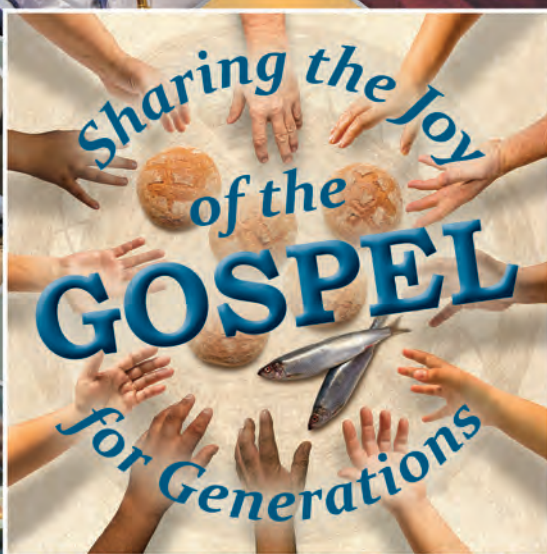


Catholic TRANSCRIPT

MARCH 2019

WWW.ARCHDIOCESEOFHARTFORD.ORG



Catholics share God's blessings through the

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Twin turns tragedy into loving service

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

■ Explore “**Encounter the Shroud of Turin,**” an up-close and personal look at life-size, museum quality replicas of the shroud with expert guide Russ Breault. The event will take place Saturday, **March 9** at 2:30 p.m. at the Parish Center Great Hall at St. Therese Parish, 120 West Granby Rd., in Granby. Seating is limited to 250 and tickets must be purchased in advance. For ticket information, email dk-church@att.net. Tickets are \$5 per person.

■ Celebrate Sacred Scripture at the presentation “**And God Said What? Engaging Puzzling Texts in the Bible.**” A presentation by Margaret Nutting Ralph of Kentucky Theological Seminary will investigate how the Catholic, contextual method of Biblical interpretation pieces together important theological questions of our faith, by puzzling through texts from the Book of Job and the New Testament. Open to all. Registration is required. Free-will offering accepted. Mass with Auxiliary Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt, SEMV, will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. in the Pastoral Center’s St. Thomas Chapel. Coffee hour begins at noon, with the presentation running from 12:30-4:30 p.m., Saturday, **March 9** at the Pastoral Center, 467 Bloomfield Ave., in Bloomfield.

■ Attend a one-night Lenten mission, “**At the Foot of the Cross,**” with meditations by Amy Ekeh, Deacon Art Miller, and Sister Virginia Herbers, ASCJ. Also, enjoy music by Peter DeMarco and the St. Ann Choir, all on Wednesday, **March 13** at 7 p.m. at Mount Sacred Heart Chapel, 295 Benham St., in Hamden. For more information and weather updates, visit amyekeh.com/lent. Snow date is Friday, March 15. A free-will offering will benefit the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.



FOR MORE THINGS TO DO
visit www.catholictranscript.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 May must be submitted by March 4.
- Events for June must be submitted by March 28.
- Events for July/August must be submitted by May 17.

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.

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



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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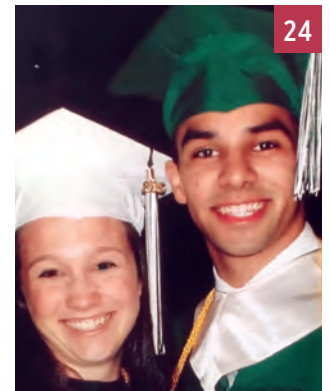
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**EDITOR'S
NOTE:**

This month's column is the homily Archbishop Blair delivered on Jan. 27 at St. Bartholomew Church (St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish) in Manchester during the first Reparation Mass, one of three such Masses. The third and final Reparation Mass will be offered on Tuesday, March 26 at 7 p.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church (Our Lady of Hope Parish) located at 78 Litchfield Rd. in Harwinton.



In reparation to God, and with
PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE HURTING



Every Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, by its very nature as a sacrifice, re-presents (not represents, but re-presents) what Jesus Christ accomplished for us on the cross at Calvary. In the words of Second Corinthians: “God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.” This is an astounding truth: On the cross, the sinless Jesus was made to be sin, and thereby suffered the punishment due to all sin, so that we might be redeemed of sin.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* explains that the sacrifice of Christ has infinite value and enables us to be reconciled to the Father, to ourselves, and to one another. But to share in the bounty of Christ's sacrifice, each individual must exhibit true contrition for sin and a sincere desire for interior and moral reform.

Today, we are gathered in contrition and to make spiritual reparation to God, first of all; and spiritual reparation to those who have been so grievously wounded by the sin and crime of sexual abuse perpetrated by members of the clergy of the Archdiocese of Hartford.

As we celebrate this Mass of Reparation, we heed what Our Lord said, that "if any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea." (Mt 18:6)

In proclaiming Himself to be the anointed one in today's Gospel, Our Lord reads the words of the Prophet Isaiah about deliverance from evil. The people in the synagogue expected a messiah who would deliver them from their woes, understood in terms of this world. It would soon become clear, however, that Jesus was not the messiah of an earthly paradise.

Yes, he performed great signs of healing in particular, but he made it clear: His Kingdom was not of this world, that spiritual blindness and poverty were the real evils to be overcome, and that the devil's oppression was far greater than any earthly despot, because it killed the immortal soul not just the body.

Redemption was to be found in a change of heart away from sin and into faith and total trust in Jesus alone as Redeemer and Lord.

In the words of the Second Vatican Council, "the church, embracing sinners in her bosom, is at the same time holy and always in need of being purified, and incessantly pursues the path of penance and renewal." (*Lumen Gentium*, 8) The council says "incessantly pursues" because the need is always painfully obvious among her members and it is always a struggle.

On the eve of the Third Christian Millennium, Pope St. John Paul II solemnly and very publicly acknowledged that certain words and actions of Church leaders and Church members over the centuries had been hurtful and wrong. He expressed sorrow and asked humanity for forgiveness. "The Church," he said, "asks forgiveness for the historical sins of all of her children ... Recalling all those times in history ... when ... instead of offering to the world the witness of a life inspired by the values of faith, indulged in ways of thinking and acting which were truly forms of counter-witness and scandal."

Inspired by the example of this sainted pope, I

am keenly aware of how his words apply to our own situation here and now. As archbishop of Hartford, I ask forgiveness of God, of the wider community and of our own Catholic people, and especially of all the victims of sexual abuse and their families. I ask it for all that Church leadership "has done or failed to do" contrary to discipleship in the Lord Jesus Christ when it comes to the protection of our most precious treasure, that is, our children.

I offer this heartfelt apology not so much as the head of an institution but as the spiritual father of a family, the wounded family of faith that is the Archdiocese of Hartford. As St. Paul tells the Corinthians in today's second reading, if one part of that family suffers, all the parts suffer with it; just as when one part is honored, all the parts share the joy.

My dear brothers and sisters, sin and sorrow for sin is not the end of the Christian Gospel. Jesus says, "Repent and believe, because the Kingdom of God is near." Mercy is always near; forgiveness is near; resurrection is near to those who know their need for God and for one another in Christ.

Those who have been sexually abused are indeed victims, victims who have nothing to be ashamed of, or embarrassed about. They did nothing wrong and it was an adult who took sinful advantage of their trust.

But among them there are also those who prefer to be known as survivors. Faith tells us that this is not an impossible outcome. Nothing is beyond Christ's healing power.

The archdiocese is pledged to offer victims the help of a support group and professional counseling services, but the deepest wounds and the deepest healing are always spiritual. So we turn to the Sacrifice of the Mass, our adoration of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, our pleas for divine mercy and our prayers to Mary, Our Mother and Mother of the Church.

This is the necessary spiritual accompaniment for all we are trying to do to bring healing to those who have been so wounded by the sin and crime of sexual abuse by the Church's clergy.

At the end of today's Gospel, we are told that every eye in the synagogue of Nazareth was fixed on Jesus. And so it must be with us. During adoration after this Mass, we have an opportunity to prolong our prayerful gaze at Him in the Blessed Sacrament. We ask Him to restore joy to the wounded and freedom to those who feel bound to what they have suffered; to restore sight to those who cannot see a way forward; and, above all, to let the oppressed go free. Please join me in this entreaty.

And may God bless us all in overcoming evil with firm faith that where human possibilities are bleak or exhausted, the possibilities of God begin. †

PHOTOGRAPHY
BY AARON
JOSEPH



ARCHBISHOP
LEONARD P.
BLAIR

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

**"NOTHING
IS BEYOND
CHRIST'S
HEALING
POWER."**

— ARCHBISHOP
LEONARD P.
BLAIR



Bishop Betancourt *thanks the faithful*

My dear brothers and sisters of the Archdiocese of Hartford, words alone cannot express my gratitude to you, the people of this great archdiocese, for your warm welcome and your loving reception of me, your new auxiliary bishop.

From the first day of my arrival, I was touched by your kindness, your promises of prayers — keep those up, please — and your profound faith. I am very much looking forward to our journey together, as we make our way through the joys and challenges of these times and strive to keep always close to our Lord Jesus Christ. As I said on the day of my ordination, I belong to you now, and I promise to give all that I am and all that I have in your service.

No one can know how many hours of work it takes to plan, prepare and bring about an event like my ordination, and I especially want to thank the many people — our priests, deacons, seminarians, masters of ceremonies, servers, archdiocesan staff, cathedral parishioners, musicians, cantors, choir members, readers, volunteers and others — who contributed to this magnificent occasion. You have truly given glory to God through your hard work and your love for the Church.

You might remember the beautiful hymn sung by our choir that day, “*Pueblo de Reyes*,” which describes our Lord Jesus Christ being loved and praised by all members of his Church while in this world and in the future New Jerusalem. We strive as his disciples to look for him and to point at him to others, as the motto of my episcopal coat of arms reminds us: “Behold the Lamb of God.” These words tell us of the simple, but powerful, truth: It’s all about Jesus Christ. All that we are and all that we do as Christians, as Catholics, must have him as our point of reference. Jesus must be the center of our lives.

On the day after his election, Pope Francis addressed the cardinals gathered at Mass. He told them that we, as disciples, must walk with Christ; we must build with Christ; and we must proclaim Christ. Therefore, in this thriving archdiocese, we must walk with Christ in a relationship of love, for him and for one another, accepting

the cross, especially in these difficult days of disappointment and scandal, but without forgetting to draw from him the joy, hope, peace and life he came to share with us.

He calls us to be with him, to establish a personal relationship with him, to be his friends. We must depend on Christ and never try to build apart from him; for without him, we can do nothing.

On the other hand, as he promises us, with him, all things are possible. Building our local Church by strengthening our bonds of communion with him and with each other, we will be able to overcome every sense of hopelessness and despair in the midst of a continuously changing world.

And then, we must proclaim Christ. Today and always, by our words, whether vocal or written, whether in person or through any electronic media,

we must share our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with our brothers and sisters around us. Indeed, not only with our words but clearly with our actions — that is, by our very lives.

We must be a living proclamation of the good news that Jesus is our Savior; he loves us, and he is with us, dwelling among us until the very end. We need to commit ourselves to be those missionary disciples the Church so urgently needs.

The Gospel message is ancient, but as new as it has ever been. We are each called, whatever our state in life might be, to live it more vividly and sincerely in our own day, so that all might share in the grace that we have been given, the treasure of Christ, who is the Word made flesh, dwelling among us.

As your auxiliary bishop, I look forward to joining Archbishop Leonard P. Blair and you all in walking with Christ, building with Christ and proclaiming Christ to all. I cannot think of a more wonderful privilege or a more joyful adventure.

May the Lord and his Blessed Mother be always among us, and may he bless us with his grace and his peace. Again, thank you! †



**AUXILIARY
BISHOP JUAN
MIGUEL**

BETANCOURT
*is the ninth
auxiliary bishop
of the Catholic
Archdiocese of
Hartford.*

Monseñor Betancourt *agradece a los fieles*

Mis queridos hermanos y hermanas de la Arquidiócesis de Hartford, no tengo suficientes palabras para expresarles mi gratitud, el pueblo de esta gran arquidiócesis, por su cálida bienvenida y la amorosa recepción que me han brindado, su nuevo obispo auxiliar.

Desde que llegué, me han conmovido su amabilidad, sus promesas de oración por mí, por favor manténganme en ellas, por favor, y su profunda fe. Espero con entusiasmo nuestra trayectoria juntos, mientras nos abrimos paso a través de las alegrías y los desafíos de estos tiempos y nos esforzamos por mantenernos siempre cerca de nuestro Señor Jesucristo. Como dije el día de mi ordenación, ahora les pertenezco y prometo dar todo lo que soy y todo lo que tengo a su servicio.

Nadie puede saber cuántas horas de trabajo se necesitan para planificar, preparar y llevar a cabo un evento como mi ordenación episcopal, y quiero agradecer especialmente a muchas personas: nuestros sacerdotes, diáconos, seminaristas, maestros de ceremonias, monaguillos, personal arquidiocesano, feligreses de la catedral, músicos, cantores, miembros del coro, lectores, voluntarios y cualquier persona que haya contribuido a esta magnífica ocasión. Verdaderamente, ustedes le han dado gloria a Dios a través de su arduo trabajo y su amor por la Iglesia.

Tal vez recuerden el hermoso himno cantado por nuestro coro ese día, “Pueblo de Reyes”, el cual describe a nuestro Señor Jesucristo siendo amado y alabado por todos los miembros de su Iglesia en este mundo y en la futura Nueva Jerusalén. Nos esforzamos como sus discípulos para buscarlo a él y señalarlo a otros, como el lema de mi escudo de armas episcopal nos recuerda: “He aquí el Cordero de Dios”. Estas palabras nos hablan de una simple pero poderosa verdad: todo tiene que ser acerca de Jesucristo. Todo lo que somos y todo lo que hacemos como cristianos, como católicos, debemos tener a Jesús como nuestro punto de referencia. Jesús debe ser el centro de nuestras vidas.

El día después de su elección, el Papa Francisco se dirigió a los cardenales reunidos en la misa y les dijo que nosotros, como discípulos, debemos caminar con Cristo, debemos construir con Cristo y debemos proclamar a Cristo. Por lo tanto, en esta arquidiócesis que sigue creciendo, debemos caminar con Cristo en una relación de amor, por él y por los demás, aceptando la cruz, especialmente en estos días

difíciles de decepción y escándalo, pero sin olvidar obtener de él la alegría, la esperanza, la paz y la vida que vino a compartir con nosotros.

Jesús nos llama a estar con él, a establecer una relación personal con él, a ser sus amigos. Debemos depender de Cristo y nunca intentar separarnos de él ni planear o hacer las cosas por nuestra cuenta, porque sin él, no podemos hacer nada.

Por otro lado, como él nos promete, con él todo es posible. Construyendo nuestra iglesia local mediante el fortalecimiento de nuestros lazos de comunión con él y entre nosotros, podremos superar todo sentimiento de desesperanza y desesperación en medio de un mundo en constante cambio.

Por lo tanto, debemos proclamar a Cristo. Hoy y siempre, con nuestras palabras, ya sean vocalmente o por escrito, ya sea en persona o por cualquier medio electrónico, debemos compartir nuestro Señor y Salvador Jesucristo con nuestros hermanos y hermanas que nos rodean. De hecho, no solo con nuestras palabras, sino también con nuestras acciones, es decir, con nuestras propias vidas.

Debemos ser una proclamación viviente de las buenas nuevas de que Jesús es nuestro Salvador, que él nos ama y que está con nosotros, viviendo entre nosotros, acompañándonos hasta el final. Debemos comprometernos a ser los discípulos misioneros que la Iglesia necesita con tanta urgencia.

El mensaje del Evangelio es tan antiguo y tan nuevo como lo ha sido siempre, pero cada uno de nosotros está llamado, cualquiera sea nuestro estado en la vida, a vivirlo de manera más vívida y sincera en nuestros días, para que todos puedan compartir la gracia que se nos ha dado: el tesoro de Cristo, que es el Verbo hecho carne, que vive entre nosotros.

Como su obispo auxiliar, espero unirme con nuestro arzobispo Leonard P. Blair y con todos ustedes, caminando con Cristo, construyendo con Cristo y proclamando a Cristo a todos. No puedo pensar en un privilegio más maravilloso o una aventura más alegre.

Que el Señor y su Santísima Madre estén siempre entre nosotros, y que nos bendigan con su gracia y su paz. ¡Una vez más, gracias! †

**EL OBISPO
AUXILIAR
JUAN MIGUEL
BETANCOURT**
*es el noveno
obispo auxiliar
de la
Arquidiócesis
Católica de
Hartford.*

ST. JOSEPH: A GOOD MAN

strengthened by faith

On Nov. 28, 2018, the Archdiocese of Hartford commemorated the 175th anniversary of its founding by Pope Gregory XVI in 1843. We celebrated likewise the fact that the Archdiocese of Hartford is privileged to have St. Joseph, the foster father of Jesus Christ, as our patron saint, whose name our cathedral bears.



*St Joseph with
Infant Christ in
his Arms,
Guido Reni*

Now, we remember St. Joseph on his feast day, March 19. We give him the honor and veneration he deserves and ask his intercession for our many needs as individuals and as the people of God — the Church. We celebrate his feast.

A simple reflection on these two dates gives an indication of a virtue common to both celebrations: faith. Consider for a moment the spectacular exercise of faith that the life of a diocese for 175 years represents: The humble beginnings when churches did not exist but had to be built. Priests were extremely scarce and had to be shared over a large geographic area and by numerous communities.

What happened? The faith of the people of God showed forth. They carried on in spite of difficulties to develop the expression of their faith that we came to know as the great Archdiocese of Hartford today with its churches, schools, Catholic hospitals, multiple charitable organizations and innumerable works of apostolic outreach, not only to Catholics, but even to those who do not share our faith.

The virtue of faith motivates Catholics not only here in Hartford, but everywhere that the Holy Spirit prompts them to express their faith by their good works. Here, however, we have had the grace of being able to do this for 175 years.

On March 19th, when we think about great St. Joseph, we can readily realize that faith is the outstanding virtue in his life.

The Virgin Mary became the Mother of God by the power of the Holy Spirit. In an act of faith in response to the instruction of an angel, Joseph took Mary as

his espoused wife, cared for her at the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem and assisted her in the raising of the Savior of the World as his foster father.

This good man was strengthened by his strong faith in God and his Word. It is no wonder then that we, as Catholics, look to Joseph as a man of deep faith, with eminent purity of heart who was a strong supporter of the Holy Family by his labors as a carpenter. How often we say with devoted heart, “St. Joseph, pray for us.”

There is a further consideration for us priests.

Joseph was entrusted by God with the protection and raising of the child who was to become priest and victim on the cross at Calvary. In our present day, we are living and exercising priestly ministry in very difficult circumstances.

On the feast day of St. Joseph, this year in particular, we should look to him and ask him to obtain for us a strengthening of our faith. We must look to his pure heart and see there the model for

living. We can likewise call out to him to assist us in not being afraid as we carry out our ministry amid the extraordinary and disconcerting vicissitudes of our priestly life today.

Joseph was instructed not to be afraid. We priests should not be afraid, but rather have the strength that faith gives. It is no doubt true that if we honor St. Joseph by always keeping our eyes on his foster son Jesus, the priest and suffering victim of Calvary, we will have the strength, courage and purity so necessary in the life and ministry of today's priests.

St. Joseph, our patron and our model, pray for us. †

“When we think about great St. Joseph, we can readily realize that faith is the outstanding virtue in the life of St. Joseph.”



**MONSIGNOR
THOMAS M.
GINTY**

*is the rector of
the Cathedral
of St. Joseph in
Hartford and
pastor of
St. Joseph
Parish.*

What's your LEGACY?

A stomach bug had invaded the household, and no one was happy. It began with a call from the day-care provider to my daughter, Meredith. Her 13-month-old toddler, Kiara, was sick. Could Meredith please pick her up? Poor Kiara had no idea what was happening.

Four-year-old Gabriel was the next victim. When Meredith and her husband Chris came crashing down with the bug, too, they knew they were in over their heads.

I live only a few towns away, so I headed over to help. Even when you're an adult, there's something comforting about Mom being there.

After days of misery, they began to emerge from the fog, so Meredith asked me to go to the market for Gatorade and bananas. I promptly drove to the store, grabbed the required items and headed to the checkout.

After placing my three items on the conveyor belt, I fished around in my purse for my wallet.

It wasn't there. In fact, my purse contained nothing remotely associated with any form of payment.

Then it occurred to me. "My husband and I switched cars

this morning," I mumbled miserably. "My wallet is in Hartford with him."

I began to set aside my order — an order that was desperately needed by a young family. Before I could make a move, however, the woman in front of me said quietly, "I'll pay for them."

"What did you say?" I asked rather stupidly.

"I'll pay for them," she replied. "You're lucky you caught me on a day when I have plenty of cash."

I was speechless. I thanked her profusely and tried to get her name, but all she would provide was Laura. Back in the car, I quietly wept at the kindness of a stranger.

My daughter and son-in-law were deeply appreciative for my help that week. I was helping family. That lady at the grocery store, though, was helping a stranger.



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

I've thought often about that woman. It's easy to insulate myself within the four walls of my home or the anonymity of my car. I can keep to myself at Mass, avoid eye contact when I encounter homeless people, stay under the radar, keep my head down. I don't have to connect with the world around me. Yet, it is in this very connecting that we become Christ's hands and feet in the world.

I'm pretty sure that no one ever said on his deathbed, "I'm glad I didn't help many people." After all, our legacy will be how we made a difference in people's lives.

To finish my story, I completed my stint as Florence Nightingale just as the stomach bug hit me. Meredith felt awful about infecting me, but honestly, if I had it to do over, I'd do the same thing.

Well, except that I would remember my purse. †

"It is in this very connecting that we become Christ's hands and feet in the world."



The most important work in the world: PRAYING FOR THE DYING

Many people think they do the most important work in the world, from the head of security at Tiffany's to Warren Buffett and President Trump. And let's not forget senators, CEOs, scientists, columnists, world leaders, Hollywood moguls, great thinkers — and small thinkers, of which I'm one.

Politicians, in particular, believe their destiny is to change the world for the better, although it's often for the worse. Hedge fund managers and stock brokers who make big cash for investors are always held in high esteem. Then, there are celebrities known for their inflated egos, fanatical fans ... and decadent lifestyles.

To my thinking, the greatest work is done by unchampioned people — parents, care-givers, priests and religious. There's a fundamental rule of life that those who do the greatest good are usually the ones who receive the smallest recognition, not to mention most meager compensation.

Over the years, I've know several people, including my wife Sandy and her friend Terri, whose work I consider priceless. You can't buy their services, and yet we all desperately need them, some more than others.

In our secular society, their work is insignificant when you compare it to what movie stars and pro athletes do. They'll never get a bonus or an MVP award, and they don't have millions of Instagram followers like the

Kardashians. They don't even have a job. They have a ministry — to pray for the sick and dying, and to ask Jesus for the graces that will save souls during their last moments of life.

I've been blessed to be able to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy — one of the most powerful ways to help the dying — during the final hours of friends and family members, including my mother and father-in-law. Why is that so important?

It was Jesus who revealed the importance of this devotion to St. Faustina: "When they say this chaplet in the presence of the dying, I will stand between my Father and the dying person, not as the Judge but as the merciful Savior. ... At the hour of their death, I defend as my own glory every soul that will say this chaplet, or when others say it for a dying person."

Fifteen years ago, an Apostolate for the Dying was begun by Fernanda Moreira of Cincinnati, and it has spread across the world, from Nigeria to the Philippines, from Connecticut to Great Britain. Moreira believes that God wanted this work accomplished at this time in history when humanity needs it the most.

"Just after Thanksgiving in 2003, my sister-in-law Rosalina was admitted to the hospital," she recalled. "It didn't occur to us that she'd never return home. I went to visit her with my sister-in-law Lourdes, and we asked if she would like to pray with us. She agreed. We were so glad because

for many years we wanted to pray with her, but she wouldn't. From that day, we always prayed together during our visits." Rosalina died peacefully on Valentine's Day, surrounded by her family.

"After her death, I realized how much the dying need our prayers," Fernanda said. "There are many people all over the world who die unprepared for eternal judgment and in great need of spiritual help."

The women formed the Apostolate for the Dying "to pray for souls at the vital moment of death, when eternal salvation is at stake." They later collected their prayers and published a booklet: "Holy Hour Devotion for the Dying."

"I believe the dying will remember us," she said, "And they will pray for us when our time comes."

Pray for the dying. Pray for those who have no one to pray for them. Pray for those who don't even care about their salvation because they don't believe in God or the power of prayer. Many of them are wandering in darkness because they've been deceived by society and Satan.

One of the most powerful prayers is "Lord Jesus Crucified, have mercy on us and those who will die this day."

Pray for the dying and, someday, they will pray for you. †



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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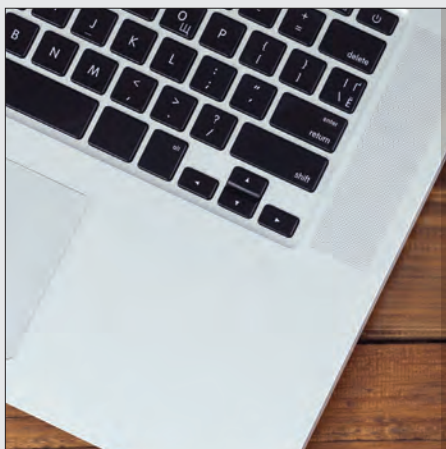
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The ‘new look’ of the universal Archdiocese of Hartford

RISE OF ETHNIC QUASI-PARISHES REVEALS NEW GROWTH

The universality that has been a hallmark of the Catholic Church since its inception continues to alter the complexion of the Church in the United States.

Looking back to the turn of the 20th century, it was the great emigration out of Europe that resulted in burgeoning ethnic enclaves of French, Irish, German, Italian and Polish peoples, along with parish churches erected to support them.



DEACON ERNEST SCRIVANI, TOC, is the director of Pastoral Services.

While only a few of these “ethnic parishes” still exist, several of the churches that housed them remain open. This is due in large part to the more recent immigration of Spanish-speaking people from Mexico and Central and South America who have resuscitated these parishes, bringing to them renewed vitality and vibrant spiritual diversity.

The reforms of the Second Vatican Council inaugurated seismic change within the Catholic Church, liturgically, organizationally and spiritually. Years

later, the impact of those changes is still being felt, which lends credence to the fact that change is seldom readily embraced. The same is true in the Archdiocese of Hartford, where the shock waves resulting from the implementation of the 2017 pastoral plan continue to challenge the new order.

While many of the parish mergers continue to evolve, three established faith communities from Vietnam, South Korea and Ghana have petitioned the archdiocese to be erected as parishes. Prior to becoming a parish, however, each community will first be erected as a “quasi-parish.”

A *quasi-parish*, for all intents and purposes, is just like any other parish, aside from the fact that its members do not as yet own a church building. In each case, the petitioning community leases space from a host parish. All other accountabilities mirror those of other parishes — they have a parish name, a pastor, an envelope system to take up collections at Mass, an invitation to participate in the Archbishop’s Annual Appeal and so on.

Upon approval of the archbishop and the Presbyteral Council, a decree naming the quasi-parish is promulgated, along with the name of the pastor. In essence, the erection of a quasi-parish is a vote of confidence from the archdiocese that the community has the potential to achieve full parish status.

The Vietnamese Catholic Community was the first among three “new” ethnic communities to be erected as a quasi-parish in the archdiocese. It has been given the name St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc Parish, and is led by their new pastor, Father Andy Mai. This community worships at the Church of St. Mark in West Hartford, which is part of St. Gianna Berretta Molla Parish. St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc was a Catholic convert ordained to the priesthood and one of 117 people martyred in Vietnam between 1820 and 1862. Andrew Dũng-Lạc and his companions were canonized by Pope St. John Paul II on June 19, 1988.

Another quasi-parish erected in the archdiocese is the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Korean Catholic Parish, led by their new pastor, Father John Gye Lee. This community worships at Sacred Heart Church in Wethersfield, which is part of Christ the King Parish. It draws its membership from near and far, with some parishioners commuting nearly an hour for Sunday Mass.

The other quasi-parish is the St. Isaac Jogues Ghanaian Catholic Parish, led by their new pastor, Father



The Vietnamese Catholic community’s patron saint is St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc, a convert and priest who was martyred in Vietnam in 1839 and canonized in 1988.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY AARON JOSEPH



“We also look forward to building together an ever deeper Catholic unity — one of shared commitment to the faith and to evangelization.”

Paul Baffour Awuah. This community worships at St. Isaac Jogues Church in East Hartford, currently part of North American Martyrs Parish. St. Isaac Jogues was a Jesuit missionary who, along with seven others, was martyred in the New World in 1646. Isaac Jogues and his companions were canonized by Pope Pius XI on June 29, 1930.

The ensuing process leading up to “parish” status can take up to five years. During the five-year proba-

tionary term, assessments of progress are made by archdiocesan officials to determine whether or not the quasi-parish is exhibiting an overall positive trend relative to key sacramental, liturgical, financial and ministerial benchmarks. If the community satisfies all the necessary requirements, a similar approval process will be initiated and a new decree promulgated naming the new parish, its location, parish name and pastor.

The archdiocese shares the joy of our brothers and sisters in the new status of their faith communities. We also look forward to building together an ever deeper Catholic unity — one of shared commitment to the faith and to evangelization — with respect and reverence for our diversity. †

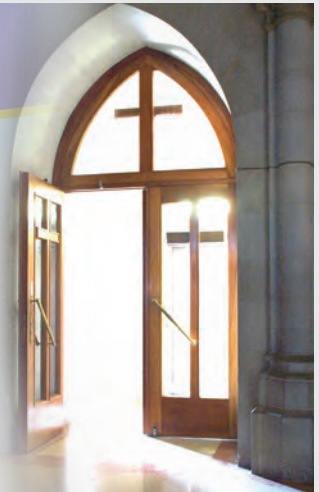


Nearly 400 parishioners celebrate their first Mass together on Nov. 24, 2018, as St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc Parish, a quasi-parish community that worships at the Church of St. Mark in West Hartford. St. Mark Church is part of the larger St. Gianna Beretta Molla Parish.

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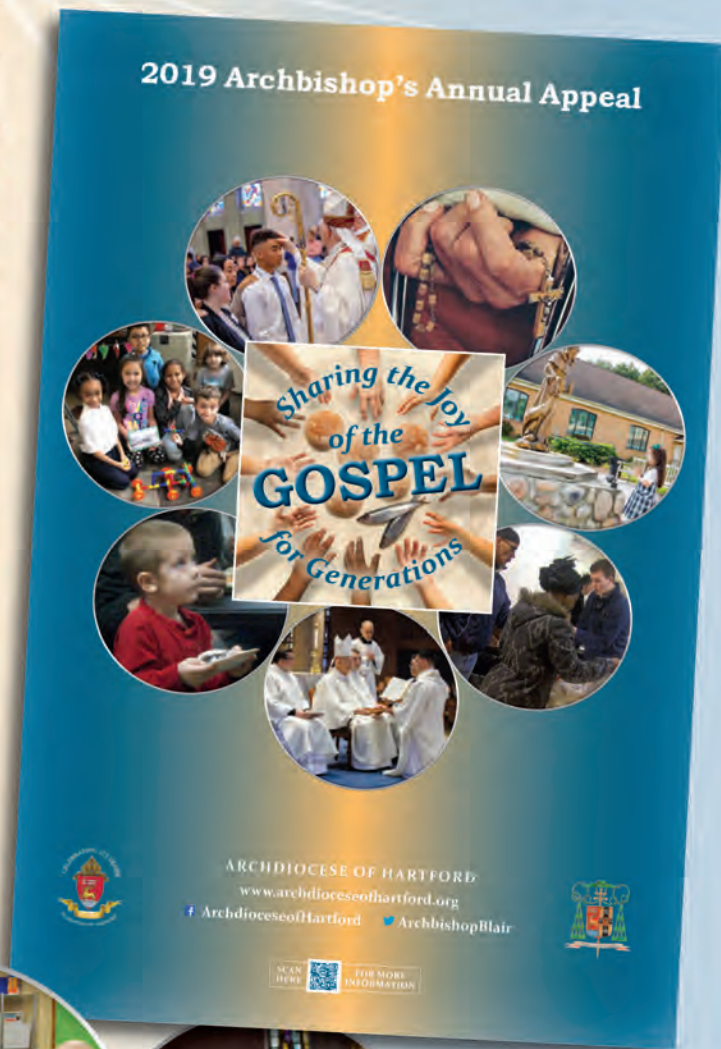
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Timothy Shriver: CHAMPIONING THE DIGNITY OF ALL



When Timothy Shriver walks into a room, you know he has arrived. His aura is magnetic. When he addresses you, he flashes an electric smile and never takes his eyes off of you. You are important to him. Tim is on a mission, and he wants to include you in it.

As chairman of Special Olympics International, Tim’s passion is promoting the special gifts of people with intellectual disabilities and fighting for society’s greater recognition of their human dignity.

The seeds of Tim’s advocacy for the intellectually challenged were planted in his youth, when his mother Eunice Shriver once paired him with an intellectually disabled camper. Tim recalls: “We were matched for the whole day together. My mom commented that he was a better athlete than I was. But I remember a kind of mystery to the whole thing.”

Last fall, Tim was invited to speak at the archdiocesan Office of Catholic Social Justice Ministry’s gala dinner to commemorate the office’s 50th anniversary. The *Catholic Transcript* sat down with him for a brief chat about his amazing life.

Tim is an educator, a writer, a producer and an activist. He grew up in Boston, studied and worked in Connecticut, but now resides in Washington, D.C. Tim’s Connecticut connection goes back to his undergraduate years at Yale University and at the University of Connecticut, where he completed his Ph.D. in education. Along the way, he also obtained a master’s degree in religion and religious education from Catholic University. He spent 15 years in public education in New Haven.

One of Tim’s Special Olympics spin-offs has been the Unified Schools Project, which promotes

school-based social inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities. For Tim, inclusion is a celebration “of justice, joy and, most of all, unity.”

He gently reproves those who would wish to relegate the mentally challenged to the sidelines of life. He believes that “we can learn as much from these special people as they can from us.”

Tim’s calling also springs from his religious faith, a faith deeply rooted in the Catholicism and spiritual values of his famous parents, Eunice Kennedy and Sargent Shriver.

Born in 1959, Tim grew up through the turbulent ‘60s. In the words of Bob Dylan, the times were “a changin’,” not just for the nation but for the Church as well. It was a time when devotional Catholicism was evolving into Catholic social activism, when the Gospel message included civil rights, economic justice and human dignity.

Tim’s Catholic faith is a mix of these two perspectives. He considers traditional prayer, the sacraments, the rosary and attendance at Mass to be indispensable. But as he goes out into the world, he also promotes Catholic social teaching, advocating for the human dignity of the mentally challenged and the need for their “inclusion” — not “exclusion” — in our society.

In 2014, Tim wrote a *New York Times* best-selling book, *Fully Alive: Discovering What Matters Most*, in which he focuses on the capacity of

the intellectually disabled to inspire others to become aware of the real priorities in their lives.

The impetus in Tim’s life is the Gospel, and he describes the Special Olympics experience as “the eighth sacrament.” It is where the words of Scripture shine forth and where “the beauty and dignity of every human being come alive ... as the Catholic Church has taught for generations and centuries.”

Tim has received honorary degrees from many colleges and universities for his efforts on behalf of the mentally challenged, which he felt he didn’t deserve, but graciously accepted on behalf of others.

Tim says that “instead of just hearing the message of the Gospel, you experience it in some real way through the Special Olympics. We do something quite ordinary and make it extraordinary.” †

“Inclusion is a celebration of justice, joy and, most of all, unity.”

STORY BY
TOM DZIMIAN

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
AARON JOSEPH





Catholics share God's blessings through the

ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

STORY BY MARY CHALUPSKY

PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

Archbishop Leonard P. Blair began hosting a series of 13 pre-launch dinners in January and February for the Archbishop's Annual Appeal (AAA) that is slated to kick off in parishes during the weekend of March 2-3.

For the seventh consecutive year, the AAA exceeded its \$10 million goal, raising more than \$10.1 million.

"I'm so grateful to you and to God for supporting the appeal as you do," Archbishop Blair told a gathering of 300 people at an AAA luncheon held Jan. 13 at La Bella Vista in Waterbury.

The archbishop expressed his gratitude for surpassing last year's goal, and provided an account of the results of the 2018 appeal.

Of donors, 183 priests contributed more than \$232,000, with an average gift of over \$1,270; and 136 deacons and their wives contributed more than \$76,000.

Participants enjoyed an afternoon of fellowship with the faithful from their parish and with those

from other parishes throughout the archdiocese. They also watched a video for the 2019 campaign that outlined the need for providing corporal and spiritual works of mercy to support agencies and ministries in the archdiocese.

"It's such an important cause," said Eugenia Luzil, a parishioner at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Waterbury. "It's good to let people know that the Catholic Church is out there to help people no matter what their denomination."

Archbishop Blair highlighted the Vicariate Outreach Program, which, for the third year in a row, contributed more than \$1 million



PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

to 206 local charitable agencies.

"It's good to see how the archdiocese is spending the \$10 million that was raised; and to hear the archbishop talk about his plans for the future, to eat and to be with other people," said Pat Pheasant, of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Naugatuck.

Added Dr. Alenna Cybart-Perse-naire, a parishioner of St. John of the Cross Parish in Middlebury,



PHOTO BY MARY CHALUPSKY

↑ Eugenia Luzil and Kathy Ghio, both from St. Francis Xavier Parish in Waterbury, became friends through their shared support of the Archbishop's Annual Appeal.

↶ A grateful Archbishop Leonard P. Blair greets a donor at an Archbishop's Annual Appeal dinner on Jan. 13 at La Bella Vista in Waterbury.

← Tina Poet, right, director of the Archbishop's Annual Appeal, talks with Donna Finneran, who received a check from the appeal's Vicariate Outreach Program in support of her ministry to the homeless.

"It's a nice way to be with your fellow parishioners and see other people who come from other parts of the state," she said.

"I come to find fellowship with other people," echoed Patricia Papeika of Our Lady Queen of the Apostles Parish in Derby. "The appeal is very important because of the agencies served, such as Catholic Charities, which do extremely important work."

Gloria Colonero, a parishioner at Mary Our Queen Parish in Plantsville, said, "We go every year and try to talk to the archbishop to express our thanks for his support of the Bread for Life soup kitchen in Southington."

Archbishop Blair announced that the theme for the 2019 campaign is "Sharing the Joy of the Gospel" — with a goal of raising \$10 million.

"Jesus takes what we bring and multiplies it," he said, referring to the parable of the loaves and the fishes. "We all in our individual lives have many challenges. But Jesus at the last supper said, 'If you follow me, I will give you joy.'"

The archbishop noted that the need for services in the archdiocese is growing, pointing out that homeless families with children alone has increased.

"The need could not be more urgent," he stated, adding that the AAA initiatives supported by the faithful in the archdiocese "do make a difference."

Among agencies making a difference, he said are Catholic Charities, South Park Inn, St.

Vincent de Paul and Columbus House, plus soup kitchens and shelters. The archbishop noted that the Malta Van alone has provided 48,275 free medical visits for those with little or no health insurance since 2006.

Moreover, in the wake of the government shutdown, he said that Catholic Charities stepped up to help government workers who were not receiving paychecks, and assisted another 6,000 people with basic needs last year.

The \$80,000 emergency assistance fund has helped 280 seniors and resettled 84 refugees, he added. Other funds have gone to support literacy programs and early childhood assistance, as well as parenting and family-strengthening assistance, while 6,800 children and adults received behavioral health services.

Other important areas of support continue to be Catholic religious education, Catholic schools, religious vocations and communications, including the *Catholic Transcript* magazine, which mails

nearly 180,000 copies each month — one to every registered Catholic household in the archdiocese.

Archdiocesan staff and those who work for Catholic Charities know that the good works they perform would not be possible without the vital financial support of donors.

Tina Poet, director of the Archbishop's Annual Appeal, gets to witness the support of local Catholics firsthand.

"The Archdiocese of Hartford is extremely grateful to have such compassionate and generous donors," she said. "Each year they come out and support the Archbishop's Annual Appeal because they know that every dollar they give supports the ministries and numerous charitable organizations that

help people with the essentials of life: food, shelter, medical care, social and educational programs and so much more.

"Their heartfelt generosity sends a strong, spiritual message of faith, hope, and charity throughout our archdiocese." †

"Their heartfelt generosity sends a strong, spiritual message of faith, hope, and charity that resonates throughout our archdiocese."

— TINA POET



PHOTO BY ARON JOSEPH

↑ During an appeal dinner on Jan. 11 at Farmington Gardens in Farmington, Msgr. Thomas Barry shares the many good works that have been funded in his deanery through the Archbishop's Annual Appeal.



A heart for

Twin turns tragedy



the homeless:

into loving service



Donna Finneran hands out Brian Bags from the trunk of her car to homeless and needy men outside a social service agency in Waterbury.

Three grateful recipients in Waterbury display their Brian Bags.

It's Monday morning and Donna Finneran is already doing what she does most days of the week — passing out Brian Bags from the trunk of her car to homeless people on the streets.

“Hey ... Hi. How are you?” she calls out in her upbeat, Bronx accent. “Can I give you a Brian Bag?” she asks as she jumps out of her car to hand out a care package.

More than a ministry, this is Donna's passion, which she started two years ago to honor her late twin brother, Brian O'Connell, who died homeless and alone in 2016.

STORY BY
MARY
CHALUPSKY

PHOTOGRAPHY
BY AARON
JOSEPH

Today is just one of many steps she makes in towns throughout Connecticut to help the homeless. And when she's not passing out bags, she's collecting and packaging items with a small army of volunteers, promoting her project, stocking the garage of her Watertown home, making presentations, or just talking about her foundation, the Brian O'Connell Homeless Project.

“I do this out of my heart,” she

says, “to change one person a day to look at a homeless person in a different way, and to help the homeless ... knowing that it could be someone's brother, sister or family member out there.”

Donna, who attends Mass first thing every morning, also finds time to weave in three rosaries as the day progresses.

“That's why I started this program, to give them water, and food and clean underwear ... to give them hope and to encourage others to have compassion for people,” she says.

“I try to encourage everyone to treat a homeless person with love and compassion, to stop and say hello,” she says. “We are not to judge them or anyone, especially those who are down on their luck.” After all, she adds, “Jesus was born homeless.”

Along the way, she has enlisted hundreds of people, mostly in communities and churches throughout the Archdiocese of Hartford, to help her collect, bag and distribute the care packages filled with about \$14 worth of toiletries, snacks, a first aid kit and even gift cards for food.

A phone call *breaks the isolation*

For Donna, the care packages are a way to honor and remember her brother, the tragedy of his death and the impact it has left on her.

She explains that Brian suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) after he “saw people jump to their deaths” from the World Trade Center during the 9/11 tragedy when he was working in New York City. “It gave him PTSD,” she says.

For a time, Brian lived with her and her family, but on the 10th anniversary of 9/11, the PTSD was triggered again when he watched the annual memorial service and heard the bells ringing as names of the victims were read.

As it turns out, his body was found on Oct. 20, 2016, by a parishioner from the Church of the Assumption in Ansonia who notified police and also told his childhood friend and then pastor, Father James Sullivan. (Father Sullivan has since been reassigned to the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Waterbury.) However, the state medical examiner

*We are not to judge them or anyone,
especially those who are down on their luck.*
Jesus was born homeless. — DONNA FINNERAN

was unable to release the body until January, pending an investigation that included a DNA analysis to make a positive identification.

For Donna, the wait was unbearable, and she began to have thoughts of suicide.

“I was in a very deep depression,” admits the wife and mother of three adult children. That is until she received a Christmas miracle.

It was Dec. 22. “I was so depressed, I didn’t know what to do,” she recalls. Her husband, Walter, was away on a retreat. So she sat down to write a suicide letter.

But then the phone rang. “I heard a voice identifying himself as Father Sullivan, and he was asking me if he could celebrate the funeral Mass of my brother,” she says, still amazed by the coincidence. “It was a priest calling me. Usually, when a family member dies, we call a priest; but here was a priest calling me.”

Father Sullivan “prevented me from taking my life,” she says, noting that he continued to stay in touch with her through the holidays. “Father Sullivan saved my heart and soul, but also my life.”

After Christmas, the priest

invited the Finnerans to a Sunday Mass, and from the pulpit he asked parishioners if they would ever attend the funeral of a homeless man. Virtually every hand went up. To Donna’s amazement, nearly 350 people attended her brother’s funeral — one of the largest ever held in the parish.

A great idea is born

A few weeks later, the idea for Brian Bags was conceived. The Finnerans, who live in Watertown where they once owned a heating and air conditioning business, joined the parish. And parishioners, including the parish’s Knights of Columbus council, quickly volunteered to help launch the project, giving out Brian Bags to the homeless by Palm Sunday of 2017.

Since then, she has given out 4,000 Brian Bags with items packaged in a clear, gallon-size bag — tuna fish, cookies, crackers, socks, deodorant, Wet Ones, ChapStick, dental floss, Slim Jims, toothbrush and toothpaste. Plus gift cards for KFC, McDonald’s, Subway and Dunkin’ Donuts.



These 15 items are bringing the love of God to many.

IN EACH BRIAN BAG:

- Tuna fish
- Cookies
- Crackers
- Socks
- Deodorant
- Wet Ones
- ChapStick
- Dental floss
- Slim Jims
- Toothbrush and toothpaste

PLUS GIFT CARDS FOR:

- KFC
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Over the past 24 months, The Hartford Bishops’ Foundation Annual Gala has raised over \$3 million toward The Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Office of Education, and Catholic Charities.



Cathedral: The first phase of the renovation to the Cathedral of St. Joseph coincides with the 175th anniversary of the Archdiocese. The master plan includes repairs to the front plaza; creation

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Vicariate Outreach Program and CRS Rice Bowl: *Supporting those who provide for others*



PHOTO COURTESY OF AAA

Last year, Donna Finneran was thrilled to receive two grants through the Archdiocese of Hartford.

In October 2018, Father Christopher M. Ford presented her with a check for \$7,000 from the Vicariate Outreach Program that is part of the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. For the past three



Father Christopher Ford presents to Donna Finneran a check from the Vicariate Outreach Program of the Archbishop's Annual Appeal.

years, the program has generously granted \$1 million to more than 200 community ministries and agencies each year.

Father Ford, who served on the vicariate committee to approve grants, says, "I knew about her through our deanery and through the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception's outreach program (Pope Francis Center for Renewal), and I've been impressed with her passion, her enthusiasm and the good work she is doing for the homeless. In fact, I keep some of the bags in my car to hand out," he adds. Formerly pastor of the basilica, Father Ford has since been reassigned to Assumption

Assumption, which packaged 1,000 bags last year alone, support has come from St. Dominic's in Southington, which donated 300 bags, while students at St. Hedwig School (now closed) packaged 75 bags.

"St. John of the Cross Parish in Middlebury filled my car five times with donations," says Donna. "I couldn't even see out the window. And the school at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Waterbury had a big collection the week of Christmas. It took me two hours to get the things out of the car."

Other parishes helping out include St. Basil the Great in Wolcott, St. Thomas the Apostle in Oxford, St. John Paul the Great in Torrington, St. Nicholas in Seymour and St. Mary Magdalen in Oakville, as well as other local churches and community groups. Knights of Columbus councils have also donated and helped her assemble bags, while ladies at the Naugatuck and Oxford senior centers have crocheted 200 mats that they inventively make using "plarn," or plastic strips cut from grocery bags.

"The mats protect homeless people who sleep on the ground," explains Donna. And they are lightweight, so they can carry them easily during the day."

Since an article about Brian Bags appeared in the Knights of Columbus *Columbia* magazine, she has received calls from councils in six states from Alabama to New Jersey asking her how they can start a similar project in their communities.

Donna *extends her heart*

Another long-range project, for which Donna has already set aside funds, is to customize a van (estimated at \$60,000) that will enable homeless people on the



Parishioners from the Church of the Assumption Parish in Ansonia pack Brian Bags for later delivery.

Each bag also includes a card that reads: "Let this little bag remind you that there are people who care about you and that there is always hope. Have a blessed day!"

In addition to donations from parishioners at the Church of the



Parish in Woodbridge.

She also received a check for \$3,000 from the annual Lenten Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Rice Bowl collection. According to Lynn Campbell, executive director of the Archdiocesan Office of Catholic Social Justice Ministry, 25 percent of funds collected remain within the diocese to address local hunger and poverty issues.

“Donna is an example of someone who truly lives out her faith,” Campbell says. “She provides help and hope to those who live on the margins.”

Donna says she used the money to purchase supplies and winter shoes for homeless men and women.



For more information on the Brian O’Connell Homeless Project, visit: www.brianoc.org

street to take a shower and wash their clothes. “When they have clean clothes, they feel so much better about themselves,” she says.

Clearly, Donna’s heart for the homeless is contagious.

“Oh my goodness, they all have a story,” she says. “No one single homeless person ever woke up and said I want to be homeless.”

“They tell me their story when I am out on the street with them” — they lost a job, their mental illness, divorce, running away from abuse, not making enough

money working at fast food restaurants, she details.

“They are so grateful when I stop to talk and give them a Brian Bag,” she says. “They say, ‘Thank you’ and ‘God bless you.’”

One time, she gave a bottle of water to a man on a bench in New Haven, “and he says, ‘You were sent to me by God. I haven’t had any water or food for two days,’” she recalls.

Another homeless woman insisted on praying the rosary with her. “I couldn’t give her something without her giving me something,” Donna says. “She gave me a coin that was so dirty. I took it home and washed it; it had angels on both sides.

“It brings me joy when I see a homeless person and can help them,” she says. “I want other people to feel the joy I feel. They’re not going to hurt you.

“People want to help the homeless but they just don’t know how,” she concludes. So the Brian O’Connell Homeless Project is one way she has made it possible for people to help. Just as Mother Teresa said, “I like to say, ‘If you can’t feed 100 people, then just feed one.’” †



Lorraine Greski and Donna Finneran insert a message of caring and hope into every bag.

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In the past 24 months, The Hartford Bishops’ Foundation is grateful for the generous support we have received from our Trustees and Corporate Sponsors. A special thanks to Fritz Blasius, Blasius Cadillac, whose generous Leadership gift has made possible this opportunity to raise \$3,380,480 in support of the Restoration of Saint Joseph Cathedral, Catholic Education, and Catholic Charities.

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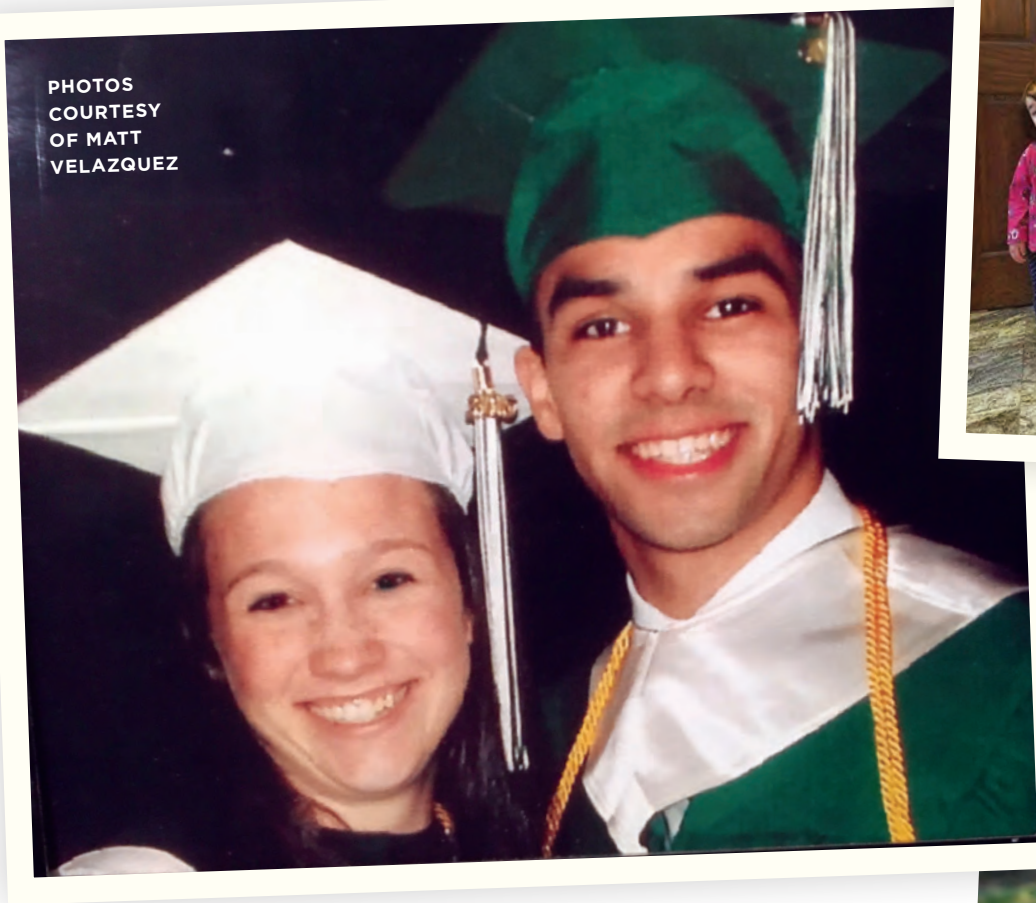
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The **FACS** of life

FACS changes lives. Just ask sports reporter Matt Velazquez, 30, who covers the Milwaukee Bucks for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. He attributes the quality of his life to the faith-filled education he received at Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Hartford. An education made possible, in part, through a scholarship he received from FACS, the Foundation for the Advancement of Catholic Schools.

Matt grew up in Southington and Plainville and eventually attended Mass at Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Plainville, where he was an altar server and lector. Faith always played a central part in his family's life, and Matt was happy when his parents enrolled him in the fourth grade in St. John Paul II Elementary School in New Britain.

"The Church was definitely a big part of our lives growing up. It was definitely a place where we found

a lot of friends and were able to build community. My parents were very active in our church and our school," he recalls.

When it came time for him to go to high school, Matt followed in his older brother's footsteps and attended Northwest Catholic in West Hartford. He was challenged by a rigorous curriculum, and also played football and lacrosse and joined the school's newspaper, where he discovered his passion for journalism. There were also lifelong lessons that were not found in text books.

"I learned the value of hard work. ... You have to really manage your time well to get everything done and everything done well. You also learn the value of community and you have a really good group of friends, and you lean on those people and learn who you are," says Matt.

It is that sense of community, a core value instilled in Catholic education, that got Matt through one of the toughest times of his life — the death of his mother. Upon entering school his freshman year, she died of cancer, only months after giving birth to his youngest sister. He says the outpouring of love and

↻
A renewable scholarship from the Foundation for the Advancement of Catholic Schools (FACS) made it possible for Matt Velazquez to graduate from a Catholic high school, despite the death of a parent.

↑
Matt met his sweetheart, Andrea, at Northwest Catholic High School in West Hartford and later married her.



Today, Matt has an exciting career as a sports reporter and a beautiful family, thanks to FACS.

support he and his family received was amazing.

“It was really a community effort, lots of people really giving of their time and giving us their attention to make sure we were taken care of,” he remembers.

For the next four years, Matt and his family relied on the kindness of others. Friends’ parents pitched in to get him to and from school, pick him up from practices and look after him. After graduating in 2006, he attended Columbia University in New York. Six years later, he married his high school sweetheart, Andrea, who also attended Northwest Catholic. Today, she is a Catholic school teacher and, he says, she keeps him grounded.

“She keeps me on the right path,” he says, “and tries to elevate my faith and my relationship with God.”

When Matt looks back on his life, he is thankful for his education. And he knows the financial assistance he received from FACS made it a reality. FACS is an independent nonprofit that awards tuition assistance to students, based on need and merit, who attend Catholic schools. The assistance is available to both elementary and high school students.

School administrators realize that the cost of attending Catholic schools can be challenging for many families, and parents inevitably make sacrifices to afford it. President Cary Dupont of St. Paul High School in Bristol explains that FACS works with schools to assist families. Students are encouraged to apply by filling out an application and writing an essay.

“FACS has been a great partner, a great friend and a great gift to our school and our students,” says Dupont. “There’s no doubt about it, regardless of the amount of the gift, it’s a significant difference for any family.”

President Eileen Regan of Sacred Heart High School in Waterbury echoes these sentiments. She says the assistance from FACS coupled with the financial support that Sacred Heart receives from other resources — such as its alumni, staff, local foundations, businesses, friends and the generosity of the archdiocese — allowed the school to award more than \$800,000 in scholarships to its students during the 2017-2018 school year.

Sacred Heart junior Elizabeth DeCrisanti credits her FACS scholarship with making her dream come true.

“Coming here is one of the best things that’s ever happened to me. I am very involved in this school. I’m on the student council, the debate team and swim team. I’m involved in the theater program here,” says Elizabeth.

Elizabeth was awarded a \$2,500 renewable FACS scholarship that is applied toward her tuition every year, as long as she remains in good academic standing. This is similar to the scholarship that Matt received.

President Regan adds, “I thank [FACS] from the bottom of my heart. I thank them for the families we serve, because of the good work that they are doing and the investment they are putting in our students. It’s really something that will help the students’ future success.”

Matt Velazquez is certainly grateful. He loves his job, but more importantly, he loves his family. He is sending his daughters to Catholic school because he wants them to learn the same values that he did.

“I’m happy with the way things turned out,” Matt says, “and I can’t imagine it any other way.” †

**STORY BY
MARIA ZONE**

Elizabeth DeCrisanti, a junior at Sacred Heart High School in Waterbury, is currently receiving a scholarship from FACS. A student in good standing, she also participates in numerous extracurricular activities.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELIZABETH DECRISANTI

FACS: Funding education for a lifetime



**TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT FACS, VISIT
FACSHARTFORD.ORG**

The Foundation for the Advancement of Catholic Schools (FACS) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit established in 1983. Its mission is to support and assist students attending Catholic elementary and secondary schools in the Archdiocese of Hartford. The foundation, led by a Board of Trustees, is joined by generous donors to provide tuition assistance to students. Archbishop Leonard P. Blair serves as the honorary chairman.

Its three annual fundraisers each year, which may be familiar to many, include the Archbishop’s St. Patrick’s Day Breakfast (March 15 this year), the Archbishop’s Columbus Day Breakfast in October and the FORE FACS Golf Tournament in May.

FACS is assisting students at all 35 parochial elementary schools and all four archdiocesan high schools this year.

For academic year 2018-2019, FACS awarded:

- \$615,000 in scholarships and grants
- 301* scholarships to Catholic elementary school students
- 69 scholarships to high school students
- 1 scholarship to a college-bound senior
- 35 elementary schools
- 4 diocesan high schools and 1 donor-designated high school

Catholic students in the archdiocese exceed the average national percentiles in all areas of standardized testing, continue to have a nearly 100 percent graduation rate, and 99 percent of high school graduates pursue further education.

* The number of scholarship awards will increase once the net proceeds from the 2018 Columbus Day Breakfast are finalized.

Q: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL AND THE FORWARD WITH FAITH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN?

A: As Archbishop Blair stated a year ago, the **Archbishop's Annual Appeal* (AAA)** remains the “bread and butter” fundraiser of archdiocesan life. Think of it as being like the archdiocese’s “checking account” during a given year.

Whatever is collected for the AAA in a given year is spent in that given year. The AAA is vital for basic activities, including charity, and an accounting is given annually for all the various components that are part and parcel of the AAA — everything from our seminarians’ education to the approximately 250 local charities throughout the archdiocese that receive financial support in the name of the Catholic people.

The **Forward with Faith Capital Campaign**, on the other hand, can be compared to a “savings account,” *not* for the archdiocese but primarily for the individual parishes, which will receive at least 50% of what is raised. The goal is not to create a big, idle

parish savings account, but rather to serve as a resource for creative parish planning, present and future.

In some parishes, construction or capital improvements may be paramount. But for others, the proceeds of the campaign can make it possible to hire more professionally trained religious education staff or a youth minister or to establish a new charitable or social outreach program. Each parish needs to be creative about using its funds in this way.

And what about the other 50%? Well, 10% is being set aside for the expenses of running a major capital campaign.

The remaining 40% does *not* go to the archdiocese, but to the recently

established **Hartford Bishops’ Foundation (HBF)**, which has its own board and lay leadership, and its own articles of incorporation. The HBF is meant to be a stable, ongoing entity that will benefit from 40% of the capital campaign proceeds and then, over time, seek out and welcome gifts from many sources, including corporate and legacy gifts in the wider community. The HBF is a way for major donors in particular to make significant gifts or memorial gifts.

Over the long-term, the HBF will make grants for projects, entities and services that support the Church’s spiritual, educational and charitable mission. Archdiocesan entities can make a grant request to the HBF, but so can parishes! It does not exist simply to generate additional funds for the operations of the archdiocese.

The Archbishop’s Annual Appeal and the Capital Campaign are meant to complement one another by meeting immediate needs, and long-term needs, respectively. Both serve the Church’s mission at every level — parochial and archdiocesan, spiritual and material, inwardly in church life, and outwardly in charity and social engagement for the good of all. †



PHOTO COURTESY OF AAA

* “It is important to note that the archdiocese did not, and will not, use any of the revenues derived from the **Archbishop's Annual Appeal**, or other contributions and bequests that are designated for special purposes for the payment of settlements or expenses related to settlements. Nor has the archdiocese ever looked to the recently created **Hartford Bishops’ Foundation** for any such funding.”

What will people be saying about us **100 YEARS FROM NOW?**



PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

Memorabilia from each of the 128 parishes of the archdiocese and various Catholic organizations

To coincide with the 175th anniversary of the Archdiocese of Hartford, the Office of the Archdiocesan Archives is preparing a time capsule that will contain memorabilia from each of the 128 parishes of the archdiocese as well as from various Catholic organizations.

Parish representatives were asked to bring two sets of parish memorabilia to the special Mass held Nov. 27 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph to celebrate the anniversary.

According to Bridgett Woodall, archdiocesan archivist, the archdiocese is in the process of inventorying the many items. They include: photographs, programs, parish bulletins, newsletters, anniversary books, pictorial directories, plaques and history publications.

Some parishes took pains to document before and after altar restorations. Others sent in photos of their old and new parish names.

One set will remain in the archives to build up its collection on parishes for future research.

The second set of memorabilia will be placed in a time capsule specially designed for archival materials and buried on the property of the cathedral in Hartford this summer.

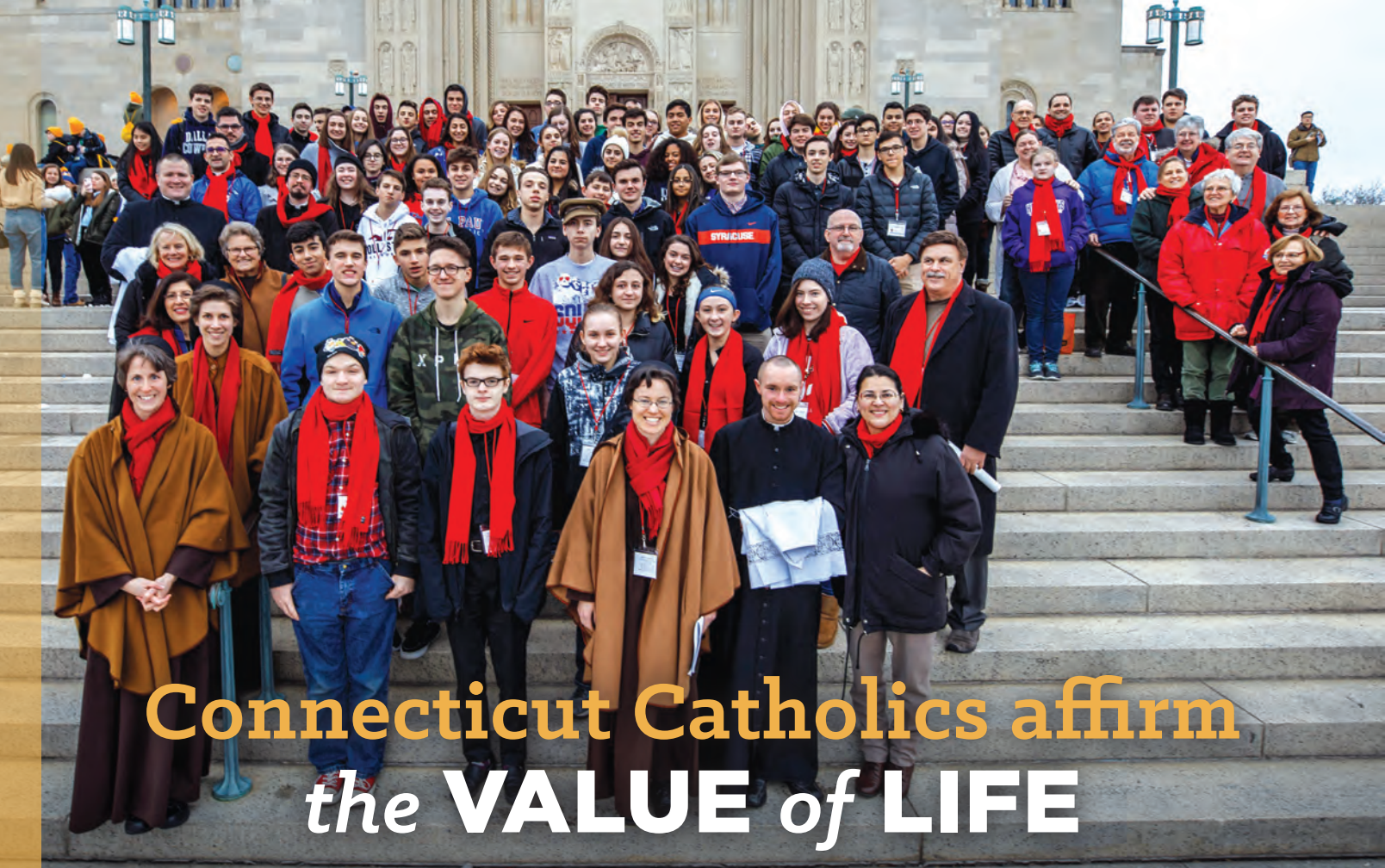
When the capsule is unearthed 100 years from now by future Catholics, here are just a few of the more novel items they will discover:

- A hot pink knitted and blessed pocket prayer square from St. Therese Parish in Granby “for encouragement, comfort and strength.” “I’d love to

meet the ladies who made this,” said Nicole Besseghir, the new archives assistant, who is overseeing the inventory.

**STORY
BY MARY
CHALUPSKY
AND SHELLEY
WOLF**

- Pewter Christmas ornaments from St. Dunstan Parish in Glastonbury, St. Mary the Immaculate Conception Church in Derby, St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish in Bristol and St. Mary Magdalen Parish in Oakville.
- A blue and white wooden plaque from East Catholic High School in Manchester.
- A blue and gold T-shirt from St. Anthony Parish in New Haven.
- A reproduction of the original dedication program from St. Patrick’s Church in Farmington dated June 11, 1922.
- A wooden replica of a 1913 ambulance from St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center in Hartford.
- A book from Laurelton Hall in Milford with its motto “Empowering Women for Life.”
- A 50th anniversary pictorial church directory from St. Christopher Church in East Hartford in which many parishioners posed for serious portraits with their beloved pets. †



Connecticut Catholics affirm the **VALUE** of LIFE

Stating simply that “God is the author of life,” Auxiliary Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt, SEMV, opened the Archdiocese of Hartford’s annual Respect Life Mass for 200 pro-life supporters on Jan. 12 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford.

On Jan. 17, buses carrying 200 pilgrims from throughout the archdiocese left in the early morning darkness for the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. Priests, religious and the lay faithful journeyed to the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception for the Opening Mass of the National Prayer Vigil for Life.

An estimated 10,000 people, mostly teenagers and young adults, participated in the Thursday evening Mass concelebrated by 39 bishops — including our own Archbishop Leonard P. Blair — and an estimated 250 priests, several from the Archdiocese of Hartford.

For those who made the trip, Archbishop Blair offered a morning Mass and breakfast on Jan. 18 at the hotel. Youths in attendance included students from St. Paul Catholic High School in Bristol, East Catholic High School in Manchester and Sacred Heart High School in Waterbury, along with confirmation students from St. John Paul the Great Parish in Torrington.

Then, participants headed to the National Mall for the rousing speakers’ rally at noon. In the afternoon, the group joined the national march to the U.S. Supreme Court with nearly 500,000 others to stand up for their belief that all life has value, from the moment of conception to natural death.

Their message? All life is a precious gift from God. †





MARCH FOR LIFE



PHOTOGRAPHY
BY AARON
JOSEPH



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IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Appointments

The Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair, S.T.D., has made the following appointments:

- **Deacon Robert E. Bernd:** senior status, effective Oct. 18, 2018.
- **Deacon Robert A. Berube:** senior status, effective Oct. 22, 2018.
- **Msgr. Gerard G. Schmitz:** appointed interim chaplain, St. Thomas More Chapel and Golden Center at Yale University, New Haven, effective immediately.
- **Rev. Thanh Van Nguyen:** renewal of priestly faculties for the calendar year 2019, effective Jan. 1, 2019.
- **Rev. Gregory J. Markey:** priestly faculties for the calendar years 2018 and 2019, effective Oct. 31, 2018.
- **Deacon Brian K. Armstrong:** from St. Francis de Sales Parish, Bristol, to St. Matthew Parish, Forestville, effective Dec. 1, 2018.
- **Deacon Kenneth E. Ewaskie:** senior status, effective Jan. 6, 2019.
- **Deacon Donald Philip:** diaconal faculties for the calendar years 2018 and 2019, effective Oct. 31, 2018.
- **St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc:** (new quasi-parish) erected Nov. 24, 2018, for the spiritual care of the Vietnamese Community. Contact information: 467 South Quaker Lane, West Hartford, 860.233.1269.
- **Rev. Robert L. Turner:** appointed temporary administrator, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, New Haven, in addition to duties as pastor of St. Ambrose Parish, North Branford, effective Nov. 20, 2018.
- **Rev. Raymond D. Introvigne:** priestly faculties for the calendar years 2018 and 2019, monthly Healing Mass at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, West Hartford.
- **Rev. Tuan Anh Dinh Mai:** from parochial vicar, St. Gianna Parish, West Hartford to pastor, St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc, West Hartford effective Nov. 24, 2018.
- **Sacred Heart of Jesus Korean Catholic Parish:** (new quasi-parish) erected Jan. 1, 2019, for the spiritual care of the Korean Community. Contact information: 56 Hartford Ave., Wethersfield, 860.529.1991.
- **Rev. Gye Chun-Lee:** from chaplain of the Korean Catholic Community to pastor, Sacred Heart of Jesus Korean Catholic Parish, Wethersfield, effective Jan. 1, 2019.
- **Rev. William R. Metzler:** from senior parochial vicar, St. Gianna (Beretta Molla) Parish, to senior status, effective Dec. 31, 2018.
- **PRIESTLY FACULTIES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2019:**
 - **Rev. Amobi Simeon Atuegbu, SMMM**
 - **Rev. Mark J. Bonsigneur**
 - **Rev. Charles Bak, MSA**
 - **Rev. Luis A. Luna-Barrera, MSA**
 - **Rev. Henry Camacho, OP**
 - **Rev. Romanus Cessario, OP**
 - **Rev. Bernard Confer, OP**
 - **Rev. Dennis P. Connell, MSA**
 - **Rev. Elias Henritzky, OP**
 - **Rev. Jonathan Kalisch, OP**
 - **Rev. Peter Kucer, MSA**
 - **Rev. Peter J. Langevin**
 - **Rev. William McCarthy, MSA**
 - **Rev. Elias Menuba**
 - **Rev. Edward Przygocki, MSA**
 - **Rev. Vincent Salamoni, MSA**
 - **Rev. Robert Sickler**
 - **Rev. Thomas Simon, MSA**
 - **Rev. Jeffrey Thompson, MSA**
 - **Rev. David Zercie, MSA**
- **St. Isaac Jogues Ghanaian Catholic Parish:** (new quasi-parish) erected Jan. 1, 2019, for the spiritual care of the Ghanaian Community. Contact information: 1 Community St., East Hartford, 860.290.1880.
- **Rev. Paul Baffuor Awuah:** from chaplain of the Ghanaian Catholic Community to pastor, St. Isaac Jogues Ghanaian Catholic Parish, East Hartford, effective Jan. 1, 2019.
- **Rev. Patrick M. Kane:** medical leave of absence, effective Dec. 21, 2018.
- **Deacon James McCormack:** from St. Gianna (Beretta Molla) Parish, West Hartford, to St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, West Hartford, effective Jan. 12, 2019.
- **RENEWAL OF PRIESTLY FACULTIES FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2019:**
 - **Rev. Shawn Aaron, LC**
 - **Rev. John Bender, LC**
 - **Rev. Jon Budke, LC**
 - **Rev. Joseph Brickner, LC**

- Rev. Michael Brisson, LC
- Rev. Abiamiri V. Chijjeze
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- Rev. John Connor, LC
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- Rev. Joseph Gillespie, LC
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- Rev. John Higgins, MS
- Rev. Edward Hopkins, LC
- Rev. Andreas Kramarz, LC
- Rev. Augustine A. Mangalath
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- Rev. John Sweeney, LC
- Rev. Kermit Syren, LC
- Rev. Richard Testa
- Rev. Robert W. Vujs, MM

■ DIACONAL FACULTIES FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2019:

- Deacon Javier Flores, LC
- Deacon Michael Hai Tran, MSA,
- Deacon Nathan Torrey, LC

■ **Rev. Sebastian K. Kos:** from pastor, St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Naugatuck, to temporary parochial vicar, St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish, Manchester.

■ **Rev. Hector G. Rangel:** from parochial vicar, St. Gregory the Great Parish, Bristol, to parochial vicar, All Saints Parish, Waterbury.

■ **Rev. John Kuzhikottayil, SDB:** from parochial vicar, Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Waterbury, to pastor, St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Naugatuck.

■ **Rev. E. Mauricio Galvis:** from parochial vicar of All Saints Parish, Waterbury, to parochial vicar, St. John Paul the Great Parish, Torrington.

■ **Rev. José R. Linares:** from parochial vicar, St. Augustine Parish, Hartford, to pastor, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, New Haven.

■ **Rev. Carlos M. Zapata:** from parochial vicar of St. John Paul the Great Parish, Torrington, to parochial vicar, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, New Haven.

■ **Rev. Cosmas Archibong:** priestly faculties for the calendar year 2019.

■ **Very Rev. Christopher M. Ford:** from rector, Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, and pastor of the Basilica Parish, Waterbury, to pastor, Church of the Assumption Parish, Woodbridge, effective Jan. 29, 2019.

■ **Rev. Msgr. Gene E. Gianelli:** from pastor, Church of the Assumption Parish, Woodbridge, to senior status, effective Jan. 29, 2019.

■ **Rev. Jeffrey A. Gubbiotti:** to pastor, Assumption Parish, Ansonia, while continuing as pastor, Holy Rosary Parish, Ansonia, effective Jan. 29, 2019.

■ **Rev. David M. Madejski:** from parochial vicar, Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Blaise Parishes, Waterbury, to parochial vicar, Assumption Parish, Ansonia, and Holy Rosary Parish, Ansonia, effective Jan. 29, 2019.

■ **Rev. James M. Sullivan:** from pastor, Assumption Parish, Ansonia, to rector, Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, and pastor of the Basilica Parish, Waterbury, effective Jan. 29, 2019.

■ RENEWAL OF PRIESTLY FACULTIES FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2019, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

- **Rev. Msgr. Stephen Adu-Kwaning:** priest of the Archdiocese of Accra, Ghana.

- **Rev. Francis H. Crombie:** priest from the Diocese of Springfield, Massachusetts.

- **Rev. Bartholomew Ibe:** priest of the Diocese of Okigwe, Nigeria.

- **Rev. Joseph Khoueiry:** priest of the Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn.

- **Rev. Joseph J. Maurice:** priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts.

- **Rev. Ashley (Lee) Perry:** priest of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic.

- **Rev. Michael Sequeira:** priest of the Diocese of Norwich.

- **Rev. Stephen Dyas, LC**

■ **Deacon James McCormack:** from St. Gianna (Berretta Molla) Parish, West Hartford, to St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, West Hartford, effective Jan. 12, 2019.

■ **Rev. Eugene J. Charman:** from senior parochial vicar, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish, North Haven, to senior status, effective March 31, 2019.

■ **Rev. Christopher M. Ford:** completed assignment as episcopal vicar, Western Vicariate, effective Jan. 29, 2019.

■ **Rev. Sebastian K. Kos:** from pastor, St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Naugatuck, to temporary parochial vicar, St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish, Manchester, effective Jan. 29, 2019.

■ **Rev. John Kuzhikottayil, SDB:** from parochial vicar, Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Waterbury, to pastor, St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Naugatuck, effective Jan. 29, 2019.

— REV. RYAN M. LERNER, CHANCELLOR, FEB. 4, 2019

** Clergy who are not incardinated in the Archdiocese of Hartford must request permission from the archbishop to minister here; that is, they request faculties.*

*** Because deacons and priests have received the sacrament of holy orders and therefore never retire in the canonical sense, the term "senior" priest or deacon describes their status. †*



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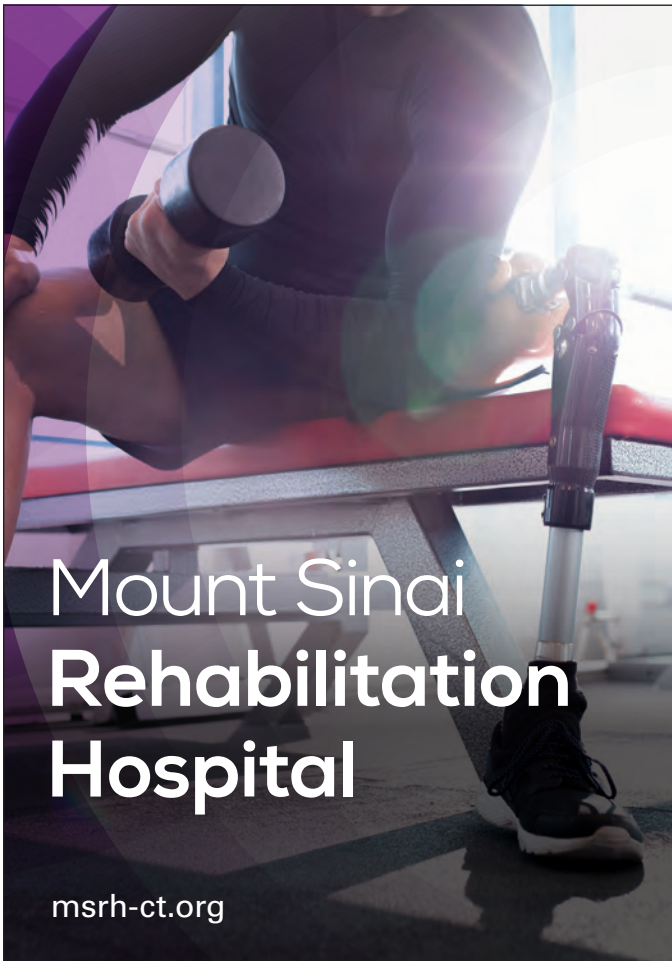
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