

Catholic TRANSCRIPT

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2019

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ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI,
NEW BRITAIN:

TINY PARISH

» *Transforms itself to serve* «

COLLEGE STUDENTS
AND YOUNG ADULTS

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

■ The archdiocesan Office of Family Life will host its 12th annual **Marriage Enrichment Celebration** on Saturday, **Feb. 2**, from 5 to 9 p.m. at Mary Our Queen Church and Parish Center, 248 Savage St., Plantsville. This year's program will begin with Mass and include dinner, prayer, reflection and fun centered on the theme "Where There's an 'I Will,' There's Always a Way: The Indomitable Spirit of Sacramental Marriage." The cost is \$25 per couple and includes dinner. To register or obtain more information, contact Tom and Donna Finn at 860.302.1110, or email tfinnphd@sbcglobal.net. Please RSVP by Jan. 30.

■ Enjoy "**Movie Matinee — Thérèse: The Story of St. Thérèse of Lisieux**" on Wednesday, **Feb. 6**, from 12 to 3 p.m. at Calvary Retreat Center, 31 Colton St., Farmington. The award-winning film shares the life of one of the most popular saints of our time. It details her faith, trials and sacrifices, revealing a way of life based on love and simplicity. The program will be facilitated by Sister Mary Ann Strain, CP, program director at the center, and will include a boxed lunch. The fee is \$25. Register online at www.ourladyofcalvary.net or call 860.677.8519.

■ The Archdiocese of Hartford Human Trafficking Task Force, in collaboration with St. Bakhita Parish, will offer a "**Prayer and Reflection Vigil against Human Trafficking**" to commemorate the feast of St. Josephine Bakhita. The vigil will be held on Friday, **Feb. 8**, from 7 to 8 p.m. at St. James Church, 767 Elm St., Rocky Hill. Additionally, the Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry (OCSJM) is offering St. Josephine Bakhita prayer cards and booklets on praying the Stations of the Cross for victims of human trafficking. To request cards or booklets for your parish, contact OCSJM at 860.242.5573 or at info.ocsjm@aohct.org.

■ **A Day Away for Laity in Ministry** will be held on Monday, **Feb. 11**, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at St. George Church, 33 Whitfield St., Guilford. Kathy Hendricks, a national catechetical consultant with publisher William H. Sadlier, will present "Finding Spiritual Balance in Off-kilter Times." The event is free and lunch will be provided. The program is open to all alumni of the former Lay Ministry Programs and Catholic Bible School, as well as other laity in ministry in the archdiocese. Register at bit.ly/Feb11DayAway or visit <https://catholicedaohct.org>.

PROMISE TO PROTECT

Catholic Transcript magazine, like many other color magazines, is in production for months, written long before it is printed. To find up-to-the-minute information on the Catholic Church's response to the recent clergy sex abuse crisis, visit:

promise.archdioceseofhartford.org

SHARE YOUR UPCOMING EVENTS AND NEWS

Want to get the word out about your upcoming events or local news? Catholic parishes and Catholic organizations should send information to communications@aohct.org and calendar@catholictranscript.org

MEDIA: Brief notices of events may be published in the Archdiocese of Hartford's weekly Parish Mail, which serves as a resource for parish bulletins, in electronic calendars on archdiocesan websites, on archdiocesan social media or in the monthly *Catholic Transcript* magazine.

DEADLINES: Upcoming events intended for Parish Mail, electronic calendars or social media should be submitted at least **one** month ahead.

Events intended for the magazine's "Mark Your Calendar" page must be submitted at least **two** months prior to publication.

- Events for April must be submitted by Feb. 4.
- Events for May must be submitted by March 4.
- Events for June must be submitted by March 28.

LISTINGS: Be sure to include the time and date of the event, parish and church name, full street address and town, description of event and contact information in case of questions.

Post-event press releases and photos may be submitted at any time. Due to time and space limitations, we cannot guarantee publication.



Archdiocese of Hartford
Office of Safe Environment
467 Bloomfield Ave.
Bloomfield, CT 06002



HOW TO REPORT AN INCIDENT OF SEXUAL ABUSE TO THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD

If you have knowledge or suspect that a minor or vulnerable adult (an adult with an intellectual disability) has been sexually abused, in any manner, by personnel of the Archdiocese of Hartford, you are urged to report this information to:

Kathleen D. Nowosadko
Victim Assistance Coordinator
860-541-6475 • kathleen.nowosadko@aohct.org

Incidents involving sexual abuse of minors (persons under the age of 18) should be reported to:
State Department of Children and Families Care-line
1-800-842-2288

Incidents involving sexual abuse of vulnerable adults aged 18 – 59 should be reported to the:
Connecticut Department of Developmental Services – AID Division for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities
1-844-878-8923

Incidents involving sexual abuse of vulnerable adults aged 60 and over should be reported to:
Department of Social Services for the Elderly
1-888-385-4225

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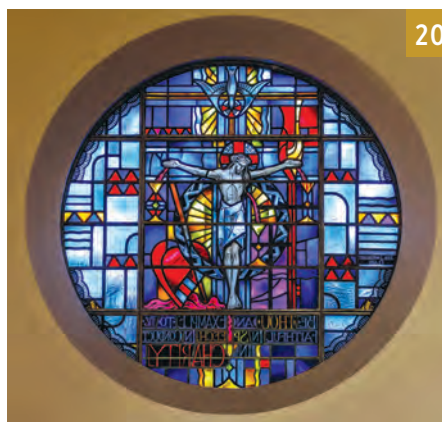
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HONORARY MEMBERS

of the papal household

On the occasion of the 175th anniversary year of the Archdiocese of Hartford, I am happy to announce that, at my request, Pope Francis has named nine of our priests “monsignors.” Over the next few months, also as part of our anniversary celebration, other papal honors will be announced for members of the laity and religious of the archdiocese.



**ARCHBISHOP
LEONARD P.
BLAIR**

*is the 13th
bishop of
the Catholic
Archdiocese
of Hartford.*



As archbishop, my focus has been on the Church as a family — the “family of God,” the “household of the faith” as St. Paul puts it. All relationships in the Church are familial at heart, not just institutional. Theologically and spiritually, the Church is “Holy Mother Church.” Priests are rightly called “Father.” Religious women and men are called “Sister” or “Brother.” We refer to Pope Francis as our “Holy Father” because in this world he is the visible spiritual father of the whole family of God. Our faith family is universal. It transcends not only our natural family, but also our local parish and even our own diocese.

This is the proper context for understanding the honor that is conferred on a priest who is named a “monsignor.” The title means that he has been made an honorary member of the pope’s own household. This custom goes back many centuries, and nowadays is given to designated priests who are at least 65 years old and who are distinguished for their service.

Perhaps the title “monsignor” doesn’t strike you as very familial. After all, the word literally means “my lord.” But so does the ordinary title given to men in almost all European languages (*Herr* in German; *Pan* in Polish; *Signore* in Italian, *Señor* in Spanish, etc.). In English, “Mister” derives from “master.” In the same way, “monsignor” is simply a title of respect.

My intention on the occasion of our 175th anniversary is simply this: to recognize the service of all our priests by honoring a few representatives out of the many who so faithfully teach, sanctify and shepherd the people of God, especially in these challenging times for the Church and for priests. The fact that this is a papal honor also underscores the close bonds of communion between our local church and the Holy Father in Rome. And when a parish priest is named a “monsignor” it is an honor for his parishioners, too.

With these considerations in mind, let me introduce you to our new monsignors. Eight are

pastors and one has provided more than 50 years of service to the Metropolitan Marriage Tribunal. Those who have been named are:

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- **Rev. Monsignor Thomas Barry,**
Pastor, St. Patrick Parish, Farmington
 - **Rev. Monsignor Joseph DiSciaccia,**
Pastor, Divine Mercy Parish, Hamden
 - **Rev. Monsignor Joseph Donnelly,**
Pastor, Sacred Heart Parish, Southbury
 - **Rev. Monsignor John Georgia,**
Pastor, Resurrection Parish, Wallingford
 - **Rev. Monsignor Gene Gianelli,**
Pastor, Assumption Parish, Woodbridge
 - **Rev. Monsignor James Kinnane,**
Adjutant judicial vicar, Metropolitan Tribunal
 - **Rev. Monsignor Frank Matera,**
Pastor, St. Mary Parish, Simsbury
 - **Rev. Monsignor Robert O’Grady,**
Pastor, Mary, Gate of Heaven Parish, Windsor Locks
 - **Rev. Monsignor Gary Simeone,**
Pastor, St. Gregory the Great Parish, Bristol
-

There will be a celebration of the conferral of these papal honors at a prayer service on Sunday, Feb. 24, 2019, at 4 p.m. at St. Thomas Chapel at the Pastoral Center in Bloomfield. (Tickets are required. Seating is limited.)

Finally, with the New Year, I want to acknowledge and thank all those who sent me greetings at Christmas. Your prayers and support are very much appreciated, even though it is not possible for me to reply personally to everyone by mail. May all of us be blessed with a happy and healthy 2019. †

Pope Francis names nine new monsignors *for their service with distinction*



REV. MONSIGNOR THOMAS BARRY, pastor, St. Patrick Parish, Farmington

Monsignor Thomas J. Barry has served the Archdiocese of Hartford with distinction in both chancery and parish settings. He served nearly a decade as personal secretary to Archbishop John F. Whealon. Having completed a licentiate in canon law, he served as judge and defender of the bond on the Metropolitan Tribunal. His past leadership of the pro-Life movement, directorship in the early years of the Archbishop's Annual Appeal and service as administrator of the Connecticut Catholic Conference are worthy of particular note. He also has served in four parishes of the archdiocese as pastor, providing competent leadership spiritually and

temporally. He has also given capable leadership to philanthropic and economic development efforts within the city of Hartford. Monsignor Barry remains a trusted source of counsel to many.



REV. MONSIGNOR JOSEPH DISCIACCA, pastor, Divine Mercy Parish, Hamden

Monsignor Joseph V. DiSciaccia has served the Archdiocese of Hartford in seminary, chancery and parochial ministries. For 10 years early in his priesthood, he was a faculty member at St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield, where he served as mentor and spiritual director to the minor seminarians. Following a period of parochial ministry, he was chosen to serve as minister for priests, a role in which he assisted his brother priests in moments of personal difficulty or crisis. He was held in high esteem by his brother priests for his dedicated fulfillment of this role. Monsignor DiSciaccia has served faithfully as pastor of several parishes of varying

size over the years. He has served as a dean and is currently pastor of a large suburban parish.



REV. MONSIGNOR JOSEPH DONNELLY, pastor, Sacred Heart Parish, Southbury

Monsignor Joseph T. Donnelly has served the Church well in various capacities, including seminary formation, pastor and chairman of the board of the St. Vincent de Paul Mission. Locally, Monsignor Donnelly was a faculty member at St. Thomas Seminary, Bloomfield for seven years. He also served as academic dean of the North American College, Rome from 1984 to 1990. He has served as pastor of two large suburban parishes in the Archdiocese of Hartford. Monsignor Donnelly has given dedicated leadership to the archdiocesan St. Vincent de Paul Society, serving as chairman of the board for more than 10 years. Under his effective guidance of

the society, the charitable works of the Church have touched the lives of many. He has served the archdiocese as a dean, and as a member of the Presbyteral Council and Priests Personnel Advisory Board over the years.



REV. MONSIGNOR JOHN GEORGIA, pastor, Resurrection Parish, Wallingford

Monsignor John J. Georgia has served the Archdiocese of Hartford in parochial and, more recently, administrative roles. He has served as pastor of four parishes in which his ministry has been very successful and very well received. His affable personality combined with his effective pastoral leadership has won him the esteem of his brother priests, who frequently seek his opinion and guidance. In 2015, he was appointed episcopal vicar of the Southern Vicariate. A year later, he was appointed to the archdiocesan College of Consultors. His counsel and wisdom are of great assistance to his brother priests.



REV. MONSIGNOR GENE GIANELLI, pastor, Assumption Parish, Woodbridge

Monsignor Gene E. Gianelli has served the Archdiocese of Hartford with distinction in both chancery and parochial ministries. Most notably, as a young priest, he served as personal secretary to Archbishop John F. Whealon for nearly 10 years. He also served as vicar for seminarians. Subsequently, he has served as pastor of two large suburban parishes. Monsignor Gianelli has served as pastor of his current parish for more than 25 years. He is well received by parishioners and brother priests alike. Monsignor Gianelli has continued to offer counsel to the archbishops of Hartford and shares regular fraternal concern for the priests of the archdiocese.



REV. MONSIGNOR JAMES KINNANE, adjutant judicial vicar, Metropolitan Tribunal

Monsignor James F. Kinnane has served on the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Hartford for more than 50 years. He has held various posts in the Tribunal, including adjutant judicial vicar since 2003. He has been a reliable and dependable presence and source of canonical counsel to bishops, priests and members of the lay faithful for over five decades. Monsignor Kinnane also served as vicar for religious for 23 years. His assistance to religious men and women in the archdiocese during these years was truly appreciated. For decades, Monsignor Kinnane also has been a source of guidance and assistance to his brother priests battling alcohol addiction. In carrying out his duties with distinction,

Monsignor Kinnane has been held in high esteem by the bishops and his brother priests in the archdiocese.



REV. MONSIGNOR FRANK MATERA, pastor, St. Mary Parish, Simsbury

Monsignor Frank J. Matera has served the Church with distinction in seminary, university and parochial settings. Following completion of his post-graduate studies, Monsignor Matera served for five years on the faculty of St. John Seminary, Boston, and most notably for 24 years as a professor of sacred Scripture at The Catholic University of America. His service on the faculty of The Catholic University of America was widely acclaimed. Upon his return to the Archdiocese of Hartford in 2012, Monsignor Matera assumed the office of pastor of a large suburban parish with a parish elementary school. He continues to share his wisdom and knowledge with the priests of the Archdiocese of Hartford and beyond by

offering frequent continuing education opportunities.



REV. MONSIGNOR ROBERT O'GRADY, pastor, Mary, Gate of Heaven Parish, Windsor Locks

Monsignor Robert A. O'Grady has faithfully and effectively served the Archdiocese of Hartford in parochial, seminary and administrative roles. For 15 years, he served on the faculty of the St. Thomas Seminary, including as rector from 1991 to 1996. He also has served as vicar for deacons, overseeing the permanent deacon formation program from 1981 to 1987. Monsignor O'Grady has served as pastor of a suburban parish for the past 21 years, including its recent merger with a neighboring parish. His gentle yet effective ministry is very well received among the faithful. He also has served as a dean and is a member of the Presbyteral Council.



REV. MONSIGNOR GARY SIMEONE, pastor, St. Gregory the Great Parish, Bristol

Monsignor Gary F. Simeone has served faithfully in parochial ministry in the Archdiocese of Hartford for more than 40 years. He has served as pastor of five parishes, urban and suburban, in which his ministry has been fruitful and well received. Four of those parishes also included the spiritual and temporal care of a large parish school. Under Monsignor Simeone's guidance and leadership, the parishes and schools flourished. Monsignor Simeone currently serves as priest chairman of the Archbishop's Annual Appeal.



HERBOT, NATHAN, DE COLONY

MIEMBROS HONORARIOS

de la casa pontificia

Con motivo del 175 aniversario de la Arquidiócesis de Hartford, me complace anunciar que, a petición mía, el Papa Francisco ha nombrado a nueve de nuestros sacerdotes “monseñores”. En los próximos meses, también como parte de nuestra celebración de aniversario, otros honores papales serán anunciados a favor de algunos laicos y religiosos de la arquidiócesis.

Como Arzobispo, mi enfoque ha estado en la Iglesia como una familia — la “familia de Dios”, la “familia de la fe”, como lo expresa San Pablo. Todas las relaciones en la Iglesia son familiares en su esencia, no solo institucionales. Teológica y espiritualmente, la Iglesia es “Santa Madre Iglesia”. Los sacerdotes se llaman correctamente “Padre”. Las mujeres y hombres religiosos se llaman “Hermana” o “Hermano”. Nos referimos al Papa Francisco como nuestro “Santo Padre” porque en este mundo Él es el padre espiritual visible de toda la familia de Dios. Nuestra familia de fe es universal. Trasciende no solo a nuestra familia natural, sino también a nuestra parroquia local, e incluso a nuestra propia diócesis.

Este es el contexto adecuado para comprender el honor que se le confiere a un sacerdote que se llama “monseñor”. El título significa que se ha hecho un miembro honorario de la propia casa del Papa. Esta costumbre se remonta a muchos siglos, y hoy en día se otorga a los sacerdotes designados que tienen al menos 65 años de edad y se distinguen por su servicio.

Tal vez el título “monseñor” no le parezca muy familiar. Después de todo, la palabra literalmente

significa “mi señor”. Pero también lo hace el título ordinario dado a los hombres en casi todos los idiomas europeos (herr en alemán; pan en polaco; signore en italiano, señor en español, etc.). En inglés, “Mister” deriva de “maestro”. De la misma manera, “monseñor” es simplemente un título de respeto.

Mi intención con motivo de nuestro 175 aniversario es simplemente esto: reconocer el servicio de todos nuestros sacerdotes honrando a algunos representantes de los muchos que tan fielmente enseñan, santifican y pastorean al pueblo de Dios, especialmente en estos tiempos difíciles para la Iglesia y para los sacerdotes. El hecho de que esto sea un honor papal también subraya los estrechos vínculos de comunión entre nuestra iglesia local y el Santo Padre en Roma. Y cuando un párroco es nombrado “monseñor”, también es un honor para sus feligreses.

Con estas consideraciones en mente, permítanme presentarles a nuestros nuevos monseñores. Ocho son pastores y uno ha brindado más de 50 años de servicio al Tribunal Metropolitano de Matrimonios. Los que han sido nombrados son:

- **El Rev. Monseñor Thomas Barry**, Párroco, parroquia de Saint Patrick, Farmington
- **El Rev. Monseñor Joseph DiSciaccia**, Párroco, parroquia de Divine Mercy, Hamden
- **El Rev. Monseñor Joseph Donnelly**, Párroco, parroquia de Sacred Heart, Southbury
- **El Rev. Monseñor John Georgia**, Párroco, parroquia de Resurrection, Wallingford
- **El Rev. Monseñor Gene Gianelli**, Párroco, parroquia de Assumption, Woodbridge
- **El Rev. Monseñor James Kinnane**, Vicario Judicial Adjunto, Tribunal Metropolitano
- **El Rev. Monseñor Frank Matera**, Párroco, parroquia de St. Mary, Simsbury
- **El Rev. Monseñor Robert O’Grady**, Párroco, parroquia de Mary, Gate of Heaven, Windsor Locks
- **El Rev. Monseñor Gary Simeone**, Párroco, parroquia de St. Gregory the Great, Bristol



**EL ARZOBISPO
LEONARD P.
BLAIR**

*es el décimo
tercer obispo de
la Arquidiócesis
Católica de
Hartford.*

Habrà una celebración de la concesión de estos honores papales en un servicio de oración el domingo 24 de febrero de 2019 a las 4 p.m. en la capilla de Santo Tomás en el Centro Pastoral en Bloomfield. (Se requieren boletos. Los asientos son limitados.)

Finalmente, con el Año Nuevo, quiero reconocer y agradecer a todos los que me enviaron saludos en Navidad. Sus oraciones y apoyo son muy apreciados, aunque no puedo responder por correo. Que todos seamos bendecidos con un feliz y saludable 2019. †

ONE, HOLY, CATHOLIC and APOSTOLIC CHURCH

Years ago, I made a visit to a parish in Virginia. I arrived 35 minutes early and found the parking lot already filling up. People were friendly, worship was leisurely and people lingered afterward.

That experience reminded me that our Church is universal; it's the same everywhere in the world.

Recently, I had the privilege of worshipping at a basilica in Orlando, Fla. It is not a parish, but an enormous shrine whose mission is to welcome the millions of people who visit Orlando each year.

When Mass began, the huge basilica was nearly full. Remember, this is not a parish, so virtually all attendees were visitors. After the opening greeting, the priest took time to ask where people came from. There were worshipers from Michigan, Maine, New York and Minnesota; from Hawaii and Poland and Japan. Every one of these visitors took time from vacation or work to attend Mass. People wanted to be there, and this was evident in their enthusiastic worship.

People sang heartily. They sang the Gloria and the psalm response. There were hundreds of teens in attendance, and they sang, too.

Before the final blessing, the priest announced that confessions were available Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

That's 42 hours of confessions each week. How wonderful!

Again I was struck by the universality of

our Church. It's the same around the world.

Our most frequent home-away-from-home parish is in Bangor, Me. I love the multi-generational families sitting together, and the parishioners with developmental disabilities who help serve. There are middle-aged identical twin sisters who dress alike and sit in the third pew from the back. I especially like the huge vestibule where people can gather before and after Mass without disturbing those who wish to pray.

Each of these places is unique, and yet all are part of our universal Church.

In a world that is divided in so many ways, we can attend Mass anywhere in the world in any language and understand what's going on because it's universal.

"I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church," we say in the Nicene Creed. *One Church* means united. We have a long way to go on this. *Holy* means set apart for God or glorifying God. *Catholic* with a small "c" means universal. *Apostolic* means our Church has been handed down from the apostles.

Each of these descriptors is evident when we enter a church for Mass, whether we are in Hong Kong or Saskatchewan or anywhere in between. That's because the Lord, our God, is one God.

Thanks be to God. †



**M. REGINA
CRAM**

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

Everyone has a theory ... *except for Dad*

The other day, we had a long discussion with our daughter and son-in-law about a parenting strategy developed by a European expert on an issue of great importance to them, and of considerably less importance to my grandson — potty training.

Apparently, this method has gained popularity in France, so it must be the way to go. Among the tactics he recommends are to let the toddler walk around with no diaper for several days and give pep talks and progress reports. It all sounds a bit crazy to me.

Three of our four daughters each have one child. From time to time, they'll look at my wife in exasperation and ask, "How the heck did you do it?" My wife isn't entirely sure herself.

What I find curious is that no one ever asks, "Dad, how did YOU do it?" Five women, six if you include the dog, and I suspect they're under the mistaken impression I did nothing, or very little, except to get up every morning, go to work, come home every evening, eat dinner and hit the sack. Talk about revisionist history.

However, I tried to be a committed father and read a dozen books about the secrets to successful parenting, which is a lot simpler — and harder — than they make it out to be.

I'm convinced that love and patience are fundamentally important. Love your kids with all your heart and try to be patient and, despite the dark days, there will be light at the end of the tunnel. Someday. I think I've seen the light. I just haven't reached it yet.

I'm also sure that you absolutely

must pray for your family and with your family. You've heard the slogan, "The family that prays together stays together." To borrow another familiar motto: Just do it. And always talk to your children about God's merciful love.

They say the model for all families should be the Holy Family, which can be a bit daunting for us imperfect humans. I have great admiration for my patron, St. Joseph, who lived with the Son of God and the Blessed Mother, the most perfect person God ever created. St. Joseph couldn't compare

with the two of them, and yet Jesus and Our Lady honored him as the head of the household. He was a protector, provider and teacher. I'm sure there wasn't any second-guessing in the Holy Family.

Nowadays, everyone wants to tell you how to raise your kids. Even your kids. When we had our first daughter, my parents and in-laws told us what to do and what to stop doing. We were giving the kids too much. We weren't disciplining them enough. We were disciplining them too much. They were involved in too many activities. They weren't involved in enough activities.

Even today, our kids are eager to tell us what we did wrong. They didn't have their own room like Lindsay Lohan, they had to go to work like Charles Dickens and

**"Always
talk to your
children
about God's
merciful
love."**



they didn't have a cleaning lady, a governess and a personal shopper like Tinsley Mortimer. And why didn't we pay for body piercings?

Parenting is probably the most unappreciated job in the world. The pay is poor, the hours are long, there's a lot of second-guessing and not much job satisfaction ... at least until you have grandchildren and can watch your kids tear their hair out when the little darlings have tantrums and sass back.

Parenting never ends. You'll be in Shady Knoll Retirement Home for Baby Boomers and still be getting calls from your daughter, who has a new boyfriend and wants to borrow your Mastercard so she can buy him a Harley.

Even though I've read a dozen books, I can wrap up all I know in a few lessons I learned on my own. A fundamental truth of parenthood is that love requires sacrifice. Love is giving. Love is not taking. It is giving with no thought of getting anything in return, because you probably won't get anything. There will be dark days, but everything will turn out all right ... if you pray for your family.

Most importantly, never forget to ask the Blessed Mother to keep your children under her protective mantle. Even when you mess up, she'll always be there to pick up the pieces and watch over your kids. †



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



PHOTO COURTESY OF HARTFORD BISHOPS' FOUNDATION

Hartford Bishops' Foundation reports progress to date in 'Forward with Faith' campaign

At the beginning of a new year, we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, when the Scriptures tell us that the infant Jesus was visited by the Magi, or wise men, from afar. It reveals the fact that the newborn Jesus has come to redeem the whole world and all its peoples.

In every generation, the Church has a mission to bring Christ to all by her witness of truth and love. Recently, our archdiocese celebrated 175 years of fulfilling this mission in Connecticut. This anniversary also presents us with the challenge of ensuring that the mission will continue on a solid foundation in the future.

Providing for the future of our mission is the goal of "Forward with Faith," the first archdiocesan-wide capital campaign in our 175-year history.

The campaign is being conducted by the recently formed Hartford Bishops' Foundation, with the goal of raising significant funds for parishes themselves, and for the foundation and its funding of grants, across the archdiocese, to promote more vibrant parish life, Catholic education and life-long learning, Catholic charities and future innovative projects for the good of the Church and the wider community.

The foundation benefits the

archdiocese and its parishes but has its own lay leadership and articles of incorporation. Chaired by Jim Smith, the chairman of Webster Bank, the foundation has a board of 48 directors who represent the archdiocese's various constituencies: parishes, parents, friends and business and community leaders. These directors are legally responsible for the appropriate management, stewardship, distribution and protection of all campaign funds.

The foundation board members, together with Archbishop Leonard P. Blair, are always open to questions, and are committed to transparency regarding the foundation and to reporting annually on funds received and disbursed. Parishioners also need to know that the foundation is dedicated to ensuring that all funds are used strictly for the purposes outlined in the campaign case statement and in accordance with donor intent.

To date, the foundation has

raised more than \$12 million, of which nearly \$3 million has come from nine "pilot parishes" whose pastors and lay leaders accepted the challenge of being among the first to embark upon "Forward with Faith." Almost \$10 million of that total has been contributed to the campaign from foundation board members and other individuals and organizations, including the Knights of Columbus, Aetna and Quinnipiac University. These organizations recognize that the campaign is about our Church's mission to the whole community, through education and charity for example, and not just about its own institutional needs.

At the parish level, more and more pastors and their local leadership will be involved with the campaign as it unfolds. And Archbishop Blair, together with the lay leadership of the Hartford Bishops' Foundation, will continue meeting with leading individuals, foundations and corporations across the state of Connecticut to secure support for "Forward with Faith."

Everyone is invited and encouraged to join in and be part of the future of our Catholic community in Connecticut. †



The Hartford Bishops' Foundation awarded the Office of Education, Evangelization, and Catechesis a grant of \$430,750 in October 2018. Details on the programs funded will be included in the *Hartford Bishops' Foundation 2019 Annual Report*.

**BY THE
HARTFORD
BISHOPS'
FOUNDATION**



TO LEARN MORE
VISIT THE FOUNDATION ONLINE AT
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Each year, parishes of the Archdiocese of Hartford are asked to host a representative from a Missionary Community.



These Missionary Communities provide us the opportunity to offer prayerful and financial support to some of the poorest people throughout the world. Through these Missionary Appeals, we attempt to alleviate human suffering, promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and offer encouragement to those missionaries who minister on our behalf.



In 2018, the Archdiocese of Hartford welcomed 25 Missionary Communities to speak in our parishes.

Together, we welcomed missionaries from around the globe, including representatives from India, Vietnam, Nigeria, Portugal, Africa, Asia, Russia, and the Philippines.

Collectively we contributed more than \$340,000 to help those who may otherwise be forgotten. Our donations directly assist missionary communities in their efforts in the following ways: evangelization, promotion and support of vocations, faith formation

and catechesis, and the building of churches, seminaries and schools, funding direct-service projects such as the building of clinics offering free medical care, hospitals, orphanages, and women's shelters, ensuring food, clean water, clothing, and housing are provided, as well as establishing programs that teach agricultural skills.



MARANATHA MISSIONS
– Sister Regina Mgbakor, who spoke at several parishes in the Archdiocese of Hartford this summer, is shown standing outside of Mary Gate of Heaven Parish in Windsor Locks. Maranatha Mission provides free medical care – restoring sight to the poorest of the poor, especially children in Nigeria.



The annual Mission Cooperative Appeal allows those who live and serve in missions around the world a chance to educate us and to help us to live out our baptismal call.

Thank you for your generosity!

The Catholic Mission Aid Office for the Archdiocese of Hartford

Reverend Robert B. Vargo
Archdiocesan Director
467 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield CT 06002
(860) 242-5573 x 7440

Father Michael Casey chats with students from nearby Central Connecticut State University on the steps of New Britain's St. Francis of Assisi Parish. Emily Newgard, coordinator of university outreach, far right, and Ivo Jáquez, plant operation manager, fourth from right, are assisting in the parish's transformation.

PHOTO BY ANDREW KEOGLER

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI, NEW BRITAIN:

TINY PARISH

» *transforms itself to serve* «

COLLEGE STUDENTS
AND YOUNG ADULTS

COVER STORY BY JACK SHEEDY



W

ith more than 11,000 students attending Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) in New Britain, Father

Michael Casey, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi, estimates there are some 2,000 self-identified Catholics right in his back yard.

He wants to reach out to them.

Since becoming both pastor of St. Francis and chaplain of Catholic campus ministry at CCSU's near-by campus, "Everything we've done for the parish has been for the university," Father Casey says. "We are, in an intentional way, reaching out to be available to our students."

The energetic priest, who at 31 may be the youngest pastor in the archdiocese, points out the window of his rectory at a building that until 2006 was St. Francis of Assisi School. He says, "If we can get some

financial support to change that school building — it's a closed school — it would be a wonderful spot [for] a campus ministry center, to have that whole space available to our students."

Father Casey, who arrived at St. Francis on Feb. 6, 2018, knows that converting the school building will be an ambitious project, costing perhaps \$1.5 million. But Father Casey, who also happens to be the vocations director for the archdiocese, has a vision.

"All the parish offices would be over there," he says. "There's a cafeteria and a full-sized gym on the second floor."

Clearly, he envisions it peopled with college-aged Catholics.

Rethinking Mass times

Meanwhile, Father Casey and his team have been focusing on other projects, all supporting a parish transformation geared toward attracting — and keeping — Catholic college students and other

young adults.

The tiny parish of 700 individuals and 349 households is experimenting, trying new things, to draw nearby young people to the Catholic Church and to the practice of the faith. The small size of the parish is proving to be an advantage.

“It allows for focus on university students,” he says.

It also makes for a nimble parish. Father Casey’s team has already made many changes at the church.

“We eliminated our Saturday vigil Mass,” he says, “and we instituted a Sunday evening Mass, so that it could be more accommodating to a university schedule.”

The Sunday evening Mass is at 5 p.m. and is followed by an all-new “St. Francis Café” coffee hour that has proven so popular that it is being extended to other Mass times and events.

“The creativity and flexibility of doing whatever is needed to preach the Gospel effectively are hallmarks of our mission here.”

— FATHER
MICHAEL CASEY

Though small in attendance by some standards, the unique Sunday evening Mass went from zero to nearly 100 attendees, which Father Casey believes is remarkable for a completely new Mass time.

Weekday Mass time has also changed, from 7 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Attendance has increased, he reports, from just 10 people in the early morning to between 20 and

40 at noon. The noon Mass is drawing parishioners, students and young adults who work nearby.

“We’re exploring,” the priest explains, about tinkering with the schedules. “We are really attempting to try whatever works for Mass times and parish ministries. If one thing doesn’t work, we’ll try another. The creativity and flexibility of doing whatever is needed to preach the Gospel effectively are hallmarks of our mission here.”

The parish also offers confessions from 11:30 a.m. to 12:05 p.m. Monday through Thursday, right before daily Masses. “So we have daily opportunities for confessions,” he adds.

The parish has restructured its office hours, too. “We’re now open on Sunday when people are in the building,” Father Casey says, making it more convenient for parishioners and students.

Making beautiful music

Sarah Rodeo, music director, joins the conversation. A Vassar graduate with a bachelor’s degree in music, she has been at St. Francis Parish since July 2018.

“We’ve revamped the liturgy and the music in a way that we really believe is reaching young adult Catholics



PHOTO BY ANDREW HECOLIER



PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH



PHOTO BY ANDREW KROGLER

BREAKING BREAD ON CAMPUS AT THE NEWMAN HOUSE

At a weekly dinner at the Newman House last fall, three college students — all officers of the Newman Club — talked about the merits of a shared meal with other young Catholics and the fellowship it fosters.

Brian Blake, of Middletown, is a fifth-year history education major and president of the Newman Club. “I always wanted to

be surrounded by people who were like me — Catholic,” he says. “A lot of my friends when I came to college were not, and I always felt very different because of that. I was the butt of many jokes. And I thought, ‘I want to be in a place where I won’t be attacked for this,’ so I came [to the Newman House].”

About the weekly dinners, he

says, “Sometimes we just hang out. We’ll sit here a half hour, 45 minutes, just talking, telling stories, hanging out.”

Trey Archambault, vice president of the Newman Club, says, “When I lived on campus, it was really nice to have a home-cooked meal once a week where I could just come and be around friends. When I started to live off-campus, finances started to be quite a bit more complicated. And so it was nice to come and have some food during the week and take all the leftovers home with me.

“It’s really nice to be a part of the community of people who care about each other,” he stresses. “We accept everybody who comes, and we’re happy to have people to be friends with.”

Kimtran Vo, of Middlefield, is a third-year student double-majoring in biology and chemistry. She is Newman Club treasurer. “I like that we can bring people together, no matter the religion,” she says, “and form a CCSU community and have a really nice relaxing dinner, just to talk with a variety of people.”

“We accept everybody who comes, and we’re happy to have people to be friends with.”

— TREY ARCHAMBAULT

— BY JACK SHEEDY



PHOTO BY ANTON JOSEPH



In honor of their patron saint, parishioners and students gather for a special evening Mass on Oct. 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Far left, Music Director Sarah Rodeo leads the congregation in song in many different sacred music genres.

right now,” she says. “We get to draw from a variety of sacred music genres: Gregorian chant, polyphony, four-part hymnody and tons of chant in English.”

Father Casey interjects, “We have music at all of our Masses, not just Sunday. Sarah plays [the organ] and sings for all our daily Masses and for our Sunday Masses.”

Sunday Mass times are 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

To facilitate greater participation in singing, Sarah offers music education every Tuesday night 7-8 p.m. for anyone who wants to learn more. “Numerous CCSU young adults come to Mass and sing from the pews,” she says.

Asked what she thinks is the most exciting change in the parish's music liturgy, she says, "I think it is being able to have congregational singing, and to have music that is accessible but high quality and beautiful, theologically rich and doctrinally correct, and full of texts that really feed us."

Offering inviting upgrades

The parish has focused on making the church building more warm and welcoming.

In the church next door, originally dedicated in 1957, Father Casey shows off a statue of St. Joseph that he recently had restored. Other statues, he says, will be restored also. Next to the statues, all of the votive candles are new.

In the rear of the brightly lit church is a new confessional. "This used to be an empty box. It was a frame, and it was all empty inside. So now we have a nice working confessional. We have green lights above that are welcoming. And then when someone goes in and kneels down, it changes from green to red," he explains.

The confessional was built by Sullivan Brothers LLC of Wolcott.

The wood floor in the sanctuary is a new addition, he says. Other new touches include the original tabernacle that had been stored in a closet, new candlesticks, a new cross for the altar and adjusted kneelers that allow more space in the pews.

Creating a bridge to adulthood

Father Casey leads the way on foot to the Newman House on the edge of the sprawling CCSU campus, where he introduces Emily Newgard, coordinator of university outreach.

Her role is to bridge the gap between the priest and the parish and all of the college students at the university. Emily also coordinates the new website, stfranciscatholic.org, an umbrella organization that encompasses St. Francis Parish, campus ministry and other young adult ministries.

"This generation [of students] is the future of our Church," she stresses.

However, when young people enter college, she explains, they often lose their Catholic identities.



On the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, families and students dine together at a parish fundraiser, sharing in parish life. Emily Newgard (top photo), the campus minister, addresses the group. Students sell sweatshirts to support stfranciscatholic.org, an umbrella organization that includes St. Francis of Assisi Parish, the Catholic campus ministry at CCSU and the Greater Hartford chapter of Crossroads 4 Christ young adult ministry.

PHOTOS BY AARON JOSEPH



**FOR MORE INFORMATION
ON ST. FRANCIS PARISH, THE CAMPUS MINISTRY
AND THE YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY,
VISIT WWW.STFRANCISCATHOLIC.ORG.**

“The vision, the master plan, is to win people for Jesus Christ. And so whatever is going to help that, we do.”

— FATHER
MICHAEL CASEY

“And, really, this is where someone’s identity should be found, in college. I think we as a Church really need to invest in creating an opportunity [whereby] students can really flourish in their identities as Catholics.”

Since his arrival, Father Casey has re-opened the worship space at the Newman House at CCSU to provide the students who visit with a quiet place to pray. Of course, they are welcome at St. Francis of Assisi, too.

This January, he launched “#Adulting: A series on how to adult” — life skill workshops at the center for students on topics such as study habits, time management and managing stress.

Weekly dinners at the Newman House are also a draw, bringing in at least 20 students each week. Previously held on Thursdays, the dinners were switched in January to Tuesdays at 7 p.m., offering an opportunity for Catholic conversation and fellowship. (See sidebar on page 15.)

“Gradually, we’ll build it up,” Father Casey says, “and they can invite their friends. It’s just meant to be a drop-in dinner, comfortable, relatively casual.”

Parishioners join in

Many at St. Francis of Assisi have embraced the changes.

Parishioner Donna Domizio says when she learned that Father Casey was transforming the parish, she wanted to get involved. Among other activities, she helps prepare the weekly dinners.

“I’m just so excited,” she says. “The music is what [parishioners and students] all love. And I think the one thing that is so positive is that Father consecrated the church to the Blessed Virgin Mother.”

Ivo Jáquez, of Hartford, is plant operation manager for the parish, maintaining and repairing church structures, including the Newman House. “It’s not work,” he says, because transforming the parish is an integrated effort by many people. “As a team, we might make possible that everything runs smoothly,” he says.

Father Casey adds, “The vision, the master plan, is to win people for Jesus Christ. And so whatever is going to help that, we do.”

Father Casey says he has great hopes for the Catholic Church because the young people have hope.

“Our young adults have hope, even in the midst of everything happening in the Church,” he says, referring to the clergy sex abuse crisis. “They say they’re not going to let that deter them. It doesn’t change that Jesus is God and he offers salvation.” †

FEEDING THE SPIRIT OF WORKING YOUNG ADULTS



Once these CCSU students graduate, they can join Crossroads 4 Christ for working young adults and stay tethered to the parish.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish is now also serving young professionals who live and work in the greater Hartford area.

A group of young adults who were traveling from Hartford to Columbia for a young adult ministry there asked Father Casey to create one at his parish in New Britain.

So the young priest established the Greater Hartford chapter of Crossroads 4 Christ last year, shortly after his arrival.

Today, approximately 40 young adults in their 20s and 30s gather each Wednesday at 8 p.m. at the church for an hour of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The time of prayer is followed by a “St. Francis Café” coffee hour.

All prayerful young adults are welcome.

— BY SHELLEY WOLF

Archdiocese looks to the future at 175TH ANNIVERSARY MASS

STORY BY
MARY CHALUPSKY

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
AARON JOSEPH

To celebrate the historic milestone of its 175th anniversary, a Mass of Thanksgiving was held before a jubilant gathering of the faithful at the Cathedral of St. Joseph on Nov. 28 — the date in 1843 when Pope Gregory XVI named Hartford, along with Chicago and Milwaukee, as one of three new dioceses in the United States.

“We are gathered here joyfully to give thanks to God for the past, and we dedicate ourselves to a more vibrant future for our Church,” said Archbishop Leonard P. Blair in his opening words of welcome to the large gathering of priests, deacons, seminarians, men and women religious, students and archdiocesan staff, as well as representatives from parishes, schools and Catholic hospitals.

The Mass launched the celebration of the 175th anniversary year that will conclude at the end of the 2018 school year, according to Monsignor Thomas A. Ginty, rector of the Cathedral of St. Joseph and chairman of the Anniversary Committee.

“It’s just a wonderful day for the archdiocese ... 175 years of providing education, service to the poor and so much more,” said Monsignor Ginty. “I’m just thrilled we can be here to celebrate it.”

The original territory of the Diocese of Hartford was a part of the Diocese of Boston (erected in 1808), and included Connecticut and Rhode Island. It became an archdiocese in 1953, when the dioceses of Norwich and Bridgeport were named.

In a touching testimony to the archdiocesan family of faith, Monsignor Ginty read the names of 128 parishes in the archdiocese as two representatives from each parish processed forward to be greeted by Archbishop Blair and presented with an image of the coat of arms of the archdiocese for them to take back to their parishes.

Parish representatives were also asked to bring two packets of historical information from their parish, one of which will be placed in the archdiocesan archives, said Bridgette Woodall, archdiocesan archivist. She explained that other memorabilia will be placed at a later date in a time capsule and buried on the cathedral property.

“It’s a great idea to have all the parishes share their historical information,” said Kay Taylor-Brooks of St. Justin-St. Michael Parish in Hartford. “I’m so excited.”

Archbishop Blair concelebrated the Mass with



Archbishop Emeritus Daniel A. Cronin, Archbishop Emeritus Henry J. Mansell, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus Peter A. Rosazza, Auxiliary Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt, SEMV, and Father Steven C. Boguslawski, OP, vicar general and moderator of the curia.

“It’s a wonderful day for us to come together as one family of faith in the archdiocese to celebrate our ancestors and what they built and established, and to pray for God’s continued blessings upon us as we move forward to proclaim the Gospel,” said Father Jeffrey V. Romans, pastor of St. Bridget of Sweden Parish in Cheshire and secretary for the archdiocesan synod.

At the conclusion of the Mass, Archbishop Blair led the 130 priests in attendance in a renewal of commitment to their priestly service.

The music was the special highlight of the Mass. Dr. Ezequiel Menéndez (in photo above), director of music for the cathedral, directed a choir comprised of members of the Cathedral Cantorum, with the Cathedral Brass Quintet, and choir members of the Archdiocese of Hartford Catholic high schools: East Catholic High School, Northwest Catholic High School, Sacred Heart Catholic High School and St. Paul Catholic High School.

Another special grace for those in attendance was the opportunity to venerate the uncorrupted heart of St. John Vianney (photo at right) in the cathedral’s Blessed Sacrament side chapel. The relic of the saint, who is known as the patron of priests, was made possible by the Knights of Columbus. †





“We dedicate ourselves to a more vibrant future for our Church.”

— ARCHBISHOP LEONARD P. BLAIR





JOHN J. AND MARGARET
CLARK

BE THOU AN EXAMPLE TO THE
FAITHFUL IN SPEECH, IN CONDUCT,
IN CHARITY

PHOTO BY AARON COOPER

Archdiocese of Hartford continues to address clergy sex abuse crisis

HOW COULD THIS HAVE HAPPENED?

Over the course of the last six months, the Catholic Church has been in the news for sex abuse scandals that have shaken many of the faithful and have resulted in an increased scrutiny of how allegations of abuse are handled. Both the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and the Vatican have responded, as have many bishops throughout the United States, including Archbishop Leonard P. Blair here in the Archdiocese of Hartford.

What happened?

■ ARCHBISHOP THEODORE MCCARRICK

On June 20, 2018, Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of the Archdiocese of New York announced that then-Cardinal McCarrick had been removed from ministry at the direction of the Vatican after an investigation by the Archdiocese of New York found credible a charge that he sexually abused a teenager. On the same day, Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, the archbishop of Newark, issued a statement that the Archdiocese of Newark and the Diocese of Metuchen “received three allegations of sexual misconduct with adults decades ago” about McCarrick and that two of those resulted in settlements.

On July 19, 2018, the *New York Times* ran a story about a man who alleges that McCarrick sexually abused him for nearly 20 years, starting when the victim was 11. On July 28, 2018, Pope Francis accepted Cardinal McCarrick’s resignation from the College of Cardinals and suspended him from public ministry. He is now to be known as Archbishop McCarrick and is to spend his life in prayer and penance until the results of a canonical trial.

■ PENNSYLVANIA GRAND JURY REPORT: SIX DIOCESES

On Aug. 14, 2018, a grand jury in Pennsylvania released a report about its investigation of allegations of sexual abuse of children occurring in all Pennsylvania dioceses except Philadelphia and Altoona-Johnstown, which had had earlier individual grand jury investigations.

The grand jury looked at cases of more than 300 priests who were credibly accused of sexually abusing minors since 1947. Disturbing information was disclosed about the abuse, as well as the actions of some bishops to transfer abusive priests to other parishes after accusations.

Most recent responses from the Archdiocese of Hartford

After these events unfolded, Archbishop Blair responded to this crisis by reaching out to local Catholics in a variety of ways. In this special report, the Archdiocese of Hartford continues to do so.

The Church has been infiltrated by evil. Men in positions of authority meant to shepherd Christ’s flock have preyed upon the weak and innocent. The pain has deeply wounded the heart of the Church, and the Catholic Church will carry the injury forever.

To victims and survivors of abuse, this is not in the past. It is something they live with every day. One can never apologize enough for these sins and crimes. These were acts of pure evil. To anyone who has suffered abuse, we offer you our deepest apologies. This should not have happened to you, certainly not from anyone from our Church. Your Catholic brothers and sisters are heartbroken that you were abused by someone you should have been able to trust. We all are sorry, and we grieve with you. We all pray that God will bring you healing and that you may find the peace of Christ.

This report in *Catholic Transcript* allows the archdiocese to address again the reality that the

How to report an incident of sexual abuse to the Archdiocese of Hartford and civil authorities

If you have knowledge or suspect that a minor or vulnerable adult (an adult with an intellectual disability) has been sexually abused, in any manner, by personnel of the Archdiocese of Hartford, you are urged to report this information to:

➔ **Kathleen D. Nowosadko**
Victim Assistance Coordinator
860.541.6475
kathleen.nowosadko@aohct.org

You will be asked to follow up in writing with a detailed description of the facts involved in the incident. Specifics of this written report can be found in the “Policies and Procedures of the Archdiocese of Hartford Relating to Allegations of Sexual Misconduct Involving Minors and Vulnerable Adults.” This document is also available online at www.archdioceseofhartford.org. Once a written report of an incident of sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult has been received, an investigation will be undertaken by, or on behalf of, the Archdiocese of Hartford.

Such incidents should be reported to the proper civil/legal authorities as well. We strongly support your right to do so.

➔ **Incidents involving sexual abuse of minors (persons under the age of 18) should be reported to:**

State Department of Children and Families Care-line
 1.800.842.2288

➔ **Incidents involving sexual abuse of vulnerable adults aged 18–59 should be reported to:**

Connecticut Department of Developmental Services — AID Division for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities
 1.844.878.8923

➔ **Incidents involving sexual abuse of vulnerable adults aged 60 and over should be reported to:**

Department of Social Services for the Elderly
 1.888.385.4225

“
**Looking
 back to the
 past, no
 effort to
 beg pardon
 and to seek
 to repair
 the harm
 done will
 ever be
 sufficient.**
 ”

— POPE
 FRANCIS

bishops have failed. It is an outrage for anyone, especially a bishop, to hide a crime and cover up an injustice. Bishops who did this need to be held accountable. They add injury to victims and they harm the very priesthood that their office fulfills. To the dedicated clergy members who serve so well, but who are unfairly cast under a cloud of suspicion by these sins, the archdiocese also apologizes to you. Our priests and deacons offer their lives as witnesses to the love of Christ. Bishops who did not hold the predators accountable hurt the entire clergy.

Most of us thought this question was addressed in 2002, when the *Boston Globe's* groundbreaking reporting led to the first widespread acknowledgment that the Catholic Church had downplayed and hidden the criminal activity of clergy for decades.

And to a large extent, it has been.

The *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, a comprehensive set of procedures regarding sexual abuse established by the American bishops in June 2002, was an important and ambitious response. Most of the abuse detailed in the current grand jury report refers to events that occurred prior to the 2002 charter.

Being aware the Church has a sad history of deliberately hidden child abuse is a burden we've all struggled to bear. But reading the horrifying details of what innocent children and young people went through has broken our hearts.

As Archbishop Blair discussed in his Dec. 8, 2018, letter, it is very important to repeat that when it comes to priests, deacons and any other person working in the archdiocese, there have been strict and comprehensive policies and procedures of accountability in place since 2002. There are no clergy ministering in the archdiocese against whom there has been a credible accusation of abuse of a minor.

The recent information of bishops covering up or ignoring abuse of children has been equally horrifying and enraging. Archbishop Blair remains convinced that allegations of misconduct by bishops ought to be handled by a review board similar to what is already in place for priests, that is to say, a review board principally composed of lay people who have the expertise to properly assess and make a determination about the credibility of such accusations.

In his letter of Dec. 8, Archbishop Blair announced that, having heard in Baltimore the recommendations of the U.S. Bishops' National Review Board, **“In January, the Archdiocese of Hartford would publish the names of archdiocesan clergy who have been the object of lawsuits and legal settlements, or otherwise credibly accused, and the names of religious order priests and priests from other dioceses who have been credibly accused of an offense that took place in the archdiocese.”**

The names can be found on the archdiocesan website archdioceseofhartford.org on its **Promise to Protect page**.

Visit: promise.archdioceseofhartford.org.

This site will be continually updated as new information becomes available.

Archbishop Blair continued, “**The archdiocese has also contracted for a further independent review of all our clergy files** to identify any additional names from the present going back to 1953, the year in which the Archdiocese of Hartford as such was established. The publication of names will be updated as any new information becomes available.

“Finally, the archdiocese is publishing the financial outlay that has been made as a result of the abuse of minors by clergy and the sources of these funds.”

Financial information is also available on the archdiocesan website archdioceseofhartford.org.

Visit: promise.archdioceseofhartford.org.

This information will be continually updated as well.

Nothing that we do now can erase the evil that came before. As we are now wiser and more aware, we can only ensure no children will ever be harmed in the same way. We are watchful and careful of all Christ’s flock and hope our petitions to God and Christ’s love will slowly heal the wounds inflicted upon his bride, the Church.

The Archdiocese of Hartford, which was established as such in 1953, is committed to protecting the safety of minors and vulnerable adults, as well as to compliance with the 2002 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* and the *Essential Norms*, which are binding church law in the United States.

Since 2002, when the *Charter* and *Essential Norms* were implemented, there has been a zero-tolerance policy in effect whereby, when even a single sexual abuse act perpetrated upon a minor by a priest or deacon is admitted, or is established after an appropriate investigation/process, the offending priest or deacon is removed permanently from ecclesiastical ministry, not excluding dismissal from the clerical state. These definitive actions can only be taken by, or with the authorization, of the Holy See at the Vatican.

In the interest of greater transparency, accountability and restoring the trust of the Catholic people and the general public, and in the hope of continued

healing for the victims/survivors of abuse, as promised by Archbishop Leonard P. Blair in December, the Archdiocese of Hartford hereby recognizes those Archdiocese of Hartford priests and transitional deacons who have either had a credible allegation of sexual abuse of a minor asserted against them or have been the subject of a settlement of an abuse claim, as well as reporting financial information relating to the archdiocese’s settlement of abuse claims.

As Archbishop Leonard Blair reported in an earlier letter in September that was also published in the *Hartford Courant*, the *New Haven Register* and the *Waterbury Republican American*, and distributed to parishioners throughout the archdiocese, there have been two claims of sexual abuse of minors by priests of the Archdiocese of Hartford occurring during the past 20 years, and **there are no Archdiocese of Hartford clerics in ministry who have had a credible allegation of sexual abuse of a minor made against them.**

In large part, this is the result of the zero-tolerance policy that has been in effect since 2002; the reporting of all allegations received (whether credible or not) to the state Department of Children and Families; and the other extensive reforms implemented by the Archdiocese of Hartford since 2002, including but not limited to updates of its policy on sexual abuse matters, mandating background checks of all of its personnel who encounter minors in their ministries (clergy and lay employees and volunteers) and the extensive Safe Environment programs that have educated many thousands of adults and children about sexual abuse issues such as how to recognize grooming, how to respond to and report any manner of sexual abuse or exploitation, etc.

The protection of children and vulnerable adults is the highest priority of the Archdiocese of Hartford. †



➔ **Next steps**

Pope Francis has called a meeting at the Vatican in February on “The protection of minors in the Church.” He has asked the presidents of the world’s bishops’ conferences, including Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, to attend. Participants have also been asked to meet with survivors of clergy sex abuse in their respective countries prior to the gathering to bring firsthand knowledge of the suffering victims have endured. The meeting, scheduled for Feb. 21-24, will focus on the themes of responsibility, accountability and transparency.

“I have no illusions about the degree to which trust in the bishops has been damaged by these past sins and failures. It will take work to rebuild that trust.”

— CARDINAL DANIEL
DINARDO, PRESIDENT,
USCCB

➔ Masses of Reparation

Sun., Jan. 27, 2 p.m.

St. Bartholomew Church
(St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish)
736 Middle Turnpike East
Manchester

Sat., Feb. 16, 11 a.m.

St. George Church,
33 Whitfield St.
Guilford

Tue., March 26, 7 p.m.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church
(Our Lady of Hope Parish)
78 Litchfield Rd.
Harwinton

“

In reparation ...

Recently I was watching a news segment on national television in which a victim of clergy sexual abuse said that she was not moved by the “Masses of Reparation” being offered in various dioceses. I took this comment sadly to heart, inasmuch as I will be presiding at three such Masses in our archdiocese in the coming weeks.

It is certainly true that offering a Mass is not in and of itself sufficient to address the grievous suffering and betrayal experienced by victims. Our archdiocese is committed to doing everything humanly possible to heal their wounds. That includes efforts like public acknowledgment and apology; counseling and support groups; and a renewed invitation on my part to meet personally with victims.

For a person of faith, however, there can be no doubt that evil and sin also call for remedies that are profoundly spiritual. In ordinary speech, “reparation” simply means making amends to another person or persons for an offense or injustice committed against them. Inasmuch as an offense or injustice is sinful, it also demands that reparation be made to God. Sexual abuse is a sin against a person created in the image and likeness of God and redeemed by the sacrificial death of Christ on the cross. It is a sin against another person and a sin against God. Spiritual reparation and healing need to be made.

I am reminded of the prayer revealed to the children at Fatima by an angel: “My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love you. I ask forgiveness for those who do not believe, nor adore nor hope nor love you. Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore you profoundly, and I offer you the most precious body, blood, soul and divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for all the outrages, sacrileges and indifferences by which He is offended. By the infinite merits of His Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg the conversion of poor sinners.”

What greater “outrage, sacrilege and indifference” can be hurled at Christ, what greater betrayal, than that one of his priests should sexually violate a child or vulnerable adult? So, it is on my knees as a bishop, and on their knees as priests, that we the clergy of this archdiocese offer Masses of Reparation for the crime and sin of sexual abuse.

I invite everyone to participate in the Masses of Reparation that will be offered because the whole body of Christ is suffering, and the prayers of all God’s people are vital. Each Mass will be accompanied by an hour of eucharistic adoration and the recitation of the Rosary.

— ARCHBISHOP LEONARD P. BLAIR

”



FAQs

WHAT KIND OF BACKGROUND CHECKS ARE BEING CONDUCTED IN THE AOH?

The Archdiocese of Hartford completes two different types of background checks. Fingerprint background checks are completed on all employees of our Catholic schools. Fingerprints are scanned and sent electronically, along with specific, required personal information, to the state of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services (CT-DESPP) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). All other background checks are completed by Mind Your Business, Inc. These checks are processed on the personal information supplied by the applicant — name, address, date of birth, and Social Security number.

WHAT DIOCESAN EMPLOYEES ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE BACKGROUND CHECKS?

All employees, including clergy of the archdiocese, its parishes, schools, offices and agencies and any volunteer in a leadership role or who has contact with a minor or vulnerable adult through his or her ministry.

WHAT SEXUAL ABUSE AWARENESS TRAINING IS REQUIRED OF ADULTS IN THE DIOCESE?

A three-hour mandatory session is conducted by an employee of the Office of Safe Environment or an approved trained facilitator. The archdiocese currently uses the Virtus “Protecting God’s Children for Adults” program.

WHAT SEXUAL ABUSE AWARENESS TRAINING IS REQUIRED BY MINORS IN THE DIOCESE?

Any student enrolled in a religious education program at a parish in grades 1-10, and any student enrolled in a Catholic school grades 1-12, have the opportunity to attend a Child Sexual Abuse Awareness program as designated by the Office of Safe Environment. This program is offered to all students, every school year, in every grade. Presently, we are using “Think First & Stay Safe: Child/Teen Lures Prevention.”

Opt-out forms are available for parents or guardians who choose not to allow their student to attend these programs. Should a parent or guardian make a verbal request to “opt out” but fail or refuse to sign the form, a signature from the DRE/CRE, principal or the pastor will be accepted as proof of the opt-out.

WHO IS ON THE ARCHDIOCESAN REVIEW BOARD?

Present members include:

- A former attorney who worked in the Superior Court for Juvenile Matters having represented children victimized by sexual assault in Superior Court;
- A religious sister with extensive ministry, educational and professional experience;
- A board-certified psychiatrist who remains in private practice;
- A priest of the archdiocese who is pastor of a large parish with a school;
- A medical doctor in private practice of family medicine;
- Along with *Ex officio* members who are present — promoter of justice, moderator of the curia/vicar general, legal counsel, victim assistance coordinator.

IS THE ARCHDIOCESAN REVIEW BOARD APPOINTED BY THE ARCHBISHOP?

Yes, members of the Review Board are appointed by the archbishop.

HAS THE ARCHBISHOP EVER DECLINED TO FOLLOW THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE REVIEW BOARD?

No.

WHAT PASTORAL CARE AND OUTREACH IS OFFERED TO VICTIMS/SURVIVORS AND THEIR FAMILIES?

The archdiocese employs a victim assistance coordinator, who provides pastoral care, support and resources to victims/survivors of sexual misconduct by personnel of the Archdiocese of Hartford. All victims/survivors are offered the opportunity, if they so choose, to meet with Archbishop Blair. Counseling and therapy — both psychological and spiritual — opportunity for prayer, and Masses for Healing are offered.



RUNNING *prayer*

became a runner in July 2018. I had just returned home from a week in Cape Cod with my family. I was reflecting on all of the food and drink indulgences that come with a hard-earned summer vacation at the beach.

I had thought about running that first mile for days, maybe even weeks, before I actually laced up my sneakers and stepped out my front door. Before that day in July, I would guess that my last mile attempt was the physical fitness assessment when I was in middle school.

Before July, I firmly believed that the only reason to run is if I was being chased by something ferocious, something too dangerous to wrestle into submission. Complicating my feelings about running is the fact that I live at the bottom of a hill. When you walk out my front door, if you turn in one direction, it is a short distance to a very busy street. If you turn in the other direction, it is a climb to the top of the hill and down the other side into a sprawling neighborhood.

That first mile was brutal. It was nothing more than up the hill, down the other side, a short distance to a cross street and back to my house. However, I was committed. I had put myself out there to achieve this modest goal, no matter the effort, and I was going to stick with it. It felt like a great accomplishment when it was over.

A few days later, I ran another mile. I started to go greater distances, some walking and some running. After a few weeks, I could run two miles nonstop, then three, then four. In September, I ran my first 5K (3.2 miles). Since then, I generally run upwards of 20 miles

per week. I am registered to run my first half marathon in April.

In my short and enjoyable tenure as a runner, I have come to learn that it is as much a mental feat as it is physical. After that first mile, I gained the confidence that I could accomplish the physical aspect. The trickier part for me has been the drive to get up and out on that run (especially since I run at around 5 a.m., so I can return home before my kids are up).

When times have been tough on the running trail, I have turned to a kind of meditative running prayer. I think of St. Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians (5:16-18), which says, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." *Pray without ceasing* we're commanded by the Lord.

My running prayer is the Jesus prayer. "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner."

It becomes engrained in my cadence, tied into my breathing, completely enmeshed with my run: left foot, inhale, *Lord Jesus Christ*, right foot, exhale, *Son of God*, left foot, inhale, *have mercy on me*, right foot, exhale, *a sinner*. And so I go for mile after mile, through neighborhoods, wooded trails, busy streets and quiet pastures,

pushing my body forward and spreading my prayers throughout town.

I never thought that I would enjoy being a runner, but I do. I'm not fast, but I am determined. If you're looking for a resolution for this year and every year, don't worry; I'm not going to suggest that you become a runner. Instead, I would recommend that you *pray without ceasing*.

Prayer is not something that has to be done on your knees on the side of your bed at the end of the day. Consider how you can incorporate prayer into your daily routines. How you can integrate the Jesus Prayer into your daily driving, dish washing, or exercising.

Here is a good start, especially for my fellow millennials among you: Each time you send a text message, Facebook message, tweet, snap or any other social media communication, send a Jesus prayer up to God as well. For many of us, I'm sure that alone could amount to an unceasing prayer! †



CODY GUARNIERI
is a criminal defense lawyer with a Hartford law firm and is a member of St. Patrick–St. Anthony Parish in Hartford.





↑
 Archbishop Leonard P. Blair addresses students at St. Mary's School in Simsbury on Dec. 6, acknowledging their accomplishment as one of only five schools in the state to receive the 2018 Blue Ribbon Award from the U.S. Department of Education. Recognition is based on a school's overall academic performance or progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. Principal Margaret Williamson and students look on.

→
 Father Matthew Dougherty, O.Praem, left, a Norbertine priest and doctoral student in ecology and evolutionary biology at Yale, officiates at the first archdiocesan Gold Mass for Scientists celebrated Nov. 15 at Yale University's St. Thomas More Chapel in New Haven. He is joined by fellow scientists Albert Tamarro, center, and Todd Ahern.



PHOTO BY MARY CHALUPSKY

↑
 Flanked by Deacon Stephen Beecher, left, and Father M. David Dawson, right, Archbishop Leonard P. Blair celebrates Mass on Nov. 4 for parishioners of St. Martin of Tours Parish at Immaculate Conception Church in Norfolk. Altar servers Nicholas and Matthew Grinvalski assist. The parish has churches in Canaan, Norfolk and Lakeville.



↑
 Opera singers, guest tenor Daniel Juarez and soprano Rochelle Bard, perform at St. Timothy Church in West Hartford on Oct. 28 as part of the parish's 60th anniversary celebration. The Sunday morning Mass offered by Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus Peter A. Rosazza was followed by a concert. Together, parishioners celebrated "60 years of faith, thanks and service."



↑
Members of the Brotherhood and Sisterhood of Our Lady of the Rosary of Ocross, Peru, founded in 1932, who are also members of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Hartford, process into the Cathedral of St. Joseph on Nov. 17. They are participating in the Mass for Our Lady, Mother of Divine Providence.

PHOTO SUBMITTED



←
Veterans from St. Louis de Montfort Parish gather for a special Mass and breakfast on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, at St. Thomas of Villanova Church in Goshen. Drawn from churches in Litchfield, Goshen and Bantam, the men represented the U.S. Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps and Navy.

↑
From left to right, Sheri Dursin, Kelli Henderschedt and their mother, Judy LaCava, head off to lunch during the Archdiocese of Hartford's Women's Conference on Nov. 3 at the Hartford Marriott Farmington in Farmington. The women were treated to a day of dynamic speakers, peaceful prayer activities and fellowship. Dursin gave a presentation on recognizing the sacred in our everyday lives.



PHOTO BY TOM DZIMIAN

←
On Dec. 12, Most Holy Trinity Parish in Wallingford hosted a large Guadalupe celebration, which included recitation of the rosary, a Mass in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe and a reception. Here, Father Andrés Mendoza, pastor, blesses all the children.

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PHOTO SUBMITTED

Coming to a parish near you: CRS Parish Ambassador Corps

The Archdiocese of Hartford's Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry (OCSJM), in partnership with Catholic Relief Services (CRS), has commissioned 22 "parish ambassadors." They are part of the Parish Ambassador Corps, a nationwide community of Catholics who educate and mobilize their parish communities to get involved in global solidarity initiatives.

"We are blessed to have the commitment of these individuals to help their fellow parishioners put their faith into action," said Lynn Campbell, OCSJM executive director.

At a training session last fall, the ambassadors began initial plans of integrating global solidarity activities into existing parish events such as Lenten suppers, holiday craft sales and confirmation programs. The initiative is designed to help OCSJM in its mission of preparing and educating parishes for the work of social justice.

According to Campbell, just a few of the projects developed by the parish ambassadors so far include an "Advent Prayer Walk" at St. John Fisher, a 5K race to raise funds for CRS at Junipero Serra and a "Share the Journey Pilgrimage" at St. Thomas the Apostle.

Other ambassadors have plans to host Fair Trade sales, offer simple suppers and Stations of the Cross during Lent and extend CRS Rice Bowl efforts to all parish families.

The following individuals were commissioned for service in their parishes: Shirley Cooper and Tina Parchin of Sacred Heart, Bloomfield; Siobhan Peng and Barbara Meyer of St. John Fisher, Marlborough; Fracklin Policard of Our Lady Queen of Angels, Meriden; Cathy Elia and Brenda Lazar of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Hamden; Sister Karen Skurat, ASCJ and Anna Weitler of Holy Rosary,

Ansonia; and Catherine Gonzalez and Anne Marie Gonzales of Church of the Assumption, Ansonia.

Also, Elizabeth Medeiros of St. Junipero Serra, South Windsor; Caroline Buckley of St. Thomas the Apostle, West Hartford; Mary Jane Densmore and Nancy Kiely of Christ the King, Wethersfield; Oscar Cirio and Griselle Cirio of Christ the Bread of Life, Hamden; Mary Lou Connors of Church of St. Ann, Avon; and Claire Nicholls, Cindy Wallace, Andrea Ring and Allie Stankewich of St. George, Guilford.

For more information on the Catholic Relief Services Parish Ambassador Corps and how you can get involved, contact Patrick Laorden at patrick.laorden@aohct.org or call 860.242.5573.

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CCUSA PHOTO BY LAURA SIKES

May they rest in peace ...

■ **FATHER ROBERT T. RUSSO**, 91, died on Oct. 28, 2018, at St. Francis Hospital.

He was born in Hartford on Oct. 4, 1927. He graduated from Bulkeley High School in Hartford; Hartt School of Music, West Hartford; and The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., where he also studied philosophy in preparation for seminary. He studied theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, Italy, and was ordained a priest by Cardinal Louis Treglia on June 29, 1961, in Rome.

Father Russo served for many years with the Congregation of the Holy Spirit. His priestly assignments in the Hartford area included temporary assistant pastor at St. Isaac Jogues in East Hartford and co-pastor at St. Bridget in Manchester. In 1988, he was incardinated into the Archdiocese of Hartford. He served as pastor of St. Philip Church at Warehouse Point, East Windsor from 1990 until his retirement in 1999.

He resided in the Archbishop Cronin Residence at the Pastoral Center in Bloomfield, where he lived with several of his brother priests. In January of 2012, he was appointed director of the Mission Office for the Archdiocese of Hartford.

Father Russo was an energetic senior priest who kept a very busy ministry and social schedule, and was a regular daily and weekend Mass celebrant at many parishes. Even in his retirement, he served as temporary administrator at St. Philip in East Windsor and St. Catherine of Siena in Broad Brook.

Father Russo also served in Korea in the U.S. Army, receiving a Good Conduct Medal, a Bronze Star and a Medal of Appreciation from the South Korean government. He had a passion for tennis, music, singing (especially opera and Neapolitan songs), and was an accomplished pianist and composer.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Gabriel Church, Windsor. Burial was in Rose Hill Memorial Park, Rocky Hill.

■ **SISTER LUCY SCATA** (Sister Mary Paulita), a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph in West Hartford, died on Nov. 4, 2018. Sister Lucy was 86 and in her 67th year of religious life.

Born in Waterbury on Nov. 20, 1931, Sister Lucy entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1951 and celebrated her profession of vows on Aug. 24, 1957.

She earned a bachelor's degree in education from Diocesan Sisters College, West Hartford; a master's degree in Spanish from Assumption College in Worcester, Mass.; and a Sixth Year Certificate in elementary administration/supervision from Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven.

For 19 years, Sister Lucy taught in the elementary schools of the Archdiocese of Hartford. In 1974, she assumed the position of principal of St. Francis Xavier School in Waterbury, where she served for 21 years. In 1997, she was named to the St. Francis Xavier School Hall of Fame.

She later became director of religious education at St. Bridget Parish in Cheshire for 19 years, and also supervised junior and senior peer student teachers, fostering their teaching skills. On retirement, she chose to live in Cheshire and Waterbury, among the people who had been her family for many years.

A prayer service was held Nov. 10 at the Sisters of St. Joseph Sedgwick Cedars Residence in West Hartford, followed by a funeral Mass in Sedgwick Cedars Chapel. She was buried at Sisters of St. Joseph Cemetery in West Hartford.

■ **SISTER EUGENIA SORTINO**, Apostle of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, died peacefully on Oct. 14, 2018, at Sacred Heart Manor in Hamden. She was 93 years old and professed 68 years in religious life.

Sister Eugenia was born in New York City on May 28, 1925. She attended St. Joseph Elementary School and Cathedral High School in New York and entered the Apostles of the Sacred Heart

of Jesus in 1947 at Sacred Heart Provincialate in New Haven. She professed first vows on Aug. 22, 1950, and perpetual vows on Aug. 25, 1954, in Hamden.

She earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Fordham University in New York, and a master's degree in education from St. Louis University in St. Louis, Mo. In her 68 years as a vowed Apostle of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, she served as religious superior, teacher, administrator and pastoral minister at St. Michael School in New Haven, as well as at St. Ann and Blessed Sacrament parishes in Hamden. She also taught at elementary schools in New York, Pennsylvania and Illinois, and as a math teacher at Cor Jesu Academy in St. Louis.

A funeral was celebrated on Oct. 17 at Sacred Heart Manor Chapel, followed by burial at All Saints Cemetery, North Haven.

■ **DEACON HOBART T. "HOBIE" STADTLANDER**, 93, of Enfield, loving husband of 64 years to the late Margaret (Landau) Stadtklander, died Sept. 21, 2018, at St. Joseph's Residence in Enfield.

Deacon Hobie was born May 21, 1925, in Brooklyn, N.Y. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, and was employed with H&B Tool in South Windsor as a tool and die maker for many years, retiring in 1990.

He was ordained a deacon in 1988 and served at St. Bernard Church in Enfield for many years. He was an active communicant of St. Bernard and an active member of the Enfield community since 1958. He loved serving others and preaching the word of God. He was involved in Boy Scouts for more than 15 years and was the founding Scoutmaster of Troop 384.

Deacon Hobie is survived by a son, Kenneth Stadtklander, and his wife, Pauline; three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, all of Chicopee, Mass.; and a niece. In addition to his wife, he was also predeceased by a son, Ted Stadtklander.



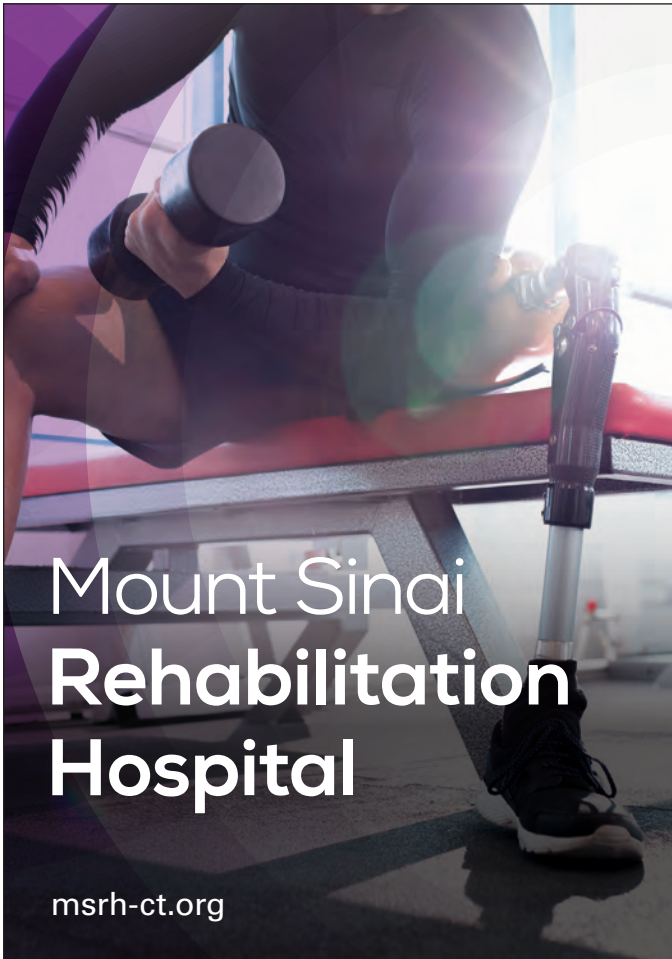
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