

# Catholic **TRANSCRIPT**

MAY 2019

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At Catholic Academy  
of Waterbury,  
**STREAM**  
is the word

**ORDINATION**

A neuroscientist pursues a new calling  
— the priesthood / **PG. 6**

**BIBLE GUIDANCE**

Turn to Scripture to deal with  
everyday problems / **PG. 10**

**QUASI-PARISH**

Vietnamese Catholics celebrate establishment  
of new quasi-parish / **PG. 20**



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## MEET THE EDITOR

# Q&A

## with Karen A. Avitabile: New editor of the *Catholic Transcript*

STORY BY SHELLEY WOLF  
PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

Beginning with the May issue, Karen Avitabile took charge as the full-time editor of the *Catholic Transcript* magazine and website. She brings significant editorial experience to the Archdiocese of Hartford.

Avitabile served for 14 years as the editor of multiple editions of AAA Allied Group's *Journeys* magazine, which was mailed to nearly 1.5 million members. Prior to that, she worked as a reporter for *The Middletown Press* and the *Journal Inquirer*, and as an editor at *The Observer*, *The Middletown Press*, *The Berlin Citizen* and *The Plainville Citizen*. Most recently, Avitabile was a market manager for the American Red Cross, serving Connecticut and Western Massachusetts.

After just a few weeks on the new job, we asked her about her career, her plans for the publication and about her personal faith-walk.

### Travel editing seems interesting to most of us. What was it like to be the editor of *Journeys* magazine?

It could be grueling, as travel often is, but was also very rewarding. There are so many destinations, fascinating historic places and unique moments representing America's diverse architecture and culture that have been preserved forever. It has been a pleasure to explore so many of them — and to cross them off my bucket list, too.

### How is your new position going so far?

It is refreshing to work with a group of people, both lay and clergy, striving to embrace stewardship. Everyone uses their

talents to develop a stronger connection between the archdiocese and parishioners.

### As the editor of the *Catholic Transcript*, what new features are you hoping to add in the coming months?

To grow as disciples of Jesus, it is important to spend time with him each day in prayer. Some new columns, including learning about the lives of saints, will be a testament and reminder that we can walk in the footsteps of people who have suffered as we have suffered.

Nothing is more engaging than genuine stories of people inspired by the teachings of the Church and the activities of daily life. Columns and stories about marriage, parenting and other relevant topics can demonstrate how Catholicism permeates all aspects of one's life.



### What do you hope readers will gain from reading the *Catholic Transcript* on a regular basis?

Aside from the happenings in the archdiocese, I'd like readers to gain a better understanding of how we are all faithful servants of Christ — and we all have a mission to evangelize or share our faith with others. When we allow ourselves to be in a relationship with Jesus, we can become his disciples.

### Where do you attend Mass?

My lifelong parish is St. Thomas Church in Southington. I also attended junior high school there, when it was St. Thomas Junior High School. It is a wonderful feeling belonging and contributing to a parish with people who share my faith and values. I have also been a member of the school board, served as president of the Ladies Guild and organized the 150th anniversary banquet for my church.

### You've been a lifelong Catholic. What do you most appreciate about your Catholic faith?

We are taught from an early age that we are sinners; but we are forgiven for our sins by God. It is comforting to know that God will never desert us, but, instead, walks by our side every day. †

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Archbishop Leonard P. Blair  
**PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER**

Father James A. Shanley  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF  
COMMUNICATIONS AND  
PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Karen A. Avitabile  
**EDITOR**

Archbishop Leonard P. Blair  
Auxiliary Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt  
Father Michael Casey  
Mary Chalupsky  
Mark Jahne  
Aaron Joseph  
Joe Pisani  
Father Jeffrey V. Romans  
Shelley Wolf  
**CONTRIBUTORS**

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Jennifer Pomicter  
**GRAPHIC DESIGNER**

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# 'LET IT BE DONE TO ME ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD'

During this month of May dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, I would like to reflect a bit on her “yes” to God at the Annunciation, when the angel Gabriel appeared to her with the message that she was to conceive and bear a son. Mary’s “yes” is the most important and decisive answer ever uttered by one of God’s creatures for as long as time shall last. Without her womanly “yes,” there could be no conception and birth of the eternal Word, no fulfillment of God’s plan for our redemption.

You and I are caught up in the “yes” that Mary gave. Not only do we reap the benefits of her answer, but we, too, have to say “yes.” Scripture tells us that the whole human race was created to be married to God. The distinction between male and female, and their union in marriage, is — as St. Paul says in his Letter to the Ephesians — a sacrament of Christ’s love for his bride, the Church.

In his apostolic letter *Mulieris Dignitatem*, Pope St. John Paul II says that the spousal love of God makes each of us a bride of Christ. The pope writes: “[All] human beings — both women and men — are called through the Church to be the ‘bride’ of Christ, the Redeemer of the world. In this way, ‘being the bride,’ and thus the ‘feminine’ element, becomes a symbol of all that is ‘human.’ ... In the Church, every human being — male and female — is the ‘bride,’ in that he or she accepts the gift of love of Christ the Redeemer, and seeks to respond to it with the gift of his or her own person.” (no. 25)

What the late pope is saying is that because our relationship to God, individually and as a Church, is nuptial, our “yes” has to be a total “yes.” It’s not enough to say “yes” in our mind or merely on

our lips. You can imagine how short-lived a human marriage would be if the “I do” were only a matter of words. Our “yes” to God and to his plan must be a total gift as in marriage, a total gift of self like Mary’s — body, soul and spirit. First, we accept the love of Christ the bridegroom, and then we reciprocate with our own gift of self to him.

But what does our “yes” entail? Obviously, we say “yes” to the gift of life, “yes” to God in Christ, “yes” to our Catholic faith, to what the Church believes and teaches. If we were baptized as infants — as most of us were — it was our parents and godparents who first said “yes” for us. As we grow up, we have to learn to make that baptismal “yes” our own.

Our “yes” to God only becomes fully mature when we understand, like Mary, that what God wants of us is intensely personal. Each of us has a unique vocation and mission from him: a vocation and mission to be someone and to accomplish something in this world. What God wants is our “yes” to the vocation and mission he wills for our salvation and our part in the salvation of the world.

You might think of it this way: What we are saying “yes” to is God’s “holiness plan” for us — his personalized, unique vocation

and mission plan for us. We have no way to know from day to day what life will bring. Just as Mary, on the day of the Annunciation, could not possibly have known what lay in store for her. Yet in faith she said “yes,” and we have to do the same.

And when we realize that, then we begin to understand what true holiness is. Holiness has been defined as that attribute of a person who allows himself or herself to be perfected by God, who cooperates with God, who says “yes” to God. And when we do that, we fulfill the purpose for which we were created; namely, the perfection of charity — love of God and neighbor — beginning on earth and fulfilled in heaven.

May each of us find in Mary the inspiration and strength we need to commit ourselves entirely to God’s hands in this way. †



**ARCHBISHOP  
LEONARD P.  
BLAIR**

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



# ‘HÁGASE EN MI CONFORME A TU PALABRA’

**D**urante este mes de mayo dedicado a la Santísima Virgen María, me gustaría reflexionar un poco sobre su “sí” a Dios en la Anunciación. Cuando el ángel Gabriel se apareció a María con el mensaje de que debía concebir y dar a luz un hijo, su “sí” ha sido y será por siempre la respuesta más importante y decisiva jamás pronunciada por una de las criaturas de Dios. Sin su “sí” femenino, no podría haber concepción ni nacimiento de la Palabra eterna, ni cumplimiento del plan de Dios para nuestra redención.



**EL ARZOBISPO  
LEONARD P.  
BLAIR**

es el décimo  
tercer obispo de  
la Arquidiócesis  
de Hartford

Ustedes y yo estamos atrapados en el “sí” que dio María. No solo cosechamos los beneficios de su respuesta, sino que también tenemos que decir “sí”. Las Escrituras nos dicen que toda la raza humana fue creada para estar casada con Dios. La distinción entre hombre y mujer, y su unión en matrimonio, es, como dice San Pablo en su Carta a los Efesios, un sacramento del amor de Cristo por su esposa, la Iglesia.

llamados a través de la Iglesia a ser la ‘novia’ de Cristo, el Redentor del mundo. De esta manera, ‘ser la novia’ y, por lo tanto, el elemento ‘femenino’, se convierte en un símbolo de todo lo que es ‘humano’. ... En la Iglesia, todo ser humano, masculino y femenino, es la ‘novia’, en eso él o ella acepta el regalo de amor de Cristo Redentor y trata de responder a él con el regalo de su propia persona”. (n. 25)

Lo que estaba diciendo el difunto Papa es que debido a que nuestra relación con Dios, individualmente y como Iglesia, es nupcial, nuestro “sí” tiene que ser un “sí” total. No es suficiente decir “sí” en nuestra mente o simplemente en nuestros labios. Pueden imaginarse cuán breve sería un matrimonio humano si el “sí, acepto” fuera solo una cuestión de palabras. Nuestro “sí” a Dios y a su plan debe ser un don total como en el matrimonio, un don total de sí mismo como el de María: cuerpo, alma y espíritu. Primero, aceptamos el amor de Cristo, el novio, y luego le correspondemos con la propia donación de nosotros mismos.

Pero, ¿qué implica nuestro “sí”? Obviamente, decimos “sí” al don de la vida, “sí” a Dios en Cristo, “sí” a nuestra fe católica, a lo que la Iglesia cree y enseña. Si hemos sido bautizados de bebés, (como lo

hemos sido la mayoría), entonces fueron nuestros padres y padrinos quienes primero dijeron “sí” por nosotros. A medida que crecemos, debemos aprender a hacer nuestro “sí” bautismal cada vez más propio.

Nuestro “sí” a Dios solo llega a ser completamente maduro cuando entendemos, como María, que lo que Dios quiere de nosotros es sumamente personal. Cada uno de nosotros tiene una vocación y una misión únicas dadas por él: una vocación y una misión para ser alguien y lograr algo en este mundo. Lo que Dios quiere es nuestro “sí” a la vocación y misión que él quiere para nuestra salvación y nuestra parte en la salvación del mundo.

Pueden pensarlo de esta manera: a lo que estamos diciendo “sí” es el “plan de santidad” de Dios para nosotros, a una vocación única y personalizada y el plan de misión para nosotros. No tenemos forma de saber día a día qué nos deparará la vida. Al igual que María en el día de la Anunciación, ella no pudo haber sabido lo que le esperaba. Sin embargo, en la fe dijo “sí”, y tenemos que hacer lo mismo.

Y cuando nos damos cuenta de eso, entonces comenzamos a comprender qué es la verdadera santidad. La santidad se ha definido como el atributo de una persona que se deja perfeccionar por Dios, que coopera con Dios, que dice “sí” a Dios. Y cuando hacemos eso, cumplimos el propósito para el cual fuimos creados; a saber, la perfección de la caridad, el amor de Dios y el prójimo, que comienza en la tierra y llega a su plenitud en el cielo.

Que cada uno de nosotros encuentre en María la inspiración y la fuerza que necesitamos para entregarnos totalmente a las manos de Dios. †

**“Nuestro ‘sí’ a Dios y a su plan debe ser un don total como en el matrimonio, un don total de sí mismo como el de María: cuerpo, alma y espíritu.”**



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# *A neuroscientist pursues a new calling —* THE PRIESTHOOD

STORY BY JOE PISANI



PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

When Jaime Maldonado-Aviles was in kindergarten, the class watched a video that asked the perennial question, “What do you want to be when you grow up?”

The teacher went around the room and received the usual responses — fireman, doctor, ballplayer and teacher. Maldonado-Aviles replied, “A priest.”

In the years that followed, however, his aspirations were directed toward another

calling — science. After receiving his doctorate in neuroscience from the University of Pittsburgh, he pursued a post-doctoral fellowship at Yale, where for six years he researched the causes of addiction and depression. But God kept intruding with the thought there was another possibility: to follow Christ along a different path.

Today, Maldonado-Aviles is in his fourth year of formation at Theological College of Catholic University of America. On May 18, he will be ordained to the transitional diaconate by Auxiliary Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt.

“For me, it was a gradual decision, an internal battle,” he says. “I often felt there was something missing in my life.”

Whenever he heard the Gospel story about the rich young man, Maldonado-Aviles would think, “Am I called to leave everything and follow Jesus? I have to find out.”

His life has always been a celebration of faith and science. To him, they’re not polar opposites, but paths that lead to the same destination — God.

Jaime was born in Puerto Rico to a devout Catholic family. His parents, Rosa and Jaime, were

medical technologists who created a healthy spiritual home life for him and his sister, Lldaly, who is a physician. A close family friend, Father Roberto Soler, provided guidance and the example of a holy priest to him.

During high school, he went on missionary trips to the Dominican Republic and Venezuela.

“Our work was to teach basic things to the students and give food to the people,” he says. “I played guitar and helped out with the liturgy and visited them in a house-to-house ministry — and even did a little evangelizing.”

Christ was the central focus of his family. “My parents always emphasized the importance of being holy to me and my sister,” he says. “They told us that when we got older, life is not so much about making money. It is important to be holy.”

*“For me, it was a gradual decision, an internal battle. I often felt there was something missing in my life.”*

— JAIME MALDONADO-AVILES

Maldonado-Aviles excelled in science and majored in biology at the University of Puerto Rico. In college, he attended a workshop with an American professor who told students to pursue whatever provided the most pleasure; however, that idea didn’t correspond to his view of life — and the importance of determining God’s will.

“For me, it was difficult trying to discern what to do in life,” he says. “I wanted to do what God wanted me to do, and certainly something that I had a passion for.”

After graduating, he enrolled in the doctorate program at the University of Pittsburgh’s Center for Neuroscience. His thesis focused on factors that lead to schizophrenia. His post-doctoral fellowship at Yale gave him an opportunity to work with a professor whose research centered on psychiatry, anorexia and eating disorders.

“I was driven by the potential to help people suffering from mental illness,” Maldonado-Aviles says. “Eating disorders are very devastating in young adults, and very little is known in terms of the mechanism that leads to their development.”

While at Yale, he joined a charismatic prayer group at Sacred Heart Parish in New Haven. Pretty soon, he was helping with the music for Sunday Mass and developed a friendship with the pastor, Father Francis Snell, whose homilies were an inspiration to him.

“I’m taking homiletics now. When I prepare, I try to do it the way he did,” Maldonado-Aviles says. “He opened the Scriptures and related them to us.”

In the last year of his fellowship, he was offered a position in the pharmacy school of the University of Puerto Rico, and the questioning about his future intensified. “I kept thinking





PHOTO COURTESY OF OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

**“SELECT FROM AMONG YOU SEVEN REPUTABLE MEN, FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT AND WISDOM.”** (ACTS 6:3)



BY FATHER MICHAEL CASEY

Even in the early Church, there was a need for additional help to meet the needs of the community. That is why the first deacons were chosen — to minister to the people and boldly witness to Jesus Christ.

Today, that need is still felt by God’s people. Men filled

with the Spirit and wisdom are still chosen by Almighty God to meet the needs of his people.

With diaconal ordination, a man enters into the clerical state and promises to live a life of prayer, apostolic celibacy and obedience. He will proclaim the Gospel both in the liturgy and in his daily life. He will be a minister of Christ’s body and blood and ever more seek to conform his life to the same Jesus Christ.

Ordinations also can be a moment for us to all pray for all the priests and deacons who have made the same promises and received the same outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

During the prayer of ordination, the bishop will pray that the new deacon “abound in every Gospel virtue: unfeigned love, concern for the sick and poor, unassuming authority, the purity of innocence, and the observance of spiritual discipline.”

As we look forward to this year’s diaconate ordination for the Archdiocese of Hartford, we pray that the Holy Spirit pours out an abundance of these virtues on our new deacon and on all the clergy of the archdiocese so that we may always be faithful servants of our Lord.

whether I wanted to dedicate my life to science,” he says. “You have to focus on developing your research if you want to get tenure, but I didn’t know if that was what I wanted to do the rest of my life.”

He was also dating a woman he met at the church and assumed marriage might be part of his future. But he was troubled by the thought of someday looking back on his life and being haunted with regret over not exploring the priesthood and discerning whether that was God’s will for him. At that point, he emailed the vocations director of the archdiocese and met with him.

During this period of uncertainty, he credits Father John Lavor-gna, former pastor of Our Lady of Pompeii in East Haven, with being a source of guidance.

“He listened and helped me decide between the job and the priesthood,” Maldonado-Aviles says. “When you look back, you realize God puts people in your life during difficult times even though you may not realize it.”

In 2014, he was accepted into the archdiocese’s formation program and began studies at the Theological College.

Despite the twists and turns, he recognizes the guiding hand of God throughout those years and concludes, “It has been quite an adventure.”

Maldonado-Aviles says he is still studying science, but it is theology, the science of God. He sees no conflict between faith and science, pointing to the work of pioneers like Gregor Mendel, the Augustinian friar and founder of the science of genetics, and Georges Lemaitre, the Belgian

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priest who conceived the Big Bang Theory of creation of the universe.

He says he believes the purported conflict between science and faith is “a fallacy” that has

been exaggerated in the popular imagination and is particularly harmful to young people who consider it an impediment to belief.

The proposition that there is a truth that can be identified through the scientific method and a truth that can be identified by faith is a fallacy, he says. There is only one truth and that is God, the creator of all things.

“If your mind is open, science will lead you to God,” Maldonado-Aviles says.

While at Yale, he met fellow professors at Mass at St. Thomas More Chapel. He notes there are many Catholics from different fields who belong to the Society of Catholic Scientists.

In addition, there are a number of seminarians with a science background at the Theological College, including a Benedictine with a doctorate in physics education and a Capuchin brother with a doctorate in molecular biology.

Jaime has an interest in bio-ethics and hopes to build bridges between scientists and Catholics because he believes there is more common ground than we realize.

“In the eyes of the world, scientists are classified non-believers, so maybe we Catholic scientists are not vocal enough in expressing our faith,” he says. “There is a lot of work to be done, but there are many opportunities. It makes a difference when you have the truth and that is the beauty of the Catholic Church. Now, we must make that truth shine and spread it.” †

**+** INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE PRIESTHOOD, THE DIACONATE OR VOCATIONS? VISIT ARCHDIOCESEOFHARTFORD.ORG/VOCATIONS



PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

☞ Father Robert Vargo, vicar for clergy, and his assistant, Gayle Brick, prepare for the upcoming weeklong “Toolbox for Pastoral Management” workshop that will be held in May at the Simsbury Inn. About 30 young priests are scheduled to participate.

life,” said Father Robert Vargo, archdiocesan vicar for clergy. “Our hope is not only to enrich the lives of our parishioners but also to facilitate the experience of pastoring a parish by our priests.”

Vargo referred to the training as a “workshop and more,” with a combination of daily presentations by noted

## MANAGEMENT TRAINING 101:

# Priests schooled in business practices

STORY BY SHELLEY WOLF

Priests attend seminary to become formed in the faith — to develop their human, intellectual, spiritual and pastoral virtues. They study theology and prepare to deliver the sacraments. Yet, once they become pastors of a parish, they are expected to perform as if they are CEOs, CFOs, human resource directors and spiritual advisers all rolled into one.

To help them step up to the responsibility of running a parish, the Archdiocese of Hartford is sponsoring a week of training for 30 young priests. They will be introduced to essential management topics such as human resources, risk management, canon law, stewardship and fundraising.

The lecture-style curriculum, called “Toolbox for Pastoral Management,” is part of a weeklong workshop offered by the National Leadership Roundtable on Church Management May 5 to 10 at the Simsbury Inn, Simsbury. The event is being coordinated by the Office of the Vicar for Clergy.

The Leadership Roundtable, headquartered in Washington, D.C., is a national organization committed to sharing best practices in management, finances, communications and human resource development within the Catholic Church in the United States. One of its aims is incorporating greater expertise of the laity. The organization brings together leaders from the worlds of business, finance, academia, philanthropy, nonprofits and the Church, all in service of the Catholic Church. “Toolbox for Pastoral Management” is just one of its many offerings.

“The workshop is meant to assist our younger pastors and soon-to-be pastors on the best practices for applying pastoral theology and secular management skills to everyday parish

faculty, opportunities for discussion, morning and evening prayer, Mass and informal social time.

The workshop, he said, is being offered in response to a request from many of the younger pastors who, because of the shortage of experienced priests, are put in charge of parishes much sooner than in previous generations. In past years, younger priests might serve for a decade or more as parochial vicars, observing and learning from many different pastors.

“It was an opportunity to ‘take the best and leave the rest’ in forming your own style and honing your own skills,” Vargo explained. “With the decline in the number of priests serving the archdiocese over the years, this valuable opportunity has been lost.

“Now, our priests may have one, possibly two, assignments as a parochial vicar before being named pastor,” he added, “and that following only two or three years after ordination.”

Father Michael Ruminski, one of the young priests selected to participate in the training, is just such a priest. He was ordained in 2014 and assigned as pastor of Our Lady of Hope in New Hartford just 2½ years later, when the pastor there went out on medical leave. He says he took two courses and attended a few conferences on parish life while in the seminary, but he places more value on experience.

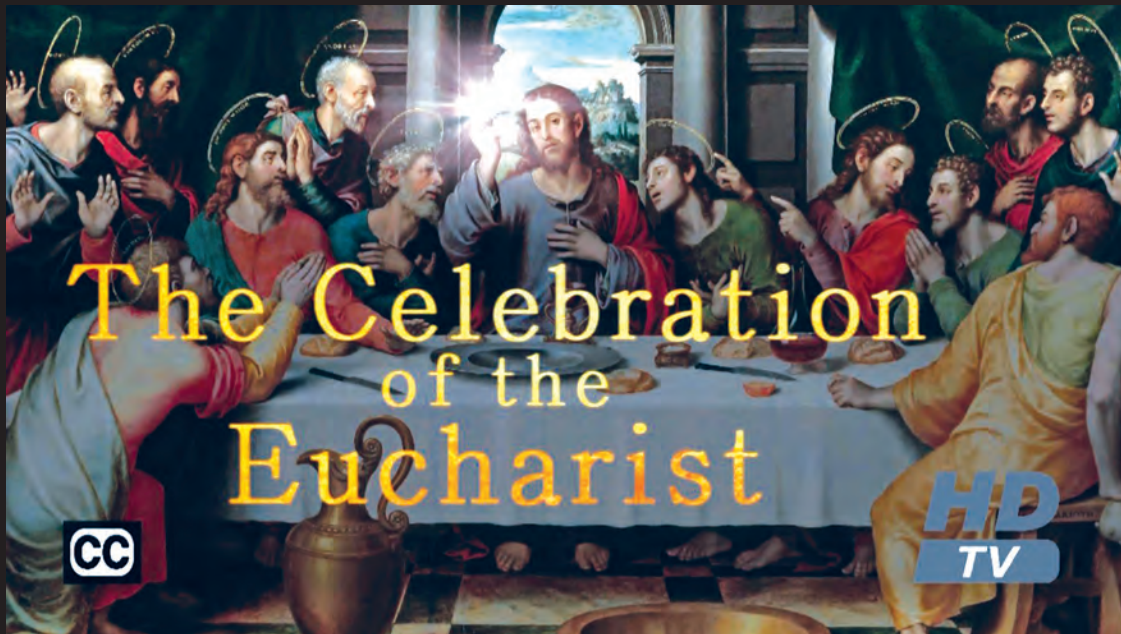
“I think there was a good faith effort made during my six years of formation to give an introduction to running a parish,” he said. “However, I think it is something that can only be learned by doing.”

In addition to summers spent in parishes as a seminarian and an assignment in Maryland, he says he was fortunate to be assigned to St. Gabriel and St. Joseph parishes in Windsor, which linked and later merged into St. Damien of Molokai Parish. He was also exposed to a diverse parish population as parochial vicar at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford, before being re-assigned as pastor of Immaculate Conception in New Hartford and Immaculate Heart of Mary in Harwinton. They were already in the process of merging into Our Lady of Hope, a process undertaken without any real playbook at the time.

Even so, Ruminski is familiar with the Leadership Roundtable and is looking forward to the presentations. “I am interested in seeing how the conferences will build on the experiences of the past five years,” he said. In particular, he said he hopes



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to learn how to blend increased fundraising and stewardship without negatively affecting pastoral ministry. "It seems the questions about money often tend to be the most sensitive and controversial."

In addition to the weeklong workshop, the presenters also plan to offer a customized afternoon session for the more experienced priests in the archdiocese on pastoral management skills and strategies for everyday parish life.

In addition to Ruminski, the other young priests participating in the "Toolbox" workshop include: Father Joshua Wilbur, Father David Madejski, Father Glen Dmytryszyn,

Father Eduar Tovar Gutierrez, Father Eric Zuniga, Father Philip O'Neill, Father Hector Rangel, Father Philip Schulze, Father Matthew Gworek, Father Riccardo Borja, Father Mauricio Galvis, Father Carlos Castrillon, Father David Dawson, Father Andy Mai, Father James Sullivan, Father Ryan Lerner, Father William Agyemang, Father Piotr Buczek, Father Michael Casey, Father Michael Santiago, Father Jorge Castro, Father H. Alexander Avendano, Father Andres Floyd Mendoza, Father Tim Ryan, Father Robert Turner, Father Diego Jimenez, Father Anthony Smith, Father George Mukuka and Father Sebastian Kos. †



## TOOLBOX FOR PASTORAL MANAGEMENT

The standard list of topics covered in six days includes:

- Theology of Management
- Management Tools for Thriving and Surviving
- Tools for Managing Your First Year
- Developing a Vision
- Internal Financial Controls
- Pastor/Pastoral Leader Wellness
- Canon Law for Pastors or Pastoral Leaders
- Pastoring in complex parishes

- (mergers, clusters, multi-site parishes, highly diverse parishes, etc.)
- Risk Management
  - Human Resources
  - Pastoral Councils and Finance Councils
  - Stewardship and Fundraising
  - Developing as a Leader
  - Managing by Standards

*Other topics may be offered as requested by the local leadership. Funded by The Hartford Bishops Foundation.*

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# TURN TO SCRIPTURE

## to deal with everyday problems

Contemporary times require from us independence, confidence, assertiveness and boldness. Social media glorify the freedom we have to make decisions and to do what each one thinks is best. We are encouraged to think about and strive to acquire or achieve all we believe we are entitled to, which practically is everything that we would want. However, when real life hits us, we become aware that not everything is as easy as we would have thought.



**BY AUXILIARY BISHOP JUAN MIGUEL BETANCOURT,**  
*the ninth auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Hartford.*

Diverse opinions from our relatives, friends and co-workers, our own emotional dispositions and insecurities, the actual life circumstances we are facing, conflicting values and priorities society exposes to us — all exert much pressure, especially when it is time to make essential choices or when we are forced to examine ourselves and bring some direction to our lives.

In times like these, many people can fall into hopelessness and even despair. We can feel an overwhelming sense of confusion, of loss; we are insecure about the path we have to go. Thankfully, you and I are not the only ones

who have felt this way. This issue has been present since the beginning of human existence. When we find ourselves in this kind of situation, we should immediately remember that we have been provided with a reliable and truthful source to find some helpful answers: The word of God in sacred Scripture.

At the beginning of this Lenten season, God our Father reminded us: “Today I have set before you life and prosperity, death and doom. If you obey the commandments of the Lord, your God, which I enjoin on you today ... you will live and grow numerous and the Lord, your God, will bless you.” (Dt 30:15-16)

Sacred Scripture tells us that we can give direction to our lives. We are capable of choosing the appropriate path, of making the right choice always. It is our faith in God, our awareness of his fatherly care and providence for each one of us, that, with his help, will dissipate the sense of loss and confusion and aid us in our way in this life.

The Bible is a source of helpful and trustworthy guidance because it is our Father himself who speaks to us in it every time, through his son Jesus and through the prophets and all the people in the Bible who have had a strong relationship with God. “In the sacred books, the Father who is in heaven comes lovingly to meet his children, and talks with them.”

*(Catechism of the Catholic Church, 104)*

I am happy for the opportunity of sharing with you some thoughts on how important the word of God is for all of us. We are all in need of sound direction in our life. In his sacred Scripture, we can find counsel, comfort and guidance when we need some instructions from the Lord that would help us overcome the common, yet severe, hardships we can face.

Transitions can be distressful for any of us. Fear and uncertainty can flow when family members or friends are absent, or when we must move for a new job or to college. “Am I doing the right thing?” Marriage is such an important step in life that not only requires commitment between the spouses but a life of faith and self-giving. Some may have the question: “How do I know that is what the Lord wants for me?” Anxiety, depression and insecurity affect thousands of people every day: “Where is God when I am feeling like this?” When the loss of a loved one seems to overwhelm us, and we cannot find any consolation: “Why does the Lord allow this to happen?” Those are a few questions that might reflect how we are feeling and all of them are clamoring for an answer.

In the course of the next few months, let us look more carefully into the word of God, sacred Scripture, with the eyes of faith. Seek not random answers, but God’s loving care as he nourishes and strengthens us in his love. †



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# RECURRAN A LAS ESCRITURAS

## para tratar los problemas cotidianos

Los tiempos contemporáneos nos exigen independencia, confianza, asertividad y audacia. Las redes sociales glorifican la libertad que tenemos para tomar decisiones y hacer lo que cada uno piensa que es mejor. Se nos alienta a pensar y esforzarnos por adquirir o lograr todo lo que creemos que tenemos derecho, que prácticamente es todo lo que nos gustaría. Sin embargo, cuando la vida real nos golpea, nos damos cuenta de que no todo es tan fácil como hubiéramos pensado.



**POR OBISPO AUXILIAR JUAN MIGUEL BETANCOURT,**

*El noveno obispo auxiliar de la Arquidiócesis de Hartford.*

Opiniones diversas de nuestros familiares, amigos y compañeros de trabajo, nuestras propias disposiciones emocionales e inseguridades, las circunstancias reales de la vida a las que nos enfrentamos, los valores en conflicto y las prioridades que la sociedad nos presenta, todos ellos ejercen mucha presión, especialmente cuando es el momento de tomar decisiones esenciales. o cuando nos vemos obligados a examinarnos a nosotros mismos y dar alguna dirección a nuestras vidas.

En tiempos como estos, muchas personas pueden caer en la desesperanza e incluso en la desesperación. Podemos sentir una abrumadora sensación de confusión, de pérdida; estamos inseguros sobre el camino que debemos seguir. Afortunadamente, tú y yo no somos los únicos que nos hemos sentido así. Este tema ha estado presente desde el comienzo de la existencia humana. Cuando nos encontramos en este tipo de situación, debemos recordar de inmediato que hemos recibido una fuente confiable y veraz donde encontrar algunas respuestas útiles: La palabra de Dios en las sagradas escrituras.

Al inicio de este tiempo de Cuaresma, la Sagrada escritura

nos recuerda que Dios nuestro Padre nos dice: “Mira, yo he puesto hoy delante de ti la vida y el bien, la muerte y el mal. Hoy te ordeno amar al Señor tu Dios, andar en Sus caminos y guardar Sus mandamientos, Sus estatutos y Sus decretos, para que vivas y te multipliques, a fin de que el Señor tu Dios te bendiga.” (Deuteronomio 30:15-16). Las sagradas escrituras nos dicen que podemos orientar nuestras vidas, no solo en tiempos de desafíos e incertidumbres, sino que además somos capaces de elegir el camino adecuado, de tomar siempre la decisión correcta. Es nuestra fe en Dios, nuestra conciencia de su cuidado paternal y su providencia por cada uno de nosotros, que con su ayuda se disipará la sensación de pérdida y confusión y nos ayudará en nuestro camino en esta vida.

La Biblia es una fuente de guía útil y confiable porque es nuestro Padre quien nos habla en ella cada vez, a través de su hijo Jesús y a través de los profetas y todas las personas en la Biblia que han tenido una gran relación con Dios. “En los libros sagrados, el Padre que está en el cielo sale amorosamente al encuentro de sus hijos para conversar con ellos” (Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica, 104).

Estoy feliz por la oportunidad de compartir con ustedes

algunos pensamientos sobre lo importante que es la Palabra de Dios para todos nosotros. Todos necesitamos una buena dirección en nuestra vida. En su escritura sagrada, podemos encontrar consejo, consuelo, guía cuando necesitamos instrucciones del Señor que nos ayuden a superar las dificultades comunes pero graves que enfrentamos de vez en cuando.

La transición o el cambio en la vida puede ser estresante para cualquiera de nosotros. La ausencia de familiares y amigos, mudarse de su hogar para ir a la universidad o comenzar un nuevo trabajo, o por razones económicas, puede ser una fuente de temor e incertidumbre: “¿Estoy haciendo lo correcto?” El matrimonio es un paso tan importante en la vida que no solo requiere un compromiso entre los esposos, sino una vida de fe y entrega. Algunos pueden preguntarse: “¿Cómo sé que eso es lo que el Señor quiere para mí?” La ansiedad, la depresión y la inseguridad afectan a miles de personas todos los días: “¿Dónde está Dios cuando me siento así?” Cuando la pérdida de un ser querido parece abrumarnos, y no podemos encontrar ningún consuelo: “¿Por qué el Señor permite que esto suceda?” Esas son algunas preguntas que pueden reflejar cómo nos sentimos y todas reclaman una respuesta.

En el transcurso de los próximos meses, analicemos más detenidamente la Palabra de Dios, las sagradas escrituras, con los ojos de la fe, no buscando respuestas al azar, sino recibiendo el cuidado amoroso de Dios, ya que nos nutre y nos fortalece en su amor. †

**“Es nuestra fe en Dios, nuestra conciencia de su cuidado paternal y su providencia por cada uno de nosotros, que con su ayuda se disipará la sensación de pérdida y confusión y nos ayudará en nuestro camino en esta vida.”**

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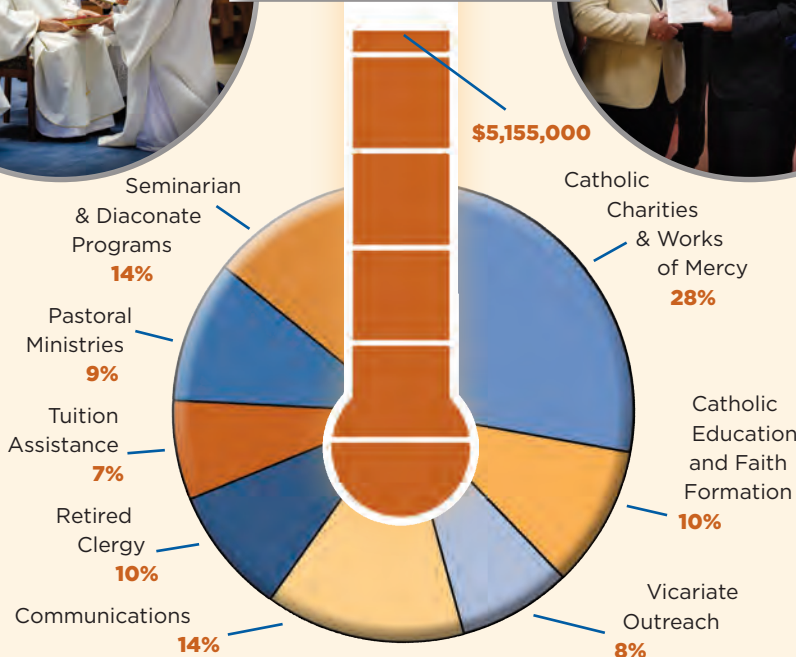
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— ARCHBISHOP LEONARD P. BLAIR



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# THIRD ARCHDIOCESAN SYNOD

## A process of discernment for a future family of faith

My appearance seems to prompt one consistent question these days — from family, friends, parishioners and even fellow priests: “So, how’s everything going for the synod?”

of believers so that we can fulfill this mission? What is the Holy Spirit asking us to address to help each and every one of us to grow as a disciple so that we are then empowered, energized and strengthened to go and make disciples? During the course of much of November, December and January, the members of the Synod Preparatory Commission prayed over the materials from all the listening sessions and came to a consensus on the main topics to recommend to Archbishop Blair for the meeting in October 2019.

During the same time, the pastors of our parishes were asked to prayerfully consider and nominate four parishioners as possible delegates for the meeting. Pastors were instructed to “choose parishioners who are devout in their profession and practice of the faith and who support the life and mission of the Church; who have an appreciation of the wider Church beyond their own parish and community; who are interested not so much in voicing problems and complaints as prayerfully and collaboratively discerning a way forward for our local Church in keeping with the Church’s doctrine and discipline.” These names and biographies were then given to the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council, in accordance with Canon 463 §1.5, which states that it is the responsibility of the Pastoral Council to choose the delegates in a manner and number to be determined by the diocesan bishop.

At this time, the delegates are preparing themselves for the upcoming meeting in October by increased prayer and reflection; there are committees studying and preparing the working documents on the chosen topics; and all of this is occurring under the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit.

So this is what has been happening with the Synod: a lot of prayer and discernment as we prepare to “grow and go.” We have to see where the Holy Spirit is calling us to first “grow” as a disciple of Jesus in order for us to then “go” and make disciples. Being disciples of Jesus is really about becoming intentional disciples so we can fulfill our call to then be missionary disciples. I can think of no better title or theme for this historic synod in the history of our archdiocesan family of faith. It certainly has been a theme of my personal prayer these past few months. I pray we will all use this theme in our prayer. Let us pray that God will show us the way for our future together as the family of faith of the Archdiocese of Hartford. †



**FATHER JEFFREY V. ROMANS**  
*is serving as secretary of the synod in addition to his duties as pastor of St. Bridget of Sweden Parish in Cheshire.*

While we are familiar with hearing about synods being convened in Rome by the pope, it is not a common practice for a synod to take place locally. We know there have been synods in Rome on topics such as young people, the faith and vocational discernment, the vocation and mission of the family in the Church and in the contemporary world or the New Evangelization for the transmission of the Christian faith.

But a synod on the diocesan level is much less familiar. I have encountered many people in my parish and at archdiocesan events who happily share with me that they were part of the last Archdiocesan Synod in 1996. (Just for clarity, I must tell you I was a sophomore in college that year.) People have shared with me what an honor it was for them to be involved in that process.

Well, here we are, some 23 years later, and we are in the midst of the Third Archdiocesan Synod for the Archdiocese of Hartford. This really is quite a process of discernment. I assure you that, as secretary of the synod, it has become increasingly evident to me that we could never prepare for the synod meeting without the blessing, grace and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Why? Over the course of much of 2018, listening sessions were held in most of our parishes throughout the archdiocese. With those materials, we began the discernment process of a synod by listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit working through our lay faithful, men and women religious, deacons and priests. Archbishop Leonard P. Blair visited each deanery twice to hear the voices of his people and the voices of his priests. These listening sessions provided the materials necessary for the Synod Preparatory Commission to then discern what topics the Holy Spirit is asking us to address at the synod meeting, keeping in mind the hopes of the archbishop, as stated in his decree: “to identify practical steps to promote the life and mission of this local Church.”

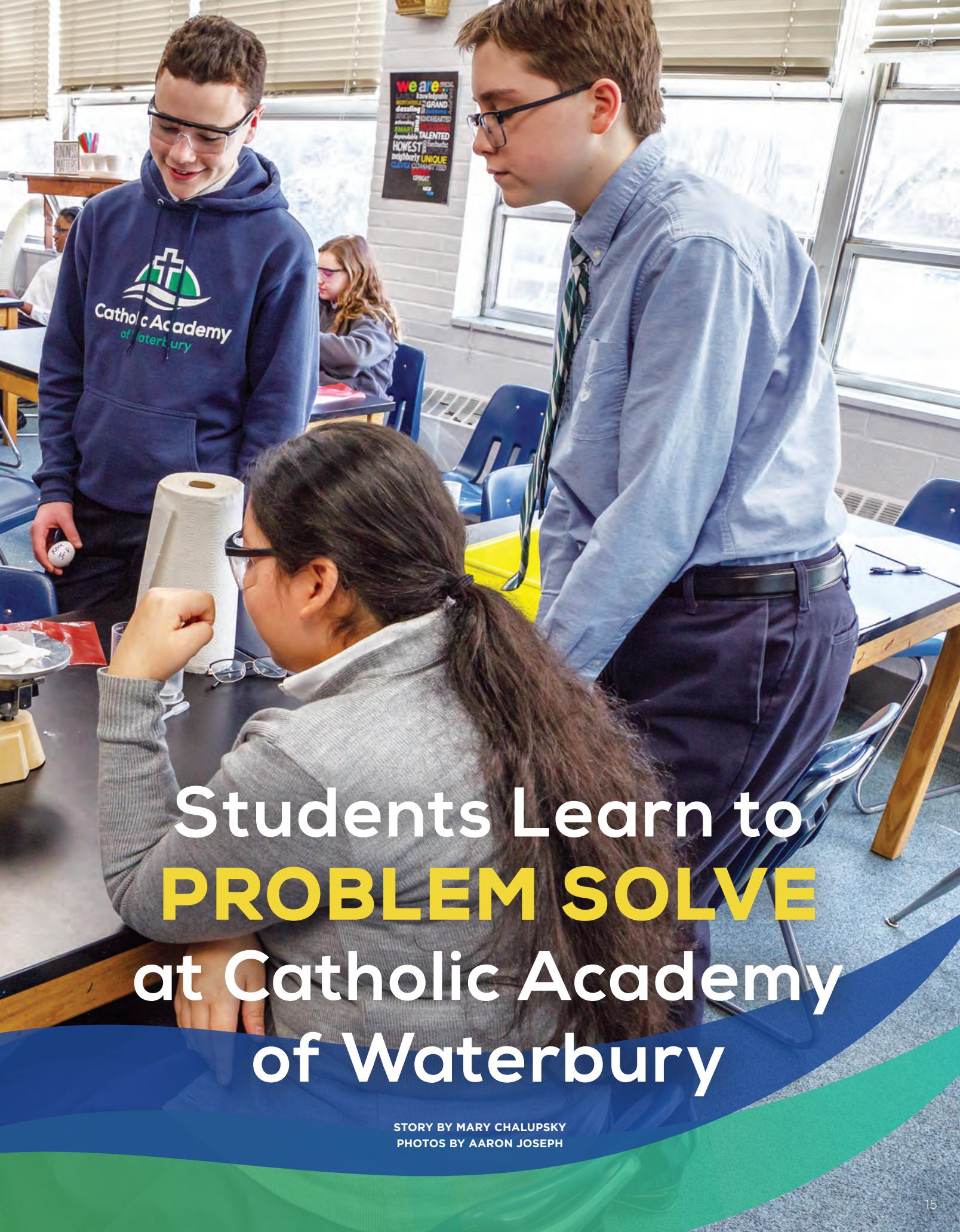
Where is the Holy Spirit leading us as a community



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Students Learn to  
**PROBLEM SOLVE**  
at Catholic Academy  
of Waterbury

STORY BY MARY CHALUPSKY  
PHOTOS BY AARON JOSEPH





**W**hen you walk the halls of Catholic Academy of Waterbury, one thing stands out: Buzz. The sounds are those of students collaborating on projects, brainstorming, questioning, voicing opinions and working together to solve problems.



It's all part of an interdisciplinary, integrated academic model called STREAM (science, technology, religion, engineering, arts and math) that was adopted by the new academy when it formed last year following the merger of Blessed Sacrament and St. Mary schools.

"We already have a very strong Catholic liberal arts curriculum based on basic skills," said Interim Principal Valerie Mara. "But

STREAM brings active problem-solving into the curriculum so students can learn, retain, apply and make connections" across all disciplines.

"Students take pieces from every classroom — math, science, literature, language arts, Catholic social teaching — and apply it to a real-world situation," she said. "When students can apply what they learn, then the knowledge





is transferred; they retain it. That's what we teach for — understanding and retention.”

Developed by the National Catholic Educational Association, the STREAM initiative adds arts and religion to the buzzword STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) that policy-makers have been implementing in United States public schools for more than a decade to boost lagging test scores.

However, Mara stressed that Catholic schools have always excelled in math and science. What NCEA recognized was the need to reimagine education and prepare students for the future by integrating technology, arts and faith with critical thinking, creativity and problem-solving.

“Students don't just learn from a textbook, take a test and go on to something else,” she explained about STREAM. “After they learn in the various content areas, they get together and discuss a bigger, possibly a world, problem and discuss what they can do to fix it.”

“The difference is that they're not just learning in a classroom ... they're taking what they're learning and using it to see how they can contribute to the world, to the environment, to the country,” Mara said. “When students make connections, the learning becomes deeper.”

Dr. Michael S. Griffin, archdiocesan superintendent of Catholic schools, concurred. STREAM focuses on interdisciplinary learning to “develop the whole child in academic excellence, leadership, commitment to service, faith and the idea that they are part of the Church community today and its leaders tomorrow,” he said.

Projects this year already have ranged from designing the flow of water through an aqueduct, building a lighthouse to understand electricity, learning about the underground railroad for Black History Month and studying biomes on the earth's surface, to saving the environment for polar bears, talking with visitors from Kenya about the need to dig wells for water and testing the safety of automobile airbags that they designed.

“They apply an engineering design process (ask, research, imagine, plan, create, test, improve) to finding solutions and solving a problem,” Mara said.

“It's not unusual for them to have conflicts,” she added, “but they learn how to look at a problem and solve it together.”

And if they make a mistake or it doesn't work, the mindset is to try again. “It teaches them perseverance and tenacity in tackling these problems ... whether it's in the classroom or in a relationship,”

**“I love it, because, just as the kids are challenged, I'm challenged ... to give them things that will excite them and make them want to work together.”**

— MARITA DOROZENSKI

she said. “They have a phrase, ‘If you don't make a mistake, you don't grow.’”

Housed in the former Blessed Sacrament School building, the new academy is renovating its science lab and also building a large MakerSpace area — a multi-media resource center in which they can create and work on classroom projects. Built into their day three times a week is a STREAM lab where students have the opportunity to work on projects together.





**“The STREAM academies are an exciting step forward in developing new ways of providing a 21st century Catholic education.”**

— DR. MICHAEL S. GRIFFIN



It’s no surprise then that the academy, grades prekindergarten through 8, is already at capacity, with 303 students and a waiting list.

“It’s one of the best programs I’ve ever had a chance to” teach, said eighth-grade teacher and 40-year teaching veteran Marita Dorozenski. “I love it, because, just as the kids are challenged, I’m challenged ... to give them things that will excite them and make them want to work together.”

Access to technology tools includes Chromebooks and iPads for research, and even a green screen backdrop for video-recording presentations. A robotics club helps students learn coding.

“I love it,” eighth-grader and future veterinarian Julianna Hodak said. “I like how it challenges me and makes me think.”

Not only do students work across disciplines but across grades, with different grades taking pieces of a project and then collaborating with those in higher or lower grades.

“It’s very cool,” said eighth-grader and future graphic designer/engineer/business owner Angelo DiGiovancarlo about the

STREAM curriculum. “I like the way we get to try new things, work on projects as a team and see how everyone learns.”

This April, Mara and fellow teachers spoke in Chicago at the NCEA convention. Today, NCEA, which held its first symposium about STREAM education in 2014, estimates that more than half of the 6,000-plus Catholic schools in the country use some components of STREAM education.

“The teachers are very good here because they teach in interesting ways and they care about the students they teach,” seventh-grader Joel Darko said about the 20 academy teachers who are all trained in the STREAM curriculum.

Teachers, too, see the difference in the enthusiasm of students.

“The ones that normally are the passive learners are the ones who are hands on and want to figure out the solution first,” eighth-grade teacher Mallory Lessard said. “And the ones who usually drag their feet are the first ones at your door asking, ‘What are we going to do today?’”

Two other newly formed STREAM academies in the archdiocese are East Shoreline Catholic Academy, housed in Branford’s former St. Mary School that merged with Our Lady of Mercy School in Madison; and the Catholic Academy of New Haven, formerly known as St. Aedan/ St. Brendan School.



**Students drop eggs out a window to test the safety of air bags they designed.**





◀ Eighth-grader Kevin Matiz leads closing prayer in the school office at the end of the day.



“The STREAM academies are an exciting step forward in developing new ways of providing a 21st century Catholic education,” Griffin said. “It incorporates multiple subject areas into an interdisciplinary model that challenges students and invites them to a collaborative, problem-solving and independent resources-based school environment.

“This new, creative model prepares students for success in the 21st century, as well as for leadership and service to the Church,” he said.

Mara agreed. “We’re preparing students to make and have choices

and options available to them, so that in whatever direction they go, they will be successful and make a dynamic impact on the world,” she said. “That’s the piece that is different.”

And education combined with the formation of their faith is what’s going to sustain and strengthen them, she added.

Said Father James Sullivan, who serves as CEO of the academy’s corporation, “Part of Catholic education is to prepare a child for life, not only the academics but the spiritual. If we form that entire person, then they’re set up for life.” †

**“Part of Catholic education is to prepare a child for life, not only the academics but the spiritual. If we form that entire person, then they’re set up for life.”**

— FATHER JAMES SULLIVAN





## Vietnamese Catholics celebrate establishment of new quasi-parish

STORY BY MARK JAHNE | PHOTOS BY AARON JOSEPH

Many Catholics in the Archdiocese of Hartford are of European or Latin ancestry. But the demographics are slowly changing with the establishment of three ethnic quasi-parishes.

The Vietnamese Catholic Community, the first among three new ethnic communities to be erected as a quasi-parish in the archdiocese, held a celebration Mass on Feb. 3 that featured colorful costumes and Vietnamese music and language.

The Mass, held at the Church of St. Mark the Evangelist in West Hartford, also marked the installation of Father Tuan Ahn Dinh Mai, known as Father Andy, as pastor of what is now called St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc Parish. Archbishop Leonard P. Blair officially de-



clared St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc a quasi-parish on Jan. 1.

St. Mark, where they gather for Mass every Sunday afternoon, and two other West Hartford churches, St. Brigid and St. Helena, now make up the St. Gianna Beretta Molla Parish.

The ceremony began with members of the Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth Movement attired in red





and white outfits doing Vietnamese percussion using thick wooden sticks. Incense was presented in honor of parents and grandparents, both dead and alive.

Once the Mass began, songs were sung in Vietnamese. The presiding celebrant, Father Robert Vargo, the archdiocese vicar for clergy, introduced Father Andy as the new pastor, drawing cheers and a standing ovation from the crowd.

“Father Andy and your new parish have drawn all of us here today,” Father Vargo said. “I commend [Father Mai] to you as your new pastor.”

Father Andy renewed his profession of faith. Prayers were projected on a wall adjacent to the altar in both English and Vietnamese.

“I’m a little bit nervous,” Father Andy said with a smile, referring to the numerous priests and deacons on the altar. He presented his homily in both Viet-



namese and English and then spoke about how he views his vocation as enjoyment, because it enables him to fulfill the will of God.

Deacon Ernest Scrivani, director of pastoral services for the archdiocese, received warm applause after greeting the congregation in their own language. He then joked that this was the limit of his Vietnamese.

After Mass, a reception was held in the parish center featuring Vietnamese food and a performance by three colorful dragons in honor of the Lunar New Year.

Huy Hoang, a trustee of the new quasi-parish and its acting secretary, said he was overjoyed about the new parish.

“It’s awesome,” Hoang said. “It’s a blessing. We desired this so very long.”

Hoang estimated there are between 600 and 1,000 Vietnamese Catholic families in Connecticut. The next dream is for St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc to have full parish status and its own church. Vietnamese-language Masses of St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc Parish are celebrated at 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. on Sundays at St. Mark the Evangelist.







**“It’s a blessing.  
We desired this  
so very long.”**

— HUY HOANG



Father Andy was born in Vietnam and came to the United States in 2009. He studied English at the University of Hartford and did his theological studies at Holy Apostles College and Seminary in Cromwell and Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Maryland. He previously served at St. Bartholomew Church in Manchester, St. Gabriel and St. Joseph churches in Windsor and was chaplain for a time at East Catholic High School in Manchester and at Northwest Catholic High School in West Hartford.

Buddhism is the largest religion in Vietnam, Father Andy said, but Catholicism ranks a strong second. It was brought to that part of the world by the French when they ruled what was then called French Indochina.

His family tried to leave many times before being able to do so, but said he believes faith becomes stronger during times of persecution. His father fought alongside Americans as a member of the South Vietnamese Army.

Father Andy said he is pleased to see so many parishioners taking ownership of the congregation and is confident that it will continue to grow. He added these Vietnamese Catholics feel accepted and supported by the archdiocese.

“They want to do more in the Church,” he said. †





# COMPASSION AND CARING

can be the greatest antidote to despair, loneliness and depression

**A** priest I knew often told the story of a man in his town who wanted to die. He was old and he was sick, and he insisted that assisted suicide was his right. He wrote letters to the editor and called legislators, urging them to pass a law recognizing this so-called right.



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

Then one day, the letters and calls mysteriously stopped. Everyone assumed the man had died, but the truth was much different. He no longer wanted to die.

A religious sister who worked with the elderly had begun visiting him and accomplished the miraculous. She didn't cure him physically, but she reaffirmed that his life — as broken and unproductive as it may have seemed to the outside world — had value. She showed him the love of Christ, a love we're all entitled to, no matter our condition or health or wealth. Her compassion and caring made all the difference, and his personal suffering became easier to endure. Someone else saw the value of his life, so he did too.

I once read an interview with a Little Sister of the Poor, an order founded by St. Jeanne Jugan, who was devoted to caring for the neediest elderly. She said that no one in their care ever wanted to take their life. Do you know why? Because the Little Sisters helped them realize their lives, all lives, have value. You see, compassion and caring can be the greatest antidote to the despair, loneliness and depression that come with age and infirmity.

We live in an era when society wants to decide who should live and who should die ... at the beginning of life and at the end of life. But we need to resist the prevailing thinking that the most vulnerable are expendable. We need to resist the deception of a consumer culture that human life is as disposable as a broken appliance.

St. John Paul II said this is the insidious attitude of a materialistic society that has lost the sense of God: "The first to be harmed are women and children, the sick or suffering, and the elderly ... This is the supremacy of the strong over the weak."

In recent years, there have been a number of movies with titles like "Me Before You" that try to rationalize assisted suicide with the premise that some life is not worth living. They try to make us believe that, maybe, euthanasia and assisted suicide aren't all that bad and might be OK in certain circumstances.

The truth, however, is much simpler: Our lives are a gift from God. We hear that so often it can sound trite, but only when we recognize the immensity of that gift will we begin to value not just some life, but all life.

For many years, my wife was a caregiver for family members

and friends who were paralyzed, debilitated by cancer or suffering from Alzheimer's disease. Seeing what she did for them helped me realize that being a caregiver is just about one of the most important, and least appreciated, jobs there is. The pay, if there is any, is poor although I'm convinced the reward will be great in the next life.

One of her patients was a man who lived to 104. Every day he repeated the same stories, and she would force herself to listen attentively, as if she were hearing them for the first time. All of us have been there. Sometimes love requires patience, particularly when family members and friends grow old and become a burden in society's eyes.

Many, many years ago — 2,200 to be exact — a Jewish rabbi named Ben Sira wrote about the importance of caring for the elderly and the infirm. In the Book of Sirach, he said, "My child, help your father in his old age, and do not grieve him as long as he lives. Even if his mind fails, be patient with him. Because you have all your faculties do not despise him, for kindness to a father (and mother) will not be forgotten and will be credited to you against your sins. In the day of your distress, it will be remembered in your favor. Like frost in fair weather, your sins will melt away."

That wisdom is timeless. Despite all our technological advances and progressive thinking, we've lost sight of such a simple, eternal truth. †





🕒 The cathedral was filled to capacity on March 31 for the annual St. Joseph Medal of Appreciation ceremony to honor 129 parish volunteers.

👤 Archbishop Leonard P. Blair shakes hands with Margaret Calamita of St. Ambrose Parish in North Branford while awarding her the St. Joseph Medal of Appreciation. She is currently a funeral ministry leader, lector and Alpha Team member.



👤 Joanne and Edward Arrandale volunteer at St. Margaret Parish in Madison by running the marriage preparation program, teaching confirmation classes, assisting as extraordinary ministers of holy Communion, participating in the annual Living Stations of the Cross, packing food for the local food pantry, pro-life outreach and assisting with the Dynamic Catholic initiative.

# Archbishop awards St. Joseph Medal of Appreciation to 129 worthy parish volunteers

STORY BY SHELLEY WOLF | PHOTOS BY AARON JOSEPH

Pastors know they could never run their parishes without the hard work of committed parish volunteers. That's why more than 100 priests turned out on March 31 to congratulate the many volunteers who were recognized with the St. Joseph Medal of Appreciation at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford.

Archbishop Leonard P. Blair awarded 129 parish volunteers — including individuals and married couples — drawn from 131 parishes and quasi-parishes for their commendable service.

The cathedral was filled to overflowing with the medal recipients, the pastors who nominated them for special recognition and the honorees' family and friends.

Each year, recipients give of their time and talent to enhance their parish communities in numerous ways. Many have volunteered in multiple capacities over the years. Some have served for decades.

Archbishop Blair, the principal celebrant at the daytime prayer service, thanked the honorees, invited everyone to join him in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, then blessed the St. Joseph medals and awarded the recipients. At the conclusion of the service, the honorees were invited to have their photos taken with the archbishop. †





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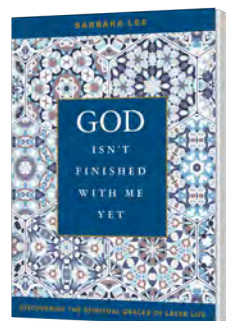
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AWARD-WINNING

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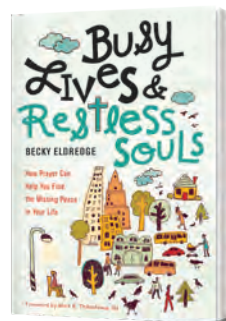
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## Busy Lives & Restless Souls

Spiritual director and writer Becky Eldredge has noticed a longing growing within each of us, despite how 'full' our lives seem. That longing is a relationship with God through prayer, and she offers accessible and practical ways for women to create and foster that relationship with God.

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## AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

■ The Franciscan Life Center is offering a six-week spring series, **Anxiety Workshop**, at 275 Finch Ave. in Meriden on Thursdays, **April 25 through May 30**, 7 to 8:30 p.m. The fee is \$40 per session. For more information or to register, call 203.237.8084 or visit [www.flcenter.org](http://www.flcenter.org).

■ Archbishop Leonard P. Blair will celebrate a **150th anniversary Mass for the Little Sisters of the Poor**, known for their care of the elderly poor, on **May 4**, 4 p.m., at St. Thomas More Chapel, 268 Park St. in New Haven. The Mass will be followed by a reception at the Knights of Columbus Museum. The Mass is part of a jubilee year, which began on Aug. 30, 2018, marking 150 years since the sisters' arrival in this country. All are invited to join in the celebration. Free parking is available at the museum, with shuttles to the church and back. For more information, contact Sister Francis Elisabeth at 860.741.0791 or [endevelopment@littlesistersofthepoor.org](mailto:endevelopment@littlesistersofthepoor.org).

■ The Enfield **HomeFront** Team is looking for volunteers for three to four home repair projects for needy families on **April 27 and May 4**. HomeFront works to help senior citizens, people with disabilities, single parents and others on a fixed income to keep their houses warm, safe and dry. To donate

or volunteer, contact St. Raymond of Peñafort Parish, 64 Pearl St., Enfield, at 860.745.2411 or [stpatricc@aol.com](mailto:stpatricc@aol.com).

■ North American Martyrs Parish in East Hartford will make repairs to a local home selected by **HomeFront** on **May 4**, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. The parish is looking for volunteers with a variety of skills to play the roles of handyman, prayer leader, housekeeper and cook for the day to help a homeowner in need. Volunteer forms are available at the parish office at 15 Maplewood Ave., East Hartford. For more information, call 860.289.7916 or [info@namct.org](mailto:info@namct.org).

■ The New Britain Council of Catholic Women will host its annual **Scholarship Dinner** at Casa Mia at the Hawthorne, 2421 Berlin Turnpike, in Berlin on **May 7**. Social hour is from 5 to 6 p.m., with dinner following. Your choice of stuffed shrimp, chicken marsala or prime rib at a cost of \$37. Scholarships will be presented; the speaker will be Heather Labbe of Family Promise of Connecticut. For information, contact Debbie Gombotz at 860.620.3555 or email her at [n1sqf@comcast.net](mailto:n1sqf@comcast.net). New members are always welcome. Deadline to reply is April 30.

■ Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center will prepare a **Mothers' Day Brunch**

after Mass on **May 12**. Mass begins at the chapel at 10 a.m., with brunch by Chef Joe Ethier following. The fee for adults is \$45, children 4-12 are \$12 and children under 4 are free. The center is located at 303 Tunxis Road, West Hartford. To view the menu and register online, visit [www.holyfamilyretreat.org/calendar/mothers-day](http://www.holyfamilyretreat.org/calendar/mothers-day).

■ The Foundation for the Advancement of Catholic Schools (FACS) will sponsor its **FORE FACS Golf Classic Tournament** on **May 13**, at Shelter Harbor Golf Club in Charlestown, R.I. Enjoy a day on the links at this prestigious golf course, followed by dinner and camaraderie in the clubhouse. FACS is looking for sponsors, and golfers of all levels are welcome, as are those who prefer to attend only the dinner. Net proceeds from this fundraiser will support FACS. For ticket information, contact Marie Dussault, at 860.761.7498 or [mdussault@facshartford.org](mailto:mdussault@facshartford.org), or Executive Director Cindy Howard at [cbhoward@facshartford.org](mailto:cbhoward@facshartford.org).

■ Auxiliary Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt will celebrate Jaime Maldonado-Aviles' **ordination to the transitional diaconate** on **May 18**, 11 a.m., at St. John XXIII Parish (St. Louis Church), 89 Bull Hill Lane, in West Haven, as the seminarian takes his final steps

➔ West Hartford's St. Brigid-St. Augustine Partnership School's Principal Rebecca Goddard, Admissions/Advancement Director Andrea Austin-Thompson and their students were proud to support and meet Archbishop Leonard P. Blair at the FACS St. Patrick's Day Breakfast. Proceeds raised provide renewable scholarships for both Catholic elementary and high school students.

➔ Student fiddlers provide Irish music to entertain the crowd at the Foundation for the Advancement of Catholic Schools (FACS) St. Patrick's Day Breakfast on March 15 at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford. This year's festive event drew 800 generous donors.





toward the priesthood. All are invited and welcome to attend the joyous event. For more information, call the Office of Vocations, 860.761.7456.

■ **Catholic Underground of Connecticut** will meet on **May 18**, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m., at Holy Apostles College & Seminary, 33 Prospect Hill Road in Cromwell. Holy Hour will be located in the Holy Apostles Church from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., followed by a social, food and games downstairs. All young adults and their friends are welcome. For questions, contact Bryan Mercer at catholicbryan@yahoo.com.

■ Our Lady of Calvary Retreat Center, located at 31 Colton St., Farmington, will offer **“Praying with Art: Coloring Workshop”** on **May 22**, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Workshop leader Brother Michael Moran, CP will help attendees use coloring to quiet the mind and become receptive to the working of the Holy Spirit. Brother Michael’s own artwork has been collected and exhibited, and he was recently featured in an article in *VISION* magazine. The half-day event will include discussion of praying with art, time to hand color one of his linocuts or film cuts and lunch. Fee is \$30. Register online at [www.ourladyofcalvary.net](http://www.ourladyofcalvary.net) or call 860.677.8519.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. JUSTIN-ST. MICHAEL PARISH

The 12th annual Caribbean Mass at St. Justin-St. Michael Parish in Hartford will feature authentic Caribbean liturgy, steel pan drums, liturgical dancers, honor guards and flags of the Caribbean.

■ St. Timothy Parish in West Hartford will enjoy a **60th anniversary celebration** on **May 31**, 6 p.m., at Wampanoag Country Club, 60 Wampanoag Drive, West Hartford. The cost is \$60 and includes dinner. For more information, contact barbarabcarpenter@mac.com.

■ The Archdiocese of Hartford’s Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry will sponsor its 10th annual **Bishop Peter Rosazza Social Justice Conference** on **June 8**, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Pastoral Center of the Archdiocese of Hartford, 467 Bloomfield Ave., Bloomfield. The conference will feature a keynote address and workshops by Dr. Shawn Duncan, director of The Lupton Center at Focused Community Strategies, who will help attendees assess whether their

ministries are truly empowering people to live in dignity. Breakout sessions, exhibits and Mass with Auxiliary Bishop Peter A. Rosazza are also included. Fee, which includes lunch, is \$40 for adults and \$30 for students. Simultaneous translation will be available for the keynote; four workshops will be offered in Spanish. Open to the public. Advanced registration is required and available at [www.catholicsocialjustice.org](http://www.catholicsocialjustice.org) or by calling 860.242.5573 ext. 2688.

■ Archbishop Leonard P. Blair will preside at an **ordination to the priesthood** on **June 22**, 11 a.m., at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford. Anthony Federico and John Gancarz will be ordained, as family and friends witness the important milestone. The public is invited to attend. For more information, call the Office of Vocations, 860.761.7456.

■ St. Justin-St. Michael Parish will hold its 12th annual **Caribbean Mass** to celebrate Caribbean-American Heritage Month on **June 30**, 10 a.m., at 230 Blue Hills Ave., Hartford. The annual parish cookout follows immediately after Mass and features traditional Caribbean-American food, music, dancing, games, face painting and other family fun. Free of charge and all are welcome. For more information, contact the parish, 860.246.6897.

➡ Corpus Christi School in Wethersfield celebrated a milestone on March 21 with a ribbon cutting ceremony, recognizing the successful completion of a major window renovation project and security enhancement that was first envisioned a decade ago. The pastor, Father Nicholas Melo, and Principal Ann Sarpu, along with students Sam Andrea, Lisa Robinson and Luke Catania, cut the ceremonial ribbon. Bishop Peter Rosazza was on hand to bless the school.



PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH



PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

➡ The winner of this year’s “Creating on the Margins Contest – A Time to Heal Racism” is a piece of artwork entitled “T-Pose Power” created by Alex Rivera and Jonathan Delskey from St. Gabriel School in Windsor. The students received a \$100 prize and will be entered into a national contest sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Catholic Campaign for Human Development, which uses the competition to challenge young people to think about the root causes of poverty.



## Former students recognize Myles Hubbard for lifetime achievement

➔ From left to right, Pamela Hippolyte, a parishioner, and Dr. Kim James, a former student, present a lifetime achievement award to educator Myles Hubbard on March 3 at St. Justin-St. Michael Parish in Hartford.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. JUSTIN-ST. MICHAEL PARISH

■ Myles N. Hubbard was honored on March 3 at St. Justin-St. Michael Parish in Hartford for 35 years of service to his students and the education community in Bloomfield.

Hubbard, an active parishioner, received a surprise award presented by his former students from Bloomfield High School. The award was bestowed after Mass at St. Justin-St. Michael Parish by Dr. Kim James, a former student, and Pamela Hippolyte, a parishioner, in recognition of his 35 years

of teaching and counseling students in the Bloomfield community.

Hubbard graduated from Fairfield University in Fairfield, where he thrived and excelled academically. In 1964, he accepted an offer at Bloomfield Public High School to teach English and counsel teenagers. For decades, his impact was profound, inspiring sever-

al hundred students to excel over the course of his career. He was honored as “Teacher of the Year” for the 1990-1991 academic year.

Hubbard has remained connected with his community, serving on the Hartford Board of Education and as an adjunct teacher with the Center for Academic Programs at the University of Connecticut. While he formally retired from teaching in 1998, “Mr. Hubbard,” as he is affectionately known, never forgot his students or his love of learning. His students

never forgot about him.

The larger Catholic community has also recognized his devotion and leadership. Archbishop Daniel A. Cronin appointed Hubbard to direct the Office of Black Catholic Ministries for the Archdiocese of Hartford. Hubbard also served as an extraordinary minister of holy Communion, vice president of his parish council and as a member of the Youth Advisory Council at the former St. Justin Church.

He currently serves as a member of the Archdiocese of Hartford Pastoral Council. Additionally, he has worked with Dr. Pauline Olson to establish and run the Knights of Malta Food Pantry, successfully serving the Blue Hills neighborhood community for more than five years.

Hubbard also devotes his time to his family. He and his wife, Sherry Thomas, have two adult daughters, Lesley and Hilary, and six grandchildren.

## STA Pew Crew takes the noise out of kneelers

■ The Knights of Columbus Council 3600 and friends have been repairing the kneelers at St. Thomas the Apostle (STA) Parish in West Hartford over the past year, and parishioners have noticed that the church is much quieter because the kneelers no longer bang as they rise and fall during Mass.

Under the leadership of Brother Knight Matt Bintz, the “STA Pew Crew” has worked on the 352 kneelers in the church over an eight-week period.

About a year ago, with encouragement from his wife Diane, Matt decided

to take on this project. An engineer by profession, he analyzed the current kneeler mechanism that was failing, designed and engineered a solution for the noise problem and manufactured many of the custom parts that were installed.

To repair the 352 kneelers, the team installed 704 oak brackets and separate kneeler stops and 7,040 screws. To complete the project, they invested \$1,600 in hardware and 500 man/woman hours of free labor. It’s estimated that they saved the parish \$52,000 before taxes.

The project would not have been possible without the donation of time and talent of Matt, the Knights and friends, who left a mark on the parish that will be heard (or not heard) well into the future. The disassembly and assembly crew included Mark Molloy, Michael DeConti, Corey Rekow, Tom Cronin, Ed Peltier, Andrew Dorr, Russ Buckley, Dick Audet and Joan Audet.

The Knights are always looking for a few good Catholic men to help them do better. For more information, contact the Grand Knight of Council 3600, Tim Geary, at [TJG776@hotmail.com](mailto:TJG776@hotmail.com).



PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Ⓒ Matt Bintz installs the last fabricated washer on the last kneeler at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in West Hartford.





SECRETARIAT OF STATE  
FIRST SECTION - GENERAL AFFAIRS

From the Vatican

His Holiness Pope Francis was pleased to receive your kind message. He thanks you for writing to him and he is grateful for your prayers.

The Holy Father will pray for your class and your teachers, and he sends his blessing.

Monsignor Paolo Borgia  
Assessor



PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. BRIGID-ST. AUGUSTINE PARTNERSHIP SCHOOL

Principal Rebecca Goddard and first-grade teacher Patrice Hayes stand in the middle of the students as they hold their letter from the Vatican.

## St. Brigid-St. Augustine first-graders receive letter from the pope

Excitement filled the classroom at St. Brigid-St. Augustine Partnership School in West Hartford as the first-grade teacher, Patrice Hayes, eagerly announced that her students had received a letter from the Vatican on behalf of Pope Francis.

According to Hayes, her students were assigned to read Pope Francis' book, *Dear Pope Francis*. Afterward, the students had so many questions that she urged them to write a letter to the pope.

The questions ranged from hilarious to serious. Since Pope Francis used to be a bishop, one student wanted to know how many bishops actually report to him. Another student wanted to know how old he is, while another inquired about his favorite food. Finally,

one student asked the pope to pray for them.

Pope Francis responded that he will pray for their class and the teachers and that he sends his blessings.

Hayes said, "Our faith is very important. At St. Brigid-St. Augustine Partnership School, we strive to educate the whole child — academically and spiritually."

Principal Rebecca Goddard added, "Innovative teaching strategies are some of the tools we use to make learning more engaging. Ms. Hayes does an amazing job of capturing the attention of our younger students."

Children who attend the school, which serves students in grades prekindergarten through 8, come from 13 different towns surrounding West Hartford. The school celebrates strong academics, Catholic values and enriched cultural diversity.



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](mailto: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**





PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

**Sister Clare Millea, ASCJ appointed assistant chancellor**

■ Archbishop Leonard P. Blair has appointed Sister Clare Millea, ASCJ as assistant chancellor of the Archdiocese of Hartford. Sister Clare assumed this new office on March 1, 2019. This role is in addition to her continuing responsibilities as director of the Office of Faith and Culture of the Archdiocese of Hartford.

As assistant chancellor, Sister Clare will work in close collaboration with the archbishop, the moderator of the curia, the judicial vicar and the chancellor in matters that pertain to the good of the archdiocese and the maintenance of the acts of the curia. In particular, she will work closely with Father Ryan M. Lerner, the chancellor.

Sister Clare holds a licentiate and a doctorate in canon law from the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome.

In making this appointment, Archbishop Blair is confident that Sister's canonical training, as well as her extensive pastoral and administrative experience, will serve the archdiocese well in fulfilling her new responsibilities.

**The Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair, STD has made the following appointments:**

■ **Rev. William Agyemang:** appointed priest chaplain for the Campus Ministry Program at Sacred Heart Catholic High School, Waterbury, effective March 1, 2019, in addition to duties as administrator of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Waterbury.

■ **Rev. Allan J. Hill:** from pastor, Our Lady of Loreto Parish, Waterbury, to senior status, effective May 31, 2019.

■ **Rev. Paul J. Pace:** from pastor, St. Francis Xavier Parish, Waterbury, to senior status, effective May 31, 2019.

■ **Rev. Dunstan Makarius Mbanu:** temporary priestly faculties, priest of the Archdiocese of Songea, Tanzania, visiting the Monastery of the Glorious Cross, Branford, effective March 10 to 31, 2019.

■ **Rev. Hernan Dario Ortiz:** temporary priestly faculties, priest of the Diocese of Caldas, Colombia, visiting All Saints Parish, effective March 30 to April 6, 2019.

■ **Rev. Tyler Strand:** priestly faculties, for the calendar year 2019, priest of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic, N.J.

■ **Rev. Mathieu Isaac:** from parochial vicar, St. Nicholas Parish, Seymour, to chaplain, MacDougall-Walker Correctional Institution, Suffield, with residence in Sacred Heart, Suffield, effective March 1, 2019.

■ **Rev. Matthew G. Gworek:** to Roman Catholic priest associate in the Campus Ministry Program at Trinity College, Hartford, effective March 1, 2019, in addition to duties as secretary to the archbishop.

■ **Rev. Ryan M. Lerner:** continuing as chancellor of the Archdiocese of Hartford and director of the Archbishop Daniel A. Cronin Residence, Bloomfield, in addition to duties as chaplain, St. Thomas More Chapel and Golden Center, Yale University, New Haven.

■ **Deacon James Arena:** from St. Aloysius Parish, Plantsville, to St. Francis of Assisi Parish, New Britain, effective March 16, 2019.

■ **Deacon Wayne Griffin:** from St. Francis of Assisi Parish, New Britain, to St. Aloysius Parish, Plantsville, effective March 16, 2019.

— REV. RYAN M. LERNER, CHANCELLOR, MARCH 20, 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.*



**'Come and follow me'**

Are you following Archbishop Blair and the Archdiocese of Hartford on social media?

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## May they rest in peace ...



■ **DEACON PAUL C. ESCHRICH**, age 90, died on Dec. 14, 2018, at his home in East Haven. He was the husband of the late Lois Janet (Schmitt) Eschrich; they celebrated 66 years of marriage.

Paul was born in Buffalo, N.Y., on Jan. 18, 1928. He was a veteran of World War II, serving in the U.S. Army as a medical corpsman. His work career started as a chemist for Olin Corporation and ended 40 years later as a ballistics engineer at Winchester. He retired after 15 years as technical director and consultant for S.A.A.M.I.

He was ordained a permanent deacon on June 22, 1985, in the Archdiocese of Hartford and served at St. Therese Church in Branford, and at St. John Vianney in Orchard Park, N.Y. Paul was also a Fourth Degree in the Knights of Columbus and a Noble Degree of the Knights of St. John.

Paul leaves behind his five children: Paulette M. Eschrich, Mark (Patricia) Eschrich, Timothy (Rosanne) Eschrich, Douglas Eschrich and David (Mary Kay) Eschrich. He is also survived by five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He is predeceased by two sons, Bernard and John Eschrich.

A funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Therese Church in Branford, with burial at a later date in Orchard Park, N.Y.



■ **MOTHER PERPETUA (LAURA) GIAMPIETRO**, 69, of the Abbey of Regina Laudis, died on Feb. 7, 2019, after a long illness. She had a great love for monastic liturgy and Gregorian Chant and for many years served as mistress of ceremonies.

She was an accomplished potter who apprenticed under such masters as Emanuele Rondinone in southern Italy. She established St. Martin's pottery complex, teaching pottery to community members and interns. She was a gifted seamstress, worked in the monastic infirmary and also started the abbey's first Compost Department.

Mother Perpetua heroically battled the early onset of Alzheimer's disease for the last 10 years of her life.

Laura Catherine Antoinette was born in Washington, D.C., the daughter of a sculptor/ceramic artist and college professor. She accompanied her family to Italy, where she apprenticed at the ceramic factory *Urbano Zaccagnini Majolica Artistiche* and studied under a traditional pottery master in Grottole.

Laura was taught by religious communities in Washington, D.C., and received a scholarship to Newton College of the Sacred Heart in Newton, Mass. After attending for two years, she transferred to The Catholic University of America, graduating with a bachelor of arts in 1971.

Laura entered *Regina Laudis* as a postulant in 1972 and was clothed in the monastic habit in 1974, receiving the name Sister Perpetua. She made her perpetual profession of vows in 1984, becoming Mother Perpetua, and received the blessing of consecration to a life of virginity at the hands of Bishop Paul Loverde in 1991.

Mother Perpetua's many professional relationships allowed the expansion of the abbey's Pottery Department. Her two-week apprenticeship with master folk potter Emanuele Rondinone in Grottole, Matera, Italy, in 1971 led to two summer seminars with Signor Rondinone and firing of a traditional, earthenware kiln at the abbey. In 1982, her father, Professor Alexander Giampietro, directed the construction and firing of a Raku kiln for the ancient Japanese technique of low firing, which produces a crackled glaze and clay. In 1984, Douglas Phillips, master potter from England, directed the building of a wood-burning stoneware kiln at the abbey.



■ **SISTER CLOTILDE COMO**, Apostle of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, died on Nov. 28, 2018, at Sacred Heart Manor in Hamden. She was 91 years old and professed 73 years in religious life.

Sister Clotilde was born in McKeesport, Pa., on June 5, 1927. She entered the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on Aug. 27, 1942, at Sacred Heart Provincialate on Greene St. in New Haven. She professed first vows on Aug. 23, 1945, and perpetual vows on Aug. 23, 1951, in New Haven.

Sister Clotilde earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education and sociology from Fordham University in New York. She eventually ministered as teacher and principal in elementary schools in New York and Pennsylvania, and at St. Anthony School in New Haven.

She served the congregation as novice directress and general councilor, and for 23 years ministered as residential supervisor for students at Clelian Heights School for Exceptional Children in Pennsylvania. In 2010, Sister Clotilde retired to Sacred Heart Manor.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Sacred Heart Manor Chapel, followed by burial at All Saints Cemetery in North Haven.



■ **SISTER JOAN MARIE FERNANDES, OSB** was born in Fall River, Mass. on May 24, 1931, and died on Nov. 19, 2018.

She entered the Congregation of Jesus Crucified in Devon, Pa., on May 15, 1956.

Her first profession was in May 1959 and her perpetual profession was in the spring of 1962.

She was a founding member of St. Paul's Priory in Newport, R.I. In the community, Sister served as cook, librarian, gardener and portress. Her artistic gifts were manifested in

her hand-painted feast day cards and in the beautiful floral arrangements she created for the chapel.

Sister lived at Regina Mundi Priory and St. Paul's Priory. In 2001, she moved with the whole community to the Monastery of the Glorious Cross in Branford. In October 2018, she moved to St. Mary's Home in West Hartford, where she was cared for until her death at age 87.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in the monastery chapel, with interment at St. Agnes Cemetery in Branford.



■ **SISTER MARION PAUL LILLIS**, of the Sisters of Mercy, died on March 8, 2019, at St. Mary Home in West Hartford.

Born and raised in New Haven, she remained a life-long Connecticut resident.

After high school graduation, she worked for a few years before entering the Sisters of Mercy in December 1942. She professed her vows on June 28, 1945.

She received a B.A. from St. Joseph College, now University of St. Joseph, and began her service in elementary education, which lasted for 56 years. She loved teaching school and missed it during summer recesses. She taught at Catholic parish schools in eight different cities throughout the state, including Hartford, Bridgeport, Danbury and Waterbury and spent 21 years at St. Steven School in Hamden. She later became a tutor and mentor to scores of middle and upper grade students until her retirement in 2001.

As a lifelong reader, she was also drawn to provide after-school instruction in a reading clinic and at the American School for the Deaf in West Hartford. Her rich sense of humor and natural Irish wit became hallmarks of her engaging personality.

A Mass of Resurrection was celebrated at St. Mary Home Chapel, followed by burial at St. Mary Cemetery in West Hartford.



■ **SISTER MARY JUDE ADAMS**, 81, died in St. Mary's Home, West Hartford on Jan. 30, 2019. She was born in Grand Rapids, Mich., on Aug. 13, 1937, and lived with her family in Michigan and Minnesota.

She entered the Congregation of Jesus Crucified, Regina Mundi in Devon, Pa., on Nov. 12, 1960. She made her first profession on May 31, 1963 and her perpetual profession on May 18, 1968. She was especially proud to complete a special computer programming program at the University of Pennsylvania. She eventually moved to the Monastery of the Glorious Cross in Branford.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in the monastery chapel, with interment in St. Agnes Cemetery in Branford.



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