

Come,
O come,
Emmanuel



The Catholic Advocate



Vol. 52, No. 23

Wednesday, December 3, 2003

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Mausoleum garden blessed, Archbishop Myers and local priests offer solemn Mass

BY GREG TOBIN
Editor & Associate Publisher

More than 800 people attended the blessing of the Holy Rosary Garden Mausoleum by Archbishop John J. Myers at the Holy Cross Chapel Mausoleum, Holy Cross Cemetery, North Arlington, on the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King, Sunday afternoon, Nov. 23.

In a reflective setting bathed by sunshine from a cruciform skylight, the Archbishop presided at the Mass, which was concelebrated by Msgr. William B. Naedele, Msgr. William J. Fadrowski, Father James J. Reilly, Father Dante Di Girolamo and Father James O. Sheerin.

Sheri A. Rickert, J.D., Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Newark, proclaimed the Old Testament reading (Daniel 7:13-14), and Joanne Staats Catholic Cemeteries counselor, read from the New Testament (Revelations 1:5-8). Transitional Deacon Richard Berbary read the Gospel (John 18:33-37).

In his homily, Archbishop Myers noted that "when we see a person, we recognize certain features as they come closer," and he asked, "What do we know about a person?" He referred to fellow human beings whom we encounter in life,

some of whom we know well, others not so well—some familiar through specific character traits, others who become more well known to us as time goes on.

Through the history of the Church, from its earliest days, we have learned more about Jesus, gotten to know Him better and better. We know Him, in part, through the various names and titles given to Him.

"Jesus is the King who reigns from the Cross," the Archbishop proclaimed.

Archbishop Myers contrasted the majestic and constant Jesus Christ with the image some have of Jesus as a "buddy" or God as an "impersonal force," neither of which is true.

"A loving God sent His Son to be one of us, one with us—to stand at the center of all creation," the Archbishop said, noting that Pope John Paul II has reemphasized this perennial teaching and faith of the Church for all time.

As the Gospels teach, "Jesus is our only access to the Father."

After the General Intercessions the Archbishop walked through the mausoleum building, blessing the Holy Rosary Garden and the entire structure.



Advocate photo - Jorge Repollet

Inter-religious forum explores 'Passion' film controversy

BY WARD MIELE
Managing Editor

The controversy surrounding actor-director Mel Gibson's film *The Passion of Christ* apparently will not subside any time soon.

A unique perspective was provided at a special inter-religious forum Nov. 17 at St. Philomena Parish, Livingston.

Taking to the podium before an audience of some 230 people were Father Lawrence E. Frizzell, Director of the Institute of Judaic-Christian Studies at Seton Hall University, and Rabbi A. James Rudin, Senior Religious Adviser of the American Jewish Committee. The forum was co-sponsored by the American Jewish Committee and the Archdiocese of Newark.

Father Frizzell has read a copy

of the original script, while Rabbi Rudin was among a diverse group of clergy who screened a rough cut of the film three months ago in Houston, Texas.

Gibson, both speakers pointed out, is not a supporter of the Second Vatican Council.

As Father Frizzell sees it, Gibson "doesn't seem to have much respect" for Vatican II.

The Second Vatican Council (1962-65), noted Father Frizzell, rejected placing blame for the death of Jesus on the Jews. Doing so, he went on, "set the record straight" and provided the "foundation for a new relationship" between the two faiths, Catholicism and Judaism.

Themes throughout the film,
Continued on page 23



Advocate photo - Greg Tobin

Men currently in formation at Immaculate Conception Seminary were admitted as candidates for ordination, first to the diaconate and then the priesthood, by Archbishop Myers, Sunday, Nov. 23 on the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, South Orange.



Advocate photo - Greg Tobin

Solemnity of Christ the King 2003

Archbishop John J. Myers presided at Mass on Sunday, Nov. 23 at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, South Orange, for the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King. At the Mass, candidates for the priesthood from the Archdiocese of Newark, the Diocese of Wilmington and the Diocese of Trenton were called forward and accepted. They represented Immaculate Conception Seminary and Redemptoris Mater Archdiocesan Missionary Seminary. Here Archbishop Myers exposes the Blessed Sacrament for adoration by parishioners at the conclusion of the Mass.

A heartfelt thanks to you all



BY MOST REV. JOHN J. MYERS

Archbishop of Newark

While you were reading my comments in the last issue of *The Catholic Advocate* about the fall meeting of the U.S. Bishops' Conference last month, I was reading some truly joyous news from the conference's auditors concerning the audit of the Archdiocese of Newark's efforts to implement the terms of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

I am happy to report that the auditors have determined, based on their thorough review of our procedures and progress in implementing the charter, that we are working effectively to create and maintain a safe environment for children and youth in the Archdiocese. In addition, the auditors reviewed our procedures and processes for investigating claims of sexual abuse of minors for compliance with the charter, and found them to be satisfactory as well.

A significant portion of the success of our audit was the recognition by the auditors that thousands of you in the Archdiocese—volunteers and staff alike—are stepping up to attend the Protecting God's Children workshops, undergoing background checks, and demonstrating the commitment of the people of the Local Church of Newark to the charter and the reporting requirements of the State of New Jersey.

Even today, the number of staff and volunteers who have attended training since I reported to you in

my last column continues to rise as our recently trained volunteer facilitators conduct workshops in parishes and schools. Just as important, and equally encouraging, is that at this very early stage of our efforts to implement background checks, more than 5,000 staff and volunteers have already been through the Choicepoint background check process, and no one has been limited or restricted from serving in ministry to children and youth. As I have said from

the beginning, we do not believe that our efforts will uncover predators. They will, however, be a solid demonstration to a potential predator that all of us are vigilant and

committed to keeping children safe.

The format and speed undertaken to implement this training and distribute information about our safe environment program resulted in inconveniences and strain to many of you. As those of you who attended the large-audience sessions of Protecting God's Children in October know, the auditors had rejected our original idea of a gradual unfolding of the program at the parish and school level. We were given no choice but to meet the deadlines they imposed on us.

Yet you responded to this urgent appeal gracefully, and enthusiastically.

I am grateful to you for helping the Archdiocese meet this critical obligation, and for your steadfast insistence that this great Archdiocese be a leader in the Catholic Church's efforts to restore trust.

You responded to this urgent appeal gracefully, and enthusiastically.

Stewardship

Who are stewards of the Church? We are!

BY ANDREW KACZYNSKI

Coordinator of Stewardship for the Archdiocese

This column of my continuing look into the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' pastoral letter titled *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response* focuses on Chapter Four of the letter, which is called "Stewards of the Church." This chapter calls us to be caretakers of the Church, the Body of Christ, through our call to evangelize, to act in solidarity and to participate in the Eucharist.

As good Christian stewards, one of our primary focuses must be the gratitude of and care for the Church itself, because we are a community of faith that makes up the one Body of Christ. This is another fundamental message of what stewardship teaches us.

The bishops explain, "Because its individual members do collectively make up the Body of Christ, that body's health

and well-being are the responsibility of the members—the personal responsibility of each one of us. We all are stewards of the Church. As 'to each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit' (1 Cor 12:7), so stewardship in an ecclesial setting means cherishing and fostering the gifts of all, while using one's own gifts to serve the community of faith. Those who set their hearts upon spiritual gifts must 'seek to have an abundance for building up the Church.' (1 Cor 14:12)"

How is this building up of the Church accomplished? It is done through personal participation in and

support of the Church's mission of proclaiming and teaching, serving and sanctifying. Again, all are part of what it means to be a good steward. We are called to place our gifts, our resources—ourselves—at God's service in and through the Church, as good stewards, giving freely of our time, talent and treasure.

For as St. Paul reminds us, "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully...God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Cor 9:6-7)

As a result of this commitment, stewardship of the Church leads people to share in the work of evangelization by formal catechesis, by word, deed and example, and by performing works of justice and mercy on behalf of persons in need. These forms of evangelization are important for all Christians to perform in whatever vocation in life they are part of.

This is particularly true for parents who must teach their children not only about the faith itself, but of the truths of the faith. They must pray with them, share Christian values with them, and initiate them into the practice of stewardship itself.

The bishops' pastoral letter gives us insight into our call to evangelize by stating, "Every member of the Church is called to evangelize, and the practice of authentic Christian stewardship inevitably leads to evangelization. As stewards of the mysteries of God, people desire to tell others about them and about the light they shed on human life, to share the

gifts and graces they have received from God, especially knowledge of Christ Jesus, 'who became for us wisdom from God, as well as righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.' (1 Cor 1:30)"

The bishops then refer to the fact that we must act in solidarity with one another to accomplish these challenges of being stewards of the Church and of being evangelizers of the Good News, and we must overcome the obstacles to solidarity, like sheer selfish lack of love, hypocrisy, disparities in wealth and power, and the persistence of religious conflicts and divisions.

The final point in this chapter of the pastoral letter refers to what it means to live in "Eucharistic Stewardship" with one another.

This is poignantly written as follows: "The Eucharist is the great sign and agent of this expansive communion of charity. Here people enjoy a unique union with Christ and, in Him, with one another. Here His love—indeed, His very self—flows into His disciples and, through them and their practice of stewardship, to the entire human race. Here Jesus renews His covenant-forming act of perfect fidelity to God, while also making it possible for us to cooperate.

"In the Eucharist, Christians reaffirm their participation in the New Covenant; they give thanks to God for blessings received; and they strengthen their bonds of commitment to one another as members of the covenant community Jesus forms."

I pray again that these words may help and continue to educate us, inspire us and form us into the good stewards of all God's gifts—to be the good stewards that Christ calls us to be.

All are part of what it means to be a good steward.



USPS-008-380

The Catholic Advocate

Most Reverend John J. Myers
President and Publisher

G. Gregory Tobin
Editor and Associate Publisher

Margaret Pearson-McCue
Advertising Director

J. Ward Miele
Managing Editor

Marilyn Smith
Production Supervisor

PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT

The Catholic Advocate is published by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark at 171 Clifton Ave., Newark NJ 07104-9500. Member of the Catholic Press Association and associate member of the New Jersey Press Association. Subscriber to Catholic News Service (CNS). Periodical postage is paid at Newark NJ and at additional offices. Postmaster: Please send address changes to: 171 Clifton Ave, Newark, NJ 07104.

ADVERTISING

The Catholic Advocate does not endorse the services and goods advertised in its pages. Acceptance of advertisers and advertising copy is subject to the publisher's approval. Neither the publication nor publisher shall be liable for damages if an advertisement fails to be published or for any error in an advertisement.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

New Jersey residents: \$15.00
Senior (over 65) citizens: \$12.50
Out of state: \$30.00
Outside the U.S.: \$50.00

Call: (973) 497-4195

FREQUENCY FOR REMAINDER OF YEAR

The Catholic Advocate continues to be a bi-weekly publication. Publication dates for the Year 2003 is: December 17.

TELEPHONES, E-MAIL AND FAX NUMBERS:

Phone: (973) 497-4200.
Fax: (973) 497-4192.
Editorial: mielejos@rcan.org.
Advertising: pearsoma@rcan.org.

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to:
171 Clifton Ave, Newark, NJ 07104

NJPA



ISSN# 1084-3213

The Holy Spirit is guiding the Church

The following is a portion of the homily given by Newark's Archbishop Emeritus, Peter Leo Gerety, at a Mass honoring his 90th birthday, July 13, 2002, at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark. We reprint it here on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the promulgation of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy by the Second Vatican Council, Dec. 4, 1963.

Every once in a while in the long history of the Church throughout the centuries there comes an event that in a spectacular way makes the Holy Spirit's presence in the Church visible to us. That event in my life was surely the Second Vatican Council.

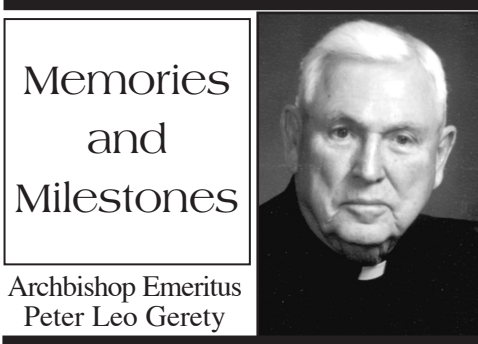
It was almost totally unexpected and brought vast changes, not in the substance of the faith to be sure, but in the life and attitudes of Catholics in so many areas. The Council brought an end to the embattled, defensive counter-Reformation period. It really opened windows, let in fresh air as Blessed Pope John XXIII hoped it would. It introduced a current of reform in the Church, which I confidently believe was the work of the Spirit and is, therefore, irreversible. Obstacles may appear, voices of doom may cry alarm, but the Spirit has revealed God's purposes through the Council and those purposes will be fulfilled.

My dream, no, my absolute conviction, is that nothing will succeed in turning back the tide of reform.

Let me give you one example. For centuries upon centuries the Mass in the Western Church was said in Latin. The Council opened the floodgates. Our central act of worship suddenly went into English—an enormous and highly beneficial change for our involvement in the Church's prayer life. For some few who yearn for a return to the way it was before, our Holy Father has given special permission for them to be comforted by making it possible for them to have a Latin Mass. However, to believe that the whole body of the Church in the English-speaking world would drop English and return to the way it was before Vatican II is a hopeless dream.

Such a reversal is completely impossible. I hope for a great development in our liturgical forms that will bring an even more beautiful and meaningful evolution in our prayer life and in Church music.

And speaking of liturgy, I believe that what is happening around the altar is a paradigm of what is evolving in the life of the Church in many areas. Before the Council, the involvement of the laity at the altar was limited to altar servers—all male. See what is happening now! Men and women proclaiming the Scriptures. Men and women administering the Eucharist.



Memories and Milestones

Archbishop Emeritus Peter Leo Gerety

And that scene around the altar is really a picture of other developments in the body of the Church. Women and men are taking part in parish and diocesan pastoral councils. Women and men are acting as financial and legal advisers; others are in business and administrative positions not only at the parish level, but even in the sacrosanct precincts of the chancery.

These examples of great change result from imperatives laid down at the Second Vatican Council. They are only a part of the movement, which is destined to grow and flourish within the body of the Church. They are an augury of the day when the vision of the Fathers of the Council will be completely realized. I look forward to that day of its maximum development with enthusiasm

even though my life expectancy at this time does not promise me time to see it come to full flower.

The great theologian Dominican Father Yves Congar was an enormous influence at the Council. He once wrote the following: "We are convinced that... if the Church, secure in her foundations," (by which he meant, secure in the hierarchical structure given to her by Christ Himself) "if the Church... boldly throws herself open to lay activity, she will experience such a springtime as we cannot imagine." That is precisely the tide of reform set in motion by the Council.

For that to come about we are all summoned to take our part through prayer, sacrifice and the utilization of our God-given talents for the good of the cause of Christ and His Church. New structures will surely develop to empower the members of the Mystical Body under the direction of the Holy Father and the bishops in this great work of building up the body of Christ, which is the Church.

"You... are living stones," says Saint Peter, "built as an edifice of the Spirit, into a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." (1 Pt)

Let's not forget that in the Lord Jesus we are a resurrection people. All together in Him we make the Church of God come alive and able to bring His light to the nations.

God calls all of us: priests, deacons, religious men and women, laity and clergy, married couples, architects, artists, musicians, engineers, lawyers, physicians, carpenters, mail carriers, law enforcement personnel, firefighters, teachers... the list is long. It means everybody, all of us, no matter what our talents may be, to gather round

Continued on page 13

Official Appointments

Archbishop John J. Myers has announced the following appointments:

Dean/Union County

Very Reverend Stephen S. Feehan, V.F., Pastor of the Church of the Little Flower, Berkeley Heights, has been appointed Dean of Deanery 22, Union County Northwest, effective Oct. 7, and ending Oct. 7, 2008.

Administrator/Bergen County

Very Reverend Patrick W. Donohue, V.F., Dean of Deanery 5 Bergen South Central, has been appointed Administrator of the Church of Our Lady Queen of Peace, Maywood, effective Dec. 1, until a pastor is named.

Other/Bergen County

Reverend Don Bosco Park, Parochial Vicar of the Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Ridgewood, has been appointed Court Chaplain of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court 1712 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Ridgewood, effective Oct. 28.

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Novarcensis: A Look Back at Our History



165 years ago...

December 2. Dedication of the old St. Peter's Church, Belleville, by Bishop John Dubois, S.S., of New York.

162 years ago...

December 9. Winand M. Wigger, third Bishop of Newark, born in New York City.

144 years ago...

December 8. The North American College was opened in Rome and Michael A. Corrigan, future second Bishop of Newark, was one of the first seminarians.

130 years ago...

December 6. Thomas J. Walsh, first Archbishop of Newark, born in Parkers Landing, PA.

125 years ago...

December 15. Dedication of the old St. Leo's Church, Irvington.

102 years ago...

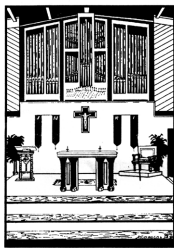
December 15. Dedication of St. Stanislaus Church, Newark.

29 years ago...

December 12. Archbishop Peter L. Gerety received the pallium in Rome from Pope Paul VI.

Edited by Rev. Msgr. Francis R. Seymour

This column will commemorate important dates in the history of the Archdiocese of Newark, which celebrates its 150th anniversary this year. We welcome suggestions and anecdotes.



December 3

St. Philip the Apostle Parish, Saddle Brook, Ray Boswell (The Potter) will perform at 7:30 p.m. Call rectory at (201) 843-1888 or Eleanor (201) 843-8945.

December 6

St. Joseph Regional High School, Montvale, Christmas Craft Fair, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., also Sunday Dec. 7. Admission \$3. Call (201) 391-2099.

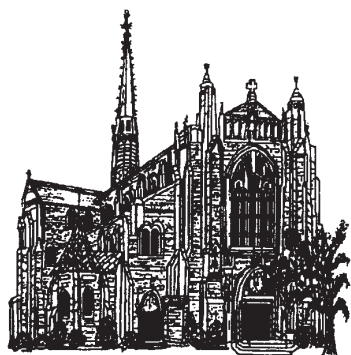


Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish, Roseland, annual Christmas concert at 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$10. Call (973) 226-7288.

St. Philomena Parish, Livingston, an Advent Choir Prelude Concert and Mass, 4:30 p.m., Free. Call (973) 992-0994.

December 8

Immaculate Conception Parish, Mahwah, 14th annual National Night of Prayer for Life. Eucharistic Adoration from after 8 p.m. Mass until 1 a.m. Call Hilary Cavalier (201) 934-5679.

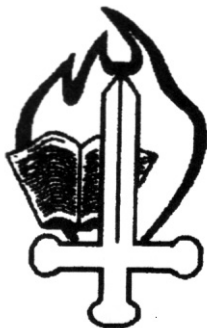


December 9

Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, South Orange, second Advent lecture, 7:30 p.m. in St. Joseph's Hall, enter on Fourth Street. Sheri A. Rickert, J.D., Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Newark will speak on "Lay Women in the Church." For information call parish office (973) 763-5454.

December 10

Guardian Angel Parish, Allendale, a prayer service based on songs from Taize will be held at 7:30 p.m. The service will include songs from Taize, Scripture reading, prayer and silent meditation. Open to the public.



December 11

St. Paul Parish, Ramsey, healing service at 8 p.m. Call Mary Forrester (732) 262-3776.

St. Joseph Regional High School, Montvale, annual Christmas Concert and Tree Lighting at 7:30 p.m. Call (201) 391-3300.

December 14

St. Dominic Academy Glee Club, Jersey City, 25th anniversary Christmas concert at St. Aloysius Church at 4 p.m. Call (201) 434-5938, ext. 35.

December 15

Queen of Peace Parish, North Arlington, monthly exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call Christine Flynn (201) 246-0228.

December 16

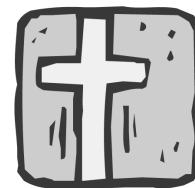
Our Lady of the Visitation Parish, Paramus, the Gospel in art will be the motif of an Advent penance service at 7 p.m. Call (201) 261-6080.

Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, South Orange, third Advent lecture, 7:30 p.m. in St. Joseph's Hall, enter on Fourth Street. Sister Margherita Marchione, M.P.F. will lecture on "Pope Pius XII and the Holocaust." For information call parish office (973) 763-5454.

December 17

St. Theresa Parish, Kenilworth, will present Father Alphonse Stephenson and the Orchestra of St. Peter

by the Sea, at 7:30 p.m. For tickets call (908) 709-1930.



December 18

Blessed Sacrament/St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Newark, Advent revival, "Anticipate the Hour—Rejoice the Lord is Coming," Dec. 18 through Dec. 20. Friday is youth night. The service each day begins at 7 p.m. The revival will end with Mass celebrated Sunday at 10 a.m. Guest revivalist is Father Fred Washington of St. Mark's Parish, Harlem. Call (973) 824-6548.

December 21

St. Dominic Academy Women's Choir, Jersey City, annual Christmas concert at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, at 4 p.m. Call (201) 434-5938, ext. 35.

Our Policy

To publicize an upcoming event at your parish, school or organization on the "Around the Archdiocese" page, please note:

- Submissions must include the name of the sponsoring organization, a phone number for the contact person and event specifics, including the date, place and time.
- Deadline for submission is 10 days prior to publication date.
- The Catholic Advocate publishes submissions as space allows and cannot print an item more than once.
- Contact by **email**: mielejos@rcan.org, **fax**: 973-497-4192, or **mail**: The Catholic Advocate, Around the Archdiocese, 171 Clifton Ave., Newark, NJ 07104

Local Highlights

Retreats

- The Christian Foundations for Ministry will hold a retreat for graduates of the program on Saturday, Dec. 6, at the Archdiocesan Center, Newark. Mass at 9 a.m., closure, 12 noon. The retreat will be directed in English and Spanish.
- The Sisters of Jesus Our Hope, Bound Brook, will offer "Making Life Choices: Helping Catholic Single Women Consider God's Call," on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call (732) 271-5777.

Respect Life

- New Jersey Right to Life (NJRTL) will be sponsoring the Rally for Life on Jan. 22 in Trenton, which will be held on the steps of the State House from 11 a.m.–1 p.m. Call (908) 276-6620 or email mtasy@njrtl.org.
- The Little Flower Pro-Life Committee of St. Theresa Parish, Kenilworth, will hold the 14th Annual National Night of Prayer for Life from Dec. 8–9, beginning at 9 p.m. Open to the public. Call Elaine Kozak at (908) 272-5557.

Open Houses

- Mother Seton Regional High School, Clark, an all girls' college-preparatory school, for girls in

grades 6-8 on Wednesday, Dec. 10 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., and on Tuesday, Jan. 27. Call (732) 382-1952.

Seminars

- St. James Hospital, 155 Jefferson St., Newark, will offer classes in prenatal care and Lamaze Natural Childbirth. Classes will be held in English and Spanish and will meet Dec. 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 22 and 23 from 6 to 9 p.m. The series is free, but reservations are required. Call (973) 465-2814.
- Family Life Ministries and the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Newark are sponsoring a series of Annulment Information Evenings. At each session, a Canon lawyer from the Tribunal will provide the most recent guidelines, theology and requisites for obtaining an annulment from the Church. The next session will be on Wednesday, Dec. 10, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Peace Parish, New Providence. Call (973) 497-4327.
- The Career Resources Ministry of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Ridgewood, will be presenting a planned series of Support Group Sessions for those re-entering the workforce on Dec. 3 and Dec. 17, from 7:30 to 9 p.m., in the parish library. Open to the public.

Fundraisers

- Seton Hall University's School of Graduate Medical Education will host a poetry reading fundraiser, "A Celebration of Poetry," for Ekiwah Adler-Belendez, the 16-year-old Mexican poet prodigy afflicted since birth with cerebral palsy and paralytic scoliosis, on Dec. 8, from 6 to 8 p.m., in Kozlowski Hall Auditorium. Cost is \$25; free for students. Call (908) 522-5531.
- St. Vincent's Nursing Home Auxiliary will host its annual Sleigh Bell Luncheon and Fashion Production, "Sleigh Bell on Broadway," on Thursday, Dec. 4, at Mayfair Farms, West Orange. Proceeds will directly benefit residents of the nursing home. Cost is \$40. Call (973) 239-7797.

Masses

- Members of the Sodality of the Children of Mary of St. Teresa will attend a Tridium of Masses, on Friday, Dec. 5 at 3:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 6 at 9 a.m. and Sunday, Dec. 7 at 10 a.m., at the Chapel of St. Peter Hall, Jersey City. Call Katherine Crossan, (201) 689-1471 or Rita Holmes, (201) 413-0123.

Education

- Queen of Peace High School, Clark, will hold its First Annual President's Dinner, on Dec. 6. Sister Anita Maria O'Dwyer, S.S.J., Principal

of Queen of Peace elementary school, will be honored for her decades of service. Other outstanding members of the Queen of Peace family will be recognized as well. Call (201) 998-8227 ext. 27 or visit QPHS.org.

- Academy of the Holy Angels, Demarest, is accepting applications from Academy graduates for partial tuition remission for a year in an undergraduate or graduate program until Dec. 20. Call Maureen O'Connor, (201) 768-7822, ext. 211.

Young Adult

- The Travelin' Catholics Cruise & Tour Club, Bloomfield, will host a Wine and Cheese Social for Singles, on Dec. 19 at 7:30 p.m., at the Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center, Kearny. Cost is \$10. Call (973) 680-1577.

Musical Events

- Seton Hall University, Kozlowski Hall, International Music Festival, presents Heidi Grant Murphy, with pianist Kevin Murphy, on Dec. 9 at 8 p.m. Admission \$18; \$12 for seniors. Call (973) 275-2450.
- The Seton Hall University Touring Choir, Vocal Ensemble & Orchestra present "Lessons in Carols," at the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception on Dec. 12 at 5 p.m. Free. The

choir will also present "Songs of the Season" at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, South Orange, on Dec. 14 at 4 p.m. Suggested donation is \$5. Call (973) 761-9417.

- Schola Cantorum on Hudson, a 30-voice choral group from northern New Jersey, will present a program of works by Vivaldi and Bach beginning at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 7 at St. Michael Parish, Jersey City. Admission is \$15; \$10 for seniors and full-time students. Call (201) 333-8429 or visit scholaonhudson.org.

Clothing Drive

- Secular Franciscan Charities, Inc., located at the St. Ann Parish rectory, 103 16th Ave., Newark, is collecting used winter clothing, toys and related items. Needed too is a pick-up truck or cargo van that is tax deductible. Call Leo or Ofelia Gutierrez, (973) 565-9557.

Singles

The singles group of St. Philomena Parish, Livingston, has scheduled two events in December. On Dec. 6 bingo will be played beginning at 7:30 p.m. The annual Christmas party will be held on Dec. 20 at 8 p.m. Both events take place in St. Joseph Hall. For additional information call (973) 340-4001 or log on to www.homestead.com/stphilssingles.

Has the Vatican changed its mind about war in Iraq?

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Early this year, during the count-down to the Iraq War, Pope John Paul II and his Vatican aides wasted no opportunity to broadcast their opposition to a U.S.-led invasion.

They warned that besides being unjust, an invasion would be counterproductive—it would leave many dead and wounded, destroy Iraqi infrastructure, increase the hardships on civilians, increase political pressures on Iraqi Christians, ignite civil strife in the country, weaken the United Nations and foment global terrorism.

Fast-forward eight months, and it seems that most or all of the Vatican's warnings were accurate, but no one is saying "I told you so."

On the contrary, several top cardinals have warned against a pullout of U.S. and allied troops from Iraq, especially after deadly attacks on soldiers there.

The Vatican's own representative in Iraq has said military withdrawal now would be the worst option.

To those who would view Iraqi attacks on U.S. and allied soldiers as legitimate resistance to an illegal occupation, the Vatican has offered zero support.

After a recent truck bomb at an Italian army headquarters left 19 dead, Italian bishops denounced the attack as terrorism. The pope seemed to sign on to that definition a few days later when he spoke of the "wicked work" accomplished by terrorists in Iraq.

The pontiff and Italian bishops joined in honoring the dead Italian soldiers, saying they were engaged in a mission of peace. When a lone Italian bishop objected to the "sanctification" of Italy's military operation in Iraq, he was sharply criticized and asked by a leading Vatican official to explain his statement.

Has the Vatican changed its mind about the war in Iraq?

"It's not that the Vatican position has changed, but the situation in Iraq has been completely transformed," said one Vatican official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"The Vatican clearly said 'no' to the war. But at a certain point, you have to manage the situation that's been created in the way that does

the least damage," he said.

"If the military pulls out of Iraq now, the country would fall into chaos. The vase has been broken, and we have to try to find a way to mend it. Of course, there is the problem that the more deeply one becomes involved in this project, the greater the tendency to justify that involvement," he said.

Before the war, Angelo Cardinal Sodano, Vatican secretary of state, raised U.S. diplomatic hackles when he warned that the United States might find itself in a Vietnam-like quagmire in Iraq.

But today, as the problems mount and the death toll rises in Iraq, Cardinal Sodano has said that "now is not the time for recriminations."

What Cardinal Sodano and others at the Vatican emphasize is the need for Iraqis to govern themselves as quickly as possible and for the United Nations to have a greater say in the interim running of the country.

But with Iraq's political vacuum, self-governance seems impossible now.

"Any country that finds itself under occupation does not think the ruling authority represents the people," Archbishop Fernando Filoni, apostolic nuncio to Iraq, told the newspaper *Corriere della Sera*.

"But there's a crisis of power in Iraq. The people need a leader, someone who talks to Iraqis as an Iraqi, and that leader isn't there," he said.

Archbishop Filoni said that with no short-term political solution in sight and no real plan for civil harmony that involves Iraq's ethnic and religious communities, a military pullout now would leave Iraqis in a "terrible crisis."

Before the war began, the Vatican frequently relied on then-Archbishop Jean-Louis Tauran, an assistant secretary of state, to articulate the arguments against use of force. He was recently named a cardinal and left his diplomatic post, and the Vatican has generally fallen silent on the day-to-day situation in Iraq.

At the same time, Cardinal Camillo Ruini, papal vicar of Rome and president of the Italian bishops' conference, has assumed a higher profile. His

public influence peaked during the national mourning and state funeral for the Italian soldiers killed in Iraq, when the cardinal said there should be no withdrawal of Italian troops from their "great and noble mission."

To those asking whether the soldiers died in a war that should not have been fought, Cardinal Ruini replied, "They are victims of terrorism, pure and simple."

The handful of European countries that have contributed soldiers to the current military operation in Iraq include four with heavily Catholic populations: Italy, Poland, Portugal and Spain.



CNS photo

Mexican Father Martin Rodriguez prays at the Cenacle, or Upper Room, thought to have been the site of the Last Supper, in Jerusalem Nov. 25. The priest was among a group of pilgrims traveling to Rome with Pio Cardinal Laghi, who has called on Catholic pilgrims to return to the Holy Land following a more than two-year drop in visits.



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SOA protest

COLUMBUS, GA (CNS) — The annual protest aimed at closing a U.S. Army training school for foreign military services drew an estimated 10,000 people to Fort Benning Nov. 22 and 23. Forty-five demonstrators were arrested, most on charges of trespassing. Speeches, rallies, information sessions and entertainment over the weekend culminated in a mock funeral procession to the gates of Fort Benning. The march commemorated the deaths of people in Latin America that protesters link to graduates of the Army-run school, formerly called the School of the Americas and now known as the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation. Speakers this year touched on a variety of topics, including opposition to the war in Iraq. The program included remarks from Sister Helen Prejean, a Sister of St.

Joseph of Medaille who is known for her activism against the death penalty; Kathy Kelly, founder of Voices in the Wilderness, a nonviolence network, and Bob King, United Auto Workers vice president for organizing.

Hunger on the rise

WASHINGTON (CNS) — About 842 million people worldwide are undernourished, with the number of chronically hungry people growing at a rate of nearly 5 million a year, according to a report by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization. The report, released Nov. 25, said the fight against world hunger was being lost and that countries would not meet the goal stated at the 1996 World Food Summit in Rome to reduce by 50 percent the number of undernourished people by 2015. "FAO's latest estimates signal a setback in the war against hunger," the report

said. Data compiled from 1995-1997 and from 1999-2001 showed an increase of 18 million undernourished people, wiping out decreases attained in the early 1990s. "Unless significant gains are made in large countries where progress has stalled, it will be difficult to reverse this negative trend," the FAO report said. The report said there were 798 million undernourished people in developing nations, with the number of hungry continuing to rise in sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa and the Middle East.

Schedule trimmed

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II's Christmas season schedule has been trimmed, apparently excluding his usual ordination of new bishops on the Jan. 6 Feast of the Epiphany and his custom of baptizing infants on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. The pope's liturgical schedule for December and January lists him as presiding

over six events, but does not specify if he will be the principal celebrant of the liturgies. The Vatican released the 83-year-old pope's schedule Nov. 25.

Pilgrimages urged

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Pilgrimages to the Holy Land elevate the understanding of the Gospel to another level, said Pio Cardinal Laghi, who led a group of 50 Italian pilgrims on a Nov. 24-27 visit. "In a way, when you just study the Gospel, it remains flat. Coming here elevates your understanding of what the Gospel says," said Cardinal Laghi, a former nuncio to the United States and the retired head of the Vatican Congregation for Catholic Education.

Coming to the Holy Land not only benefits the pilgrim but also all the people living in the area, noted Cardinal Laghi, who said he recommends that Catholic pilgrims return to the

holy sites. "Our pilgrimages also benefit those here who are witnesses to the faith and who have been challenged because of the situation. We have to support them not only with our spirit of solidarity but also (we must) do something for them," he said.

Congress praised

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The head of the Catholic Health Association praised Congress Nov. 25 for its approval of legislation reforming Medicare but said more remains to be done in the health care field. Father Michael D. Place, President and CEO of the St. Louis-based association, said in a statement that the Medicare reforms were "a much needed first step in providing a prescription drug benefit for seniors and ensuring access for Medicare beneficiaries by supporting our nation's health care providers." But he reminded Congress that "their work in the area of health care reform is not complete. There still remain 43 million children, women and men without any health insurance who deserve and command our focus and support," Father Place said.

'Common sense'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Following a cardinal's plea for approval of the "common-sense" amendment, members of Congress agreed to a provision that would bar the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office from granting patents for human organisms. The agreement reached Nov. 24 was announced by Rep. Dave Weldon, R-Fla., a medical doctor who sponsored the amendment to an omnibus appropriations bill for fiscal year 2004.

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Catholicity important

The following letter was sent to Malcolm A. Borg, Chairman of the Board of The Record (Bergen County), reprinted here as information for readers of The Catholic Advocate.

Editor,

In recent months, *The Record's* "Religion & Values" page has featured columns by former Catholic priest Russ Ditzel with the tagline, "A Catholic View."

In each column, Mr. Ditzel expounds on his personal views of what is wrong with the Catholic Church. As an individual living in the United States of America, Mr. Ditzel certainly has a fundamental right to speak openly about his views.

The newspaper, however, has an even more fundamental responsibility—especially if it wishes to be a "friend of the people it serves." That responsibility is to be true and accurate to the facts. While I would never call on *The Record* to eliminate Mr. Ditzel's opinions from the paper or censor him, I do call on the editors to label his columns appropriately.

An accurate and truthful tagline would read, "The opinion of a former Catholic priest who is in open conflict with Catholic teaching and tradition."

In the past, I have provided *The Record* with Catholic authors who can present fairly and openly issues of importance to Catholic readers, and who can place them in perspective for both Catholics and non-Catholics. I again offer our services today.

James G. Goodness
Director of Communications
Archdiocese of Newark

Renaissance sought

Editor,

On a recent weekend, my wife and I visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark. Both buildings, one secular, the other religious, employ an architectural vocabulary of soaring vaulted ceilings, spaciousness, symmetry, sculpted and shaped materials, and symbolic ornamental details evocative of the

uses for which the buildings were erected.

They both function magnificently to transport the visitor from the mundane to the eternal; Sacred Heart lifting us up with a magnificent organ and choir, and a dignified and solemn ritual; the Metropolitan echoing in one of its spaces with the glorious sounds of Bach.

One cannot help observe that many modern churches, bereft of many of the architectural elements of these two structures, fail to fully create an environment in which we are removed from the pedestrian and the mundane. They represent a continuum of, rather than a removal from, the pragmatic minimalism and informality of the secular spaces in which we spend most of our lives. We have seen or read of several once venerable churches "renovated" to a puritanical austerity.

We hope and pray for a renaissance in Church architecture that echoes the grandeur of the past, and that the Church maintain and respect its magnificent architectural patrimony.

Arthur E. Lavis
Montvale

Workshop: 'Eye opener'

Editor,

I attended the workshop of "Protecting God's Children" on Oct. 28.

It was an eye opener to me. I am a grandmother of four children and taught CCD for seven years.

It made me realize that I was not very aware or knowledgeable about how predators acted to get attention from abused children and adults, and the suffering they endured. The video has had me thinking quite a bit of situations I've seen and heard, also how sometimes innocent acts of concern and love for children could be misconstrued.

I personally felt it was a very good program, well done, well presented and very informative.

This letter is to thank the Archbishop and his staff for the program—it was long overdue.

My prayers are that through this program, no more children will be abused and the "good people" that work or associate with children will not be falsely accused of wrongdoings.

Thank you again and God bless you.

Anna Castellani
Summit

Archdiocese in the forefront

His job title says it all—law enforcement veteran William J. Corrigan has been appointed Safe Environment Officer of the Archdiocese of Newark.

Recently retired after a 32-year career with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, Corrigan reports directly to the Chancellor's office.

In what will probably be a short-term assignment, the St. Catharine of Siena, Glen Rock, parishioner will help process background checks on more than 18,000 lay employees and volunteers who work with minors.

A results-oriented person, Corrigan is aware the Archdiocesan policy might seem intrusive or offensive to certain people. Still it is the objective that counts. As Corrigan put it, "In order to protect God's children it is a must, it is a goal that must be achieved." He is correct.

Two years ago a safe environment officer, per se, was not on the radar screen of any diocese in the United States. But Corrigan's appointment is the latest example of the aggressive and forthright approach being taken by the Archdiocese of Newark in protecting the most precious commodity of all—God's children.

This Archdiocese continues to demonstrate its committed leadership to the Church of Newark.

For those who gave so much

During their entire adult lives, Religious men and women who are now retired put others first.

While such unselfishness and commitment were given joyfully, being properly cared for in their later years is not much to ask in return.

The best way to say thank you is to give generously the weekend of Dec. 13-14 in the nationwide Retirement Fund for Religious collection.

Earmarked for the proceeds are retired Religious order priests, sisters and brothers who served in such vital Church ministries as education, health care and social services.

That favorite teacher, comforting nurse or inspiring priest is not immune from the crisis in health care costs affecting the entire nation.

Retired Religious face an even more dire fiscal reality. Right now there is an unfunded retirement liability of Religious orders in the United States, estimated at a staggering \$6.1 billion. In addition, while the average American receives \$10,740 in Social Security benefits, retired Religious get a paltry \$3,749.

These wonderful men and women were there for us; now it is time to be there for them.

National collection for retired priests, brothers and sisters

Parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Newark will take part in the nationwide Retirement Fund for Religious collection the weekend of Dec. 13-14.

Using the Benedictine admonition "Let Mercy Triumph," the 16th annual appeal will help meet an unfunded retirement liability of the nation's Religious orders, estimated at \$6.1 billion.

The annual appeal assists retired Religious order priests, sisters and brothers who spent their lives in such Church ministries as education, health care, and social services.

Highlighted in this year's fund raising campaign is how Religious men and women continue diverse ministries despite their growing need to care for frail, elderly members.

The National Religious Retirement Office, which sponsors the collection, has distributed more than 96 percent of dona-

tions as grants to religious institutions. Basic grants are awarded based on a formula calculating age, membership and retirement need. Special grant awards are used to meet emergency needs and to fund projects aimed at cost-cutting.

The collection has generated a greater response from Catholics than any other appeal in U.S. Catholic Church history. The more than \$400 million that has been raised over the years helps ensure appropriate care for more than 39,000 sisters, brothers and Religious order priests past the age of 70.

Today retired Religious receive on average of \$3,749 in Social Security benefits, compared to \$10,740 for the general population.

Last year the fund collected more than \$28 million and provided assistance to more than 500 Religious orders.

"American Catholics have responded

most admirably to the aging of Religious. They recall what Religious did for them in the past; but they also know that the aging of Religious women and men foreshadows many issues that face the nation," noted Sister Andree Fries, a Sister of the Most Precious Blood, O'Fallon, MO, and Executive Director of the National Religious Retirement Office.

Sister Andree underlined the fact that the United States has more persons over the age of 65 than the entire population of Canada.

Of the 63,205 women Religious in the country, 54 percent are past the age of 70. Of 13,815 men, more than 37 percent are also 70 and older.

The Religious Retirement Collection was launched in 1988 by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and leaders of national associations of Religious orders.



Community life and prayer are at the heart of daily Benedictine life for Sister Valeria Osterrieder, O.S.B., 86, seated left, who taught for 52 years. With her, standing, is 57-year-old Susan English, a mother and grandmother, who is completing her postulant year, and Sister Mary Christine Carlin, O.S.B., 42, right, a theology student and aspiring chaplain.

The next 100 years: a vision for Catholic Community Services

Dr. Frese is Executive Director of Catholic Community Services. The Catholic Advocate invited him to write this guest column to inform Catholics throughout the Archdiocese about the new developments and important social services being provided to others in their name.

Although I officially assumed the role of Executive Director of Catholic Community Services (CCS) on June 15, my ties to the Archdiocese and the City of Newark can be traced back to 1945.

In the late 1950's and early 1960's, I attended the former Sacred Heart Cathedral School and St. Benedict's Prep. Now, I am blessed to have been given the opportunity to return to Newark at this exciting time in its history.

Each year, CCS touches the lives of 100,000 people of all faiths. In the past year, 79,578 individuals received direct care and services, and even more were served through our information and referral network and in consultation and education to the community.

Many of our programs are designed to target the root causes of homelessness and help strengthen families. These embrace basic education and nurturing in the life skills so important to successful living: securing a safe home, finding a job, handling family finances, coping with stress, and, where no role model or supportive family structure exists, learning to be a responsible, caring parent. We help individuals and families who are genuinely motivated to get back on their feet and improve their lives.

Today's Gospel reading (Mt 15: 29-37) recounts one of the most famous miracles performed by Christ—the miracle of the loaves and fishes. Feeding the hungry continues to be one of the most fundamental and enduring services provided by CCS.

The dominant challenge facing Catholic Community Services today is the deep cuts in the state budget. While these cuts have been dramatic, it is important to note that our level of service has not wavered.

Within the Social Services Division, the Agency's programs are supported by government grants and development efforts and operate on an extremely tight margin. CCS seeks to maximize the limited funding available for

each of these programs by operating efficiently and effectively while ensuring the highest quality of service.

In partnership with Henry J. Amoroso, Esq., Chairman of the Board of Trustees, we will continue to reorganize our operations to more efficiently and effectively deliver needed services.

Meeting Their Needs

By Phillip Frese, Ph.D., CPA



During the process of reorganization and consolidation, it became evident that our Agency's Mission Statement, which had served us well in the past, needed to be modified in light of the new infrastructure. It became evident that CCS was no longer able to be "all things to all people." (1 Cor 9: 22)

Earlier this year, a Strategic Planning Committee comprised of CCS senior management was charged with the task of creating a new Mission Statement for the Agency that will serve as our guide. Each of our Agency's divisions will set its own mission in light of the corporate vision; these will be reduced in turn by each of our programs to create their own vision statements. I am proud to announce that the new CCS Mission Statement was approved at the annual Board meeting on Nov. 20. The new mission retains the basic message of St. Matthew but provides more specific detail in regard to the scope of services offered by the Agency.

Catholic Community Services (CCS) is the multi-service agency of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark serving the people of Bergen, Essex, Hudson and Union counties. CCS was created as a witness to the Scriptural commands to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless and

give hope to those in need. "When you did for the least of these... you did for me." (Mt 25:40)

CCS provides help and creates hope through quality programs, innovative projects and advocacy for families, children, men and women through behavioral, educational and social services within the limits of our fiscal and human resources.

During the past fiscal year, Catholic Community Services continued to seek an affiliation agreement with Cathedral Healthcare System. The affiliation is scheduled to be finalized next month. As a beginning step, Cathedral Healthcare entered into an agreement to manage the Mount Carmel Guild Hospital of Catholic Community Services and its related ambulatory services as of July 14, 2003.

Ensuring that the young people served by our special education programs are given access to quality services is an integral part of our efforts to provide help and create hope. The CCS Education Division is in the process of opening a new program for preschool handicapped students on the autistic spectrum. This new special education program, which will be housed in the same building as The Little Schoolhouse daycare program in Elizabeth, will provide a mutually beneficial interaction between typically and atypically developing children and support for their families.

In addition, all of our special education programs will have access to new computers in their classrooms, with the goal of all classrooms being fully networked within the next two years.

Whether counseling the grieving or feeding the hungry, CCS is there, bringing hope to the discouraged and caring for anyone who needs help. Our mission drives our efforts to provide quality services to those most in need, to advocate on their behalf within the public and private sectors, and to strengthen the communities in which they live and work.

Just as seven loaves and a few fishes were the miracle Christ needed to feed the multitudes, CCS seeks your prayers and support as we continue to perform the small miracles that change the lives of those in need.

Inner peace is the mark of a true Christian

Advent the word technically means, "to arrive." But for the Church it is the season of "coming," the period of liturgical time before Christmas.

At any rate, we all know what it means to wait, to be in expectation of what is to come.

As children we look forward to birthdays or the holidays and to the end of the school year. Athletes train and wait nervously until they enter the arena to begin the game.

We in the old Immaculate Conception Seminary at Darlington knew what it was to wait. In fact, the seminary had a lot in common with a monastery, or with a state or federal prison.

We had fixed time or "sentence." We knew, for example, in 1951 exactly what we would be doing in 1956 at exactly what time. We wore a "uniform"—a cassock. We could predict the meals. We lived by a bell. It was no wonder that some of the boys called Darlington "the rock."

The difference was that we were there voluntarily while the boys in Trenton State had no choice. We were looking forward to ordination. They were looking for release.

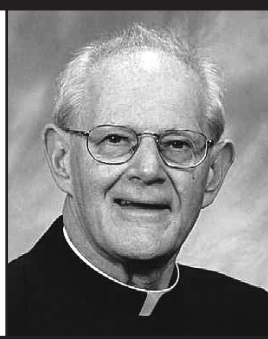
But either way, we all had to do the time. It passed, but at times it seemed like we were there forever.

All people know what it is to wait. All of us are conscious of time. A person waiting for a heart operation lives minute-by-minute. You don't have to tell a man on death row what day it is.

So for all of us, life is a series of spaces, sometimes

Voices

By Msgr. John Gilchrist



where we look ahead with joy, other times when we wait with dread. The great balance between the two is faith.

Jesus said, "My peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you."

I mentioned the seminary and the monastery. I once spent time at a Benedictine monastery. There was a priest there who allowed me to accompany him as he carried on his daily routine of work and prayer. A sense of quiet flowed out from within him.

At the end of the day we stood in the barn. A large gentle horse that had been pulling a wagon loaded with hay stood beside the monk. Now the workday was over. I

looked at the beautiful animal. I looked at the silent monk. Each radiated God. They were in the here and now.

I was moving on to a busy life, to the future. I envied them because time was of no import to the two of them. They were at peace. In the monastery it was as if time had stopped. Yes, there were the days and seasons. But a monk was able to be fully present to each moment.

If you have ever met a truly holy person, you also will sense that one great attribute that will strike you immediately. It is an inner sense of absolute peace and tranquility that seems to surround the person.

Some call it the presence of the Holy Spirit. Others might call it "living in the presence of God." The holy person lives for the moment—each moment is a God-filled moment.

Whatever we call it, inner peace is the mark of a true Christian. When Saint Paul said, "Let not your hearts be troubled," he was speaking to all Christians. Let tomorrow take care of itself. God is near. We need to learn to be quiet

We need to learn to be quiet enough inwardly to sense His presence.

enough inwardly to sense His presence. Then truly, for us, time will be irrelevant.

At least it is an ideal to which all of us can aspire.

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

Reach out to the ends of the earth with Gospel, declares Holy Father

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Millions of people in the world are yearning for meaning in their lives, Pope John Paul II said, and Catholics in North and South America must reach out to them with the Gospel.

“Show your desire to be joyful witnesses and enthusiastic apostles of the Gospel to the ends of the earth with the example of your holy lives,” the pope told some 3,200 people gathered in Guatemala City for the American Missionary Congress.

Pope John Paul sent a message to the Nov. 25-30 gathering of bishops, clergy, Religious and lay people, who met to coordinate and increase missionary activity among the continent’s Catholics.

“Millions of men and women who do not know Christ or have only a superficial knowledge of him live in the hope—at times, unconsciously—of discovering the truth about man and about God and about the way which leads to liberation from sin and from death,” the pope said.

Because the answer is Christ, Pope John Paul said, the proclamation of the Gospel is a vital and obligatory task.

The pope said God has given the peoples of North and South America “beautiful fruits of holiness in men and women, who, faithful to the missionary mandate of the Lord, have spent their lives pro-

claiming the Christian message, including in heroic circumstances and conditions.”

The example of how holy individuals supported by holy communities brought about the massive evangelization of the continent hundreds of years ago is a reminder that holy people and holy communities are still the most effective means of spreading the Gospel, he said.

New programs or more efficient organizations are not the answer, the pope said.

“It is necessary to give rise to a new yearning for holiness” among believers so that people can see in their lives the rewards of faith, he said.

“Show your desire to be joyful witnesses.”

—Pope John Paul II

Education secretary named

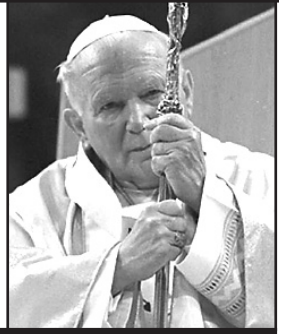
HOUSTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has named Basilian Father J. Michael Miller, President of Houston’s University of St. Thomas, to be secretary of the Vatican’s Congregation for Catholic Education and made him an archbishop.

At a press conference held at the university to announce his appointment Nov. 25, the priest said he was “not so much honored by it, as humbled by it.”

Archbishop-designate Miller, 57, has been president of the Basilian-run university for six-and-a-half years.

The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II



Resurrection celebrated

Dear brothers and sisters,

Each Sunday at evening prayer the Church celebrates Christ’s resurrection by chanting Psalm 110 (109). The psalm, originally composed for the enthronement of an earthly king born of the line of David, celebrates the final victory of the Messiah over all his enemies. By a solemn divine oath the king is also made “a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.” The Church reads this psalm as a prefiguration of the enthronement of Jesus Christ, our king and high priest, at the right hand of the Father. From His heavenly throne the risen Lord invites us to contemplate the glory to which we are called as members of His mystical body.

I am pleased to greet the members of the Anglican clergy visiting Rome for a renewal course. My greetings also go to the pilgrims from Melbourne, Australia.

Upon all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors present at today’s audience, I cordially invoke the grace and peace of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Divine gifts to Jerusalem and to the Blessed Mother

Readings: Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126; Phil 1:4-11; Lk 3:1-6

The liturgical year has two “hinges,” the feasts of Christmas and Easter. The celebration of the Incarnation and the Paschal Mystery of Jesus reveal for each generation the wonders of divine love for all creatures. No wonder we prepare at length for these special moments; indeed the penitential aspects of Advent and Lent should dispose us to enter ever more deeply into the reality of God’s presence with us. No one can show the way to appreciate our relationship with Christ better than His and our blessed Mother. “In celebrating the annual cycle of the mysteries of Christ, Holy Church honors the Blessed Mary, Mother of God, with a special love. In her the Church admires and exalts the most excellent fruit of redemption, and joyfully contemplates, as in a faultless image, that which she herself wholly desires and hopes to be” (Vatican Council II: *Sanctorum concilium Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, 103).

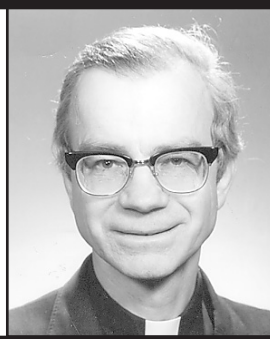
Baruch was the secretary of Jeremiah and he shared the prophet’s passionate love for Jerusalem as the place where Israel could commune most profoundly with God. It is not surprising, therefore, to find that writings attributed to Baruch focus fondly on the holy city and its Temple. Yes, Nebuchadnezzar had come from Babylon to destroy the city and it would be threatened several times after the second Temple was completed in 515 B.C. However, these tragedies occasioned an ever deeper love for Jerusalem.

Baruch personified Jerusalem in this Sunday’s passage, part of a consoling assurance of God that the people would return from exile. Then their mother could remove her robe of mourning to be clothed again in the splendor that is a reflection of divine glory. (5:1) In the Hebrew mentality clothing symbolized and manifested the inner qualities and the function of the individual in

Sunday Readings

2nd Sunday of Advent
(Dec. 7, 2003)

By Father Lawrence Frizzell



society. The cloak of justice (righteousness) replaces the widow’s weeds and Jerusalem begins to live up to the name “The LORD is my righteousness.” (Jer 33:16) A priestly miter with the words “Holy to the LORD” engraved on a golden plate (Ex 28:26) is described, indicating the author’s conviction that the holy city exercises a sacerdotal function (5:2). For the Hebrews a person’s name manifests the vocation and destiny to which one is called. God will bestow new names upon Jerusalem “the peace of justice, the glory of God’s worship” (5:4), reminding us of the designation “City of Shalom (peace)” under Melchizedek, the king of righteousness. (See Gn 14:18.) Thus Baruch anticipates the prayer of St. Paul for the Christian community. “It is my wish that you may be found rich in the harvest of justice which Jesus Christ has ripened in you, to the glory and praise of God (the Father).” (Phil 1:11)

The restoration of the tribes of Israel to the promised land was promised frequently by the prophets. In the

time of Babylonian exile, disciples of Isaiah’s school described the return over a highway prepared for God. (40:3-4) Baruch depicts the road-building as God’s work (5:7), and God himself will ferry the people back on portable thrones. (5:6) The former slaves now savor their royalty!

The prophetic witness of John the Baptist prepares the people for the coming of God’s reign in a new way. He proclaimed a baptism of repentance which would lead to the forgiveness of sin. (Lk 3:3) As Jesus would explain later, the various human experiences of political enslavement are manifestations of the slavery caused by sin. The crooked can be made straight and the rough can become smooth, provided that people recognize the need of God’s gift of forgiveness. As we prepare for Christmas through the sacraments of penance and the Eucharist, we dispose ourselves to become vehicles whereby all humankind shall see the salvation of God. (Lk 3:6)

The prophetic witness of John the Baptist prepares the people for the coming of God’s reign in a new way.

In anticipation of the call to be the Mother of Jesus, Mary was enriched from the very first instant of her conception with the splendor of an entirely unique holiness. (Vatican II: *Lumen Gentium*, Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, 56). Mary is indeed the great beneficiary of Christ’s saving work, being exempt from the shadow of estrangement from God. Thus she is linked with Christ in a unique way, from Nazareth to Calvary and beyond. As our Mother she is the Daughter of Zion, wrapped in the divine cloak of justice and pointing to the Prince of Peace.

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



Our Lady of the Lake, Verona

Legacy of commitment to church community

BY LIESL FORES

Staff Reporter

Our Lady of the Lake Parish (OLL) in Verona is an 80-year-old community. Now a vibrant parish with about 2800 registered families, it has always been fortunate to have active members who seek to serve and worship to their fullest capacity. Leading the group in carrying on this tradition of extensive involvement, Father Michael A. Hanly, Pastor, asserts that he and the staff are simply "building on what we've been given."

Four decades ago the parish ascertained that a new church building was needed to accommodate the growing number of Catholic families in the area. Money was donated in surplus, allowing for construction of the church without the burden of a debt.

This spirit of generosity is present today as well, exemplified this past June with completion of major renovations to the 40-year-old church, funded by parishioners through a preceding capital campaign. "This was a pretty bad time to ask people, but we raised the money," stressed Father Hanly.

Liturgical renovations, in accordance with the spirit of the Second Vatican Council, included a new altar, a baptismal font transfigured from the original altar rail, and a place of reposition for the Eucharist and the holy oils, all prominently positioned to allow for a clear view by the congregation. A new sanctuary as well as an oak screen behind the altar were also added.

Father Hanly emphasized that 98 percent of the marble from the old altar was reused.

Lighting, sound and air conditioning systems were also redone, a new floor—now ceramic tile—was installed, and the support beams of the church were reinforced. A thorough cleaning and refurbishing of walls, pews and the ceiling was carried out, as well as that of the statues, crucifix and Stations of the Cross. Father Hanly explained that a "flesh-toning" process was used to give all the statues a more life-like appearance.

The pastor gives much credit to Msgr. Richard F. Groncki, Rector of the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, and the Archdiocesan Worship Office, headed by Sister Sandra DeMasi, S.S.J., who consulted on the project and were "a tremendous help," he assured.

Greg Arner from Summit was the main architect, with Archdiocesan liturgical consultant Richard

Markey as an additional adviser.

Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia, celebrated a Mass of Dedication on June 28 (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Aug. 13).

Phase Two of the project entails exterior renovations, including work to the main steps outside the church, the parking lot and landscaping.

The youth of OLL have always been a focus for the community. The school was established along with the parish in 1924 in order to serve the formational needs of Catholic children in the vicinity. Sister Mary Agnes Sullivan, O.P., Principal, and the Dominican Sisters of Caldwell continue that mission, conducting the K-8 institution. (Pre-K sessions are also available.)

About 200 students are instructed in academic subjects as well spiritual inculcation. But there's more to it than that. They also learn to become an active part of the parish.

A school liturgy committee prepares a regular parish Mass, working on themes and serving as lectors. Many students are also members of the two children/youth choirs, Joyful Voices (grades 4-6) and the Praiseful Youth Choir and Orchestra (grades 7-12). Both, run by music minister Ron Cecere, sing at various Sunday Masses throughout the year, including many holiday liturgies.

Father Hanly and Father James V. Teti, Parochial Vicar, teach at the school too, providing another solid connection between the two intricate facets of the faith community.

An abundant religious education program takes care of the catechetical needs of about 600 students. Run by Jane Myers, the program is comprised of courses in Scripture



Our Lady of the Lake Parish, reflected in Verona Lake across the street, is an integral part of the suburban Essex County community.

and sacramental preparation for students as well as their parents, which the pastor says is a great opportunity to evangelize to parents who for whatever reason are not active in their faith.

Myers, Father Hanly and Barbara Camp, Youth Minister, work under Archdiocesan guidelines to certify as accredited catechists almost all of their CCD teachers.

A custom that Father Hanly is particularly happy with is that of a Mass for Confirmation candidates in which they explain to their sponsors why they chose them for this important role. "I think this is very important," he noted.

And last but not least is the parish's prolific youth ministry. Over nearly the past two decades this group has flourished to include about 200 high school students and is considered the natural extension of the Confirmation preparation program. Members participate in numerous projects, activities and services.

One of these is the yearly trip to Kentucky to participate in the Christian Outreach for Appalachian People (COAP) program. During the parish-sponsored event youth group

members assist families in this poverty-stricken area of the country to build or repair homes. As a gift to their new friends, the teenagers leave the tool belts that each was given and had blessed during a sendoff Mass before the journey.

This project has served as an example to adult parishioners, spurring, for one, a women's group that has become involved in Habitat for Humanity, a non-profit housing organization. "The kids evangelize to the adults," Father Hanly pointed out.

The OLL youth group has also been recognized as consistently being the largest youth ministry donor in the Archdiocese of food and clothes—which they transport and deliver assembly-line fashion—to St. John's Soup Kitchen, Newark. Father Hanly asserts that the group has received letters from the pastor of St. John's, Msgr. James Finnerty, acknowledging its tremendous contributions in helping to feed and clothe area residents in need.

Besides other social outreach services, such as visiting local nursing homes, the youth ministry also tends to spiritual needs. "Insight Retreats," similar to those of Cursillo weekends, are well attended among the teenagers. Participants begin preparing for the annual event three months ahead of time. They also present a living Stations of the Cross every Good Friday.

Father Hanly attributes Camp, the youth minister who has been leading OLL's young stewards for 18 years, with so much of the growth and success that the parish's youth ministry has experienced. "She is one of the finest youth ministers I've ever seen," he emphasized. He also mentioned the fine work of Father Teti, who is the group's chaplain.

Adults are not left behind. The parish is rich in ministries, many revolving around adult faith formation. The pastor describes Cornerstone Retreats as very popular

Continued on page 12



Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli presides at the Mass of Dedication on June 28, marking the completion of major liturgical renovations to the church.

Advocate photo - Frank Wood

Advocate photo - Ward Miele

The parish by the lake in Verona

The few Catholics living in Verona prior to 1856 had to travel to Belleville or Orange to attend Mass.

That year Immaculate Conception Parish, Montclair (the community was known then as West Bloomfield) was founded and included Verona in its ministry.

The founding of two Caldwell parishes, Mount Saint Dominic in 1884 and St. Aloysius seven years later, gave Verona Catholics the opportunity to attend Mass regularly because both parishes were within walking distance.

Verona and Pleasantdale, today the section of West Orange within Our Lady of the Lake's parish borders, were among several rural communities under the jurisdiction of St. Aloysius Parish.

The idea of establishing a mission church in Verona was first considered in 1895. It was not until almost a decade later, however, that a petition signed by Verona's Catholics was submitted to the Bishop of Newark. The request was denied.

Nine years later, with the cooperation of Father Thomas J. McEnery, the pastor at St. Aloysius, the possibility of a church in Verona was once again considered.

A site on Lakeside Avenue overlooking the park was purchased and a complete census of Catholics in Verona undertaken. The results showed 150 families comprising 650 persons. Permission for a church was granted on July 14, 1923.

Arrangements were made to rent the local high school auditorium on Sundays as a temporary place of worship. On Sept. 16, 1923 Mass was celebrated in Verona for the first time. Two services that historic day saw 633 faithful attend Mass.

Father James J. Kelly was appointed the new parish's first pastor. A temporary rectory was set up at nearby Gould Street.

At the groundbreaking ceremonies for the new church on Jan. 20, 1924, Father Kelly said, "This church will become a power for good in the community." Over 1,000 people attended.

Following the groundbreaking, the new Our Lady of the Lake Parish began to grow rapidly.

A building fund was established to raise \$50,000. Bus service for parishioners in the Pleasantdale section was offered. In March 1924 a double dwelling house on nearby Bloomfield Avenue was purchased as a rectory which included a temporary chapel.

The cornerstone of the new church

was laid on April 13, 1924. Over 2,000 took part in a parade that marched up Bloomfield Avenue. The trolley poles and wires were decorated with large American flags, places of business and homes of people of all faiths were

Health problems also struck Father Reilly. He retired and was named pastor emeritus.

The new pastor, Father Timothy Hourihan, was appointed in June 1977 and formally installed on July 1.



Father James Kelly, OLL's first pastor, poses with the school's first graduating class in 1924.

decorated for the occasion. It is conservatively estimated that more than over 5,000 people viewed the parade and cornerstone ceremonies.

The first Mass in the new church was celebrated on June 15, 1924.

Father Kelly served as pastor 19 years. In 1942 Father Mathias J. Boylan was named his successor.

Our Lady of the Lake Parish grew with the municipality. By 1963 over 2,000 families were on the parish roles. The inevitable overcrowding prompted the next pastor, Father Francis C. Carey, who came to the parish in 1957, to initiate a building campaign for a new and larger church.

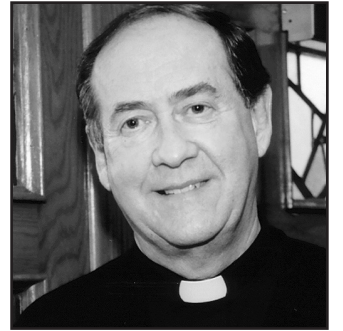
The first Mass in the new church, next to the old building, was celebrated at the Midnight Mass in 1964. A solemn dedication and laying of the cornerstone, officiated by Archbishop Thomas A. Boland, took place on Jan. 9 of the following year.

Father Carey's poor health resulted in the senior curate, Father John F. McDermott, being named administrator in May of 1974.

By the time of Father McDermott's appointment, the parish had grown to over 2500 families, including 400 in West Orange.

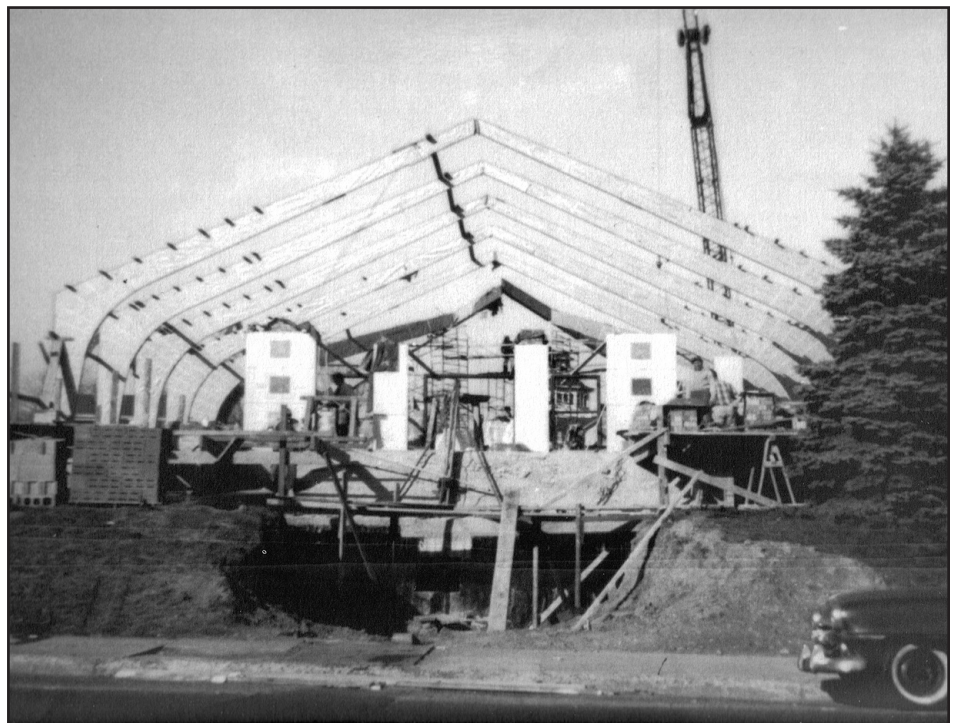
To keep pace with the number of parishioners, major renovations were authorized. The former church, which had been unused for ten years, became a parish center. Father James J. Reilly, who had been appointed pastor in June 1976, dedicated the center.

Meet the Pastor



Father Michael A. Hanly

Age: 62
Date of Birth: July 1, 1941
High School: Queen of Peace High School, North Arlington
College/Seminary/Graduate School: Seton Hall University, Immaculate Conception Seminary, Catholic University of America, Washington, DC
Heroes: Pope John XXIII, Thomas Merton, Dorothy Day
Favorite Saint: St. Joseph, St. Teresa of Avila
Favorite Sport: Hockey (NJ Devils), football
Favorite Food: Italian
Favorite Subject in School: Languages (modern)
Favorite Movie: Don't go—prefer opera, classical music and jazz
Proudest Moment: Ordination, May 27, 1967; being named pastor of OLL, July 1, 1994
Last Book Read: *An Unfinished Life: John F. Kennedy* by Robert Dallek; *The Intimate Merton: His Life from His Journals* by Thomas Merton, Patrick Hart (editor) and Jonathan Montaldo (editor)
Occupation if I weren't a Priest: Doctor



The new church under construction on Lakeside Avenue in 1964. The dedication mass was celebrated in January 1965.

Vocations dinner held

A Vocations Awareness Dinner, the first of its kind in the Archdiocese of Newark, was hosted by Most. Rev. John J. Myers, Archbishop of Newark, and Father Brian Plate, Archdiocesan Director of the Office of Vocations, on Wednesday, Nov. 19 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

Father Plate noted that, although it had been scheduled for the Marian Chapel of the Cathedral, with dinner to follow in the Archbishop's residence, "there were 80 people, so we had to move evening prayer into the Cathedral itself! The evening was so successful that the Archbishop wants to sched-

ule another one in the spring."

Nearly 40 of those in attendance were young men who are considering the priesthood as a vocation, with their average age in the early to mid-20's. They came with their parish priests.

Overall, in terms of enrollment in the seminary, Father Plate said that the average age is much lower now than 10 years ago.

Nineteen young men from the Archdiocese of Newark entered formation this year at Immaculate Conception Seminary in South Orange and elsewhere.

"Next year we expect at least that many," commented Father Plate.



Advocate photo - Frank Wood

The church's Peragallo two-manual pipe organ is the central instrument for OLL's music ministry. It features 13 ranks of pipes (with 61 pipes in each rank), a state-trumpet and zimbylster (donated by the Prout family), and is midi-enabled, allowing for sounds of hundreds of different instruments.

Active ministries

Continued from page 10
among parishioners. There is also a men's group that has been meeting for about two years to pray and prepare for Sunday readings.

The bereavement ministry, run by Joan Stern and Joanne Palmisano, is "well attended" and "a wonderful support group," commented Father Hanly, adding that both Stern and Palmisano are participating in Archdiocesan programs to further their training and education in this ministry.

There are plenty of Eucharistic Ministers and lectors, and Eucharistic Adoration, held every Monday, always has a "nice response," he assured.

A health care ministry, run by Deacon Michael Maione and several health care professionals in the parish, provides services such as shopping, cleaning and ascertaining health conditions for elder-

ly and homebound parishioners.

Though the pastor admits that he, Father Teti and the parish staff are very "pro-active and very involved," he points to the community of Verona in general and that of OLL specifically as being "warm and loving," and having been this way when he arrived almost ten years ago.

"We have a great history to begin with, and we've seen good parishioners grow warmer. There's a sense of closeness, warmth and family," he continued.

He says that like anywhere else, there are sometimes problems, "but they help us grow and get better... We're not perfect, but we learn from our problems. And we love each other, and we help, support and correct each other.

"I love the place! We've been blessed."

Our Lady of the Lake Parish is located at 32 Lakeside Ave. in Verona.

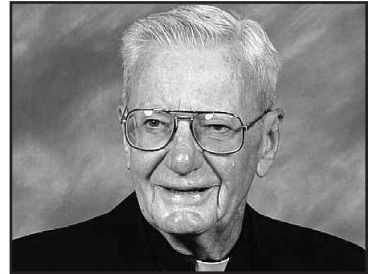
Forensics team performs well

The award winning forensics team at Our Lady of the Lake School, Verona, recently participated in this school year's first reading competition at Lacordaire Academy in Upper Montclair.

Other participating schools included Sacred Heart, Bloomfield; Trinity Academy, Caldwell; Our Lady of Peace, New Providence; Our Lady of Sorrows, South Orange, and St. Catherine of Siena, Cedar Grove.

Our Lady of the Lake competitors fared well. Caroline Fraissinet tied for first place, Jacquelyn Dâvella tied for second place, Victoria Faller tied for third place and Ryan Gordon came in fourth place. There were 42 competitors altogether.

Obituary



Msgr. Edward Price, 85, retired pastor

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Nov. 25 for Msgr. Edward G. Price, 85, who died on Nov. 20.

Msgr. Price was ordained in 1944. He graduated from Seton Hall University and attended Immaculate Conception Seminary. He was elevated to the position of Monsignor, Prelate of Honor in 1983.

Having served since ordination in the Archdiocese of Newark, his assignments included ministering as pastor of St. Genevieve Parish, Elizabeth, for 13 years and St. John the Apostle Parish, Linden, for 10 years, and as parochial vicar at St. Leo Parish, Irvington, for 23 years.

Msgr. Price also served on staff at Immaculate Conception Seminary, on the Archdiocesan priest personnel board, as Dean of three deaneries and on various Archdiocesan and community boards and committees.

He retired in 1993 and resided at Church of the Assumption, Roselle Park, where he continued to minister in various capacities throughout the Archdiocese.

Best Wishes to Father Michael Hanly and the Parishioners of **OUR LADY of the LAKE** Parish. Congratulations on your recent renovation and rededication of the Church

The Verona Township Council
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Councilwoman Teena Schwartz Councilman James H. Robbins

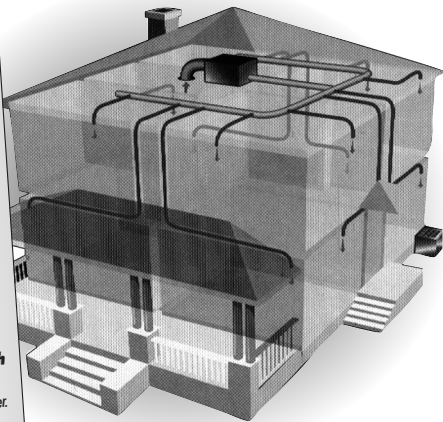
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Teacher of the Year receives additional assignments

BY LIESL FORES
Staff Reporter

Catching up with Nonpublic Teacher of Year (originally covered in the Oct. 22 issue of *The Catholic Advocate*), it turns out Carla Costa has been busy—busier than usual.

The ten-year veteran math teacher and department head at all-girl St. Vincent Academy, Newark, has had some extra-curricular activities herself as a result of being awarded the honor by the New Jersey Council of American Private Education this fall in Trenton.

According to Costa, she was asked to speak for the State Board of Education in October. And she's been invited to participate with recipients of other teaching/education awards in several workshops sponsored by the State Department of Education: Recognizing Educator Achievement and Leadership (REAL) Awards Celebration, organized by the Office of Innovative Programs and Schools.

However, she asserts that winning the award "fortunately hasn't changed my day-to-day work. I'm still teaching the way that I've always taught—address what appears to be a student's needs and respond to this as best I can."

When asked how her students have responded to this tribute being bestowed on one of their own teachers, Costa commented, "They're great kids. They're very excited and very proud... They tell everyone they can... This is not something we tell them to say."

Regarding her peers, she describes them as also being very

pleased. "They're thrilled that this happened to someone at St. Vincent's, because it's recognition of what the school has been doing for 135 years. This is bigger than any one of us," she stressed.

Costa indicated that the school has received much-deserved acknowledgement, particularly at the state level. "Outside of the Newark community, not everybody knows about St. Vincent's. There are a lot of stereotypes about Newark schools," she pointed out, countering that with the fact that 95 percent the Academy's students go to college, and that the school boasts an impressive 98 percent daily attendance rate.

"We're turning out very successful young women," she asserted.

When asked what professional accomplishment she is most proud of, Costa replied, "I love teaching, and the fact that I've been able to learn to teach, not just through schooling but by doing it every day...."



Carla Costa

She also mentioned her master's degree in educational technology, noting, "I'm hoping to work with the staff to implement projects and programs into the day-to-day curriculum."

Costa, who is very involved in the school's student community service programs, emphasized the vital role a teacher has in preparing young people all-around, not just academically,

"for their future—for our future. I play a small part in that process, but it is a part. I'm very much aware of that, and I don't

ever want to take that for granted...I think teaching is the most noble profession that anyone can have."

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Holy Spirit

Continued from page 3

our archbishop and, in the words of Saint Paul, "living the truth in love, we should grow in every way into Him who is the head, Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, with the proper functioning of each part, brings about the body's growth and builds itself up in love." (Eph 4, 15-16)

In every age God summons His people to build up His Church in love so that she may truly show forth His love, calling all to eternal life in His divine Son, Jesus Christ Our Lord. Let all the earth know that "God is love." That is the Good News that we all together must bring to His children of every race and tribe and nation.

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Liturgical music adds spiritual dimension to worship

BY LIESL FORES

Staff Reporter

The adages about music emanating directly from the heavens or having the power to tame the savage beast are by now cliché. Perhaps, though, because there is some truth to them.

At least John Miller, Director of Music Ministries at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, seems to think so. "Music goes beyond words; it evokes other senses... It stirs certain emotions that the spoken word cannot," he affirms.

More importantly for him, however, is that music "adds another dimension to prayer." The number one reason, he claims, that the music ministry is crucial is because authoritative liturgical documents from Rome state that "music is the norm for liturgy."

Explaining that many prayers, texts and passages during the Mass are actually hymns, the director asserts that they are meant to be sung. He likens speaking such verses to the oddness of going to a birthday party and reciting the "Happy Birthday" song while gathered around the cake.

With music ministry, says Miller, "there's a sense of fulfillment of celebrating the liturgy

'fully.' And if we're effective, we're moving people to pray," he suggests.

The Cathedral Basilica Music Program is comprised of two acclaimed choirs, one that sings in English, with 36 members, and one in Spanish, with 15. Each ministers at one weekend Cathedral Basilica Parish Mass in its respective language every week. They also sing at Masses for major holidays and other Archdiocesan events.



Three concerts a year are conducted: for Good Friday/Stations of the Cross, one in May, and the Annual Candlelight Carol Sing.

This past summer, the English-language choir was honored with an invitation to go to Rome to perform Verdi's *Requiem* at St. Ignatius Church, along with the St. Louis Cathedral Basilica Choir.

Members are volunteer as well as paid, the latter being professional musicians with degrees or background in music.

Miller describes his responsibilities as director as "providing music for every event that comes through the Cathedral." For parish events he has the assistance of an office staff: Mark Pacoe, Associate Director of Music Ministries;

Olfary Gutiérrez-Ahearn, Director of the Spanish Choir, and Valerie Bernhardt, Administrative Assistant.

He also frequently teams up for Archdiocesan events with the Worship Office, headed by Sister Sandra DeMasi, S.S.J.

Miller, who has a B.A. degree in music and organ and an M.A. degree in organ and choral conducting, says he played the organ at Mass for the first time when was 11 and has been involved in music ministry in some capacity ever since. The director, who has been in this position for six years, stresses, "I couldn't imagine doing anything else."

A similar story is that of Janet Natale, the music minister for St. James Parish, Springfield. Singing at her first Mass at the age of eight, she recounts that starting in the third grade, students at St. Augustine School, Newark, were often brought over to the church to sing at funerals.

"Those who were good at it," she explained, and wished to, continued, as she did. "This is my first memory," she says, of being a part of music ministry.

A B.A. degree in music and voice, and years of experience later, she finds herself in her

ninth year at St. James.

Natale keeps busy directing four choirs: the Cherub Choir (K-3), with about 20 members total that performs at Christmas Eve and Easter morning Masses; the Chorusters (4-8), who number about 19 and perform monthly; the Lazarus Choir, comprised of 25 or so members who are free during the day, alternating turns to sing at funerals, and the Adult Choir, which has 35 members in all and sings at three consecutive Sunday Masses and one Saturday evening Mass every month.



Though the choirs do not put on productions outside of the liturgy, they sing at Masses for all major holy days, as well as special events, such as the anniversary of the dedication of the new church building, just one year old this June. Often all four choirs will sing together.

Her sentiments resound uncannily—maybe not so strangely enough—to John Miller's when she asserts, "Music can express what words alone cannot. It connects our spirits."

SS. Peter and Paul Parish, Hoboken, also has an extensive music program, led by Louis Scarpa, along with Eladio Valentin (Spanish music ministry) and Michael Chladil (7 p.m. Mass).

The main choir is made up of high school-aged and older members from varying backgrounds

and levels of experience. Members present different styles of music, including traditional and contemporary hymns, chants, classical and American spirituals. Instrumentalists are also welcomed.

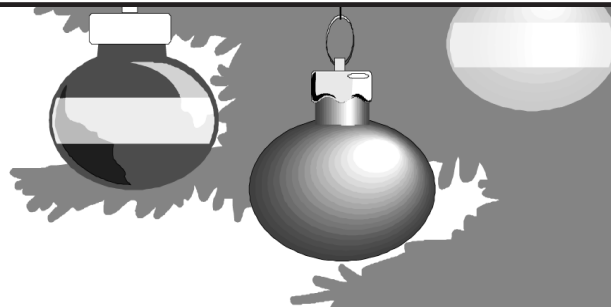
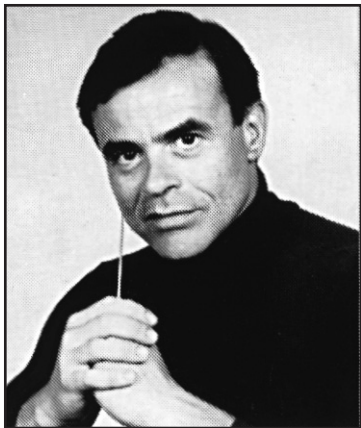
In June 2001 the choir at SS. Peter and Paul took on the impressive endeavor of recording in the church a CD of "meditative, sacred music chronicling the life of Christ," titled *Oratorio* (available through the parish).

Another active music ministry is that of Church of the Presentation, Upper Saddle River, directed by Edward Ginter.

Members of this group sing and play instruments at Masses throughout the year as well as for several other annual events, including Christmas and spring concerts, a Summerfest celebration and a Pasta Cabaret Night. There are also alternate choirs that sing for specific occasions.

Other choirs that have made a name for themselves are those of St. Joseph Parish, Lodi; Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Verona; St. Ann Parish, Hoboken; Our Lady of Sorrows, South Orange; St. Thomas the Apostle Parish and St. Valentine Parish, both in Bloomfield, and St. Teresa of Avila, Summit.

However, this list is by no means complete. So many parishes of the Archdiocese of Newark make beautiful music to honor and pray to God in a truly inspired and celestial way.



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'Giving trees' again take root at Caldwell College

Students and staff at Caldwell College and the public can help make the holiday season a little brighter for children, pregnant mothers, the homeless at area shelters, senior citizens and those living with HIV/AIDS and their families through the college's annual Giving Trees Project.

"I am very excited about the many people these gifts will reach," said Father Tom Orians,

S.A., the college's director of campus ministry.

"There are many individuals such as the emotionally disturbed, learning disabled adults and children, the homeless in area shelters and senior citizens who have no family to remember them. Through the Giving Trees project we will help to ensure no one will be forgotten."

Three Christmas trees have

been erected on campus and adorned with gift suggestions ranging from diapers to warm baby clothing and toys. Envelopes will also be attached to the tree that will enable donors to contribute the cost of the item, and students will then go shopping for the gifts.

Students and staff take a tag from the tree, purchase a suggested gift, wrap it and place it under the tree by Dec. 5.

In previous years, the program has benefited BabyLand Family Services Inc., St. Brigid's HIV/AIDS Residence and Catholic Community Services Outreach Services to the Homeless. In addition, the project has helped secure the donation of 400 new gifts from the Toys for Tots program at the U.S. Marine Base at Picatinny Arsenal in Dover.

"It's really exciting around the campus when everyone gets involved in this special project. Not only do the students and staff provide gifts,

but classes, whole dorm floors, offices, athletic teams and friends chip in and provide gifts that make a difference in the lives of many people," Father Orians said. The public is also invited to contribute.

He suggested it isn't always the big gifts that make a difference, but sometimes simple items like diapers and infant toys or recordings of books for those who have lost their sight.

After students and staff place a gift under the giving tree, they are invited to take a small orna-

ment from the tree to make a part of their own Christmas. "These ornaments," Father Orians said, "will serve as a reminder of the gifts given in the name of God's Son at Christmas. Christmas will take on an extra special meaning because of the generosity of the donor... This project gives love and hope to individuals in need and is an inspiration that makes the gift of Christmas come alive."



Holiday events abound

Events to mark the holiday season abound throughout the Archdiocese of Newark.

At St. Joseph Parish, Bogota, the annual Service of Lessons and Carols will take place at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 14.

The Bayley Seton League of Seton Hall University, South Orange, will hold its annual Christmas brunch in the faculty lounge of the student center beginning at 1 p.m. Reservations are available by calling Rose Soriano at (973) 375-9332. The luncheon is open to the public.

An Advent Morning of Reflection will be held at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Ridgewood, on Dec. 11 beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the parish center. Free childcare will be available. Call (201) 444-2000.

On Sunday, Dec. 7 from 3 to 7 p.m. the Carmel Retreat,

Mahwah, will present its annual open house benefit Christmas at Carmel. Cost \$50. To register call (201) 327-7090.

Two Advent programs will be held at Xavier Center, Convent Station. A Day of Reflection takes place Dec. 6 beginning at 10 a.m. Dec. 12-14 an Advent Guided Retreat will be held. To register or for additional information on both events call (973) 290-5100 or email to xaviercnt@aol.com.

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The 33rd annual Candlelight Carol Sing, part of the Cathedral Concert Series, will take place at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 18 at 8 p.m. in the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark.

Tradition runs deep

The use of the Christmas tree is relatively modern. Its origins are found in the medieval mystery plays which depicted the tree of paradise and the Christmas light or candle, which symbolized Christ "the Light of the world." (BB 1570)

In the present age, the religious significance of the Christmas tree has been almost completely lost.

One explanation often given for the origin of the Christmas tree is rooted in a secular derivation. Germanic tribes would bring a fir tree into their homes as a sign of life in the midst of the death of winter.

There is seldom any mention of lights on a tree.

The primary place of the Christmas tree is the home. (BB 1571) Most families set up and decorate the Christmas tree as part of the progressive preparation for Christmas. Where this is the case, the lighting and blessing of the Christmas tree may suitably take place on Christmas Eve, even in connection with the evening meal. This would be especially appropriate if the lighting of the Advent wreath has taken place throughout the season at the evening meal.

(The preceding information was provided by the Worship Office of the Archdiocese of Newark.)



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A voice for the hearing impaired

BY BRIAN FORES
Staff Reporter

Deacon Thomas M. Smith, Director of the Ministry with the Deaf at Catholic Community Services (CCS), Newark, was recently recognized by Signs of Sobriety, Inc., a New Jersey community-based non-profit organization, for his dedication and support to deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals seeking recovery from alcohol and/or substance abuse.

Deacon Smith advocates for the spiritual, civil and human rights of deaf and hard-of-hearing people by serving as a case manager, pastoral worker and interpreter for the deaf in a variety of religious and therapeutic settings.

"Generally, deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals have a higher instance of behavioral health problems because of their social isolation," Deacon Smith said. "It's not their deafness, but people's reaction to their deafness. Deaf people's rate of depression, suicide and addiction is much higher because of the hearing-world's patronizing, misunderstanding and marginalizing attitude toward them. Blindness

severs people from the world of sight, but deafness cuts people off from other people," he added.

"When you think of deafness as a culture, as a linguistic minority, you must address its specific needs. I believe that as a society, we must be culturally competent," Deacon Smith noted. "When I speak of the deaf as a culture, I do not mean a culture based on ethnicity or language, but a culture based on shared experience, history and values," he said, adding that one example of cultural competency would be a Mass designed for the deaf.

Deacon Smith explained that there is a deep mistrust between the deaf and the hearing. "I try to be a liaison between the two cultures. I think there's a certain phobia of the deaf. Some people think they are more vulnerable: I have to work around 'risk' issues all the time. The attitude barrier is worse—the presumption that deaf people just don't understand or are somehow mentally disabled," he noted.

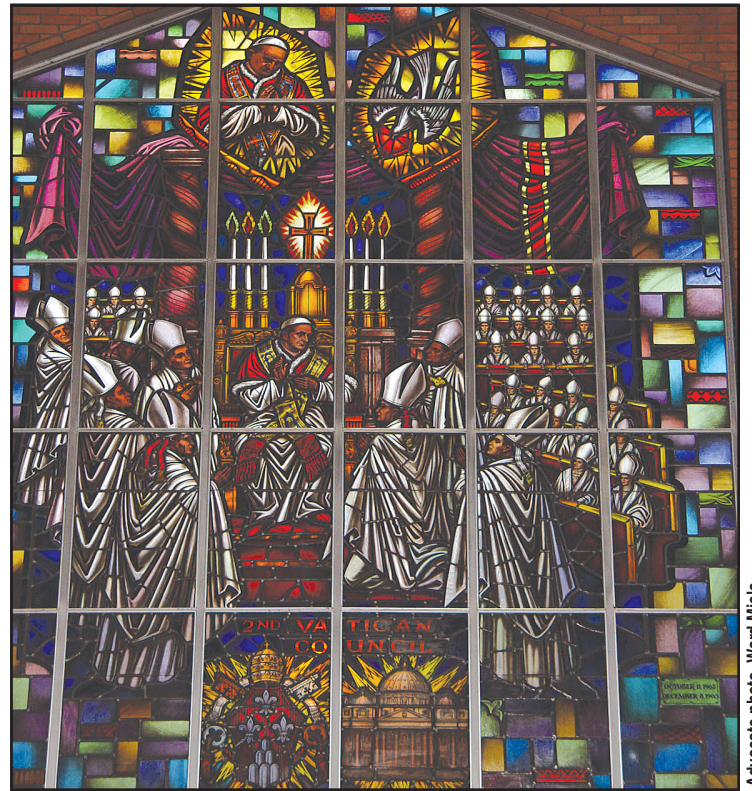
"I think hearing people are afraid of deaf people because they're so expressive. Maybe some hearing people have trou-

ble communicating well. Deaf people communicate a lot better. When you sign with a deaf person, you can't take your eyes away from that person—it's more genuine," Deacon Smith explained.

"I've fought for them. I knew that they needed these kinds of (recovery) services in a large, urban, geographically accessible area.

"Think about it, you're deaf, you don't have a job or money, you have a substance abuse problem. You're not going to get on a bus to go to the next Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) or 12-step meeting interpreted for the deaf at some remote location," he emphasized.

Deacon Smith added, "I've found people on the street and in trains, selling those sign-language cards. I can smell the alcohol on their breath sometimes. I sign to them, 'You know, you don't have to sell cards, and you don't have to live this way. Come to our meeting.'"



A unique window, dedicated to the Second Vatican Council, can be found at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, West Orange. In the top left is Pope John XXIII, with the Holy Spirit, watching Pope Paul VI continuing the work of the Council. Kneeling in front of Pope Paul VI is Newark Archbishop Thomas A. Boland. Facing the front are all the other bishops of New Jersey at the time the window was installed in the mid-1960s. Opening and closing dates of the Second Vatican Council are in the lower right hand portion of the window.

Advocate photo - Ward Milea

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Students 'dress down' to battle breast cancer

Students at St. Michael School, Union, recently held a special dress-down day to raise funds for breast cancer awareness.

The 330 students, normally in uniform clothing, honored the Levi's Challenge to wear jeans to school, as encouraged by the student council. The funds they raised, however, were put aside for a specific organization.

The new principal, Adele K. Ellis, donated the \$400 raised by the students at the Susan G. Komen 5K Race in Princeton.

Ellis runs the race each year in honor of her sister, Susan Bierman, who is a two-time breast cancer survivor. Last year, Ellis' husband represented the sister as Ellis ran in memory of Barbara Costa, the mother of a student at St. John Vianney School who died of breast cancer a week before the race.

For Make-A-Difference Day on Oct. 26, the student council encouraged others to give with a Book and Bake Sale. Proceeds were donated to the American Cancer Society.



The Miller family with Jim Tierney, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity, and Msgr. George Trabold, who blessed the house in Newark.

Volunteers help put a roof over Newark family's head

St. Rose of Lima Parish's Habitat for Humanity home is finished. Msgr. George Trabold, Pastor of the Short Hills parish, recently blessed the house in Newark during dedication ceremonies.

A family of five will occupy the house in the Central Ward of the city, built by volunteers from the parish.

The were on site every working Saturday and many weekdays as well. Contributions from parishioners for almost a year covered the \$80,000 construction cost.

In all 100 parishioners helped at least once, with many making return trips. While professionals handled the plumbing, electrical and heating systems, St. Rose volunteers, along with members of the occupying family, did the rest.

The house will be occupied by Michael and Luz Miller and their three children. Miller joined the work crews every week. His wife and children dropped by often.

The family, explained parish spokeswoman Helen Nugent, "strongly believes that divine intervention led them to Habitat for Humanity and their new home. Luz was born in Lima, Peru, six blocks from the birthplace of St. Rose, the first saint of the Americas."

Legal services were donated by the law firm of parishioner John Gibbons.

The St. Rose of Lima Social Action Committee continues to be active with Habitat for Humanity in Newark. Periodically it will help build other homes.

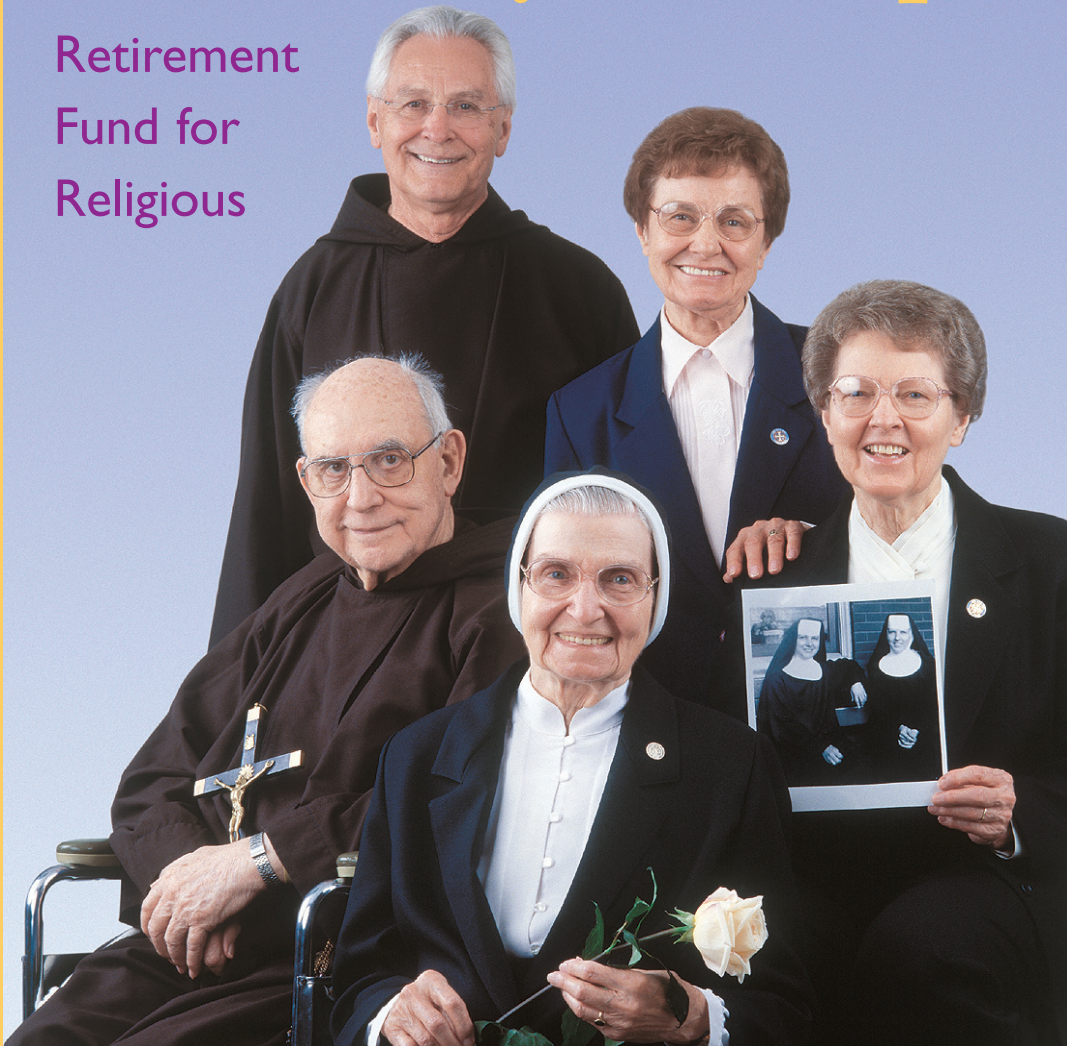
Parishioner Michael Moran chaired the effort behind the Millers' house and is a member of the Habitat for Humanity board of directors in Newark. Other parishioners have joined three of the organization's key committees.

Those interested in becoming involved should call Moran or his wife Barbara at (973) 564-6245.

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Sacred Liturgy Constitution observes 40th

The first of the Second Vatican Council's official documents was promulgated on Dec. 4, 1963, and is known in Church literature by its Latin title, *Sacrocanctum Concilium*.

Although commonly taken to be the mandate initiating the sweeping liturgical changes that took place at the time of the Council, this Constitution is better understood as the culmination of the liturgical research that had been underway for over a 100 years, and as the codification of various principles and practices that had been proposed and debated since the beginning of the 20th century.

The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy consists of seven major sections: General Principles for Restoring and Promoting the Sacred Liturgy; Mystery of the Holy Eucharist; Sacraments and Sacramentals; Divine Office; Liturgical Year; Sacred Music and Sacred Art and Furnishings.

The Constitution was the subject of an Apostolic Letter of Pope John Paul II dated Dec. 4, 1988, in celebration of its 25th anniversary. The basic thrust of the document, in the pontiff's view, is the clear enunciation of what the previous Popes of the 20th century had been pointing to: the full, active and conscious participation of the baptized in the liturgy as "the primary and indispensable source of the true Christian spirit" (SC, 14).

According to Pope John Paul II's interpretation, the Church's unity, holiness, catholicity and apostolic nature are all rooted in the Sacred Liturgy and are to be clearly manifest in its celebration: in communion with the bishop (who in turn is in communion with the pope), in the variety of ministries, in the people's participation through word, song, ritual and silence.

The most urgent task for the future, Pope John Paul says, is the ongoing biblical and liturgical formation of the people of God, both pastors and faithful, so that all may "grasp the meaning of the liturgical rites and texts, to develop the dignity and beauty of celebration... and to promote, as the Fathers did, a 'mystagogic catechesis' of the sacraments" (21).



Seven Sisters of the Religious Teachers Filippini recently celebrated their Golden Jubilee at St. Lucy Chapel, Villa Walsh, Morristown. Principal celebrant was Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of Brooklyn. Behind Bishop DiMarzio is Sister Ascenza Tizzano, Provincial Superior of St. Lucy Province, Morristown. Sister Mary DeBacco, General Superior, seated, and Bishop DiMarzio offered congratulations to, left to right, second row, Sister Mary Dolores Ferrecchia and Sister Catherine Paone. In the third row are Sister Josephine Calo, Sister Lena Mignogna, Sister Grace Zizza, Sister Catherine Iacouzze and Sister Dolores Bianchi.

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Shrine of St. Joseph schedules three programs for Advent

As part of its "Pathways to a Deeper Spirituality Series," the Shrine of St. Joseph, Stirling, will present three programs in Advent as a preparation for the Feast of Christmas.

On Wednesdays, Dec. 3 and 10, at 7:30 p.m. in the Shrine Chapel, a program on "Waiting" will feature a presentation on the book *While We Wait*, by Mary Lou Redding. There will also be prayers and songs.

On Tuesday, Dec. 16, at 7:30 p.m., Sister Maureen Christensen, R.S.M., Director of the Upper Room Spiritual Center in Neptune, will lead the congregation in an evening of communal contemplative prayer using the format of the Taize Community in France. There will be Scripture reading, singing and periods of silent prayer.

The three programs will be held in the Shrine Chapel. All are invited, free will offering. The Shrine is located at 1050 Long Hill Rd. For more information, call (908) 647-0208.

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Bishop Dominic Marconi, Retired Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, left, and Msgr. Edward J. Hajduk, Pastor of St. Henry Parish, Bayonne, attend a recent audience with Pope John Paul II. The local clergy greeted the Holy Father prior to the picture being taken.

Domestic partners bill defeat sought by NJCC

The New Jersey Catholic Conference (NJCC) has issued a call for Catholics' help in opposing passage of Assembly Bill A3743 which would establish benefits for domestic partners.

It is the NJCC position that while the pending legislation seeks to confer equivalent marriage benefits to "a broad universe of persons who meet certain conditions," such as sharing a common residence, and agreeing to be jointly responsible for each other's basic living expenses, "no one would dispute that the prime movers behind this legislation are homosexual persons who seek legal affirmation that their cohabitation is equal in every way to marriage."

Its opposition, the NJCC explained in a statement, centers on A3743's attempt "to cast aside marriage as our legal standard of legitimate cohabitation in order to give legitimacy to homosexual and heterosexual cohabitation outside of marriage." Wholesale acceptance

of domestic partnership, the NJCC statement continues, "discounts the fact that throughout history marriage, the union of one man and one woman, has offered social stability by forming the physical, economic and cultural base for the orderly procreation, nurture and education of the next generation."

A3743 is before the Assembly Health and Human Services Committee. There are "strong indications," according to the NJCC, that supporters will push to have the bill passed and sent to the governor before the end of the legislative session, which ends Jan. 12.

Those who do not know where to contact their senator and assembly representative can call NJCC's Office of Legislative Services at 1-(800)-792-8630 or go to www.njleg.state.nj.us/members/legse/arch.asp. Another option is to call the governor's office at (609) 292-6000 and ask for Constituent Relations or send a fax to (609) 292-3454.

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Mother Cabrini: one life has influenced generations

BY LIESL FORES

Staff Reporter

To celebrate the feast of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini (Nov. 13), two busloads of pilgrims from the Archdiocese of Newark, led by Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia, and Father Dante Di Girolamo (retired) from Kearny, traveled last month to the hills of northern Manhattan, New York City, the site of her shrine.

The trip was sponsored by the Society of the Holy Face of Jesus and Mama Gili Guild; Father Di Girolamo is the director of the association and was the coordinator of the excursion. It has been an annual event for the past ten years.

Visitors had the opportunity to attend Mass in the chapel that serves as the St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Shrine either in English in the morning or Italian in the afternoon; Bishop Serratelli was invited to celebrate both.

Between Masses, there was a performance given by the Mother Cabrini High School Drum Corps on the front lawn of the school and a piano concert by Tommy Valvo, a professional pianist and "friend of the shrine," in the chapel. Lunch was also available as well as a



Bishop Serratelli celebrates Mass at the shrine. An image of Mother Cabrini lies beneath the main altar, encased in a glass coffin. It is comprised of a wax head, prosthetic hands, and tubes that enclose and protect her relics, also giving the appearance of a body clothed in the actual habit worn by the saint.

video about the saint.

Mother Cabrini, as she is often referred to, was born in Italy in 1850, one of 13 children. She was not allowed to enter the convent due to poor health. However, she devoted her entire life to God and the Church, traveling to minister all over the world, and particularly to Italian immigrants in New York, where she arrived in 1889.

She founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and a total of 67 hospitals, schools and orphanages throughout the United States, Europe and South America, "one for each year of her life," Bishop Serratelli pointed out. "It makes

you realize the great impact one person can have in her own day and successive generations."

The bishop has a personal connection with the Patroness of Immigrants, who, he noted, worked extensively in the then-Diocese of Newark. His grandmother was taught catechism by Mother Cabrini at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Newark. He described visiting the shrine at least once a year as a child.

The shrine houses the bones of Mother Cabrini, preserved within a wax and prosthetic replica of her body, clothed in her authentic garments and displayed in a glass coffin underneath the altar.



Advocate photos- Liesl Fores

Dozens of pilgrims from the Archdiocese of Newark visited the St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Shrine in New York City to celebrate the feast of the Patroness of Immigrants.

Over the course of the three-day commemoration of Mother Cabrini's feast at the shrine, eight Masses were celebrated in five languages, and about 3000 people passed through, often praying to the saint for special intentions, explained Debra Stumpf, Shrine Administrator.

"I'm looking for a miracle!" asserted Anna Moscatelli of St. John Parish, Orange.

Maria T. Dietrick from St. Philomena Parish, Livingston, said she had recently read Mother Cabrini's life story and

was intrigued, emphasizing that her family had a special devotion to her. "They believed in this saint," she stressed.

While this was Luiz Pereira's second time at the shrine, it was his wife Monica's first visit. Both are parishioners at St. Lucy's, Newark.

And about two dozen nuns from four communities of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Elizabeth were also in attendance.

Father Di Girolamo explains
Continued on page 22



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Priests attend Jesuit retreat

Several priests from the Archdiocese of Newark were among more than 20 priests from across the country who gathered at the Loyola Jesuit Retreat House, Morristown.

The five-day preached retreat was under the direction of Father John Catoir of the Diocese of Paterson, who spoke on the topic "Living the Gospel Joyfully."

"Your job is to give hope," Father Catoir reminded the priests during his presentations. He acknowledged the difficulty of that job in light of the many challenges faced by a parish priest.

Father Bill Poorten, S.J., who coordinates the retreats, was pleased that the priests at the retreat represented many dioceses and orders throughout the northeast. That diversity, he said, "has deeply enriched the shared experiences of those days of prayer."

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Archdiocesan 'Teresians' mark 130 years of charitable work, and spiritual fulfillment

Some 120 members strong in the Archdiocese of Newark, the Sodality of the Children of Mary of St. Teresa is celebrating 130 years of charitable work in northern New Jersey.

The Sodalists, known as "Teresians," comprise one of the oldest Catholic organizations of its kind.

Looking both back and ahead, Mary Elaine Connell, President, said, "The 14 members of the Sodality in 1873 were seeking to deepen their spiritual lives and also perform works of service in their community."

Today, she explained, the Sodalists "come together" for Mass and prayer on the First Friday and First Saturday from October through June as well as for a three-day Triduum in preparation for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on Dec. 8.

"We hold special luncheons during the year in order to raise funds for our charitable works. Annually we present a \$10,000 check to Saint Peter's College for its Development Fund, and a

donation is given to the Murray Weigel Residence for retired members of the Jesuit community."

Several years ago, Connell continued, the Teresians presented Saint Peter's College with a Nativity crèche to replace one that had been stolen.

"I am proud to be a member of this Sodality, which through the years has done such wonderful acts of charity and continues to help its members enrich their spiritual lives."

Responding to an appeal from Father Victor Beaudevin, Rector of Saint Peter Parish, Jersey City, in 1873, the 14 young women established the Children of Mary of St. Teresa.

They assisted the rector in his work with the poor of the parish. The women collected and distributed clothing and replenished linens and vestments for the parish and Jesuit missions. To this day the organization is based in Jersey City.

Since their inception the Teresians have participated in numerous civic projects and programs. They include the Red

Cross, Community Chest, Salvation Army, cancer drives, the Sister Kenny Foundation, preparing care packages and making afghans for area veterans' hospitals. The women of the Sodality have answered countless calls from needy families by supplying clothing and bedding. They have also outfitted children for First Communion.

Today the main objective is working with the Jesuits of Saint Peter's College. The moderator is Father Joseph Novak, S.J.

Many members are second and third generation.

Each year those who have reached 25 and 50 years of service are recognized. New members are received twice a year, on a Saturday in May and on Dec. 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and the annual feast day of the Sodality.

The blessing of babies and dedication to the Blessed Mother are part of the annual Dec. 8 Mass.

Mrs. Matthew Rooney, a member of long standing, had three babies dedicated. The two

girls became Sodalists, and the third, a boy, entered the Jesuit Order. Father Matthew Rooney, a former member of the Saint Peter's faculty, was the only baby dedicated on Dec. 8 who went on to become the group's moderator.

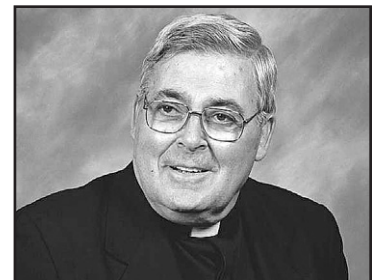
For the past four years, the Teresians have presented a Christmas crèche to the college. It was dedicated in memory of long time moderator Father Edward Gillen, who regularly celebrated Mass for the Teresians.

A special honor was bestowed in April of last year when the Sodality was recognized by the college as honorary alumnae.

St. Frances X. Cabrini Shrine

Continued from page 21

that there is always a good turnout for the pilgrimage because of the strong devotion to the saint who strived to "give an identity to the Italian immigrants." He added that "all these people here are children or grandchildren of immigrants...She is the patroness not only for the Italian immigrants, but for all.



FATHER DANTE DI GIROLAMO

"People come to the shrine with many petitions—health, jobs, peace," he continued, saying that he hopes the pilgrims take away with them a sense of "togetherness and fraternity, and that their aspirations are fulfilled."

In his homily during the English Mass, Bishop Serratelli noted that Mother Cabrini "never lost sight of Christ, who was always present in the poor, the needy—those she served." In her intercession, he concluded, "may we never lose sight of the Kingdom of God...may we never lose sight of one another."

The St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Shrine is located at 701 Fort Washington Ave. in New York.

VILLA PAULINE

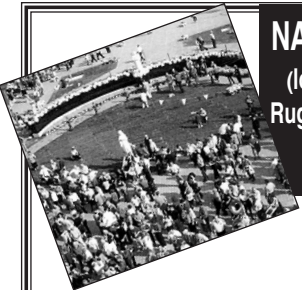
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Advocate photo-Ward Miele

Speakers Father Frizzell, center, and Rabbi Rudin, to his left, with, left to right, members of the Inter-religious Commission, co-chairs Dorothy Gordon and Miriam Miller; Msgr. John Gilchrist; Allyson M. Gall, Executive Director of the American Jewish Committee, and Father Philip Latronico.

State's pollution woes targeted

The New Jersey Catholic Coalition for Environmental Justice (NJCCEJ) recently hosted an environmental roundtable at the Archdiocesan Center, Newark.

The event was sponsored by the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP).

The topic for the evening was "Environmental Justice: Land Use Considerations in the Urban Environment."

Speakers included Michelle DePass, Program Officer, Community and Resource Development, Ford Foundation; Louches J.H. Powell, Jr., Executive Director, Community Academic Partnership for the Environment (CAPE); Ann E. Goode, Deputy Director, Center for the Economy and the Environment, National Academy of Public Administration;

Jeanne Herb, Director of Policy, Planning and Science, NJDEP, and Michelle Garcia, Environmental Justice Coordinator, Ironbound Community Corp.

Given the extensive industrial pollution that affects many of New Jersey's cities, the session explored strategies for local and regional partnerships to correct existing injustices—specifically, land use planning in relation to pollution in urban areas.

"Leadership is critical," asserted Goode, referring to members of the community as well as workers on local, state and federal levels. An overview of environmental justice, case studies, state programs and municipal strategies were also presented.

A question-and-answer segment followed the talks. Participants discussed how to expand local efforts to bring about change.

Gibson movie

Continued from page 1

he lamented, can be interpreted as "anti-Jewish." Rabbi Rudin cited the "anti-Jewish elements and gratuitous, enormous violence." He called the work "a huge disappointment."

At the time, said the Institute director, Jesus would have been looked upon as someone "fomenting" insurrection by standing up for the ordinary man. Jesus was, Father Frizzell stressed, a "model" of a person living by his principles.

Explaining he had seen an hour and 50 minute version of the film with about 100 others, Rabbi Rudin said he went to Texas with "an open mind."

The film, he said, comes from "the trajectory of medieval passion plays" in its depiction of Jews.

Noting that the film is privately funded with a price tag of between \$25-\$30 million, Rabbi Rudin pointed out that Gibson was the director and had personally hired the cast. Contrary to popular belief, the rabbi revealed, the film contains "very adequate" English subtitles.

Gibson, Rabbi Rudin charged, has "shrugged off" errors in the film that have been brought to his attention.

Many Christians in the Texas audience, Rabbi Rudin said, were "genuinely moved," while Jews felt "terribly uneasy, even angry."

The controversy over the film, Rabbi Rudin added, will only intensify as its release early next year approaches. "Celebrity generates its own box

office," he remarked. Rabbi Rudin expressed particular concern about the film arriving in theaters at a time when anti-Semitism is increasing worldwide.



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Dome image: ©Fabbrica di San Pietro in Vaticano

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Meg Prout, with fifth grade daughter, Julia, organized and ran the book fair.

'Paws for Reading' raises interest in library books

Our Lady of the Lake School, Verona, recently held a Scholastic Fall Book Fair: "Paws for Reading."

Money was raised for the school's library fund and the classroom. In addition, over 50 books were sent to OLL's "sister school," Resurrection School, Jersey City.

There were many activities during the week, including "Donuts with Dad." Students had the opportunity to learn about the role dogs play in law enforcement from the Essex County Sheriff's Department. The younger grades had a puppy parade and sing along story time.

Don Bosco students cited

Two students from Don Bosco Preparatory School, Ramsey, recently received academic honors.

Christopher P. Walsh, a senior, has been named a National Merit Semifinalist in the 2003 National Merit Scholarship Program, and Hansary Laforest is a National Achievement Scholarship Semifinalist.

In addition, 15 Don Bosco Prep students received notification as National Merit Commended students. They are Daniel J. Bello, Timothy S. Bush, Douglas B. Collins, Matthew S. Ennis, Michael Hodum,

Michael A. Koontz, Alejandro M. Louro, Richard E. May, Jr., Michael J. Pace, Joseph Pescatore, Michael F. Ritchie, Daniel W. Sarrow, Jonathan L. Stanisz, Mark T. Strout and Daniel E. Trucil.

Of 1.3 million entrants throughout the country, approximately 50,000 students with the highest PSAT/NMSQT scores qualify for recognition in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Semifinalists have now entered the final round. The finalists will be announced in February. Then, beginning in March, finalists will be notified of Merit Scholarships awards.



Author Susan Heyboer O'Keefe recently visited Saint Therese of Lisieux School, Cresskill. She spoke on writing, creativity and how books are published. Her books include *It's Great to be Catholic* and *What Does a Priest Do? What Does a Nun Do?* She has a new middle grade range book due out in the spring, *Death by Eggplant*.

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Four decades of learning celebrated

St. Agnes School, Clark, recently celebrated the four decades since its founding.

In August of 1962 Father Dennis J. Whelan, Pastor, submitted a petition for the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Dominic of the Congregation of Sacred Heart, Caldwell, to conduct a parish elementary school.

On Aug. 15, 1963 the Dominican Sisters arrived.

Temporary residence for St. Agnes School was set up at Union Catholic Regional High School, Scotch Plains. Enrollment totaled 157 students in grades one through four. Four classrooms were set aside and bus transportation was provided. The school colors were chosen: red (maroon) for the martyrdom of St. Agnes and white for purity.

A year later on Sept. 9, 1964, the new school building opened its doors, welcoming 224 students. A fifth grade was soon added.

The following year, the first full cafeteria was in operation. There was no cash register; money was collected and sorted in bowls at the end of a long table.

Things were moving along well by 1965.

The first school newspaper was established, and Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops were formed. Some 50 boys joined Troop 86 and began fund raising to sponsor camping trips, field trips and a trip to Washington, DC.

Woodcarvings of patron saints with their names imprinted were in front of each classroom. A wall statue of a boy and girl was mounted in the front hall. The two models were Joan Jaworski and Robert Suszko, students who were in the first graduating class of 1968. Grades six, seven and eight were all added by 1967, and in June of 1968, the original fourth grade Class from 1964 graduated.

A parent of one of the seventh grade boys founded a basketball team that year.

Since there was no gym, permission was obtained from the municipality for use of a public school gym for practice and games. Trophies were donated by the coach from 1969 until 1972 and were always presented at the eighth grade Communion

breakfast. In later years the sports committee was founded and continued the tradition.

In 1972 the convent in Clark was sold as a residence and the Sisters went to live at the convent for St. John the Apostle, Linden.

The school now had 365 students. The class size was maximum 36 and minimum 20.

In 1973, with \$125 of appropriated funds, the sport committee was founded with the motto "Do Your Best." The all-purpose room became the gym, with the floor marked for a basketball court and fold-up basketball hoops on the ceiling. In 1977 the Clark Municipal Council adopted a resolution honoring the St. Agnes CYO basketball team. A girls' softball team was formed that same year. The cheerleaders were established and took second place in cheering and Miss Yell Competition. The track team captured many gold, silver and bronze medals. Joe Santos became the coach of basketball and remained in that position for 25 years.



A special 40th anniversary cake is cut by, left to right, first grade teacher Helen Shaffer, Sister Claire Ouimet, Principal, and Msgr. James Choma, Pastor.

This year the sports committee established the Joseph Santos Sports Scholarship in his honor.

In 1980 school uniforms were maroon, white and gray. The school year book began, and the school received excellent evaluations by the Archdiocesan Office Evaluation Team.

In 1982, implementation of the recommendations from the evaluation team began.

A new office, using unutilized space in the hallway was

constructed. A separate nurse's room was created and a library completed some years later.

Monthly newsletters and calendars were published. Algebra programs for qualified eighth grade students were put into operation. The use of computers was stressed in varying degrees for both classrooms and offices. Teaching specialty topics were put in place.

The kindergarten class started with 15 children in 1991. Four year later Sister Claire Ouimet, M.P.F. became principal.

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E.R.

NOVENA TO ST. JUDE

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

PRAYER TO ST. RITA

O powerful Saint Rita, rightly called Saint of the Impossible, I come to you with confidence in my great need. You know well my trails, for you yourself were many times burdened in this life. Come to my help, speak for me, pray with me, intercede on my behalf before the father. I know that God has a most generous heart and that he is a most loving Father. Join your prayers to mine and obtain for me the grace I desire (here mention your request). You who were so very pleasing to God on earth and are so much so now in heaven, I promise to use this favor, when granted, to better my life, proclaim God's mercy, and to make you more widely known and loved. Amen.

Thanks

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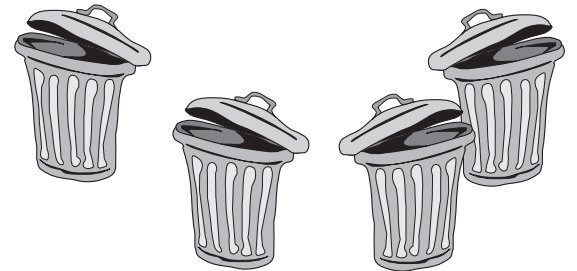
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POR BEATRIZ C. ADLER

La filosofía de la Iglesia antes del Concilio Vaticano II era, en general, de darle más importancia a la felicidad en la Vida Eterna que en la terrena, ya que esta vida es pasajera; se hacía hincapié en el sacrificio y la mortificación, había Religiosas enclaustradas y la mayoría de los miembros de las Ordenes Religiosas tenían poco contacto con sus familias y el mundo. Quizás la influencia de las Bienaventuranzas ("Bienaventurados los que lloran...") llevaba a la Iglesia a una actitud extrema. Dios es amor y por eso nos creó para ser felices, pero no sólo en la Vida Eterna con El, sino también a tratar de ser felices aquí en la Tierra, si seguimos el camino de la fe y el amor que es lo único que nos da paz y felicidad. A partir de Vaticano II se ha visto un cambio positivo en la Iglesia queriendo aliviar al pobre y acercándose más directamente a ellos para ayudarlos en todos los aspectos. Quedan pocos conventos enclaustrados, pues el Papa recomendó no sólo oración sino acción y hay más acercamiento entre Religiosos y la humanidad.

Sin embargo, lograr la felicidad no es fácil y por supuesto que depende de muchos factores, pero vamos a comentar sobre algunos de ellos. Podemos mencionar: el mundo que nos rodea con la falta de valores morales, el odio entre razas y países, tanta información sobre enfermedades y desgracias ajenas, el efecto del escape a la vida usando drogas, alcohol o aun con el suicidio y podríamos hacer una lista interminable de lo que hoy día nos arrastra y deprime, pero nada de esto depende de nosotros, luego vamos a ver lo que depende de nosotros para ser felices.

Dos factores que nos afectan personalmente son: la comparación y competencia y la estimación propia (o sea, poner en práctica "Amar al prójimo como a ti mismo").

En cuanto a la comparación y la competencia estas existen desde que nacemos. Nos comparan en cuanto a lo físico dándole demasiada importancia, ya que lo que nos atrae de una persona son sus virtudes y personalidad más que su belleza física. No queremos tener enfermedades como la diabetes y hasta llegamos a esconderla como si fuera algo malo que dependiera de nosotros.

Nos comparamos en cuanto a nuestra inteligencia, per-

sonalidad y éxitos; en lo que respecta a la inteligencia hay diferentes tipos de inteligencia y de vocaciones y todas son buenas, lo importante es hacer lo que hagamos lo mejor que se pueda y personas con éxito no son necesariamente las más felices. El hecho de ser diferentes hace que la vida sea más amena y nos complementamos unos con los otros; ¿Qué sería de nosotros si todos fuéramos profesionales? Luego es importante que nos estimemos y amemos como somos ya que Dios nos creó así y cada uno de nosotros tiene diferentes dones y es responsable de usarlos en bien del prójimo para cumplir con lo que el Señor espera de nosotros como Católicos que somos.

En relación con la competencia no diremos que es mala, es parte de la vida, pero hay que llevarla a cabo con control sin que un fracaso nos destruya; hay que aceptar los resultados con paz y conformidad como lo que quizá me convenga en ese momento dado y no obsesionarse con siempre triunfar y tener la razón. Ni soy superior, ni inferior y lo que soy y mi esfuerzo son los que cuentan, hay que ser humilde y no orgulloso porque todo lo que somos y tenemos se lo debemos a Dios. Por estas razones el Día de Dar Gracias o Thanksgiving se celebra un día en los Estados Unidos siguiendo la costumbre de los primeros inmigrantes, pero como católicos que somos hay que celebrarlo todos los días pues hay mucho que agradecerle a Dios.

En cuanto a la estimación propia diremos que la persona que tiene autoestimación tiende a excusar al que nos ofende o demuestra frialdad, porque uno sabe que es valioso ante Dios aunque tengamos defectos. Está uno abierto al elogio y al cariño sin sospechar otras intenciones, ya que somos capaces de amar de la misma manera. Nos es fácil adaptarnos y comunicarnos porque no tengo miedo de no ser aceptado. Puedes ser tú mismo, eres franco en aclarar situaciones si te hieren y expresas tus sentimientos de cariño sin miedo a ser rechazado. Haces lo que crees correcto, sin que te afecte lo que otros digan o piensen. Sabes decir "no" sin remordimiento porque sabes que tienes derecho a ser independiente. Vives una vida real, no de sueño; en fin, eres una persona madura y que aprovechando los consejos paternales positivos, después de analizarlos y de consultar con tus emociones, actúas con tu mente y con lógica.

Acepta con responsabilidad tus acciones y no culpes a otros o a causas inventadas por ti para quedar bien. Admite tus errores y usa de ellos para adquirir experiencia y madurar. Si quieres mejorar en tu autoestimación analízate y haz una lista de tus virtudes y defectos y trabaja sobre estos últimos para que mejores día a día y puedas ser más útil al prójimo. Recuerda que eres único y que nadie puede realizar lo que tú. Aprovecha el regalo de Dios y dale gracias todos los días por todo lo que te ha dado.

Nuestra naturaleza humana

POR MONSEÑOR JIM LISANTE

The Christophers

¿Ha tenido alguna vez un día en que se siente bien, todo le sale bien, hasta que de pronto viene alguien y le desbarata todo?

Después de todo, si un automobilista le quita su espacio en el estacionamiento, o un compañero de trabajo se entromete en su tarea, o alguien critica la conducta de su hijo, la falta es de ellos. Sin duda, es difícil ser tolerante cuando todos ellos pueden ser tan desconsiderados. O peor aún, el comportamiento es tan ridículo que casi seguro es intencional. ¿Por qué son así?

Bueno, cuando nos calmamos, nos damos cuenta de

que cometer errores es parte de la naturaleza humana. Y he aquí algunos conceptos que vale la pena recordar.

Cuando la otra persona se comporta así, decimos que es imposible de tratar...

Cuando lo hace uno, son los nervios...

Cuando la otra persona insiste en lo mismo, es obstinada...

Cuando quien insiste es uno, somos firmes.

Cuando a la otra persona no le gustan nuestras amistades, tiene prejuicios...

Cuando se trata de uno, somos selectivos y tenemos buen gusto.

Cuando la otra persona trata de adaptarse a los demás, no es sincera...

Cuando lo hace uno, usamos buen tacto.

Cuando la otra persona se toma su tiempo, es lenta...

Cuando lo hacemos nosotros, somos cuidadosos.

Cuando la otra persona encuentra errores, es envidiosa...

Cuando somos nosotros, somos detallistas.

Nadie quiere ser juzgado por los errores cometidos, sino sobre la conducta y el carácter. Queremos que se nos dé una oportunidad. Queremos que vean nuestra mente amplia y nuestro buen corazón.

Pero cada vez me convenzo más de que es en las pequeñas cosas de la vida diaria donde demostramos lo que realmente somos. Nuestra personalidad, nuestras convicciones, nuestros valores, nuestras virtudes y defectos, no aparecen solamente en momentos de crisis. Y es por eso que debemos ser generosos, gentiles y sinceros con el prójimo.

El gran escritor sudafricano Alan Paton, quien luchó contra el *apartheid* por años, escribió: "La vida me enseñó que...el amor al prójimo en acción nos salva de las imperfecciones de la sociedad y de la corrupción de los hombres...la vida me ha enseñado a buscar sustento en el esfuerzo, pero a dejar el resultado en las manos de Dios. El no ilusionarme, el verme a mí mismo, a los demás y al mundo con claridad no significa diluir la felicidad. Pero es algo que no cambiaría por ninguna felicidad formada sobre otra base. Hay una sola forma de sobrevivir la crueldad entre seres humanos, y es tratando de mostrar en nuestra vida la humanidad de un ser a otro".

Dios no quiere que "el que seamos humanos" sea algo para lamentar, sino algo para disfrutar.

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'Dear Papa, Does the pope have to be Catholic?'

BY GREG TOBIN
Editor & Associate Publisher

Dear Papa
Children Celebrate Pope John Paul II with Letters of Love and Affection
Compiled by Richard A. Klein and Virginia D. Klein
(Liguori/Triumph Books. 128 pages, \$14.95)
ISBN 0-7648-1097-9

"Leading up to the Holy Father's celebration of the silver jubilee of his pontificate, the editors of this book reviewed 10,000 letters and drawings sent to Pope John Paul II by Catholic school children over the years.

Richard A. Klein is a marketer and moviemaker, and his

wife Virginia is a busy volunteer and award-winning Catholic layperson. Residents of St. Louis, they have four grown children of their own and five grandchildren.

The letters and drawings are irresistible, each representing the sincere, heart-felt feelings of a child. Some of the artwork is surprisingly sophisticated for the age of the art, and the letters are endearing and enduring in their sentiments:

"What is your middle name, if you don't mind me asking?"

"After you were elected pope, did your mom still make you eat your broccoli?"

"Does God ever talk to you in your sleep?"

"You must be very devoted

Christmas concert

The Vocations Office of the Archdiocese of Newark will present a Christmas Concert featuring Valerie Sue Muller, soprano, and David Maiullo on piano, Saturday, Dec. 13 at 6:30 p.m. The event will benefit the Vocations Office in its effort to foster vocations to the priesthood and Religious life throughout the Archdiocese of Newark. Location: Immaculate Conception Church, 1219 Paterson Plank Road, Secaucus. For more information or to RSVP, call the Vocations office at (973) 497-4365.

'Sacred Texts' exhibit

Continuing at Seton Hall University's Walsh Library

Gallery is the exhibition commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Judaeo-Christian Studies Institute, directed by Father Lawrence Frizzell. Titled, "The Beauty of Sacred Texts," the exhibition features examples of 16th-21st century texts from SHU's rare book collection and on loan from the American Bible Society.

Televised Mass

Father Eugene Palumbo, S.D.B. of Don Bosco Prep, Ramsey, will be celebrant for a televised Sunday Mass, presented by Passionist Communications on Sunday, Dec. 14 on Channel 5 at 5:30 a.m., Channel 55 at 9 a.m. and Channel 31 at 9:30 a.m.

to God to be the pope. Most people have difficulty just going to church every Sunday!"

Also included are photographs of the pope with children. "In his 25 years, no other pope—in fact no other world leader—has been so identified with children," Richard Klein has said.

"We feel these messages beautifully demonstrate the unprecedented love between today's youth and John Paul," Virginia Klein added.

This book is a perfect gift for a child or an adult. It is easy and delightful to read, especially to read aloud at bedtime and discuss with a very young child. It is an opportunity to share the simple beauty of our faith. Dear Papa, Thank you for serving selflessly for 25 years as pope, and for giving your life to Christ, His Mother, and the Church.

Holiday comedy

A play for the entire family, *Ned Crocker* by Robin Short, will be presented at the Theatre-in-the-Round at Bishop Dougherty University Center on the Seton Hall University campus, South Orange. The play will run on Dec. 5, 6, 12 and 13 at 8 p.m., and Dec. 7 and 14 at 2 p.m. Call for more information on the theatre location and admission charges, (973) 275-2450.



Rita Licamelli of Associated Gift Shoppe, Hasbrouck Heights, with *Dear Papa* and a varied selection of gifts for the upcoming holiday season.

The Catholic Advocate

Catholic Radio

SUNDAY

Religion on the Line
6 a.m. - WABC 770 AM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SATURDAY

As You Think with Father Paul Keenan
9 p.m. - WOR 710 AM

TV Masses

A televised Mass can be seen at the times listed below. Check your cable guide for cable channel.

WLNY-TV, Ch. 55
8:30 a.m. - Monday-Friday
9 a.m. - Sunday

WNYW, Ch. 5
5:30 a.m. - Sunday

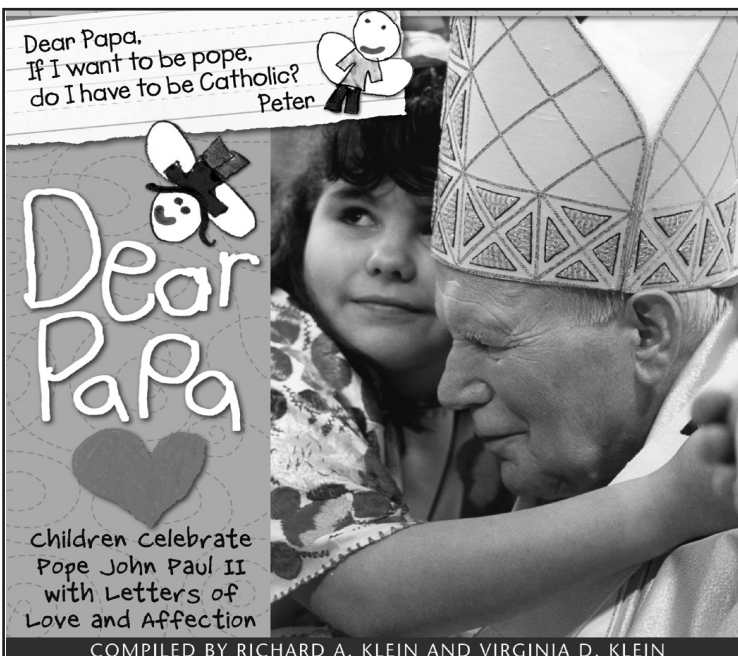
WPXN, Ch. 31
9:30 a.m. - Sunday

WXTV, Ch. 41
Santa Misa (local) 6:30 a.m. - Sunday

EWTN
Live Mass 8 a.m. and noon
Monday- Saturday

Portuguese Mass 5:30 a.m. - Sunday
Mass from Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, 8 a.m. and midnight - Sunday

Other Programming
Religion and Ethics Newswest
weekends- WNET Ch 13



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Roman Triptych: Meditations

In his third book and his first volume of poetry, John Paul reflects on God as the beginning and end of human life and all creation.

—The Washington Post

In the first poem, take a journey of wonder to the source of life in "The Stream." Stand in the doorway of the Sistine Chapel with him as he reflects on the creation story of Genesis in the second poem, "Meditations on the Book of Genesis at the Threshold." In the final poem, "A Hill in the Land of Moriah," let yourself be drawn into a retelling of the story of Abraham and Isaac. It becomes a personal conversation between the Pope and the Voice of God.

This beautiful hardcover book also includes magnificent, color artwork from the Casa Buonarroti and Albertina Museum, several pages of the Pope's original hand-written text, and a special presentation by Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger.

"This beautiful presentation of his poetry is certainly a wonderful souvenir of the thought and the prayer of a holy man."

—THEODORE E. CARDINAL MCCARRICK
ARCHBISHOP OF WASHINGTON

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Advocate photo: Ward Miele

SFIC Executive Director Kevin Moriarty, center, with, left to right, Event Director Bill Fitzpatrick; Superintendent of Schools Sister Dominica Rocchio, S.C.; Seton Hall Prep Coach Bob Farrell, and St. Benedict's Coach Dan Hurley.

Scholarship basketball tournament brings together top hoops talent

BY WARD MIELE
Managing Editor

The enthusiasm among students, coaches and players is palpable.

On Sunday, Jan. 4 some of the finest high school basketball talent in the state and nation will clash in a triple-header.

The inaugural Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children (SFIC)-sponsored Scholarship Basketball Festival will tip off at the Yanitelli Center on the Jersey City campus of Saint Peter's College.

Featured will be St. Patrick's, Elizabeth, last season's New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) Tournament of Champions winner, and St. Anthony's, Jersey City, the title holder the past two seasons.

The 1:30 p.m. opening game will pit St. Anthony against perennial Jersey Shore power Christian Brothers Academy from Lincroft. Seton Hall Prep, West Orange, takes on St. Patrick's in the second game. The final contest will have

Hudson Catholic, Jersey City, battling Newark's St. Benedict's Prep.

Proceeds of the tournament will be used by the SFIC, a program of the Archdiocese of Newark, to assist low-income families with tuition payments at parochial schools in Essex, Hudson, Union and Bergen counties.

Since its inception two decades ago, SFIC has funded more than 35,000 scholarships, distributing more than \$19 million.

Final plans for the tournament were announced at a news conference at St. Benedict's.

Bill Fitzpatrick, event director and a member of the SFIC board, emphasized the high caliber of basketball fans can expect.

The work of SFIC in helping inner-city youngsters with their education was the focus of remarks by Sister Dominica Rocchio, S.C., Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of Newark.

Catholic schools, declared

SFIC Executive Director Kevin Moriarty, are a "recognized way" out of poverty for youths of the inner-city. Often, he lamented, parents cannot afford tuition. The SFIC, its executive director stressed, has to "raise every penny" for its scholarships.

Calling it an honor for his school to participate, St. Benedict's Headmaster Father Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. described the tournament as a situation of sharing rather than taking. Father Leahy expressed his gratitude on behalf of the students.

An "absolute slam dunk" is how Coach Bob Farrell of Seton Hall Prep described the upcoming tournament. He cited the high level of competition that will take to the court in Jersey City, calling the festival a "bargain" for the fans. "It is an honor to participate is something so worthy," the coach concluded.

Saying the tournament will benefit a "great cause," St. Benedict's Dan Hurley emphasized how inner-city young people will be helped. The students and schools, Coach Hurley added, are "excited" about the upcoming competition. Among the players the anticipation is centered around the opportunity to play against "top card" competition, he added.

Noted SFIC President Ronald J. Mount "the Fund is very pleased to be sponsoring this benefit basketball event as one of our efforts to expand assistance to inner-city children in obtaining a quality, value-based education."

MetroTV will carry all three festival games live. Available on cable only, MetroTV reaches over 3.5 million homes. It can be seen on Cablevision Channel 60. Coordinating producer Marc Mondry at the news conference cited "the history and tradition" of high school basketball in New Jersey.

Tickets are on sale through the event's website www.BasketballFestival.com and through the SFIC office at (973) 4279.

Game day tickets are \$25, \$12 and \$8. Tickets purchased prior to Dec. 15 are discounted to \$9 for adults and \$5 for students through the SFIC office and participating schools.

Scholarship Basketball Festival Sunday, January 4, 2004 1:30 p.m.

Yanitelli Center, St. Peter's College
Jersey City

Tickets On-Sale NOW!

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God promises to save His sheep

BY JOE SARNICOLA
CNS Reporter

I am Ezekiel. My name means "one who is strengthened by God."

God has been good to me. I remember a day when He said to me, "I have appointed you watchman for the house of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, you shall warn them for me."

I have tried to do whatever God asks me to do. He has given me many messages for His people. Sometimes they listen, and sometimes they do not. Once I had to give a message to Israel for the shepherds, although I think God was really talking to all of us.

"Shepherds, hear the word of God," He told me to say. "My sheep have been given over to pillage, and my sheep have become food for every wild beast for lack of a shepherd. Because my shepherds did not look after my sheep, I will claim my sheep from them and put a stop to their shepherding my sheep. I will save my sheep."

One thing God has told me many times is how much He loves us and that He always will take care of us when no else does. I hope the people of Israel have

heard that message. God has been very patient with us, even when we have disappointed Him.

"I will look after my sheep," God said. "As a shepherd tends his flock when he finds himself among his scattered sheep, so will I tend my sheep. I will rescue them from every place where they were scattered when it was cloudy and dark. In good pastures I will pasture them, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing ground, in rich pastures."

I wanted to rejoice when I first heard that message from God, but He was not through talking to me yet. He told me He was concerned about our health and our safety.

"I will pasture my sheep. The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal, shepherding them rightly. I will save my sheep so that they may no longer be despoiled, and I will judge between one sheep and another. I will make a covenant of peace with them and rid the country of ravenous beasts that they may dwell securely in the desert and sleep in the forests."

I hope the people of Israel will listen to this message from God.

BIBLE ACCENT:

Jesus told us the greatest commandment was to love God and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. God wants us to respect each other because He made every one of us. We should pray that every man, woman, boy and girl has a safe place to live, enough food to eat and that they remain in good health. We can help by donating to food pantries or by visiting or sending cards to people who are sick or lonely. When we meet or learn about people of other cultures or races, we should strive to recognize how we are similar in order to build bonds of friendship and cooperation.

We please God when we share what we have with those who are not as fortunate as we are. And if there are people who have hurt us, God wants us to be forgiving, just as He has forgiven us.

SPOTLIGHT ON SAINTS:

St. Philippine

Rose Philippine Duchesne was very fortunate. She was born in 1769 into a wealthy family in Grenoble, France, and she received an excellent education.

In 1788, when she was 19, she joined the Visitation Order at Sainte-Marie-dien-Haut. The next year, 1789, the French Revolution began. In 1792, the leaders of the revolution closed all the convents in France and forced the nuns to leave.

Philippine moved back home where she continued to work helping the sick and those who were in prison due to the religious persecution.

After 10 years, conditions improved, and Rose was able to buy her former convent. Although Rose had dreams of re-establishing the convent, she was not able to do so. Instead she joined the Society of the Sacred Heart.

When she was almost 40 she was sent as a missionary to the American city of New Orleans. She founded schools and convents in Missouri.

When she was 72 she started a school in Kansas for the Potawatomi tribe of Native Americans.

She died in St. Charles, MO, in 1852.

PUZZLE:

Match the kings with the statements they might have made. Bible references have been given as hints:

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| a. Nebuchadnezzar | 1. I was the first king of Israel. (1 Samuel 10) |
| b. Herod | 2. I fought a giant when I was a boy. (1 Samuel 17) |
| c. Hezekiah | 3. I asked God for an understanding heart. (1 Kings 3) |
| d. Solomon | 4. Isaiah said God would heal me. (2 Kings 20) |
| e. David | 5. I built a house for God in Jerusalem. (Ezra 1) |
| f. Cyrus | 6. I threw Daniel into a furnace. (Daniel 3) |
| g. Saul | 7. I was king when Jesus was born. (Matthew 2) |

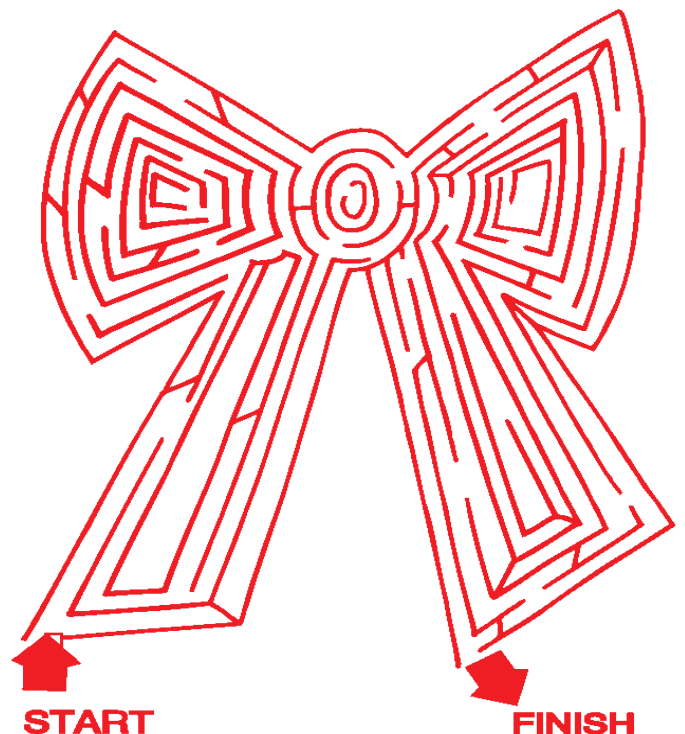
Answers:

1. g, 2. e, 3. d, 4. c, 5. f, 6. a, 7. b.

READ MORE ABOUT IT Ezekiel 34

Q&A

1. What did God want Ezekiel to be for Israel?
2. What were some things God wanted to do for His sheep?





Advocate photo-Jorge L. Repollet




Above: Archbishop John J. Myers blesses the Holy Rosary Garden of the Cross Chapel Mausoleum, North Arlington, assisted by transitional Deacon Richard Burbary and Father James Sheehan, Sunday, Nov. 23. Left: The vaulted, sunlit chapel setting for Mass on the Solemnity of Christ the King, attended by more than 800 people. Below: Some of the attendees at Mass pray the Our Father for the souls of the faithful departed.



Advocate photos-Frank Wood

Winter Open House



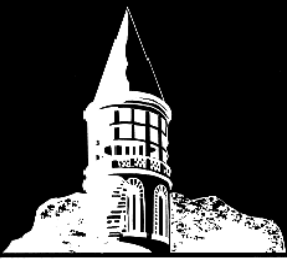


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