



Ash Wednesday Mass begins season of Lent

BY BRIAN FORES
Staff Writer

Most Rev. John J. Myers, Archbishop of Newark, was the principal celebrant of Ash Wednesday Mass at St. Patrick Pro-Cathedral, Newark.

This year marked the fourth consecutive year that Archbishop Myers celebrated the Mass at the Pro-Cathedral. Msgr. Neil

Mahoney, pastor, was concelebrant, assisted by Deacon Leonis Aponte.

The Mass was attended by a mixture of Catholics, some taking a brief lunch hour from work in Newark's downtown area, students from nearby Rutgers University and NJIT, local residents and past parishioners returning for the special and solemn occasion.

Archbishop Myers began his homily by asking the crowded Pro-Cathedral, "Why would a people be willing take on the sacrifices of this penitential season? Some might think that's crazy."

He said the answer stems from a "deep wisdom from Biblical times" and "ancient tradition." He emphasized, "It is important to turn back toward God after the many distractions which have surely taken place since last year."

The archbishop noted that humans are not spirit alone, but also "physical bodies existing in a physical world." He said that Catholics should offer everything in their experience, both the

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AAA Pledge Weekend held

Although there is no final tally as of yet, response to the 2005 Archbishop's Annual Appeal (AAA) pledge weekend Feb. 5-6 has been one of increased generosity.

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Archbishop Myers distributed ashes to a large congregation downtown Newark's faithful at St. Patrick Pro-Cathedral.

Advocate photo- Brian Fores

Catechumens take next step in journey

BY LIESL FORES
Staff Writer

"It is only by God's grace that you are here," Archbishop John J. Myers told catechumens at the Rite of Election this Sunday at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark.

Approximately 325 people from all over the Archdiocese of Newark seeking full initiation into the Catholic Church made their final step in preparation for receiving the sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion and Confirmation at their parish's

Easter Vigil this year.

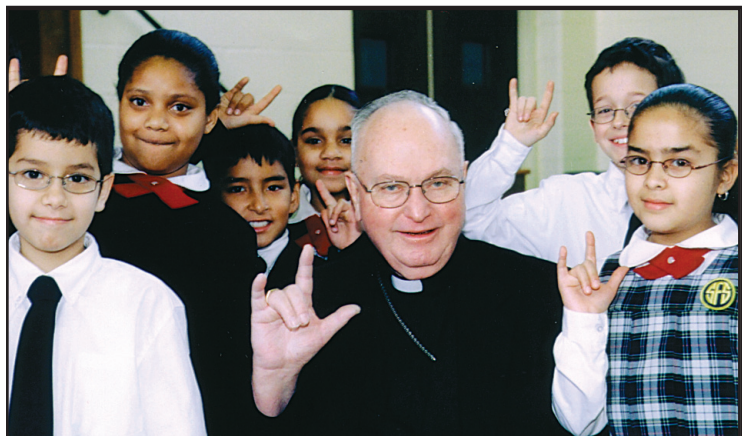
"It is a real joy that they have come to this point in their lives, in relationship with Jesus, God and us," said the archbishop.

While cautioning that "the enemy (Satan) is at large, trying to deceive us," he advised the catechumens, "Make your own world by your own choices."

He continued, however, that being willful and doing things one's own way, without God's help and grace, is not true freedom. "Freedom lies not in creating our own lives, but in recognizing that life is a gift."

Archbishop Myers then asked the congregation, which included

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Most Rev. Charles J. McDonnell, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Newark, helped St. Francis of Assisi School, Hackensack, begin Catholic Schools Week by attending a prayer service in sign language led by the fourth grade. With Bishop McDonnell are, left to right, Jeffrey Ubillus, Aliyah Jones, Edison Campoverde, Brianna Burello, Anthony Mattalian and Nicole Infante. All are signing "I love you." The children led the service signing the Our Father. Additional photos of Catholic Schools Week throughout the Archdiocese of Newark appear in this issue of *The Catholic Advocate*.

Advocate photo-Frank Wood

Holy Father exits hospital

Pope John Paul II was released Thursday, Feb. 10 from Rome's Gemelli Hospital after a ten-day stay for breathing difficulties connected to the flu. Complete coverage of his release appears on Page 4 of this edition.



After signing the Book of the Elect, RCIA coordinators lead catechumens and their godparents to the sanctuary, where the catechumens are declared members of the elect, making them eligible to receive the sacraments.

Advocate photo- Liesl Fores

An offering of ashes

This most recent Ash Wednesday, I stood in the pulpit of St. Patrick's Pro-Cathedral in downtown Newark to deliver my homily on Lent during the 12:15 Mass. It was the fourth year that I have done this, and I looked forward to this opportunity to celebrate Mass in the heart of this beautiful, historic, vibrant yet troubled city. Catholics from all over the state work in Newark. They come to the downtown churches of St. Patrick and St. John, and to our chapel in the Gateway complex, during their lunchtimes to place themselves in the care of the Lord as they begin to prepare for Lent. I truly enjoy celebrating with them, and greeting them after Mass as we, together, begin this special time in the life of the Church.

Each year many of us in priestly ministry look to explain and place into context the rituals and traditions of Lent – why, for instance, we Catholics take on ashes and begin, once again, to heed the call of John the Baptist to reform our lives. And while we all hope our efforts to teach and reemphasize why marking ourselves with the sign of the Cross using the ancient and biblical symbol of ashes still has meaning and value, we do sometimes wonder if our words are taken to heart.

Perhaps by coincidence, or perhaps by providence, our staff at *The Catholic Advocate* received an email on this very subject from Gilbert Stack of Fair Lawn, a parishioner at Most Holy Name parish in Garfield. I felt it was important to give his letter a prominent place in this, your diocesan newspaper, and I present it to you now.

“Just yesterday, I was commenting that one consequence of the separation of church and state and the official toleration of all religions in our country is that most Americans, myself included, appear to be uncomfortable discussing religious convictions in public.

“There is a laudable degree of caution in these con-

versations out of fear that a carelessly chosen word might be misinterpreted as overt criticism of someone else or their beliefs and thus cause that person offense. This hesitancy to bring religion into the public sphere overshadows our debates on the whole range of social, economic and political issues in which religion is overtly and understandably concerned.

“For the majority of our population, religious justification for any position on a public issue is automatically and necessarily suspect, compelling religiously motivated proponents to seek more secular justifications for their beliefs in such areas as philosophy, natural law, and the social sciences.

“I am essentially comfortable with this separation of religious justification from policy decisions, largely, I am sure, because I believe that the moral teachings of the major religions can be easily justified by more secular means. And while I enjoy discussing religion and its role in modern American society, I find myself sharing the hesitancy of many of my peers to hold those same discussions in more public settings.

“So it was with some awkwardness that I decided this morning for the first time in several years to visit my local church on Ash Wednesday.

“In an age of increasingly private religion, I found myself hesitant to take one day and wear my religion not on my sleeve, so to speak, but proudly on my forehead in the shape of a Cross composed of palm ashes rubbed against my skin.

“As I walked the short distance from my office to the church, I found myself wondering what it was that caused me to hesitate. I find the answer more than a little troubling.

“Ashes on the forehead are a public proclamation of my adherence to my faith. I'm not ashamed to be

*Thank you, Mr. Stack,
for your eloquence, your honesty,
and your devotion.*

Sincerely
in the
Lord

By Archbishop John J. Myers



Catholic; in fact, I am quite proud of my religion and the efforts of so many of its adherents to make the world a better place. Yet the moral teachings of Catholicism set a very high standard of conduct for its practitioners, standards that, I know, like most humans I frequently fail to steadfastly maintain.

“A sharp word to my wife, impatience with a colleague, failure to reach out to a friend in need—it's easy to avoid the big sins, but often so difficult to govern the little actions which have such disproportionate impact on someone else's happiness.

“And so I come back to the ashes on my forehead which, quite frankly, magnify my ability to cause harm or damage by reminding the person who could have expected better from me that they should have expected better from me, because I've placed a billboard on my face which proclaims my commitment to living to a higher standard. And failing diminishes not only myself but others struggling in their lives to adhere to the moral precepts of our shared faith.

“So having thought about all of this I went into the church and received the mark of the Cross upon my forehead—not because I'm convinced that I can always adhere to the standards Our Lord set for us, but out of the hope that a smudge of ashes on my face might inspire me to try harder to meet them.”

Thank you, Mr. Stack, for your eloquence, your honesty, and your devotion. May all of us find such strength as we proceed on the journey to Calvary and Resurrection this year.



Stewardship

Continuing the redemptive work of Jesus Christ

BY DAVID OSBORNE

Director of Stewardship

We are not passive beneficiaries in this life that God has entrusted to us. As Christian stewards, we cooperate with God in our own redemption and in the redemption of others.

We are obliged to be stewards of the Church, teammates and helpers in continuing the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, which is the Church's essential mission.

Participating in the mission of proclaiming and teaching truth, serving and sanctifying people, is the personal responsibility of each one of us as stewards of the Church.

All members of the Church have their own roles to play in carrying out its mission:

- Parents who nurture their children in the light of faith;
- Parishioners who work in physical ways to make their parishes true communities of faith and vibrant sources of social service to the larger community;
- All Catholics who give generous support of time, money, prayers and personal service according to their abilities to our Church's religious activities.

Nevertheless, people who want to live as followers of Jesus Christ face serious obstacles. In the U.S. and other

nations, a dominant secular culture contradicts our religious convictions about God and the meaning of life.

This culture frequently encourages us to be self-centered, to focus on our pleasures and our own wants. At times, we can find it far too easy to ignore spiritual realities and moral truths—and to deny our faith a role in shaping human and social values.

As Catholics who have entered into the mainstream of American society, many of us have been negatively affected by this secular culture. We struggle against selfishness and greed, and we realize that it is harder for many today to accept the challenge of being a Christian disciple and steward.

It is essential that we make a special effort to understand the true meaning of being a follower of Christ and to live accordingly.

The life of a Christian disciple and steward models the life of Jesus. It is challenging and even difficult, in

many respects; yet everlasting joy can come to those that risk living as Christ's followers.

Women and men who seek to live as disciples and stewards learn that “all things work for good for those who love God” (Rom 8:28).

After Jesus, we look to Mary as a model disciple and steward. As the Mother of Christ, she lived her life in a spirit of fidelity and service; she responded generously to the call of serving her Son and assisting in His redemptive work.

Central to our human and Christian vocations, as well as to the unique vocation each one of us receives from God, is that we be good stewards of the gifts we possess. God gives us this divine-human workshop, this world and Church of ours.

Therefore, we must ask ourselves: Do we also wish to be disciples of Jesus Christ and Christian stewards of our world and our Church?

*It is harder for many today
to accept the challenge
of being a
Christian disciple
and steward.*

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Advocate photos-Ward Miele



During the service, each candidate rose as his or her name was called out. Led by Archbishop Myers, the candidates were congratulated with applause to mark their "recognition."

Archbishop shares the 'great joy' of candidates

BY WARD MIELE
Managing Editor

"It is with great joy that I welcome all of you," Archbishop John J. Myers told candidates in a Call to Continuing Conversion service at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark.

Two separate services, in the morning for Essex and Union counties and afternoon for Bergen and Hudson counties, were held Feb. 12. At both the 650 candidates and their sponsors were joined by clergy, family and friends. "We are all called to conversion," the archbishop declared.

Calling it a "wonderful liturgy," the archbishop in his homily cited the candidates for their commitment to "full communion into the Church." Looking out at the congregation, he said, "We welcome you, we share your joy."

Satan, Archbishop Myers noted, "keeps enticing us....We can be with God and Satan cannot." He reminded the candidates that "the only way is the Father's way. Jesus Christ is the message and the hope."

After the names of candidates were read aloud, Archbishop Myers asked their sponsors four questions as to whether they had listened to the apostles' instruction proclaimed by the Church, come to a deeper appreciation of their baptism, reflected sufficiently on Church tradition and advanced "in the life of love and service to others." To each questions there was a resounding "yes."

Following the act of recognition, in which Archbishop Myers said, in part, "The Church recognizes your desire to be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit and to have a place at Christ's eucharistic table," the Cathedral Basilica broke out in applause led by the archbishop.

Candidate Danielle Leno, from St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Cedar Grove, used one word to describe her reaction to the service: "honored." Her sponsor, Barbara Trevisan, added, "I am certainly honored."

Archdiocesan contribution near \$1 million towards tsunami relief

Parishes and schools throughout the Archdiocese of Newark are nearing the \$1 million mark in contributions to help victims of the Dec. 26 tsunami disaster that struck South Asia and killed some 170,000 while leaving many other thousands homeless.

Noting that contributions from the Church of Newark are "still coming in," James Goodness, director of communications, said, "It is heartening that Catholics in the archdiocese and everywhere recognize the enormity of this tragedy, and gave well beyond their normal contributions to parishes and dioceses."

Ever since the tsunami disaster, students in archdiocesan schools have been collecting for the Holy Childhood Association (HCA). To date, the children in schools and religious education programs (CCD) have sent close to \$35,000 to the HCA office.

The international Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is increasing its initial target of \$25 million to \$80 million over five to seven years to help survivors of the tsunami in India, Sri Lanka and Indonesia rebuild their lives, livelihoods and communities.

More than a month has passed since

the tsunami struck South and Southeast Asia on Dec. 26. In that time, CRS has been able to conduct more thorough assessments of how best to help people not only in the immediate aftermath of the tsunami, but also over the long run.

Based on field analyses, the agency is raising its relief and recovery programming target to \$80 million from the \$25 million set in the early days of the tsunami.

The \$80 million will support a variety of programs to reestablish livelihoods, rebuild roads, bridges, public facilities and homes, and improve self-sufficiency. Programs will expand as needs change or become better defined in the coming months.

CRS has raised more than \$65.9 million since the emergency began. Because of this generous response from the U.S. Catholic community and other supporters, CRS is no longer actively soliciting additional funds.

Caritas Internationalis, the international federation of Catholic humanitarian agencies that includes CRS, collectively has raised nearly \$320 million to help tsunami-affected communities. Such support has given CRS the ability to rapidly respond to the emergency and provide the resources to lay the groundwork for long-term rehabilitation.



Advocate photo-Ward Miele

The halls of the Archdiocesan Center, Newark, were awash in red on Friday, Feb. 4 as part of a nationwide American Heart Association-sponsored Go Red for Women day. The effort sought to raise awareness that heart disease is the number one killer of women.

Official Appointments

Archbishop John J. Myers has announced the following appointments:



Administrator

Reverend Krzysztof Szczotka, S.D.S., Pastor of the St. Adalbert Parish, Elizabeth, has also been appointed Administrator of Ss. Peter & Paul Parish, Elizabeth, effective Jan. 25.

Pope leaves hospital, begins recuperation

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II left the hospital after 10 days of treatment for respiratory problems, and aides said he planned to ease back into his schedule of daily activities.

Applauded by patients and staff as he departed Gemelli Hospital, the 84-year-old pope rode back to the Vatican in his popemobile. Accompanied by two aides, he waved occasionally to well-wishers, some of whom had waited hours for a glimpse of the pontiff.

Crowds gathered at each of the Vatican's gates and in St. Peter's Square to greet the Holy Father on his return.

A Vatican statement earlier in the day said the pope's throat inflammation had been "cured" and that tests had ruled out other complications.

After re-entering the Vatican, the pope was expected to consult with his personal doctor before setting his agenda of events for coming days, said Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls. The spokesman did not say whether the pope would make his usual appearance for the Sunday Angelus Feb. 13.

Navarro-Valls told Vatican Radio that he presumed the pope was impatient to resume his regular calendar of meetings, speeches and liturgies, but he added that the pope was also "obedient to the doctors."

Before leaving the hospital, the pope prepared a letter of thanks to his entire medical team, including doctors, nurses, technicians and others, Navarro-Valls said.

Catholic News Service obtained a copy of the letter, dated Feb. 10 and addressed to Lorenzo Ornaghi, rector of the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, which runs Gemelli Hospital.

"At the vigil of the 13th celebration of the World Day of the Sick, I invoke, with trust, the heavenly protection of the Blessed Virgin of Lourdes on you, your collaborators, the entire university and the patients at the Agostino Gemelli Polyclinic. And in a special way on the babies, that I feel in these days I am particularly close to," the letter said.

Pope John Paul was rushed to the hospital Feb. 1 with serious breathing problems caused by an "acute laryngeal tracheitis," or

swelling in the throat, and "laryngeal spasms," which cut off the air supply. The pope had come down with the flu two days earlier.

In his Feb. 10 statement, Navarro-Valls said the throat swelling had healed and that the pope's general condition had continued to improve. He said the pope had undergone a CT-scan and other tests to rule out other pathologies. The pope's fever disappeared earlier in the week.

On Feb. 9, the pope invited all of his doctors to an Ash Wednesday Mass in his hospital room and personally distributed ashes to them, the Vatican newspaper said. The newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, said the Feb. 9 liturgy underscored the pope's "spiritual vigor."

Placing ashes on the foreheads of the small group in his room, the pope pronounced the Lenten reminder: "You are dust and to dust you shall return." The pope received ashes from one of the concelebrants.

Cardinal Camillo Ruini, papal vicar of Rome, visited the pope later the same day and told reporters, "I found him doing really well." He said the two had discussed the beginning of Lent in the Diocese of Rome.

The cardinal encouraged people to have "full trust" in the pope's recovery.

The pope felt well enough to



Pope John Paul II gives a blessing to those gathered to see him off as he leaves the hospital in the popemobile Feb. 10.

CNS photo

deliver a brief blessing to the faithful Feb. 6, looking alert but speaking in a weak and hoarse voice.

The pope's hospitalization prompted renewed speculation over papal resignation. Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary

of state, told reporters Feb. 7 that eventual resignation was a decision that must be left to the "conscience" of the pope.

The cardinal added that he hoped the pope would continue in the papacy for several more years.

Shanley convicted

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (CNS) — After a jury found laicized priest Paul R. Shanley guilty on all four counts of child sex abuse, including rape, the Archdiocese of Boston apologized for "the crimes and harm perpetrated against children by priests."

The Feb. 7 verdict could mean a life sentence for a man who has been one of the main figures in the scandal that erupted in the Boston archdiocese in 2002. His sentencing was set for Feb. 15.

Church law cited

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Vatican officials said new instructions for Church marriage tribunals are designed to ensure Church law is followed, to defend the sacrament of marriage and to ensure the efficiency that justice requires. The new handbook for Latin-rite diocesan and interdiocesan tribunals, *Dignitas Con nubii*, (The Dignity of Marriage), provided step-by-step procedures for accepting, investigating, judging and appealing marriage cases. The document was released Feb. 8 at a Vatican press conference. Approved by Pope John Paul II, the final draft was the responsibility

of the Pontifical Council for the Interpretation of Legislative Texts. The congregations for the Doctrine of the Faith and for Divine Worship and the Sacraments worked on the instruction, as did two Vatican tribunals—the Roman Rota and the Apostolic Signature. The instruction, while encouraging tribunals to work efficiently and not unduly prolong judgment, insists that no shortcuts be taken in determining the validity of a marriage.

Life of Basilica traced

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A new exhibit at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington touches the very roots of the Church, and the artists and architects whose work is on display are on the historical and artistic "A" list.

"Creating St. Peter's: Architectural Treasures of the Vatican," on exhibit through May 31, features Michelangelo's original model of the dome of St. Peter's Basilica. The 140-plus artifacts and original architectural drawings in the show include works by Renaissance masters such as Michelangelo, Bramante, Raffaello and Bernini.

Call for patience

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Church leaders in the Holy Land urged Israelis and Palestinians to be patient and called a cease-fire from a summit in Egypt a step in the right direction. "The Israelis must be patient, even if there are still some episodes of violence." Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah of Jerusalem told Vatican Radio Feb. 8. "The Palestinians must have even more patience, because it will be necessary to continue for some time to live how they have been living, a life of oppression." The patriarch said neither the violence nor the oppression "can be eliminated in one day." He urged leaders of both sides to "act as quickly as possible to not allow more time to pass and reawaken new violence, new incidents."

Chaplain retires

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — Father H. Timothy Vakoc, a U.S. Army chaplain who was severely wounded in Iraq last May, was formally retired from the army in a private ceremony in his hospital room Jan. 29.

Father Vakoc remained in stable but critical condition at the

Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Minneapolis, according to a journal entry family members posted on the Internet Jan. 27. He received severe head injuries last May 29, the 12th anniversary of his ordination, when a bomb exploded near his Humvee in Mosul, Iraq.

His mother, Phyllis Vakoc, said Father Vakoc is able to move his right eye slightly. "We go one day at a time," she said.

Cloning license

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A Scottish scientist's plan to clone and then destroy embryos from the cells of patients with motor neuron diseases represents an example of "inherently bad medicine" that should never be permitted, according to the director of education at the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. In a Feb. 9 telephone interview, Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk criticized the Feb. 8 decision of the British Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority to grant Ian Wilmut of the Roslin Institute near Edinburgh, Scotland, and other scientists a license to conduct therapeutic cloning for research into diseases such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and progressive mus-

cular atrophy. As with any research leading to the destruction of human embryos, "it's a direct exploitation of the weak by the powerful, and that's never acceptable in a civilized society," he said.

New NCEA leadership

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Karen Ristau has been named president of the National Catholic Educational Association in Washington effective July 1, succeeding Michael Guerra. The announcement was made Feb. 8 by Bishop Gregory M. Aymond of Austin, Texas, NCEA board chairman, who said that Ristau has "served Catholic education at many levels and has the understanding and vision that is so vital" to its future. In announcing the new president, Bishop Aymond applauded Guerra's accomplishments at the helm of the NCEA for the past four years and as executive director of NCEA's secondary schools department for 19 years prior to becoming the organization's president. Guerra announced last April that he planned to retire in 2005. Ristau is currently president of the Immaculate Heart of Mary High School in Westchester, Ill., a position she has held for the past three years.

U.N. peace panel backed

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — Efforts to reform the United Nations and its approach to peace and security as it observes its 60th anniversary this year have drawn the interest and support of the Vatican.

Recent attention has been focused on the report of a high-level panel appointed by Secretary-General Kofi Annan to examine “threats, challenges and change” the international organization is facing in the 21st century.

Archbishop Celestino Migliore, the Vatican’s U.N. nuncio, told the General Assembly that the report “in many ways coincides with the Holy See’s views.”

In the statement and in an interview the following day, the nuncio welcomed a broadening of the approach to peace and security that emphasizes preventing conflict and the attention to development goals that would contribute to that objective.

Noting that the Vatican was not pacifist, he said that even though use of force was necessary at times it was “much more necessary to remove the root causes of insecurity and instability in the social, economic and cultural fields.”

Since the Balkan wars of the 1990s, the Vatican has called on the international community to engage in humanitarian intervention where a government is unable or unwilling to protect its people.

The Vatican statement to the General Assembly said the panel’s criteria that should guide the U.N. Security Council in deciding whether to authorize use of force were “particularly well-conceived.”

Among the panel’s recommendations explicitly welcomed

Pope receives ashes

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As Catholics, including many cardinals, gathered in St. Peter’s Basilica to receive ashes at the beginning of Lent, they offered special prayers for Pope John Paul II.

U.S. Cardinal J. Francis Stafford, major penitentiary of the Apostolic Penitentiary, presided over the Feb. 9 Ash Wednesday prayer service instead of Pope John Paul, who was still in the hospital after experiencing difficulty breathing Feb. 1.

Joaquin Navarro-Valls, Vatican spokesman, said Pope John Paul presided at an Ash Wednesday Mass in his hospital room and received ashes.

by the Vatican was the establishment of a peace-building commission.

Calling the lack of such a commission a “key institutional gap” in the U.N. system, the panel said its purpose would be to “identify countries which are under stress and risk sliding toward state collapse,” and to marshal the efforts of the international community to assist them in postconflict peace-building.

The panel made only minor suggestions for changes in the basic U.N. charter, and Archbishop Migliore noted that whenever the Vatican addressed the issue of reform it “always recognized the irreplaceable role” of the basic principles underlying the U.N.’s functions.

International problems are discussed

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — On her first visit to the Holy See and Italy as U.S. secretary of state, Condoleezza Rice was unable to meet with Pope John Paul II and Italian prime minister Silvio Berlusconi, as both men were ill.

Rice instead had separate meetings Feb. 8 with Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state, and with Gianfranco Fini, Italy’s deputy prime minister, as part of her seven-day tour of Europe and Israel.

During a 45-minute closed-door meeting, Rice, Cardinal Sodano and other officials from the Holy See’s Secretariat of State focused

their talks on “various international problems,” according to the Vatican’s spokesman.

They made “an exchange of opinions,” particularly

concerning the Holy Land, the Middle East and “the situation in other Asian countries,” spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said in a written statement.



U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice meets with Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Angelo Sodano at the Vatican Feb. 8.

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 with Betty Neals and Sandra Davis
 Friday, February 18, 7:30 PM

Not for Women Only:
Praying the Stations with Women of the World
A Feminine Approach to Christ’s Suffering in Today’s World
 with Carol Jaworski and Roger Pisani
 Friday, February 25, 7:30 PM

Honoring Oscar Romero
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In Celebration of the Life of the Archbishop of El Salvador
 with David Abalos, Ph.D.
 Friday, March 11, 7:30 PM

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 Archbishop of Newark, Celebrant

With Keynote Speaker
 Author/Educator
 James B. Stenson

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 Send registration form and check to: Women’s Commission. c/o
 Office of the Chancellor, Archdiocesan Center, 171 Clifton Ave.,
 P.O. Box 9500, Newark, NJ 07104-0500

February 16

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Mountainside, Rosary Altar Society fish'n chips dinner, take out, 5-5:30 p.m., dine, 5:30-7 p.m. Adults, \$12; children, \$5. Call Pat Debbie, (908) 654-5388 or Joan Bieszczak, (908) 232-7322.

St. Ann Parish, Jersey City, Rosary Altar Society, meeting after 11:30 a.m. Mass and perpetual novena to St. Jude. Call (201) 656-4018.

St. Mary Parish, Rutherford, bereavement support group each Wednesday until March 23, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Madonna Hall. Call (201) 438-2200.

February 21

St. Michael Parish, Lyndhurst, Lenten Rekolekta in Polish, through Feb. 24 at 7 p.m. Mass. Lenten recollection in English, Feb. 28-March 3, during 7 p.m. Mass. Call John Drzymkowski, (201) 933-0366.

February 27

St. Joseph Parish, Maplewood, Mission Evenings present "Four Steps to a More Meaningful Life" with guest speakers Msgr. Robert Slipe, Father Robert Stagg, Father Jack Cryan and Dr. Dianne Traflet, 7:30 p.m. Call (973) 761-5933.

February 28

Presentation Parish, Upper Saddle River, *Cracking the Da Vinci Code* with speaker Joe Nuzzi, 7:45-9:15 p.m., Davey's Locker, Park Ridge (www.daveyspub.com). Call (201) 327-3055, ext. 28.

March 1

St. Thomas More Parish, Fairfield, Deena Marie Coppola album release show, 7 p.m., cost \$5. Call (973) 227-0903.

March 8

Mount Carmel Parish, Ridgewood, Rosary Altar Society annual St. Patrick Day luncheon and fashion show, Seasons Restaurant, Washington Township. Cost \$30. Call (201) 670-8938.

March 13

Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, Roseland, 50th anniversary communion breakfast, featured speaker Greg Tobin, editor of *The Catholic Advocate*. Call Elizabeth, (973) 226-6716.

March 14

St. Philomena Parish, Livingston, Lenten parish mission with Father Alan Guglielmo, through March 16, 7:30 p.m. Free will donation collected on Wednesday night. Call Deacon Joe Francione, (973) 992-0994.

Pro-Life Youth Rally, Mar. 4

The Salesians of Don Bosco will host the second annual New Jersey Pro-Life Youth Rally on March 4, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Seton Hall University, South Orange.

Nationally recognized speaker on chastity, Daniel diSilva, will be the keynote speaker, with music from Crispin with Generation Life. There will be skits, discussion and lunch, and Mass will be celebrated.

Father Steve Ryan, S.D.B., said that 700 young adults from high schools throughout New Jersey, mainly from the Archdiocese of Newark, and the dioceses of Paterson and Metuchen, will attend the youth rally.

"They need to see that they're not alone, that their peers embrace the message of chastity and respect for life from conception until natural death," Father Ryan commented.

Local Highlights

Spiritual

• Members of the Sodality of the Children of Mary of St. Teresa, meets March 4, 3:15 in the Chapel of St. Peter Hall, 2652 Kennedy Blvd, Jersey City, for the recitation of the Little Office followed by Mass and a councilor's meeting. On March 5, they will gather at Saint Peter Hall Chapel for the recitation of the Rosary at 8:40 a.m., followed by Mass and monthly breakfast meeting.

• The Lumen Center, Caldwell, presents "Jesus, Man of His Times—God of All Times," on Feb. 17 and Feb. 24 (2 sessions), 7-9 p.m., at 1 Ryerson Ave., Caldwell. Presenters are Ines Di Bonaventura, O.P. and Mary Lanni. Free will offering. Call (973) 403-3331, ext. 25, or email Lumencenter@Caldwellop.org.

• The Felician Sisters, an evening of praise and song before the Blessed Sacrament, March 6, 7:30-9 p.m., Immaculate Conception Convent Chapel, 260 Main St., Lodi. Open to young people and adults. Music provided by Grace Notes. No admission charge. For additional information call Sister Mary Alicia (973) 773-2400, ext. 12.

Workshop

• The Human Concerns Office of the Archdiocese of Newark, workshop on Bread of the World's 2005 Offering of Letters Campaign, "Make Hunger History," March 5, 8:45-1:15 p.m., Archdiocesan Center, 171 Clifton Ave. Cost \$8 (includes lunch and refreshments) and \$7 for handbook and video. Call (973) 497-4341.

Retreats

• The Xavier Center, Convent Station, "Wednesday for Women," a day of reflection for women, Feb. 16, 9:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Cost \$25; "Women in Scripture," Feb. 20 and 27, 1-3 p.m., Cost \$10; "Voluntary Simplicity," a spiritual practice and way of living, Feb. 26, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., cost \$40, and "Spiritual Direction Information Program" on Feb. 26, 10 a.m.-noon, with Sister Eileen Carmody, P.B.V.M. Call (973) 290-5100 or email XavierCenter@scnj.org.

• Carmel Retreat, Mahwah, "Sunday with Mary: Beneath the Cross," Feb. 27, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., cost \$25, includes lunch; and "Sunday Night Movie: Seabiscuit," Feb. 27, 5:30-9:30 p.m., cost \$25, includes dinner. Call (201) 327-7090.

Food Drive

• The Garwood Knights of Columbus, an Easter food drive, collecting canned and dry food goods for needy families. Donations can be dropped off after 4

p.m. at 37 South Ave. Make monetary donations payable to "Garwood K. of C. Food Drive." Call (908) 789-9809 after 4 p.m.

Lent

• Most Rev. Dominic A. Marconi, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of the Archdiocese of Newark, will be the special Lenten speaker on prayer at St. John the Baptist Parish, Hillsdale. He will be the homilist at the weekend liturgies of Feb. 19-20. Bishop Marconi will offer a workshop on "Centering Prayer" on Feb. 21, 9 a.m. and again at 7:30 p.m. Call (201) 666-2707.

• Father William Maggs, C.S.S.R., a Redemptorist priest, will conduct a Lenten mission at St. Elizabeth Parish, Wyckoff, Feb. 28-March 2. People of all denominations and those with no church affiliation are welcome to attend the 7:30 p.m. services. Call Adeline Webb at (201) 337-7982.

• St. Michael Parish, Cranford, a Lenten reflection focusing on the Gospel of Matthew, Feb. 16, 23, March 2 and 9, 7:30 p.m. Paul D. Sansone will lead the study series. Contact Father John McGovern at (908) 276-0360.

• Holy Family Parish, Nutley, a Lenten parish mission Feb. 27-March 1, in Italian, March 2-4, 7:30 p.m., conducted by the Capuchin Franciscan Friars of San Giovanni, Italy. The topic, "Padre Pio and the Year of the Eucharist." Call (973) 667-0026.

• The Missionary Franciscan Sisters, Tenafly, 25th anniversary Lenten soup supper, March 7, 6 to 9 p.m., St. John the Evangelist Parish, Bergenfield, Conlon Hall. Guest speaker, Msgr. Richard Arnholz, Archdiocesan Vicar for Pastoral Life. Featured will be Irish singer and entertainer Dermot Henry. Donation is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. No reservations required. Proceeds benefit St. John the Evangelist School and the Franciscan Sisters Infirmary. For additional information call Sister Trinity (201) 568-0478.

Health

• Holy Name Hospital, Teaneck, adult, infant and child CPR, Feb. 26, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and basic first aid (\$35), 1-4 p.m. Each session is \$35, or \$55 for both. Basic life support for health care providers—will be offered on Feb. 28, 6:30-10 p.m. Cost \$45. Call (201) 227-6254.

Education

• Felician College, Lodi, annual "Magic Moments" auction, to benefit student scholarships, March 12, 5 p.m. with auction preview followed by dinner and live auction at 6:30 p.m. Cost \$50. Call (201) 559-3315.

• Hoboken Catholic Academy, early childhood center (Pre-K 3, 4 and K), 406 Hudson St., and elementary school (Gr. 1-8), 555 7th St., now registering new students. Call (201) 963-9535 or visit www.hobokencatholic.com.

Concert

• An organ recital given by Nicole Keller will take place in the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, Feb. 20, 4 p.m. The program will include works of Bach, Pinkham, Widor and Tournemire. Suggested donation \$15. Call (973) 484-4600 or visit www.cathedralbasilica.org.

Singles

• Catholics Who Happen to be Single Club is sponsoring a "Summer Weekend Cruise Getaway." Call Leonora at (973) 743-6100.

St. Patrick's Day

• St. Vincent Nursing Home Auxiliary, a St. Patrick's Day luncheon at Victor's Chateau, 215 Route 23 South, Little Falls, March 17, 11:30 a.m., featuring food, Irish music and entertainment. Cost \$25. Call Jeannie Battista at (973) 239-7797. All proceeds benefit residents.

• The Knights of Columbus, Washington Township, St. Patrick's Day dinner dance March 19, 8 p.m., at 79 Pascack Road. Cost \$35, \$65 for couples. Call (201) 664-0422.

• The annual St. Patrick's Day Luncheon of the Sodality of the Children of Mary of St. Teresa, March 12, in the PAVONIA Room of St. Peter's College, Jersey City, noon. Cost \$40. Call Mary Donnelly at (201) 432-2806.

Entertainment

• The Garwood Knights of Columbus, host a comedy night, featuring impressionist/comedian Rob Magnotti, Feb. 26, 8 p.m., at 37 South Avenue. Cost \$15. Call (908) 789-9809 after 4 p.m.

• The Bobby Byrne Show, Bergen Catholic High School, Feb. 26, 7:45 p.m. Coffee, cake, ice cream provided. Cost \$20. Call Rose Samulka at (204) 368-8727 or Sandy Pichetto at (201) 384-6676.

Fundraiser

• Sacred Heart School, Lyndhurst, leadership council is sponsoring its annual spring tricky tray ticket auction on March 4, 6 p.m., at the Sacred Heart Social Center, 655 Valley Brook Ave. The auction will benefit the school's Margaret Engel Endowment Trust. Call Patty at (201) 933-0783 or the school at (201) 939-4277.

How to Report Abuse

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

Individuals who wish to report an allegation of sexual misconduct may do so by calling the Archdiocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection at (201) 407-3256.

Employment workshop Feb. 20

The Career Resources Ministry of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Ridgewood, will present the first in a series of four winter/spring workshops on Feb. 20 at noon.

The workshop, which will

take place in the meeting room located in the lower church, is an invitation to anyone seeking employment or who may be anticipating possible unemployment.

Professionals, who are

members of the ministry, will be on hand with advice on the topic, "Create Your Communications Strategy and Resume." Participants should bring their most recent resume or job experience information.



States' bishops reaffirm death penalty opposition

Reiterating the absolute opposition of the Catholic Bishops of New Jersey to the death penalty, William F. Bolan Jr., executive director of the New Jersey Catholic Conference (NJCC), testifying Feb. 4 at a Department of Corrections public hearing in Mercerville, called for "a full and open examination of the entire system, including the execution process."

Such an examination should be undertaken, Bolan added, "until the death penalty in New Jersey is abolished."

The bishops' opposition to the death penalty, he said, "is guided by their belief that every person has an inalienable right to life, because each human being is made in the image and likeness of God. New Jersey Catholics are joined in their opposition to capital punishment by many people of

all backgrounds and religious faiths. The overwhelming support for a moratorium on executions in New Jersey is evidence of society's

growing disapproval of capital punishment—disapproval that might increase if the public knew more about the execution process. It is critically important then that the execution process not be secretive. A human life is extinguished during an execution. The public has a right, and indeed a duty, to understand fully how that life is taken because executions are done in the name of the people."

Because the state "has other means to redress the injustice caused by crime and to effectively prevent crime by rendering the one who has committed the offense incapable of doing harm, and because we recognize the dignity of all human life, the New Jersey Catholic Conference continues to consistently and vigorously oppose the use of capital punishment," Bolan pointed out.

He also put into the record the following statement of the state's Catholic bishops.

"As death row inmates exhaust their appeals and the possibility of execution draws near, we, the Catholic bishops of New Jersey, wish to reiterate our opposition to the death penalty.

"We are guided by our belief that every person has an inalienable right to life, because each human being is made in the image and likeness of God, who alone is the absolute Lord of life from its beginning until its end (cf. the Book of Genesis 1:26-28).

"We acknowledge that the subject of capital punishment is controversial and emotional. All murders are violent and shocking; some are savage. They all stir emotions of revulsion and anger.

"We grieve for the victims of murder, for the brutalization and loss of life. We

commiserate with the families and friends of victims who must suffer with their loss through the years. We affirm that the state has the duty to punish criminals and to prevent the repetition or occurrence of crime.

"We believe that greater efforts must be made to bring the criminal to repentance and rehabilitation. We believe that our society is sufficiently developed to protect itself and to redress the injustice caused by the criminal without resorting to the use of the death penalty. One alternative is life without possibility of parole.

"The Catechism of the Catholic Church acknowledges the right of public authorities to impose criminal punishment proportionate to the gravity of the offense, 'if this is the only possible way of effectively defending human lives against the unjust aggressor.

If, however, non-lethal means are sufficient to defend and protect people's safety from the aggressor, authority will limit itself to such means, as these are more in keeping with the concrete conditions of the common good and more in conformity with the dignity of the human person.' Pope John Paul II has stated that in today's world cases in which the execution of the offender is an absolute necessity 'are very rare, if not practically non-existent.' (*The Gospel of Life*, 56)

"Because the State of New Jersey has other means to redress the injustice caused by crime and to effectively prevent crime by rendering the one who has committed the offense incapable of doing harm and because we recognize the dignity of all human life, we continue to consistently and vigorously oppose the use of capital punishment.

"We recognize the continued need for improvement of our criminal justice system and for a greater societal commitment to crime prevention and victim assistance. As pastors and teachers we urge the State of New Jersey not to impose the death penalty in our state."

The statement is signed by Most Rev. John J. Myers, Archbishop of Newark; Most Rev. Joseph A. Galante, Bishop of Camden; Most Rev. Paul G. Bootkoski, Bishop of Metuchen; Most Rev. Arthur Serratelli, Bishop of Paterson; Most Rev. John M. Smith, Bishop of Trenton; Most Rev. Andrew Pataki, Bishop of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic; Most Rev. Joseph Younan, Bishop of Our Lady of Deliverance Diocese (Syriac Catholic); Most Rev. Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., Most Rev. Thomas A. Donato, and Most Rev. John W. Flesey, Auxiliary Bishops of Newark.

"We are guided by our belief that every person has an inalienable right to life."

-NJCC

The role of the Catholic Press

The difference between the secular press and Catholic journalism, at times profound, is essential in providing information, facts and insight into one's faith journey.

February is Catholic Press Month and a good time to reflect on the essential role and responsibilities of those whose primary function is news about the events, issues and people of the Church.

This is an age of a dizzying technological array of how the public learns of what is going on in an increasingly hectic world that often times seems to have no need for God. How sad.

Ironically, despite technology that can result in information overload, what is happening to Catholics in their parish or around the world often can be ignored, misinterpreted or worse by a ratings and circulation driven secular media.

For too long the Catholic Church has been an easy and inviting target. It is the role of the Catholic press to set the record straight.

Catholic publications are where the faithful can find stories and commentary found nowhere else.

Being a member of the Catholic press is an awesome responsibility and privilege.

We thank you for allowing us into your homes to present facts, to celebrate our faith, and to evangelize.



The joy of consecrated life

The glow from their candles was symbolic, but the glow from their hearts was palpable during this year's World Day for Consecrated Life evening prayer service at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark.

Instituted by Pope John Paul II eight years ago as a tribute to Religious men and women worldwide, the special recognition to these wonderful and holy people in our midst is well deserved.

Speaking at this year's service, Most Rev. Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., Auxiliary Bishop of Newark and a Vocationist Father, called it a "day of thanksgiving."

A particularly moving moment during the service came when those called to consecrated life stood and renewed their commitment together. Part of their prayer was, "I commit myself anew to serve the Church in the apostolate entrusted to my institute."

As they celebrate the joy of their calling by the Lord, we thank these men and women who are a very special part of the lives of every Catholic.

Today's Question: In [your] Jan. 5 column ... [you mention] faith in God and love of neighbor as the way people achieve salvation. This is correct. But the Church has always taught, and still teaches, that Baptism is also necessary for salvation. I'm curious as to why [you] felt Baptism wasn't worth a mention. – Jim McAteer

I understood that the previous questioner was already baptized, and was asking what to do in living his baptismal faith. However, your point is well taken.

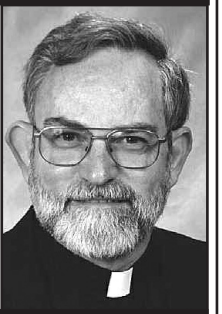
According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "The Lord Himself affirms that Baptism is necessary for salvation. He also commands His disciples to proclaim the Gospel to all nations and to baptize them. Baptism is necessary for salvation for those to whom the Gospel has been proclaimed and who have had the possibility of asking for this sacrament.

"The Church does not know of any means other than Baptism that assures entry into eternal beatitude. This is why she takes care not to neglect the mis-

sion she has received from the Lord to see that all who can be baptized are 'reborn of water and the Spirit.' God has bound salvation to the sacrament of Baptism, but He Himself is not bound by His sacraments. (1257)

What's the Matter?

By Msgr. Richard J. Arnholts



Sections 1258 and 1260 of the Catechism explain what the Church teaches about how the unbaptized may, in special circumstances, be saved.

The Catholic Advocate welcomes questions from 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.

A remarkable combination of conviction and modesty

The ideal knight—courageous and honest, courteous and modest, loyal and pure of heart—isn't easy to find in any age. Yet I once knew such a man and called him a friend: Jan Nowak-Jezioranski, who died in January at 91 in Warsaw, a city reborn from the rubble of modernity's two worst tyrannies.

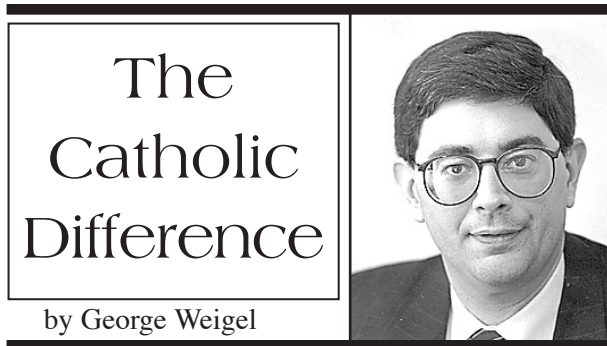
Jan's story was beyond a scriptwriter's imagination. Born in Poland and christened Zdzislaw Jezioranski, he studied business and economics and anticipated a professional career until Germany invaded his country in September 1939 and laid it under draconian occupation.

Jezioranski joined the Polish underground, became "Jan Nowak," and put his linguistic skills, cool wits and unshakeable courage at the service of his hard-pressed nation, crisscrossing Europe in disguise to bring news of Poland's resistance to the Polish government-in-exile in London and to Poland's allies.

Jan told the West about the 1943 Warsaw Ghetto uprising, and Jan came to London to brief Churchill on plans for the Polish Home Army's August 1944 Warsaw Uprising. After a depressing interview with the British prime minister, Jan knew that little help would be coming for the brave Poles.

Undaunted, he returned to Warsaw to take part in the uprising, barely escaping death on numerous occasions.

When it became completely hopeless, Jan and his wife (a wartime bride he had married clandestinely) escaped through the dying city's foul sewers to the West, where Jan began a new life working for the British Broadcasting Corporation.



In 1956, Jan Nowak took over Radio Free Europe's Polish section, where his talents contributed to combating the lies of the other great 20th century totalitarian power, the Soviet Union.

For 20 years, Jan Nowak was the "voice" of Radio Free Europe in Poland. Pope John Paul II has told of listening (illegally) to Jan's news broadcasts while shaving in the morning.

Indeed, Poles of a certain age will tell you that, for two decades, Jan Nowak was the man who told them the truth about

Poland and about the world, for RFE told the Poles what the government-controlled media wouldn't tell them.

I met Jan in Washington, where he served for almost 20 years as executive director of the Polish-American Congress. During that time, he worked hard to improve Polish-Jewish relations and during the Carter administration served as a consultant to the National Security Council, led by Zbigniew Brzezinski.

Jan Nowak was the man who told them the truth about Poland and about the world.

We are all alike, fragile physical human beings

There are times when we all can relate to our one common humanity.

A week ago I caught the "flu"—a "virus"—a "bug." At any rate, I bought the whole nine yards: fever, sore throat, aches, pains and what we called in the 1930's, "the back-door trots."

At first you fear that you are going to die. Then you fear that you are not going to die but just remain miserable forever.

At any rate, I had been taking physical therapy for a bad back. I called the hospital and spoke to the young physically perfect therapist who pushed and pulled me twice a week.

"Lynn, I can't come. My back is better, but I have the flu. I'm in bed for a week."

"When did you get sick?" she asked.

I answered, "The day after I met with you."

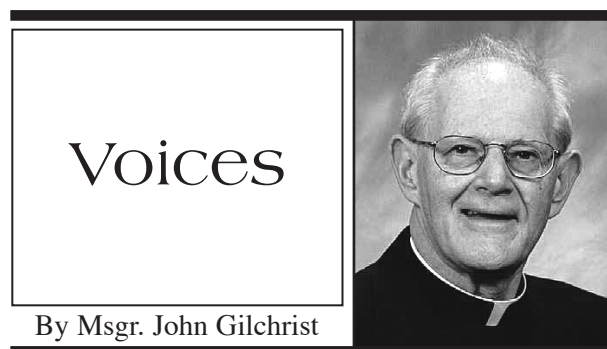
"I have had the same thing since the day I met with you," she said. "This is my first day back. You gave it to me," she said accusingly.

"No," I said in my innocence, "since I was your patient, I was the receiver. You gave it to me."

We laughed.

I called my good doctor to give him vital statistics. The nurse answered, so I gave them to her. She immediately said, "I've been sick for two weeks. I just came to work. Now it has come back. I have the same thing. I feel terrible."

I struggled down to the rectory kitchen. Sister



Barbara said that only half of her choir had shown up the night before.

Vicky, who sets up for Mass and teaches a first grade class in the public school, said, "I have had an average of five children out every day for a month."

I staggered back to my room and fell onto the couch. The television informed me that Hillary Clinton had passed out during a speech. She had a virus.

Then to top it all, the next day Sister Barbara called from the convent to give me the latest news—the Holy Father has the flu.

An epidemic brings us all down to a common denominator.

During the Reagan years, Jan was an informal and valued counselor to the president, the State Department and AFL-CIO leader Lane Kirkland, who played a crucial role in supporting the Solidarity movement. President Clinton awarded Jan Nowak the Presidential Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian honor, in 1996.

Jan was a remarkable combination of conviction and modesty. His judgments on men and affairs were clear-eyed and judicious; he could be critical, but without drawing blood.

Utterly trustworthy himself, he reposed trust in those with whom he talked, on and off the record, about his role in some of the most dramatic events of our time.

The pope esteemed him. Recuperating in 1981 from Agca's assassination attempt and told by his doctors to read something that wasn't business, John Paul II chose Jan's memoir, *Courier from Warsaw*.

The book, alas, is only available today from online used-book services; there are few other contemporary volumes I would rather give a young man to teach him what manliness truly is.

My last conversation with Jan took place in July 2004. I was teaching in Krakow and called him at the Warsaw apartment to which he had moved in 2002. He seemed tired but was courteous as always, eager for news.

Just a few weeks before, he had enthralled dozens of Polish Dominican novices with stories of his adventures; those stories always illustrated, one way or another, his profound Catholic faith.

In Jan Nowak, Poland and America "met" as they hadn't since the days of Kosciuszko and Pulaski. His life was a blessing to two peoples. Both honor themselves by revering his memory.

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

So there I lay. If misery loves company, I should have been very happy. The whole world—from the pope and world leaders on down to the children—had the flu. But, I still felt miserable.

Imagine, a human race that can study DNA and put men on the moon but can't conquer a tiny bug. I was once speaking about great scholars with admiration.

My friend Msgr. Ed Cuiba said to me, "Remember, Gil, they put their shoes on every day the same way you do."

He was right. An epidemic brings us all down to a common denominator. We are all alike—fragile physical human beings.

I don't take satisfaction because the pope has the flu. But I can certainly sympathize with him in his illness.

So as I lay here, in my misery, I pictured all of the popes, presidents, world leaders and movie stars. They can all catch a bug. They all put their shoes on each day the same as I do.

So, I have my first meditation for Lent: It is all about this "too, too mortal flesh" we all inhabit. Praise be to the Author of all.

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

Poles pray for their native son

ROME (CNS) — Dominican Father Konrad Hejmo has been leading Polish Catholics to Pope John Paul II since 1984 and saw no reason for the pilgrimages to stop when the pope was hospitalized in February. The Holy Father was released from the hospital Feb. 10.

That explains why seven Polish mountaineers found themselves singing folk songs Feb. 8 under the pope's window at Rome's Gemelli Hospital.

Accompanied by Father Hejmo, the troupe sang a song about Karol Wojtyla, the bishop from Krakow who ascended to the papacy. Dressed in traditional Polish wool capes with floral embroidery, they came from the Tatra Mountains, where the pope had hiked as a youth.

The mountaineers drove 20 hours in a van from Zakopane, Poland, and when they arrived in Rome, Father Hejmo was there to meet them.

When they serenaded the pope from the hospital grounds, they hoped the pontiff might come to the window of his 10th-floor room. When he failed to appear, Father Hejmo took the group's priest, Father Drozdek Miroslaw, to see the pope in his room.

Father Miroslaw did not want to talk to reporters about the pope's condition and said he did not exchange any words with the pontiff.

Father Hejmo, who is in contact with papal aides but said he has not seen the pope in the hospital, told reporters, "The pope is well and is always praying."

When the pontiff was rushed to the hospital Feb. 1, the Dominican priest rushed over to show his support for the Polish-born pope.

After the pope's Feb. 2 general audience was cancelled, Father Hejmo and a Polish nun showed up at Gemelli carrying a bouquet of flowers—red and white, the colors of the Polish flag

—on behalf of the Polish pilgrims who had missed seeing the pope.

"We hope for the best," Father Hejmo responded when asked if he was concerned about the pope's condition.

The priest's constant presence—and his ability to get beyond the cordon of Italian and Vatican security—sparked curiosity among journalists. Many reporters asked him who he was and what was his relationship with the pope.

His secretary, Elizabeth Urbaniak, told Catholic News Service, "It is a professor-student relationship."

"They know each other and they are both from the same area" in Poland, she said. "Sometimes, the pope invites him to the Vatican for pastries."

Father Hejmo was born in 1936 in Jodlownik, Poland, and spent much of his youth in the Tatra Mountains, where the future pope spent his vacations.

"We are friends. I know him very well," Father Hejmo said Feb. 6 while waiting for Pope John Paul to appear at his hospital window for the recitation of the Angelus.

Father Hejmo left Poland to study at Dominican-run University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome, the same university where the future pope earned his doctorate in 1948.

After Cardinal Karol Wojtyla became the first Polish-born pope, thousands of Poles began traveling to Rome each year to see him. The pastoral center for Polish pilgrims in Rome was started to help them, and Father Hejmo took a leading role.

Especially in the early years, his secretary said, many of the Polish pilgrims barely had enough money to pay for the journey to Rome.

"The economy was



The Holy Father waves to well-wishers from the window at the Gemelli Hospital in Rome on Feb. 6.

bad in Poland at that time. The average Pole earned less than \$30 a month," said Urbaniak.

Many of the Poles who left their communist-oppressed homeland to visit Rome did not want to return, she said.

"Fifteen Poles would come over, and then half would go back," Urbaniak said.

The center for Polish pilgrims, usually a beehive of activity, got very quiet when the pope was hospitalized.

The foyer was adorned with photos of a younger, healthier Pope John Paul in all his regalia, and a banner with the pope's chosen Latin motto, *Totus Tuus* ("all yours"), hung over the secretary's desk.

The corridors and dining room were empty Feb. 8. "We had to tell people that St. Peter's successor would not be in St. Peter's Square this week," said Urbaniak.

Without the hope of seeing the pope, most Polish visitors cancelled their trips, she added.

"In the Footsteps of John Paul II," an 11-day spiritual journey to Poland led by Archbishop John J. Myers, will take place May 29-June 8. For additional information contact Father Miroslaw K. Krol at (973) 483-2255.

Faith in moments of darkness gives us comfort

Readings: Gn 12:1-4; Ps 33:3-4, 18-22; 2 Tim 1:8-10; Mt 17:1-9

The texts that the Church has chosen from Genesis and Matthew's Gospel seem to complement each other, while reminding us that the work of Jesus continues the divine plan that began with the call of Abram.

Does some aspect of our life seem to thrust us into the unknown?

If God's will may at times seem obscure to us, consider the elderly couple Abram and Sarai! God invited them to leave their homeland and its security for a destination that would be shown to them only at a later date.

The promise of a great name and destiny comes to us as well. However, we know that the name is Christian and the goal is union with God the Father through Jesus. The content of our faith is much more complete than theirs.

So that we will not grow discouraged in our pilgrimage, the Gospel offers a glimpse of Jesus in His risen glory.

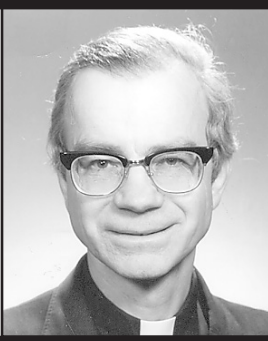
To face suffering and the mystery of death, we need to prevent the vision of faith from growing dim. So Jesus took the three disciples who would be close to him in Gethsemani to a high mountain where they received a luminous insight into His majesty.

The vision was interpreted by the Father's commendatory message: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. Listen to him" (Mt 17:5).

Sunday Readings

Second Sunday
of Lent
(Feb. 20, 2005)

By Father Lawrence Frizzell



The account of the transfiguration in the Gospels states that Moses and Elijah appeared and conversed with Jesus. From the time of Origen in the third century, scholars understood these great leaders of Israel to represent "the Law and the Prophets," two of the three components of the Hebrew Scriptures.

This interpretation is incorporated into the preface of this Sunday. While it is true that the totality of the Scriptures bears witness to God's plan in the work of Jesus (see Lk 24:44), Moses and Elijah serve another purpose as well. They both experienced the God of Israel on the height of Mount Sinai.

Moses is the great prophet of ancient Israel and

Elijah was like him in many ways, so they should be seen as the great teachers of unwavering fidelity to God's will who were introduced into the divine mystery in a very profound manner (see Ex 33:7-34:9 and 1 Kgs 19:9-18).

Who would be better witnesses to the identity of Jesus?

In the Scriptures the cloud is often a symbol of God's presence, appropriate because it is visible yet impenetrable.

The apostles are drawn under the protective shadow of this cloud and are overawed by the voice of the Father. As yet they are unaware that they will be called as well to stand in the shadow of the cross.

Would they recall this privileged moment as they were invited to join Jesus at prayer in the garden?

The evangelists give no indication of this. They would understand the meaning of the transfiguration and Gethsemani only after the Son of Man was raised from the dead.

During the agony and trials of Jesus they did not perceive the light of the resurrection nor remember the transfiguration.

Again, for the moment, the content of our faith is more complete than theirs.

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

*The Gospel offers a glimpse
of Jesus in His risen glory.*

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By UnitedHealthcare

UPCOMING SEMINARS

Essex - Bloomfield

February 25, 9:00 AM
Nevada Diner
293 Broad St.
Cross St./Benson St.

Essex - Irvington

March 17, 9:00 AM
Don's Diner
666 Nye Ave.
Cross St./Union St.

Essex - Newark

March 29, 9:00 AM
IHOP
109 Bergen St.
Cross St./South Orange Ave.

Bergen - Hackensack

February 28, 9:00 AM
The Arena Diner
250 Essex St.
Cross St./Polifly Rd.

Bergen - Westwood

March 8, 9:00 AM
Seville Diner
289 Broadway Ave.
Cross St./Jefferson St.

Bergen - Fort Lee

March 16, 9:00 AM
Red Oak Diner
2191 Fletcher Ave.
Cross St./Bridge Plaza North

Bergen - Fairlawn

March 24, 9:00 AM
Land & Sea Diner
20-12 Fairlawn Ave.
Cross St./Pollitt Dr.

Bergen - Hackensack

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

Union - Linden

March 9, 9:00 AM
Colosseum Diner
1932 E. St. George's Ave.
Cross St./Park St.

Union - Union

March 25, 9:00 AM
Huck Finn Diner
2431 Morris Ave.
Cross St./Burnet Ave.

Generations are spanned at commuter-town parish

BY BRIAN FORES
Staff Writer

Father John McCrone has been pastor at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Mountainside, since December 2003. He called the appointment a "homecoming" of sorts, explaining that he had served as a transitional deacon at the parish from 1981 to 1982, and was ordained there in May of 1982, in a rare instance allowed by Archbishop Peter L. Gerety.

"It was a much older community then," said Father McCrone, indicating that the grammar school had closed for a number of years, and even the town's public school, which has recently reopened, was shut down.

"We've seen a lot of growth in recent times. Some people have moved back to take care of their parents who are getting older, along with second and third generations of families."

He added that Mountainside is also a "bedroom community" for people commuting to New York, noting that the town lies between Westfield and Summit, with their direct access to New York.

The parish is the spiritual home for some 1,150 Catholic families. "We've grown by about 120 families since January of 2004," Father McCrone said. He explained that there is "no overriding ethnic group" represented at the parish.

Father McCrone said he is already looking ahead to the parish's 50th anniversary year in 2007-08.

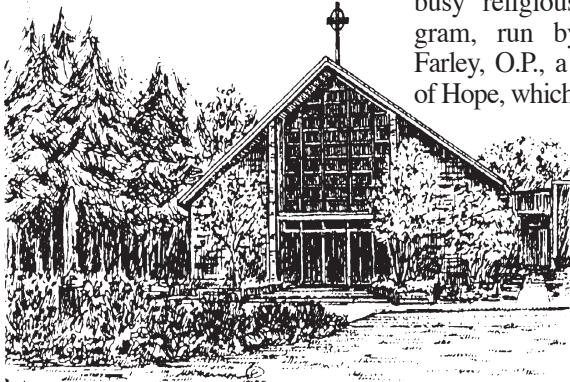
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish was founded in December 1958, and the first pastor, Father Gerard McGarry, remained there for 20 years. Until the church was completed, parishioners attended Mass in the auditorium of the Deerfield School, a local public school building.

Father McGarry wished the parish to be named after Our Lady, and settled on Lourdes because 1958 was the centennial year of the apparition of Our Lady at Lourdes, France.

On Feb. 11, the parish celebrated the fifth anniversary of its chapel of perpetual adoration. Archbishop Emeritus Gerety was the principal celebrant of the Mass, assisted by Msgr. Francis Seymour of Seton Hall University.

Father McCrone said that Archbishop Theodore McCarrick

had expressed that he would like there to be at least one chapel of perpetual adoration in each of the archdiocese's four counties. The pastor said he is happy that Our Lady of Lourdes helps fulfill that need for Union County.



Our Lady of Lourdes,

The chapel began through the efforts of parishioner Irene Ciccarino. She and her husband, Frank, who have been married for 13 years, both have grown children from previous marriages. One of Frank's sons, Christopher, is a priest of the Archdiocese of Newark.

While the Ciccarinos said they encountered some resistance at first, many people were overwhelmingly supportive of their efforts. According to Irene Ciccarino, staff and parishioners volunteered time and effort to make a former office into a suitable chapel.

Ciccarino said the experience has been "wonderful," and trans-

formative. The most difficult slot to fill is midnight to 6 a.m. So the Ciccarinos began Volunteers for Christ, a working list of alternates to cover during those difficult nightly hours.

Our Lady of Lourdes has a busy religious education program, run by Sister Celeste Farley, O.P., a Dominican Sister of Hope, which ministers to some 340 students in Pre-K through Grade 8.

The parish is also home to the Mountainside campus of Holy Trinity Interparochial School, which functions as an early childhood

Mountainside

learning center. Opened in September 2002, the center serves 130 children 2½ years old through Kindergarten age. Leslie Lewis, director, expects enrollment to grow to 150 by next year.

"There is a teacher and assistant in every classroom," she noted. "The materials they learn are age appropriate, our day includes play time, and religion is integrated into the program at every level. The children know their prayers, and we have paraliturgies frequently."

She said art and music, as well as "creative movement," or "age-

appropriate physical education," are regular parts of the curriculum.

"Everything is child-centered," Lewis explained. For example, when students learned about St. Francis, the school had a "pet day," and children were allowed to bring in pets or stuffed animals.

The school also has what Lewis calls "literacy explorations," where "the children use a story as a jumping off point for an activity. For instance, if the story we read has a muffin in it, the children might make muffins," she said. On another occasion, children participated to make a life-size tree out of cardboard and paper.

Commenting on the bond between the parish and the school, Lewis noted, "The parish has been really wonderful in embracing the whole school. The parishioners will do anything to help, and have made us feel like part of the parish—they've really taken ownership of the school."

That characteristic spirit of cooperation and openness is evident in Joan Bieszczak, a parishioner at Our Lady of Lourdes since its very beginning in 1958.

"Many people had moved here from Jersey City," she remembered. "There were all kinds of nationalities. People went to Mass at St. James [Springfield] or Holy Trinity [Westfield], but we wanted our own church," she noted.

Bieszczak is a past president of the Rosary Altar Society. For her work with a dedicated corps of volunteers on the environment committee, which decorates the church on special feast days, she was awarded the Jubilee Medal *Pro Meritis* in 1990.

"The parish has had many ups and downs," she said. "But we've had many wonderful deacons here. Father John [McCrone] was a deacon here. He's the youngest pastor we've ever had—we're so happy he is here."

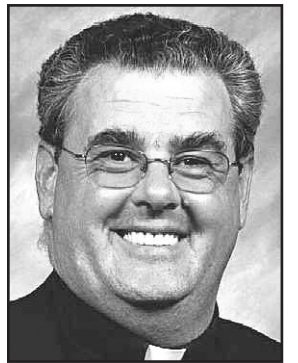
Having witnessed the parish's entire history, Bieszczak said it is now important to draw in younger generations to continue their work. "We are trying to appeal to people in their 30's and 40's."

She said she has volunteered at many parish picnics, parties and other events intended to attract younger couples and their children.

Father McCrone concurred. "I'll have a party if we change a light bulb," he joked. "I really do believe that before a parish can effectively pray together, the parishioners have to know each other."

"I emphasize the social only to help increase that sense of com-

Meet the Pastor



Fr. John McCrone

Age: 51

Date of Birth: Dec. 23, 1953

High School: Irvington High School

College/Seminary/Graduate School: Seton Hall University, Immaculate Conception Seminary, Mahwah

Date of Ordination: May 14, 1982

Heroes: Blessed John XXIII, Msgr. Raymond Pollard

Favorite Saints: Francis of Assisi, Patrick of Ireland

Favorite Sport: College basketball

Favorite Food: Pot roast dinner

Favorite Subjects in School: Math and history

Favorite Movie: *It's a Wonderful Life*

Last Book Read: *The Plot Against America* by Philip Roth

Proudest Moments: "Ordination and returning here"

Occupation if I Weren't a Priest: Banker

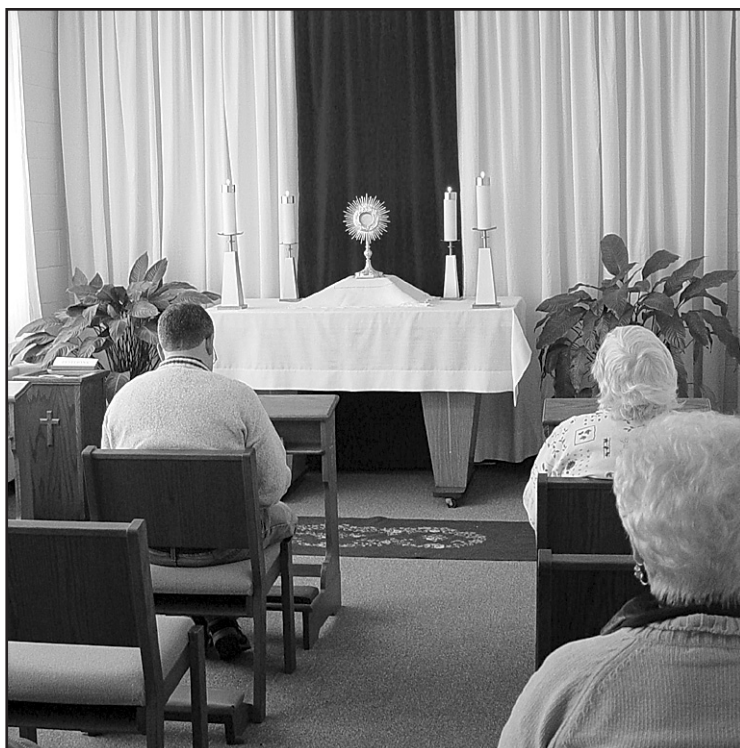
munity that allows us to work together and respond to the Gospel," he explained.

He said something as simple as having coffee and bagels after the 9:30 a.m. Mass every Sunday has done wonders in fostering a sense of community and camaraderie among parishioners.

"I wanted them to have this sense of, 'we're all in this together.' It's also a good time to share quick ideas, and help everybody to touch base so they can be on the same page," he commented.

Father McCrone concluded, "I think Our Lady of Lourdes has a very rich history. Many of the priests that have served here in the past have done a fine job of laying the foundation for me and for those in the future. There's a deep sense of spirituality and faith, which has created very fertile ground for parishioners to continue to live out this ministry—which is, in reality, theirs."

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish is located at 300 Central Avenue.



The parish's chapel of perpetual adoration recently celebrated its fifth anniversary.

Advocate photo - Brian Fores

Natural Family Planning topic of medical discussion

BY WARD MIELE
Managing Editor

The role of the medical profession in Natural Family Planning (NFP) was explored at a forum hosted by the Archdiocese of Newark.

Keynote speakers for the dinner, featuring an address by Archbishop John J. Myers, were Thomas Hilgers, M.D., A.B.O.G. of the Pope Paul VI Institute and clinical professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the Creighton University School of Medicine, and

Father Richard Hogan from NFP Outreach.

Damon C. Owens, president of New Jersey Natural Family Planning and a resident of the Archdiocese of Newark, saw the forum as an opportunity to "spread the news about the good news of Natural Family Planning." He said it is important to raise everyone's "knowledge level," citing the crucial way in which NFP and the work of physicians "intersect."

NFP, according to Owens, "is a generic term; it is simply

guidelines everyone can follow." NFP, he noted, is not the rhythm method, adding it is available to be taught by qualified teachers.

The forum was financed through a donation from the St. Augustine Foundation, New York.

After receiving a standing ovation, Archbishop Myers noted the crucial role of couples' testimony about NFP as a "way of life" through "openness to life."

He said there should be a movement to "embrace human fertility." Looking out at the healthcare professionals in the audience, the archbishop noted, "I am grateful to have you here. I hope this is only the beginning."

Stressing that it is crucial to "let God make the difference for you," he told the audience, "We need you as resources, both doctors and nurses."

The archbishop pointed out as well that "one discovers self in the gift of self," emphasizing, "There are ways to morally limit" one's family. NFP he concluded, "is not just another technology; it is more than that."

The human body, Father Hogan noted, "is what it means to be a person ... The body speaks the language of personhood."

Calling NFP "fertility awareness," he said, "The most human act is that of love."

Dr. Hilgers began his presentation citing the connection between abortion and divorce and abortion and contraception.

That connection, he lamented, results in increases in child abuse and neglect, juvenile crime, drug use and suicide.

Dr. Hilgers stressed that "the conventional wisdom that 'teenagers will have sex no matter what you do' is simply not true."

As Dr. Hilgers saw it, "We are endangering our children by the way we practice medicine." While the rate of gonorrhea is declining, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are increasing "in the millions," reaching epidemic proportions, he warned.

The longer a woman uses oral contraceptives, Dr. Hilgers noted, the greater the risk of cervical cancer.

In his opinion, "there is ample evidence that we have to do things differently."



Damon C. Owens

NFP dates

The Natural Family Planning (NFP) Office of the Archdiocese of Newark has scheduled monthly four-session courses at three locations this spring.

The schedule follows:

- The NFP Office, 9 Cassien Terr., West Orange, Saturdays March 12, April 9, May 7 and June 11, all at 10 a.m.
- St. John the Apostle Parish, 1805 Penbrook Terr., Linden, Sundays March 13, April 17, May 22 and June 26, all at 3 p.m.
- Wednesday is the day at Holy Name Hospital, 718 Teaneck Rd., Teaneck, on April 6, May 11, June 15 and July 27, all at 8 p.m.

According to Damon C. Owens, coordinator of the NFP Office, the Sympto-Thermal Method of Natural Family Planning is used, "which is a 98.9 percent effective, triple-check method of fertility awareness." He went on to note the method is "an extremely simple to learn method of either achieving or postponing pregnancy with no pills, drugs or side effects." NFP, he added, can also "play a key role in the diagnosis and natural treatment of common fertility issues such as irritability, cramps, fatigue, endometriosis, ovarian cysts, irregular cycles and excessive bleeding."

Interested couples should reply with their full name, address, telephone, email, wedding date and sessions choice to (973) 497-4325. The \$75 fee, cash or check, includes class notes, all materials and lifetime support.

For additional information go to www.njnf.org.

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Your Intentions

The 'why' of suffering explored

BY BRIAN FORES
Staff Writer

How those in the healthcare ministry can better understand and deal with suffering was explored during a Feb. 1 forum at the Archdiocesan Center, Newark.

The conference, held under the auspices of the Institute for Pastoral Care, was the second of three scheduled for those in the healthcare ministry.

"The 'Why' of Suffering," workshop was attended by some 35 pastoral care workers from hospitals, hospices, nursing homes, as well as by parish nurses and parishioners who minister to the sick.

"We have a great cross-section represented here today," said Father Alan F. Guglielmo, chaplain at Saint Michael's Medical Center, Newark, and in his second year as director of the Institute for Pastoral Care.

Father Guglielmo said he hoped participants would take with them "a broader vision and deeper faith in their ministry," as well as the "necessary skills" to work in their apostolate. He also said the conferences were a unique opportunity for healthcare workers to be in the same place at the same time and share their experiences.

Keynote speaker for the event was Dianne M. Traflet, J.D., S.T.D., assistant professor of pastoral theology at Immaculate Conception Seminary, associate dean, and founder and director of the newly formed Institute for Christian Spirituality. The institute helps individuals discover a vocation in different ministries and assists those already working in ministry.

Dr. Traflet, who has been teaching at Seton Hall University since 1998, said she recently offered a class on the very topic of Christian spirituality and suffering.

Framing her discussion within the context of the Year of the Eucharist, Traflet noted, "We should treasure the ability to receive the Body of Christ."

She recounted the story of Bl. Titus Brandsma, who, while being severely beaten in a Nazi concentration camp and left to die, focused on the consecrated host hidden in his eyeglasses-case, later saying he had felt no pain during the incident.

Dr. Traflet, crediting her Felician education, Marian spirituality, Edith Stein, also

known as St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, and quoting passages from Viktor E. Frankl's *Man's Search for Meaning*, underscored her main point—that those working in healthcare ministry, "should not be intimidated" by difficult questions.

Those questions, she said, include, "Is there a God?" and "Why would God allow this to happen to me?" She emphasized that it is important "to understand that the compassion they give is, in itself, part of the answer."



Advocate photo-Ward Miele

Father Alan F. Guglielmo, chaplain at Saint Michael's Medical Center, and Dianne M. Traflet, J.D., S.T.D., review the day's program held at the Archdiocesan Center.

Contacto:
Padre Brian Plate
Director de Vocaciones

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San Juan 1:38-39

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Union County schedules St. Patrick's Day parade

Peg Cullen was installed Feb. 13 as Grand Marshall of the Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade at an Investiture Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Mountainside. Matthew P. Glackin, her predecessor, conducted the formal proceedings.

Frank M. McGovern of Cranford has been named general chairman of the parade, scheduled for Saturday, March 12 in Union.

McGovern has been an active parade committee member for the past six years. He most recently served as first vice chairman, responsible for assisting on oversight of all committees affiliated with the parade. McGovern has also served as chairman of the investiture Mass, financial secretary, and chairman of the St. Patrick's Honor Guard.

"I am truly honored and humbled by the overwhelming spirit of volunteerism that drives this parade to its annual success. I look forward to sharing a great day with all of Union County," said McGovern.

He has been employed for the past 20 years with Pirelli Power Cables & Systems, USA, LLC, South Plainfield, and holds the position of division vice president, cable accessories.

Parish offers Lenten retreat

The adult faith formation/small Christian community ministry of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Ridgewood, is sponsoring a Lenten retreat, "Eucharist: Bread for the Journey of Life, in the Parish Center."

Given as part of the Year of the Eucharist, it will take place Feb. 26, from 9 to 11:45 a.m.

The talk will center on focusing how the love of God comes as a sacramental presence, individually and as community, enabling perseverance on the journey of faith.

There is no fee. The invitation is extended to Mount Carmel parishioners and friends of the parish, and anyone interested in Lenten observance.

For additional information, call Linda English at (201) 444-2000.



Father Robert G. Laferrera, pastor of St. Mary Parish, Dumont, joins fifth graders in a prayer service as palms were burned for Ash Wednesday.

Shrine plans Lenten series

The Shrine of St. Joseph, Stirling, will offer a Lenten series designed to reveal the powerful presence of God in life's experiences.

"Mary's Way of the Cross," with actress Betty Neals and singer Sandra Davis, will be presented in the shrine chapel Feb. 18, 7:30 p.m.

In the African-American tradition, the meditative piece will be punctuated by hymns and spirituals.

On Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m., in the shrine chapel, a feminine approach to Christ's suffering in today's world will be explored in

"Not for Women Only: Praying the Stations with the Women of the World," with Carol Jaworski and Roger Pisani.

Jaworski and Pisani are co-directors of the Institute for Liturgical Formation, New Brunswick. Jaworski serves as campus minister for the College of St. Elizabeth, Morristown, and program coordinator for the shrine of St. Joseph.

Pisani serves the Camden Diocese as director of the Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechetical Formation and the Office of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.



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

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Reviewing the past, looking to the future

Bergen Catholic High School, Oradell, hosted a Symposium on Catholic Education in conjunction with the celebration of Catholic Schools Week and the school's own golden jubilee.

The symposium reviewed the role of Catholic education over the past five decades and looked forward to the next half-century.

Keynote speaker was Msgr. Robert Sheeran, S.T.D., president of Seton Hall University, South Orange, who offered reminiscences of his time as a student at Bergen Catholic (Class of 1963) and outlined the challenges faced by Catholic educators today.

Respondents after the keynote were Sister Dominica Rocchio, S.C., Ed.D., Secretary for Education and Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of Newark, and Sister Mary Frances Taymans, S.N.D., Ed.D., executive director of the National Catholic Education Association.

Joseph S. Fusco, Ed.D., the principal of Bergen Catholic High School, served as moderator. Faculty and staff from the

school as well as other Catholic secondary and elementary schools attended the event, which was followed by a reception in Crusader's Hall (the cafeteria).



Msgr. Robert Sheeran addresses educators on the topic of "challenges of our time" in Catholic education. Sister Dominica Rocchio, top right photo, visits with attendees before the start of the symposium.

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Sundays with Mary: Beneath the Cross: Feb. 27 (9:30am-1:30pm), Mass and Lunch included.

Sunday Night Movie: "Seabiscuit": Feb. 27 (5:30pm-9:30pm) Dinner included.

The Passion of Matthew: March 20 (9:30am-1:30pm) Welcome to enjoy the day and stay for Seder Meal.

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Parish honors WWII hero, priest

BY BRIAN FORES
Staff Writer

Father John Washington, one of four chaplains who sacrificed their lives on Feb. 3, 1943, when the U.S.S. Dorchester was torpedoed, was remembered at an annual Mass in his honor at the parish where he served.

Most Rev. Thomas A. Donato, Regional Bishop for Hudson County, celebrated the Mass at St. Stephen Parish, Kearny.

During his homily, Bishop Donato focused on the upcoming Lenten season and the Easter mystery. "Just as Christ is the light of the world, so too, Father Washington, through his brave sacrifice, was a light to the world."

All Catholics, he said, are called to be "a light to others" during their daily lives, and especially during this Lenten season.

Father Joseph Mancini, parochial vicar and an organizer of the annual liturgy, noted, "Father Washington has left an excellent example and lasting impact on this parish.

"It is an honor to recognize and recall his sacrifice, and the sacrifice all of our men and women in the armed forces make to preserve freedom," he said.

Several veterans' and civic groups attended the memorial liturgy, including the Knights of Columbus, Catholic War Veterans, the Marine Corps League, the Lakewood and West Hudson Detachments, and Jewish

War Veterans.

Patrick Lapoli, a member of the Tin Can Sailors and decorated World War II naval veteran, noted, "I thank God that I made it home alive, so that I can be here today to honor Father Washington's sacrifice."

He added that soldiers fighting in the Middle East were in his thoughts and prayers. "Let's get them home alive," he said.



Two war veterans greet each other at the start of the memorial liturgy.



Members of Boy and Cub Scouts process into the church with the colors.

Advocate photos - Brian Fores

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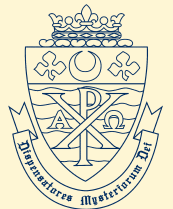
Dermot Quinn, D.Phil.

as he speaks on

"From Emerald Isle to Garden State: Irish Catholics and New Jersey from Colonial Times to the Present"

Wednesday, February 23, 2005 • 7:30 p.m.

Chapel of the Good Shepherd • Lewis Hall, Seton Hall University



Dermot Quinn, D. Phil, professor of history at Seton Hall University, is the author of *The Irish in New Jersey*. A native of Derry, Northern Ireland, Quinn earned a doctoral degree from Oxford University. His numerous articles and reviews have been published in, among others, *The American Historical Review*, *The Welsh History Review* and *Recusant History*. Quinn also is the author of *Patronage and Piety: English Roman Catholics and Politics, 1850-1900* and *Understanding Northern Ireland*. He is the editor of the third edition of *Dawson's Dynamics of World History*, the assistant editor of the *Chesterton Review* and a member of the Board of Directors of the G.K. Chesterton Institute.

All are welcome. Admission is free.
Call-in registration is strongly encouraged.
Please contact Kathy Childers at (973) 761-9016,
or e-mail theology@shu.edu



Candlelight



Nearly 100 special friends of a charity gathered to hear the executive director report on organizational advances and share her vision for the future.

Five minutes into her talk, the lights went out.

She urged the audience to be calm. "I'm sure the electricity will be restored shortly. Please be patient."

A minute passed. People began to fidget. And then, from the audience, a woman said, "I have a candle here in my purse and some matches."

A moment later, a flame appeared and the darkness rushed away. A sense of calm returned. Soon after, the electricity was restored and light once again flooded the room.

Interestingly, the speaker had just mentioned the importance of endowments. Now, with her microphone working again, she resumed her presentation. But not with the planned script. She was wise enough to seize the moment and draw on their mutual experience of the darkness and the candle.

"Endowments," she said, "are like candles. They provide light in the darkness of an uncertain future. They permit us to look ahead and plan with confidence. They shine rays of hope."

She talked about the perpetual flames of endowment funds and how they provide financial light for future generations. "You can create your own endowment and light a candle of hope. Future generations will benefit from your foresight."

The foregoing account is adapted from a true story. And though some of the details have been changed, it is entirely accurate to say that our endowments here at the Archdiocese of Newark do help us plan prudently for the future. They are indeed candles aglow with promise.

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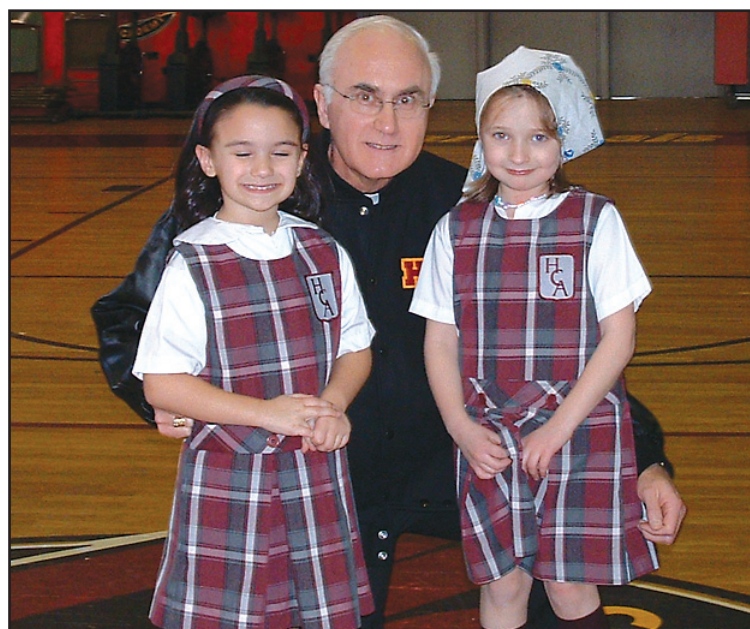
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Catholic Schools Week



Student Appreciation Day at St. Leo School, Elmwood Park, included ice cream sundae treats courtesy of the Home School Association. Among those enjoying themselves were, left to right, Nicole Barylski, Emily Mendez, Samantha Purisima, Amy Scarpulla and Nicolette Takach, all third graders.



Most Rev. Thomas A. Donato, Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, congratulates first grade students Rebecca Kearney (left) and Hera Bogdano of Hoboken Catholic Academy after they performed traditional Irish and Greek dances.



Most Rev. David Arias, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of the Archdiocese of Newark, watches as seventh grade students teach board games to second graders at Our Lady of Libera School, West New York.

...Highlighting excellence

Our Lady of Sorrows School, South Orange, had a special visitor tour the classrooms during Catholic Schools Week. Stopping by the first grade, he led the students in prayer.



Advocate photo- Ward Miele



Advocate photo- Liesl Fores

Students at St. Elizabeth School, Wyckoff, kicked off the week with Crazy Hat Day. After presenting special guest Auxiliary Bishop John W. Flesey with his own "crazy miter," made by Student Council members (left to right) Danielle Glicini, John Soyka, Steven Kanczewski and Caitlin Gallagher, Pre-K through eighth grade students held a parade in the auditorium to show off their creations. A winner from each grade won a "NUT"—no uniform today—pass.



Father Sean R. Cunneen, Regional Vicar for Union County, visited St. Michael School, Union, during Catholic Schools Week. Father Cunneen met with sixth grader Melissa Tobie during the special live book reports program. Students, who read biographies of notable persons, dressed as those persons and explained the highlights of their lives to visitors.



At St. Mary School, Dumont, teachers were presented with a spiritual bouquet, including second grade teacher Michele Roig. Among the students presenting her with the special gift were, left to right, Kristen Cuasay, Nathan Gabriel and Caitlin Colditz.



An exuberant Alex Zetelski after his correct answer during the annual teachers versus students Trivial Pursuit game at St. Mary High School, Rutherford.



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Evaluation process complete

The schools of St. Mary, Rutherford, have completed the Middle States evaluation process.

The evaluation began three years ago when the schools chose to use a relatively new accreditation for growth protocol.

Unlike previous programs,

the new approach utilizes strategic and site-based planning to improve the schools' and students' performance. It required the schools to base their objectives on a vision for the future and its oriented progress.

Under the guidance of Father Michael J. Kreder, pas-

tor, the steering committee consisted of former principals of the high school, along with the elementary school principal, high school vice principals and an eighth grade teacher.

An on-site visit was made to the school, in March of last year.



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The Eucharist as Sacrament and Symbol



Sr. Maria Pascuzzi
The "New Perspective" on Paul: An Introduction



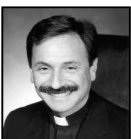
Dr. Gloria Durka
Spirituality and the Arts



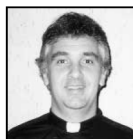
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Understanding Islam and Muslims



Prof. Philip Sheldrake
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Dr. Linda Baratte
Dorothy Day, Mother Teresa, and Eileen Egan: Three Prophets of Peace



Kevin P. Cuddihy, principal of Saint Peter's Preparatory School, Jersey City, second row, left, and Father James F. Keenan, S.J., school president, congratulate this year's National Merit Scholarship semifinalists. They are front row, Ankur Patel and Seong Kim, and, top row, Raphael Gerraty and Michael Bonner. Receiving commendations were Dale Addeo, William Carley, Steve Erickson, Matthew Gelchion, Brett Guadagnino, Brian Kennedy, Michael Ockay, Sanyam Parikh, Michael Pocelinki, Michael Sherry and Jonathan Tiner.

QPHS honors former student, hoops player

Queen of Peace High School (QPHS), North Arlington, recently dedicated its basketball court in honor of 1986 graduate Timothy J. Finnerty, who died in the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center.

Finnerty was an outstanding high school basketball player.

Through college and his professional financial career, Finnerty continued his love affair with the game. He dedicated his time and talent to work with young people as a coach and continued to play whenever he had the chance.

In the aftermath of the terrorist attack, the Timothy J. Finnerty Memorial Fund was established by the family and friends.

It was designed to honor Finnerty's passion for coaching, teaching and influencing children and young adults by providing scholarships and refurbishing recreation facilities, with emphasis on his hometown of Rutherford and his alma maters,

Scranton University and QPHS.

Last spring, the Finnerty Foundation made a generous donation to refurbish the high school's gym. It was agreed that the floor would be refinished and a second scoreboard added in his honor.

The work on the floor would provide improved traction for the athletes and would also add attractive marks, such as the Griffins (on each side) and the giant Queen of Peace insignia at center court. Also added were images of Finnerty's number 30 jersey. The number was retired after his death. It is the only number retired at QPHS.

The dedication ceremony held prior to the start of the Queen of Peace vs. Ridgefield Park varsity basketball game started with a welcome and thank you to the Finnerty Foundation from Msgr. William Fadrowski, pastor of Queen of Peace Parish.

Information on the Timothy J. Finnerty Foundation can be found at www.fundforfinn.org.

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What Catholic Schools Week is all about



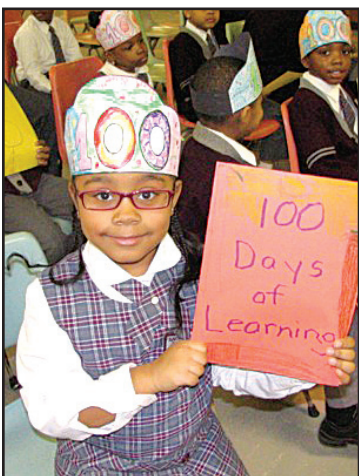
During a special liturgy at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, Tenafly, each class participated in the symbolic building of God's kingdom by presenting a "brick" with their contribution. Kindergarten students Nicholas Kranjac and Ani Tchorbajian present "joy" to Fran Orefice, principal.



Lory Caicedo, a senior at Mother Seton Regional High School, Clark, reads to students at St. Genevieve School, Elizabeth, as part of the high school's campus ministry program. The girls donated four books to the classes they visited.



Student dancers soar through the air as part of a talent show at Ascension School, New Milford. Other performances included singing, piano and guitar solos and a karate demonstration that were seen throughout the day.



Brittney Waters, a first grade student at Sacred Heart School, Vailsburg section of Newark, during her class's celebration of a "100 Days of Learning" program.

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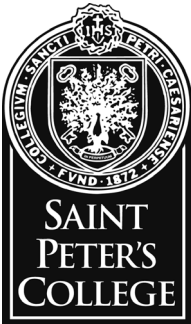
Oratorical Contest

Saint Peter's College
Saturday, April 9, 2005

High school students from the tri-state area will address the topic "What Role Should America Play on the Global Stage?" and compete for \$20,000 in prize money for the top six finishers in this year's contest. High Schools are permitted to enter more than one student contestant. Reserved parking will be available in the Yanitelli Center Recreational lot on campus. Registration takes place between 7:30 - 8:30 a.m.

For more information or to obtain a registration form, please contact Laura Cristiano at 973.632.1090 or by e-mail at oratory@gmail.com. Visit the Guarini Center's web site at www.spc.edu/guarini for complete information including the day's schedule.


Entries must be submitted by March 1st.



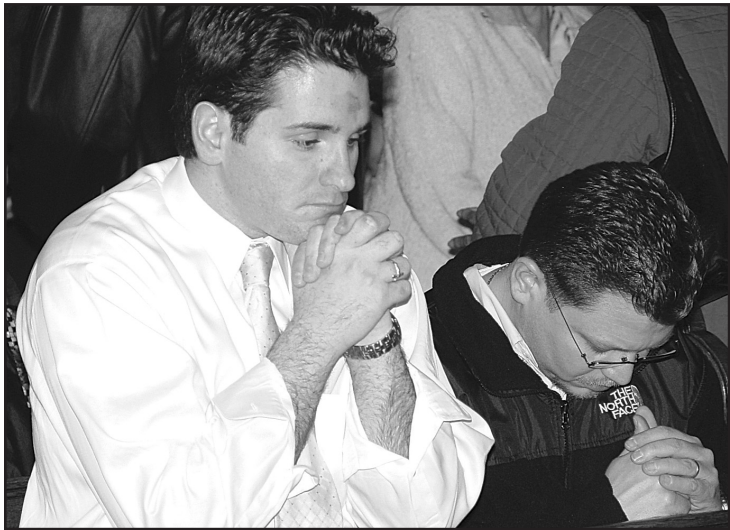
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Advocate photo- Brian Fores

Many Catholics working in downtown Newark's business district sacrificed a lunch hour to attend Mass and receive ashes.

Ash Wednesday

Continued from Page 1

physical and spiritual, to God during the Lenten season.

Archbishop Myers added that Catholics undertake sacrifices during Lent "not because of a dislike of our own bodies, but because we seek a higher goal, a spiritual goal—that's takes preparation and training."

The archbishop noted that Catholics should remove the focus from themselves during the

Lenten season: "We say 'no' to ourselves, in order to say 'yes' to God, and say 'yes' to the needs of others."

Archbishop Myers concluded by pointing out that ashes are an ancient sign of penance, and that "they are imposed in the sign of the Cross to show the world that we are not ashamed of the Cross," and all its meanings, that "we worship and pray with Christ, who preached the mystery through which we have found our salvation."

Operation Rice Bowl marks three decades

BALTIMORE (CNS)—This Lent marks the 30th anniversary of Operation Rice Bowl, a seven-week program of prayer, fasting, learning and giving through which U.S. Catholics contribute millions of dollars each year to alleviate poverty and hunger at home and abroad.

In an announcement released from its Baltimore headquarters, Catholic Relief Services, which sponsors the program, said millions of Catholics in parishes, schools and faith communities participate each year.

Of the roughly \$8 million raised annually, three-fourths goes to development projects that contribute to food security in some 40 countries around the world. The other one-fourth stays in U.S. dioceses to fund local programs.

Operation Rice Bowl began in 1975 as a program of the Diocese of Allentown, PA. CRS, the U.S. bishops' overseas relief and development agency,

adopted it as a national program the following year. This year Lent began Feb. 9 in the Latin Church and Feb. 7 in the Eastern Catholic churches.

An important element of the Operation Rice Bowl program is its Lenten calendar.

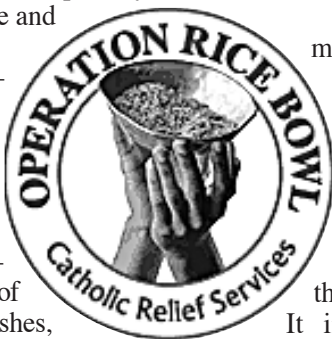
The calendar has meal recipes from various countries assisted by the program and a message for each day about the poverty and other needs people in those countries face.

It includes practical suggestions linking those realities to daily life in America.

The calendar also has brief stories from individuals who have been helped by CRS projects in the featured countries.

"When the poor remain nameless and without a life story, it is easy to forget them," said Anne Ayella, Philadelphia archdiocesan CRS director.

"Operation Rice Bowl tells their stories and helps us to see our brothers and sisters with eyes of compassion," she said.



Last Fatima visionary dies at 97

COIMBRA, Portugal (CNS)—Sister Lucia dos Santos, O.Carm., the last of three Fatima visionaries, died Feb. 13 in her cloistered convent in Coimbra at 97.

The Portuguese government declared Feb. 15, the date of her funeral, as a national day of mourning.

On May 13, 1917, when she was just 10 years old, Sister Lucia and her two younger cousins claimed to have seen the Blessed Virgin Mary at Fatima, near their home. The apparitions continued once a month until Oct. 13, 1917.

Father Ciro Benedettini, C.P., a Vatican spokesman, said that Pope John Paul II, who began his Lenten retreat Feb. 13, offered special prayers for the nun, whom he met three times at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima.

The pope also asked Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone of Genoa, Italy, to preside at the nun's Feb. 15 funeral in the Coimbra cathedral. The cardinal, former secretary of the Congregation for the

Doctrine of the Faith, met with Sister Lucia and discussed the apparitions with her several times in preparation for the 2000 publication of the so-called "third secret of Fatima."

While her cousins Francisco and Jacinta Marto died at a young age—as Our Lady of Fatima apparently told them they would—it was left to Sister Lucia to transcribe the messages of Fatima, including the third section.

Sister Lucia wrote down the third part of the message, sealed it in an envelope and gave it to her local bishop. The message was sent to the Holy See in 1957, where successive popes read it, but decided not to reveal its contents.

Sister Lucia's last meeting with Pope John Paul II was in May 2000, when he traveled to Fatima to beatify her cousins and to announce that he was revealing the final piece of the Fatima message, which forewarned of his own assassination attempt in 1981.

Pledge Weekend

Continued from Page 1

Saying, "In general, we did well," Carla L. Gonzalez, executive director of the development office, stressed that money allocated for Catholic Charities has been increased from less than \$1 million last year to some \$2.5 million.

Gonzalez commented that a pastor told her he had more parishioners participating in AAA this year, which he felt was a direct result of the impact of Catholic Charities.

Many pastors, she continued,

have expressed their belief that the fact that funds are earmarked for Catholic Charities has made a difference in donations at the local level.

Within days of the pledge weekend, the executive director noted, two parishes had already reached their goals.

World events, such as the recent tsunami that struck southern Asia, she explained, make people more conscious of what is happening locally.

Given that awareness, she believes "a real connection" is made when reaching out to the faithful in the parishes.

Stewards, those who give \$500 or more, were especially generous this year, with several individuals doubling their pledge.

Archbishop John J. Myers, Gonzales pointed out, made a special appeal to stewards and other major donors. "The archdiocese's needs are growing," she asserted.

There will be a follow up pledge effort in April specifically for the portion of AAA that goes directly to Catholic Charities.

This will still be part of AAA, and so parishes will receive credit. Information will be available in English and Spanish languages.

Rite of Election

Continued from Page 1

catechumens' godparents, Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) coordinators and family and friends, to pray for the catechumens, that they may follow the Blessed Virgin Mary's example and answer God's call "with full faith and a full heart."

After the homily, each catechumen was called by name, and the archbishop questioned godparents as to the catechumens' preparedness, to which they responded simultaneously.

Then he invited the catechumens to offer their names for enrollment by signing the Book of the Elect, which lists those chosen for initiation. Afterwards, RCIA coordinators led the catechumens and their godparents to the sanctuary where Archbishop Myers declared them members of the elect, eligible to receive the sacraments.

Oscar Majano, a catechumen preparing at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Elizabeth, said he wanted to become a



Sister Ruthe Morgan, R.S.M. looks on as Katie Ramirez signs her name in the Book of the Elect.

Advocate photo- Lissi Fores

member of the Catholic Church because he wanted "to be something better—to change."

Sister Ruthe Morgan, R.S.M.,

RCIA coordinator at the parish, said her prayer for all 35 of the catechumens she helped prepare is "that they would continue on their journey of faith after they receive the sacraments."

When asked why she wished to become a member of the Catholic Church, thirteen-year-old Dixie Korley from St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish, Newark, commented, "To be a part of God's family."

And Georgianna Mandelos, a catechumen from St. Teresa of Avila Parish, Summit, noted that this is something that she has wanted to do for a long time.

Having been raised in a Catholic and Greek-Orthodox family, she said she always felt more comfortable in the Catholic Church.

Interestingly, Mandelos remarked, unbeknownst to each other, she and her brother, who lives in Long Island, had made the decision to become members of the Church at about the same time. Both will be fully initiated this Easter in their prospective parishes.

Youths embrace Gospel message

Over a thousand college students, including a contingent from Seton Hall University, South Orange, attended this year's FOCUS National Leadership Conference last month in Denver, CO.

The FOCUS program, founded seven years ago, is a national outreach designed to

help college students incorporate the Catholic faith into their daily lives.

It operates on 26 college campuses in 13 states with some 90 fulltime missionaries. "Once for All" (Hebrews 10:10) was the theme of this year's conference.

Students took part in breakout sessions with such titles as

"Evangelization: It's Easier Than You Think," "Could Jesus be Calling You to the Religious Life?" and "The Genius of Woman." There was a workshop and presentation of the FOCUS summer mission trips.

Keynote speaker at the awards banquet was bestselling author and professor Scott Hahn.

Among the special guests were Most Rev. Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap., Archbishop of Denver.

Thomas Wurtz, FOCUS campus director at Seton Hall, was struck by the how those at the conference embraced the Gospel message shared by the featured speakers. "It is quite the experience being able to see so many enkindle their hope in Christ," he said.

"People think the Church is dying," said Curtis Martin who founded the FOCUS apostolate and has watched its tremendous growth since then. "Day to day growth can seem slow, but when you look out into this crowd, the principle of spiritual multiplication is evident and inspiring," Martin explained.

For additional information go to www.focusonline.org.

Sacred Heart student bound for the capital

Yohan Perera, a student at Sacred Heart School, Lyndhurst, will join 200 middle school students from throughout the United States at the Junior National Young Leaders Conference (JrNYLC) Feb. 19-24, in Washington, DC.

Themed, "Legacy of American Leadership," the conference introduces young people to the rich tradition of leadership throughout American history, while helping them develop their own leadership skills.

"The aim of the Junior National Young Leaders Conference is to inspire students like Yohan Perera to recognize their own leadership skills, measure their skills against those of current and former leaders and return home with new found confidence in their ability to exercise positive influence within their communities," said Mike Lasday, executive director of the Congressional Youth

Leadership Council, the organization that sponsors JrNYLC.

In addition to examining notable U.S. leaders and historic figures, Perera will study the impact of leadership throughout critical



Yohan Perera

periods of American history. Upon completion of JrNYLC, students will take home a greater sense of understanding of the role of individuals in American democracy, as well as the responsibilities of being a leader.

For additional information, visit www.cylc.org.



Father John McGovern, pastor of St. Michael Parish, Cranford, blessed the throats of kindergarteners, including Mia Corbetton, on the Feast of St. Blaise.

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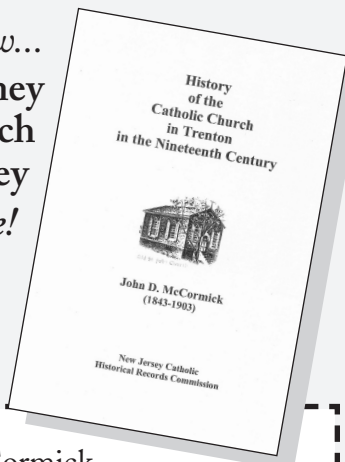
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Margaret M. Marczewski, mother of Msgr. Ronald J. Marczewski, pastor of Saint Aloysius Parish, Caldwell, died Jan. 30.

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Students from St. James the Apostle School, Springfield, participated in an ecumenical service at the local Emanuel United Methodist Church honoring slain civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Performing a choral reading of original poems were, left to right, James Kocur, Nicholas Rossomando, Anthony Sarango, Krista Cunningham, Ashley Hughes and Erica Ratti.

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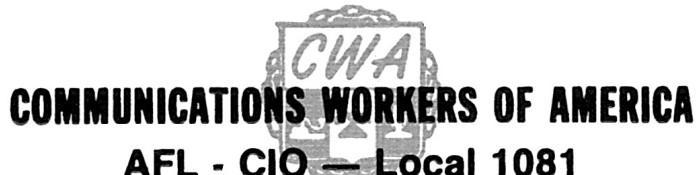
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Teamwork shown on and off court

Getting off to a fast start this basketball season with a string of solid victories, the Lions of St. Leo/Sacred Heart School, Irvington, have not been sidetracked from goals established by Coach Douglas Martaian at the start of each hoops campaign.

"We stress effort, sportsmanship, respect and responsibility above all else. If we win, great, if we lose, that is also acceptable," says Martaian.

Playing in the Hudson County CYO League, Martaian feels he has the strongest lineup on the court since the undefeated team of the 2000-01 season.

The Lions, says the coach, have "the potential to attain a memorable season, assuming they can take care of their responsibilities off the court.

"TCB, 'taking care of business,' in the classroom means working hard to achieve top grades and displaying proper behavior at all times. I will be the first to admit that it is a constant struggle with some of the players to remind them school comes first and basketball is a distant second.

"However, these students are starting to see we can be a special team and, hopefully, that will give them added motivation to succeed academically," explains Martaian.

Paulo Sociedade and Carl Rosequist, principal and vice principal, respectively, follow the team and are constant sources of encouragement. The vice principal is at many games while the principal is known to hold long discussions with players who have temporarily lost focus and need proper guidance to fulfill their responsibilities in school.

When they suit up, the players have responsibilities to themselves, teammates, opponents and the game. At St. Leo/Sacred Heart School, they are taught the fundamentals of basketball and of life.

"It is my responsibility to teach these sixth, seventh and eighth graders basketball skills and life skills. Sure, we strive to win, but what happens when we lose? How you deal with failure shapes your character. It helps determine what kind of person you are. My players will experience disappointing situations in their lives. The sooner they learn how to deal with frustration, the sooner they will mature as human beings," said the coach.



Michael Williams, number 40, and teammate Travon Fingall wait for the rebound in recent home court action, won by St. Leo/Sacred Heart 41-39.

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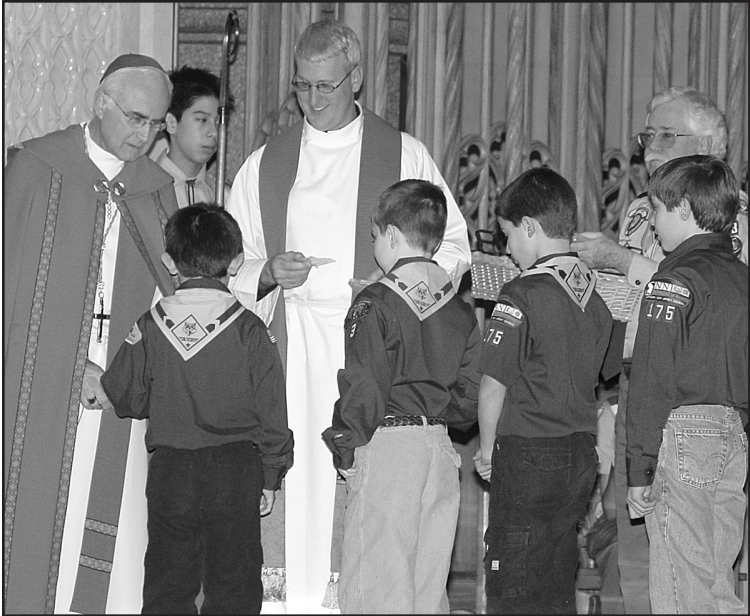
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Bishop Donato greets Cub Scouts as he presents their awards.



Advocate photos-Ward Miele

After the scouts accepted their awards, they received a hearty congratulatory handshake from Father Richard R. Corbett, executive director, Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, and Father Donald K. Hummel, past chaplain, National Committee on Scouting, and pastor of St. Bartholomew the Apostle Parish, Scotch Plains.



Father Kennedy involves the scouts while delivering his homily.

Archdiocesan scouts receive awards

Calling it a "privilege," Most Rev. Thomas A. Donato, Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, presented this year's Boy Scout and Cub Scout awards.

The Sunday afternoon service, held Feb. 6 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, featured presentation of awards to the scouts and their adult leaders.

Speaking near the front row of pews, Father Victor P. Kennedy, archdiocesan chaplain and pastor of Resurrection Parish, Jersey City, began his homily by asking two scouts to hold up a brick and plate of glass he had brought with him.

Both, he explained, are made from sand but are unique. He used that example to remind the scouts not ever to wish they were someone else. "Celebrate who you are. God has a plan for you."

Noting the grandeur of the Cathedral Basilica, which is made of brick and glass, Father Kennedy told the young people "you are more beautiful than this building."

Everyone, he said, is called to different life experiences. "Take a few minutes to celebrate who you are. You are a dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. You are who you are. Thank God for that."

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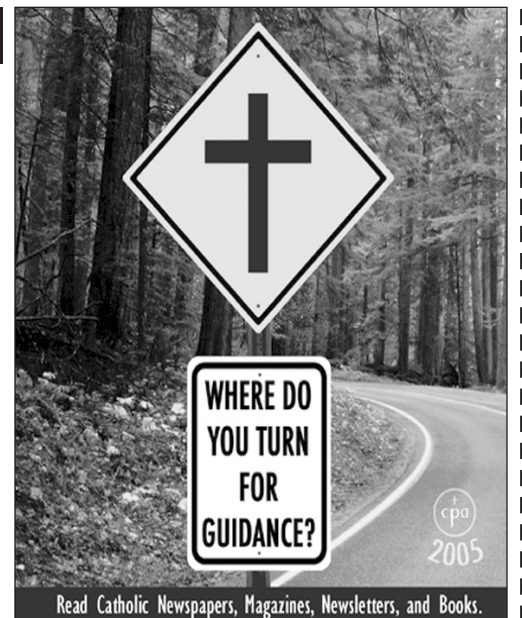
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Clinical performance is among the best

A new study by HealthGrades, the nation's leading independent healthcare company, has cited Holy Name Hospital, Teaneck, among the top 5 percent of facilities for

clinical quality performance.

The HealthGrades study identifies the highest-quality hospitals in the nation in terms of clinical excellence by analyzing federal Medicare patient data for 28 common medical procedures and diagnoses, from hip replacement to bypass surgery.

Holy Name Hospital is one of only 229 hospitals in the country to qualify for the recognition in the study.

"Saving and improving the lives of people in this community is the top priority of our physicians, nurses and staff," said Michael Maron, president and chief executive officer.

According to the HealthGrades study, distinguished hospitals for clinical excellence have markedly better mortality and complication rates, even though they tend to treat more and sicker patients.

Nationally, a Medicare patient who underwent heart bypass surgery at a distinguished hospital had a 15.3 percent better chance of surviving than a patient who received treatment at an average hospital.

The improved survival rates at distinguished hospitals were also 15.4 percent for stroke, 12.62 percent for heart attack (in hospitals where angioplasty and stent treatments were available) and 19.55 percent for community-acquired pneumonia.



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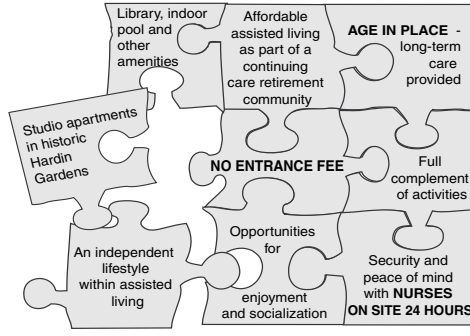
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Self-management is key to battling diabetes

The Diabetes Management Center at Saint Michael's Medical Center, Newark, has received three-year certification from the American Diabetes Association.

It is the renewal of the Education Recognition Certificate first awarded the program in November 2001 for delivering high-quality diabetes self-management education in accordance with national standards developed by the National Diabetes Advisory Board.

"This recognition assures our patients they will receive the help they need to learn how best to manage their diabetes,"

said Amie Thornton, administrator of Saint Michael's Medical Center, an affiliate of Cathedral Healthcare System. "We are very proud of this affirmation of our program's quality and effectiveness as an essential component of patient care."

An estimated 18.2 million Americans have diabetes, with more than 3,000 new diagnoses being made each day.

Diabetes self-management education programs prepare patients to live with their disease and provide patients with the information and advice they require to help them avoid complications, which can

include stroke, heart disease, blindness, nerve disease and amputation.

"By voluntarily submitting to a rigorous review process by American Diabetes Association experts, we seek recognition of our program's commitment to offer each patient a comprehen-

sive, individualized education program," explained Nicholas G. Baranetsky, M.D., program director, and director of Endocrinology at Saint Michael's Medical Center.

"The process gives us national standards by which to measure the quality of service

provided by the Diabetes Management Center's dedicated staff," Dr. Baranetsky noted.

Information about the Diabetes Management Center is available by calling Beverly Herman-Rivera, R.D., C.D.E., diabetes education coordinator, at (973) 877-2885.

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Getting older has its rewards. For example, consider the way gift annuity rates increase with age. When Mr. Lee was 70 years old, he donated \$10,000 to the Archdiocese of Newark for a charitable gift annuity and received \$650 every year from the annuity for the rest of his life.

However, Mr. Lee obtained another \$10,000 gift annuity at the age of 76. The payment rate jumped to 7.2%, so he gets an additional \$720 each year. You see, aging has a silver lining.

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Osteoporosis rehabilitation

Holy Name Hospital, Teaneck, has scheduled a new six-week session of exercises for persons with osteoporosis Tuesdays beginning Feb. 22.

Held from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. in the rehabilitation department, the sessions focus on proper progression of activity, how to stretch and strengthen muscles safely and correct posture.

“Not only will exercise improve bone health, but it increases muscle strength, coordination, balance and leads to better overall health,” said a spokesman.

The \$85 fee must be pre-paid. A physician’s medical release is also required. Class size is limited. Call (201) 227-6250.



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Website: www.heathvillage.com

Variety of programs for seniors available

The Atrium, Allendale, an independent living residence, will host several programs for seniors. All are open to the public.

The events will be held on the grounds of the Allendale Community for Mature Living, a continuing care retirement residence accessible from Route 17 South.

For directions or further details, contact Mary Stampelman at (201) 818-7978 ext. 7982.

The programs include:

- Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2 p.m., Stay Fit While You Sit, a wellness program for seniors presented by a physician. Located in the Atrium Cinema, the program will provide nutrition, posture and fitness tips.

- Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2 p.m., Joy for Everyday Living, a discussion group will meet in the Atrium Cinema. The emphasis will be on meaningful conversations about courage, love and

overcoming depression.

- Monday and Tuesday, March 21-22: AARP’s Driver Safety Program, the nation’s first and largest classroom refresher course for motorists age 45 and older, will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Completion of the eight-hour course qualifies drivers for insurance discounts in many states. Approved by the New Jersey Division of Motor Vehicles, the course is taught by AARP volunteers. The registration fee is \$10 per person which includes coffee and a danish plus lunch both days.

- Weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.: the Senior Social Club operates in the Atrium and provides seniors living at home an opportunity to interact with peers. Cost is reasonable and schedule is flexible.

The Allendale Community is a physician-owned and family operated facility with three licensed levels of care.

In addition to the Atrium, the private retirement community includes Carlton Court, an assisted living residence, and the Allendale Nursing Home. The community also offers a respite program providing temporary residential care.

For more information, visit www.allendalecommunity.com.

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The commitment to consecrated life is renewed

BY WARD MIELE
Managing Editor

Priests and Religious from throughout the Archdiocese of Newark celebrated the joy of their calling at a World Day for Consecrated Life evening prayer service at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark.

The annual event was instituted by Pope John Paul II in 1997 to pay tribute to Religious men and women worldwide.

Most Rev. Edgar M. da Cunha,

S.D.V., Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, presided at the Feb. 2 service.

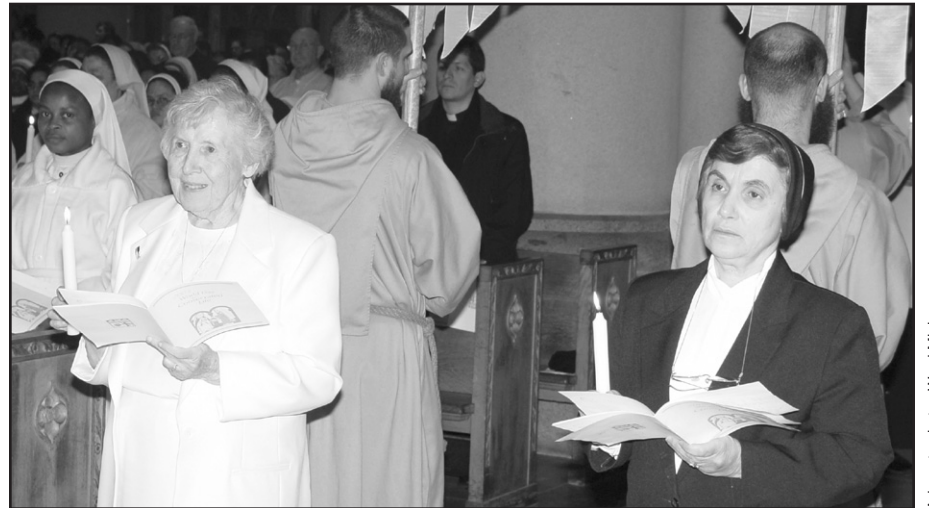
Calling it a "day of thanksgiving," Bishop da Cunha said Mary was "the first real disciple of Jesus Christ and the first real apostle."

The Blessed Virgin Mary, the bishop continued, "responded in faith and trust in God's world, (she is) our model of discipleship."

Like Mary, he noted, those in religious life are "to welcome Jesus Christ into our lives and present Him



While the candles of the assembly were being lit, all stood to join in the gathering song to begin the service at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark.



Sister Margaret Thomas McGovern, O.P., (left), delegate for Religious of the Archdiocese of Newark, and Sister Ascenza Tizzano, M.P.F., provincial of the Religious Teachers Filippini, at the beginning of the evening prayer service celebrating consecrated life.

to the world." Jesus Christ, Bishop da Cunha explained, "comes to us in the poor, the hungry, the sick and those who are hurting."

He asked the pointed question "Do we recognize Him?"

Today, as consecrated people, the bishop stated, "we are called first to be disciples of Jesus Christ, we must become His disciples, then we can present Him to the world and become apostles."

Citing the candles that were lit at the

beginning of the service, Bishop da Cunha said those candles are "the symbol of our faith... we must be light." Noting that this is the Year of the Eucharist, he commented too "we are Eucharistic people, we must turn to Jesus Christ in the Eucharist."

According to latest worldwide statistics, the number of men and women in Religious orders totals 986,000, with 792,000 nuns and 193,600 priests and brothers.

Local teen feels at home in Mexican mission

BY MAUREEN KANE

Special to The Catholic Advocate

Maureen Kane traveled to Iztapalapa, Mexico, to San Martin de Caballero, the sister parish of St. Teresa of Avila, Summit, the last two summers of her high school career. This (abridged) reflection was written for her first college essay.

When I walked through the airport terminal, I took a deep breath and sighed a sigh of relief because I knew I was home. It wasn't my actual home but a place I go to once a year for a week in the summer.

This past July, I was thrilled to be there again. This wasn't some get-a-way vacation that I used as an excuse to work on my tan or ride the waves. Instead, I went to a small, poverty stricken town by the name of Iztapalapa, outside of Mexico City. I traveled with my church, St. Teresa, to our sister parish, San Martin de Caballero, with the goal of serving God and helping the poor.

I was so excited to rekindle old friendships and begin new ones. As we pulled up to San

Martin, I saw the faces of ladies who had been so generous and loving in past years. The women told me in fast, fluent Spanish that they missed me and my mother and wished she had been able to come. Because of limited space, my mom gave up her spot to a doctor friend who had never gone to Mexico. She felt he could assist the many sick and needy of San Martin.

Soon I began to see the familiar faces of children that I spent time with the year before. If they didn't run up to me, I ran up to them and hugged and kissed them with tears of joy in my eyes. Their clothes were covered in dirt, food and sweat. With limited access to clean water, they rarely washed.

Some kids had forgotten my name, as I had theirs, but we still remembered the impressions we made on each other's lives. We went into their church to celebrate the welcoming Mass. Such joyous songs of praise and thanks were sung by nearly 50 children. They had prepared everything perfectly for us—their much anticipated

guests—including snacks of fruit, cookies and juice.

On our first full day a group of five of us walked around Iztapalapa in the scorching heat visiting different houses. Keep in mind these aren't regular houses one might see in an average American neighborhood. These houses range from the size of a bathroom to that of a college dorm room, and in them typically there lives a family of as many as fifteen.

Inside were many statues of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Jesus and other religious figures. You don't find many family pictures because most people are too poor to own a camera.

Even though the families had so little, they offered us all they had.

We stayed in each home for about ten minutes, gathering as much information as possible about the family situation. By taking photographs and scribbling some notes, we hoped to make it easier for us to find "godparents" (sponsors) back at St. Teresa for the children in need. My own family sponsors three children in Mexico: Rodrigo, 12; Sophia, 18, and Jose, 17.

Other visiting groups helped Don Martin, the "head hon-



Pepe enjoys his new gift from his St. Teresa sponsor. Here are his first bubbles in front of the church of San Martin de Caballero.

cho," with tasks, such as shoveling rocks, mixing cement, moving gravel and building cement walls.

The more time I spent with the children, the more fortunate I felt. It seemed unfair, and yet for all their poverty, the people of San Martin are the most beautiful and spiritual people I've ever met.

I decided I needed to do something to help them. From that moment on, I would give as generously as I could to the poor: more of my time, my energy and who knows, maybe my life. I

could see myself moving to Iztapalapa some day.

I refer to Mexico as home because I feel most comfortable when I'm there. I love the people as much as they love me.

I will always remember the smell of stale, unwashed clothes clinging to the children. I admit that the image of unwanted, dirty dogs on the side of the road haunts me from time to time. But if I reflect upon these memories long enough, they don't bother me because I feel like I'm back home, in Mexico.

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Duties: Drafting/writing of correspondence, marketing plans, promotional materials and ads; data processing, organizing files, managing accounts payable and receivables; organizing social events (may sometimes require irregular work hours); frequent telephone contact with constituents and donors; providing support for Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administration, as needed.

Qualifications/Skills: A Catholic understanding of stewardship and development as well as relevant tax laws and financial instruments—or willingness to learn these principles quickly; occasional out-of-state travel; team oriented; computer skills (Microsoft Office Suite 2000, Raiser's Edge 7, PG Calc), as well as writing, organizational/clerical and interpersonal communication skills. Bi- or multi-lingual a plus.

Send resume to: Human Resources, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark
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NOVENAS

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

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

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C.O.

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

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

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

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

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

NOVENA TO ST. JUDE
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G.R.

NOVENA TO ST. JUDE
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PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN
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The Chesterton Review and founder celebrate anniversary and birthday

The *Chesterton Review*, founded and edited by Father Ian Boyd, C.S.B., of Seton Hall University, recently marked its 30th anniversary. Father Boyd himself turned 70 in late January.

The two birthdays were marked on both sides of the

Atlantic, first with a reception at St. Ethelreda's Church, London, then with a dinner for friends of the *Review* at Seton Hall, South Orange.

In London, Dermot Quinn, D. Phil., of Seton Hall's department of history gave an account

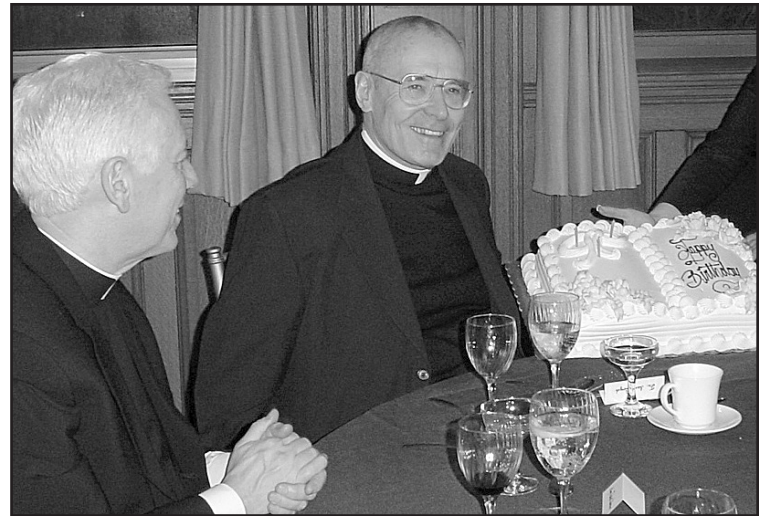
of the founding of the *Review*, noting that unlike many scholarly journals it was intended for, and enjoyed by, the general reader. John Wilkins, former editor of *The Tablet*, also spoke, applauding the journal's contribution to the English-speaking Catholic world.

At a Mass of Thanksgiving on the Seton Hall campus, Msgr. Richard Liddy, University Professor of Catholic Thought, continued the note of celebration. He thanked Father Boyd for bringing Chestertonian thinking to a wider world. Chesterton was a man intimately at home with the Lord, he said.

Msgr. Liddy noted that Chesterton "furthered in the twentieth century the ancient project of faith seeking understanding." In books, plays, poems, and newspapers, he spoke of the dignity of the human person and the beauty of creation itself.



Kindergarten, first and second grade students at Assumption Academy, Emerson, provided the entertainment during the annual grandparents' breakfast, a Catholic Schools Week tradition.



Father Ian Boyd, C.S.B. at his 70th birthday celebration, with Msgr. Robert Sheeran, president of Seton Hall University.

Father Boyd came to Seton Hall University in 1998, serving as president of the G.K. Chesterton Institute for Faith and Culture and as professor of English. The *Review* has been widely praised for its lively and elegant writing, its fidelity to the Church and to the Chestertonian vision and its capacity to find common ground between writers and thinkers of different faith traditions.

The English novelist Barbara

Lucas Ward has acclaimed it as "one of the best journals—if not the very best—currently in existence."

If you would like to learn more about *The Chesterton Review*, visit the Institute's website: <http://academic.shu.edu/chesterton>. For a subscription (\$38 per year; single issue \$12, double issues \$20), please send an email to chestertoninstitute@shu.edu or telephone (973) 275-2431.

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5:30 a.m. - Sunday

WPXN, Ch. 31
9:30 a.m. - Sunday

WXTV, Ch. 41
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6:30 a.m. - Sunday

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Other Programming
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6 a.m. - WABC 770 AM

Mass
6:30 a.m. -
WPAT 930 AM

La Hora Católica
8 a.m. -
WADO 1280 AM

Catholic Heritage Hour
9 a.m. - WSOU 89.5 FM

The Sunday Morning Mass
11 a.m. - WSOU 89.5 FM

Proclaim the Good News
12:30 p.m. -
WCTC 1450 AM

Perspectives on the News
12:30 a.m. (Mon.) -
WOR 710 AM

Voices of Our World
10:45 a.m. -
WSOU 89.5 FM

SATURDAY
As You Think with
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9 p.m. - WOR 710 AM

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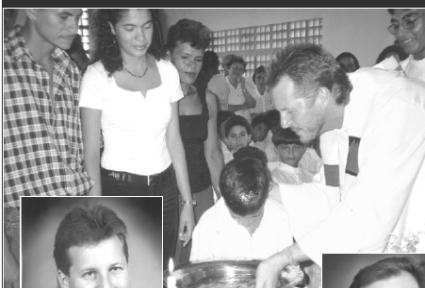
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THE MEADOWLANDS

Peers honor Caldwell coaches

Caldwell College head softball coach Dean Johnson and assistant coach Barbara Zafiris have been chosen the Northeast Region Coaching Staff of the Year by the National Fastpitch Coaches' Association (NFCA) held in Las Vegas in December.

Johnson has an overall record of 257-130 in 10 seasons. He also serves as an assistant coach for the men's basketball team and is the associate athletic director in charge of compliance. Zafiris begins her second year as an assistant coach this spring.

Johnson and Zafiris guided the Cougars to a 45-7 record last spring, which included Central

Atlantic Collegiate Conference and Northeast Regional tournament titles and a berth in the NCAA Division II College Softball World Series.

The Cougars were ranked seventh in the final NFCA Division II Top 25 Poll, the highest final national ranking ever achieved by an athletic program at Caldwell College.

Academically, the Cougars ranked 37th among all NCAA Division II softball programs with a team grade-point average of 3.12, which also was the highest GPA among the eight teams at last spring's College Softball World Series.

QPHS banquet set for Feb. 23

Queen of Peace High School, North Arlington, will hold its annual Golden Griffin Football Banquet, honoring this season's State Champion team and cheerleaders, Feb. 23 at the San Carlo, Lyndhurst.

In announcing the banquet, athletic director Ed Abromaitis said, "The 2004 football season was a magical journey for our football players. Coach Andy

Cerco and his staff, our students and faculty and all of our Queen of Peace alumni and fans saw us through ten straight victories and a state championship, our first since 1972. We could not be more proud of the efforts and dedication of this great group of athletes."

The banquet begins at 7 p.m. The cost is \$45 per person. Those planning to attend should send a check payable to Queen of Peace High School, to QP Football Banquet, 191 Rutherford Pl., North Arlington, NJ 07031.

For additional information call Abromaitis at (201) 998-8227.

'February Frenzy' tips off Feb. 18

The annual Our Lady of Sorrow School sponsored girls and boys basketball tournament, February Frenzy, will run ten consecutive days Feb. 18-27 in South Orange.

The tournament is the oldest and longest-running grammar school competition of its kind in this area.

Many who have played in the tournament have gone on to the high school and college level. Lady of Sorrows' graduate Brevin Knight is a former Stanford University All-American and plays in the NBA as point guard for the Charlotte Hornets.

This year 48 teams from 14 schools in Essex and Morris counties will compete for the tourney title and trophy.

In addition to top-notch hoops action, the varsity student-athletes, grades seven and eight, will be compete for one of the three coveted awards.

Each award is in memory of outstanding alumni of Our Lady of Sorrows School. They include the Lt. Brian Daly Conlan, U.S.M.C. Most Valuable Player Award, the Staff Sgt. Peter S. Connor, U.S.M.C. Sportsmanship Award and the Lt. John Richard McDonough, U.S.N.



Last year's Our Lady of Sorrows varsity teams proudly display their trophies.

Best Defender Award.

The awards are given to the players who, throughout the tournament, have shown the best overall performance, provided the best example of sportsmanship on the

court and displayed the best defensive efforts, regardless of whether it was for a winning or losing team.

Go to the OLS school website at www.ourladyofsorrowsschool.org for complete game information.

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*All Home Games at Continental Airlines Arena, East Rutherford, NJ. Dates and times subject to change.




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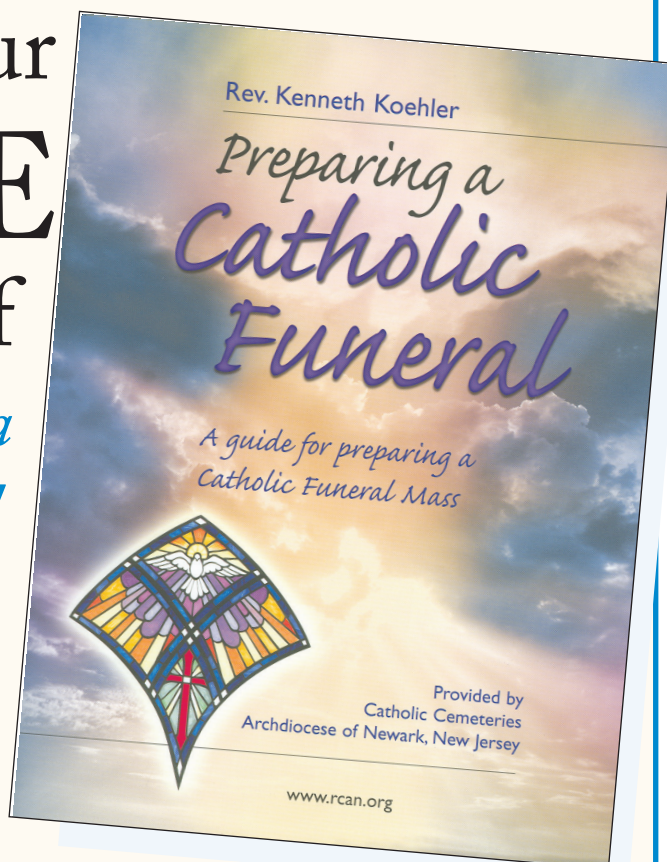
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