

Catholic TRANSCRIPT

JULY/AUGUST 2017

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'WE ARE MEANT TO BE PEOPLE ON FIRE'

700 TEENS IGNITE THEIR FAITH AT YOUTH RALLY

ARCHBISHOP'S DESK

From our mother
in heaven

PG. 4

FAITH AND CULTURE

Embracing a faith community
rich in faith and culture

PG. 20

FUNDRAISER

Hartford Bishops' Foundation plans gala
and raffle to benefit Catholic education

PG. 26

THINGS TO DO

■ Frassati on Tap New Haven will have Frassati nights from 7 to 9:30 p.m. on **July 8** and **Aug. 12** at St. Mary's Church, 5 Hillhouse Ave., New Haven. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be followed by a social in the church basement. Information is available at www.facebook.com/frassatinewhaven or www.frassatinewhaven.org.

■ "God's Paintbrush Within Us" is the title of an evening presentation scheduled to take place on **July 19** at Our Lady of Calvary Retreat Center in Farmington. A short presentation by Noranne Warmester will cover how God's paintbrush follows people throughout their life's journeys, if they are open to it. The evening also will include a time of reflection, guided meditation and contemplative time for participants to paint their own version of a selected image. The offering for the program, taking place from 7 to 9 p.m., is \$25. The offering for an optional dinner to be served at 6 p.m. is \$15. Contact Our Lady of Calvary at 860.677.8519, olcretreat@sbcglobal.net or www.ourladyofcalvary.net.

■ A Catholic Women's day of reflection, titled "Catholic Women: Standing Strong for Today's Church," will begin at 9 a.m. on **Sept. 9** at St. John Vianney Church in West Haven. Kathy M. Irr, certified spiritual director and retreat leader, will be the guest speaker. The title of her talk is "The Double-edged Sword of Light and Bearing Beams of Light." Registration will open at 8 a.m. The program begins at 9 a.m. Mass will be celebrated at 7:30 a.m. The \$35 fee includes continental breakfast and lunch. Seating is limited. Sept. 3 is the registration deadline. Information is available from Paula Daisey at 203.878.5416 or at padaisey@gmail.com.

■ The annual Blue Mass, honoring all first responders, will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on **Sept. 10** at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford. It is open to the public.

■ The 2017 Connecticut Catholic Men's Conference will take place on **Oct. 21** at St. Paul Catholic High School in Bristol. The theme for the conference, now in its

10th year, is "You Will Be My Witnesses: The Apostolate of the Laity." Among the speakers to be featured are Bishop Frank Caggiano of the Diocese of Bridgeport; Tim Staples, director of apologetics and evangelization at Catholic Answers; Raymond Arroyo, managing editor and lead anchor for EWTN News and The World Over Live and a *New York Times* best-selling



author; Jim Wahlberg, executive director of the Mark Wahlberg Youth Foundation; and Father Glenn Sudano, one of the original eight founders of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. Information is available at 860.484.7950, ctcatholicmensconference@gmail.com or www.ctcatholicmen.org.



Sunday, September 10, 2017 at 11 a.m.

Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Hartford

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CONTENTS

4 ARCHBISHOP'S DESK

From our mother in heaven

6 FAMILY LIFE

Wakefulness

7 CATHOLIC LIFE

The perils of parenting

8 SPIRITUAL FITNESS

A prayer for the impatient

9 PARENTING

The ABCs of hope

10 CATHOLIC WRITER

Rosary inspires educator to write book for Catholic school educators

12 IN THE KNOW WITH FATHER JOE

Should we baptize our grandchildren in the kitchen sink?

14 THEOLOGY 101

The diaconate

16 COVER STORY

'We are meant to be people on fire'; 700 teens IGNITE their faith at youth rally

20 FAITH AND CULTURE

Embracing a faith community rich in faith and culture

23 ORDINATION

Archdiocese of Hartford welcomes three new priests

26 FUNDRAISER

Hartford Bishops' Foundation plans gala and raffle to benefit Catholic education

27 PASTORAL PLANNING

Archdiocese of Hartford pastoral plan calls for 127 parishes, new initiatives for a more stable, vibrant future

28 PASTORAL PLANNING

A millennial's take on pastoral planning

30 IN YOUR COMMUNITY





and, especially, by mortification and fasting. Sinless though he was, Jesus himself fasted when he prayed, as an example to us that the human soul and body, mind and heart, must be freed and purified in order to ascend in adoration to the all-holy God.

Scripture teaches us that our Christian life and our prayers are at the service of a plan much greater than ourselves. When we connect the dots between prayer, penance and sacrifice, we understand that we are united to Christ in his fasting and prayer, and in his self-emptying sacrifice of expiation for the redemption of the world. All of our needs and

desires are subject to the will of God for our salvation and the salvation of the world.

These scriptural truths have been lived by the saints throughout history. The words and works of the saints constitute the great spiritual treasury of our Catholic faith. Yet isn't it that nowadays, the call to conversion, prayer, penance and sacrifice is often muted, sometimes to the point of near silence?

I am reminded of an old "Hagar the Horrible" comic strip in which Hagar climbs a steep mountain during a blizzard in search of a guru. "What is the key to happiness?" Hagar asks. "Abstinence, poverty, fasting and celibacy," the guru answers. After a pause, Hagar asks, "Is there someone else up here I could talk to?"

A life of conversion, prayer, penance and sacrifice is not a welcome message to the ears of a sinful world or our sinful selves, even when the message comes from our mother in heaven. Yet if Mary's message was urgent in 1917, imagine how much more urgent it is today!

I leave you with the words and the prayer of the angel spoken to the children of Fatima: "Pray, pray, pray very much! The Hearts of Jesus and Mary have designs of mercy on you. Offer prayers and sacrifices constantly to the Most High. ... Make of everything you can a sacrifice, and offer it to God as an act of reparation for the sins by which He is offended and in supplication for the conversion of sinners."

*Most Holy Trinity,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
I adore You profoundly.
I offer You the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity
of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world,
in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and
indifferences by which He is offended.
By the infinite merits of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
and the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
I beg the conversion of poor sinners. Amen. †*

From our mother in heaven

This year, 2017, marks the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima in Portugal. At the end of September, I will be leading an archdiocesan pilgrimage to Fatima to commemorate the centenary.



ARCHBISHOP LEONARD P. BLAIR is the 13th bishop of the Catholic Archdiocese of Hartford

Fatima is an example of a "private revelation" made to chosen individuals, the authenticity of which is accepted by the Church only after careful examination and discernment. The relatively few private revelations that have been formally approved by the Church through the centuries have these purposes: to help people understand what the Scriptures call "the signs of the times" and to lead them to respond with faith.

The message of Our Lady in 1917 came amid the horrors of world war and revolution that were only the beginning of a century scarred by tremendous evils and crimes against God and humanity. Her message, however, is timeless precisely because it is the Gospel message of conversion, prayer, penance and sacrifice.

Like you, I pray for many things. I have a whole list of intentions for the Archdiocese of Hartford that are part of my prayers to God, to Our Lady and to the saints and angels. "Pray without ceasing," St. Paul writes, and in the literal translation of Luke 11: 9, Jesus says, "Keep on asking ... keep on seeking ... keep on knocking ... " and you will receive.

If we look more deeply at the Scriptures, however, we will find an extremely important secret about prayer. Those whose prayers are heard are those who accompany their prayers with acts of penance and sacrifice.

The great prayers of the Bible are offered to God amid the rigors of the desert, the stripping away of earthly signs of pride

De nuestra Madre en el Cielo

Este año 2017, se conmemora el centenario de las apariciones de Nuestra Señora de Fátima en Portugal. A finales de septiembre, guiaré una peregrinación arquidiocesana a Fátima para conmemorar el centenario.

Nuestra Señora de Fátima es un ejemplo de “revelación privada” hecha a individuos elegidos, cuya autenticidad es aceptada por la Iglesia sólo después de un cuidadoso examen y discernimiento. Las relativamente pocas revelaciones privadas que han sido formalmente aprobadas por la Iglesia a través de los siglos tienen estos propósitos: ayudar a las personas a entender lo que las Escrituras llaman “los signos de los tiempos” y llevarlos a responder con fe.

El mensaje de Nuestra Señora en 1917 llegó en medio de los horrores de la guerra mundial y la revolución que fueron sólo el comienzo de un siglo marcado por tremendos males y crímenes contra Dios y la humanidad. Su mensaje, sin embargo, es intemporal precisamente porque es el mensaje evangélico de conversión, oración, penitencia y sacrificio.

Como ustedes, yo rezo por muchas cosas. Tengo toda una lista de intenciones para la Arquidiócesis de Hartford que son parte de mis oraciones a Dios, a Nuestra Señora y a los santos y ángeles. “Orad sin cesar”, escribe San Pablo, y en la traducción literal de Lucas 11:9, Jesús dice: “Seguid pidiendo ... seguid buscando ... seguid llamando ...” y recibirán.

Si profundizamos en las Escrituras encontraremos un secreto extremadamente importante sobre la oración. Aquellos cuyas oraciones son escuchadas son los que acompañan sus oraciones con actos de penitencia y sacrificio.

Las grandes oraciones de la Biblia se ofrecen a Dios en medio de los rigores del desierto, el despojamiento de los signos terrenales de orgullo y especialmente por la mortificación y el ayuno. Pese a no tener pecado alguno, Jesús mismo ayunó cuando oró, como un ejemplo para nosotros de que el alma humana, el cuerpo, la mente y el corazón, deben ser liberados y purificados para ascender en adoración a Dios.

Las Escrituras nos enseñan que nuestra vida cristiana y nuestras oraciones están al servicio de un plan mucho mayor que nosotros mismos. Cuando conectamos los puntos entre la oración, la penitencia y el sacrificio,

entendemos que estamos unidos a Cristo en su ayuno y oración, y en su sacrificio de expiación para la redención del mundo. Todas nuestras necesidades y deseos están sujetos a la voluntad de Dios para nuestra salvación y la salvación del mundo.

Las verdades señaladas en las Escrituras han sido vividas por los santos a lo largo de la historia. Las palabras y las obras de los santos constituyen el gran tesoro espiritual de nuestra fe católica. ¿No es verdad que hoy en día, el llamado a la conversión, la oración, la penitencia y el sacrificio es a menudo silenciado y a veces hasta el punto de casi enmudecerlo?

Me recuerda una antigua y graciosa historieta de “Olafo el Amargado” en la que Olafo trepa una empinada montaña durante una tormenta de nieve en busca de un gurú y le pregunta, “¿Cuál es la clave de la felicidad?” “La abstinencia, la pobreza, el ayuno y el celibato”, responde el gurú. Después de una pausa, Olafo pregunta: “¿Hay alguien más por aquí con quien yo pueda hablar?”

Una vida de conversión, de oración, de penitencia y de sacrificio no es un mensaje bienvenido a los oídos de un mundo pecaminoso o a nosotros los pecadores, aun cuando el mensaje venga de nuestra Madre en el Cielo. Sin embargo, si el mensaje de María era urgente en 1917, ¡imagínense cuánto más urgente es hoy!

Les dejo con las palabras y la oración del ángel dirigidas a los niños de Fátima: “¡Oren, oren, oren mucho! Los Corazones de Jesús y María tienen planes de misericordia para ustedes. Ofrecer constantemente oraciones y sacrificios al Altísimo. ... Hagan mucho sacrificio y ofrézcanse a Dios como un acto de reparación por los pecados que lo están ofendiendo y supliquen por la conversión de los pecadores”.

**EL ARZOBISPO
LEONARD P.
BLAIR**
*es el décimo
tercer obispo de
la Arquidiócesis
Católica de
Hartford*

*Santísima Trinidad,
Padre, Hijo y Espíritu Santo,
yo te adoro profundamente y
te ofrezco el preciosísimo Cuerpo, Sangre, Alma y Divinidad
de Jesucristo, presente en todos los sagrarios del mundo,
en reparación de los ultrajes, sacrilegios e
indiferencias con que Él mismo es ofendido.
Y por los méritos infinitos de su Santísimo Corazón
y del Corazón Inmaculado de María,
te pido la conversión de los pobres pecadores. Amén. †*

Wakefulness

I picked up my younger children after school, then proceeded to the middle school to retrieve my oldest. Together, we drove to a nondescript building in a neighboring town. Once inside, we were directed to a room where the din of voices overflowed into the hallway. When we entered the room, however, the voices abruptly silenced. Every head turned to gawk at us.

What had I done to shock these people?
I had brought children to a wake.

Fortunately, the deceased's family was delighted that their loved one was being visited by children. My friends, however, were appalled. They were convinced that the sight of an open casket would give my children nightmares. It might scar them for life.

I reminded these friends that wakes were once routinely held in homes. Our parents and grandparents grew up understanding that death is part of life, that dying is part of living. Surely this



is a healthier approach than sequestering death in the shadows, as if we can keep it at bay.

I attended my first wake when I was 7 or 8 years old. The deceased was an elderly friend of my mother's. Since I had never met the woman, I was able to process the sights and sounds and smells of the funeral home without being assaulted by grief.

When a high school classmate of mine died a few years later, I was glad his was not my first wake. Unfortunately, the same was not true for my friends. One by one, teens arrived at the funeral home, and one by one they gasped when they saw our friend's body laid out in an open casket. No one had told them what a wake entails. My mother quickly realized how unprepared these kids were, so she stationed herself at the entrance of the funeral home in order to intercept arriving teens. Walking alongside each one toward the parlor, my mother explained what they would be seeing inside. She was a godsend.

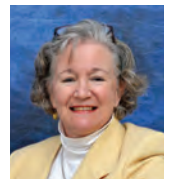
My husband Peter did not grow up attending wakes or funerals. He went to his first memorial service as an adult when the death of a business colleague made it impossible to avoid. This gradually eased him into funerals and even burials. But he could not bring himself to attend a wake. He thought they were ghoulish.

We'd been married about 10 years when Peter's grandmother died, and, in keeping with his family's wishes, we were asked to not bring our young children to the services. We respected the family's request, but it meant Peter was alone in his grief. It also isolated the extended family from the sweet consolation of small children.

A few years later when my grandmother died, my entire extended family attended Nanny's wake, funeral and burial. This included 10 great-grandchildren ranging in age from 9 months to 9 years. There were plenty of adults in attendance to help if a child became noisy, and the children's presence helped soften our grief. I'll never forget seeing my mother holding our chubby 9-month-old baby throughout my grandmother's funeral. That baby gave such solace to my mother during a time of loss.

Needless to say, the children asked a lot of questions, which we answered as best we could. They listened to our words, but more so, they absorbed our attitude: death is a natural part of life and should not be feared. In fact, it should be celebrated.

Death is, after all, a personal invitation to spend eternity in paradise with God. †



M. REGINA CRAM is a writer, speaker and author. She and her husband live in Glastonbury and have four children and seven grandchildren.

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THE PERILS OF PARENTING

A father and his young son got on the train headed for Manhattan, but all was not going well at 6:47 in the morning. They were quarreling from the moment they sat down.

Father: I asked you four times not to do that, but you ignored me, and I'm getting angry.

Son: (Defiant silence.)

Father: If I ever did that to my father, he would have whacked me.

Son: (Very defiant silence.)

Father: I'm going to ask you one more time ...

How often have you heard that exchange? I started to cringe and considered moving to another seat. Public parenting disputes always make me uncomfortable, especially when they're happening in the next seat. They remind me of that feeling of helplessness you get when your son or daughter is ignoring you or making you look like an embarrassment.

I never figured out what the son did or didn't do, but I tried to help by silently begging the Holy Spirit to intervene so they could sort out the situation, because



sometimes — oftentimes — family crises can't be solved without heavenly assistance. Then I put in my earplugs and listened to some very loud Mozart.

Parenting is the only vocation where you can try your absolute hardest and come away feeling like an absolute failure — and not know what you did wrong. I guess it comes with the territory. Once upon a time, my mother uttered that familiar curse heard by kids all over the world: "I hope you have kids just like you!" Guess what? Her wish was granted.

My four daughters, who used to think they had all the answers about parenting, now have to confront their own inadequacies dealing with my grandchildren. They once insisted that all you had to do was "reason" with an unruly child and he'd see the truth and come around. Maybe if his name is Plato.

Raising kids isn't that easy. Like most parents, I occasionally lie awake, critiquing my performance. Was I too easy? Was I too hard? Did I give them too much? Did I give them too little? Did I praise them too much? Did I praise them too little?

After weighing all the factors, I reach the same conclusion: I wasn't the best, but I was better than the rest. I can sympathize

with every father who ever was blamed for doing a less than perfect job, because parenting can be a thankless endeavor, and sometimes you do the best you can with the tools you have.

I still remember the day my oldest daughter complained that her friend's father was a doofus, and I tried to use the occasion to get some well-deserved praise for the good job I did, so, in all fearlessness, I asked, "What kind of father was I?"

Without hesitation, she grumbled, "All right, I guess." So much for inflating my ego. If I asked her for a letter grade, it would have probably been C- or D+.

There are plenty of success stories, though.

Whether you have one kid or nine, there's a simple formula for success, and everything will all work out if you follow it, despite the turmoil and problems. Good parenting requires love, patience and prayer, more patience, even more prayer and even more love. I should also mention the importance of forgiveness and trusting completely in God, because everything will work out for the best if you turn your children's care over to him.

Pray for your children, pray with your children, pray for yourself and pray that any mistakes you make are rectified by God's love, because God can make the impossible possible ... even for parents. †

JOE PISANI

of Orange is a writer whose work has appeared in Catholic publications nationwide. He and his wife Sandy have four daughters.



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A PRAYER *for the impatient*

Though it's been four summers since I left the school year rotation, every time the leaves are back on the trees and the temperatures rise, I still feel a sense of anticipation, like I'm ready for the next exciting thing to happen.



Summer used to mean going to camp, a new job or internship or, at the very least, a break from the normal routine of the school year. Now, summer just means I make iced coffee before work instead of hot coffee and worry a little bit more about the frizz in my hair that has to look professional because I'm still going to work. The same work. The same job that I had months ago when I was bundled in a winter coat.

I guess I haven't fully lost what summer used to mean because that anticipation still gnaws at me a little when the seasons change and I think about where I am and why things aren't changing in my life in concert with the seasons. Perhaps it's a millennial thing, where I constantly question the meaning of my life in regard to my career. Am I fulfilled enough? Am I making a big enough difference in the world?

Am I just a product of an instant-gratification generation that's prone to wanting to change jobs every five

minutes because we can't sit still long enough in the life we have?

Perhaps.

But that's where prayer comes in. Discernment is a scary word to me, but when I think it might be time to start deciding on a next move or another big change I want to make in my life, I think about and question why I want those changes, and then I pray. If there's a goal out there that I can't wait to grasp, I keep working, and I pray.



ANNA JONES
is a writer who lives in New Haven. She and her husband are members of the St. Thomas More Chapel and Center Community at Yale University.

The prayer at right refers to people like me, apparently one of those quite naturally impatient people, and that's why I find it so soothing. It calls me out on that right away, and reminds me why trust and patience are virtues worth practicing. Maybe it will do that for you, too.

What I also enjoy about this prayer is that it still calls me to be an active participant in this process.

I am not asked to sit by and wait for God to take care of everything. I am called to work hard and to think. And, most importantly, I am called to trust. †

PRAYER OF TEILHARD DE CHARDIN

Above all, trust in the slow work of God. We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay. We should like to skip the intermediate stages. We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new. Yet it is the law of all progress that it is made by passing through some stages of instability and that it may take a very long time. And so I think it is with you. Your ideas mature gradually. Let them grow. Let them shape themselves without undue haste. Do not try to force them on as though you could be today what time — that is to say, grace — and circumstances — acting on your own good will — will make you tomorrow. Only God could say what this new Spirit gradually forming in you will be. Give our Lord the benefit of believing that his hand is leading you, and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete. Above all, trust in the slow work of God, our loving vine-dresser. Amen.

The ABCs of HOPE

Babies inspire hope. Our first grandchild just arrived in the world today. A new generation appearing right before our very eyes. Little Allen Joseph. His birth has opened a dimension of my heart I did not even know existed. So I write to him now of my hope for his life and for his faith.

Dear Allen Joseph:

I have deep hopes for you. These are my ABCs of hope for you.

A good priest – Is there anything better for a boy or a man to have in his life? May your life be filled with many fine priests.

Baptism – My eyes will fill with tears when my daughter holds you to receive the waters of baptism. What a gift! May you not only know who you are, but also whose you are.

Caring teachers – The greatest gift we can give you is the gift of faith. I pray for caring teachers throughout your life to show you the way and to help you embrace it.

Deep love for people – Jesus teaches us to do two things: 1) love God; and 2) love people. May you be known most of all for your deep, deep love.

Easter people – May you know that we are Easter people. With that knowledge, you will have a hope that the world does not.

Funerals – May you be inspired by funerals because we are Easter people.

Great education – I hope you have a fine mind. Even more, I hope for an education that truly prepares you for life. To think fully. To have the “mind of Christ.”

Heart for God – I pray you will be like King David — A man after God’s own heart.

Inspiring music – May your ear be filled with the melody of God. Whether it be “In Christ Alone” or “Be Thou My Vision” or a tune I have not yet heard.

Jesus on the crucifix – When I sit and listen to my friend as he musters

every ounce of courage to endure chemo treatments, he and I look at the crucifix, to our suffering Lord. I pray that you experience that same hope in your own times of confusion, pain or despair.

Knowing where you are headed – An old Hebrew name for God is The Place. I want you to know you are destined to be in him, our Place.

Love – It has always defined the Church and God’s people. Love separates us from the world. We love. May that make you different.

Monastery of the Holy Spirit – I spend a retreat day there each month. I hope to share it with you very soon.

Not alone – You are never alone. We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, people of mission who lived life well. May you know we shall meet them face to face when we, too, reach The Place.

Outstanding sense of vocation and purpose – Whether you are called to be a priest or to single or married life, I pray for you to embrace a life filled with divine purpose.

Parents – When I see parents sitting with their children at Mass who are investing in their kids’ souls, I sense the deepest hope. May God bless your parents as they seek to do the same for you.

Quests – St. John Fisher was willing to lose everything, even his life, in his quest to love God and to be obedient. I hope quests will remind you that you can be better and better. And you will be.

Reception into the Church – Who can be at the Easter Vigil Mass and witness a person affirming a faithful desire to become a part of the Easter people and not feel hope? I look forward to the day you fully enter the Church.

St. Gertrude the Great – I hope you get to know her a bit in your life. The

only female saint to be called “the Great.” She is a lady of great hope.

The Eucharist – The Eucharist changed my life and my soul. I hope it will feed and nourish you every day of your life.

Unconditional love – For just a moment, meeting you, my grandson, drew me into the heart of God, a heart filled with unconditional love. If I, as a flawed earthly grandfather, can love you like that, I hope you will realize how much God’s unconditional love abounds for you.

Very generous people – People who give are the hope-iest people I know. May you become one of them.

Work ethic – Everyone in your family seems to have a great one. I hope you get one, too.

X – The first letter for Christ in the original Greek, X is a symbol for Christ in the early Church. I pray that your hope will lie in Jesus.

You – Because you remind me I am not alone, I pray I will help you discover that we are on this journey of hope together with many good people.

Zephyr – A fresh wind — there is one blowing in the Church. May it inspire your life today, tomorrow and forever. Amen. †

Love,
Your Hope-full Grandpa

DR. ALLEN R. HUNT
is a senior advisor for the
Dynamic Catholic Institute.

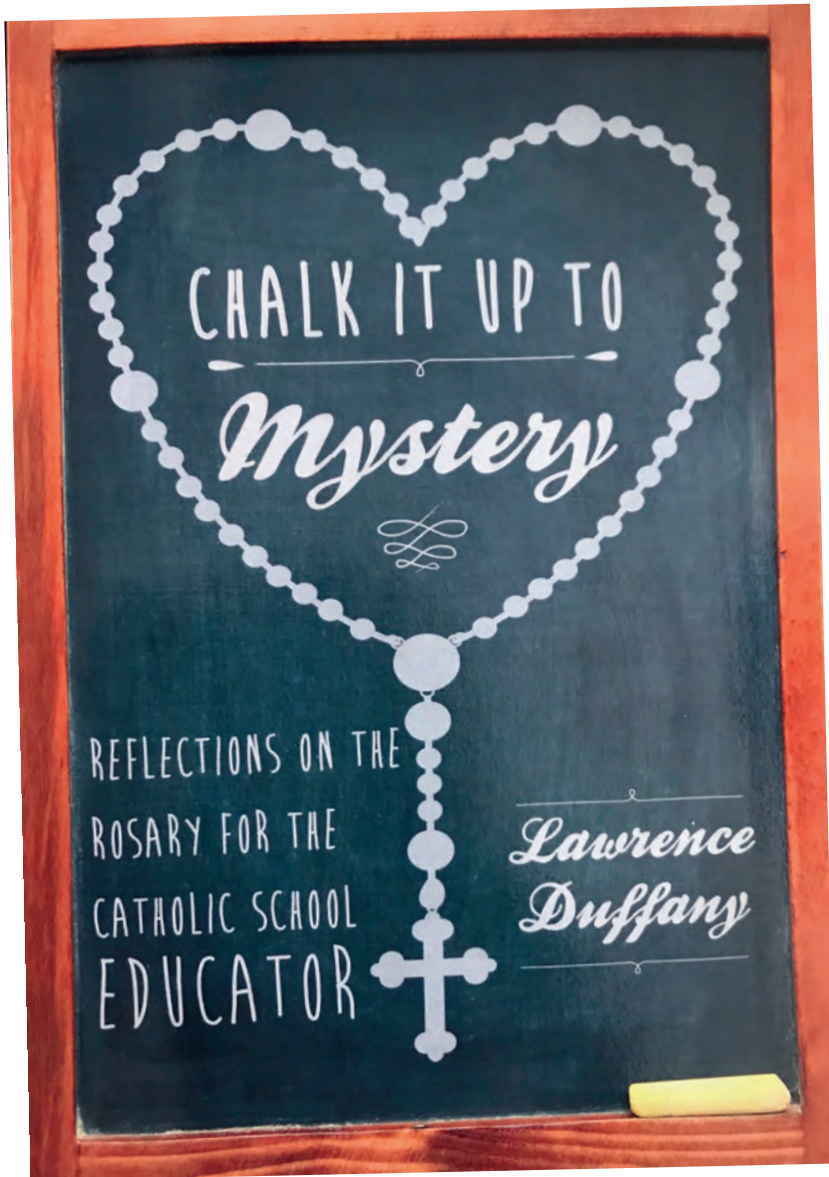


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◀ This is the cover of the book *Chalk It Up to Mystery: Reflections on the Rosary for the Catholic School Educator* by Lawrence F. Duffany Jr., chairman of the Department of Religion at St. Paul Catholic High School in Bristol.

Rosary inspires educator to write book for Catholic school educators

STORY AND PHOTO BY KAREN A. AVITABILE

Vocations come in many forms, but they call upon us to carry out the word of God in our own special way.

“My faith life has been a journey,” says Lawrence “Larry” F. Duffany Jr., chairman of the Department of Religion at St. Paul Catholic High School in Bristol. “It’s coming to the realization I have a vocation, who we are called to become.”

It was Duffany’s vocation as a Catholic school educator that drew him to write the book *Chalk It Up to Mystery: Reflections on the Rosary for the Catholic School Educator* so others — especially fellow Catholic school educators — could learn how to share their Catholic faith and journey with their students.

“The call is always for the Catholic school educator to bring Jesus to the kids,” he says. “The culture makes it very challenging to do.”

The inspiration for the book came while Duffany was contemplating the Apostles’ Creed and what it was saying to him as a Catholic educator. From there, while reciting the rosary, he realized that the mysteries of the rosary are intertwined with Catholic school teaching.

The Annunciation, for example, the first joyful mystery, speaks of the conception of Jesus while Mary was a virgin. But the angel Gabriel tells her to “fear not.” To Duffany, the Annunciation invites him and other Catholic school educators to do something for God, as Mary did.

“Our ‘yes’ is a parallel to Mary’s ‘yes,’” he says. “There might be times when I’m Mary, and there may be times I am Gabriel.”

The book begins with an explanation of how to pray the rosary. Each chapter begins with a Gospel passage relating to a particular mystery, followed by Duffany’s personal reflection. Then, from questions posed in the book, the reader is asked to evaluate his or her own application of the teachings for professional and ministerial growth.

In addition, the reader can use the book as a workbook and prayer journal for thoughts, prayers and meditation. He dedicated the book to his “brothers and sisters who work alongside me at St. Paul Catholic High School.”

“The idea is to sit down with it and reflect,” Duffany says. “Don’t be afraid about sharing, about being yourself.”

A JOURNEY OF FAITH

Although he was raised a Roman Catholic, Duffany says there were times in his youthful years when he struggled with finding the true meaning of his faith. He visited different churches to get answers, but always came back to the Catholic Church. It wasn’t until after his college graduation and landing his first job teaching religion to fifth- and sixth-graders that “it all came

together,” he says of his faith formation.

In 2003, Duffany was professed as a member of the Lay Carmelites and today is guided by their traditions — including their devotion to praying the rosary daily — set forth by Our Lady Mount Carmel, the patroness of the Carmelite Order.

“We are the brothers and sisters of Mount Carmel,” he says, “so we pray the rosary.”

Duffany is in his fourth year at St. Paul and his 22nd consecutive year in Catholic education. He also has served as principal of St. Anthony School in Bristol, and was an administrator of faith formation for the Archdiocese of Hartford’s Catholic schools. He is an adjunct instructor at Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, teaching classes in writing, philosophy, religion and literature, and facilitates online courses through the vital learning community for faith formation at the University of Dayton (Ohio), a Catholic university.

In his spare time, Duffany is an emergency medical technician with the Thomaston Volunteer Ambulance — he’s been serving for 30 years — and teaches first aid and CPR after school to St. Paul students. He lives in Thomaston with his wife Janet and their two children.

THE NEXT CHAPTER

What’s up next for Duffany? He’s working on a blog, “Living the Overflowing Cup,” inspired by the phrase in the 23rd Psalm, “You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows.” He has plans on making it go live Aug. 1.

“It will be more about the awareness of God’s goodness in everyday life,” he says, “how we hear him, feel him, see him.”

He also plans to write another book, this one for parents to use as a resource for how to pray with their children. The book will offer insights into questions like, “How do I lead prayer in my own home? What is my teen going through and how can I pray for him or her?” he says. “Our traditional prayers are rich and wonderful, but I think sometimes we need prayers that are in our own language and speak of a shared experience.”

Meanwhile, you can follow Duffany on Facebook to get a daily dose of his inspirational devotions and passages.

Chalk It Up to Mystery: Reflections on the Rosary for the Catholic School Educator was published by the New York City-based Page Publishing. †



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IF THERE ARE NO PLANS FOR BAPTISM, SHOULD WE BAPTIZE OUR GRANDCHILDREN IN THE KITCHEN SINK?

Q DEAR FATHER JOE:

My wife wants to baptize our grandkids in the kitchen sink. I think we should not interfere with our children's parenting. What do we do?

A Greetings in Christ! I'm glad you asked this question — in every parish I've been assigned to, I've run into this. It seems to be something many people are really struggling with.

I'd like to walk us through some of the teachings of the Church on baptism in order to help you.

The first step I invite you to take is to break out your *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and take a look at paragraphs 1213-1284. That sounds like a lot of reading, but it's not — and what is in there should be really helpful to you.

What you'll see is an affirmation of your desire for your grandchild, because baptism is a beautiful gift. Let's look at what is accomplished in the baptism of a child:

- **The child dies to sin and is reborn as an adopted child of God.**
- **The child will receive grace to receive God's teachings and love into his or her heart.**
- **The child "puts on Christ" in baptism. (Gal 3:27)**
- **The child is protected and liberated in a special way from any evil power.**
- **The child is set free from original sin.**

When the baptism is celebrated in church, you'll see numerous signs and symbols that back up each of these points. Not only that, you'll hear the child's parents make significant promises to God in the presence of the community that they will work hard to teach their child the faith. They commit to showing their child how to live out baptismal promises in words and deeds.

And that, my friend, is where the trouble with a kitchen baptism can come in.

As Catholics, we understand a distinction between magic and sacraments. Magic in this case being the idea that, "If I do this, then the Lord has to do that," or "If I don't do this, the Lord can't do that." Magic is an attempted manipulation of the divine.

What we have as followers of Jesus is faith, which is different than magic. We don't believe God is bound by our sins or the sins of others. We don't believe that if we "do" baptism that we force God's hand. When we celebrate a sacrament, we recognize that it binds us to keep our end of the deal in the covenant.

If we do a kitchen baptism, we recognize that God is going to honor the promises of that covenant and we also recognize that we are promising to teach the child to keep his



“

When we baptize our children, we are promising to raise them to ‘be on Jesus’ side’ for the rest of their lives. If we make that promise, but fail to show them how to live that promise, we are setting our children up for significant spiritual failure.

”

part of the covenant. In order for that to happen, there simply has to be follow-through. We have to teach the child daily, through word and example, what it means to be a child of God. We need to teach him or her about our beautiful faith and how to live it in a fallen world. We do this to ensure that, as the child grows in age and wisdom, he or she is able to respond to the baptism and keep the promises that are made.

The short way to think of it is this: Jesus tells us that we are either with him or against him; there is no middle place. When we baptize our children, we are promising to raise them to “be on Jesus’ side” for the rest of their lives. If we make that promise, but fail to show them how to live that promise, we are setting our children up for significant spiritual failure.

So, what do we do then? I’d suggest that, after the first step of reading the section on baptism in the *Catechism*, you talk to your kids. If you want, share this article with them (Hi, guys! Hope this helps). Share your hunger to have your grandchild baptized. Share your love of our faith. Share how your faith in Jesus and life in the Church has made your life better; how it has challenged and blessed you. If they still say “no,” ask if you can take spiritual leadership. Ask if you can take their child to your parish for baptism and then assume spiritual responsibility — taking him or her to church every week, to catechism classes,

etc., until he or she is old enough to drive to church alone. If, after this, the couple still say “no,” then you must take this to prayer and listen honestly to what God wants from you.

To be honest, I can’t imagine a scenario where the Lord is going to tell you to disregard the parents’ wishes and do what you think is right for someone else. Among other things, consider this: If you unilaterally usurp the parents’ rightful authority over their child, you may cause a family rift with far-reaching consequences. You may find yourself without any relationship at all with your grandchild. Now, I always try to leave room in my heart for God, for wonder, for humility and

for openness to God doing something unusual, but that’s the only reason I don’t flat-out suggest that I don’t think you should do this.

Do make sure you pray daily for your grandchild. Pray that Jesus protects this precious child and leads him or her to God. Pray that God softens the hearts of the parents and opens them up to the wonder of faith. As this precious baby gets older, share your love for God and the Catholic Church.

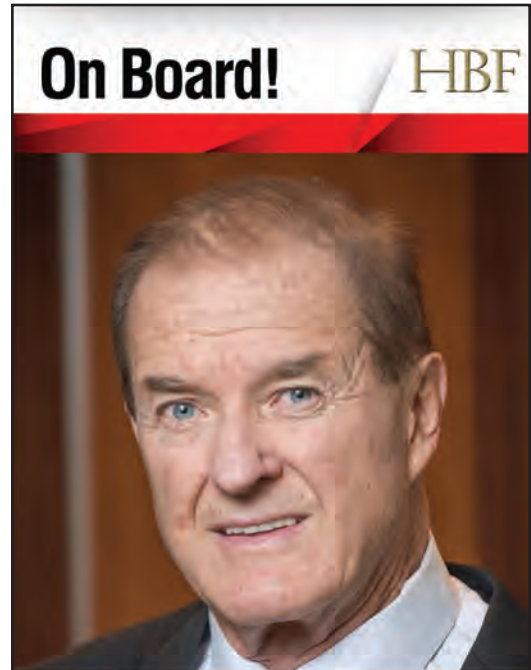
Know this: The Lord loves your grandchild more than you or his or her parents ever could and he will lead this child to himself.

I will pray for you.

Enjoy another day in God’s presence. †



FATHER JOE KRUPP
is a former comedy writer who is now a Catholic priest.
@Joeinblack



Paul R. Cusson

Welcoming Paul R. Cusson, Jr.

Archbishop Leonard P. Blair is pleased to announce the appointment of Paul R. Cusson, Director, The Hartford Bishops’ Foundation, Inc.

Mr. Cusson is Founder and Chairman of the Board of Northern States Metals. Formed in CT in 1974, Northern States Metals’ (parent of Solar FlexRack) headquarters are located in Youngstown, OH. Mr. Cusson graduated from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA. He is a Purple Knight and Member of President’s Council. Mr. Cusson and his wife are parishioners of St. Peter Claver Church in West Hartford, where he is Lector, Extraordinary Minister of Communion and Sacristan.

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PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

THE DIACONATE

Transitional and permanent

As a priest engaged in parish ministry, I sometimes get a blank look from others when I mention that I have been ordained twice. In fact, that is necessary for any Catholic priest. It is not that something goes wrong the first time around, but, rather, it is a reflection of the Catholic theology of holy orders.

ministry as a whole and its dynamic function within the Church.

All deacons are ordained and have the faculty, or permission of their bishop, to preach at Mass, perform baptisms, officiate at weddings and funerals and serve in varied ways within the larger community.

The diaconate is the first rank of holy orders. The others are the presbyterate (priests) and the episcopate (bishops). This structure is hierarchical, so each rank builds upon itself and requires a separate and distinct ordination. Deacons assist priests and bishops to fulfill their ministry.

The main difference between the categories of diaconate is that a *transitional deacon* is a man on the road to the priesthood, a particular vocation (calling) to serve the Lord and his Church primarily as a minister of the sacraments and a pastor of souls under the direction of one's (arch)bishop. After an extensive and multifaceted program of seminary formation, he is first ordained to the diaconate. Later, he is ordained to the priesthood, conforming his life to Christ.

A *permanent deacon* is not planning or preparing to be ordained a priest.

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CCUSA PHOTO BY LAUREN CHELEC

When a man is in priestly formation, a major milestone along the way is his ordination as a transitional deacon; and then approximately a year later that same man is ordained a priest. Every priest you know was also ordained a deacon and served in that ministerial capacity for a period of time during the final stages of preparation for priestly ordination.

Pope Paul VI officially restored the permanent diaconate following the Second Vatican Council. Since then, thousands of Catholic men in the United States and throughout the world, under the authority of their local bishop, have been formed and trained for ordained ministry as permanent deacons. This certainly can be somewhat confusing — so blank looks are understandable. Perhaps explaining the difference between the two categories of diaconate will help clarify the meaning of ordained

Deacons David Mark Madjewski, left, and Joshua Reid Wilbur pose with Auxiliary Bishop Christie A. Macaluso moments after the bishop ordained them to the transitional diaconate on May 13, the 100th anniversary of the first apparition of Our Lady of Fatima, at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Waterbury. The two deacons took their last step towards the priesthood before completing their academic and theological studies at St. John Seminary in Brighton, Mass. Bishop Macaluso was the ordaining prelate. The principal concelebrants were Dominican Father Steven C. Boguslawski, vicar general and moderator of the curia; Father Christopher M. Ford, episcopal vicar and rector of the basilica; Father James A. Shanley, episcopal vicar and rector of the Cathedral of St. Joseph; Father Robert B. Vargo, vicar for clergy; and Father Jeffrey A. Gubbiotti, director of vocations, who presented the candidates to Bishop Macaluso. Representing St. John's Seminary was its rector, Msgr. James P. Moroney.



PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

Seven men have been installed into the ministry of reader, a step in the formation of permanent deacons. From left, they are Vincent Raby, John Montalbano, John Thorpe, Michael Malfitano, Alfred Gambone, Robert Kiley and Albert Cala. Behind them are, from left, Deacon Robert M. Pallotti, director of the diaconate for the Archdiocese of Hartford; Auxiliary Bishop Christie A. Macaluso, who was the conferring prelate; and Father Aidan N. Donahue, director of formation. The installation took place during a eucharistic liturgy on May 7 in the chapel of the Archdiocesan Center at St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield.

The candidate also undergoes a rigorous program of formation, is often older than the typical seminarian and is often married and has children. It is important to note that the wife of a permanent deacon is officially involved in the process of discernment. Single men may be ordained to the permanent diaconate, as long as they commit to celibacy. There are some cases, even here in the Archdiocese of Hartford, in which permanent deacons have felt a call to the priesthood and ultimately have been ordained priests. This happens after the passing of one's wife and with proper discernment and training, as well as with the approval of the archbishop and consent of others involved in the formation process.

The important common bond uniting all deacons is the profound ministry of service to the body of Christ. The diaconate has a biblical foundation rooted in the work of charity to the poor. Deacons are to be great and active servants of the Gospel and the mission of the Church, both upon the altar and in everyday life and situations. In this

way, the diaconate gives witness to a spirit of joyful discipleship for all to admire and emulate.

I know that while I was preparing for ordination to the transitional diaconate during the latter years of my own seminary experience, I felt many internal stirrings of God's grace.



FATHER JOHN L. LAVORGNA

is pastor of Mary Mother of the Church Parish in Waterbury.

I remember realizing that the diaconate is a turning point at which my approach to formation for the priesthood would shift from an inward focus to an outward one. In other words, it was finally time — after years of classes, exams, assignments, retreats and direction that necessarily and extensively probed my readiness for ordination — to turn my attention squarely to the spiritual well-being of the people of God. It was a beautiful realization and one that enriches my ministry to this day. We all benefit from doing God's will.

Therefore, when we consider what differentiates specific roles within the Church, we do better to remember exactly who unites us: Our Lord Jesus Christ, now and forever. †

On Board!

HBF



John J. (Jamie) Kalamarides

Welcoming John J. (Jamie) Kalamarides

Archbishop Leonard P. Blair is pleased to announce the appointment of John J. (Jamie) Kalamarides, Director, The Hartford Bishops' Foundation, Inc.

Mr. Kalamarides is head of Full Service Solutions at Prudential Financial, Inc. He serves as a director for the Corporation for Enterprise Development and has co-authored several white papers. Mr. Kalamarides is a graduate of Colgate University and earned a master's in business administration from Amos Tuck School of Business Administration at Dartmouth College. Mr. Kalamarides is a parishioner of St. Mary Church in Simsbury, CT.

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'WE ARE MEANT TO BE PEOPLE ON FIRE'

700 TEENS IGNITE THEIR FAITH AT YOUTH RALLY

The Cathedral of St. Joseph was brimming with the passion and energy of youth when nearly 700 teens attended the one-day Alive in Christ Youth Rally on Sunday, April 30.

Teens in grades 8-12, arriving by the busload from points throughout the archdiocese, descended on the cathedral for a full day of high-energy activities designed to help them connect with Christ, embrace their faith and go forth in the world as Catholics.

**STORY AND
PHOTOS BY
SHELLEY WOLF**

The day's events included Mass with Archbishop Leonard P. Blair, music and singing with the band Array of Hope, entertainment by two rapping Salesian brothers known as the Bosco Beats, vocational talks and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

IGNITE High School Youth Ministry from St. Mary Parish in Simsbury helped run the day's activities. Matt Locandro, a member of the IGNITE team, led the young people in prayer.

Laure Guibert, another member of IGNITE, advised the teens: "Try and get out of your comfort zone. Meet many people and pray."

Father Jeffrey Gubbiotti, vocation director for the archdiocese, encouraged the youths to be open to God's word throughout the day.

"God can use anything. It might be something somebody says, it might be a Scripture passage, it might be a song we're singing," he said. "God has a word of life for every one of us here, a word of encouragement, of challenge."

During the Mass and homily, Archbishop Blair told the teens, "We are meant to be people on fire. We don't accomplish it on our own; it comes to us through faith."



Array of Hope, a family band from New Jersey, engages and evangelizes the crowd through music, videos and a light show.

The way to encounter Christ, he said, is through the Scriptures, the sacraments and the teachings of the Church, but most especially through the Eucharist.

The archbishop recalled the words of St. Peter, saying, "The risen Christ is not far away, but he's right here at Mass, revealed for you."

After the Mass, the youths headed for the lower cathedral, where they were treated to music, videos and a light show by Array of Hope, a band from New Jersey.



Teens from St. John Paul XXIII Parish in West Haven pose for a group shot beneath the Lithuanian cross on the cathedral lawn.



The Bosco Beats, two Salesian brothers and seminarians from New York, deliver faith-filled messages through rap tunes, surprising and delighting the crowd.

Based on the three theological virtues of faith, hope and love, the show encouraged the teens to express the joy of their faith.

Another musical act of two religious brothers, the Bosco Beats, had the teens singing rap tunes with faith-filled messages.

Brother Steve Demaio also told how service in Costa Rica and Africa helped him to find meaning in his life and caused him to ask, “What if everything we’ve been taught is true?” He challenged the youths to ponder their unique purpose in life. “There’ll never be another you, but what are you going to do with this one life?”

Cathedral staffers were also on hand to wheel in

“GOD CAN USE ANYTHING. IT MIGHT BE SOMETHING SOMEBODY SAYS, IT MIGHT BE A SCRIPTURE PASSAGE, IT MIGHT BE A SONG WE’RE SINGING. GOD HAS A WORD OF LIFE FOR EVERY ONE OF US HERE, A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT, OF CHALLENGE.” — FATHER JEFFREY GUBBIOTTI

170 pizzas on dollies for the hungry teens, who took a break to eat on the lawn. Once outside, the teens mingled in fellowship, tossed balls and posed for group pictures.

Back inside, Miriam Hidalgo, archdiocesan director of youth and young adult ministry, and Ryan Hinton, director of the Office of Family Life, spoke about the vocation of marriage and family life, saying many would be called to this vocation.

Sister Francis Graham, a member of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Hamden, also shared the joy of the vocation to religious life. “I know God is enough for my heart,” she said. “Jesus’ love is so big it

overflows from my heart and I can give it to others.”

Father Matthew Gworek, parochial vicar at St. Mary Church in Branford, told how his life changed direction while he was studying to be a music teacher.

“It occurred to me that I was happiest when I spent time at St. Thomas Church at UConn in Storrs,” he recalled. With that realization, he contacted the vocations director to begin exploring a call to the priesthood. “There are probably some of you who are called to that, if you allow yourself to listen.”

The day ended with adoration and Benediction. The teens prayed to inspiring music and many later knelt at the foot of the altar when Father Gubbiotti invited them to “say yes to Jesus.”

“Lay claim to the blessing God has for you to send you forth,” he said.

After the event, Father James Shanley, rector of the cathedral, chatted informally with the youths and thanked the IGNITE team.

Several young people said the music and the opportunity for adoration were highlights of the rally.

Andy Kehoe of St. Mary’s in Simsbury said, “My favorite part was the concert when they were all dancing. I thought it was fun.”

Jennifer Ortiz of St. John XXIII Parish in West Haven said she most enjoyed the message-filled songs. “They were meaningful,” she explained.

Nalelhi Martinez of Most Holy Trinity Parish in Wallingford said she appreciated the time spent in adoration. “Just forgetting about everything,” she said, recalling the moment, “being able to talk to God, forgetting about all your worries.”

Owen Wollenberg of St. Mary’s in Simsbury also liked the adoration. “My favorite part was the last part,” he said. “It was just quiet. It’s just yourself and God.”

Alive in Christ was co-sponsored by the Office of Vocations and the Office of Education, Evangelization and Catechesis. †

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Busloads of teens enter through the cathedral addition to register for the day's events.



A cathedral staff member wheels in another dolly-load of pizzas to feed the hungry youth rally participants.



After dinner, the teens take a break outdoors to socialize and are seen here inhabiting the window niches of the cathedral.

On Board!

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Paul Kelly, M.D.

Welcoming Paul Kelly, M.D.

Archbishop Leonard P. Blair is pleased to announce the appointment of Paul Kelly, M.D., Director, The Hartford Bishops' Foundation, Inc.

Dr. Kelly is Chief of Cardiology at Saint Mary's Hospital in Waterbury, CT. Dr. Kelly serves as Chair of the Cardiac Quality Work Group at Saint Mary's Hospital. He is the Medical Director of the Malta House of Care – Waterbury and former Chairman of Saint Mary's Hospital Foundation Board of Directors. He earned his medical degree from the University of Virginia. He and his wife are parishioners of St. Rose of Lima in Newtown.

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Sister Clare Millea poses with some children at the Institution Sacre Coeur de Jesus, a preschool and elementary school for children that the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus run in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in 2013.

That first meeting was followed by others with the archdiocesan Pastoral Planning Committee, the priests of the new Christ the King parish and members of the Korean community. While they already enjoy a friendly relationship with the English-speaking members of the parish, the Koreans will no longer be “very welcomed guests,” as they put it, but registered parishioners, sharing in the life, decision-making and support of the parish. This process of transition is occurring in other culturally diverse parishes, as well.

It’s that sense of respect for people from diverse backgrounds that drives the passion Sr. Clare has for her position as director of the Archdiocese of Hartford’s newly created Office of Faith and Culture. Since her job began last January, she has met with many of the parishioners and priests from countries, cultures and ethnic communities represented in the three counties of the Archdiocese of Hartford.

In fact, it’s the international leadership and multicultural background she amassed while serving her religious congregation of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus — as a teacher, principal, psychologist, local and provincial superior, canon lawyer, Rome-based superior general and Vatican-appointed director of a three-year apostolic visitation of American women religious — that feed her enthusiasm for the job.

“In my position in Rome as leader of the congregation, I needed to

EMBRACING A FAITH COMMUNITY RICH IN *faith and culture*

STORY BY MARY CHALUPSKY

When Sister Clare Millea first met with representatives of the Korean Catholic Community who worship at the former Sacred Heart Parish in Wethersfield, she was struck by how polite, articulate and “most of all, faith-filled they were about wanting to maintain their Catholic faith traditions,” she said. “Their sincere desire to be fully integrated into the parish life was especially moving.”

“
Many of these communities are so alive and vivacious. We need more contact with one another so we can see and learn from the richness of their faith and culture.

— SISTER CLARE MILLEA

hone the listening and interpersonal skills needed for relating to individuals and facilitating groups,” she said. “We’re all here to serve the Lord with the gifts he has given to us ... to pool our resources and work together for the Church.”

The office she directs was created to support the diverse ethnic groups in the archdiocese, which include Hispanic communities in 24 parishes, composed of families from many nations in Central and South America, as well as communities from, among other countries, Korea, Vietnam, India, Myanmar, Ghana, Portugal, Poland and Brazil, “so that they can worship God in a way that is personal and meaningful,” according to a news release issued by the archdiocese.

Sister Clare explained that one goal of the office is to see that these communities are “given the opportunity to worship and celebrate the sacraments in their own language and according to the liturgical traditions of their native culture.

“The other is to raise the sensitivity of all Catholics in the archdiocese, regardless of where we come from or what language we speak, that we are all brothers and sisters in Christ,” she said. “We are one faith family by reason of our baptism and by our belonging to Jesus.”

Within months of her appointment in January, she had met with more than 30 priests who minister to the many diverse cultural groups in the archdiocese. Some of these are priests native to the Archdiocese, while others are serving here to minister to their people. Working in tandem with the Pastoral Planning Committee, Sister Clare has been making herself available to parishes that are merging intercultural groups, helping them find collaborative ways to create a loving faith

HOW TO BRING A DIVERSE PARISH TOGETHER

Here are some principles for achieving ecclesial integration among various ethnic or cultural groups in your parish to form a single family in faith and mission.

- 1. Articulate** a vision of ministry that recognizes and affirms cultural, linguistic and racial differences as a gift from God, promoting the formation of culturally specific ministries and parish groups.
- 2. Foster** the inculturation of the Gospel in all cultures, avoiding the tendency to see your culture as better or more valuable than the cultures of others, and always avoiding “we-they” language.
- 3. Plan** with the people, not for the people, listening to and welcoming the unique perspectives of the diverse parishioners you are trying to reach.
- 4. Understand** that the existence of more than one cultural group in your parish is a blessing and commit to creating welcoming spaces for all Catholic people living in your parish.
- 5. Identify** leaders of all the cultural groups and mentor them into leadership positions in ministry within their own cultural/ethnic community and in the parish as a whole.

(Adapted from USCCB, Building Intercultural Competence for Ministers, 2014, pp. 32-33)

community while respecting one another’s cultural expressions.

“Sister Clare is an apostle of Christ who knows how to listen and also cares,” said Father Israel Rivera, pastor of St. Joachim Parish in New Britain, where congregants are from Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Ecuador and elsewhere. “She has visited my parish a couple of times and it’s great to see how caring and interested she is in our

On Board!



Richard LoRicco, Jr., Esq.

Welcoming Richard LoRicco, Jr., Esq.

Archbishop Leonard P. Blair is pleased to announce the appointment of Richard LoRicco, Jr., Esq., Director, The Hartford Bishops’ Foundation, Inc.

Mr. LoRicco is a practicing attorney in his firm The LoRicco Law Firm. Mr. LoRicco is a Trustee for the Benedictines of Jesus Crucified and is a committee member of The Friends of Jimmy Miller, Inc. He received his undergraduate degree from Fordham University and his juris doctorate from Quinnipiac College School of Law, formerly known as the University of Bridgeport, School of Law in 1986. He is a parishioner of Assumption Church in Woodbridge, CT.

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Sister Clare Millea of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, director of the Archdiocese of Hartford's Office of Faith and Culture, enjoys conversation over breakfast with Korean Catholics from Christ the King Parish at Sacred Heart Church in Wethersfield on June 11. From left are Father Nicolas Chul Lee, community chaplain; Sister Mary Grace Giaimo of the Apostles of the Sacred of Jesus; Sister Clare; and Byunghwan Choi. In photo below, Sister Clare shares a prayer in the local tradition with a man at a Fazendas de Esperaza, or Hope Farm, run by her order on the island of Masbate, Philippines.

“
She embodies the mission of the Church which is to spread the Gospel and make it accessible to all.”

— FATHER STEVEN BOGUSLAWSKI

parishioners.”

Sister Clare said she enjoys and grows from such visits. “Many of these communities are so alive and vivacious,” she said. “We need more contact with one another so we can see and learn from the richness of their faith and culture.”

In the future, she plans to explore opportunities for intercultural Masses, international festivals with ethnic foods, entertainment and other cultural exchanges.

Sister Clare brings a wealth of experience to the new position, having garnered an impressive list of credentials in her 50 years as a professed religious that catapulted her to heading her international congregation and a Vatican appointment.

A Derby native, she graduated from Sacred Heart Academy in Hamden and entered religious life in 1965. Sister Clare taught special education and worked as a school psychologist in Greensburg, Pa., for several years; was principal of St. Michael School in New Haven from 1978 to 1980; and served as local superior and then provincial superior for the U.S. province of

her religious community.

She holds a doctorate in canon law from the Lateran University in Rome, a master's degree in psychology from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pa., and a bachelor's degree in psychology from Seton Hill University in Greensburg.

In 1986, she began an 18-year term as a member of the General Council of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Rome. She was elected superior general of the congregation in 2004 and served in that capacity until 2016, visiting, at least twice, all of the congregation's missions in 16 nations throughout the world.

Sister Clare estimates that she has



spent time in about 20 countries in South America, Central America, Europe, Africa and Asia. She speaks English, Italian and Portuguese, and understands Spanish and French.

In December 2008, the Vatican appointed her to lead the three-year apostolic visitation of all active women religious in the United States, aimed at offering the Holy See an up-to-date understanding of the approximately 400 congregations, with the goal of aiding the sisters in the revitalization of the institutes. She earned high acclaim, according to media reports, for fulfilling her daunting assignment.

Sister Clare “is gifted with an abundance of talent,” said Dominican Father Steven Boguslawski, archdiocesan moderator of the curia. “Not only does she have global experience in organizing ecclesial constituencies and is fluent in a variety of languages, she embodies the mission of the Church which is to spread the Gospel and make it accessible to all.”

Sisters in her own community are quick to praise her as someone “with big shoulders” who has “a great sense of humor” and “a lot of compassion,” but who also is humble and “doesn't flaunt it.”

Sister Clare said her new ministry is a natural fit for her. “Part of the reason I was attracted to this position is the fact that I've been to many of the countries represented by parishioners in the archdiocese,”

she said. “That really drew me to feel a real compassion for people who come and are struggling to get inculturated and fit into our society.”

“I've worshiped in their traditions in Africa, South America and all over the world,” she said. “So I will be helping to do whatever we can to make them feel loved and welcomed.” †

ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD welcomes three new priests

PHOTOS BY
AARON JOSEPH



EXPLORE:

[www.archdioceseofhartford.org/
vocations](http://www.archdioceseofhartford.org/vocations)

The congregation erupted into extended applause after three men joined the fraternity of priests for the Archdiocese of Hartford. They were ordained to the priesthood on May 20 by Archbishop Leonard P. Blair at the Cathedral of St. Joseph. The new priests are Fathers Glen Jerzy Dmytryszyn, Eduar Gutiérrez Tovar and Eric Manuel Zuniga. The three men are serving their first assignments: Father Dmytryszyn at St. John Bosco Parish in Branford, Father Gutiérrez at Our Lady Queen of Angels Parish in Meriden and Father Zuniga at St. John XXIII Parish in West Haven.

Priests in attendance lay their hands upon each of the candidates for ordination before Archbishop Blair recites the prayer of ordination.

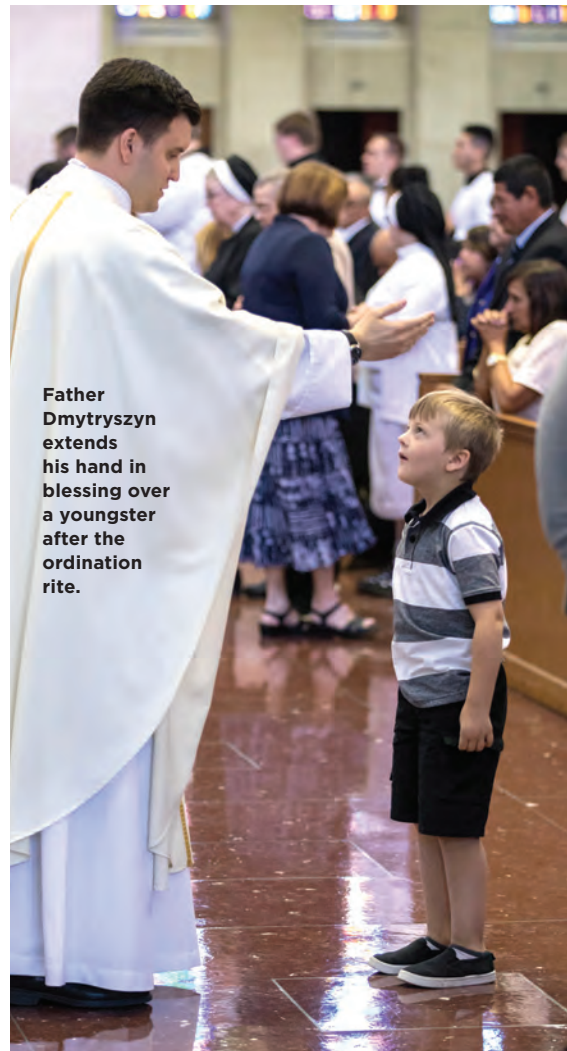
ORDINATION



The ordinandi lead a procession of priests and bishops into the Cathedral of St. Joseph.



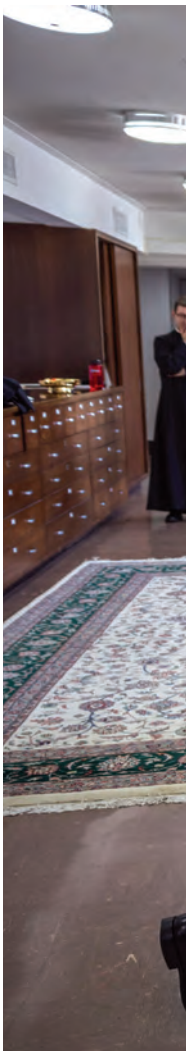
From left, Father Dmytryszyn, Archbishop Leonard P. Blair, Father Gutiérrez and Father Zuniga.



Father Dmytryszyn extends his hand in blessing over a youngster after the ordination rite.



Father Gutiérrez distributes Communion.





The candidates prostrate themselves in the sanctuary as the Litany of the Saints is chanted.



Archbishop Blair kneels for a blessing from the three priests he has just ordained. Looking on are Archbishop Emeritus Daniel A. Cronin and Father Michael Casey, parochial vicar at the cathedral.



Father Zuniga distributes Communion.

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Hartford Bishops' Foundation plans gala and raffle to benefit Catholic education

STORY BY SHELLEY WOLF

Looking for ways to support Catholic education? Mark your calendar for the second annual gala hosted by the Hartford Bishops' Foundation. This year's special event and fundraiser benefiting Catholic education is set for Saturday, Nov. 18 at noon at the Aria in Prospect.

"I'm grateful to the many donors and supporters of the Hartford Bishops' Foundation for making this a reality for us," said Apostle of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Sister Mary Grace Walsh, Ph.D., provost of education, evangelization and catechesis for the archdiocese. "I'm looking forward to the gala to be a wonderful event in support of a very worthwhile cause, which is Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Hartford."

The Office of Education, Evangelization and Catechesis, which oversees all aspects of Catholic education in parishes and schools of the archdiocese, will receive the proceeds.

Catholic education is the next major focus of the Hartford Bishops' Foundation as part of its Forward with Faith capital campaign.

Last year, the foundation's focus was the Cathedral of St. Joseph. The foundation's first annual gala at the Riverview in Simsbury drew nearly 500 attendees and raised \$770,075 toward the cathedral's \$12 million renewal and renovation project.

This year's fundraising event will support the archdiocese's broad, far-reaching vision for Catholic education, which encompasses education and faith formation along a continuum that extends from childhood to adulthood.

"Our efforts in Catholic education will extend beyond school children to include all levels of religious education, training for pastoral associates, young adult ministries and youth programs and more," noted Archbishop Leonard P. Blair.

Sister Mary Grace added, "When we speak of supporting Catholic education, we include the ongoing education and faith formation of all the faithful in the Archdiocese of Hartford."

"I'm profoundly grateful," Sister Mary Grace said, "for the vision and leadership of the Hartford Bishops' Foundation in supporting Catholic education in our schools and parishes and for helping us to advance our mission." For tickets to the gala, call 860.913.2668. †



This year's spotlight on Catholic education was conceived with four major goals in mind:

1. Raise additional funds for financial aid for those who require tuition assistance. While the Foundation for the Advancement of Catholic Schools (FACS) and other private foundations currently provide some aid, Sister Mary Grace said, the Hartford Bishops' Foundation will greatly assist in this effort.

2. Provide professional development for educators and ministry leaders. Professional development for teachers and administrators will lead to the improvement of student performance in Catholic schools. Faith formation training for catechists, campus ministers, youth/young adult ministry coordinators and pastoral associates will transform lives across the archdiocese.

Professional development will focus on the Catholic faith, as well as on critical topics in education.

"We want to ensure that our educators, who are Catholic and are teaching the faith to our students, fully understand the Catholic faith they're sharing," Sister Mary Grace said.

3. Secure grants for transformational innovation in parishes and schools. Plans are under way to develop criteria for funding to support innovative programs at the local parish or school level.

4. Implement the Seat of Honor Program. A program is being developed, Sister Mary Grace said, to recognize educators "who show excellence in their profession." The honor will include a salary augmentation and an oak chair with a brass plate that reads "Seat of Honor."

"We are excited about honoring our educators who are so dedicated to Catholic education," the provost said.

To raise additional funds for Catholic education, the Hartford Bishops' Foundation held a reception in May at Blasius Chevrolet in Waterbury to kick off a raffle for a 2017 red Corvette. The car was donated by the dealership to benefit Catholic education in support of the gala.

The winner of the Corvette will be announced at the Nov. 18 gala.



◀ Archbishop Leonard P. Blair addresses the media during an announcement of the new pastoral plan for the Archdiocese of Hartford on May 7 at the Archdiocesan Center at St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield.

Archdiocese of Hartford pastoral plan calls for 127 parishes, new initiatives for a more stable, vibrant future

In an effort to lead Connecticut Catholics into a vibrant future, the Archdiocese of Hartford released the results of its long-awaited pastoral plan to media representatives on May 7 at the Archdiocesan Center at St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield.

According to the plan, as of June 29, there are 127 parishes in the Archdiocese of Hartford, down from 212 parishes.

As part of the sweeping reorganization, 144 parishes merged into 59 newly named parishes. Another 68 stand-alone parishes remain unchanged.

Some of the mergers involve the union of anywhere from two to six parishes. Many of the newly formed parishes maintain multiple worship sites.

As of the end of June, 186 church buildings remain open. Another 26 church buildings have closed, meaning they no longer have regularly scheduled Masses.

Additionally, more than 40 priests have been

reassigned in support of the new plan, according to Archbishop Leonard P. Blair.

Father James A. Shanley, vicar of the Office of Pastoral Planning, and other archdiocesan officials cited as drivers for the new plan the changing demographics in Connecticut, lower Mass attendance and fewer priests. Yet change also brings an opportunity, leaders said, to breathe new life into the practice of the faith.

“This is ultimately not a question simply of resources and material concerns,” Archbishop Blair said. “This is a question about the Church’s mission. We have always said that the hope here is for a revitalized, more vibrant Church life.”

The archdiocese is hoping the newly created parishes — and many other changes it has planned — will help Catholics move forward into a new future. The aim is to create fuller, more vibrant parishes, as well as good matches of priests to parishes.

Archbishop Blair also noted a number of recent changes in the archdiocese’s central offices as positive steps toward a new future. They include an archdiocesan magazine mailed to every household, more emphasis on youth ministry and campus ministry and the creation of a new Office of Faith and Culture. †



In the coming weeks, the Office of Pastoral Planning will mail a separate publication that outlines the changes. For more information about pastoral planning, visit www.stewardsfortomorrow.org.

STORY AND PHOTO BY SHELLEY WOLF



A millennial's take
ON PASTORAL PLANNING

When I started working as an associate in the Archdiocese of Hartford's Pastoral Planning Office, I, like some within the archdiocese, had only an elementary understanding of just what pastoral planning is. Similarly, I was unaware of why it was necessary. The statistics I learned on my first day on the job were eye-opening, to say the least: Between 1965 and 2015, the Archdiocese of Hartford saw a 27 percent decline in the number of Catholics, a 74 percent drop in the number of infant baptisms and a staggering 88 percent decrease in the number of archdiocesan seminarians.

Further actuarial statistics regarding the number of priests who will be retiring are formidable. Assuming that two priests retire before the age of 75, and two priests enter the archdiocese, which seems to be the trend, the classes retiring in the coming years will result in a loss of 67 priests by 2025, with that number climbing to a total of 96 in 2030, and a total of 109 by 2035.

I'm 29. The first three decades of my life have borne witness to a turbulent era for the Catholic Church in Connecticut. I recall that, up until my late teens, at any given church my family would attend, people who arrived fewer than 10 minutes early to a Sunday morning Mass likely would have had to stand in the back. Those same churches are only half full on a good day in 2017. While the factors that have contributed to this decline in attendance must be addressed, we must first confront the harsh realities that lay before us so that we can build a foundation that will enable the Church as a whole to be less reactive to, and more proactive about, change.

After co-hosting eight deanery meetings in front of nearly 1,000 people of the archdiocese, I have been exposed to a gamut of parishioners' emotions. Some I expected, others I did not. By now, I have heard countless stories from faithful and concerned parishioners regarding their churches. I've heard from people whose great-grandparents literally laid the foundation at their beloved church, as well as from folks whose families have a rich sacramental heritage at a particular church. While these legacies should rightly burn bright in our hearts, the health of the entire archdiocese is dependent on a fruitful planning process, which, unfortunately, can result in the closing of such churches as those.

It is not overly dramatic to say that only through prayer and planning will the Catholic faith in Connecticut be viable.

I have also seen the many positive impacts of pastoral planning — firsthand. I had the great pleasure of attending the Palm Sunday celebration at St. Justin–St. Michael in the north end of Hartford. Parishioners celebrated a final Mass at St. Michael and then processed through the streets of their neighborhood to

St. Justin's (roughly a mile and a half away), and had a ceremony to solidify their community. This sense of community was the most striking aspect of this merger. Parishioners from two different churches were able to unite in faith as one community, with a renewed sense of hope and with great plans to keep their new community vibrant.

My suggestion to those age 55 and up in the archdiocese (including my parents, aunts and uncles) is this: Approach pastoral planning in the same way you would approach life insurance or a will. It is natural and prudent for older people to start considering what they will leave to those who come after them.

It is also natural for these considerations to focus on tangible goods. Perhaps you have an IRA set up to pay out to your grandchildren, a cookbook filled with recipes that kept your family happy and full for decades or a will that will transfer a house that your father built with his bare hands. All of these heirlooms are practical and meaningful, but have you considered which spiritual goods you will bequeath?

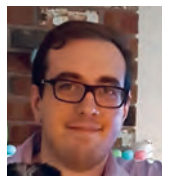
In 2015, a study by the Barna Group ranked Hartford-New Haven ninth among the 10 most "post-Christian" populations in the country on the basis of people's self-identification, belief and practice. In such an increasingly secular geographic location and era, it is vital to place your trust in the wisdom and the knowledge of the pastoral planning process. Bear in mind that you have received a vibrant and thriving Church from your ancestors. Will future generations of Catholics be able to say the same about you? †

“IT IS NOT OVERLY DRAMATIC TO SAY THAT ONLY THROUGH PRAYER AND PLANNING WILL THE CATHOLIC FAITH IN CONNECTICUT BE VIABLE.”



DAVID ELLIOTT

is an associate in the archdiocesan Pastoral Planning Office.



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IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Hartford Women's Center opens, offering new options for unplanned pregnancies

■ A new pregnancy center has opened in downtown Hartford, a stone's throw from an abortion clinic.

Dozens of supporters — many with babies and small children in tow — turned out on May 20 for an open house to celebrate the Hartford Women's Center.

The Hartford Women's Center is located in a one-story brick building at C2 Jefferson St. It's tucked directly behind an abortion clinic that sits on the corner of Main and Jefferson streets.

The two facilities, one pro-life and the other pro-abortion, share a brick path. The doors to each facility are separated by a matter of feet.

By opening a pregnancy resource center in a more visible and easily accessible location — directly in the path of women in search of help for an unplanned pregnancy — the representatives of the Hartford Women's Center are hoping to provide women with more options, namely the option to keep their baby rather than choose abortion.

"Sixty percent of women going in for an abortion [later] say they had no choice," said Leticia Velasquez, director of both St.



Leticia Velasquez, director of the Hartford Women's Center in Hartford, greets young adult supporters during the new pregnancy center's open house on May 20.

Gerard's Center for Life and the Hartford Women's Center. "So we want to be there to give them a choice."

The Hartford Women's Center falls under the umbrella of St. Gerard's Center for Life, situated on Eaton Street in the South End of Hartford. The women's center will be St. Gerard's second location in the city.

Velasquez said she was thrilled to see the dream of so many in the pro-life movement come to fruition. "It's like Christmas, my birthday and the birth of a grandchild all wrapped into one," she told the *Transcript* during the women's center's open house.

— STORY AND PHOTO BY SHELLEY WOLF

Jubilarians

■ Twenty-eight priests and bishops in the Archdiocese of Hartford are celebrating significant anniversaries of their ordination in 2017. Below are this year's jubilarians:

65 years

Archbishop Emeritus Daniel A. Cronin

60 years

La Salette Father Frederick R. Flaherty
Father Edmund M. O'Brien
Father Joseph E. Vujs

55 years

Father Lawrence R. Bock
Msgr. James G. Coleman
Father John M. Cooney
Sulpician Father Frederick J. Cwiekowski
Father John J. Keane
Father Roland LaPlante
Archbishop Emeritus Henry J. Mansell
Father Emilio P. Padelli

Golden jubilarians

Father James H. Archambault
Father Maurice J. Barry
Father Thomas J. Barry
Father Salvatore F. Cavagnuolo
Father Ralph M. Colicchio
Father A. Wayne Kargul
Father Joseph E. Looney
Father Maurice J. Maroney
Father James F. Pilon
Father Robert J. Rousseau
La Salette Father Daniel J. Scott

Silver jubilarians

Passionist Father David J. Cinquegrani
Father Dariusz Gosciniak
Dominican Father Elias Henritzky
Father John P. McHugh
Father Daniel J. McLearn



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Archdiocesan Summa Scholars thank their teachers and mentors

■ Fifty-three Catholic high school seniors recognized for outstanding academic achievement shared honors with the teachers who inspired them most during the archdiocesan Summa Scholar Award ceremony and reception this spring at the Archdiocesan Center at St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield.

Each year, the award is presented to high school seniors from eight Catholic high schools within the Archdiocese of Hartford. Summa Scholars placed in the top 5 percent of their graduating class, based on cumulative grade point average. Each school's president or principal identifies the scholars.

Superintendent Michael S. Griffin presented the awards, placing a bronze medallion on a red and gold ribbon around the neck of each Summa Scholar. Then each scholar spoke briefly about the teacher who inspired him or her the most, while that teacher also shared the stage and the accolades.

Additionally, each honored teacher was presented with a certificate of appreciation.

The Summa Scholars, grouped by school, are as follows:

- **East Catholic High School, Manchester:** Peter Crowley, Madison DiBella, Jillian Ferrigno, Shannon Leary, Stephanie Lewis, David Mantese, Amelia Ockert, Longxu Pan, Audrey Pion, Anthony Raggazzi.
- **Holy Cross High School, Waterbury:** Antonio D'Amelio, Katherine Flaherty, Patrick McMahon, Tess Oatley, Andrea Pettinico, Gillian Russo.
- **Lauralton Hall, Milford:** Sara Abbazia, Rachele Ambroise,



Jayne Bianca, at podium, thanks Meghan Whitlock, of St. Paul Catholic High School in Bristol, as Superintendent Michael S. Griffin looks on.

Gabriela Baghdady, Kathryn Blanco, Katherine Canavan, Olivia Rubin.

- **Northwest Catholic High School, West Hartford:** John Allen, Rachel Conover, Brendan Gill, Katharine Jessen, Sarah Jessen, Taylor Pane, Natalie Smith, Allyson Voelker.

- **Notre Dame High School, West Haven:** Zachary Bilcheck, Andrew Biondi, Miguel Corzo, Paul DeBassio, Samarth Kasbawala, Gino Pagliaro, Gillian Russo.

- **Sacred Heart Academy, Hamden:** Caroline Berberian, Abigail Kelly, Elizabeth Lamont, Sara Martin, Alysse Mastriano, Catherine Valloso.

- **Sacred Heart High School, Waterbury:** Brianna Cyr, Alfred Deleon, Emily Galvao, Benjamin Gomes, Rachel Guay.

- **St. Paul Catholic High School, Bristol:** Jaymie Bianca, Benjamin Czuprinski, Nicholas Palumbo, Jordan Silva.

— STORY AND PHOTO BY SHELLEY WOLF

Obituaries

■ Father Louis Y. Chow

Father Louis Y. Chow, 85, passed away peacefully on April 23, 2017, at home in Corning, N.Y. He was a priest of the Archdiocese of Hartford before entering the Abbey of Our Lady of New Clairvaux in Vina, Calif., in 1996. Father Chow also assisted the late Cardinal Ignatius Kung in serving the Chinese Catholic community in Connecticut and translated many volumes of books related to Catholicism and prayers from English into Chinese.



■ Father Robert F. Condron

Father Robert F. Condron, pastor emeritus of the Church of the Assumption in Ansonia, died on May 6, 2017. The funeral and burial were private. Memorial contributions may be made in Father Condron's name to Assumption School, c/o Kathleen Molnar, principal, at 51 N. Cliff St., Ansonia, CT 06460.



■ La Salette Father Donald K. Thomas

Father Donald K. Thomas, 86, a Missionary of Our Lady of La Salette, of 85 New Park Ave., Hartford, died on April 24, 2017, at Pointe Nursing and Rehab Center in Webster, Texas. After almost 50 years of ministry in other states, he retired in 2001 and moved to Hartford, where he assisted at a variety of parishes in the Archdiocese of Hartford.



■ Deacon James P. Quinn

Deacon James P. Quinn of Southington died on May 15, 2017, at home. He attended Waterbury parochial schools and was a longtime member of St. Thomas Parish in Southington, where he was a catechist, lector and member of the Knights of Columbus. He was ordained as a deacon almost 35 years ago.

■ Sister Mary Etta Higgins

Sister Mary Etta Higgins of the Sisters of Mercy died at home in West Hartford on April 24, 2017. She taught at Lauralton Hall in Milford prior to entering the Sisters of Mercy on Aug. 25, 1963. She taught science for the next two decades at Mount St. Joseph Academy in West Hartford, Sacred Heart High School in Waterbury and Mercy High School in Middletown. In addition to teaching at Mercy High, she served as dean of students there through 1989. She earned a Natural Science Foundation grant in science and mathematics at Bucknell University. In 2006, she was elected life and ministry administrator for the Sisters of Mercy in Connecticut.

➔ [READ FULL OBITUARIES at www.catholictranscript.org](http://www.catholictranscript.org)



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