advocate*

The word "basilica" is a title of honor bestowed upon a building by the pope, to mark its historic or artistic importance to the universal Church.

The unique elevation of Sacred Heart Cathedral is one of those anecdotes which is forever cemented in the fabric of our Archdiocese.

On Oct. 4, 1995, Pope John Paul II visited Newark. This included an historic meeting with President Clinton and presiding at Vespers in Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Throughout the celebration, it was obvious that the pope was enjoying the beauty of the building.

Later, the pope was being driven back to the residence of the Vatican Observer to the United Nations in New York City. As the car approached the Lincoln Tunnel, he shared his extremely favorable impressions of the Cathedral with Archbishop

McCarrick, who was riding with him.

The archbishop mentioned that because the cathedral would shortly be observing major anniversaries of both its cornerstone laying, and dedication, he was planning to petition the Vatican to raise the building to the dignity of a basilica.

The Holy Father responded to this by stating simply, "It is a Basilica."

The Papal Secretary, overhearing this, understood this to mean that if Archbishop McCarrick submitted the proper paperwork, it would be processed in due course, and a decision would be rendered at some point in God's lifetime.

As he explained this to the Archbishop, the Holy Father interrupted and stated, quite emphatically, "You did not hear me, I said, it IS a Basilica!" From that moment onward, Sacred Heart Cathedral was forever raised to the dignity of a Minor Basilica.

It is the 41st building so honored in the United States, but will probably be forever remembered as the only one ever raised by papal fiat while driving through the Lincoln Tunnel.

A 'faithful' review of Jesus Seminar scholars

It was Aug. 21, 2005. I, like millions of other Catholics, was glued to the television. There, a man in white sat on a great stage. Around him was arrayed a coterie of men in red skullcaps. Before him stretched out a mass of humanity—over 1 million priests and people—all focused on the man in white.

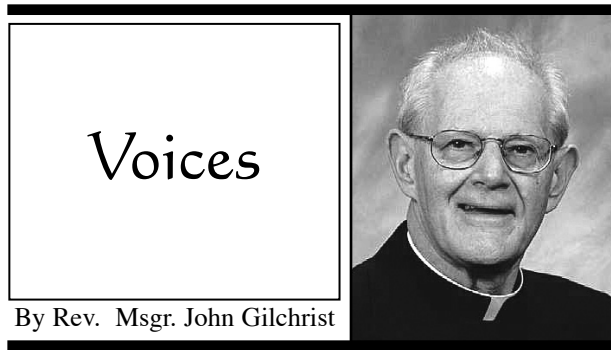
It was a spectacle that rivaled any other gathering in history. Young people from all over the world had come to celebrate their faith in the Lord Jesus and their love of his representative, the Pope of Rome, Benedict XVI.

At that moment, who would not have felt an emotion of pride and gratitude for sharing in the Catholic faith. There is nothing to rival this Church on the face of the earth.

But for me, on this particular day, there was a personal reason to give thanks to God for the man in white and all that he represents to me. Let me explain.

I have been studying the history of the scriptures. I have also had the opportunity to hear and meet some of the great scripture scholars of the world both Catholic and non-Catholic. Their entire world is academia and study. Yet for some of them, those without a faith, or without a creed or church to guide them, they have wandered off into darkness. They have dissected the scriptures and killed their spirit. They know everything but believe nothing.

There is nothing to rival this Church on the face of the earth.



By Rev. Msgr. John Gilchrist

On that Sunday I was reading the words of a man named Robert W. Funk. His article was entitled "The Once and Future New Testament." He belongs to the Jesus Seminar that has received so much attention in the media. The man is totally honest. Here is what he says about Jesus and the scriptures:

"We are left with a creed that is no longer believable...We no longer believe that Jesus was born of Mary without the benefit of male sperm. We no longer think of him literally as performing miracles like walking on water or stilling a storm. We no longer believe that he fed 5,000 with five loaves and two fish. We are relatively certain that the reports of his resurrection were luminous

apparitions prompted by grief. We think that the empty tomb stories are a late and fictional attempt to certify a bodily resurrection. The ascension into heaven can only be a fiction. We doubt that Jesus died to atone for the sins of the world resulting from Adam's original error. We are convinced that Jesus did not intend to establish a new religion, appoint clergy, or inaugurate celibacy."

"The essential dogmas of the television evangelists, Fundamentalists, and many evangelicals are museum exhibits. The churches have become museums of traditional affirmations about God. Theologians representing those churches have become museum curators."

So I glanced from my book to view the living, breathing mass of humanity on the screen. The Holy Father was celebrating the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass while 1 million voices responded in song.

"Poor wretched fools," I thought. "The people of the Jesus Seminar have run off with our sacred books and have killed their life and message. They don't realize that it is the Holy Spirit who fills the body of Christ and vivifies it. For us the Holy Scriptures are spirit and life."

And as I turned back to my book, I thought we can only pray for the people of the Jesus Seminar. They are dead spiritually. Only the Holy Spirit can revive them. They have murdered the soul of the books they profess to love and to teach.

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

Mother Angelica of EWTN: portrait of a nun in full

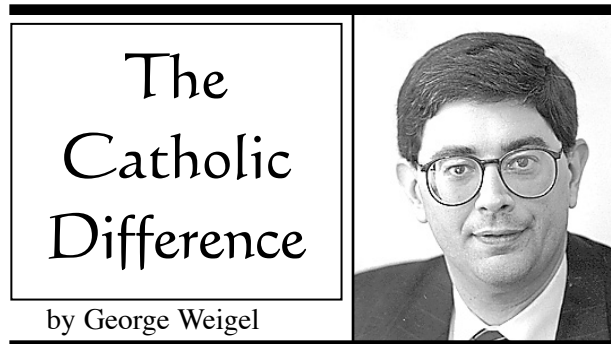
Three years ago, when Raymond Arroyo told me that he was going to write the biography of Mother Angelica, the formidable foundress of Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN), I had to admit to some skepticism. Was there enough of a story there to warrant a full-scale biography? Could an EWTN employee tell the story frankly, fairly, and without premature hagiography?

This past April, in Rome, Raymond gave me a copy of the proofs of his book. Five nights of reading later, my initial skepticism had completely abated. *Mother Angelica: The Remarkable Story of a Nun, Her Nerve, and a Network of Miracles*, just published by Doubleday, is a rattling good tale of fear and faith, courage and bulldog tenacity.

It's also high drama from start to finish. No one in their right mind would have expected Rita Rizzo, whom the world would later know as "Mother Angelica," to build the first global Catholic media empire.

Not to put too fine a point on it, clan Rizzo's misadventures give the words "dysfunctional family" new depths of meaning. A cruel father and an endlessly neurotic mother weave in and out of a story that, while set in the same period of time, certainly isn't *Going My Way*. Nor are her early days in the convent easy for Angelica, as she's beset by unimaginative superiors, not always sympathetic colleagues and serious health problems.

None of this suggests capacities that would eventually parallel those of a Rupert Murdoch or Ted Turner; yet that is what Mother Angelica became. How she imagined a global Catholic television empire, the faith with which she built it (coming within an ace of bankruptcy at times), and how she successfully fought off attempts to seize what she had



by George Weigel

built: it's quite a compelling story, full of plot twists and turns, and not without its moments of failure.

And to his credit, Raymond Arroyo gives us Mother Angelica in full. This is no plaster saint; this is a woman whose shrewd judgment is sometimes blunted by the fierce temper that once led her to pitch a knife at her uncle when she was 17.

Still, at the end, what the reader takes away from this book is a deep respect for Mother Angelica's faith and courage. EWTN's style of Catholic piety may not be universally appreciated. But no one who cares about the new evangelization should gainsay the accomplishment of this dumpling of a nun who pulled off something the institutional Church in the United States spectacularly failed to manage: the creation of a 24/7 Catholic presence on television.

Raymond Arroyo doesn't put it quite this way, but one can read the Mother Angelica story as a metaphor for the Catholic situation in the United

States these past 40 years. As in all great periods of reform—and the Second Vatican Council was intended by John XXIII as a reforming Council, a Council to give the Church a new burst of evangelical energy—the post-conciliar period following Vatican II has been filled with tension between the institutional and charismatic elements in the Church: between expanding Church bureaucracies and various forms of spiritual entrepreneurship.

Sometimes those tensions can be creative; sometimes they get nasty. It would be difficult to describe the tensions between EWTN and the U.S. bishops' conference as "creative." But those tensions, which Arroyo describes without rancor, are, at the very least, instructive—although one can wonder how well the conference has learned the lessons of its expensive failure to create a Catholic presence on television.

There's also food for thought here as Catholics of both sexes ponder the meaning of John Paul the

Great's Catholic feminism. The most beloved figure in contemporary Catholicism was a woman: Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta. The most powerful and successful Catholic media

mogul of our time is a woman: Mother Angelica. What does it mean for the future that neither Mother Teresa nor Mother Angelica had much use for "Catholic feminism" as it's usually defined, and that both were completely devoted to John Paul II's understanding of the unique dignity and vocation of women?

Stay tuned.

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

A rattling good tale of fear and faith, courage and bulldog tenacity.

Vatican rumor mill humming

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When Pope Benedict XVI returns to the Vatican at the end of September, he'll find his "in" basket full and the rumor mill humming.

On the docket in coming months are a Synod of Bishops, an ecumenical trip to Istanbul, commemorations of the Second Vatican Council, an upcoming encyclical, five canonizations, several rounds of bishops' visits and a full slate of daily meetings with Church groups, religious representatives and political leaders from around the world.

Meanwhile, the buzz around the Roman Curia has concentrated—not surprisingly—on possible changes in the Roman Curia. Murmurs of a clean sweep of several top Vatican officials and a major "shrinking" of Vatican departments have been echoing down the marble hallways for several weeks.

Like his predecessors, the pope chose to spend most of his summer at the papal villa in Castel Gandolfo. He returns to the Vatican Sept. 28, just four days before the start of the Oct. 2-23 synod on the Eucharist.

Many observers believe the synod will help delineate the role of collegiality in Pope Benedict's governing style.

The synod on the Eucharist was originally convened by Pope John Paul II, but already Pope Benedict has put his own mark on the assembly, shortening it by a week, reducing the speechmaking and opening it up to more free discussion.

But Vatican insiders cautioned against expectations of a major enhancement of the synod's status. Several years ago, they pointed out, then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger said he saw little point in granting decision-making powers to the synod and thus creating a "second Roman Curia."

The real Roman Curia is awaiting the first wave of significant appointments in Pope Benedict's young papacy. The pope's only major appointment so far came last May, when he named U.S. Archbishop William J. Levada to head the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

The speculation about wholesale curial changes has been

fueled by the fact that seven cardinal heads of major Vatican departments are past age 75, the normal retirement age.

A tantalizing rumor making the rounds is that Pope Benedict, never a fan of big church bureaucracy, wants to streamline the Vatican's departments, which have mushroomed in number over the last 35 years. Today, there are more than 35 Vatican agencies employing 2,660 people.

It took Pope John Paul more than 10 years to devise a mini-reform of the Roman Curia. The expectation is that Pope Benedict may work faster and more substantially, combining some agencies when necessary. One scenario has the Pontifical Council for the Laity being elevated to a Congregation, absorbing the Pontifical Council for the Family.

The Pontifical Council for Culture could also be subsumed by the Congregation for Catholic Education. The Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace could be combined with the Pontifical Council

"Cor Unum," which coordinates charity efforts.

And once again there is talk of creating a "superdicastery" that would oversee all Vatican communications.

The pope will canonize five new saints in late October, and the announcement prompted some observers to predict another "saint-making" pope in the style of Pope John Paul. But that analysis was premature.

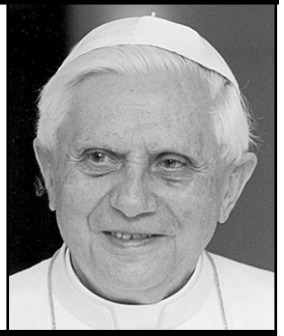
The new pope, in fact, is gradually putting his own stamp on the papacy, and some at the Vatican believe the naming of a new batch of cardinals this fall would accelerate that process.

But many Vatican officials expect him to bide his time. At present, there are eight "vacancies" in the voting-age members of the College of Cardinals, which has a theoretical limit of 120. If the pope waits until next spring, the number of vacancies would increase to at least 12; by the fall of 2006, there would be at least 16 openings.

The new pope, in fact, is gradually putting his own stamp on the papacy.

The Pope Speaks

Pope Benedict XVI



'True treasure' of Church

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI looked ahead to the October Synod of Bishops, saying it would bring a fitting close to the Year of the Eucharist initiated by Pope John Paul II.

Speaking at a noon blessing at his summer residence outside Rome Sept. 4, the pope said bishops around the world were studying the working document of the Oct. 2-23 synod, which will focus on the Eucharist.

The pope asked the entire Church to join in preparation for the synod, especially through prayer and reflection. He said the synod would highlight the importance of the Eucharist as "the true treasure of the church."

Pope Benedict recalled that Pope John Paul convened the special year in order to rekindle "faith, wonder and love" toward the Eucharist. He said it was an attachment his predecessor lived in a special way in his final months, when "sickness made him more and more like the suffering Christ."

"With what devotion did he celebrate the Mass, the center of his day. And how much time did he pass in adoring, silent prayer before the tabernacle," the pope said.

He said he hoped the initiatives of local dioceses and parishes during the eucharistic year have helped spur greater participation in Sunday Mass.

For his part, the pope said he was delighted to see a real sense of devotion to the Eucharist among young people during World Youth Day activities in Cologne, Germany, in August.

Christian commitment reflects Christ's obedience

Readings: Ez 18:25-28; Ps 125; Phil 2:1-11; Mt 21:28-32.

We are surrounded by signs of human fickleness, overwhelmed at times by the evidence that people seem to change their mind about very serious matters merely because an earlier decision no longer suits their self interest.

Nations break treaties and international law even though they would appeal to the same to protect their rights. Spouses promise to love each other "in sickness and in health," yet one may abandon his or her commitment precisely when the partner needs the signs of faithful love the most.

Perhaps even more poignant is the case of parents abandoning their child, who received the gift of life with concomitant rights to physical, spiritual and intellectual nurture.

The prophets of Israel witnessed similar signs of human frailty in their time. They contrasted various forms of our inconstancy with divine fidelity. "Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even if she should forget, I will never forget you" (Is 49:15).

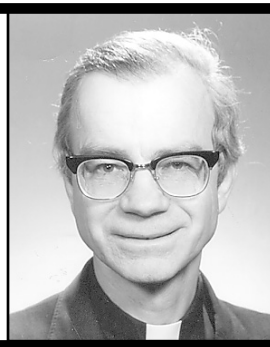
Imitation of God's love is the gauge whereby we are challenged to evaluate decisions we are considering. The divine gift of life as intimate union with God, offered through the Covenant, is either fostered or denied by our choices.

Ezekiel warned the people who shared the Babylonian exile with him that each person is responsible for his or her

Sunday Readings

26th Sunday
of Ordinary Time
(Sept. 25, 2005)

By Father Lawrence Frizzell



eternal destiny. "When a virtuous person turns away from virtue to commit iniquity and dies, it is because of the iniquity committed that he or she must die. But if a wicked person, turning from sin...does what is right and just, that person shall preserve his or her life..." (18:26-27).

Many lessons can be derived from this passage, two of which are important for our purpose. We must never give up hope for a person who has failed, because throughout a lifetime God is calling that individual to live the human vocation more fully. On the other hand, those graced by God in a special way should never presume that they will always be faithful. To know God's will and accomplish it in the varying circumstances

of life demands our constant prayer, as does our need for the gift of final perseverance.

The solution to our own limitations is found in divine help "now and at the hour of our death."

For Christians, the model of obedient love in fidelity to God's will is, of course, epitomized by the life and death of Jesus. In his letter to the Christian community in Philippi, St. Paul offered a succinct principle: "Have among yourselves the same attitude of mind that is yours in Christ Jesus" (2:5). Then he presented a beautiful hymn, which perhaps was already being sung in the liturgy. It celebrates the generosity of Jesus in taking human nature so that we could be freed from the slavery to sin, self and Satan.

Recognizing that fidelity to our word, whether in political, social or other commitments is part of the meaning of love, we must turn frequently to God through the greatest and most efficacious sign of real love. That

is, we must understand the Cross of Christ.

Do we think that we know the meaning of love? Not unless it includes the dimension of dying to self!

Only by openness to God's gifts mediated through Christ's obedience unto death can we attain the freedom to give ourselves constantly and consistently.

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

We must never give up hope for a person who has failed.

Three language communities thrive together as one parish family in Christ

BY FATHER MICHAEL WARD
Special to *The Catholic Advocate*

approximately 22 Spanish-speaking groups from Europe, Central America and South America.

Q. Do you have any traditions such as ethnic celebrations, feast days or other, which are important in the parish's life?

A. The feast of St. Cecilia is a growing celebration. This year we are adding a novena to our traditional celebration of the Eucharist and Pot Luck Supper. We also have processions in honor of Our Lady of Fatima (Portuguese), Our Lord of Miracles (Peruvian), as well as smaller celebrations of patrons for many of the groups within the parish, including St. Augustine, St. Gregory, Our Lady of



This stained glass window depicts St. Cecilia, patroness of Church music; her feast day is Nov. 22.

St. Cecilia Parish, Kearny

Guadalupe, Our Lady of Charity, Nuestro Señor de Esquipulas, the Holy Family and others. St. Patrick's Day is also a great day for many of our parishioners. At Christmas we celebrate a novena to the baby Jesus (Colombian).

Q. Describe some of the programs and/or ministries in your parish and name some of the people involved.

A. We have a growing religious education program that involves the children of the parish, and, beginning this year will include opportunities for the parents to become more involved through periodic workshops throughout the year. There are also several youth and young adults involved in the many programs and sacramental preparation classes offered under Holly Lawmaster, the direction of our director of religious education.

Our Right of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) process can be experienced either in English, Spanish or Portuguese, and is led by teams of lay ministers from the parish under the direction of Father Yuvan Alvarez and myself.

Four choirs come together periodically to enhance our worship, especially during Holy Week and Christmas, as well as other times throughout the year. Our Music Minister, Albert Ganter, has developed a Lessons and Carols for Advent and a Choral Stations of the Cross

during Holy Week, bringing together choirs in the three languages.

Our Youth Ministry program holds weekly meetings as well as special events and fundraisers. Earlier this month, they were leading the parish effort to aid victims of Hurricane Katrina. They also are instrumental in our Confirmation program and retreats.

We have a bereavement ministry, Christian foundations for ministry in Spanish, a Food Pantry, as well as a Rosary Society, Holy Name, Knights of Columbus, Sagrada Familia (Portuguese), Cecilian Seniors Group, Hermandade de Neuestro Señor de los Milagros, in addition to many prayer groups.

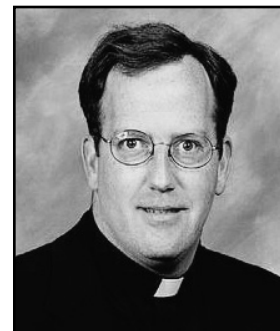
Q. Describe the religious education program. Is there a unique focus or method?

A. We have 360 students in grades one through eight and there is a two-year high school program. We also have a separate confirmation program, which includes monthly meetings, a one-day retreat and "Life Nights," as well as a separate program for those preparing for first Reconciliation and first Eucharist. New programs include refresher conferences for parents as well as a vacation bible school.

Q. Is there a parish youth group?

A. Ministry to the youth of our parish is conducted collaboratively with myself, Father Yuvan Alvarez, Holly Lawmaster, our director of religious education (DRE), and Sean McDonald, our Coordinator of Youth Ministry. Currently there are weekly meetings as well as participation in Stubenville East retreat weekend. The youth are also involved in peer ministry, parish liturgy, as well as helping in some of the catechetical programs and

Meet the Pastor



Father Michael Ward

High School: Union Catholic, Scotch Plains

College/Seminary/Graduate School:

Drew University, Madison; Seton Hall University, South Orange

Date of Ordination: May 1997

Heroes: My brother and sisters

Favorite Saint: Augustine

Favorite Sport: Skiing

Favorite Food: Steak

Favorite Subject in School: Biology and Church history

Favorite Movie:

The Lord of the Rings

Last Book Read: *Collaboration:*

Uniting Our Gifts in Ministry by Loughlan Sofield, ST, and Carroll Juliano, SHCJ

Proudest Moment:

Ordination

Occupation if I weren't a

Priest: Ecologist

fund raising for the youth group, parish and worthy causes such as Hurricane Katrina relief, world hunger and others.

Q. How long have you been pastor at this parish? Have you witnessed any changes in your time there?

A. I have been at St. Cecilia's since 1997, first as a parochial vicar, then administrator and now pastor. During this time there have been moments of difficulty as well as great joy. The community has grown together in many ways over this time, becoming more and more one parish rather than three.

We are currently working on many capital repairs to the church, convent, and, in conjunction with Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark, our school buildings. Pastoral projects scheduled for this year include New Energies, Why Catholic?, and a development initiative.

Father Ward is pastor of St. Cecilia Parish, located at 120 Kearny Ave., Kearny.



Pictured is the exterior of St. Cecilia Church. The parish, started in September 1893, was an offshoot of Holy Cross Parish, Harrison.



BUSY SUMMER—Students at Visitation School, Jersey City, including, left to right, Drashti Patel, Marilyn Gomes, Gabriela Flores and Alexis Kessarar took part in a variety of summer programs including instruction in computer arts, the use of graphics, digital photography and movie making.

Open house scheduled Oct. 2

MONTVALE—Saint Joseph Regional High School will hold its first open house of the academic year on Sunday, Oct. 2 from noon to 3 p.m.

Open to prospective seventh and eighth grade students and their parents, the program

includes tours conducted by students along with the opportunity to speak with faculty, administrators and parents.

For additional information, call (201) 391-3300. The school is located at 40 Chestnut Ridge Rd.

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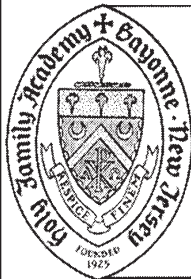
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September 25th from 12pm to 2pm
September 26th from 6:30pm to 8pm

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HOLY FAMILY ACADEMY

239 Avenue A, Bayonne, NJ 07002 www.hfa.bayonne.net

Hall of Honor installation slated

JERSEY CITY—St. Aloysius High School will induct the newest members of its Hall of Honor during ceremonies Sept. 25, 1 p.m., at Casino in the Park.

Inductees include Martin T. Walsh, '56; Charles Rooney, '39; Marianne Baratelli Green, '57; Walter Barber, '51; Margaret Salmini Egan, '55; Joseph Riccardo, '63; Thomas Finucane,

'34; Rev. Frank Finn, '31; and Denis Richardson, '63. Deceased graduates to be honored are Vincent Ernst, '59 and Madonna Anderson Judge, '35. In addition, Coach Robert Short will be made an honorary graduate and awarded his diploma.

For additional information and tickets, call (201) 451-1818 or email colberta@ix.netcom.com.

Clearly Canterbury

A commitment to accept, to challenge, to inspire

Canterbury School OPEN HOUSE

A lay Catholic coeducational boarding and day school for grades 9-12.

October 8, 2005

Registration 9:30 a.m.

Robert Markey Steele Hall



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- ◆ New television studio wired for digital production
- ◆ New air bubble over tennis courts for winter activities
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Her school is a little family

BY TRISH FITZPATRICK
Special to The Catholic Advocate

BAYONNE—For Marilyn Skillender, it's all about love and family.

As she starts her 28th year at St. Vincent de Paul Elementary School, the veteran educator reflects on her journey. "St. Vincent is my parish, my home, and my love," she says with obvious pride and affection. The school is clearly a home too for the second and third generations of families it is now educating.

Skillender started, like so many mothers, as a volunteer when her children were small. She was a substitute teacher, but fondly recalls how parents would "scrub the floor, maintain the school, do whatever was asked of them."

Filling in for a teacher on leave led to a full time teaching job in the upper grades. Transitioning to the principal role was difficult in the sense that Skillender didn't want to be viewed only as a disciplinarian. However, she accepted the challenge with characteristic energy and enthusiasm.

A Bayonne native, she attended the Academy of St. Aloysius and New Jersey City University. From an early age Skillender knew she wanted to be an educator. After a brief stint in the public schools, she "walked into Catholic schools and fell in love with them."

St. Vincent de Paul is the family school for the Skillenders, Terence, her husband of 42 years

attended the school, as did children, Kenny, Jacki and Joe, and two grandchildren, Nicole and Joe Skillender, Jr.

"Our Family Welcomes You" is the sign that greets visitors to St. Vincent de Paul. It is much more than just a slogan. Deacon Ralph

to learn about the governmental process at an early age. Many former students are serving as class presidents and in other roles at their high schools. Most graduates, she points out, attend Catholic high schools.

Reflecting on her many years at St. Vincent, Skillender speaks with fondness about the four pastors with whom she has served.

"I've been blessed with these four men who were always so very supportive of the school." She is eagerly anticipating the arrival of St. Vincent's new pastor, Father James Manos, who arrives this month.

Other highlights over the years include a special Mass to celebrate ten years of the Drug Awareness Resistance Education (DARE) program, the annual celebration in September of St. Vincent de Paul's feast day and a dinner held three years ago to honor her for 20 years as principal.

Her organizational skills have led her to serve on several important Deanery and Archdiocesan committees. Skillender has been a part of the New Energies Task Force and has served on several boards charged with helping schools self-evaluate. Last year she was awarded the Archdiocesan Sesquicentennial Medal, an honor that meant a great deal to her.

She is, as always, ready for another exciting year. The continuing integration of technology into the curriculum is important to her and is progressing well. She is opening a 4-year-old Pre-K program and would like to expand further to respond to needs in the community. But perhaps the most important task for this year is to conclude the school's Middle States accreditation process.



Marilyn Skillender

In the Principal's Office

Savo says of Skillender, whom he has known for over 20 years, "she is still as conscientious as ever and she knows every child by name. She makes the school a home." That feeling is carried through to all aspects of school life, including liturgical celebrations.

Student Government is a passion of the principal. Skillender feels strongly that students ought



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Scholarship offered

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE
Editor

NEWARK—The Patricia & Albert Baron Catholic Campus Ministry Scholarship, offered to juniors, seniors and graduate students at the Teaneck campus of Fairleigh Dickenson University (FDU), will be awarded in June 2006.

In order to be eligible for consideration for the new partial scholarship, a student must be enrolled at the FDU Metropolitan Campus in Teaneck, active in campus ministry, have a 2.8 grade-point average, and demonstrate leadership qualities. The dollar amount of the scholarship has not yet been finalized, according to a spokesperson at Catholic Campus Ministry of the Archdiocese of Newark.

FDU Metropolitan is the first of the 12 campuses served by Catholic Campus Ministry to be offered this scholarship, given by

Caldwell marks Arts milestone

CALDWELL—Thirty years ago, Caldwell College became New Jersey's first higher education institution to be certified to offer a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) degree.

The milestone will be marked with a yearlong campus wide celebration beginning Sept. 25.

The kickoff event begins with the start of the Concerts at Caldwell College music series, the 10th season of presenting solo and ensemble performances of jazz and classical music. NewYorkestra will bring its cutting edge contemporary big band jazz sound to the Alumni Theatre at 2 p.m.

There will be alumni and student exhibitions, tours of the artworks of Sister Gerardine Mueller, O.P. and the gala opening of the Gillespie exhibition of paintings and sculptures.

The yearlong campus-wide Gillespie exhibit will turn the campus into a "work of art." The Visceglia Gallery and Art Center will also feature the works of alumni, artists, faculty and students.

For information, contact Joanne Ryan at (973) 618-3254 or jryan@caldwell.edu

Rev. John B. Baron, Ph.D., in memory of his parents. Father Baron is the campus Catholic chaplain and the director of the office of Catholic Campus Ministry at FDU Metropolitan.

The scholarship will be awarded next year by a university committee and is designed to support students in their college education and Catholic faith. Applications for the scholarship will be available next spring through the Dean of Student's Office at FDU Metropolitan. Completed applications can be returned to the Scholarship Application Committee, care of the Dean of Students.

Call Father Baron's at (201) 692-2406 for more information on the scholarship program.

Campus Ministry plans PA retreat

AREA—Catholic Campus Ministry of the Archdiocese of Newark will sponsor "Who do YOU say that I am?," a fall retreat for college students, which will be held Friday, Sept. 30 to Sunday, Oct. 2 at the Tuscarora Inn & Conference Center, 3300 River Rd. Mt. Bethel, PA.

Deacon Ralph Poyo, the director of faith formation at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church in Raleigh, NC, will serve as the keynote speaker for the retreat. Deacon Poyo has been involved in pastoral ministry for over 25 years. He has a bachelor's degree in Scripture and has done graduate work in the field of pastoral ministry.

The theme of this year's retreat will address questions about Christ and His Church and the role of His followers.

Registration for students of the 11 schools served by the archdiocesan Catholic Campus Ministry is available at a discount rate of \$50 per person. Contact the

Tuscarora Inn & Conference Center at (570) 897-6000 for details on the retreat. For information on call Catholic Campus Ministry at (973) 642-1613.

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Respect Life Sunday Oct. 2

AREA—Parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Newark will join the rest of the nation in celebrating Respect Life Sunday on Oct. 2.

Using this year's Respect Life Sunday theme of "Help Build a World Where Human Life is Always Loved and Defended, Every Form of Violence Banished," the Archdiocesan Respect Life Office will host a Pro-Life Seminar on Saturday, Oct. 15 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the auditorium of St. John the Apostle Parish, Linden.

This year's theme is derived from Pope John Paul II's prayer to Mary on Dec. 8, 2004, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Begun in 1972, the Respect Life program provides information about Church teaching on the value and dignity of human life to the Catholic community and the wider public.

Respect Life, combining education, prayer, services and advocacy, is observed in virtually all of the 195 Catholic dioceses in the United States.

William Cardinal Keeler, Archbishop of Baltimore and Chairman of the Committee for Pro-Life Activities, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) said in a letter to the nation's bishops that the Respect Life program looks at cultural attitudes hostile to life, such as radical individualism, moral relativism, materialism and utilitarianism. "These attitudes are leading to acceptance of 'medicalized' euthanasia of the disabled and dying, as well as the destruction of human embryos for research."

The seminar at St. John the Apostle begins with Mass celebrated by Archbishop John J. Myers at 11 a.m.

Speakers include Cathy Cleaver-Ruse, Esq., former director of planning and information of the Pro-Life Secretariat of USCCB and Msgr. William F. Smith, academic dean, St. Joseph Seminary, Dunwoodie, Yonkers, N.Y.

Featured too will be a discussion panel that will include political campaign guidelines for parishes.

Time to end litmus test for Roe v. Wade

BY SUSAN E. WILLS, ESQ.
Special to The Catholic Advocate

AREA—Nominees to the federal bench were once evaluated on the basis of integrity, legal knowledge and ability, professional experience and judicial temperament. These are still the American Bar Association's top criteria for assessing judicial fitness.

Unfortunately, some members of the U.S. Senate have reduced the process of vetting judicial nominees to Orwellian simplicity. Remember the motto of "Animal Farm"—Animals good. Humans bad. The motto of these senators might be summed up as—Defenders of Roe good. Critics of Roe bad.

At least four senators have stated publicly that they will reject any nominee who fails the Roe v. Wade

litmus test. Others have voiced concern over possible nominees whose political views they describe as "extremist" or "out of the mainstream." These are code words for "Critics of Roe bad."

Among the worst Supreme Court opinions of the 20th century.

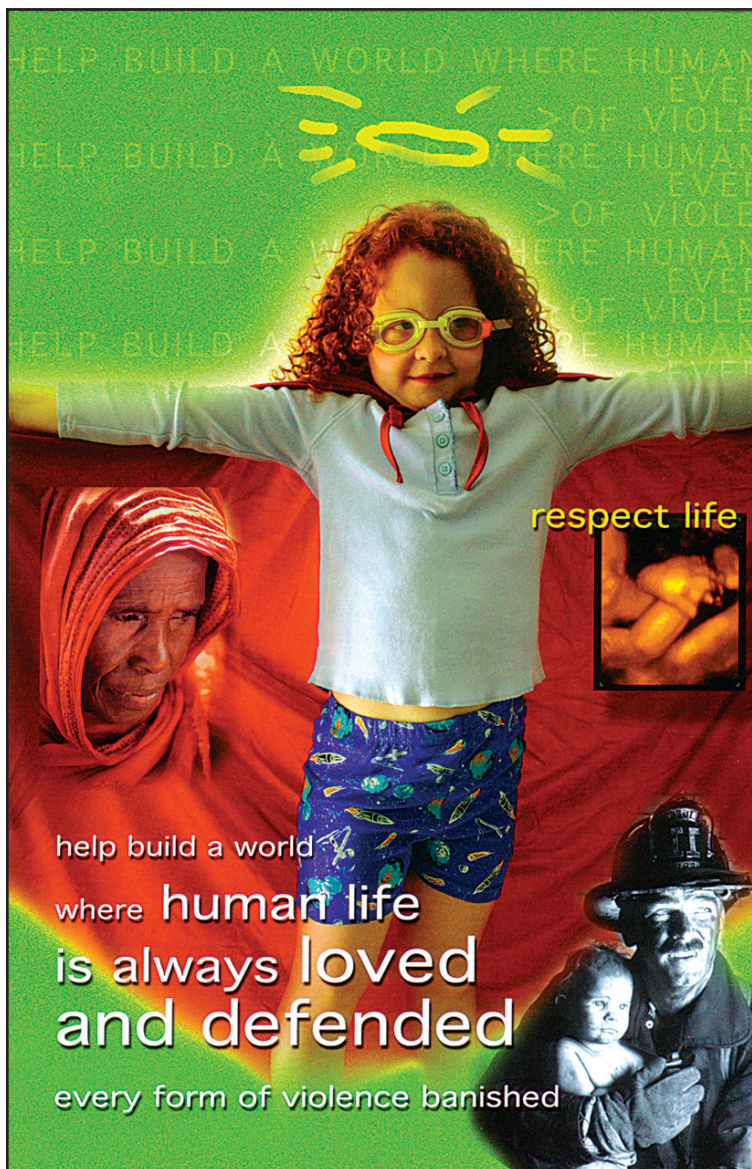
This is a lot like hiring a geography teacher only if he'll promise to teach that the earth is flat. In both cases you'd be asking a judge or teacher to deny what is obviously true and affirm what is indefensible. The Court's decision in Roe v. Wade is, simply stated, an

impoverished and even absurd measure of judicial fitness. Roe is almost universally acknowledged as being among the worst Supreme Court opinions of the 20th century. Even Harvard Law Professor Laurence Tribe, who strongly supports legal abortion, has disparaged Roe: "behind its own verbal smokescreen, the substantive judgment on which it rests is nowhere to be found" in the Court's decision. And John Hart Ely, then a Yale Law School professor, famously wrote: Roe is "a very bad decision. ... It is bad because it is bad constitutional law, or rather because it is not constitutional law and gives almost no sense of an obligation to try to be."

Seven Supreme Court justices have criticized the Roe decision, including three (Burger, Ginsburg and O'Connor) who support abortion rights. Scores of law review articles have exposed the opinion's errors of fact, law and reasoning, but you'll search in vain for one peer-reviewed article defending the decision as written. Click the Roe v. Wade button on the USCCB Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities' mainpage, www.usccb.org/prolife, to read excerpts from judicial and scholarly critiques of Roe. You'll also find 15 "Roe Reality Checks" debunking popular misconceptions about Roe and abortion generally, links to key abortion decisions, major statements by U.S. bishops on Roe and a handy bulletin insert called "Roe v. Wade Questions and Answers."

Over 7 million postcards were ordered by Catholics across the country to mail to their senators urging them "not to require

Continued on page 15



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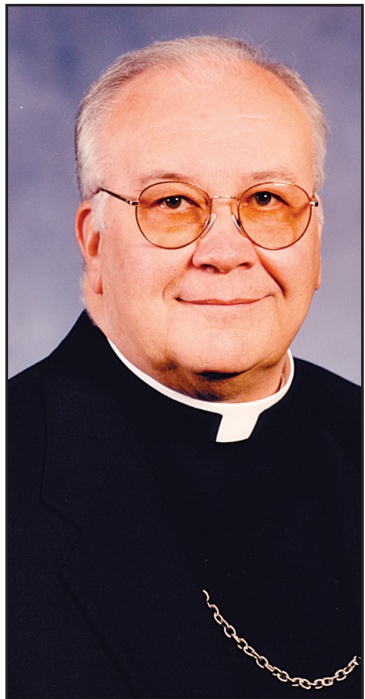
WASHINGTON, N.J. (CNS) — The Blue Army USA, a member of the World Apostolate of Fatima, has announced it is planning a world day of prayer for the sanctity of life on Oct. 2.

In an announcement, the U.S. organization said it was calling on Catholics and non-Catholics alike to help send “100 million prayers for the sanctity of life to heaven” during what it hopes will be “the largest day of organized prayer the world has ever seen.”

Those interested in participating can register their pledge to pray online at www.bluearmy.com. A press release said registered participants will be remembered at a Mass at the Blue Army’s national shrine at its New Jersey headquarters and at the shrine in Fatima.

“Together we will bring the message of Fatima to life for millions of people around the world,” said Michael La Corte, executive director of the Blue Army.

In 1917, Mary appeared six times to three children in a field near Fatima, Portugal, north of Lisbon. She urged conversion of sinners and, among other things, urged the frequent



Bishop Paul G. Bootkoski

recitation of the rosary.

On Oct. 2, Bishop Paul G. Bootkoski of Metuchen, the Blue Army’s spiritual adviser, will dedicate a statue called “Mary, Mother of the Life Within” at the apostolate’s headquarters. Alan Keyes, a former talk-show host and commentator on American cultural and public life, will be one of the speakers at the dedication.

Facing harsh reality

BY REV. MSGR. RICHARD MCGUINNESS

Director of the Respect Life Office

AREA—Over my 50 years in the priesthood I have heard thousands of stories from men and women who have been affected by abortions they have had, or forced others to have.

Sometimes, immediately after the abortion, they felt relieved. The abortion meant they would not have to stop school, or a career, not have to explain to inquisitive friends why they had become pregnant. But sometime later, they realize that they have killed their own child, and that is a hard thing to face.

Roe v. Wade

Continued from page 14

support for Roe v. Wade as a condition for determining a nominee’s fitness for judicial office.” The National Committee for a Human Life Amendment (NCHLA), a non-profit organization which works closely with the U.S. Catholic bishops, is overseeing this grassroots campaign. If you want to help end the Roe litmus test, visit www.EndRoe.org to locate and send an e-mail message directly to your senators.

Susan Wills is associate director for education, USCCB Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities.

Some simply went into denial. Others tried to tell themselves that it really was not a child—only a piece of tissue. But for many, Catholics and non-Catholics, there comes a time of feeling guilty, a time of shame.

There comes a time of feeling guilty, a time of shame.

Some think of abortion as an unforgivable sin. Some seek to forget by trying drugs or alcohol or promiscuity, to dull their feelings of guilt and pain. But the good news that the Church has to offer is this: God is merciful and there is

no sin He is unwilling to forgive, as long as a person is sincerely sorry and wishes to accept God’s forgiveness.

In our Archdiocese, there are programs like Project Rachel and Rachel’s Vineyard Retreats, which have brought peace and forgiveness into the lives of those who have suffered from the realization of what abortion really is.

As people who profess to respect life, we must not only embrace a real respect for human life from conception to natural death, but also, we must not condemn or judge those who seek help—rather we must reach out in love and help them to find a way of feeling God’s unconditional love and forgiveness.

If you know someone who has had an abortion and wishes to find forgiveness and peace, ask them to call Michelle in the Respect Life Office at (732) 388-8211.

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Schools

Continued from page 1

For parents and students, the strategy ultimately will mean fewer but stronger schools in the archdiocese, particularly on the elementary level.

"The ministry of Catholic education is at the heart of the ministry of the Church," Sister Dominica Rocchio, archdiocesan

school superintendent/secretary of education, said. "If we don't understand that, then we should put locks on all the school doors."

In order to preserve and improve that education ministry, archdiocesan parishes and schools must join forces on a regional basis to attract students, streamline costs, develop creative education programs and shutter outdated facilities, she explained.

As reported in the Sept. 7 issue of *The Catholic Advocate*, the dual trends of rising costs and declining student enrollment over the last 10 years is pressing archdiocesan education leaders to confront difficult choices. This is true here as well as in dioceses throughout the country.

In many ways, this education sustainability strategy is a parallel effort to the New Energies Parish Initiative (see related page-one story in this issue).

Though not yet a crisis, Sister Dominica described the situation here as being "at a crossroads," and in urgent need of an intelligent, coordinated discussion

among pastors, educators and parents throughout the archdiocese.

Archdiocesan education officials acknowledged a critical review is underway that will involve the closing and/or merger of schools, especially elementary schools in Hudson County. While no final decisions have been made, it's clear that co-sponsored regionalization will be at the core of the sustainability strategy for schools.

The general description of a regional school, as defined by Brother Ralph Darmento, archdiocesan deputy superintendent of schools, is a facility "of a size that can support a variety of edu-

cation programs now and in the future." This means a structure that is physically capable of housing special facilities for music, art, science and athletics, along with the core curriculum, which can accommodate students from more than a single parish.

"We do have guidelines," Sister Dominica said, explaining that it's no longer feasible to maintain smaller schools built in a "self-contained" era of the past.

The concept of a regional school supported and co-sponsored by several parishes in the archdiocese began in the early 1990s, Sister Loretta Hogan, director of elementary school finance, explained. There are 24 co-sponsored schools throughout the four counties of the archdiocese. The list includes Hillside Catholic Academy, Hillside, and Ironbound Catholic Academy in the Ironbound section here.

However, while regional/co-sponsored schools have an established track record, a new level of commitment will be required to expand this model throughout the archdiocese as a comprehensive sustainability strategy.

"To engage in the regional school model requires a total change in thinking," Sister Dominica said. The new paradigm means, literally, thinking outside the box, in terms of regional governance of schools. "The idea of a parish school defined as a unit within geographic boundaries is a legal fiction," she declared.

Collaboration is the key element for the co-sponsorship of a regional school, Brother Darmento said. This collaboration would extend to all areas of school governance. However, Sister Dominica indicated that, for the most part, a significant gap exists throughout the archdiocese for this level of collaboration, in terms of long-term stewardship for the ministry of education.

The most forward-thinking aspect of this sustainability strategy will be to "image" schools in novel ways. This means rethinking schools as a more creative resource that supports the multiple education needs of a region, according to Sister Dominica. A next-generation archdiocesan school would serve as a community-integrated academy that offers preschool services, vocational training, adult education after business hours, career counseling and other ministries.

By way of comparison, Catholic school systems throughout the country are grappling with sustainability strategies and new models for gover-

Continued on page 17

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Plan

Continued from page 16

nance. Earlier this year the Diocese of Brooklyn, N.Y., announced it would shutter 22 Catholic elementary schools in Queens and Brooklyn, a move that would affect some 4,000 children, according to a Feb. 13 report in *The New York Times*. The report also said that, since 1999, the student population in the Brooklyn diocese had plummeted by 11,000, which includes a decline of 7,000 students in just the last two academic years.

Meanwhile, earlier this year, Catholic school closings in the Diocese of Paterson included St. John Kanty elementary school, located in Clifton, and Bayley-Ellard High School in Madison. Dwindling enrollment levels and financial constraints were cited as the key factors in these moves.

A report issued this year by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Inc., citing statistics from the National Catholic Education Association (both groups are based in Washington), indicated that, since 1990, there has been a net loss of more than 850 Catholic schools in the United States. In addition, there has been a net loss of 170,000 Catholic school students nationwide since 2000. There are 7,799 Catholic elementary and secondary schools in the United States, representing an overall enrollment of 2.4 million students.

(Editor's note: This is the second installment in a 2005-06 education outlook report for archdiocesan schools. The overall situation was profiled in the Sept. 7 issue. A third installment in this series, slated for the Oct. 5 issue, will examine new financial strategies that will be needed to support schools.)

SHU 150th party begins

SOUTH ORANGE—Seton Hall University kicks off a 15-month celebration of its 150th anniversary on Saturday, Oct. 1 with a campus-wide Birthday Bash in conjunction with the annual University Day.

Festivities begin at 9:30 a.m. with the annual Farinella 5K Run and end with a fireworks display. There will also be a barbeque, live entertainment and other activities.

Red Mass to honor SHU veteran jurist

NEWARK—Seton Hall University School of Law and the Saint Thomas More Association of Seton Hall University School of Law will honor The Honorable Eugene J. Codey, Jr. '70/J.D. '74, with the Saint Thomas More Medal at their 21st Annual Red Mass at noon on Sunday, Sept. 25 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

The Red Mass is a traditionally Solemn Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit celebrated at the beginning of the judicial year to invoke God's blessing and guidance in the administration of justice.

Judge Codey graduated from Seton Hall University in 1970 with a Bachelor of Science degree in marketing, and continued his education by obtaining his J.D. from Seton Hall Law School in 1974. He is a member of Our Lady of Peace Parish in New Providence.

The Red Mass is named from the red vestments used in celebrating the Mass and from the red robes traditionally worn by judges in the Middle Ages.

Celebrated in dioceses throughout the United States, it is the 21st annual Red Mass for Seton Hall Law School. Lunch will follow at 2 p.m. at Mayfair Farms, West Orange.

For more information and lunch reservations, contact Deana Cynar, Director of Alumni Relations, Seton Hall Law School, at (973) 642-8711.

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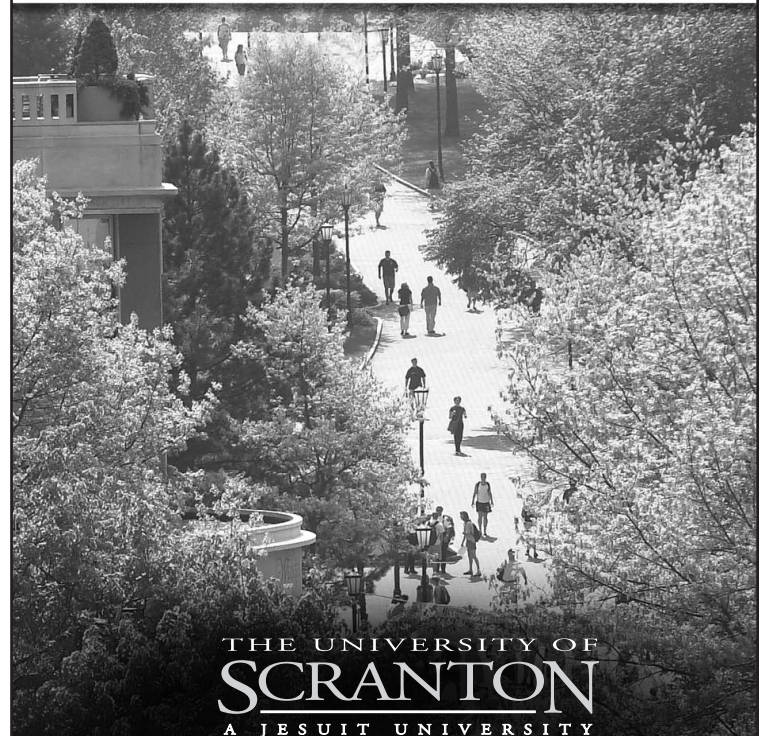
Thursday, September 29th

Doors open at 6:30pm- Presentation begins at 7:15 pm

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Benefit concert Oct. 2




Carmel Quinn

LEONIA — Recording artist Carmel Quinn will give a concert to benefit the victims of Hurricane Katrina on Sunday, Oct. 2, 4 p.m. at St. John Parish on Broad Avenue.

Quinn has recorded numerous albums including Patrick Muldoon and his Magic Balloon for children which earned her a Grammy nomination.

Tickets, priced at \$15 and \$12 for students and seniors, will be sold at the door.



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- 5:00 a.m. Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
- 6:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
- 11:40 a.m. Midday Prayer
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- 7:00 p.m. Sung Vespers

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Sr. Mary Grace...
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We are going to Africa - Kisumu, Kenya



Advocate photo - M. Gabriele

FROM THE HEART—Nanina's in the Park, Belleville, held "Benefit from the Heart," a night of entertainment to raise money for the victims of Hurricane Katrina, on Sept. 12. The event collected \$50,000, which went to the American Red Cross. Deacon Joseph A. Dwyer, Jr., the archdiocesan vice chancellor for administration, provided the opening prayer for the program. Celebrities on the bill included legendary Do Wop group, The Duprees, comedian Joe Piscopo, and public TV commentator Steve Aduardo Jr. Pictured is Joe Maurillo, the co-owner of the landmark catering establishment.

Medical Mission vows taken

PHILADELPHIA — Jean Kirk, R.N., M.D., from Bloomfield, a graduate of Immaculate Conception High School in Montclair, took her first profession of vows as a Medical Mission Sister at a special Mass and reception on Sunday, Sept. 4, at the community's North American Headquarters. More than 100 Sisters, family members and friends attended.

A graduate of St. Michael's Hospital School of Nursing in Newark, Sister Jean received her B.A. in Zoology from Rutgers University in 1977 and her M.D. in 1985 from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ), Newark.

She did her internship in internal medicine at Mountainside Hospital, Montclair, and finished her residency in 1990 at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, New Brunswick.

Specializing in radiology, Sister Jean worked as a radiologist at medical centers and hospitals in Meadville, PA, and Elmira, NY. She entered the Medical Mission Sisters in September 2002 and as part of her ministry, worked as a radiologist at Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia for a year.

As a Medical Mission Sister candidate, she also has served in a variety of capacities at Siloam in Philadelphia—a spirituality center for AIDS patients—as a radiologist at Hahnemann Hospital, Philadelphia, and assistant professor of radiology at Drexel University, Philadelphia. After her profession of vows, she plans to continue with these ministries.

The Medical Mission Sisters are an international community of Catholic women committed to being a healing presence in areas of need throughout the world. Founded in 1925 by the Austrian-born doctor, Anna Dengel, they celebrate their 80th anniversary this year.

They were the first Roman Catholic Sisters to combine the practice of medicine, surgery and obstetrics with Religious life. Their 650 members serve the sick and poor today in a variety of health-related ways in 19 countries on five continents.

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 (Mk. 11)

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Hospital programs planned

TEANECK—Several community education programs for later this month have been scheduled at Holy Name Hospital.

Hypnosis for Smoking Cessation takes place Sept. 28 from 7 to 9 p.m.

The \$60 fee includes the cost of materials in addition to future seminars for reinforcement for up to one year. The program will be held in the Education Conference Room of Rosarii Hall. Registration and pre-payment required.

On Sept. 28 and Sept. 29, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Fifty-Five Alive, an eight-hour classroom refresher course developed by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) to address the needs of older drivers, is scheduled.

Open to those 50 and over, whether or not they are AARP members, the fee is \$10. It will take place in Marian Hall.

A six-week exercise gets under way Sept. 27 and Sept. 29. It consists of building strength and increasing aerobic capacity and flexibility.

Classes meet Tuesdays and Thursdays at either 4:15 to 5:15 p.m., 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. or 7 to 8 p.m.

Holy Name Hospital is located at 718 Teaneck Rd.

For additional information or to register for any of these programs, call (201) 227-6250.

Heath Village books Holm

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP—Academy Award winning actress Celeste Holm is the featured guest at an open house on Saturday, Oct. 1 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Heath Village Retirement Community.

Holm starred in the Broadway production of *Oklahoma*, won an Oscar for her performance in *Gentleman's Agreement* and was nominated for an Academy Award in *Come to the Stable*. She will be at the retirement community from 2 to 3:30 p.m., courtesy of Holm Base, LLC, to greet attendees and sign autographs.

Planned for the open house are tours, musical entertainment, refreshments, raffle prizes and information about Heath Village resident groups and organizations.

Atrium to host health fair Sept. 24

ALLENDALE—The Atrium, an independent living residence at the Allendale Community for Mature Living, is hosting a health fair on Saturday, Sept. 24, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in its air-conditioned lobby. Located at 85 Harreton Rd. in Allendale, the Atrium can be accessed easily from Route 17 South.

Area residents of all ages are welcome to attend and take advantage of free well-

ness screenings which will include a digital posture evaluation by Nuzzi Chiropractic, oral and audiology screenings by Allendale Dental and Metropolitan Audiology, and a skin care analysis by Town & Country Apothecary. The Bergen County Department of Health Services will also be on hand to offer wellness information. In addition, Ana Brunelli, a certified massage therapist, will provide back and foot massages.

Refreshments will be served.

Several seminars focused on seniors' issues will be held throughout the afternoon in the Atrium Cinema. These will include a discussion on long-term care insurance by Met Life, a presentation by Valley Home Care and a session entitled, "Is Your Legal House in Order?" by attorney Jeanne

Tompkins. An Atrium representative will also discuss independent and assisted living options, respite care, and the Senior Social Club—an adult day program, offered by the Allendale Community for Mature Living.

For more information, call (201) 818-7978 ext. 7982 or visit www.allendalecommunity.com.

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Success marks Guild picnic

CRANFORD — Staff and physicians of Mount Carmel Guild Behavioral Health System, an affiliate of Catholic Health and Human Services Corporation (CHHS), recently gathered at the Guild's Mental Health Center for the agency's first annual picnic.



"This is one of the few times that the 400 employees from all nine agency locations throughout Essex, Hudson, and Union counties have come

together in one place," said Anita Holland, executive director of Mount Carmel Guild. "And all too

often, such a gathering would mean mandatory training—not hot dogs and games."

Management personnel from throughout Mount Carmel Guild were on hand, both to serve food and beverages and to join in the fun.

Staff appreciated the chance to get to know their colleagues who work at other sites, and they enjoyed the opportunity to share the volleyball court with executives from the Guild, from CHHS and from other CHHS affiliates, including Cathedral Healthcare System and Catholic Charities.

"Despite the oppressive heat, everybody had a great time," said Holland. "Good food, lively volleyball and some pretty talented karaoke singers combined to make it a very memorable day. We look forward to making this an annual celebration for all the dedicated men and women who work so hard everyday to pursue Mount Carmel Guild's mission of compassionate service."

Mount Carmel Guild Behavioral Health System delivers a range of mental-health assessment and treatment services to

children, adolescents and adults, as well as consultation/education to community agencies in Essex, Hudson and Union counties. Using a multi-disciplinary team approach, the agency emphasizes individualized assessment, goal-oriented treatment planning, periodic case review and continuity of care. Programs include the Mount Carmel Guild Specialty Hospital; outpatient mental-health care for adults; medication management; gero-psychiatric services and partial hospitals for adults—for preschool children, and for the mentally ill and chemically addicted.

The agency's Program for Assertive Community Treatment provides community-based treatment for severely and persistently mentally ill adults in Essex County, and its Integrated Case Management Services program supports severely and persistently mentally ill adults in Essex and Union counties through a single, integrated case-management system.

Mount Carmel Guild is affiliated with Catholic Health and Human Services Corporation and supports the mission of the Archdiocese of Newark.

Guest House at 50

LAKE ORION, MI—Guest House, a treatment center for Catholic clergy and Religious suffering from addictions to alcohol and drugs, recently marked a half-century of service.

Guest House, which relies on donations, treats priests, Religious, deacons, brothers and seminarians. It also houses the national offices of the National Catholic Council on Alcoholism and Related Drug Problems.

Visiting Guest House recently, Adam Cardinal Maida, Cardinal of the Archdiocese of Detroit, said, "facing the challenge of addiction

in our lives not only brings use to our knees in a very literal way, addiction makes us more like the compassionate Christ who became our High Priest by the way He identified with our human needs, fears, hopes and dreams."

Daniel Kidd, president and ceo of Guest House, noted, "if one considers the 6,573 priests whom Guest House has helped to recover during the past 50 years, multiplied by the average of 11 more years of active ministry for each priest who remains in recovery, then Guest House has made possible an additional 70,000 years of priestly service to the Church. The problem is not the individual priest or Religious, rather, it is the disease."

For additional information, go to www.guesthouse.org.

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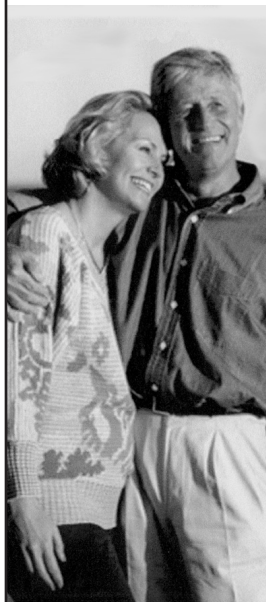
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Women's Health Awareness

NEWARK— Tips for preventing cardiac disease, eating better and losing weight, as well as guidance on how to evaluate a plastic surgeon, will be among the topics covered at the second annual Women's Health Awareness Day sponsored by the Connie Dwyer Breast Center at Saint Michael's Medical Center.

Open free to the public, and hosted by Rene Syler, co-anchor of The Early Show on CBS, the event is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 22 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark.

"We want to offer women in the community the tools to have a healthy, happy, and full life in a convenient, one-stop forum," said Dr. Michele Blackwood, founder and medical director of the Connie

Dwyer Breast Center at Saint Michael's Medical Center. "The event will help let women know that the best information and health care are available here in their own neighborhood."

The Connie Dwyer Breast Center, which opened last October, is a comprehensive, state-of-the-art facility providing diagnosis and treatment of breast disease and the latest in breast cancer prevention, early detection and outreach.

Featured speakers include Dr. Blackwood, whose presentation will focus on the relationship between breast cancer patients and their physicians, and Dr. Mark Connolly, director of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery at Saint Michael's Medical Center, who will dis-

cuss the Heart and Soul of Gender Differences.

In addition, Dr. Norma Saunders of Mount Carmel Guild Behavioral Health System will discuss sound mental health and the warning signs of depression; Dr. Matthew Coons, plastic surgeon at Saint Michael's Medical Center and Saint James Hospital, will discuss the pros and cons of plastic surgery and how to select the right surgeon; Dr. Jose J. Pinto, director of OB/GYN at Saint James Hospital, will address what's "hot" in menopause; Dr. Astrid Almodovar, family medicine physician at Saint Michael's Medical Center, will help participants learn how to eat well and maintain ideal weight and Dr. Sabina Porcaro, internal medicine physician at Columbus



Rene Syler



Dr. Michele Blackwood

Hospital, will talk about establishing better communication with your doctor.

To register, contact the

RSVP Line, at (973) 877-5494. Directions to the arts center, located at 1 Center St. in Newark, are available online at www.njpac.org.

Grandparents to be honored

JERSEY CITY—The Cusack Care Center at St. Joseph's Home for the Blind will hold its second annual Grandparents Day Brunch on Sunday, Sept. 26, at Liberty House Restaurant at Liberty State Park.

The center is home to 139 blind and sighted older adults—many grandparents, even great grandparents.

"Generations—A Family Celebration Honoring Grandparents" begins at noon.

Hosted by the Center's Grateful Families Committee, comprised of the children and grandchildren of some of the Center's residents—the brunch will pay tribute to grandparents.

The event will also honor Grandparent of the Year, Joseph Panepinto. For more than 30 years, Panepinto has devoted his career to Jersey City's renaissance. He has been a long time supporter of the Cusack Care Center.

According to chairperson, Mary Beth Stull, "Proceeds from this unique celebration will directly benefit programs and services for our residents."

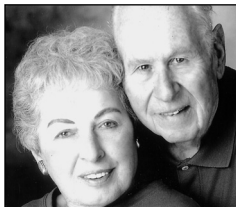
"We pride ourselves on the quality of care we render to our residents," said Sister Ann Taylor, CSJP, administrator, "But, these 'little extras' can make such a difference in the lives of those in our care."

For further information or to purchase tickets to the brunch, call Susan Sims, Director of Development, at (201)-653-8300 x 2161.

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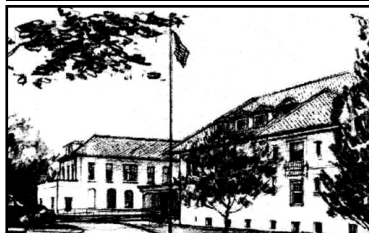
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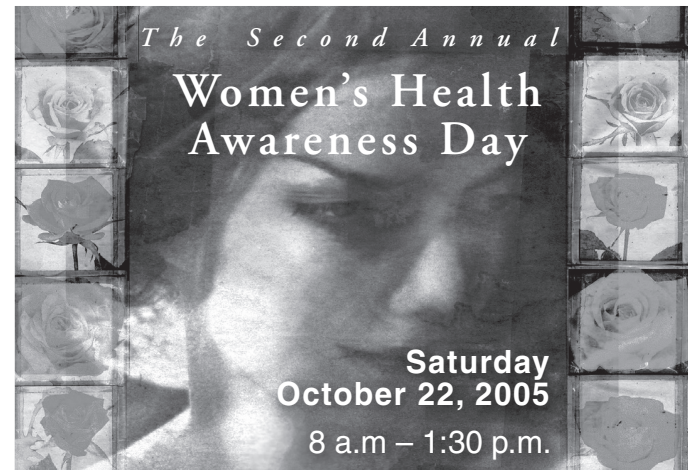
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Saturday
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8 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

The New Jersey Performing Arts Center

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Hosted by
René Syler

Co-Anchor
The Early Show
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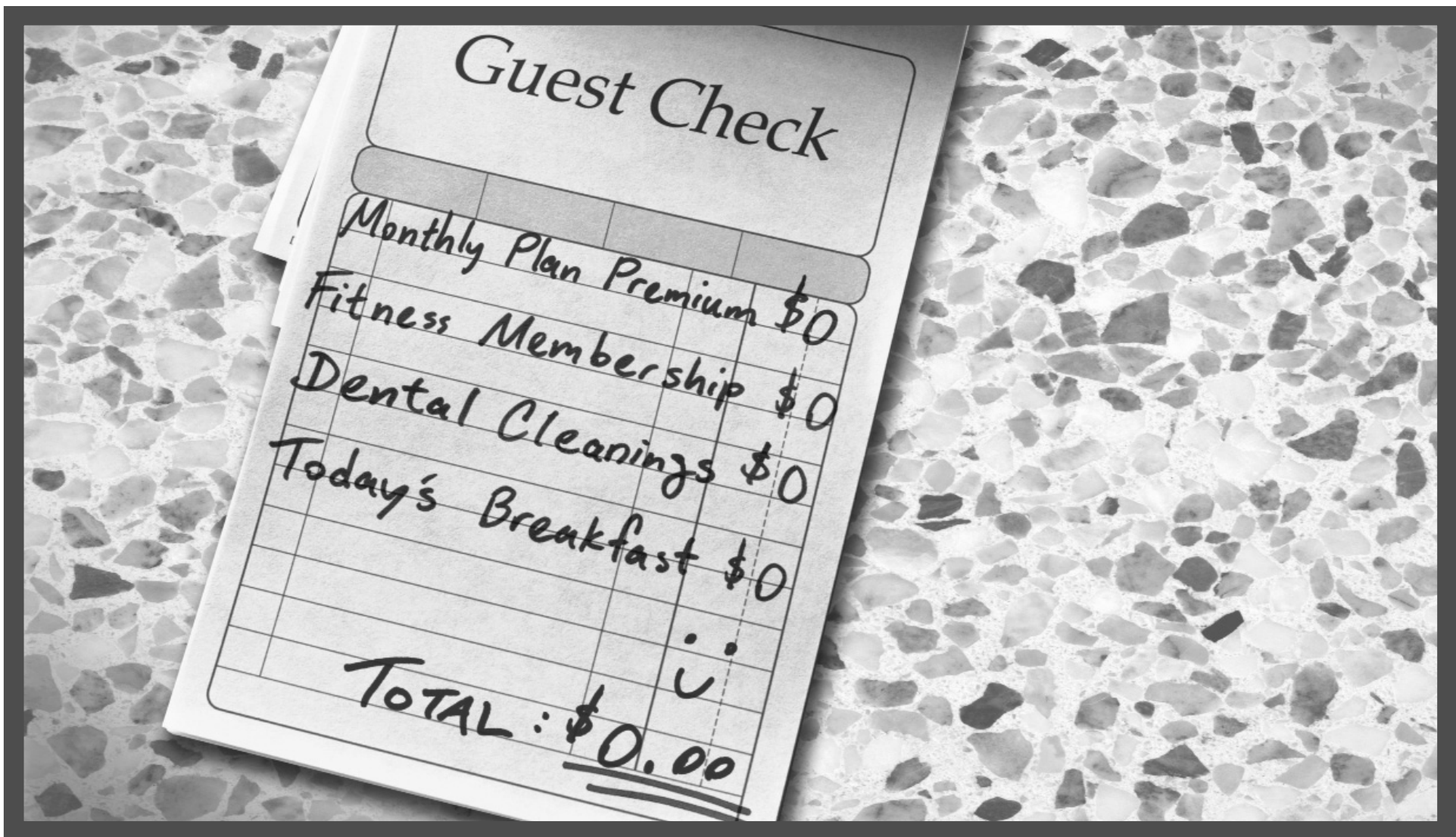
To register or to learn more, call (973) 877-5494.



The Connie Dwyer Breast Center
at Saint Michael's Medical Center

Saint Michael's Medical Center is affiliated with Cathedral Healthcare System and Catholic Health and Human Services Corporation.

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Bergen - Fairlawn

September 23, 9:00 AM
Land & Sea Diner
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Bergen - Hackensack

September 29, 9:00 AM
Coach House Diner
55 Route 4 East
Cross St./Hackensack Ave.

Bergen - Westwood

October 11, 9:00 AM
Seville Diner
289 Broadway
Cross St./Jefferson Ave.

Bergen - Fairlawn

October 14, 9:00 AM
Land & Sea Diner
20-12 Fairlawn Ave.
Cross St./Pollitt Dr.

Bergen - Hackensack

October 18, 5:30 PM
The Arena Diner
250 Essex St.
Cross St./Polifly Rd.

Bergen - Fort Lee

October 20, 9:00 AM
The Plaza Diner
2045 Lemoine Ave.
Cross St./Main St.

Bergen - East Rutherford

October 21, 9:00 AM
Candlewyck Diner
179 Paterson Ave.
Cross St./Hackensack St.

Bergen - Hackensack

October 27, 9:00 AM
The Arena Diner
250 Essex St.
Cross St./Polifly Rd.

Essex - Caldwell

September 28, 9:00 AM
Caldwell Diner
332 Bloomfield Ave.
Cross St./Smull Ave.

Essex - Maplewood

October 11, 9:00 AM
Maplewood Diner
1473 Springfield Ave.
Cross St./Chancellor Ave.

Essex - Bloomfield

October 19, 5:30 PM
IHOP
1129 Broad St.
Cross St./Watchung Ave.

Essex - West Orange

October 25, 9:00 AM
Eagle Rock Diner
410 Eagle Rock Ave.
Cross St./Prospect Ave

Union - Linden

September 22, 5:30 PM
Colosseum Diner
1932 E. St. George's Ave.
Cross St./Park St.

Union - Union

September 27, 9:00 AM
Huck Finn Diner
2431 Morris Ave.
Cross St./Burnet Ave.

Union - Westfield

October 11, 9:00 AM
Westfield Diner
309 North Ave. East
Cross St./Central Ave.

Union - Elizabeth

October 14, 10:00 AM
Alvarez Café (Bi-Lingual)
511 Elizabeth Ave.
Btwn. 5th & 6th Ave.

Union - Roselle

October 20, 6:00 PM
Cavalier Diner
2401 N. Wood Ave.
Cross St./St. George's Ave.

Union - Union

October 26, 9:00 AM
University Diner
580 North Avenue
Cross St./Westfield Ave.

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Msgr. Murray former pastor

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Msgr. Harrold A. Murray, last month at St. Rose of Lima Parish, Short Hills.

Most Rev. Peter L. Gerety, archbishop emeritus, was the main celebrant, Father Thomas H. Keefe, M.M., the homilist.

Msgr. Murray, 81, was born in Newark, and attended Seton Hall Preparatory, University and Immaculate Conception Seminary, Darlington. He was ordained in June 1949, and was elevated to Private Chaplain by His Holiness, Pope Paul VI, in 1964. He received the Prestigious Merit Award from the National Association of Catholic Chaplains in 1975, an honorary membership to the American Hospital Association in 1978, and the Cardinal Stritch Award of Meritorious Service

from the Conference of Diocesan Coordinators, USCC.

His first assignment was to St. Teresa of Avila Parish, Summit, where he spent 28 years. From 1964-72, he served as director of the Department of Health Affairs for the U.S. Catholic Conference in Washington, and was secretary of its Department on Social Development and World Peace from 1972-75.

Msgr. Murray was director of administration for the Archdiocese of Newark from 1973-1978.

He also served pastorates at St. Rose of Lima Parish, Short Hills, 1977-1984, then at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington. In 1986, he returned to the archdiocese as Secretary for Community Affairs, and was

named pastor of St. Joseph Parish, West Orange, in 1988.

A founding member of the Board of Trustees of Advocate Publishing Corp., Msgr. Murray spent 50 years making significant contributions to the entire field of healthcare ministry. He served on the boards of such organizations as the Society to Prevent Blindness and the New Jersey Hospital Association.

Pray for them

Virginia A. Dennehy, mother of Father John D. Dennehy, Seton Hall University, died Aug. 26.

Linelda Villanova, aunt of Father Richard A. Villanova, Pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Hillside, died Sept. 6.

Irene Veronica Nestor, mother of Father Robert P. Nestor, Seton Hall University, died Sept. 6.

Msgr. Santora, pastor emeritus

A Mass of Christian Burial for Msgr. Gerard M. Santora, pastor emeritus of Holy Rosary Parish, Jersey City, was celebrated Aug. 31.

Most Rev. Peter L. Gerety, archbishop emeritus, was the main celebrant for the Mass. Msgr. Paul L. Bochicchio was the homilist.

Msgr. Santora, 93, was baptized at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Montclair, and grew up in St. Lucy Parish, Newark. He attended St. Benedict's Preparatory, Newark, Seton Hall University and Immaculate Conception Seminary, Darlington. He was ordained on June 11, 1938.

Msgr. Santora's first assignment was at Our Lady of Mt. Virgin, Garfield. In January 1938, he was named parochial vicar at Holy Rosary Parish, Jersey City.

He spent 30 years at Holy Rosary Parish, twice serving as parochial vicar and administrator, respectively, before being named pastor in November 1954. He holds the distinction of being named the first American-born pastor of Holy Rosary.

During his tenure, he led numerous changes, including, the reconstruction of the church building in 1948, building a new convent in 1952, inaugurating the Third Order of St. Francis and winning the Outstanding American Award in 1953.

In 1968, he was named chaplain of Mt. St. Andrew Villa, Paramus, where he served until 1986. Father Santora was named Prelate of Honor, with the title of Monsignor, in 1997 by Pope John Paul II.

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Position offer salary commensurate with experience, and benefits as defined by the Archdiocese.

Please send resume, salary history, and 3 letters of recommendation no later than September 30th to:

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St. Stephen's Church
141 Washington Avenue
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Bookkeeper

St. Stephen's Church in Kearny is seeking a full-time bookkeeper to work in conjunction with the parish accountant.

The position includes:

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- Payment of all parish and school bills in a timely manner
- Banking responsibilities
- Ability to work collaboratively
- Computer literacy
- Some secretarial responsibilities in cooperation with staff secretary
- Understanding of the role and mission of the Catholic Church
- Other responsibilities as determined by the pastor

Position offer salary commensurate with experience, and benefits as defined by the Archdiocese.

Please send resume, salary history, and 3 letters of recommendation no later than September 30th to:

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Oh most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the Sea, help me and show me that you are my mother. Oh Holy Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to secure me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. I place this cause in your hands. Amen. Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. Novena is published in gratitude. Thank you. **D.A.R.**

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Pastors' National Development Congress set for Sept. 28, 29

NEWARK—The archdiocesan Office of Development will host the Pastors National Development Congress—a total management, marketing, finance and development program specially designed for pastors—on Sept. 28 and 29 at the Hilton Gateway Hotel, Gateway Centre at Raymond Boulevard.

“This is a golden opportunity for the priests in our archdiocese,” Father Donald Hummel, the acting archdiocesan director of clergy personnel, said. “Several of our priests already have attended the congress and can vouch for its value to their pastorates and wider ministerial endeavors.”

The congress will focus on ministry, visioning, creating lay leadership and facilitating stewardship and development within parishes.

Speakers will discuss the involvement of devout, generous, lay people who can share leadership and assist in ministry.

Priests interested in attending the event should contact Stewardship Director David Osborne at (973) 497-4584 for further information. Carla L. Gonzalez is the executive director of the archdiocesan Office of Development.

The congress is one of several stewardship and development conferences planned by the archdiocesan Office of Development. Other upcoming events include Stewardship Day at Seton Hall University, South Orange, on Oct. 29, and a Religious and Lay Leaders Development Congress slated for Nov. 18 and 19 at the Hasbrouck Heights Hilton Hotel.



SIMPLE PROFESSION— Brother Francis de Porres (Jamie) Moses, O.P., a native of the Archdiocese of Newark, recently made his simple profession as a Dominican friar in the Province of St. Martin de Porres (Southern) of the Order of Preachers during a ceremony with evening prayer at San Juan Macias Priory, San Antonio, TX. Attending the ceremony was his mother, Joyce, of Newark.

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San Juan 1:38-39

¿Ha usted considerado seguir a Jesús como un sacerdote, hermana o hermano...?



Advocate photo M. Gabriele

As the youth minister and parochial vicar at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Father Jerzy Zaslona embraces parish teenagers like Wojciech Sikorski (left) and Sandra Moryto. He also hopes to focus on the needs of young families.

Priest shares wisdom of journey as a selfless instrument of God

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE
Editor

BAYONNE—One year ago, having just launched his career as a priest, Father Jerzy (Jurek) Zaslona, found himself feeling disappointed and frustrated.

What followed was an illuminating moment when he understood how and why a priest becomes an instrument of God.

The youth minister and a parochial vicar at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Father Zaslona was ordained in 2004 and arrived in the summer of that year.

Brimming with ambitious ideas and anxious to utilize his Polish background and language skills to

become integrated into the neighborhood scene, Father Zaslona decided his first order of business was to establish a youth group at Mount Carmel, hoping to connect with high school students.

He put out the word on his plans, posted announcements and networked among parishioners, hoping his idea would catch on with teenagers. However, much to his chagrin, no one showed up for the scheduled meetings and planning sessions.

It was a big letdown, especially for a young priest hoping to make a good first impression. Feeling disappointed, he sat down one day in the church and wondered where he had gone wrong.

“I didn’t understand what had happened,” he confessed. “No one showed up. I started praying and realized that it was me trying to do something, not me trying to do God’s will. So I just let it go.”

The next week, 14 teenagers showed up to learn about his plans for a youth group.

“God is in charge,” he declared. “Priests are the tools. Sometimes we forget we are just the instruments of God.”

Father Zaslona used the phrase “it’s not about me” several times during a recent interview. In addition to being the essence of his religious vocation, it’s a notion that guides his interaction with young people; a two-way learning process between priest and parishioners. The mission, he said, is to gain trust and build mutual respect.

“I listen to them; try not to judge them,” he explained, regarding his conversations with teens. “I was rebellious once, so I know what they are going through. I try to accept them as they are and help them to find the answers to their questions.”

He said there is the temptation to give a young person a “ready answer” to a particular dilemma they are facing. The challenge is to find a way to make answers to their questions “their answers” rather than his answers.

“It’s not about me,” he reiterated, explaining his calling as a priest and advisor.

Father Zaslona’s spiritual journey to the priesthood (and Bayonne) began in 1968 when he

Continued on page 27

THE JOURNEY *of* A LIFETIME begins here



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Journey

Continued from page 26

was born in Poreba, Poland. "God was calling me to be a priest since I was 10 years old," Father Zaslona revealed. "I felt Him calling me, but I never shared it with my family."

Many of those feelings came as a result of a pilgrimage he took with his older sister, Alicia, to a famous shrine in Poland: Our Lady of Czestochowa. The shrine, built around an ancient, iconic painting of Mary holding the Christ child, traces its roots in Poland to the year 1382.

Father Zaslona's pilgrimage to the shrine roughly coincided with Pope John Paul II's first visit to Poland in June 1979. Despite the pressures and intimidation of martial law imposed by the Communist government of Poland at that time, he and his family took part in that celebration, which proved to be a watershed event for all of eastern Europe and the now-defunct Soviet Union. "It was a very moving experience," he said of the pope's visit to his homeland.

At age 20, still uncertain regarding the direction of his life, Jerzy Zaslona traveled to the United States, settling with friends in Clifton. Admittedly, this was a period when he "became lazy and would often skip Mass." After a brief stay in New Jersey, he decid-

ed to go to the Netherlands, working there as a carpenter.

Living in the Netherlands proved to be a turning point. Ironically, while there were fewer places for him to attend Mass (he found that, at the time, many Catholic churches in Holland were shuttered), Father Zaslona felt an urgency to pray more and draw closer to God.



Advocate photo - M. Gabriele

The parish church is a local landmark.

Eventually, he returned to his friends in the United States. It was then that he seriously mulled the possibility of a religious vocation, "even though I didn't think I was worthy to be a priest," he said.

He met with Msgr. Tom Nydegger, currently the vice rector of Immaculate Conception seminary at Seton Hall University, who became a trusted advisor. Father Zaslona lived at Emmaus House in Newark, a "discernment" home for young men considering seminary studies. During this period he also enrolled as a Philosophy and Religion major at Montclair State University (MSU).

As a student at MSU, Father Zaslona said two professors in the Department of Philosophy and Religion befriended and inspired him: Dr. Michael Kogan and Dr. David Benfield.

"Dr. Benfield was more than a teacher," Father Zaslona said. "He really cared about his students. He was someone who guided me. His heart was there."

"I admired Dr. Kogan," he continued. "After taking his courses, I couldn't wait to go to seminary. He had the talent to bring stories from the Bible to life."

Father Zaslona graduated from MSU in 2000 and entered Immaculate Conception Seminary. In his third year there he became a deacon and finally was ordained as a priest in 2004.

As it turned out, several of his friends also became involved in religious vocations. "A community can help you discover your vocation, but it must be within your heart," he said. "Now I see how important it is to

ask: 'Do you want to be a priest? Did you ever think about it?'"

Arriving at Mount Carmel, he quickly realized he had to relearn Polish liturgy. His learning curve as a priest continues to challenge him to move to new levels of faith and community outreach. Among his recent efforts, he led a group of 10 parishioners to World Youth Day in August.

"You have a certain zeal when you first leave seminary," he said. "Now I have to learn the wisdom

of how to focus my energy and pace myself." The mechanics of that process involve "prayer and time with God."

His near-term efforts at Mount Carmel will target the needs of young families. "They create the future for our Church," he said. "Young married people with children need special support. They need to be serious about their life with God. I want to work with them and invite them into our Church."

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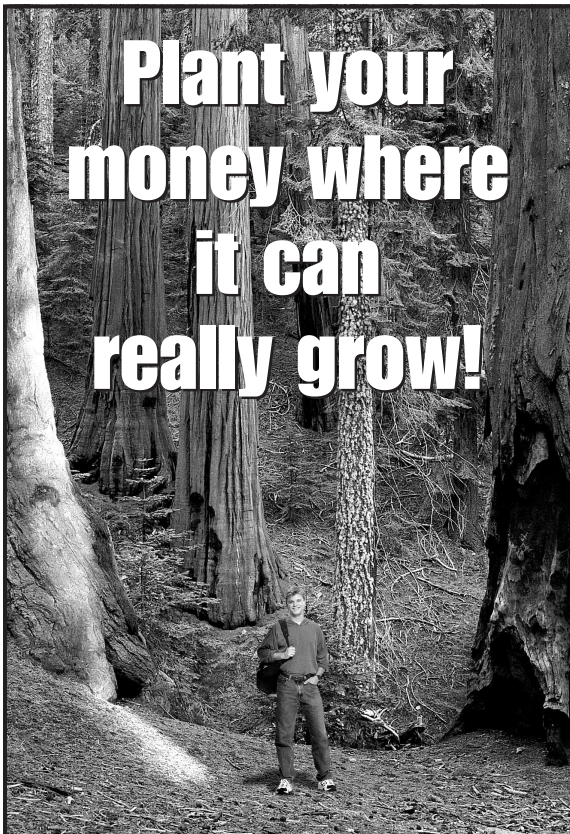
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Workshop helps freshmen focus, adjust

BY BRIAN FORES
Staff Writer

ORADELL — Incoming freshman at Bergen Catholic High School were treated to a workshop shortly before the official start of classes to help them acclimate to the high school environment, interact

with their new peers and teachers, and better understand the spiritual and educational focus of the school.

The seminar, the "Class 2009 Summer Experience," was half orientation and half retreat, according to Richard Ardito, dean of students and a social studies teacher. "We are

letting them know, when they come into the high school setting, what we expect of them, and what they should expect of themselves," Ardito said.

The workshop was run in conjunction with the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries of the Archdiocese of Newark. Bob McLaughlin,

assistant director, said the program is a good example of high schools working in coordination with the Archdiocese. "It demonstrates the benefits of using our resources more efficiently."

Typically, the workshops are offered to a school's peer ministry counselors to help them develop team building and trust. Past retreats have been offered for as many as 65 or as few as 12, McLaughlin explained, adding that such retreats have already been offered at Paramus Catholic, Union Catholic and Oratory Prep. "Each program is tailored to a given school's needs," he noted.

through six different activities to help them learn concepts that instill trust and respect in their peers. In the process, they learn about team building and leadership," he continued.

Highlighting the importance of the faith life of each student is an integral part of the program. "The goal is for students to realize, through this process, that religion can play an important role in their lives, it's not limited simply to going to Church," McLaughlin pointed out. "Hopefully, they'll see that the more their faith is present in their everyday lives and the decisions they make, the more doors will be open to them today and down the road."

Ardito added that "incoming freshmen need to make friends and become comfort-

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You don't have to be married to obtain a gift annuity. In fact, single-life annuities pay a higher rate. Also, the older a person or couple is, the higher the payment rate.

Why not take a moment to fill out and send in the coupon below? This will allow our Planned Giving person, Ken DiPaola, to provide a tailor-made illustration that will show you just how well a charitable gift annuity can work for you. You are under no obligation to proceed with a gift.

(Please complete and return this reply form.)

Dear Mr. DiPaola,

____ Please send a free illustration showing the benefits of having a gift annuity with the Archdiocese of Newark.

Age(s) _____ Amount \$ _____

____ Please contact me (us) about a personal visit. The best time to call me (us) is: _____

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9-21-05



Advocate photo — Brian Fores

Freshman at Bergen Catholic High School listen attentively to a fellow classmate during an icebreaker activity.

Ardito said the focus of the program is divided into two topics: "the faith life of the student," and "communication, respect and responsibility." The workshop takes students through a series of exercises, the theory being, "If you do what you are learning, you'll learn much better," McLaughlin said.

"Participants are divided into six groups, which rotate

able with the people they're going to school with. The retreat aspect of the workshop is vital, I feel, because it is an opportunity to center and focus them. Before they step through the door on the first day, it's important to emphasize that we are foremost a Catholic institution. We want to instill in them the spirituality and tradition of this school which we are so proud of."