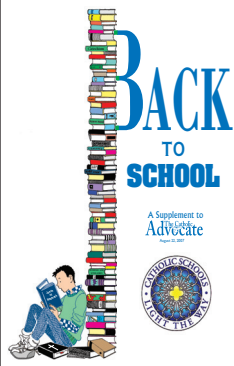




The Catholic Advocate



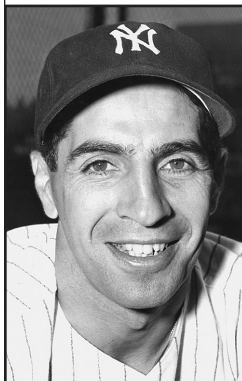
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Book reports, art projects and math tests

Students, teachers and parents prepare for the new school year. Our report offers food for thought.

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Yankee legend was a champion off the field

Friends in the archdiocese recall the big heart and warm spirit of the Scooter, Phil Rizzuto.

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African religious celebrate both spirit of unity and diversity

Warm welcome resonates as confab theme

BY MELISSA MCNALLY
Staff Writer

CLARK—The African Conference of Catholic Clergy and Religious in the United States (ACCCRUS), headed by Father Anselm I. Nwaorgu, pastor of Blessed Sacrament / St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Newark, held its eighth annual convention on Aug. 2-5 at the Crown Plaza Hotel.

The national gathering of African missionaries and religious, which celebrated a “welcoming” spirit of openness, unity and diversity, featured keynote presentations by Bishop Joseph Perry, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago and Episcopal Liaison to the African Apostolate, and Bishop Martin Munyanyi, Bishop of Gweru, Zimbabwe.

Father Nwaorgu, as demonstrated

by the spirit at the conference, believes that there is a strong chapter of the organization in New Jersey. “We welcome those worthy ambassadors from the African soil,” he said, noting there is a need for unity among African missionaries and religious in the United States.

“Our work is truly extensive and scattered,” he said. “This conference is our trumpet blasting for people to join us in New Jersey. This conference demonstrates our care, faith and

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Two women share a moment of reflection at the annual convention of the African Conference of Catholic Clergy and Religious in the United States (ACCCRUS). Challenges facing missionaries and religious from Africa, such as acclimating to the American Catholic Church, were addressed at the three-day gathering.

Advocate photo—Melissa McNally

Education outlook: schools energize curriculum with leading-edge programs

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE
Editor

AREA—Looking to remain on the leading edge of 21st century faith-based education, Catholic schools in the four counties of the Archdiocese of Newark will accelerate the adoption of innovative pro-

grams and high-tech resources to serve the needs of students.

Archdiocesan education leaders say they recognize the sense of urgency to launch these programs, given the evolving demands of the global economy and the need to incorporate technology into every field of study.

“As teaching and learning becomes more complex, our schools must incorporate new programs to meet the needs of students,” Brother Ralph Darmento, F.S.C., archdiocesan deputy superintendent of schools explained. “Innovations in brain research and learning theory

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The Living Church

Defining 21st century social justice issues

BY MSGR. JOHN GILCHRIST
Special to The Catholic Advocate

How do we, as Catholics, define social justice in the 21st century? As we approach Labor Day, we only need to read the signs of the times all around us. The past and the present are a prologue to the future. We all affect history for good or for ill. The spirit of justice and peace must

begin in our own hearts before it can penetrate the world. This once huge world has now become a tiny planet. The miracles of transportation and communication have brought people together as never before. We live in the midst of the greatest movement of people in all of history. The arrival of newcomers into wealthy areas of the world will continue. However, immigration brings with it the human needs of housing,

education, healthcare and social services. To meet these needs in this country is a struggle, but just as America needed workers in the 19th and 20th centuries, so she needs them now. The call of Jesus to feed the hungry, care for the sick, clothe the naked and house the homeless has been heard over the years. The social teachings of our own Catholic Church have permeated U.S. society. The Church, in the 1930s, established over 100 “labor schools”

throughout the country. Great priests in the Archdiocese of Newark had a strong hand in fostering the Trade Union movement. This movement in the United States continues to fight for the rights of workers, both documented and undocumented. What we as Catholics have done in the past, we must continue to do in the future—only in bigger, better are more creative ways. Today’s immigrants will be the mainstays in the

Continued on page 2

God's love trumps power of consumerism, hedonism

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS)—The seemingly invincible ideologies of consumerism and hedonism and the reign of violence and terror will all be defeated by God's love, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"It still seems impossible today to think that God...is the true ruler of the world," the pope said during his homily on Aug. 15—the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In the end love wins, not selfishness, material power and hatred, he said to an audience of several hundred local parishioners.

The pope's comments came while he celebrated Mass here at St. Thomas Church, the site of the papal summer residence, located south of Rome.

Giving his homily without using a text or notes, the pope said that according to St. Augustine, human history has been driven by a struggle between two kinds of love: love for God in which one "loses oneself and gives oneself" totally to Him and loving oneself to "the point of disparaging God and hating others."

Pope Benedict said this selfish love versus true love can be seen in the two images present in the feast day's first reading from the Book of Revelation, an

account of the encounter between the powerful dragon and the defenseless woman. The dragon, he said, represents "power without mercy, without love, of absolute selfishness, terror, violence" as well as all "materialistic dictatorships" throughout history, including the Nazi and Stalinist regimes.

"Even today the dragon exists in new and different ways," he noted. It is present in the form of materialistic ideologies that consider God as something expendable or pointless and that maintain life is all about "consumption, selfishness, amusement" and "taking all there is to get in this brief lifetime," the pope pointed out.

"Once again it seems absurd, impossible to defy this dominant mentality," especially with the support it gets in the media, he said. "Nonetheless, we know that in the end the defenseless woman won" the battle against the dragon, signaling the victory of God's love.

The woman clothed with the sun and with the moon under her feet represents the Mary "living totally in God...penetrated by the light of God" and conquering death, the pope said. "She tells us: 'have courage. In the end love wins.'" He added that this

love entailed living her life as a servant of God and giving herself totally to God and others.

The Feast of the Assumption "is an invitation to have faith in God, to imitate Mary and to give our lives, not seize life," Pope Benedict explained.

Love is stronger than hatred, he said, and the seemingly weak God, who came to the world as a baby, is strong. Though faith in God may seem weak against all earthly powers, it "is the true power in the world."

After celebrating the morning Mass, the pope recited the midday Angelus prayer with visitors gathered in the courtyard of the papal villa. During the Angelus address, he said Mary's assumption, body and soul, into heaven did not mean Mary "has left us, but she is even closer to us, and her light beams down on our lives and on all of human history" as she looks over and protects everyone.

"We all need her help and comfort in order to face each day's trials and challenges; we have a need to feel that she is our mother and sister in everyday, concrete situations," he said.

Pope Benedict called on the faithful gathered in the papal courtyard to imitate Mary with a humble devotion to Christ "and generous service" to others.

Rethinking social justice

Continued from page 1

economic and social fabric of the America of the future. We must regard immigrants as a benefit and an opportunity, not as a liability or a burden.

The Malthusian academics—named after the influential British political economist Robert Malthus (1766-1834)—have been utterly wrong about the populations of the world. They have been predicting an overpopulated, starving world. The reality is that many regional populations are shrinking.

It is estimated that, thanks to abortion and birth control, Europe will lose 88 million people by 2020. Russia has a birth rate that will cut its population almost in half in 50 years. Africa is wasted by AIDS, famine, disease and war. The South American birth rate is plummeting even though the majority of the people are Catholic.

The world is facing a huge problem of vast, aging populations. The United States—because of a recent "baby boomlet" and immigration—remains demographically strong, vibrant

and productive. We must continue to fight for life and absolutely oppose abortion, birth control and euthanasia. They spell death for any nation.

When it comes to war and regional conflicts, we are terrified by the thought of what a nuclear holocaust could do. In the 1960s, this dread was referred to as "mutually assured destruction" (MAD). Today some talk about a "clash of cultures," but the vast number of Muslims, Jews, Christians and people of other faiths want a peaceful society. As Catholics, our role is to keep faith and pray for peace. We are called to be peacemakers even as we protect and defend our nation against extremist who would destroy us.

The Church has had an uncanny knack of reading the signs of the times. The popes in the 20th century spoke out about the issues of social justice—war, adequate pay for workers, healthcare, safe working conditions, immigrants, the evil of slavery, right-to-life and civil rights.

Much has been accomplished, but much more needs to be done.



Msgr. John Gilchrist

Here are four issues that will be paramount for Catholic social justice concerns in the coming years.

Women's rights

In many corners of the world women are treated shamefully. Mutilation, slavery, forced marriage, murder, prostitution, lack of education and idiosyncratic divorces tragically are common.

Women's rights are the number-one issue today in our world because they affect the single-largest number of humans. Even in Europe and America, vestiges of the misuse of women continues in many ways. We must all be proponents of a proper feminism.

Child labor

In the Third World and even in developed parts of the planet, children are routinely exploited as

slave labor. They harvest cocoa in Africa. They work as slaves in the Asian textile industry. They are used as pawns in the international pornography industry.

Last June a hearing was held in Congress on human trafficking of children and others. The exploitation of children cries to heaven for vengeance—but the world remains silent. Catholics must never cease to press for the care of children worldwide.

Inequality of wealth

Many American chief executive officers of Fortune 500 companies make 400 times the wages of the average worker. The world must not split into two separate societies of the rich and the poor. We must never be content with a two-tiered society.

Americans are, in fact, extremely generous when it comes to helping the world's poor. Consider these statistics: in the year 2005 the people of the United States sent \$95 billion in cash, goods and services to people overseas. In addition, the U.S. government gave nearly \$28 billion dollars to developing countries. A huge part of this aid went for healthcare in developing countries. (Source: Hudson Institute, Washington, D.C.; Web site: www.hudson.org).

Exploitation of undocumented workers

Because they are forced to live in the shadows, undocumented workers are easily exploited. They will endure almost anything for a paycheck. In many places they are being reduced to a beggarly status. They are easily cheated and uti-

lized for cheap labor. Human beings are not commodities to be used and thrown away. We must help them and protect their dignity.

These are just four of the social justice issues of the 21st century—issues that will shape ethical questions for American in the near term.

The Church still has a clear vision of the future Kingdom of God. The Church will help to guide her children into the future—if we only will listen. It is for each Catholic to understand that we have the power to change the world, to act for righteousness. People often say they feel helpless or overwhelmed. The problems are large, but there are small, practical steps we can consider. We all can vote. We can write letters to newspapers and governments. We all belong to social and religious organizations that influence communities.

We all have voices that can be heard. It is our job to raise our voices collectively and individually for those on God's earth who live in destitution and oppression. This is how each generation defines social justice. Blessed are those who seek righteousness, for the Kingdom of Heaven shall be theirs.

(Editor's note: Msgr. John Gilchrist, pastor emeritus of Holy Cross Parish, Harrison, recently celebrated 50 years in the priesthood. Throughout those five decades he has been a leading voice on the front lines of social justice and interfaith dialogue issues. He also has served for many years as a columnist of The Catholic Advocate.)

The Church will help to guide her children into the future—if we only will listen. It is for each Catholic to understand that we have the power to change the world, to act for righteousness.

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President and Publisher
Most Reverend John J. Myers

OFFICE HOURS:
MONDAY THRU FRIDAY
8:45 AM TO 4:45 PM
TEL: (973) 497-4200
FAX: (973) 497-4192
WEB: www.rcan.org/advocate

EDITORIAL TEAM

Michael C. Gabriele
Editor & Associate Publisher
gabriemi@rcan.org

Ward Miele
Managing Editor
mielejos@rcan.org

Melissa McNally
Staff Writer
mcnallme@rcan.org

ADVERTISING TEAM

Marge Pearson-McCue
Director of Advertising & Operations
pearsoma@rcan.org

Ramona Westbrook
Classified/Account Representative
westbrra@rcan.org

Anita Bethea
Account Representative
betheaan@rcan.org

PRODUCTION TEAM

Marilyn Smith
Production Supervisor
smithmai@rcan.org

Paula Blackman
Graphic Artist
blackmpa@rcan.org

Carolyn Martins-Reitz
Graphic Artist
reitzcar@rcan.org

**CIRCULATION/
BUSINESS TEAM**

Kelly Gallegos
Administrative Asst/Bkkr.
gallegke@rcan.org

Mark Chrisco
Circulation Coordinator
chrisma@rcan.org

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NJPA



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Mother, son go inside prison walls to aid those who 'hunger for faith'

BY WARD MIELE
Managing Editor

Catherine Attara-Fink and her eighth-grade son Thomas are a unique tandem. Both are involved in the Archdiocese of Newark's Prison Ministry program.

Parishioners of Notre Dame Parish in North Caldwell, they admitted their calling is not for everyone. But for those who reach out to the incarcerated, they said it is a fulfilling experience. The mother and son deal with people of all faiths who are, in Attara-Fink's words, "hungry for spiritual life."

Thomas got involved two years ago when Deacon Gregory Quinn, co-director of the Prison Ministry program and Thomas's sponsor, suggested it as a Confirmation project. Deacon Quinn's ministry was profiled last year (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Oct. 25, 2006).

The teenager worked for six months at Newark's Kintock Jail for non-violent offenders. He presented Scripture readings and helped with the reflections at Mass. He said the experience was enjoyable and that the inmates were "friendly and easy to get along with." Among those who made an impression on him was 60-year-old Lynn who had committed credit card fraud. She eventually moved to Colorado, married and praises the Catholic programs of prison ministry for turning her life around. Thomas has stayed in contact with her.

Drawn to prison ministry, Thomas next went to another non-violent offender facility—Delaney Hall Assessment Center on Doremus Avenue in Newark. It was there where he joined his mother in looking after the spiritual welfare of inmates.

At Delaney Hall, Thomas continued with the readings and giving reflections at Mass. In addition, during major holidays, he and his mother provided religious services along with dessert and coffee for large ecumenical sit-down dinners. Overall, Thomas said, he found inmates at Delaney Hall to be "less hostile, more open and appreciative."

Before becoming involved with prison ministry, Attara-



Advocate photo—Ward Miele

Catherine Attara-Fink and her son Thomas, pictured outside the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, participate in archdiocesan prison ministry outreach. Attara-Fink said she considers the inmates to be "an extension of my family. They are part of the family of God. I trust God and this (ministry) is in God's hands."

Fink worked at programs feeding the poor. She "transitioned" to Delaney Hall about three years ago because there was a "greater need." Attara-Fink now works there every Sunday.

Explaining her calling to the ministry, Attara-Fink said she connects well with inmates,

whom she described as "good listeners who give back a lot." Spiritually, Attara-Fink stressed, "I receive more than I give." She recalled the moving experience of providing reading glasses each week to inmates so that they can read their bibles.

Attara-Fink vividly de-

scribed one inmate at Delaney named Ulysses. When he left the program, "he knew the Bible inside and out," she said. He holds the Bible, he told Attara-Fink, "tighter than any woman." Today Ulysses is a motivational speaker who has "turned his life around," she added.

For two hours on Friday nights, Attara-Fink is at the Essex County Correctional Facility on Doremus Avenue, which has an inmate population that typically ranges up to 2,500. She meets with inmates at two "pods" in the housing unit, providing religious services and literature. Attara-Fink also goes to cell to cell to see gang members who have committed serious infractions of prison rules.

Thomas wants to continue in prison ministry and plans to go to Delaney Hall and the Essex County Correctional Facility on a more regular basis. When asked about the safety factor in such a harsh environment, Thomas said that most prisoners are very friendly. "I always feel safe," his mother added.

Attara-Fink said she strives to "maintain consistency" during her visits and considers the inmates "an extension of my family. They are part of the family of God. I trust God and this (ministry) is in God's hands."

Thomas advised other young people contemplating a role in prison ministry to sample the experience at a non-violent facility as a first step. "Tensions can get high and if you find it is not for you, remember that is not your fault," he explained.

His mother urges interested adults to consider the experience, saying prison ministry is "not like any other ministry." It is what you make it, she said, stressing that Christ "is with" the inmates.

Catherine Attara-Fink vividly recalled one inmate named Ulysses. When he left the program, he knew the Bible inside and out. Today Ulysses is a motivational speaker who has turned his life around.

Deacon David Loman and Deacon Gregory Quinn are co-directors of the prison ministry for the Archdiocese of Newark. Deacon Loman can be contacted at (201) 310-7690 while Deacon Quinn is available at (973) 650-2098. The Office of Prison Ministry is located at 15 Baldwin Rd., Saddle River, N.J. 07458.

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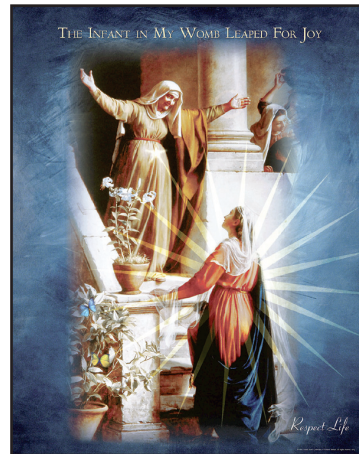
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Respect Life program gets 'joy' from Gospel of Luke

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities has published materials for the 2007-08 Respect Life program, using the phrase: "The Infant in my womb leaped for joy"

liturgy guide for Respect Life Sunday (Oct. 7); a day of prayer and penance for life (Jan. 22, 2008); prayers for life throughout the year; a novena for life leading up the feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (May 31, 2008); and a rosary for life focusing on the joyful mysteries.



This artwork is part of the materials for the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities 2007-08 Respect Life program.

as its theme. Taken from the first chapter of the Gospel of Luke, the words refer to the pregnancies of Mary and her elderly cousin, Elizabeth—both "cause for rejoicing" despite their unusual circumstances, said a brochure published as part of the Respect Life package. A series of articles, also published in brochure form, addresses threats to life and the programs aimed at restoring respect for life. In addition to the articles, the Respect Life package includes a

Knights' convention draws record crowd

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (CNS)—The 125th annual national convention of the Knights of Columbus, held Aug. 7-9, drew a record crowd with 2,600 Knights and their families and clergy from eight nations in attendance. Delegates adopted resolutions on life issues, marriage, the Pledge of Allegiance, and decency in the media and the Internet. They also expressed their support for the U.S. armed forces. It was the second-largest gathering for a Knights' convention, following the 100th anniversary gathering 25 years ago, according to George Hanna, vice president of fraternal services for the Knights. Nashville Bishop David R. Choby said the convention provided an opportunity for Church leaders to express their appreciation for the Knights' works that "benefit so many different people, especially those who face great challenges in life because of disability."

Traditional Latin Mass

Saint Anthony of Padua Chapel
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Tuesday thru Friday: 8:00 a.m.
Confessions Daily 1/2 hour before each Mass

Deadly earthquake in Peru alarms Kearny kinfolk

St. Cecilia parishioners worry, wait

BY MELISSA MCNALLY
Staff Writer

KEARNY—Following a devastating magnitude-8 earthquake that struck near Peru's capital city, Lima, on Aug. 15, members of the large Peruvian community here at St. Cecilia Parish are stunned and concerned as they try to connect

with family members in their home country.

According to news reports, the death toll had climbed to more than 540, with 1,500 people injured. It's feared those figures will rise in the coming days as rescue workers search the rubble for victims and survivors. The Peruvian National Civil Defense Institute said it had registered 16,600 families whose homes had been destroyed.

"Everybody (at St. Cecilia) is in shock and the news on every channel here is about the earthquake in Peru. It is very hard; most of us still have family members

down there," Wilder Otayza, head of the brotherhood of The Lord of Miracles in Kearny, said.

Very Rev. Michael G. Ward, V.F., is the pastor of St. Cecilia, which is located at 120 Kearny Ave.

Unable to contact his family as of press time, Otayza said he has nephews and a sister-in law living in Lima. "The phone lines over there are down," he said. "I have been trying to contact their cell phones. The earthquake is still shaking. The government is trying to help everyone, but you cannot control the panic. Hopefully, the phones will start to work soon. I have to try something else to get a hold of them."

The brotherhood of the Lord of Miracles, which includes 100 members from the surrounding towns of East Newark and Harrison, is a religious community originally founded in Peru. The Lord of Miracles is the most popular religious icon in that country.

"I am trying to organize the rest of the brotherhood and speak to priests about a Mass for the Peruvian community," he said. "Faith is the one thing that is keeping us calm. Peruvians are very devout, religious people. We have hope. The last thing we can lose is our faith. This is nature, you cannot control it."

Immediately following the quake, many families in Peru were forced into the streets and parks for fear of further damage from a series of aftershocks. The U.S. Geological Survey reported 11 aftershocks that measured at least magnitude 5, including three measuring more than magnitude 6.

Most of the damage, deaths and injuries occurred in towns on the south coast nearest the quake's epicenter, particularly in Pisco, Ica and Chincha, where mud-brick adobe houses collapsed. At least 200 deaths were confirmed in Pisco, and there were reports of cadavers in the streets as families awaited ambulances or other emergency assistance.

Otayza is encouraging the community to work together in this trying time. "It is totally devastating to see the images from Peru. This is a special time for everyone to cooperate with and support our Peruvian brothers and sisters."

The earthquake is the strongest to strike Peru in more than 30 years. Earthquakes in the magnitude-8 range hit the country in 1908, 1966 and 1974. A less powerful quake in 1970, which triggered landslides in the cen-



Men in Pisco, Peru, cry over the bodies of their relatives killed by the massive Aug. 15 earthquake. Archbishop Hector Cabrejos Vidarte of Trujillo, president of the Peruvian bishops' conference, has appealed for donations of nonperishable food, blankets, medicine and water for the victims of the disaster.

tral Andes, was estimated to have killed about 70,000 people. The last major quake, in 2001, measured 8.3 and caused deaths and serious damage in the southern highland city of Arequipa and on the coast, where waves swept houses away.

Located in western South America, Peru is about the size of Alaska. It borders the South Pacific Ocean and is surrounded by the countries of Ecuador, Columbia, Brazil, Bolivia and

Chile. According to information on the Central Intelligence Agency's World Factbook Web site, The United States is Peru's largest international trading partner, accounting for 25 percent of exports and 21 percent of imports. Peru's major business sectors include agriculture, minerals and mining, fishing, textiles, petroleum and natural gas and steel.

(Editor's note: this article contains information provided by Catholic News Service.)

Archbishop Myers issues appeal to assist Peru

You have all no doubt heard of the devastation and loss of life in Peru following an earthquake and tsunami that occurred last week. The news is particularly distressing because of the large number of our brothers and sisters in the Archdiocese of Newark who come from this country, whose own family members and friends back home may be suffering.

The needs of the people in Peru are many at this time in areas such as emergency food, shelter and medical services. Catholic Relief Services and other faith-based organizations are working hard to provide this essential assistance.

To assist in these efforts, I have authorized a special voluntary collection to be taken by parishes of the archdiocese to aid victims of this disaster either the weekend of Aug. 25-26 or Sept. 1-2. I have also urged all pastors in the archdiocese to please remember the victims of this disaster and their families in the General Intercessions at Mass.

Parish or personal checks to assist in relief services to victims of the earthquake in Peru can be made payable to: Archdiocese of Newark—Peru Relief. All donations should be mailed to: Office of Finance Peru Relief, Archdiocese of Newark, P.O. Box 9500, Newark, NJ 07104-0500.



CNS photos

Rescue personnel search for victims at a destroyed church in Pisco, Peru, in the wake of the deadly earthquake. According to news reports, there were blackouts and scattered power outages in and around Lima, the Peruvian capital. In addition, the country's telecommunication system was overwhelmed immediately after the earthquake.

Pope offers his prayers as Church mobilizes aid

LIMA, Peru (CNS)—Peru's Catholic Church, in the wake of the disaster, began organizing humanitarian aid for thousands of victims of the earthquake, collecting donations of food, water and blankets and channeling financial assistance to the affected region.

In a telegram sent to the bishops of the affected dioceses, the Vatican's secretary of state, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, said Pope Benedict XVI was deeply saddened upon hearing the news of the quake. The pope offered his prayers and condolences for all those affected by the quake and urged "institutions and people of good will to offer the needed aid to victims out of charity and a spirit of Christian solidarity."

Archbishop Hector Cabrejos Vidarte of Trujillo, president of the Peruvian bishops' conference, thanked the pope for the message of support and appealed for donations of nonperishable food, blankets, medicine and water for the victims of the disaster.

Roberto Tarazona of the national office of Caritas, the Church's humanitarian and social development agency, said his office had been in contact with bishops in the affected area and that a Caritas team was en route to the area to assess the damage and coordinate aid efforts.

While Caritas' immediate response is humanitarian assistance, people will need even more help in the coming weeks. "Reconstruction is the hardest phase, because at that point often the government and other agencies stop providing assistance," Tarazona said.

September 1

Knights of Columbus Council 12769, Secaucus, blood drive, Immaculate Conception School, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., (201) 978-1407.

September 2

St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish, Garfield, church picnic, 1- 10 p.m., (973) 478-4288.

Catholic Cemetery Masses

All Masses are at 9:30 a.m. For more information call (866) 773-7526.

September 4

Gate of Heaven Chapel, East Hanover

September 5

Holy Cross Chapel, North Arlington

September 7

Good Shepherd Chapel, Colonia

September 4

Lumen Center, Caldwell, "On The Road Again: Listening to Luke as We Return to School," 9:30 a.m.- noon, cost: \$20, (973) 403-3331 ext. 25.

September 5

Holy Spirit Parish, Union, Holy Hour for Life, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m., (908) 964-7653.

September 7

Knights of Columbus Council

2188, Westwood, annual Beef-steak dinner, 6 p.m., cost: \$25 for adults, \$10 for children, RSVP by Aug. 31, call Keith Dugan at (201) 358-0632.

Other

An eight-week program exploring stages of grief and group facilitation skills is offered by the Office of Family Life Ministries of the Archdiocese of Newark and is now open for registration. Sessions begin in September and run through November. Call (973) 497-4327.

RENEW Golf outing tees off on Sept. 20

BEDMINISTER—RENEW International, headquartered in Plainfield, will hold its 15th annual Golf Classic Sept. 20 at Fiddler's Elbow Country Club.

With proceeds earmarked for support of Catholic outreach programs in South Africa, the golf outing will feature cocktails, dinner as well as live and silent auctions.

Non-golfers can attend the cocktail reception, dinner and auctions. Contact Pat McGill for details at (908) 769-5400, ext. 112 or visit the RENEW Web site: www.renewintl.org.

SHU volunteers eager to serve

SOUTH ORANGE—Organizers of Seton Hall University's (SHU) annual all-day volunteer program "SHU+500" are seeking

Garfield parish to salute 90th anniversary Oct. 28

GARFIELD—Saint Stanislaus Kostka Parish will mark its 90th anniversary on Sunday, Oct. 28 with a special Mass of Celebration and a gala banquet.

In 1900 priests from nearby St. Joseph Parish in Passaic traveled here to celebrate Mass for the Polish population at a firehouse on Plauderville Avenue. After several years as a mission

parish of St. Joseph Parish, the congregation established its own parish on Nov. 1, 1917.

The congregation continued to grow and in August 1928 plans were made for a new, larger church and school. The following year both structures were dedicated. The men of the parish dug the foundation for a wooden church on the corner of Ray Street and Division Avenue. The building also contained classrooms staffed by Felician Sisters who traveled from Lodi to teach.

The new parish was named after Saint Stanislaus Kostka, a Jesuit priest who lived during the mid-16th century.

Today the church remains committed to serving Polish and American congregants. Father Edward Szpiech is the pastor with Father Marek Wiorcikiewicz S.D.S. and Father Mariusz G. Luksza serving as the parochial vicars.

The school is used for comprehensive religious education for youngsters in grades one through eight and for a Polish School where the Polish language, culture and heritage are taught. A variety of organizations and societies thrive at the parish.

The Mass of Celebration will begin at 11:45 a.m. followed by a banquet at The Venetian, 546 River Dr. Tickets are \$65 per person and include choice of entrée, wine and soft drinks. There will also be live music performed by the group Polonus.

Reservations for the banquet can be made by calling Mary Konarski at (201) 794-6356. A souvenir journal also will be published to mark the occasion. Historical information and photos, which will be returned, are being sought for the journal. Contact Joy Shea at (973) 928-2322 for details.

community service projects for this year's event on Sept. 22.

SHU+500 is expected to have 1,000 students, employees and alumni ready to help with a one-day project for organizations in Essex and Union counties. Sites that can accommodate 20 or more volunteers are preferred.

Those interested should contact the SHU's Division of Volunteer Efforts at (973) 761-9702 or go online to shu500@shu.edu.

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When Jesus turned around and noticed them following him,

He asked them, "What are you looking for?"

They said to him, "Rabbi, where do you stay?"

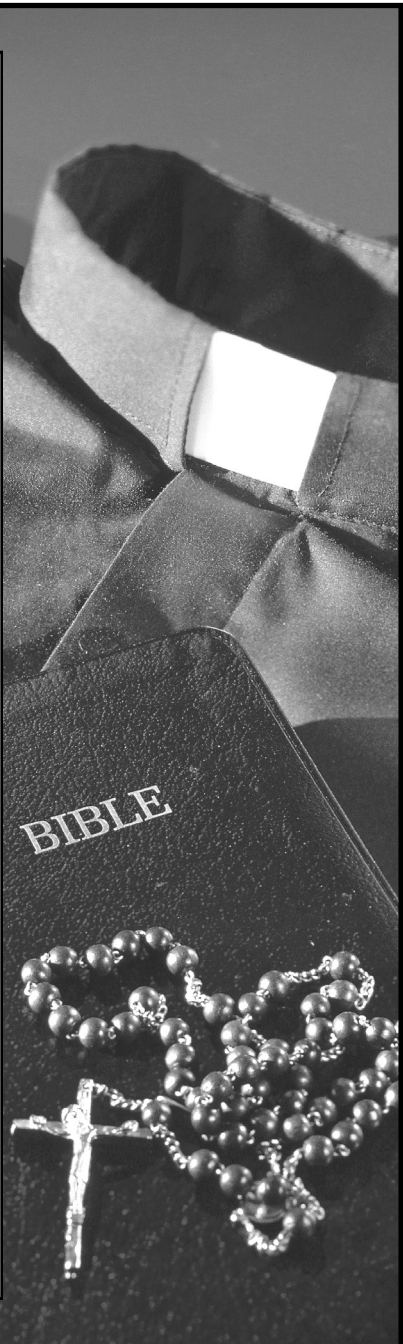
"Come and see," He answered.

John 1:38-39

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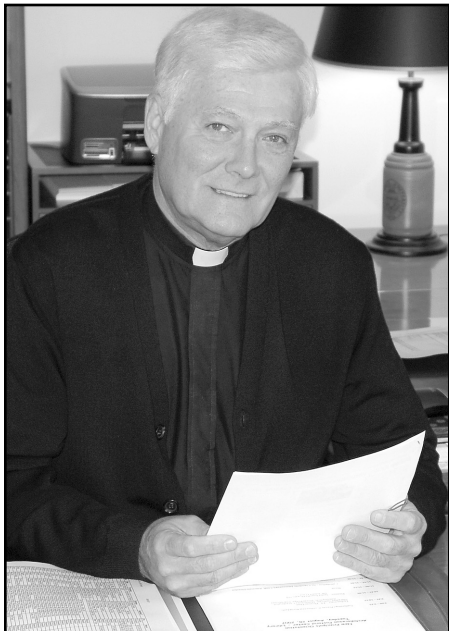
'God's truth' illuminates mission of Catholic schools

BY FATHER KEVIN M. HANBURY
Special to *The Catholic Advocate*

Summer 2007 is approaching its final days and a new Catholic education school year is about to begin. This can be a scary time for some. It is a time when some children will be attending schools for the first time, parents will have separation anxiety, new teachers will be nervous for that first-time classroom encounter and new principals and administrators will begin new roles as spiritual leaders to a faith-based community.

President John F. Kennedy once said: "Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our nation."

These are wonderful words for teachers and parents to embrace. However, when teaching the Catholic faith and leading students through prayer is added, we witness greater strength for a religious nation.



Father Kevin M. Hanbury

Catholic schools create a strong relationship between teachers and students. It is fair to say that our Catholic schools have changed in many ways, but our school presidents, principals, faculties and staffs still have hearts and spirits that teach as Jesus did. The Archdiocese of Newark is proud of its schools' spiritual leadership.

Our teachers know their subject matter well and teach it with compassion and in a practical and insightful manner. Our schools teach with authority and discipline.

The knowledgeable professionals and staff members of the archdiocesan Schools Office spend a great deal of time visioning, developing and evaluating philosophy and mission statements with the entire archdiocesan school community. This helps us to reflect on changing needs and changing environments.

Catholic schools in the Newark Archdiocese professionally provide an integrated education. These schools have a twofold mission: to assist in the evangelization of the students and their families and to provide youth with a fundamental education that will teach for today and prepare for the tomorrows.

The Catholic school family has changed. It desires new methods of teaching, new creativity in the delivery of material and a new societal development. Our children need to be prepared to take their place in a global family and community.

Catholic schools continue to excel due in large part to their supportive environment and to the continuing of professional development for their teachers.

It is imperative that Catholic schools deliver a Christ-like message, build a spiritual community and provide opportunities to model Jesus by participating in community service and volunteerism.

In addition, should the school be a parish school, there is great need for pastors and parochial vicars to be supporters of the school through their visibility and their words of encouragement to families to enroll their children in Catholic schools.

Archdiocesan Catholic education truly has three parts. The Catholic education that is delivered through homilies at Mass, the Catholic school curriculum and the religious education syllabus are all part of the ministry and the mission of our parishes to continue to teach as Jesus did. Every parish within the Archdiocese of Newark is in some way part of Catholic education.

In our Catholic schools, as in good societies and good families, we celebrate and cherish diversity. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton said: "Let God's truth be our guide." Our Catholic schools teach the doctrines of our faith, nurture the faith development of faculty and staff, and ensure quality Catholic religious instruction. Sharing the Light of Faith in 1979 said this in another way. This article stated that Catholic schools include being open to the message, building upon it in community, witnessing it in worship and living it through services.

The Archdiocese of Newark strongly supports Catholic schools. Plato once wrote: "The direction in which education starts a man will determine his future life." It is the hope and the prayer of the Schools Office that families living and worshipping in this archdiocese will give their children the opportunity to be part of an educational model that will academically prepare them to become not only productive, well-educated members of society, but more importantly to become spiritual people embracing and living the teachings of Jesus Christ.

(Editor's note: Father Kevin M. Hanbury is the vicar for education and superintendent of schools for the Archdiocese of Newark.)

Families Torn by Deportation

Since 1996, 1.6 million spouses and children have lost a loved one to deportation from the U.S. More than a third of them are citizens.



Source: Human Rights Watch (www.hrw.org)

©2007 CNS

According to information gathered from throughout the United States in a survey conducted recently by Human Rights Watch, it is estimated that since 1996 more than a third of the 1.6 million spouses and children whose loved ones have been deported are citizens of the United States.

Campaign by Knights of Columbus defends the sacrament of marriage

It is a sad commentary on American society that the institution of marriage as a Union between one man and one woman is even an issue. But it is and the New Jersey Knights of Columbus, to their great credit, are doing something about it.

Earlier this year in an open letter to all Catholics, the New Jersey Bishops threw their support behind traditional marriage. In it they declared marriage is the foundation of the family and the family, in turn, is the basic unit of society. The Catholic Church, after all, celebrates the covenant of marriage as a sacrament.

Archbishop John J. Myers has given his wholehearted support of the Garden State Knights' campaign to ensure that marriage remains the union between one man and one woman. To that end local councils will be collecting signatures through October on petitions after Sunday masses calling upon the New Jersey Legislature to put on the ballot a constitutional amendment defining marriage as a union of one man and one woman.

Everyone throughout the Archdiocese of Newark should take 30 seconds to sign the petition as they leave Mass. Thousands of petitions on the doorstep of the Statehouse in Trenton cannot be ignored by lawmakers.

Traditional marriage is being threatened and it is a threat that cannot and is not being ignored.

Christians share beliefs, values

Editor,

George Weigel, in the Aug. 8 edition of *The Catholic Advocate*, denigrates the petitions that promote "various planks in the Democratic platform."

So far, so good. I agree the Church needs to stay away from siding with any particular political party. But the two "gems" that he refers to, hoping that "the Lord wasn't listening," sound more like they came from Matthew, Luke, John or Mark than from any political agenda.

For the world to be transformed, putting "the needs of human beings before capital gain" is anti-materialistic, not anti-capitalist. It is putting the common good before your own financial gain: for example, don't pollute

the environment to make a bigger profit for your company. This is an anti-greed petition, Mr. Weigel.

For the UN to provide aid to "the people who experience the greatest suffering...what you do for the least of these, you do for me" sounds similar to me. The preferential treatment of the poor has been a basic tenet of all religions for thousands of years.

Unlike Mr. Weigel, I trust the Lord will hear these prayers. Sometimes I think this columnist is so concerned with pointing out what he calls "the Catholic difference," he forgets the "Christian" common beliefs and values.

Pat Bennett
Summit

Finding God's voice in silence of a gentle breeze

Summer is traditionally considered the time for vacations, yet reports indicate that fewer people and families are taking them, even though workers are entitled to a certain number of vacation days or weeks.

For some, the costs of a week or more at a resort of any type become quite prohibitive. Others use the days to attend special events in their children's lives throughout the year.

Especially with computers and cell phones, many people are not really relaxing even if they do take some time to go away somewhere. While it is true that a vacation is not a birthright, nonetheless people who are able to experience a different part of the world or at least a different routine for a little while can better put back into perspective their proper place in God's good universe.

Reflective prayer, of course, can do that, too, and you don't necessarily have to go to a different location to do it.

I remember when I was growing up that my mother showed me some scrap books she had made in the days before ordinary people could purchase decent color film for their cameras and certainly before the digital age in which we live now. They were color photographs neatly cut from magazines of verdant landscapes, dynamic

Through reflective prayer, we can use an image or a memory as a starting point to consider and appreciate more fully how good God is that, even in the vastness of the universe, we matter to Him.

Seeing & Believing

By Rev. Msgr.
Richard J. Arnhols



seascapes, and other scenes depicting "spacious skies...amber waves of grain...purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain."

Though she had never been to most of these places,

she mused about them and thanked God for all the beauty of His creation, even as she lived in the less rural venues of New York and West New York (although the New York City skyline has its own impressive character, reminding us of how people using the talents given them by God can produce many outstanding works.)

Through reflective prayer, we can use an image or a memory as a starting point to consider and appreciate more fully how good God is that, even in the vastness of the universe, we matter to Him. We can turn to the Bible and, after reading the passage, try to mentally place ourselves in it.

This can be a springboard to realizing that God is with us, too, in the events of our own days, whether they or we may sometimes seem so insignificant. Remember, as Elijah experienced in 1 Kings 19: 12b-13, God's voice may even be found in the silence of a gentle breeze.

I remember being on retreat when I turned 30. One of my reflections was how little I felt I had accomplished compared to high school classmates who had gone on to marriage and careers in their early 20s, while I had continued studies for the priesthood until I was almost 26.

It was disturbing when I looked at my life from that perspective, but the retreat also helped me to focus on the likely positive influence I hoped to have going forward. Now that I've just observed my 60th birthday, I see that God has done many wonderful things for me and through me, and I am grateful indeed.

May God show each of us, as we prayerfully reflect on His presence in our lives, what He in His goodness has done for us.

(Rev. Msgr. Richard J. Arnhols is pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish, Bergenfield, and the archdiocesan Vicar for Pastoral Life.)

Accepting the divine order: the challenge for all

Readings: Is 66:18-21; Ps 117; Heb 12:5-7, 11-13; Lk 13:22-30.

How do we look upon the many nations and peoples that share our world?

Is there a sense of excessive competitiveness as we consider the limited resources, which must be shared with many? Or do we express good will toward all, accompanied by a willingness to set aside personal goods and goals so that others may have sufficient to survive?

The Second Vatican Council sought to place such questions in the context of a vision for all humanity derived from the Sacred Scriptures. "All peoples constitute a single community and have a single origin... One also is their final goal: God. His providence, manifestations of goodness and saving design extend to all human beings in preparation for the day when the elect will be united in the Holy City ablaze with God's splendor, where nations will walk in His light" (*Declaration on the Relationship of the Church to Non-Christian Religions/ Nostra Aetate*, No. 1).

Faith in God as Creator includes a doctrine that all people are made in the divine image and have the same purpose of serving the divine plan, which culminates in an eternal destiny. But the gift of free will, the call to activate a response to the divine image, involves the risk of failure. People are in danger of choosing wrong goals and/or wrong means as they pursue a search for happiness.

Not all who are called to the exalted destiny will respond worthily. "The elect will be united in the Holy City..." Who will be included among the elect?

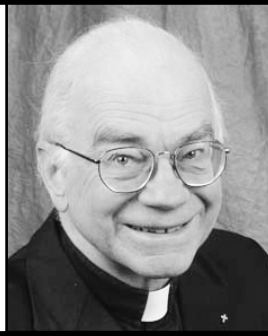
Just as some people hoard material goods so that they may enjoy special benefits not available to all, so in Judaism and Christianity, there has often been a tendency to claim exclusive rights to spiritual blessings deriving from intimacy with God. This is ironic, because sharing God's gifts never leaves one with less. The teachers of Israel often emphasized that Abraham's call was to become "the father of many nations" (Gn 17:4), so that all the families of the earth be blessed in His name (12:3).

The last section of the prophet Isaiah, deriving from

Sunday Readings

21st Sunday
of Ordinary Time
(August 26, 2007)

By Father Lawrence Frizzell



the period after the Babylonian Exile, points to the gathering of people from many nations to witness God's glory (manifest presence). The chosen people among the nations will be God's instrument in their education. Together they will form a pilgrim community moving toward Jerusalem, the Holy City. "Many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem...In those days 10 men from nations of every language shall take hold of a Jew, grasping his garment and saying: 'Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you'" (Zec 8:22-23).

The Good News brought by Jesus emphasized the universal scope of the salvation He offered. At the same time, each person must make a commitment to persevere in following God the Father's will. Jesus thus removed any excuse for complacency because salvation depends not merely on belonging to God's people, but in responding to the gift of faith with deeds of service.

At the time of Jesus, teachers like John the Baptist crit-

icized those who bragged about being descendants of Abraham. "God is able from these stones (*abhanim*) to raise up children (*banim*) to Abraham" (Lk 3:8).

People were challenged to turn their lives so that they would accept the divine right order for human life. Repentance for past pride and sins should lead to righteousness and justice in daily life (3:10-14). A century later Rabbi Akiba would proclaim the fundamental unity of humanity and the unique privilege of Israel as follows: "Blessed are human beings because they are created in the image of God...blessed are the children of Israel because they are called the children of God..." (*Mishnah Abhot* 3:18).

The great privilege of election is our knowledge of God's mysteries and the divine plan for humanity. This should stimulate Jews and Christians to a degree of excel-

lence in God's service and to a happiness that would inspire others to ask for God's gifts. "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you" (Zec 8:23).

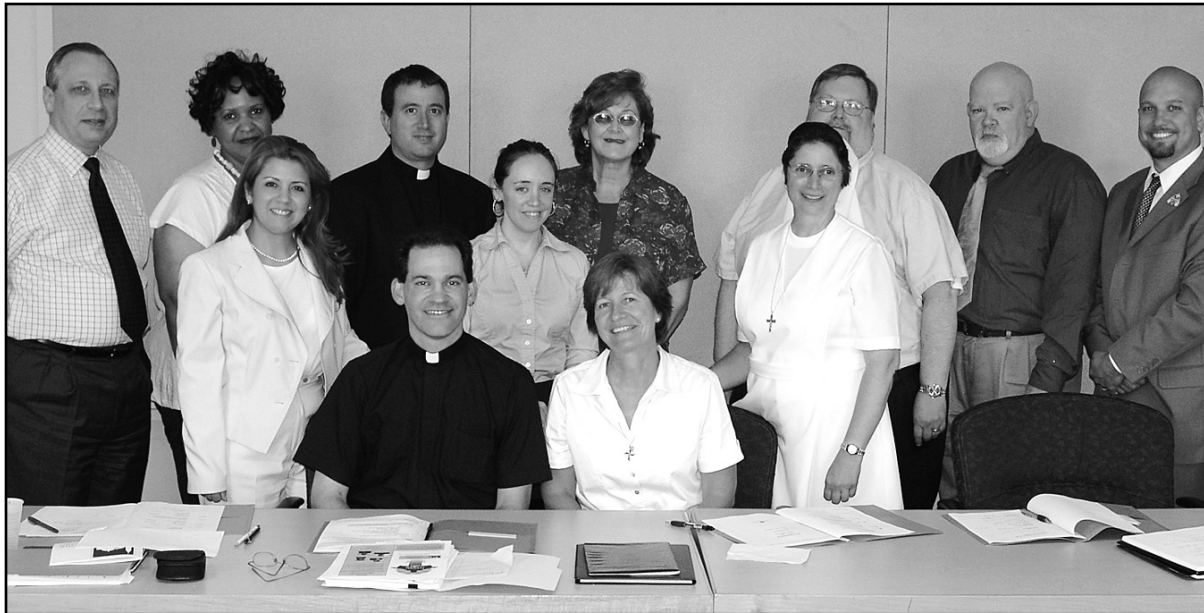
A cheap reliance on God's mercy is criticized by Jesus. Those who go through life without exploring the potential of serving God will be surprised at judgment. Belonging to God's people is

no guarantee that a person will succeed in the "game" of life. The tables may be upset because "my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways," says the Lord (Is 55:6).

Jesus declared that a great reversal of human standards would take place. "Some who are last will be first and some who are first will be last" (Lk 13:30).

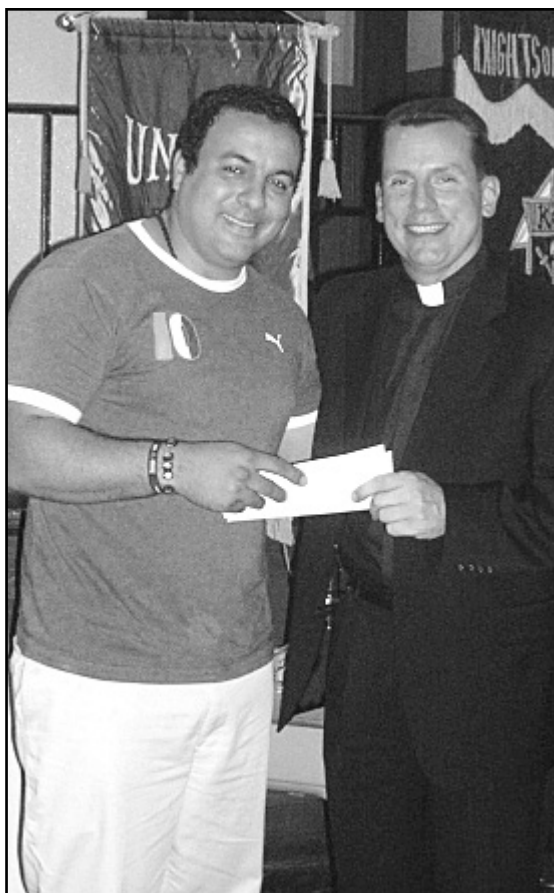
(Father Lawrence Frizzell is director of the Institute of Judaean-Christian Studies at Seton Hall University, South Orange.)

All people are made in the divine image and have the same purpose of serving the divine plan. But the gift of free will, the call to activate a response to the divine image, involves the risk of failure.



Advocate photo — Ward Miele

SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER—Members of the planning committee for the “Festival of Faith” met recently at the Archdiocesan Center in Newark. The festival will run Saturday, Sept. 29, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., with events to be held at the center, located at 171 Clifton Ave., the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart and nearby Barringer High School (see *The Catholic Advocate*, June 27). On hand to map out details for the gala event were (left to right, seated) Father Michael Saporito and Sister Theresa Rickard, (second row) Liliana Soto-Cabrera, coordinator of evangelization for the Archdiocese of Newark, Christy Guerra, and Sister Loretta DeDomenicis, (back row) Kenneth DiPaola, Diannah Hedgebeth, Father Thomas Dente, Julia Burkey, Ronald Pihokker, Thomas McCue and Jorge Repollet. Planning committee members missing from the photo are Father Jose Gamba, coordinator of the archdiocesan Hispanic Apostolate, who is helping in the Spanish track of the festival, and speakers Sister Marilyn Minter, Damon Owens, Fernando Casanova and Father Alvaro Cadavid Duque. Admission to the festival is free. Contact Soto-Cabrera by phone at (973) 497-4353 or via e-mail at faithfest@rcan.org for more information on the event.



Submitted photo

SUPPORTING SEMINARIANS — Dr. Esteban Cabrera, a member of the Knights of Columbus, Mary Immaculate Council 12769 in Secaucus, presents Rev. Msgr. Thomas P. Nydegger, vice rector and business manager of Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology, South Orange, with two \$500 checks for two seminarians at the school. The Knights’ council members raised the funds at a spring raffle and allocated the proceeds to the Knights’ “RSVP Program,” which helps seminarians to cover their various living expenses while studying for the priesthood. The presentation was made at a joint meeting of the local Catholic Daughters and Knights of Columbus.

Spiritual writings inspire seminarians

AREA—Students throughout New Jersey recently participated in the “Seminarian Letter Program” sponsored by the New Jersey Council of the Knights of Columbus, West Orange (Web site: www.njkofc.org) as a way to show support and encouragement to those studying for religious vocations.

Young people corresponded with archdiocesan seminarians at Immaculate Conception Seminary and St. Andrew’s Seminary, both in South Orange, as well as Redemptoris Mater Seminary in Kearny and the Adorno Fathers’ St. Michael’s Retreat in Ramsey.

For example, one letter said “thank you for choosing to become a priest and follow in the footsteps of Jesus.” Another student wrote: “You are an inspiration to people everywhere who worship and follow God.” Another young person said “good luck on being a priest.

A response from one seminarian stated: “I thank God for a generous organization like the Knights of Columbus who support seminarians like me who have responded to the invitation of the good Lord.”

Another seminarian wrote: “Thank you for your support and encouragement. As I continue the process of discerning God’s will for me, it is comforting to know that God’s people, my brothers and sisters, are praying for me.”

Theological center awards certificates to graduates

MORRISTOWN—Rosemary Azzaro and Maria Pellechia, parishioners from the Archdiocese of Newark, were among 44 graduates of the Center for Theological and Spiritual Development taking part in commencement exercises held at the College of Saint Elizabeth.

Azzaro, from St. Joseph Parish in East Rutherford, and Pellechia of Jersey City’s St. Joseph Parish, received a Certificate in Youth and Young Adult Ministry and Certificate in Religious Education, respectively.

The Center for Theological and Spiritual Development at the College of Saint Elizabeth offers five distinct lay

‘Soles for Souls’ team goes distance in anti-crime effort

BY CHRISTY GUERRA

Special to *The Catholic Advocate*

HOBOKEN—Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, was among the runners participating in the 16th annual 5K Run/Walk Against Crime and Drugs, which was held here Aug. 6.

Race participants, which included a team from the Archdiocese of Newark, made it a mission to turn their training and running into spiritual outreach and prayer, which they have called “Soles for Souls.”

Runners at the event dedicated themselves not only to athletic training, but to serious prayer and evangelization as well. “We can offer anything we do as a prayer,” Bishop da Cunha said.

“Running can be offered as a prayer. Physical activity, although good for the mind and body, can also be good for the soul. It can

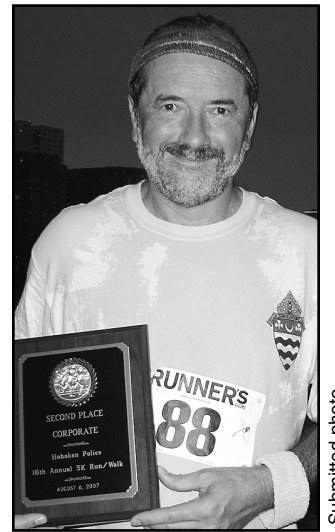
also bring good fruits for others if it is offered as a prayer.”

Liliana Soto-Cabrera, coordinator of the Office of Evangelization for the archdiocese and a co-founder of Soles for Souls, said the program is a new way to evangelize to Catholics who love to run.

“Not only are we able to share our faith with other runners, we also use our training as a means of offering up the sacrifice for conversions and other special intentions,” Soto-Cabrera said. “The group started this summer with just six members and we are looking to grow. So far, we have seen the fruit of our prayers and training.”

Qualifications for membership in the program include faithfulness to the magisterium or teaching of the Church, as well as the willingness to offer to God prayer and sacrifice through running for special intentions. Contact Soto-Cabrera at the archdiocesan Office of Evangelization at (973) 497-4353 for more information on the Soles for Souls program.

Soles for Souls is a product of Pope John Paul II’s call for “new evangelization,” which challenges members of the faithful to find new ways of reigniting the flame of Catholicism in those around them using tools found in the routine of everyday life. The program seeks participants who are active in their Catholic faith to take part in this fusion of passion for both running and evangelization.



Submitted photo

Bishop Edgar M. da Cunha, Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, holds the archdiocesan team’s second place plaque.

ministerial certificate programs, including Parish Life Ministries, Religious Education, Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Pastoral Administration, and Diaconal Ministry. The center is known nationwide for its annual Spirituality Convocation and Summer Institute programs that draw theologians from around the country and hundreds of people of all faiths to the campus in a celebration of spirituality and cultural diversity.

For more information about the center’s programs and upcoming events, call (973) 290-4300, or visit the Web site www.cse.edu/center.

Merged parishes unite community, illuminate faith

BY MELISSA MCNALLY
Staff Writer

Twenty-two years ago, Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish merged with nearby St. Michael Parish, using Holy Rosary School and the St. Michael's church building. Holy Rosary School continued in operation until 1993. The land was sold to the City of Elizabeth and the Holy Rosary buildings were torn down.

Renovations and improvements to the St. Michael Parish building have been under way in recent years. Among the most significant was the "rediscovery" of the stained glass window depicting the Crucifixion of Jesus located behind the main altar. The window was uncovered and restored in the mid 1980s. Now illuminated by outdoor lighting, it is a vivid reminder of Christ's sacrifice. Extensive renovations on both the exterior and interior of the church were also completed.

In 1998, Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary/St. Michael Parish was among the parishes honored in the United States to receive the statue of Our Lady of Fatima from Portugal. Hundreds of faithful Catholics visited the church to express their devotion to the Blessed Mother. The church remained open for two days in order to accommodate the visitors. The rosary was recited in English, Spanish and Creole. Prayer services and a trilingual Mass were celebrated to conclude the prayerful devotions.

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary/ St. Michael Parish has a rich history of embracing immigrant

In 1852, about 25 German Catholic families in Elizabeth resolved to form their own parish. After worshipping in a rented room, the parishioners launched an intensive fundraising campaign. A plot of land on Smith Street, near Elizabeth Avenue, was purchased in 1853. A small, simple wooden church was the first permanent home of the fledgling parish—the first German Catholic parish in Union County.

Father Albert von Schilgen, in 1870, became pastor of St. Michael Parish. Soon after his arrival, plans were developed for a new church. Land was purchased on the corner of East Jersey and Smith Streets. In all a little over two years, on the feast of St. Michael the Archangel, the new church was blessed.

Due to the influx of Spanish-speaking immigrants in the area, the first Mass in Spanish was celebrated on Jan. 31, 1971. Three years later, a fire consumed the church and the shrine to Our Lady of Perpetual Help and the stained glass window adjacent to it were destroyed. Through donations and the generosity of benefactors and parishioners, a new statue and window were ordered. During the 1970's, the immigrant Haitian population was growing considerably in New Jersey, especially in Union and Essex counties. Mass in French started being offered on March 14, 1976.

Bishop Winand Wigger established Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish on July 1, 1886. While plans were being designed for the construction of the church building, an additional Mass was celebrated at St. Michael's Parish. After land on Elizabeth Avenue was cleared of trees and prepared for construction, the floor,



Submitted Photo

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary/St. Michael Parish was originally founded by German immigrants. The two parishes merged in 1985. Today, the congregation includes mostly Hispanic and Haitian immigrants.

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary/Saint Michael, Elizabeth

Catholics, beginning with the Germans in the 1800's to Haitian and Spanish-speaking immigrants today. For the first half of the 19th century, Catholics in Elizabeth had to travel as far as St. John Parish in Newark to attend Mass. The few German Catholics who lived in the area walked for miles to fulfill their religious obligations. Since most of the immigrants did not speak English, they were continually searching for a parish.

walls and roof were completed and the parish was dedicated on July 10 of that year. A great number of faithful from surrounding parishes were present at the Mass. Dances, plays and fairs were held at Reingard Hall on Elizabeth Avenue and High Street to help pay the debt on the new church.

Throughout the years, the needs of Holy Rosary Parish continued to grow. A structure was built to house a young men's Catholic lyceum. By 1890, additional land was purchased to build a rectory and a school. In 1894, a basement hall was constructed under the school. It gave the Sisters of Charity much-needed space to continue educating the community. Construction began on a new convent for the Sisters in 1897. A new church building was dedicated on July 13, 1930. A new school opened in 1959 on the site of the old church and school.

Today, the cultural landscape of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary/St. Michael Parish has changed from its traditional German roots. The parish is 60 percent Hispanic, 30 percent Haitian and only 10 percent English-speaking. The Hispanic and Haitian lenten retreats, which include live Stations of the Cross and a Rejoice Youth Retreat, are major events on the parish calendar.

"We have been trilingual since the early 1970's," Pastor Very Rev. John E. Wassell, V.F., said. "The Germans who founded this parish are few. There is a good solid group of leaders among the different language groups. We are the first face of the Catholic Church in this country for many Hispanic immigrants."

Fluent in Spanish, Father Wassell has been pastor for five and a half years. "I have seen the flourishing of new ministries and new people becoming involved. We now have an active social concerns ministry that visits an elderly healthcare center every week to pray the rosary and a monthly Mass. We house and feed the homeless for eight nights during the coldest months of the winter and we give out food baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas."

Leading a trilingual parish that has merged can be difficult, Father Wassell explained. "The three languages (in

our parish) are our greatest blessing as well as our greatest challenge," he said. "The feasts of both Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary and Saint Michael are important. Since they fall within eight days of each other, we usually schedule our solemn day of adoration and a trilingual Mass between the feasts. (Mass for) Our Lady of Guadalupe for the Mexicans and the Immaculate Conception for the Haitians are two of the most attended special liturgies."

Lucia Hernandez, a parishioner for 28 years, described Father Wassell as a great pastor for the community—hard working, spiritual and open to all the parish's activities. Hernandez, a member of the parish council, is involved in the liturgy of the parish, is an instructor for the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) and helps with fundraising and other general activities with the community.

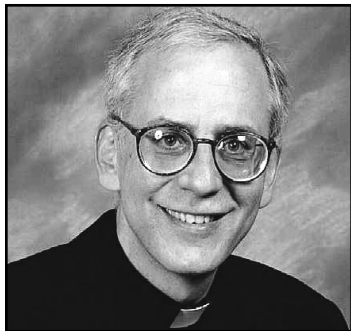
Although she is predominately involved with the Hispanic community, Hernandez has seen all three cultural groups at Holy Rosary/St. Michael Parish work together on certain events. "All the groups act together for the festival of St. Michael," she said. "Every three months, we also have a vigil for pro-life and everyone gets involved."

Working with children at the parish has had the greatest impact on Hernandez. "Being a teacher is a part of my life," Hernandez said. "Every year we have a Mass and a dinner for the kids in CCD. I love it when parents participate with their children in parish life. Last summer, the parish organized a breakfast every Sunday after Mass. I loved to see everyone get involved."

Volunteering in the parish strengthens Hernandez's faith and retreats held for parish council members unite all those who are active in Church programs. Through her faith, she believes, her community can be strengthened. "When the Hispanic community works together in the name of Christ, it is the best thing we can do."

(Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary/ St. Michael Parish, phone: (908) 354-2454, is located at 52 Smith St., Elizabeth, 07201.)

Meet the Pastor



Very Rev. John E. Wassell, V.F.

Birthday: Nov. 21, 1950

Hometown: Nanticoke, PA

High School: Nanticoke Area

Seminary: Immaculate Conception Seminary, Seton Hall University

Undergraduate: Cornell University

Graduate School: Immaculate Conception

Ordination: May 24, 1997

Hero: Pope John Paul II

Favorite Saint: Saint John the Evangelist

Favorite Sport: Hiking

Favorite Food: Tacos

Favorite Subject in School: Scripture

Favorite Movie: *The Fugitive*

Last Book Read: *Theology of the Body*

Occupation if I Weren't a Priest: Engineer



Submitted photo

Solar panels, installed on the administration building of the Dominican Sisters of Caldwell, have provided "green" energy for more than a year.

Caldwell Sisters enjoying clean, green solar energy

CALDWELL—Talk about counting the many blessings of a sunny day.

It has been more than a year now and 648 solar panels continue to provide clean, "green" electricity for the Dominican Sisters of Caldwell.

The Sisters, based on the campus grounds of Caldwell College, installed an array of solar panels on the roof of their administration building in March 2006 as a way to cut down on their dependence on fossil fuels and reduce the harmful emissions they produce.

During the last 17 months, the Sisters estimate that the solar panels have produced more than 62,000-kilowatt hours of electricity. This clean energy system, the Sisters have calculated, has eliminated the release of approximately 83,000 pounds of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

The Sisters said they installed the panels as a way of living out their commitment to the sacredness of all creation and as an educational model for others.

Looking to upgrade the technology as well as provide a faith-based environmental teachable moment to others, the Sisters plan to add a monitoring system, which can be used for classroom instruction. The new monitoring system is slated to be installed by the end of this year.

The installation of the solar panels was made possible by a solar rebate from the State of New Jersey, with the assistance of Sun Farm Network (Web site: <http://www.sunfarmnetwork.com>) and Green Faith (Web site: <http://www.greenfaith.org>), an Interfaith Environmental Coalition.

Robert Beusse succumbs at 77; served as bishops' communications secretary

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Robert B. Beusse, a former secretary of communications for the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops who was instrumental in establishing the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) and the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC), died Aug. 14 at his home in Caldwell. He was 77.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Aug. 17 at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish in Roseland, and interment followed at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in East Hanover.

"(Robert Beusse) took great pride in the fact that both CCHD and CCC not only survived but thrived," said Timothy F. Collins, who recently retired as executive director of CCHD. "He was a superb communications professional. He had an incredible gift of putting together a vision of what the Church should be doing with the direction the bishops wanted to go."

Beusse hired Collins in 1970 at what was then the U.S. Catholic Conference and National Conference of Catholic Bishops to staff a task force charged with developing the first promotional campaign for the Campaign for Human Development, the domestic anti-poverty program estab-

lished by the bishops earlier that year. The word "Catholic" was added to the program's name in 1998. In annual national collections on Thanksgiving weekends, the CCHD has raised nearly \$300 million for distribution to self-help projects that fight poverty. The CCC, established in 1979, funds media development projects.

Beusse was secretary of communications for the bishops' twin conferences from 1970 to 1979. He was appointed by two popes to the Pontifical Commission (now Council) for Social Communications: Pope Paul VI in 1972; and Pope John Paul II in 1984. He convinced the U.S. bishops to open their general meetings to media coverage. He also helped to coordinate the media coverage of the deaths of Pope Paul VI and Pope John Paul I and the election of

Pope John Paul II, which received what was up to then unprecedented media attention.

Before joining the bishops' twin conferences, Beusse had a varied career in the print media and in broadcasting. After serving as an Army officer in the Korean War from 1952 to 1954, he joined Better Living magazine, part of the McCall Corp., as a promotion manager in 1954. He became assistant director of public relations at McCall's magazine in 1955 and moved to the Schering Corp. as assistant director of advertising in 1957.

From 1960 to 1967, Beusse served as vice president of WOR, a television and AM and FM radio station in New York. He was director of administration and public affairs for the movie studio RKO General in 1968-69.

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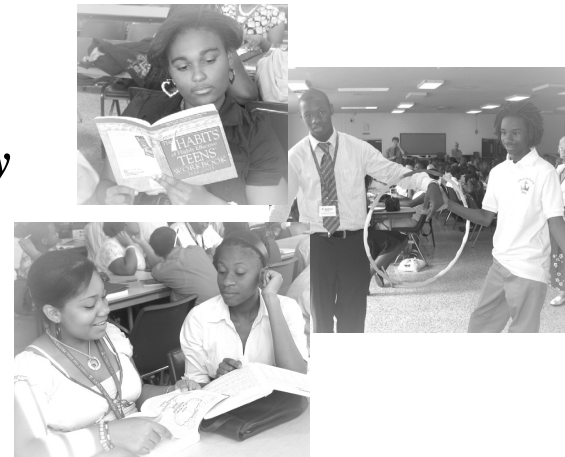


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The first Catholic High School to open in Newark in 50 years!

Friends recall Rizzuto's kindness and generosity

St. Joseph's held special place in Scooter's heart

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE
Editor

NEWARK—Beloved New York Yankee legend and long-time Hillside resident Phil Rizzuto, who died Aug. 14 at the age of 89, exemplified how a person with a humble background and a big heart could overcome odds and excel in the demanding fields of professional sports and TV broadcasting.

His big heart also became a hallmark of his personal life as a compassionate, decent man who was kind and generous to others—especially children—in the Catholic spirit of charity.

Over the years Rizzuto helped to raise more than \$2 million for St. Joseph's School for the Blind, Jersey City—a private Catholic institution founded and sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace—through his work organizing celebrity golf tournaments as well as through his own private donations.

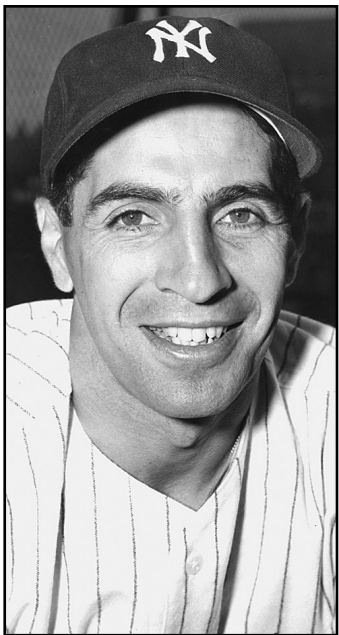
"He was a gentleman," Father Richard Villanova, the pastor at Church of Saint Anne, Garwood, said. Father Villanova previously served as the pastor of Church of Saint Catherine of Siena, Hillside, where he came to know Rizzuto and his wife Cora. The Rizzuto family was part of the Saint Catherine of Siena community for many years.

Several months ago Father Villanova performed Prayers of the Sick for Rizzuto at Green Hill Retirement Community nursing home in West Orange, when the Yankee legend's health began to deteriorate.

Father Villanova fondly recalled that, over the years during his daily early-morning walks, he frequently would bump into Rizzuto on the streets of Hillside. The two would chat and then Rizzuto would proceed to the North Broad Street Card Shop (on the Hillside/Elizabeth line) to pick up his daily cup of coffee and newspaper.

"He was a very humble man," Donato Valente, the plant manager of Saint Anne, said of Rizzuto. Valente first met Rizzuto 55 years ago on a Little League field in Hillside. It was Valente who introduced Rizzuto to Father Villanova. Valente also worked with Father Villanova at Saint Catherine of Siena.

"(Rizzuto) was never too



CNS photo

Phil Rizzuto, in an undated photo, from his playing days as an all-star shortstop for the New York Yankees.

busy to talk with people," Valente said. "He would pose for photographs and sign autographs. He was very gracious that way. Phil Rizzuto and his wife took Father (Villanova) and I out to dinner many times. We always had lots of fun."

Rizzuto's heartfelt connection with St. Joseph's School for the Blind began in the early 1950s when he met a 12-year-old boy named Ed Lucas. Lucas, a resident of Jersey City, was blinded in a freak accident when he was struck between the eyes with a line drive while playing baseball. Lucas said this unfortunate incident occurred on Oct. 3, 1951—the date of Bobby Thompson's "shot heard 'round the world," one of the most famous home runs in the history of Major League Baseball.

An avid Yankee fan, young Lucas, after he had been injured, met Rizzuto in November 1951. Rizzuto, at the time, worked along side teammate and confidant Yogi Berra during the off-season at The American Shop—a clothing store that was located here on Broad Street. Lucas' mother arranged the meeting at the shop as a way to boost the spirits of her disabled son.

Lucas—interviewed Aug. 14 via cell phone and on his way to Yankee Stadium in the Bronx, NY, just after his friend's passing—said that he and Rizzuto immediately formed a strong bond. When the 1952 baseball season opened, Rizzuto invited Lucas to

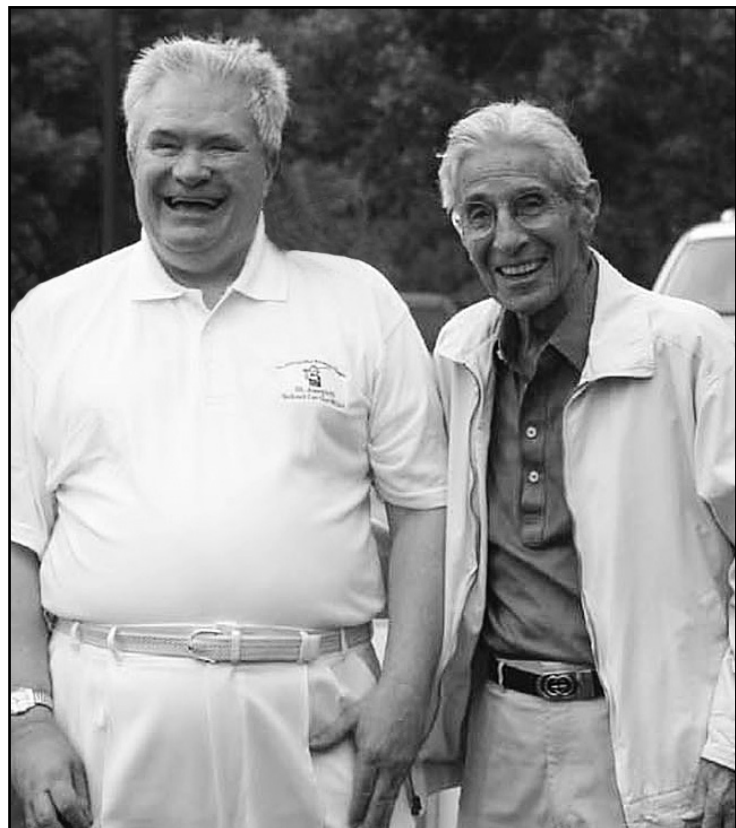
Yankee Stadium. That also was the year Lucas entered St. Joseph's School for the Blind (Web site: www.sjsnj.org).

As the lifelong friendship between the lad and the ballplayer unfolded, Lucas became deeply involved at St. Joseph's School—first as a student, then as an active alumni and eventually as a member of the school's board of directors in 1985. Because of his friendship with Lucas, Rizzuto also developed an affection for the Jersey City school. Lucas currently serves as the director of fund raising and public education at St. Joseph's.

One day in the early 1990s, Lucas and Rizzuto (no doubt enjoying a cannoli or two) were talking about plans for the school. "Scooter, we need to build a new school," Lucas said, recalling the conversation. Rizzuto suggested they launch a celebrity golf outing to help raise money, an idea that proved to be a huge success over the years.

Supported by these fund-raising efforts, the school opened a new two-story, 75,000-square-foot facility in Jersey City on Feb. 20. St. Joseph's previously utilized facilities that had been in place since the 1920s. St. Joseph's held its 17th annual golf outing on Aug. 20 at The Brook Lake Country Club, Florham Park.

Born Sept. 25, 1917 in



Submitted photo

Ed Lucas (left), the director of fund raising and public education at St. Joseph's School for the Blind, and Yankee legend Phil Rizzuto are pictured three years ago at the school's annual celebrity golf tournament. Rizzuto and Lucas met in 1951 and formed a lifelong friendship.

Brooklyn, NY, Rizzuto and his wife resided in the Westminster section of Hillside for 60 years and raised four children: three daughters and a son. The family held private funeral arrangements at the Church of Saint Anne on Aug. 17.

Known as "the Scooter" in

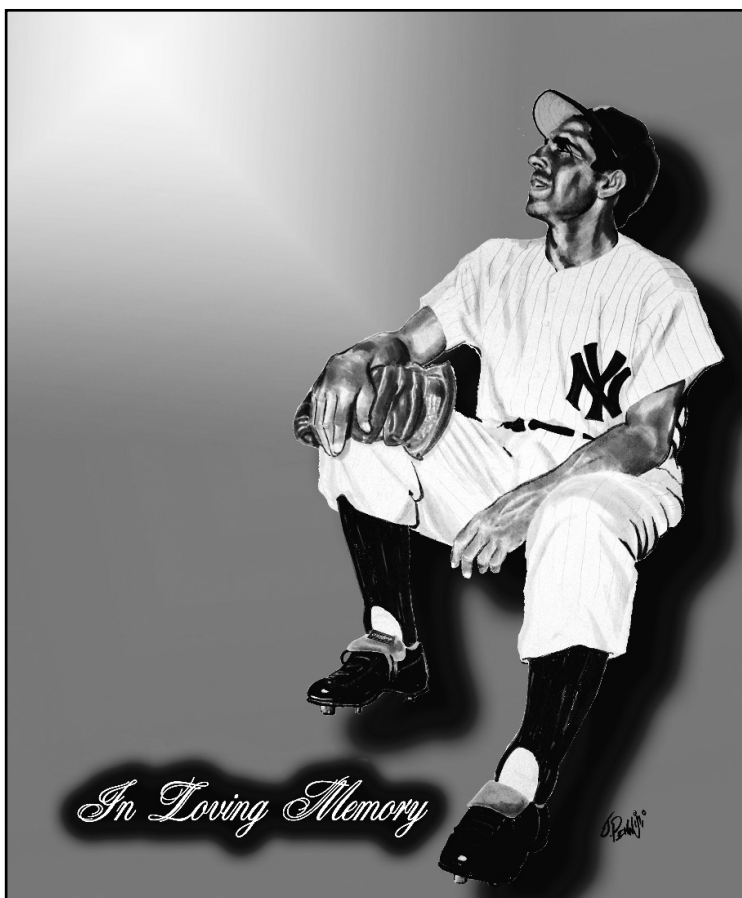
his ball playing days because of his blazing speed, he broke in as a rookie shortstop with the Yankees in 1941 and was named Most Valuable Player of the American League in 1950. He played on legendary Yankee teams that won 11 pennants and nine World Series between 1941 and 1956, which was his last season with the Yankees.

The Yankees retired his No. 10 on Aug. 4, 1985 at a special ceremony at the stadium and he was voted into the Baseball Hall of Fame by the veteran's committee on Feb. 25, 1994.

Career statistics for Rizzuto included a .273 batting average, 1,588 hits, 877 runs, 149 stolen bases and 563 RBI. Five times he was named to the American League's All-Star team. His playing career was interrupted with a three-year (1943-45) stint in the Navy during World War II.

After his playing days were over, Rizzuto joined Mel Allen and Red Barber in 1957 in the Yankee broadcasting booth. His broadcasting career ran through 1996—a 40-year span that saw his legend flourish as a media and cultural icon in the metropolitan area and throughout the country.

Always animated and entertaining as a broadcaster, he was renowned as the "voice of the Yankees." His on-air exclamation of "Holy Cow" following a big hit or dazzling defensive play became his trademark as a broadcaster.



Long Island artist John Pennisi, a friend of Ed Lucas and Phil Rizzuto, produced this spiritual illustration of the Yankee shortstop for the program cover of St. Joseph's 17th annual golf tournament, which was held Aug. 20 at The Brook Lake Country Club, Florham Park.



Submitted photo

HISPANIC HERITAGE DAY—The second annual Hispanic Heritage Day was held in July at St. Cecilia Parish in Kearny. See page five of this edition for a report on St. Cecilia's reaction to the tragic Aug. 15 earthquake in Peru. Father Yuvan Alvarez, parochial vicar of St. Cecilia, organized Hispanic Heritage Day. Participants at the colorful event represented the countries of Peru, Columbia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mexico, Spain, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Nicaragua, Ecuador, Chile, Portugal, Venezuela, the Dominican Republic and the United States.



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John Caldora 'rocks' on EWTN show

SUMMIT—John Caldora, a sophomore at Oratory Preparatory School in Summit, and a two time summer youth volunteer for Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Lourdes, France, was one of 12 teen guest panelists on a recent EWTN "Life on the Rock" television program.

On the live show, high school teens and young adult university volunteers shared their experiences of serving the Universal Church at Lourdes as well as personal information about their Catholic faith.

John was selected for the "rapid-fire" group that discussed Lent and what it meant to him to be an altar server. "I was able to express the importance of serving," he explained. His home parish is St. Helen's in Westfield.

During the hour-long program, others on the second half



Submitted photo

After the taping of the EWTN "Life on the Rock" TV show in Birmingham, Alabama, Father Francis Mary, the host of the show, met with Oratory Prep School student John Caldora.

of the panel, comprised of six males and six females, discussed their experiences in volunteering at Lourdes.

The entire Caldora family has volunteered for a week at the Our Lady of Lourdes Parish each of the past two summers.

The Westfield teen recalled that his experience was a full weekend long event in Birmingham, Alabama at the EWTN studios. The program is seen by some 135 million people worldwide.

During the spring weekend in Alabama, John and his mother Beverly and his father John toured a nearby cloister, visited the Ava Maria Grotto and the grounds of a year-round Nativity crèche.

"Just meeting the people, being on TV and being able to share the experience of volunteering was quite inspiring," he said of the memorable weekend.

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Dozen new principals bringing diverse backgrounds to job

BY LAURA CRISTIANO
Special to The Catholic Advocate

New faces at several archdiocesan elementary and secondary schools this year will not be limited to the students. There will be 12 schools that will have new principals at the helm in September.

In keeping with archdiocesan policy, each of these principals has both teacher and administrative certification. Beyond those requirements, several have additional certifications in areas such as special education and multiple master's degrees.

These principals have diverse backgrounds that enrich what they are able to give to their students. Some previously have taught in Catholic schools, and this is their first venture into administration. Others are veterans who have taken up the call of a new ministry.

Arguably, **Kevin Cuddihy**, the incoming principal of Christ the King Preparatory in Newark, faces the most unique situation. Christ the King is the new Cristo Rey Network school (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Jan. 24, 2007; April 12, 2006 and Dec. 6, 2006) that will open in September.

Aside from the regular duties that face a principal over the summer, just one of the additional things Cuddihy is charged with is staffing an entire school. Fortunately, Cuddihy is more than up to this monumental task. He is no stranger to Catholic education having just



Kevin Cuddihy

finished a four-year stint as the principal of St. Peter's Prep in Jersey City. Prior to that he was part of the administrative team at Xavier High School in New York for 13 years.

Another principal who will be undertaking a new model of leadership is **Brian Morgan** of Lacordaire Academy's Lower and Upper Schools in Upper Montclair. Morgan will serve as the Head of School for both institutions. Additionally, he will fulfill the role as the principal of the high school while Mary Ann Ford continues to serve as principal of the upper school.

Several of the new principals—**James DeAngelo** of St. Peter's Prep Jersey City; **Sister Maureen Fichner, S.S.J.** of Holy Trinity Interparochial, Westfield; and **Barry Donnelly** of St. Joseph Regional High School, Montvale—previously served as teachers and/or administrators in the schools where they will now lead. DeAngelo has an even more personal connection, as St. Peter's Prep is his alma mater.



Brian Morgan
Sylvia Cosentino

Being a principal is a brand new opportunity for **Sylvia Cosentino** of Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, Tenafly, a graduate of the Catholic School Leadership (CSL) program run at Seton Hall University by archdiocesan Vicar of Education and Superintendent of Schools, Father Kevin Hanbury.

The two-year CSL program gives people like Cosentino, who have spent their careers as Catholic school teachers, the opportunity to obtain their New Jersey principal's certification. Before taking on her current post, Cosentino was a long-time teacher and administrator at St. Joseph's School in Oradell.

Some of the principals, like **Maria Cleary** of Assumption Academy in Emerson and **Rita Miragliotta** of Notre Dame Interparochial, Palisades Park, are returning



Barry Donnelly

Caritas Academy Celebrates Second Year Beginning September 5, 2007

Caritas Invites 8th Graders to Visit



Siara Rodriguez (inset and center in both) enjoyed making new friends as a freshman last year at Caritas!

About The Academy

Caritas Academy, in Jersey City, New Jersey, is an all-girls college preparatory high school, sponsored by The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth. As a Catholic, independent institution, member of the Middle States Association and National Association for Independent Schools, the academy promotes educational rigor and builds on the capacity of the individual. Having the ability to provide a 10:1 faculty to student ratio, Caritas boasts of its personal attention and results, such as a 100% college acceptance rate and academically-based scholarships for seniors.

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- September 22: Open House 12-2 pm*
- September 25: Open House 7 pm*
- October 5: Making COOP Count 9 am-1pm
- October 21: STAR COOP Prep 12-4pm
- November 3: STAR COOP Prep 12-4pm
- November 9: COOP EXAM

*Grades 6 and 7 welcome to attend

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Maria Cleary
Sister Ursula Butler, O.S.B.

New principals

to Catholic education after having worked in the public school system. Others, like **Sister Judith Blair, S.C.C.** of Our Lady of Sorrows School, South Orange; **Sister Ursula Butler,**

S.C. of Blessed Sacrament School, Elizabeth; and **Brother James Dries, F.S.C.** of Hudson Catholic Regional High School, Jersey City, have always been involved in Catholic education either in the Newark Archdiocese or elsewhere.

If there were a prize awarded for who traveled the farthest to join the archdiocese, that would hands down be won by **Sister Kieran Chidi Nduagbo, D.D.L.** who will be stationed at St. John's School in Orange. Sister Kieran's most recent ministry was as a teacher of math and science at Sacred Heart School in Chicago. Prior to that time, Sister Kieran taught in both Germany and in her native Nigeria.

The majority of the new principals were able to attend two days of orientation at the Newark Archdiocesan Center. During this session, the new principals had the opportunities to hear from specialists on government funding, a panel of principals who had just finished their first year, and many other experts on the mechanics of school management.



Brother James Dries
F.S.C.



Rita Miragliotta



Sister Maureen Fichner S.S.J.

Catholic Theology degree joins seminary curricula

SOUTH ORANGE—Seton Hall University's (SHU) Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology will add a new degree to its repertoire this fall as it introduces its Bachelor of Arts degree in Catholic Theology program.

The degree program will provide undergraduates with a solid grounding in the Catholic faith and tradition. Open to both seminarians and lay students, it will follow two basic directions of study. The first intensely explores the interaction of faith and reason at the root of Catholic thought, providing the intellectual preparation needed to enter priestly formation in a major seminary. This 57-credit option is open to all students but mandatory for all undergraduate seminarians.

The second direction of study allows students to focus on one of four particular areas of theology: Sacred Scripture, Moral Theology, Spiritual Theology and Systematic Theology. This 36-credit option is ideal for all students who wish to enrich their personal connection to and knowledge of the Catholic faith, or pursue a vocation in Catholic education, social work, parish ministry and various other fields.

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More importantly, however, various speakers stressed that beyond all else, archdiocesan schools must not lose their Catholic identity, also known as "Catholicity." Christ-centered teachings and values are at the

core of everything these schools do. The orientation process culminated in a commissioning prayer service held in the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark. During the service, each principal was pre-

sented with a candle to remind them of the ever-present Light of Christ in their lives.

(Editor's note: *Laura Cristiano is the director of marketing and public relations for the archdiocesan Schools Office.*)



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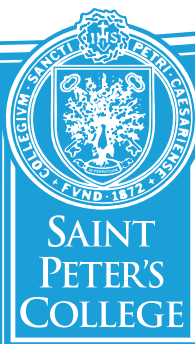
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BERGEN COUNTY OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE 2007-2008	
Academy of the Holy Angels Demarest www.holyangels.org	30 September, 12-4 PM 5 November, 7-9 PM
Immaculate Conception High School Lodi www.ichslodi.com	21 October, 1-3 PM 30 January, 7-9 PM
Saint Joseph Regional High School Montvale www.saintjosephregional.org	30 September, 12-3 PM 7 November, 7-9 PM 27 January, 12-2 PM
Queen of Peace High School North Arlington www.qphs.org	23 September, 1-4 PM 21 October, 11 AM-2 PM 5 November, 7-8:30 PM
Bergen Catholic High School Oradell www.bergencatholic.org	20 September, 7-9 PM 28 October, 1-3 PM
Paramus Catholic Regional High School Paramus www.paramus-catholic.org	23 September, 1-4 PM 17 October, 7-9 PM 23 January, 7-9 PM
Don Bosco Preparatory High School Ramsey www.donboscoprep.com	30 September, 1-3 PM 28 October, 1-3 PM
Saint Mary High School Rutherford www.stmaryhs.org	23 September, 2-4 PM 16 October, 7-9 PM 27 January, 1-3 PM
Immaculate Heart Academy Washington Township www.ihahs.com	30 September, 1-4 PM

UNION COUNTY OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE 2007-2008	
Mother Seton Regional High School Clark www.motherseton.org	26 September, 7:30-9:30 PM 5 November, 7:30-9:30 PM 23 January, 7:30-9:30 PM
Benedictine Academy Elizabeth www.benedictineacad.org	4 October, 7-9 PM 20 October, 10 AM-12 PM
St. Mary of the Assumption High School Elizabeth www.stmaryassumptionhs.com	30 September, 2-4 PM 27 January, 2-4 PM
Saint Patrick High School Elizabeth www.stpatrickhs.org	Call (908) 353-5220 for information
Roselle Catholic Regional High School Roselle www.rosellecatholic.org	27 September, 7-9 PM 24 January, 7-9 PM 19 April, 9-11 AM
Union Catholic Regional High School Scotch Plains www.unioncatholic.org	2 October, 7-9 PM 22 April, 7-9 PM
Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child Summit www.oakknoll.org	21 October, 1:30-3:30 PM 3 November, 9:30-11 AM
Oratory Preparatory School Summit www.oratoryprep.org	30 September, 1-3 PM 21 October, 1-3 PM

HUDSON COUNTY OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE 2007-2008	
Holy Family Academy PM Bayonne www.hfa.bayonne.net	23 September, 12:30-2:30 PM 24 September, 6:30-8:30 PM 20 January, 12:30-2:30 PM
Marist High School Bayonne www.marist.org	30 September, 1-4 PM 24 January, 7-9 PM
Caritas Academy www.caritasacademy.com	22 September, 12-2 PM 25 September, 7-9 PM 31 January, 7-9 PM
Hudson Catholic Regional High School Jersey City www.hudsoncatholic.org	14 October, 1-3 PM 31 January, 7-9 PM
Saint Anthony High School AM Jersey City www.stanthonyhighschool.org	29 September, 9:30-11:30 AM 11 October, 6-8 PM 28 October, 1:30-3:30 PM
Saint Dominic Academy Jersey City www.stdominicacad.com	23 September, 1-3 PM 25 September, 6-8 PM
Saint Mary High School Jersey City	14 October, 1-3 PM
Saint Peter's Preparatory School Jersey City www.stpetersprep.org	30 September, 2-4 PM 20 April, 2-4 PM
Saint Joseph of the Palisades High School West New York www.saintjoseph-wny.com	3 November, 10 AM-12 PM

ESSEX COUNTY OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE 2007-2008	
Mount Saint Dominic Academy Caldwell www.msdacademy.org	21 October, 1:30-3:30 PM 28 October, 1:30-3:30 PM 20 April, 1:30-3:30 PM
Immaculate Conception High School Montclair www.ichspride.org	21 October, 1-3 PM 27 January, 1-3 PM 31 January, 5-7 PM
Christ the King Preparatory School Newark www.christthekingnewark.org	14 October, 1:30-3 PM 11 November, 1:30-3 PM 29 January, 7-8:30 PM 17 May, 10:30-12:30 PM
Saint Benedict's Preparatory School Newark www.sbp.org	13 October, 9:30AM-12PM 10 November, 9:30AM-12PM 15 December 9:30AM-12PM
Saint Vincent Academy Newark www.svanewark.org	10 October, 6:30-8 PM 23 October, 6:30-8 PM
Marylawn of the Oranges Academy South Orange www.marylawn.net	26 September, 7-8:30 PM 24 October, 7-8:30 PM 23 January, 7-8:30 PM
Seton Hall Preparatory School West Orange www.shp.org	28 October, 1-4 PM
Lacordaire Academy Upper Montclair www.lacordaire.net	27 September, 7-8 PM 30 September, 1-2:30 PM 8 November, 7-8 PM 24 January, 7-8 PM 1 May, 7-8PM

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The Schools of the Archdiocese of Newark welcome students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin.

Fine arts take center stage among students

BY MELISSA MCNALLY
Staff Writer

Thorough, faith-based education is what every Catholic school in the Archdiocese of Newark strives toward, and part of that effort

includes encouraging creativity and expression through fine arts programs.

Many schools throughout the four counties of the archdiocese demonstrate a superior sense of aesthetics as well as a well-informed respect for the inherent

value that art provides in a student's education. For example, at Paramus Catholic High School, several fine arts programs are available to students aimed at fostering diverse talents. Along with photography, dance and theater departments, a

cutting-edge video production program instills students with practical creative skills.

Over the last four years, Paramus Catholic established a studio and a lab complete with an iMac-equipped classroom where the Paramus News Network broadcasts morning announcements. Instructor Ruth Lefkowitz, who came to Paramus Catholic four years ago, is an Academy Award-winning documentary film maker, a screenwriter and a novelist. "The kids bring themselves and can express themselves here," Lefkowitz said. "They find what they want to say and I provide them with the avenue and the equipment to do it."

The video production students conduct a daily television show, complete video projects for the class and also participate in a film festival.

Lefkowitz taught English at Paramus Catholic and worked

hard to get the television show up and running. She believes the arts, including creative video production, functions not only as a learning tool, but builds confidence in young people.

Skills in film editing are becoming increasingly important and change with the emergence of new technology, but learning from her students is something that will always remain constant for Lefkowitz. "Technology is in our culture and the more astute and adept you become in managing it, the more likely you are to get a good job. What I love about teaching is that I never stop learning from my students; they are individuals."

Uniting individuals potentially divided by language and culture is one function of the fine arts at Ironbound Catholic Academy in Newark. Now in its third year after merging three local schools,

Continued on page 23

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At Paramus Catholic High School, students in the video production department run the Paramus News Network which broadcasts morning announcements.

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Open House Dates
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Tuesday, October 23 (6:00pm-8:00pm)

Catholic schools offer Supplemental Educational Services

BY MARY MCELROY
Special to The Catholic Advocate

Answering the call to service, the Archdiocese of Newark has become a state-approved provider of Supplemental Educational Services (SES)—an innovative after-school tutoring program for disadvantaged public school students.

SES is a program that enables students in failing public schools in low-income areas to receive free after-school tutoring in Reading, Language Arts and Mathematics. It is authorized by the No Child Left Behind Act, administered by public school districts, and monitored by the state.

Students in public schools that the state has designated as failing to make adequate yearly progress in student performance, must receive written notice from the district explaining that their child is eligible for free after-school tutoring as a supplement to what is

taught during the day. The tutoring is not homework help, but a separate curriculum targeted to improving students' critical knowledge base.

Families of students in failing public schools will be notified in the fall by their school district of the availability of SES tutoring, and be given a list of approved providers from which to choose a tutoring program.

Four schools are piloting the SES tutoring program in Newark, Elizabeth, and Jersey City. Sessions run by the Archdiocese of Newark will be held twice a week for 90 minutes for approximately 25 weeks. Next year, the program will expand to include more Catholic schools and cities. Families seeking more informa-

tion on the program can call (973) 497-4259.

Faith-based organizations, especially schools, have been asked to become involved in SES tutoring. In addition to the Archdiocese of Newark, the dioceses of Paterson, Metuchen, Trenton, and Camden have won state-approval to become SES tutoring providers beginning in September and will begin their own programs as well.

Continued on page 25



LIFE SKILLS LESSONS—St. Leo's Elementary School in Elmwood Park has launched a new Life Skills Program for students in grades K-8. The focus is to teach skills that range from conflict resolution, interrupting a bully and relationship savvy to learning to laugh and walk away. The program is a combination of lessons, discussions and role playing. Taking part in a recent role playing session were, left to right, standing, Samantha Cartani, and seated, Fernando Lozano, Mark Marsella, and standing, front to back, Eric Librizzi and Sheldon Nicolas. In the fall, the mentoring part of the program, pairing older students to younger students, will begin. The initiator of the Life Skills Program is Sheila Dunnells, Ph.D. who created a similar program for Locust Valley Middle School/High School in New York.

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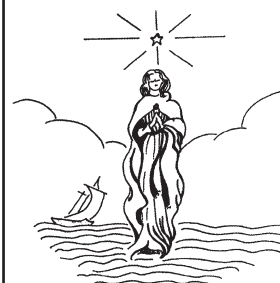
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UNION CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL 

Students' summer 'camp' paves way for unique learning

BY PAMELA RAUSCHER
Special to The Catholic Advocate

A smile. A handshake. A promise of opportunity. That was the welcome 111 ninth grade students received as Christ the King Prep—Newark's newest and most innovative college preparatory school—opened its doors for the first time on Aug. 6 for a unique "BOOT" camp program. Classes at the Cristo Rey school begin on Sept. 4.

Christ the King Prep is sponsored by the Archdiocese of Newark (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Jan. 24, 2007; April 12, 2006 and Dec. 6, 2006), which has pledged its strong support to the first new Catholic high school to open in Newark since 1964.

Part of the national Cristo Rey network (Web site: www.cristoreynetwork.org), Christ the King, which bills itself as "The

School That Works," is also endorsed by The Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth and the Marist Brothers of the Schools.

What makes Christ the King Prep unique is its innovative Corporate Internship Program (CIP). Based on the nationally acclaimed Cristo Rey model, which was first developed in Chicago in 1996, Christ the King students will go to school four days a week; one day a week they will work at entry-level jobs at some of the most prestigious law firms and corporate offices in Newark, including Gibbons P.C. and City National Bank. Students will also intern at colleges, hospitals, non-profit organizations and the Archdiocese of Newark, as well as PSE&G and *The Star-Ledger* newspaper.

During BOOT Camp, which is an acronym for "Business Orientation and Objectives



Submitted photo

BOOT Camp students were busy earlier this month learning appropriate telephone etiquette and message-taking skills through role playing and hands-on practice.

Training," students learned the "hard" and "soft" skills needed to succeed in the work place. Jovannah Worchester of Newark said she wasn't sure what to expect the first day of "BOOT" Camp. "Whatever comes my way, I'll be prepared for it," she said.

CIP Director John Neal said that the three-week curriculum includes everything from typing

and filing to computer skills and business ethics. The students also took part in a day-long high and low ropes adventure course, which Neal described as a trust building exercise that taught the students the importance of being team players. They are also being taught the importance of a positive attitude and a commitment to high standards of re-

sponsibility and behavior.

"Sponsors want students who want to work and want to be there. They expect students to show up on time and want to learn," Neal said. "They expect students to earn their pay."

The students' "pay" is forwarded directly to Christ the King Prep by corporate sponsors

Continued on page 26



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Fine arts

Continued from page 20

Ironbound Catholic Academy has become a haven for budding young artists from grades K-8.

"The staff tries to bring a wide range of artistic options and individual effort to bolster the 'Three C's'—creativity, curiosity and confidence," Principal Lorraine Novak declared. "The arts have helped in bonding our students, staff and parents as well as the community. Ironbound Catholic Academy will continue its commitment to experimental knowledge and creative renewal."

Examples of the students' creativity include the experimental Newspaper Theater where children create costumes and other materials for plays using newspapers. As both the language arts teacher and the creative arts instructor, Normita G. Aienza engages children who might not do well academically, but are artistically inclined.

"The students learn that language is more than reading a book and writing sentences. About 95 percent of our students are bilingual and our teachers are as well. Through the arts, students are able to see and use language differently using a hands-on technique. A student who may find it difficult to write a five-page essay can do an art project and express

themselves in an oral presentation," Novak explained.

As principal, Novak witnesses the group effort of her staff to keep the arts alive at the school. "Through the arts, students build confidence they need when going into high school. The upper-grade teachers on a whole get involved."

Drama groups, such as the Union Catholic High School Performing Arts Company in Scotch Plains, allow students to grow through musical theater. As the director for performing arts, Maryann Carolan led a group of high school students in a production of "Sugar," which earned a PaperMill Playhouse Rising Star Award for Graphic Design last year.

As a former student of Union Catholic, Carolan has first-hand knowledge of the positive affects of fine arts in schools. "I have been involved with Union Catholic musical theater for 24 years. While I was a student, I learned collaboration and how to get a disparate group of individuals to put on a show."

While some schools lack arts funding, support for the dramatic arts by the faculty and staff are abundant at Union Catholic.

A supportive administration and an enthusiastic group of students help make the drama club of St. Stephen's School, Kearny, a success. The school's spring production of the popular movie

"High School Musical" led to students performing for the city's mayor in the West Hudson St. Patrick's Day Parade and for terminally ill students at St. Joseph's Children's Hospital, Paterson.

Drama Club Director Joseph Ferriero started the troupe at St. Stephen's School when he began teaching there four years ago. "The school had a great sports program but I thought the kids would like something new. We started out with 25 kids and now it is up to 60 kids," Ferriero said.

Originally slated to perform, "Bye Bye Birdie," the drama club immediately responded to "High School Musical."

"It just became this ridiculous phenomenon. I had kids that would never think twice about doing musical theater dying to be a part of the play. We saw a 300 percent increase in ticket sales from last year. We sold out our opening day performance. The kids were so excited. There were over 400 people in the audience and some little children wanted the students' autographs," Ferriero recalled.

The drama club students were even more elated to perform for terminally-ill and bed-ridden children at the Giggles Theater at St. Joseph's Children's Hospital. "The children that were not able to leave their beds had the performance piped to their rooms; we gave them photographs and bulletins."



Ironbound Catholic Academy in Newark encourages creativity through the Newspaper Theater where students act in plays using newspapers as materials for costumes and props.

Submitted photo

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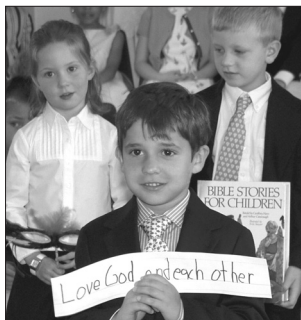
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Report cards updated to accommodate debut of new trimester grading system

BY LAURA CRISTIANO

Special to *The Catholic Advocate*

After two years of meticulous research and planning, elementary schools in the Archdiocese of Newark are shifting to a new trimester grading system.

Additionally, elementary report cards, which last underwent revision in 1992, have been updated to accompany this trimester system.

"It was important to bring many people to the table, so that multiple views and experiences would be reflected in the final outcome," Father Kevin Hanbury, archdiocesan vicar for education and superintendent of schools, said.

Under the new trimester system, the 180-day academic year is divided into three assessment periods that end in late November, mid-

March, and early June. To keep parents abreast of their children's development, progress reports will be issued to every child in the middle of each assessment period.

"One of the chief benefits of moving to a trimester system is that students now have more time to process instruction and acquire proficiency before formal evaluation," observed Frances Alberta, principal of St. Joseph School in East Rutherford and a member of the committee that formulated the changes.

One of the things that the committee quickly embraced is that, when it comes to assessing elementary education, one size does not fit all. This resulted in two report cards being developed: the early childhood report card (grades 1-3), and the middle to upper-grade report card (grades 4-8).

In a letter to parents, faculty members and administrator Gloria Castucci, the director of early childhood programs, addressed these differences. "Teachers who work with young children realize that they are responsible for creating a learning environment that is interactive...opportunities for a project-based approach are essential. Therefore the way we evaluate and assess young children must also follow that philosophy."

For example, instead of "Language Arts" and assessment being limited to writing, grammar, and spelling, the early childhood report card will have a category called "Communication Arts."

Further realizing that evaluating young children is not as simple as "A B C," these students will be evaluated with letter grades such as "S for secure" an "B for beginning" marking the emergence of various skills.

The report card slated for grades 4-8 also underwent major revision. Students are assessed in two major sections: subject areas and personal development. The subject areas are the traditional science, mathematics, religion, etc. that parents are used to seeing and letter grades such as A, B, C, will be utilized in those sections. These subject areas are further broken down into sub-categories covering items unique to each academic discipline.

For example, there are now subsections under science and social studies covering lab work and map skills. The area for personal development was revised. It covers broader academic and life skills.

Additional workshops will be held for teachers this fall to expand upon the information on report cards given to them by their principals.

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Schools to provide SES

Continued from page 21

The fact that all five dioceses in the state are approved SES tutoring providers is innovative and noteworthy. Although the Diocese of Bridgeport, CT, operates an SES program, it is believed that New Jersey is the first state where every Catholic diocese is an approved provider.

For the first time, throughout a number of economically depressed areas in New Jersey, eligi-

ble public school students in failing public schools can receive after school supplemental instruction in critical academic areas, from Catholic school educators, in Catholic school buildings.

While the SES tutoring program is free to the eligible students it serves, the providers are paid with federal monies allocated to local public school districts for this purpose. Approved providers enter into agreements with local public school districts to operate after-school tutoring classes for those

students. Families are able to choose the provider whose individual program will best meet their child's needs. A number of school districts host SES tutoring provider fairs in early fall, so that families can discuss the benefits of individual programs.

The program has been made an education priority on a national level. "I want to ask you to offer your services for this important cause. (President Bush) and I hope you will consider becoming providers of supplemental educational services," Margaret Spellings, U.S. Secretary of Education, stated (Opportunities for Private Schools to Provide: Extra Academic Help to Disadvantaged Students; Publication of USDOE Office of Nonpublic Education.)

Advantages of the new archdiocesan SES tutoring program for students and families are numerous. Catholic school tutoring sites are safe, welcoming and nurturing places serving the urban community for generations. Instructors are state certified, local Catholic school teachers who are a part of the community, and know how to reach struggling students. The state-approved curriculum developed by nationally known educational publishers is research-based with a proven record of success.

Perhaps most importantly, students' math, reading and writing skills will be strengthened by teachers whose goal is to see that students reach their personal best. Through the program, public school students and their families will see Catholic schools through a first-person experience of strong academics in a disciplined environment warmly accepting of each student.

Catholic school teachers will benefit from supplementing their



Mary McElroy

salaries with an after-school job right in their own schools, utilizing their professional expertise with new students. "We are excited that this program is another way of being present to and of service in our communities, while at the same time, providing our talented faculties with the opportunity to earn extra income tutoring," Father Kevin Hanbury, archdiocesan vicar for education and superintendent of schools, said.

"This new tutoring program is a tremendous opportunity to share with the public at large the great resources of Catholic education," Laura Cristiano, director of marketing for the archdiocesan Schools Office, remarked.

Everlyn Hay, the principal of Queen of Angels School, Newark, an initial tutoring site, sees the program as a natural outgrowth of the school's mission. "Queen of Angels has a history of reaching out and serving the community."

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Continued from page 22
who have each pledged \$25,000 to the school in exchange for the entry-level office services of a team of four interns.

"This is an amazing opportunity for young people from low income backgrounds to work in real jobs and gain marketable skills even as they pursue a rigorous college prep curriculum," Neal said. "For the Corporate Internship Program, our top priorities are safety, discipline, and education. We help our corporate sponsors to mentor and develop the business leaders of the future."

School President Rev. Edward Glynn, S.J., predicted that Christ the King Prep, one of 19 Cristo Rey High Schools in cities throughout the United States, would become "a rich educational

asset to the City of Newark and to future generations of students."

Principal Kevin P. Cuddihy, the immediate past principal of St. Peter's Prep in Jersey City, said the bar at Christ the King will be set high. "We expect our students to succeed. We're also going to provide an environment where they can succeed."

Cuddihy explained that Christ the King Prep will give high-achieving students an opportunity to excel, and will also provide tutoring in reading and math for students who need help coming up to speed. "It will be a culture of excellence, informed by faith and a strong commitment to the values of the Gospel," Cuddihy declared.

Christ the King students also will learn the meaning of stewardship. According to the text in the school's CIP Handbook: "This stewardship implies the responsibility to use all resources wisely for the good of others and the greater glory of God. As a future leader in the workplace, the Christ the King graduate will

countries in Africa, including Ghana and Liberia. Students who are African-American, Haitian, Dominican, Jamaican, Peruvian, Ecuadorian, and Puerto Rican, also are part of the family, contributing to the richness of the school community. "Our mission is to provide a unique educational opportunity for those young

people who have the fewest economic resources," Neil Jasey, chair of the school's board of trustees, said.

One student, Alexci Torres of Newark, said for him Christ the

the Mass, which will be held at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Newark. Father Glynn and Cristo Rey Network founder and President Rev. John Foley, S.J., will concelebrate. Father Kevin Hanbury, archdiocesan vicar of education and superintendent of schools, also will be a concelebrant at the Mass.

Anthony Nicotera, Christ the King Prep's director of development, said invitations have already gone out to religious and civic leaders, as well as our corporate sponsors and many in the educational community.

In addition to the liturgy, Christ the King Prep will host an Opening Day Reception in the school gym, followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony, commissioning of students, and a grand sendoff for those heading off to their first day of work. Christ the King Prep is located at 239 Woodside Ave., Newark, in the former Our Lady of Good Counsel Elementary School.

(Editor's note: Pamela Rauscher, Ph.D., is the director of admissions, Christ the King Prep School.)

What makes Christ the King Prep unique is its innovative Corporate Internship Program.

recognize the dignity of work, its integral connection to justice, and the choices she/he has to create a better society."

Students will also be taught respect for diversity. "As a Catholic school, Christ the King strives to advance the human and intellectual capacities, as well as the religious and cultural heritage, of all the families it serves," Neal said.

Those families represent a variety of cultures, including students from several different

King Prep is a dream come true. "I want to get a better education," he said, "and be the first person in my family to go to college." Torres said he also wants to give something back to the community.

The greater Newark community will have a chance to see the new school at a Mass and reception on Sept. 4—the first day of classes. Auxiliary Bishop for Essex County, Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D., will be the principal celebrant at

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Academic programs upgraded, demographics updated

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE
Editor

NEWARK—Co-sponsorships and restructuring—education models directed by the archdiocesan Schools Office, designed to address changing student demographics and upgrade academic programs—continue to make strides.

In particular, restructuring and reorganization in the 2007-2008 school year will be focused on improvements in Jersey City and Bayonne Catholic schools,

according to Brother Ralph Darmento, F.S.C., archdiocesan deputy superintendent of schools.

While declining enrollment is a trend that has unfolded for more than a decade, the head count at archdiocesan high schools actually has stabilized during the last three years. According to the National Catholic Education (NCEA), across the country last year 36 new schools opened while 212 consolidated or closed.

Elementary and secondary school enrollment throughout the four counties of the archdiocese is

predicted to reach 42,500 students, down nearly 5 percent from the previous school year, and 10 percent below the student headcount in the 2005-2006 school year.

There will be 102 elementary schools operating in the archdiocese this school year—two fewer than last year. Sacred Heart, a private school in Kearny operated by the Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate, and Visitation Inter-parochial School in Jersey City, ceased operations last June.

The number of archdiocesan high schools this year will be 34—

the same as last year. While St. Aloysius High School in Jersey City was shut down, Christ the King Preparatory School—the new Cristo Rey high school in Newark—opens its doors in September with a freshman class of 111.

Christ the King is the first new high school to open in the archdiocese since 1964, and will be located on the site formerly occupied by Our Lady of Good Counsel Elementary School, which was shuttered in 2004.

Latest NCEA figures contained

in its “Annual Statistical Report on Schools, Enrollment and Staffing 2006-07,” show total Catholic school enrollment was 2,320,651 students in 7,498 schools. That breaks down to 1,682,412 students in 6,288 elementary or middle schools and 638,239 students in 1,210 secondary schools. Those figures represent a 1.8-percent decrease nationally from the previous academic year although there is a slight increase in the secondary school numbers—638,239 students this academic year up from 636,447 last year.

Teacher turns ‘page’ on career

BY WARD MIELE
Managing Editor

JERSEY CITY—His students know what a wonderful teacher Raymond Page is and now so does all of New Jersey.

Page, an eleventh grade English and Honors English teacher at Saint Anthony High School, was among four Garden State educators honored recently by Princeton University at its commencement exercises as a “distinguished” high school teacher.

After earning a degree in Secondary English Education in 1977 at Oneonta State, part of the SUNY system in New York State, Page taught English for three years at Marist High School in Bayonne. He then entered the Marist Brothers Novitiate. From 1981-83 Page taught English and U.S. History at Bishop Carroll High School in Pennsylvania.

It was in 1983 that he first entered a classroom at St. Anthony High School where he stayed until 1995. Page worked at Marist High School for the next two years, then taught English at Good Counsel High School, Newark, from 1997 to 2000. Following that

stint he then returned to St. Anthony High School where he has been ever since.

In addition to his teaching duties, Page started the school’s first Advanced Placement Class in Language Arts and later in Literature. Page also established St. Anthony’s first Basic Skills Academy in addition to an Underground Book Club and a Magic Club.

“In selecting Mr. Page, Princeton University has discovered what St. Anthony students already knew: Mr. Page cares for his students, gets them excited about learning and shares a wealth of knowledge about life and living,” Dr. Mathew Glowski, St. Anthony principal, commented. “Mr. Page is an unassuming, humble and brilliant teacher.”

Princeton University conducts a rigorous application and review process in the selection of honorees, part of which includes letters of recommendation from students. A Princeton spokesman said that “while virtually every nominee earned the respect of the committee as a ‘distinguished teacher,’ Mr. Page was plainly one of the most outstanding (members) of this superior group.”



Raymond Page

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Schools upgrade curriculum

Continued from page 1
 have put an emphasis on revising the teaching and learning process. Our task is to create and implement these programs.” He cited project learning, curriculum integration and problem solving as three examples of this education process.

Archdiocesan schools will embark on numerous programs to challenge students and upgrade curriculum. For example, St. Joseph the Carpenter elementary school, Roselle, this year will begin the second phase of an advanced science and math learning project. The program, which targets students in grades five

through eight, was implemented last year through a partnership with Kean University, Union.

Maryellen Woodstock, entering her third year as principal of the Roselle school, said Charlotte Diakite, a professor at Kean, was the catalyst for the program. Diakite’s daughter is a sixth grader at St. Joseph the Carpenter. “We want to encourage children at an early age to pursue math and science through this initiative,” Woodstock said.

The first phase of the program involved Kean professors and students—some graduates of St. Joseph the Carpenter—to work as

mentors for students at the Roselle school. The focus was on improving individual classroom and study skills.

Woodstock said this year the second phase of the program will introduce various education tutorials, where students will take special classes every Wednesday and work with computer programs. The tutorials will further enrich the mentoring experience. In addition, Woodstock—who served as a public school math teacher for 19 years—will teach an advanced-placement Algebra course.

Next year the third phase of the program will evolve into “teacher-to-teacher” mentoring, where Kean professors will work with science and math

teachers at St. Joseph the Carpenter. The educator mentoring will be done via the Internet using Smart Boards.

“Many students are fearful of math and science,” Woodstock said, noting that the program is designed to “bridge the gap” between pure academic science and math to applied science and math for career skills. “When it comes to science and math, teachers must give confidence to students at an early age. We know that mentoring works. We can do this together.”

Demarest-based Academy of the Holy Angels (AHA) set a school record as 86 percent of students passed their advanced placement (AP) test. Last year 193 students took the exam, double the total of past years. The number of participating juniors and seniors increased 60 percent.

Taking the AP exams allows students to gain college credit and helps them during the college admissions process.

AHA mandates the test as a means of external validation of success.

A “data-driven school,” AHA has tracked AP statistics for at least 20 years making changes along the way to improve the process. Five years ago it was determined to design the curriculum in order to open AP courses to junior year students. That was done by following a method called “vertical-team planning” in which teachers at different levels communicate with one another about students’ progress, strengths and areas needing improvement, in order to ensure the girls are reaching their maximum potential and being appropriately challenged.

“It is a testament to the quality of our program: the rigor of it, the excellence in teaching, and the intellect and dedication of our

students,” AHA Principal Jennifer Moran commented.

St. Thomas the Apostle, Bloomfield, has implemented a “Synergistic Learning System” for its seventh and eight grade students. Synergistic learning involves an interactive, multimedia approach to education that incorporates math, science and technology in its curriculum.

The curriculum at St. Thomas focuses on advanced-technology subjects as robotics, biotechnology, graphics and animation, physics and broadcasting. The program is designed to provide students with information on possible future career choices as well as promote personal life skills and critical thinking.

Assumption School, Wood-Ridge, is expanding its “Squires and Scribes” program for its high-achieving students in grades four to six. This interdisciplinary humanities program focuses on the Middle Ages. For example, students walk in the steps of King Arthur, study the culture of the Vikings, and learn stagecraft from members of the NJ Shakespeare Theatre.

This year the program will focus on India and the in-depth study of its religion, history, literature, music and art. In addition, seventh and eighth grade students will immerse themselves in the study of whales through activities sponsored by National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Association (Web site: www.noaa.gov).

St. Dominic Academy, Jersey City, became an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School last April—the only IB Catholic school in New Jersey. The International Baccalaureate (IB) offers high quality programs of international education to a worldwide community of schools.



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**9. Weekday Masses will be in the Newman Center Chapel
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Benedictine Academy students enjoy advanced summer learning programs

ELIZABETH—Four Benedictine Academy students took part in advanced higher education study opportunities this summer at various locations in preparation for college, exploring demanding fields of knowledge such as international politics, engineering and medicine.

Anayah Hall, who will enter her senior year at the academy in September, attended the Junior Statesman Summer School at Princeton University. She and other students explored the world of politics through classroom and hands-on experiences, including a speakers program at the United Nations.

Hall attended two college-level courses, one in government and the other in speech. The core program included AP (advanced placement) U.S. Government and Speech Communication. Other advanced courses available for those who have completed coursework in U.S. Government or U.S. History were U.S. Foreign Policy; Political Philosophy; or AP Comparative Government.

Ashley Perez studied engineering while living on campus at The New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), Newark, for five weeks. Perez, who is interested in a career in engineering, received eight college credits. She earned a full scholarship from NJIT to participate in the summer program. Perez will enter her senior year at Benedictine Academy in the fall.

Gabriella Bacchus and Yvonne Okereke explored careers in medicine, dentistry and the natural and applied sciences through "Project Science STAR (Searching Through Analytical Reasoning in the Sciences)" at Kean University, Union.

The program is offered through Kean University's College of Natural, Applied and Health Sciences to students who have completed their junior year of high school.

Bacchus and Okereke worked with other students under the supervision of biologists, chemists, forensic scientists and mathematicians. Participants received a certificate and a \$300 stipend.



Submitted photo

Benedictine Academy students Yvonne Okereke (left) and Gabriella Bacchus explored careers in medicine, dentistry and natural and applied science through Project Star (Searching Through Analytical Reasoning in the Sciences) at Kean University.

Sacred Heart pre-K class signups set

LYNDHURST—Sacred Heart School, 620 Valley Brook Ave., is accepting applications for enrollment in its pre-K3 and pre-K4 programs. Classes begin Sept. 11 for pre-K4 and Sept. 12 for pre-K3.

The pre-K classes are part of the school's Small Blessings project, which is an early childhood education program encompassing grades pre-K3 through kindergarten.

Several spots also are still available in the school's kindergarten, which begins Sept. 10. Margaret Smiriga is the principal of Sacred Heart.

Small Blessings offers half- and full-day programs for grades pre-K3 and pre-K4. Flexible scheduling allows families to select from two-, three- and five-day sessions for pre-K3, while all pre-K4 students attend school Monday through Friday. Before- and after-care programs also are available.

To be eligible for enrollment, pre-K3 children must be at least three years old and pre-K4 children must be four years old by Oct. 1. Pre-school students must be potty trained.

For more information about Sacred Heart School's Small Blessings pre-K programs, visit the school's Web site at www.sacred-heartlynd.org or call Sister Mary Immaculate, O.P., Small Blessings director, at (201) 935-0506.

Earlier this year the school was honored as "New Jersey's Kindest School" in ceremonies at the Trenton State House.

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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.

D.D.P.

ST. THERESA

Oh Glorious Saint Theresa, whom almighty God has raised up to aid and counsel mankind. I invite your miraculous intercession. So powerful are you obtaining every need of body and soul, our Holy Mother Church proclaims you a "Prodigy of Miracles." Now fervently I beseech you to answer my petition (mention here) and carry out your promise of doing good upon earth of letting fall from heaven a shower of roses. Henceforth, Dear little flower, I will fulfill your plea to be made known everywhere and I will never cease to lead others to Jesus through you. Amen. (Say prayer everyday for 9 days. By 4th day, ask for a sign. If prayers are to be answered. Between 4th and 9th day, you will see arose in magazine, TV picture or receive roses. You can also get a strong scent of roses in home even if no roses present. Must promise publication. Thank you.)

J.N.

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G.R.

**PRAYER TO THE
BLESSED VIRGIN**

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

M.T.

PRAYER TO ST. CLAIRE

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

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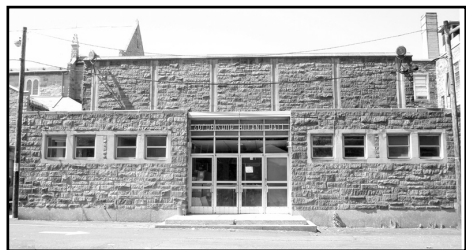
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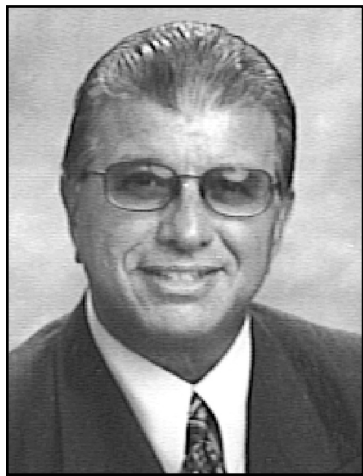
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Joseph Cioffi

Labor parade to step off on Sept. 7

NEWARK — Essex-West Hudson Labor Council, AFL-CIO, will honor Joseph Cioffi, president of Carpenters' Local 1342, on Friday, Sept. 7, at its 16th annual Celebration of Labor program.

Highlights of the day will include the traditional parade followed by an interfaith observance. A pre-parade reception is scheduled for 5 p.m. at Newark City Hall.

For additional information on the event, call Thomas P. Giblin, union president, at (973) 808-0022 or union adjunct, Kevin Frey, at (973) 224-5814.

Mount Carmel to host career workshop

RIDGEWOOD—The first in a four-part series of workshops, sponsored by the Career Resources Ministry of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, will take place Sunday, Sept. 9 at noon.

Held in the meeting room in the lower church building, the workshop is open to anyone seeking employment or who may be unemployed in the near future. Participants need not be parishioners. The parish is located at 1 Passaic St.

Ministry members include professionals who will address developing an employment strategy and preparing a resume. A Q&A session will follow the formal presentation.

Those attending the workshop should bring with them their most recent resume and job experience information.

Call Carol Shea at (201) 447-4215 for details on the career workshop.

Vatican official urges 'worker value'

GENEVA (CNS)—Labor, trade and investment policies and practices should value and protect the worker, a Vatican official told delegates at an international labor conference.

Global labor standards that widen worker protections "should not be considered a burden on trade agreements but rather a concrete support for human rights of workers and a condition for more equitable competition on the global level," said Archbishop Silvano Tomasi, Vatican representative to U.N. agencies. Archbishop Tomasi spoke recently during an annual labor conference sponsored by the U.N.'s International Labor Organization.

Last year some 195 million adults were unable to find work

and 1.4 billion people were working jobs "that did not pay enough to lift them above the \$2 a day poverty line," the archbishop said.

"Much of the restlessness and many of the conflicts that torment our society are rooted in the lack of jobs, in employment which lacks decent work conditions or living wages, and unjust economic relations," he told the delegates here.

The situation must be corrected by fighting discrimination and boosting social protections, he said, adding that the creation of new jobs is urgently needed "as the first means to prevent discrimination and poverty."

He went on to say that work, business, "financial investments,

trade and production should be rooted in a creative, cooperative and rule-based effort at the service" of people. A worker's personal talents should also be "invested for the common good," he added.

Among the workers he said "deserve special attention in the

new market" were women not receiving equal pay for equal work and in need of fairness in career advancement; people with disabilities; migrants; people living with HIV/AIDS; and working parents trying to juggle their responsibilities to their employers and families.



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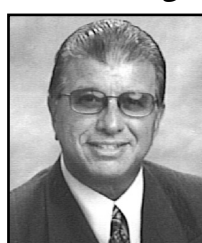
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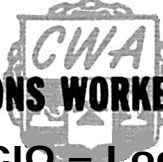
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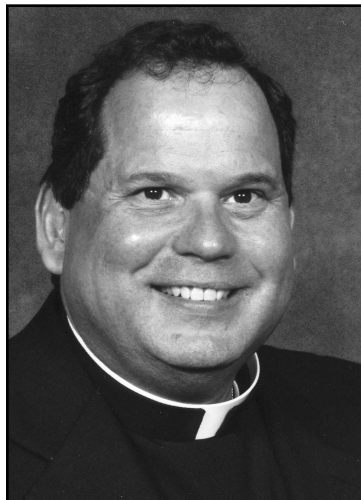
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Seminarians touch hearts and souls at St. Michael's

Preparation for priesthood aids patients

NEWARK—Six third-year seminarians from Immaculate Conception Seminary at Seton Hall University, South Orange, as part of their preparation for the



Msgr. Manuel Cruz

priesthood, spent eight weeks this summer working in pastoral ministry at Saint Michael's Medical Center, an affiliate of Cathedral Healthcare System.

"It is an opportunity for them to use the tools they were exposed to in the seminary, such as Scripture, prayer and psychology and to

amalgamate what they have learned with what they see and experience in this hospital," explained Msgr. Manuel Cruz, the vice president for Mission and Ministry and director of Pastoral Care for Cathedral Healthcare System.

"They are getting pastoral experience in a hospital setting," he added. "The men experience everything here and they can do everything a priest can do except give the sacraments and celebrate Mass."

The seminarians recently concluded their work at St. Michael's. An annual program, this pastoral ministry also celebrates the grand diversity of the archdiocese, as some of the seminarians hail from Asia and Africa.

Andrew N. Onyemaobi, born in Nigeria and a parishioner of Saint Antoninus Parish, said he previously has worked in a nursing home, "so I have a sense of what I will see here. I am learning different ways that I can sit with patients console them and be present for them."

"We see people searching for God in their suffering, both pa-

tients and their families," seminarian Andrew Park, born in Korea and raised in Fort Lee, commented. "Witnessing this gives me a stronger faith. My heart goes out to them. It is a unique experience being here. The more I see God's presence in dying patients, the more I see it as part of life's journey."

"Patients see us as people of God," Matthew R. Dooley, from Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Mountainside, said. "Being here gives me a chance to experience what I hope to be and what I represent. I am there to make God present."

In addition to visiting patients, praying with them, comforting and encouraging them when necessary, the seminarians also learn about the practical organizational aspects of hospital or parish administration.

"Every week we offer the men an in-service program covering all disciplines presented by directors of departments at Saint Michael's," Msgr. Cruz, who also serves as the archdiocesan healthcare apostolate, said. "They have

heard about the pharmacy, finance, homeland security and the budget. They have also heard a presentation about the mission and ministry of the Cathedral Healthcare hospitals and the scope of service offered to residents of Newark and surrounding communities."

"This experience brings into reality my pastoral training formation," Peter O. Iwuala, a native of Nigeria and a parishioner of Blessed Sacrament/St. Charles Borromeo Parish, said. "This is an opportunity to be there for patients who are lonely and be able to sympathize and empathize with them."

"Some patients may not welcome us, but I am not offended," Iwuala continued. "In the class-

room we speak about responding or reacting to patients and their families wisely after digesting what information comes in. I feel privileged to a part of this and I thank God to be a servant of the people."

Cathedral Healthcare System is a nonprofit hospital system that includes Saint Michael's Medical Center, Saint James Hospital and Columbus Hospital. The three medical facilities, all based here, are affiliated with Catholic Health and Human Services Corp. and support the mission of the Archdiocese of Newark. Additional information on Cathedral Healthcare System is available online at www.cathedralhealth.org.

Magazine taps Robert Spira as a top doctor in the region

NEWARK—Robert S. Spira, M.D., chief of gastrointestinal endoscopy, director of the Department of Gastroenterology, and president of the medical staff at Saint Michael's Medical Center is among the tri-state area's "Best Doctors," according to an annual

list compiled by *New York Magazine*.

The magazine uses data supplied by Manhattan-based Castle Connolly Medical Ltd., whose annual guidebook, "Top Doctors: New York Metro Area," lists the top 10 percent of the region's physicians. The list is compiled through a peer-review survey process, in which physicians nominate the best among their peers in the medical field.



Dr. Robert S. Spira

Dr. Spira is a professor of medicine at Seton Hall University and a clinical associate professor at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ). He earned his medical degree from New York University School of Medicine. A diplomate of the American Board of Gastroenterology, Dr. Spira is the author of numerous scientific publications and is board-certified in internal medicine and gastroenterology.

In addition to his post at Saint Michael's Medical Center, Dr. Spira maintains offices in Kearny and Belleville, and is a member of Essex Gastroenterology Associates, LLC.

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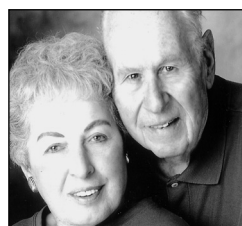
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Friendship Center's raffle benefits Building Blocks Scholarship Fund

HACKETTSTOWN—The Friendship Center at Schooley's Mountain, an intergenerational childcare center, recently held a raffle to benefit The Friendship Center's Building Blocks Scholarship Fund.

The fund enables a child selected by the Domestic Abuse Rape Crisis Center (DARCC), Belvidere, to attend the Friendship Center for one year free of charge.

This year the Friendship Center (www.friendshipctrchildcare.com) raffled off a wooden playhouse built and donated by the Heath Village Woodworkers—a group that has been busy for years sharing their time and expertise to create extraordinary items for the children at the Intergenerational Child Care Center.

Since its inception in 1966, Heath Village has encouraged residents to become involved through participation in activities. By volunteering their time and talents, members of the woodworkers group continue that mission by inviting children



Submitted photo

Jack Sciortino and family were the winners of the wooden playhouse built by the Heath Village Men's Club. The Friendship Center, an intergenerational childcare facility, incorporates senior citizens from Heath Village—the adjacent retirement community—into its childcare programs.

to their woodshop to mentor them on various projects.

Each family that attends the Friendship Center supported the mission of enabling a child from DARCC to attend the center by selling a packet of 10 tickets. The raffle winner was Jack Sciortino of the Teddy Bear Class. The

Friendship Center also awarded one month's free tuition to student Jennifer Coombs, who sold the most tickets.

The Friendship Center incorporates senior citizens from Heath Village, the adjacent retirement community, into its childcare programs.

St. Michael's surgeon wins award from AHA

NEWARK—Dr. Mark W. Connolly, chief of cardiovascular and thoracic surgery and director of the Heart and Vascular Institute at Saint Michael's Medical Center, was honored by the American Heart Association's (AHA) Northern New Jersey Regional Board at its second annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner.

Connolly was cited for his volunteer efforts in support of the annual "Affair of the Heart Gala," which benefits the AHA. He has served on the organization's Leadership Board and was the first doctor to be honored last year by the AHA regional board as its "Physician of the Year."

He was selected for his work on a number of new procedures including minimally invasive heart surgery, beating heart coronary artery bypass graft surgery, valve repair in lieu of valve replacement, endoscopic radial artery and saphenous vein harvesting, radio frequency ablation for the treatment of atrial fibrillation and aortic surgery.

"Dr. Connolly is widely recognized for his successful surgical intervention, especially in complex, high-risk cases," Felicia Kasros, administrator of Saint Michael's Medical Center, said. "In the recently published report Cardiac Surgery in New Jersey 2004, the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services acknowledged Dr. Connolly as having one of the lowest risk adjusted patient mortality rates in the state. We are proud that he carries on a long tradition of top-quality heart care at Saint Michael's Medical Center."

Robert Evans, president of Catholic Health Services and chief of operations for Cathedral Healthcare System, also offered words of praise for Dr. Connolly. "As a board member of the American Heart Association, I have worked with many wonderful people to fight cardiovascular disease," Evans said. "Superb clinicians such as Dr. Connolly inspire us to keep up the fight. I know Mark Connolly personally and professionally and he is most deserving of this honor."

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ACCCRUS holds confab in Clark

Continued from page 1

commitment to our work. It is an expression of our own vision and an expression of our expansive and fruitful missions.”

Serving as ACCCRUS president for the past three years, Father Nwaorgu has seen many changes in the organization. “We called for a more formal structure in 2003. Being president has been both challenging and rewarding. There has been much increase of religious joining the convention over the past three years. New chapters of ACCCRUS have been established. We have made our presence known at the Episcopal Conference in Africa. However, the work to be done remains enormous.”

Challenges faced by the conference include forming more chapters of ACCCRUS throughout America, the need to ratify a constitution for the organization and to become a resource for U.S. bishops.

Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, who provided the opening address at the event, made it clear to the religious from Africa

that they are truly welcomed to the Archdiocese of Newark.

“It is not enough to say that you are welcomed, but to make you all feel welcomed,” Bishop da Cunha said. “You serve and offer your gifts to the archdiocese. Years ago, Americans and Europeans went to Africa to spread the Gospel and Africa welcomed the missionaries. Today the roles are reversed and the African Catholics continue to evangelize in America.”

In an increasingly diverse archdiocese, Bishop da Cunha cited the Bible as a reference on how to welcome others. “The presence of brothers and sisters from different cultures should be celebrated as gifts to the Church. Jesus said ‘I was a stranger and you welcomed me.’ The Church cannot afford to be unwelcoming; it is un-Christian and against our Gospel. We are a nation and a Church of immigrants. (ACCCRUS) represents the universality and Catholicism of the Church. We are all God’s children and (the African missionaries and religious) bring new energy to our charge.”

When people feel welcome in both a new country and in a parish, they will be more likely to return, Bishop da Cunha explained. “Pope John Paul II said that the Church is not foreign to anyone, anywhere. The simple, grace-filled kindness of parishioners is the first step to welcoming those from other countries. Immigrants are helping revive the



Advocate photo—Melissa McNally

Bishop Edgar M. da Cunha, Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, addressed the African religious working in the United States. “You are part of the Church and her mission to evangelize,” he said.

Church. We must have respect for cultural diversity and promote an authentic culture of welcome; tolerance is not enough.

“Many immigrants have left their families and they need a place where they belong, they need a home,” he continued. “You are part of the Church and Her mission to evangelize. People will not be inspired to embrace Jesus unless they feel welcomed. Welcome and God bless you all.”

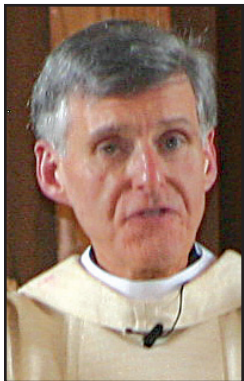
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Father Frank Rocchi

Father Rocchi marks his silver anniversary

IRVINGTON—Father Frank J. Rocchi, the pastor of Good Shepherd Parish, recently celebrated Mass in memory of his parents and in celebration of the 25th anniversary of his ordination.

During his homily, Father Rocchi recounted the journey from his youth outside of Philadelphia up to his current assignment.

After 13 years as a Franciscan Brother and with a master's degree in both Theology and Religious Education, he came to the Archdiocese of Newark in September 1980 and decided to pursue the priesthood. He originally was assigned to St. Paul Parish in Ramsey.

He asked those from his past assignments as well as current parishioners to stand. Present were parishioners from Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Jersey City where he was ordained in 1982; St. Henry Parish in Bayonne, where he served for nine years; St. Anne Parish, also in Jersey City, where he served two years; Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Maplewood where he served a

dozen years including three as pastor and the newly formed Good Shepherd Parish where he was named pastor in July 2005.

Father Rocchi also acknowledged teachers, administrators and thanked members of his family, for their love and support.

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