

Catholic TRANSCRIPT

DECEMBER 2018

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BISHOP BETANCOURT ORDAINED

*as the ninth auxiliary bishop
of the Archdiocese of Hartford*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

■ As part of its annual Christmas exhibit, the Knights of Columbus Museum is currently showcasing **“Christmas in Poland,”** now through 5 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 3. The exhibit features more than 100 items, including *szopki* (Polish Nativity scenes), with many on loan from private collectors and from museums as far away as New Mexico and Rome. The museum is open 10-5 daily; admission and parking are free. The museum is located at 1 State St. in New Haven. For more information, call 203.865.0400 or visit www.kofcmuseum.org.

■ A **Mass** in honor of **Our Lady of Guadalupe** will be held on the evening of Wednesday, **Dec. 12** at Most Holy Trinity Parish, 68 N. Colony St., in Wallingford. The rosary will be recited at 5:15 p.m., Mass will begin at 6 p.m. and a reception will follow in the parish hall. The reception will include food and a cultural program. Traditional Mexican dancers, Danza Azteca, and other dance troupes will participate in the celebration. All are welcome. For more information, call 203.269.8791.

■ The choral groups of Joyful Noise will present **“Christmas Angelicus”** at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, **Dec. 21** at St. Patrick-St. Anthony Parish, 285 Church St., in Hartford. The evening will include traditional and contemporary arrangements of carols, hymns and seasonal songs, with readings that range from the sacred to the secular, and from the comic to the profound. Tickets are \$45, \$30 and \$10. For more information, call 860.496.8841 or visit www.chorusangelicus.com.

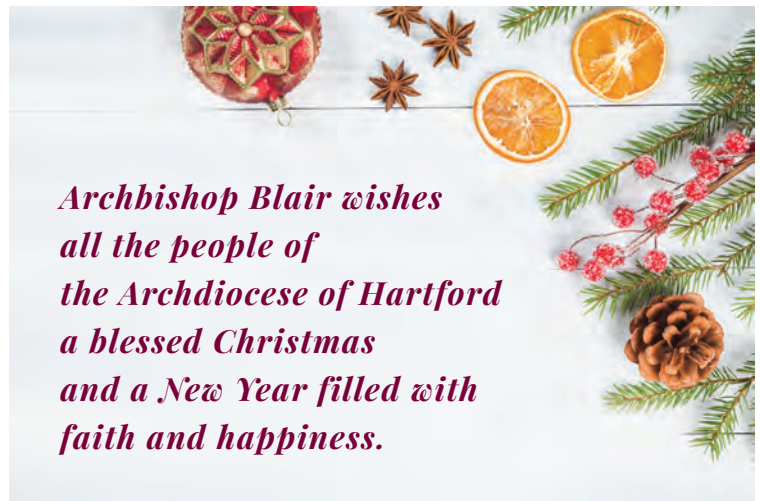
■ The Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry in collaboration with The Underground CT is offering **“Gather Together,”** a Connecticut human trafficking awareness event. It will be held Saturday, **Jan. 12** from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish at St. Bartholomew Church, 45 Ludlow St., in Manchester. Expert speakers will discuss the reality of trafficking in Connecticut, the work being done and how churches can help. To register, email theundergroundct@gmail.com. For more information, contact Lynn Campbell at 860.242.5573.



CORRECTION: God’s Farm is located at 40 Briar Lane in Meriden, not at 42, as reported in the November issue of the Catholic Transcript.



FOR MORE THINGS TO DO
visit www.catholictranscript.org



*Archbishop Blair wishes
all the people of
the Archdiocese of Hartford
a blessed Christmas
and a New Year filled with
faith and happiness.*

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 abuse scandal, visit:

<https://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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PHOTO BY DAVID ELLIOTT





**EDITOR'S
NOTE:**

This month's column is the homily that Archbishop Blair delivered at the ordination of Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt.



PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

A new shepherd for the flock

Dear brothers and sisters, in just a few minutes I will offer the solemn prayer of episcopal ordination over our brother, Juan Miguel Betancourt. The prayer includes a phrase already found in an ancient text known as the *Apostolic Tradition*: “Grant, O Father, knower of all hearts, that this your servant, whom you have chosen for the Office of Bishop, may shepherd your holy flock. Serving you night and day, may he fulfill before you without reproach the ministry of the high priesthood.”



**ARCHBISHOP
LEONARD P.
BLAIR**

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

To serve God night and day by shepherding the flock without reproach and with a heart that lies open before God — this is the call of service that our brother Juan Miguel assumes today.

We are grateful for the grace offered by God and freely and generously accepted by him as you embrace the call to be a bishop. The words and symbols of the rite of ordination that we will hear and see provide a catechesis about the high calling that he has received and what is expected of him as a result.

Queridos, hermanos y hermanas, en unos pocos minutos ofreceré la solemne oración de ordenación episcopal sobre nuestro hermano Juan Miguel Betancourt. Las palabras y los símbolos del rito de ordenación que vamos observar y ver proporciona una catequesis sobre el alto llamado que ha recibido y lo que se espera de él como resultado.

In the apostolic exhortation *Pastores Gregis*, Pope St. John Paul writes: “Relying on the word of God and holding firmly to hope, which is like a sure and steadfast anchor reaching to the heavens, the bishop stands in the midst of the Church as a vigilant sentinel, a courageous prophet, a credible witness and a faithful servant of Christ.” The theological virtue of hope was very much on the mind of the late great pontiff at the turn of the millennium, and in our time

it is more urgent than ever that a bishop be “a servant of the Gospel for the hope of the world.”

For this to happen, Pope St. John Paul says that, first, a bishop must be a vigilant sentinel, and keep watch over the flock, as symbolized by the pastoral staff, the crosier. As the New Testament bears witness, beginning with our Lord’s own warning in the Gospel we have just heard from Luke, whose feast day it is, the wolf is very real, ready to snatch the sheep at every opportunity.

At the end of the sixth century, Pope St. Gregory the Great posed a question that every bishop must ask himself: What kind of sentinel am I, positioned on the heights, to take a wide view so that Christ’s sheep may safely graze and be brought safely home, keeping the wolf at bay?

Many are the charismatic figures that God raises up at crucial moments in Church history to effect some much-needed reform, to open up a new path in spiritual and devotional life or to reinvigorate consecrated life. This includes many sainted bishops. But as the Second Vatican Council reaffirmed, the mission that is proper to bishops consists in reverently safeguarding and courageously proclaiming the Catholic faith “with patience and sound teaching.” That is why in just a few moments,

our brother Juan Miguel will be asked if he is resolved to guard the deposit of faith, entire and incorrupt, as handed down by the Apostles and preserved in the Church everywhere and at all times.

En unos pocos momentos, se le pedirá a nuestro hermano Juan Miguel si está resuelto a guardar el depósito de la fe, entero e incorrupto, como pasado por los apóstoles y preservada en la iglesia en cualquier lugar y en todo momento.

Then there is the challenge of being a courageous prophet. In the Scriptures, a prophet is not principally one who tells the future, but one appointed and strengthened by God to summon the people to conversion and fidelity when they have forgotten, or have strayed from, their divine calling as the people of God.

In our day, an essential aspect of a bishop's prophetic office is that of modeling what Pope Francis calls "missionary discipleship." It is the mission each of us has to know, live and bear witness to the faith, so that, echoing the words of St. Paul in our first reading, through us "the proclamation of the Gospel may be completed" in the world. This prophetic mission and witness also include the promotion of justice and peace in the civil, socio-economic and ecological spheres, and concern for the poor, the sick, the immigrant and the stranger. Our new bishop is being asked today whether he is resolved not only to seek out the stray and to admonish, but also to preach the Gospel of Christ with constancy and fidelity.

Nuestro nuevo obispo se le está pidiendo hoy si está resuelto no solo a buscar los extraviados y amonestar, pero también para predicar el evangelio de Cristo con constancia y fidelidad.

What can we say about the next requirement of a bishop, that he be a credible witness? My brothers and sisters, I do not need to tell you about the grievous wounds that afflict the Church's bishops at the present moment. Credibility is a precious thing, and once lost by betrayal and scandal, it is recovered only through heartfelt contrition and penance, and with time, patience, perseverance and the grace of God.

We who are bishops need to heed the words of the renowned French writer Georges Bernanos: "The only way of reforming the Church is to suffer for her. ... The only way of reforming the vices of the Church is to lavish on her the example of one's own most heroic virtues."

In *Pastores Gregis*, Pope St. John Paul says that a bishop will only be pastorally effective if he possesses a moral authority bestowed by a life of holiness. "By his words and example," the pope writes, "and in his vigilance and paternal intervention, the bishop fulfills his duty to offer the world the reality of a Church which is holy and chaste, in her ministers and in her faithful — holy and chaste, in her ministers and in her faithful."

The episcopal ring to be placed on Bishop-elect

Betancourt's finger carries with it the admonition to preserve unblemished the bride of Christ, the Holy Church. And the miter is placed on his head with the expectation that the splendor of holiness will shine forth in him.

In a sermon preached in the year 412, St. Augustine asks: "Are there bad bishops?" "No, there are not," he answers. "I venture to say with absolute certainty, there are no bad bishops; because if they are bad, they are bishops in name only but not in fact; theirs is an empty title." "Whatever we bishops are like," St. Augustine tells his congregation, "your hope must not be in us; your hope must not be in our humanity — all your hope must be in Christ."

On this joyful day for our archdiocese and for the whole Church, we have every confidence that our brother Juan Miguel stands before us as a man of virtue, integrity and honor, who will truly be, and not just seem to be, a holy bishop with the heart and mind of Jesus Christ.

En este día alegre para nuestra Arquidiócesis y para toda la iglesia, tenemos toda confianza que nuestro hermano Juan Miguel se encuentra ante nosotros como hombre de virtud, integridad y honor, quien será verdaderamente, y no solo parecer, un obispo santo con el corazón y la mente de Jesucristo.

Finally, the bishop is a faithful servant of Christ. As the ordination ritual tells us: "The title of bishop is one of service, not of honor, and therefore a bishop should strive to benefit others rather than lord it over them. Such is the precept of the master: the greater should behave as the least and the ruler as the servant." In that spirit, our brother resolves today, for the sake of the Lord's name, to be a servant of all, welcoming and merciful to great and small alike, and especially to the least among us.

And so, Bishop-elect Juan Miguel Betancourt, we pray that God will bless you with many happy and healthy years: In the name of the Father whose image you will represent in the Church; in the name of the Son, Jesus Christ, whose office of teacher, priest and shepherd you will discharge; and in the name of the Holy Spirit who gives life to the Church of Christ and by his power strengthens us to overcome our weaknesses and to meet every challenge for the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

Y entonces Obispo electo Juan Miguel Betancourt, oramos que Dios lo bendiga con muchos años felices y sanos; en el nombre del Padre cuya imagen representará en la iglesia; en el nombre del hijo, Jesucristo, cuyo oficio de maestro, sacerdote y pastor descargará; y en el nombre del Espíritu Santo que da vida a la Iglesia de Cristo y por su poder nos fortalezca a superar nuestras debilidades y enfrentar todos los desafíos para la gloria de Dios y la salvación de almas. †

From John Wayne to Dorothy Day: All in good company

Have you ever met someone who practiced the Catholic faith the way you wish you could? Someone with a deep reverence for the Eucharist. Someone who was devout in prayer. Someone who took the beatitudes seriously.

Over the years, I've met many people like that. They were powers of example, and many were converts to Catholicism who could teach cradle Catholics a thing or two about their faith.

They were Southern Baptists, Congregationalists, Presbyterians, Hindus, Jews, Episcopalians ... and atheists. They were lay men and women, they were deacons, they were priests, they were theologians, and they all shared an intense love for the Roman Catholic faith. They didn't take it for granted, because they believed the Holy Spirit had led them to the Church.



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

Whenever the celebrated novelist Walker Percy was asked why he decided to become a Roman Catholic, he'd promptly respond, "What else is there?"

Percy believed there was nothing else. His path to Catholicism had been a long and hard one, marked by crises, tragedies and disbelief. His family had a history of suicide that went back generations. His grandfather, his father and possibly his mother died by their own hands. At 16, Percy and his brothers, who had been raised agnostic, were sent to live with their uncle, who was a lawyer, a poet, an intellectual ... and a Catholic. The man would have a powerful influence on his young nephews.

Walker Percy eventually graduated from Columbia University School of Medicine and briefly practiced in New York City before he contracted tuberculosis and was sent away for treatment. At that time, he had a spiritual crisis and began to question the meaning of life. His search, like that of Augustine and Francis of Assisi, inevitably led to the realization that the answers he was looking for could only be found in the eternal truths of the Catholic Church.

What else is there?

For Blessed John Henry Newman, there was nothing else. At 23, he was ordained an Anglican priest and lived in a society that considered the Catholic Church evil. However, his searching mind led him to Rome. At 44, he became a Catholic.

Because of his conversion, he lost a comfortable position, and many friends and family members deserted him. However, he firmly believed God had brought him to the Catholic Church. In *The Mission of My Life*, he wrote: "God may take away my friends. He may throw me among strangers. He may make me feel desolate, make

my spirits sink, hide my future from me. Still, He knows what He is about."

An estimated 6.8 million Americans have converted to Catholicism. The list of converts is a long one that includes John Wayne, Thomas Merton, Buffalo Bill Cody, Norma McCorvey ("Jane Roe" in the U.S. Supreme Court case *Roe v. Wade*), St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Gov. Jeb Bush, jazz musician Dave Brubeck, actress Patricia Neal, Notre Dame coach Knute Rockne, Newt Gingrich, Father Richard John Neuhaus, theologians Scott and Kimberly Hahn, novelist Dean Koontz, G.K. Chesterton, Graham Greene, Evelyn Waugh, Dorothy Day and many others. Their stories are dynamic testimonies to the Catholic faith and an inspiration for those of us who take our faith for granted.

So the next time, you think that being a cradle Catholic entitles you to sleep on the job, think again. Be inspired by the example of those who found a better way as Catholics.

When Servant of God Dorothy Day, co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement, died in 1980, historian David O'Brien called her "the most significant, interesting and influential person in the history of American Catholicism." This was a woman who grew up with anarchists, Communists and atheists, and who lived a bohemian life that included drinking and smoking, illicit love affairs, abortion and arrests for her political activities. Back then, it was a scandalous life, but the worse scandal to her friends was her decision to become a Roman Catholic.

Dorothy Day believed God was pursuing her ... long before she was even aware of his presence. Isn't that the way it is for all of us, convert and cradle Catholic alike? Like Walker Percy, if we cherish our faith, we're compelled to say, "What else is there?" The answer is: "Nothing." †

Rejoice & Be Glad!



Thank you for remembering the children of our communities with your generous donation this Christmas season.



Catholic Charities
Archdiocese of Hartford

**For more information, visit
www.ccaoh.org
or call 1-888-405-1183**

19 EASY STEPS for raising great kids

Just kidding —
There's nothing
easy about it

When my kids were young, people often commented on how well-behaved they were. "What's your secret?" they'd ask. Unfortunately, there's no secret — just consistency, unconditional love, clear boundaries and, most of all, a relationship with Jesus. Here are a few thoughts.

1. Contrary to popular opinion, the most important work of parenting does not occur during the teen years. It happens during ages 1-6, as you teach obedience and respect.
2. If you give an instruction, enforce it and don't negotiate. If you don't plan to enforce it, don't say it.
3. Teach your children to pray at a young age, and join them in prayer every night.
4. Parents often ask their child if she wants to leave the playground or pick up toys or take a nap. Of course Emma doesn't want to, but you're the parent. Don't be afraid to lead.
5. Never reward a temper tantrum. If Liam is pitching a fit, don't give him a lollipop to get him to stop. Instead, separate him to a boring place until he settles

himself. He'll gradually learn that tantrums don't work.

6. Go to Mass together as a family every weekend. Enroll your children in religious education, and integrate your faith into your family's everyday life.
7. Distinguish between childishness and defiance. When a kid spills milk, that's childishness. He should help mop it up, but there's no need to punish something that wasn't deliberate. Defiance, on the other hand, is intentional disobedience that must be shaped into the virtue of perseverance.
8. Catch your child doing something good. It's easy to fall into negative parenting. Positive parenting is better.
9. Always be honest. One mom used to tell her children they were going for ice cream, when they were actually going to the pediatrician for shots. Terrible idea.
10. Don't over-schedule your child. Nothing beats sending your kids outside to play with rocks, balls, sticks and chalk.
11. Limit electronics and cell phone use. If Sophia always has a tablet for entertainment, she won't learn to entertain herself. The next time you have a meeting or dentist appointment, bring books, puzzles, writing paper and games. A fertile imagination is a lifetime gift.
12. Spend one-on-one time with each child, even if it's just stopping for ice cream after errands. That time together can be magical, especially for a child who feels overshadowed by siblings.
13. Eat together as a family every night. It's your best opportunity to hear what's

"Raise up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

(Prv 22:6)

happening in their lives.

14. Beware what images go into your child's head; once there, they cannot be erased. And remember, just because Hollywood says a movie is appropriate for 13-year-olds doesn't mean the movie is appropriate for 13-year-olds.

15. The best way to teach generosity to a child is with

food. The best way to teach generosity to a teen is with car keys.

16. Allow your kids to take reasonable risks. Let them go to the mall with friends, checking in with them periodically. They can't learn responsibility if they aren't given some freedom.

17. A good teen youth group is essential for reinforcing their faith. If your parish doesn't have one, find one. I don't care if you have to drive to Poughkeepsie every week. Do it. Investing in our kids' faith is a parent's most important job.

18. Sign up for every carpool during your kids' teen years, especially the nighttime ones when teens are likely to be chatty. If you're quiet, they may forget you're there.

19. Make your home a gathering place for teens. Keep a lot of food on hand and make your kids' friends feel welcome. Extra credit for warm chocolate chip cookies. †



M. REGINA CRAM

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

**Christmas
in Poland**

**November 17, 2018
to February 3, 2019**

1 State Street, New Haven
Open 10-5 daily
203-865-0400
kofcmuseum.org

Gift shop
Free admission & parking
Schools & groups welcome

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MUSEUM

December 24th

3 p.m. – Prelude

Cathedral Youth Orchestra
and Youth Choirs
Alice Matteson, Choirmaster

4 p.m.

Nativity of the Lord Vigil Mass
celebrated by
Monsignor Thomas Ginty, Rector

9 p.m.

Christmas Eve Concert
HANDEL'S MESSIAH
(CHRISTMAS SECTION)
Cathedral Schola Cantorum
Soli Deo Gloria Orchestra
Dr. Ezequiel Menéndez, Organist
Dr. Edward Bolkovac, Choirmaster

10 p.m.

The Solemn Mass of Christmas
celebrated by
Archbishop Leonard P. Blair

December 25th

10 a.m.

The Nativity of the Lord
celebrated by
Archbishop Leonard P. Blair

WATCH MASS ON TV ON CHRISTMAS
MORNING AT 10 A.M. ON WCCT-TV

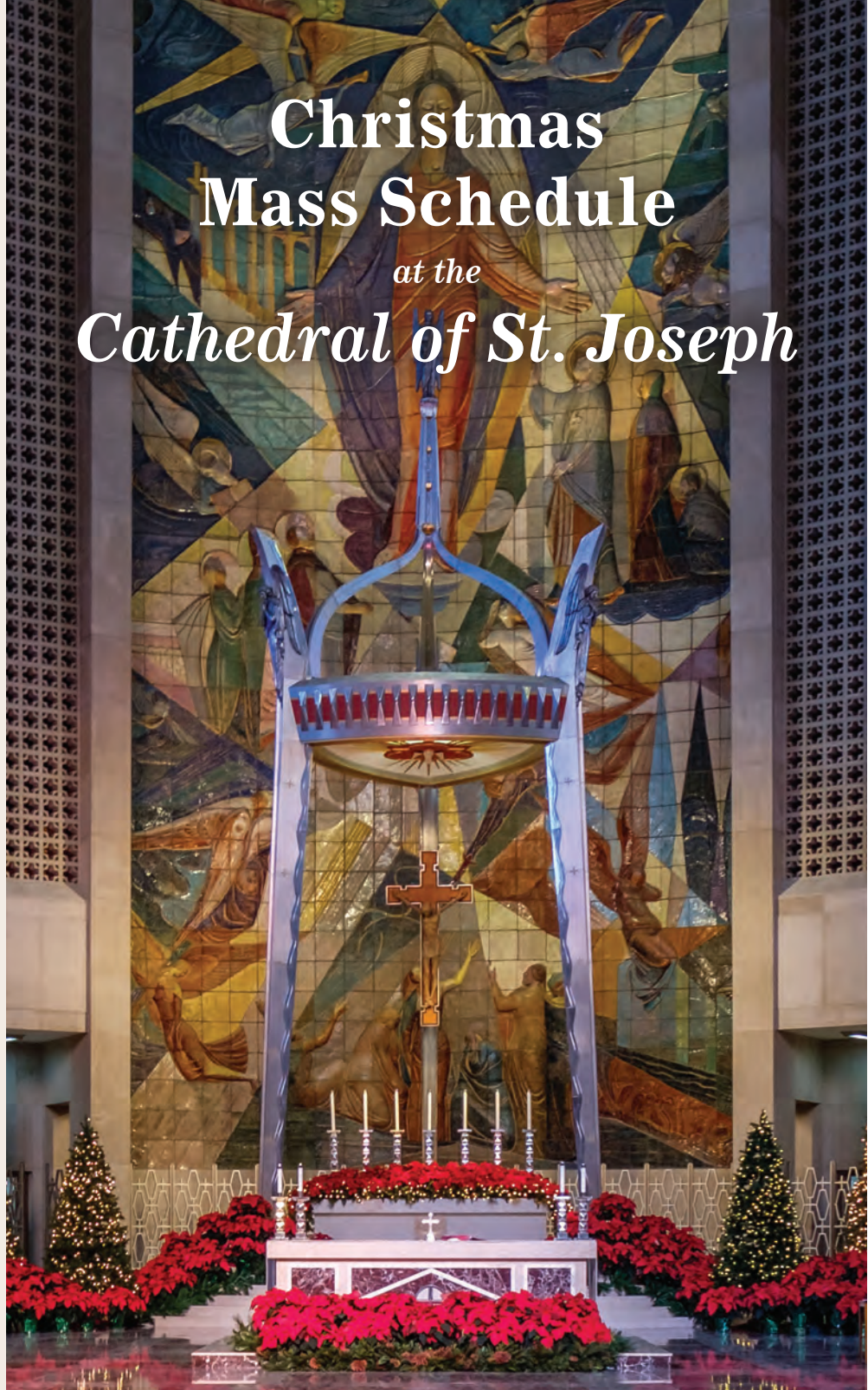
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Christmas Mass Schedule

at the
Cathedral of St. Joseph



*For the Mass schedule
at your local parish, visit:*

ChristmasMasses.com

Maintaining Christmas cheer THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Sometimes even in July, I find myself singing the lyrics from the snappy tune “It Feels Like Christmas,” written by songwriter Paul Williams and featured in the movie “The Muppet Christmas Carol.” The song calls Christmas “the season of the spirit,” and urges us to “make it last all year.” If you’re not familiar, feel free to take a quick YouTube break here before continuing.

“The Muppet Christmas Carol” was released in 1992 and stars Michael Caine as Ebenezer Scrooge. My wife and her sisters grew up watching this epic film of Christmas cheer each holiday season. I only came to discover the film as an adult, but I admit that I have adopted its repeated viewing in December as an important part of our own family traditions of the season now that we have young children.

“The Muppet Christmas Carol,” based on the well-known story of *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, is essentially a tale of the redemptive power of love. That love transforms Mr. Scrooge through the course of his being haunted by three spirits, the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future. And while the story entails important Christian themes that are theologically and culturally tied to Christmas, it means even more to our family because of the feelings it evokes.

Think about your favorite Christmas carols (for me, “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”), your other favorite Christmas films, the smell of freshly cut pine in the house, the taste of cousin Barbara Ann’s Christmas cookies (you’ll have to take my word on this one). These trappings of the Christmas season do more than remind us of Christ’s birth or certain Christian principles of love and charity; they make us feel a certain way about

ourselves and about our relationship to each other and to God.

My job, like yours, has hard days. As you might expect, not every day in court goes the way I would like. Not every witness testifies how I would expect (or would reasonably anticipate), and not every other attorney, judge, mediator or arbitrator views and values my client’s case the same way I do. Some days I’m just late dropping Danny off at preschool, split a hole in my pants or spill coffee on my tie.

At the end (or sometimes in the middle) of a trying day, I need a reminder that I have the love of my family, the love of my friends and the unceasing unconditional love of God. Whether it is the fall, winter, spring or summer, sometimes I need it to feel like Christmas. Sometimes, regardless of whether the leaves are falling or the flowers are blooming, I need to feel the hope and promise that comes when we celebrate the birth of our Savior. I need to remember that, even on my worst day, I can celebrate the unlimited and unbounded love and joy that Christ has for us.

It is for this reason that, on occasion, my wife comes home on a July day, in the middle of a heatwave, with the kids splashing about in their tiny pool, and finds that I have my Christmas Classics station playing on Pandora.

The lyrics from “The Muppet’s

Christmas Carol” also make the same important point: that the lessons of Christmas, the very feelings that are central to our experience of Christmas, should not be packed away with the stockings on the second day of the new year. Our Christian sense of love and charity do not hit the curb with the Christmas tree.

Make Christmas last all year. Be the Christmas spirit for someone in need of it. Accept the Christmas spirit when you’re in need, without regard for the month or season. In fact, put a reminder in your calendar right as you finish reading this article. Set the reminder for six months from now, for June 25, 2019. Remind yourself to listen to your favorite Christmas carol on that day, watch some of your favorite Christmas movie, or simply contemplate the mystery of the Christ child being born into this world.

Please accept my own hope for you and your family’s comfort and joy this blessed Christmas season, as well as every other day to come. †



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



LISTEN ON YOUTUBE “IT FEELS LIKE CHRISTMAS” BY PAUL WILLIAMS

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PHOTO BY LENORA SUNSKY

R O B E R T A T U T T L E

— *honored* —

after 17 years as editor and webmaster
of the *Catholic Transcript*

STORY BY SHELLEY WOLF

During the Respect Life Mass on Oct. 7 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, Archbishop Leonard P. Blair honored Roberta Tuttle, editor of the *Catholic Transcript*, with the St. Gianna Beretta Molla Award for her sustained, dedicated commitment to protecting all human life.



Roberta

A budding journalist

Roberta Wilson grew up as a Roman Catholic in Pittsburgh, Pa., and was the youngest of three sisters. All three went into some form of ministry as adults.

Roberta's eldest sister Mary Virginia, now Sister Paul Mary of Jesus, LSP, is currently administrator of the Jeanne Jugan Center in Kansas City, Mo., a home for the elderly poor run by the Little Sisters of the Poor. Roberta's middle sister, Catherine ("Kate") Wilson, is retired from a career in educational publishing and is an ordained priest in the Episcopal Church, living in Indianapolis.

Though Roberta started out in Pittsburgh, her family moved to Connecticut, where she and her two sisters attended Sacred Heart Academy in Hamden.

She later attended what is now Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven, initially intent on pre-med. In time, she decided to forgo a medical career to help her widowed mother, switching to Fairfield University in Fairfield and graduating in 1976 with a bachelor's degree in psychology.

After a series of summer jobs at the *New Haven Register*, she was encouraged to apply in 1976 for a full-time reporting position for the "Society," "Lifestyle" and "Women's" sections of the newspaper. She loved the work and loved its focus on people.

Catherine



Mary Virginia



Sister Suzanne Gross, FSE, program coordinator for the Pro-Life Ministry for the Archdiocese of Hartford, and the person who nominated Roberta for the award, says, "Through the years, Roberta Tuttle has been so supportive of the work of the Pro-Life Ministry and has provided [news] coverage for our key events."

That news coverage, Sister Suzanne explains, has encompassed the annual Respect Life Mass in Hartford, the March for Life in Washington, D.C., and the Mass of Remembrance, which moves to a different parish each year. And that's not to mention Roberta's eagerness to spread the word about the little-known pregnancy centers in the state that help young women with unplanned pregnancies to keep their babies.

This latest accolade was just one of many for the long-time editor of the *Catholic Transcript* newspaper, magazine and website, though it may be the most meaningful because it comes at the end of a long and successful career.

On Sept. 30, Roberta Tuttle retired as editor of the state's largest Catholic publication, after 17 years of dedicated service as a Catholic reporter, editor and consummate journalist for the archdiocese.

She leaves behind a record of numerous journalism awards; many admiring writers, photographers and designers who worked for her over the years; a magazine that serves 180,000 Catholics; and a website that offers Catholic news to 20,000 readers each month.

Though she took her service in stride, some see Roberta as a true disciple of Jesus.

Father James A. Shanley, executive director of communications and public relations, says, "She has shepherded a publication that brings others to the faith in Jesus through her dedication to the parishes, her high standards of journalism, her insight into using various methods of communication and her willingness to adapt to changes in leadership, strategy and financial concerns.

"She also has assisted in making the *Transcript* available, free of charge," he stresses, "to every registered household in the Archdiocese of Hartford."



YEARBOOK MEMORIES:

Roberta is shown, top right, in her 1969 high school yearbook photo with her older sisters, Mary Virginia and Catherine, who graduated in 1965 and 1966, respectively. All three Wilson girls attended Sacred Heart Academy in Hamden and went into various forms of ministry.

Two years later, on the recommendation of a friend — who later became her husband, Bill Tuttle — she applied for a reporting job at *The Day*, a daily newspaper in New London. From 1978 to 1986, she covered the courts, local politics, education and maritime news.

As a daily reporter, Roberta was always up for an adventure. Even toward the end of her pregnancy, she climbed down a submarine ladder to report one story. To cover another story while pregnant, as she tells it, she jumped from a Coast Guard cutter into the waiting arms of a terrified guardsman standing on a rocky shore.

Catholic Transcript columnist Joe Pisani says, “Roberta — and this is the highest compliment I can pay — is a true newspaperwoman. She understands the business and she can spot a story. ... She has what was known back in the era of the dinosaurs as ‘a nose for news.’

“She’s also an exacting editor who knows grammar and appreciates good writing and reporting,” he adds. “She did some fine reporting at two of the state’s best papers when daily newspapers were a way of life for us, and an exciting way of life.”

Roberta took several years off to raise her son, Will. During that time, she moved to Maryland for her husband’s job and then back to New London again.

By 1993, she began work as an advertising representative for *The New Haven Register*, and by 1998, she had returned to writing as a freelance writer for *Soundings* boating newspaper in Essex and for the *Catholic Faith & Family* magazine.



Sink or swim

Roberta’s interest in writing and all things Catholic led her to the *Catholic Transcript*, which operated out of St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield. The building has since been renamed the Pastoral Center for the Archdiocese of Hartford.

She began at the *Transcript* newspaper as a freelance reporter in August of 2000, covering events in the southern half of the archdiocese. She was hired full time as associate editor in July of 2001 by then Executive Editor Father Christopher M. Tiano, and she immediately became the de facto managing editor.

Leslie DiVenere, a graphic designer for the *Transcript*, was on the scene when Roberta got her start.

“Roberta’s first day was like most first days, introductions and orientation,” Leslie recalls. “She sat down with Elisa Krochmalnyckj, the outgoing editor, to learn the basics: where physical and digital files were stored, how to name files, who to contact for various types of assignments.”

Training was to continue for about two weeks, when Elisa would go on maternity leave, awaiting the birth of her first child. “However, that one day of training turned out to be the *only* day,” Leslie stresses, “because Elisa went into labor quite unexpectedly that night.”

Roberta simply had to jump in and figure it out, using her sharp intellect and creative problem-solving skills. She impressed the staff right away with her intelligence, work ethic and wit.



Communications Director Maria Zone and Roberta check the roster of pilgrims boarding a bus for Philadelphia to see Pope Francis during his September 2015 visit to the United States.

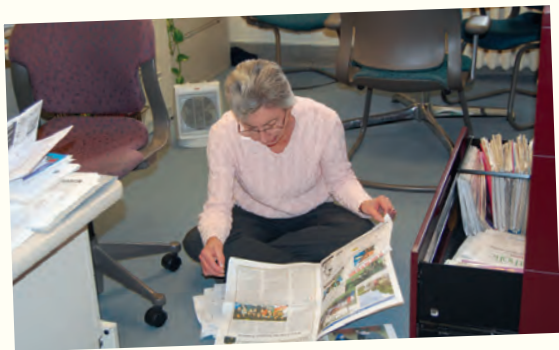


PHOTO BY JACK SHEEDY



Roberta worked long hours and weekends to stay on top of the Catholic news in the archdiocese. She is seen here in 2009 on the floor of her office doing research, and in 2016 at her desk editing.



PHOTO BY SHELLEY WOLF



PHOTO BY BOB MULLEN

The show must go on

Roberta was promoted to managing editor and later to executive editor. Current and former staffers say they took their lead from her.

“Roberta is the consummate journalist — soft-spoken, but completely dedicated to her craft, always going the extra mile,” says Mary Chalupsky, a reporter who joined the newspaper at about the same time as Roberta and who now covers the southern half of the archdiocese. “If you were working hard, she worked triple to get the job done. And always with a sense of calm, control, professionalism — and humor.”

Other staff reporters say they found Roberta to be the “sharpest” managing editor they have ever worked for. They found it helpful to bat around story ideas with her to better focus them before going out into the field to cover live events or to conduct feature story interviews.

All say they appreciate her for her integrity as a journalist and her high professional standards.

“Some of her best work has been behind the scenes,” Leslie says, “handling all sorts of things with wisdom and grace, all while managing work flow and story ideas, and writing and editing. She set the bar high from the moment she was hired and has been a rock ever since.”

Roberta was also known for being able to catch a curve ball.

According to Mary, “She continued to produce the newspaper — despite needing to move the office twice, suffering through water damage, installing computers, hiring at least three if not four printing companies, living through power failures, coping with downed computers and working through three archbishops!”

Others remarked on the depth of her Catholic faith.

Maria Johnson, a former proofreader, says, “She is a genius but doesn’t seem to realize it, she is so humble. ... She is an excellent administrator, editor, writer, boss and a treasured friend. She is also devout, without being showoffy about it.”

Not surprisingly, many appreciate the humor she brought to everything, even to the most stressful deadline situations.

Jack Sheedy, a reporter who retired from the newspaper and who has served as a freelance writer for the magazine, says he will never forget the driving directions Roberta gave him when he applied for the job back in 2004.

“She said to take Route 44 to Bloomfield Avenue,” Jack recalls. “She said St. Thomas Seminary was just a few miles past a church building on the right ‘that looks like Battlestar Galactica.’ That’s when I knew my future editor and great friend had an unbeatable sense of humor.”

Columnist Joe Pisani appreciates Roberta’s fun side, too.

“I cherish her sense of humor,” Joe says. “It is right out of the newsrooms of yesteryear. I suppose I should also mention her compassion, but I wouldn’t want to tarnish her steely image as the Katharine Graham of Catholic journalism. However, when I weigh them all,” he says thoughtfully, “her decency as a person stands out above all the rest.”

“Her decency
as a person
stands out
above all
the rest.”

— JOE PISANI

Adapting to the digital age

The *Catholic Transcript* was first published in 1829 as *The Catholic Press* to combat anti-Catholic sentiment. It was the second Catholic newspaper established in the country.

Over the years, Roberta led her team of reporters, designers, photographers and support staff at the *Catholic Transcript* in achieving a raft of journalism awards. Too many to count, most were for “general excellence, first place” in its circulation class, from the Catholic Press Association, New England Newspaper and Press Association and the Connecticut Chapter of



The newspaper staff, including then Executive Editor Msgr. David Q. Liptak, temporarily set up shop in October 2011 in the rectory basement of the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford. An early snowstorm knocked out the power to much of the state for more than a week, but the team kept working.



FILE PHOTO



PHOTO BY JACK SHEEDY (ON A TIMER)



The 2013 newspaper team poses with their award for “first place, general excellence for specialty newspapers” from the New England Newspaper & Press Association. From left are, Jack Sheedy, reporter; Jeff Guerrette, advertising sales representative; Roberta Tuttle, managing editor; Joe Brown, graphic designer; and Leslie DiVenere, graphic designer.

the Society of Professional Journalists.

In addition to producing a consistently top-notch print product, Roberta also took the publication into new territory in 2005 by creating a website, catholictranscript.org, which draws 20,000 readers monthly. It offers local, national and international news as viewed through a Catholic lens.

In 2016, Roberta was promoted to executive editor following the retirement of Monsignor David Q. Liptak, who served as the executive editor of the newspaper and editorial page editor for many years.

In January 2017, she oversaw the transformation of the award-winning newspaper into a four-color, highly designed, photo-driven magazine with a digital version. Aimed at evangelizing the faith, the magazine is mailed to 180,000 registered Catholics in the Archdiocese of Hartford, a circulation that surpasses the Sunday edition of the *Hartford Courant*.

In her personal time, Roberta has enjoyed living close to the sea in her home in New London.

“I still remember sitting on one of her favorite beaches with her in New London,” Mary recalls. “She loves the beach and the sun, and watching the boats and Coast Guard ships go along the Thames River and into the Long Island Sound.”

Aided through the years by many skilled and dedicated staff and correspondents, Roberta Tuttle made the *Catholic Transcript* the respected publication that it is today.

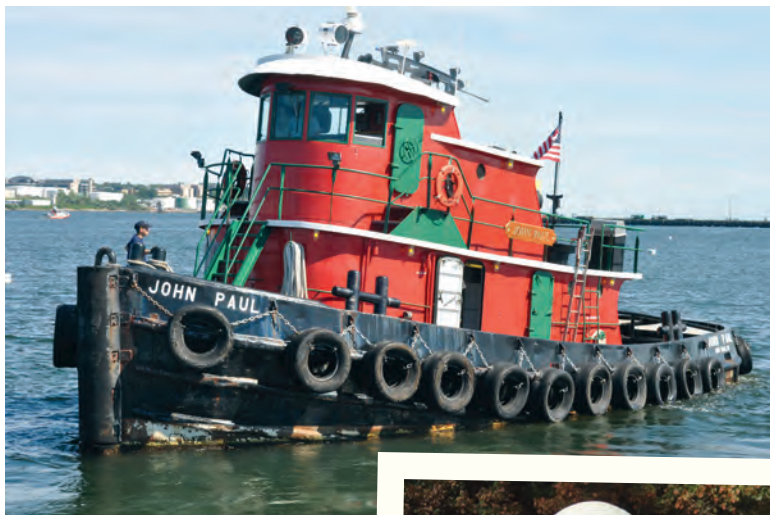
“It is her monument and legacy,” says Jack.

Father Shanley adds, “May all of us who are called to continue her work be worthy of the legacy she leaves behind.” †

Editor’s note: Roberta Tuttle passed away on Nov. 13, just two days before this issue was printed. May God bless her for her faithful service.



Roberta is seen below in September 2018 at a beach in New London. She loves tugboats and took this photo of the “John Paul” on the Thames River.



“May all of us
who are called
to continue her
work be worthy
of the legacy she
leaves behind.”

— FATHER JAMES SHANLEY



PHOTO BY MARIA JOHNSON

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BISHOP BETANCOURT ORDAINED



Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt displays the letter from Pope Francis that names him "Auxiliary Bishop of Hartford and Titular Bishop of Curzola."



*as the ninth auxiliary bishop
of the Archdiocese of Hartford*

STORY BY
MARY CHALUPSKY

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
AARON JOSEPH


**EDITOR'S
NOTE:**

On Oct. 18, just one month after his appointment by Pope Francis, Bishop-elect Juan Miguel Betancourt Torres, SEMV, was ordained as an auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Hartford. He will assist Archbishop Blair in meeting the pastoral and administrative needs of the archdiocese. In part two of this two-part series, the *Catholic Transcript* follows the bishop-elect on his joyful journey — from priest to bishop.



A s a jubilant gathering of friends, family and the faithful looked on, Bishop-elect Juan Miguel Betancourt Torres, SEMV, was ordained auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Hartford during a joyful Mass of his episcopal ordination held Oct. 18 on the feast of St. Luke at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford.

Born in Puerto Rico, Bishop Betancourt most recently served as a pastor, seminary professor and vice rector for formation in St. Paul, Minn. Among well-wishers were those from his 16-member contemplative religious community — Servants of the Holy Eucharist and of the Blessed Virgin Mary — founded in Puerto Rico in 1981, with houses in Minnesota and Spain.

The religious community members, along with a contingent of family and friends who flew in from Puerto Rico, waved flags of Puerto Rico and of the international Schoenstatt movement, upon which his religious community was founded.

“It’s a great joy for me to welcome our new auxiliary bishop-elect” and “all who have journeyed to Hartford for the episcopal ordination,” said Hartford Archbishop Leonard P. Blair, in opening comments for the ceremony, over which he

officiated as presiding and principal consecrator.

In his homily delivered in both Spanish and English, the archbishop emphasized the “prophetic” mission and high office of bishop.

“On this joyful day for our archdiocese and for the whole Church,” Archbishop Blair said, “we have every confidence that our brother, Juan Miguel, stands before us as a man of virtue, integrity and honor, who will truly be ... a holy bishop with the heart and mind of Jesus Christ.”

The archbishop was joined on the altar by co-consecrators Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military Services USA and Auxiliary Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of St. Paul and Minneapolis, who was in the same class with the newly-ordained bishop when the two studied in Rome.

During the rite of ordination, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States, read a Sept. 18 letter from Pope Francis calling the bishop-elect to the episcopal ministry and naming him “Auxiliary Bishop of Hartford and Titular Bishop of Curzola.”



In his remarks, Archbishop Pierre drew laughter when he quoted Monsignor Aloysius Callaghan, retired rector of St. Paul Seminary and Divinity School, about his admiration for Bishop-elect Betancourt.

“It’s a big loss for the seminary; it’s like losing an arm,” said Archbishop Pierre, quoting Msgr. Callaghan. “I think he’s a wonderful priest. He’s dynamic — the Energizer bunny would lose a job [trying to keep up] with him.”

As is the custom, Bishop Betancourt then held up the letter from Pope Francis to those in attendance, and proudly processed it through the cathedral.

The rite of ordination continued with the bishop-elect giving his assent to nine promises to uphold the faith and discharge his duty; the litany of the saints, during which he prostrated himself on the floor of the sanctuary while the congregation prayed for him; the laying on of hands by Archbishop Blair and other bishops in attendance; and the solemn prayer of ordination, during which the Book of the Gospels was placed upon his head to illustrate that preaching the word of God is the pre-eminent obligation of the office of the bishop.

After anointing his head with holy chrism [oil] and presenting him with the Book of Gospels, Archbishop Blair then presented Bishop Betancourt with the following:

- The episcopal insignia, a ring as a reminder to preserve the “bride of God, the holy Church”;
- The mitre, a cap symbolizing the dignity and jurisdiction of his office; and
- The crozier, a staff shaped like a shepherd’s crook, as a sign of his pastoral authority and need to keep watch over his whole flock.

Bishop Betancourt then took the first place among the concelebrating bishops. The rite of ordination ended with the kiss of peace from Archbishop Blair and the other bishops present — sealing his admittance into the College of Bishops.



Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States, delivers the pope’s letter to Bishop Betancourt.





From island son to bishop

Bishop Betancourt, 48, was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico, and was ordained a priest on April 21, 2001. He has served since 2007 in St. Paul, Minn. on the faculty of the St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity as Scripture professor and formator of seminarians. He was also pastor of the Parish of St. Francis de Sales of St. Paul. He is fluent in Spanish, English and Italian, among others, and holds a licentiate in sacred Scripture from the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome.

Among those who flew in from Puerto Rico to share in the celebration were bishops and family.

“It’s a real pleasure to be here for this joyful occasion,” said Bishop Daniel Fernandez of Arecibo, Puerto Rico, who traveled to the liturgy with his brother bishop, Archbishop Roberto O. González, OFM, of San Juan, Puerto Rico. “It’s a real source of pride that one of our island’s sons has been called to this service.”

Also making the trip from Puerto Rico for the ordination were Bishop Betancourt’s parents, Miguel and Gloria Betancourt, and his two younger sisters, Gloria and Glorimar, who sat in the cathedral pews during the ordination with tears rolling down their faces.

“It’s a great gift from the Holy Spirit,” said Bishop Betancourt’s mother, Gloria, who was raised by grandparents in Bridgeport before she returned to Puerto Rico. Speaking through an interpreter about his ordination, she said, “All of the way he lived his life was to serve God and the Virgin Mary. The most important thing now is for him to continue

to give glory to God.”

His father, Miguel, was equally reflective. “I still don’t know what is going on,” he said with a laugh, “but I’m impressed” by the occasion. “It’s a gift we don’t deserve. But God has given us this and we have to accept it. It’s all about God. He will advise him to keep doing what he’s asking [my son] to do. Now he’s going to create an even greater impact for the glory of God.”

Bishop Betancourt’s sister Glorimar added, “He’s an example, a role model. It’s a blessing for us that the Holy Father has chosen someone from Puerto Rico, and we are proud of his election as bishop.”

Joy in Connecticut and Minnesota

The faithful displayed their approval of the new bishop throughout the ceremony with applause and cheers, along with selfies, iPad video recordings, flags and especially prayers.

For those in Connecticut and Minnesota who could not attend, the archdiocesan Office of Radio and Television broadcast the 2 p.m. Mass of episcopal ordination live on WCCT-TV and streamed it live on the Internet to viewers, including to a gathering of staff and seminarians at the St. Paul Seminary and School of Divinity in St. Paul.

“It’s a special blessing for Hartford and the Spanish community that our new auxiliary bishop is from the Latino community,” said Father Diego Jimenez, pastor of All Saints Parish in Waterbury, who was present at the ordination. “As part of our pastoral planning, he will be able to support the work of evangelizing our community. I’m very excited, very happy.”

Griselle Hernandez, a parishioner at St. Augustine Parish in Hartford, said, “I feel so thrilled because God has chosen to give us this bishop to pastor us. I know we will grow together now with both Archbishop Blair and Bishop Betancourt.”

A contingent of seminarians, staff and parishioners also flew in from Minnesota to mark the occasion with a flood of words of praise for the new bishop.

“He’s so amazing, so funny and charming,” said Jean Murtaugh, parishioner at St. Francis de Sales Parish of St. Paul.

“Witty, a lot of puns,” added her young daughters, Jena and Maggie. “And he’s so smart. We will miss him.”

Reflecting on Bishop Betancourt’s collaborative

“It’s a great gift from the Holy Spirit. All of the way he lived his life was to serve God and the Virgin Mary. The most important thing now is for him to continue to give glory to God.”

— GLORIA
BETANCOURT

Above, family and friends from Puerto Rico gather with the new bishop. Below, Bishop Betancourt poses with his parents, Miguel and Gloria Betancourt, and Archbishop Leonard P. Blair.



work style, parish trustee Jeff Marcolina, noted, “He’s the type of person who will sit back and listen before interjecting with his thoughts. He doesn’t dominate a situation; he let’s the parish leadership try to work things out first.”

It’s all about service

Pageantry added to the special occasion.

Honor guards for the ceremony included: the Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Honor Guard; Knights and Ladies of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem; Knights and Dames of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta; Knights of Peter Claver, Inc., and Ladies Auxiliary; and Knights of St. Gregory.

They processed in with seminarians and clergy, including nearly 40 deacons and 150 priests.

Nearly a dozen bishops and archbishops were also present, including Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Catholic school children witnessed the event, too.

Under the direction of Dr. Ezequiel Menéndez, music director for the cathedral, attendees were treated to transcendent music from the Cathedral Schola Cantorum, combined choirs and the Cathedral Brass Quintet.

After the ordination, guests attended a reception at the nearby Aetna building to meet Bishop Betancourt and to receive his blessing.

At the conclusion of the Mass, Bishop Betancourt thanked the many people who supported him over the years as well as the faithful in attendance. He also quipped that he would be hard at work in the Archdiocese of Hartford the next day — officiating at two confirmations.

“There’s a lot of joy and gratitude today ... a lot of hope and emotion,” Bishop Betancourt told the *Catholic Transcript* after his ordination. “I received a lot of support today not only from my family, the bishops, and my seminarians but from everybody. The theme that is constant here is that I’m going to serve this Church.” †

Bishop Betancourt’s motto and coat of arms

Bishop Betancourt chose the phrase *Ecce Agnus Dei* or “Behold the Lamb of God” for his motto. He holds up St. John the Baptist as his patron saint.

For his episcopal coat of arms, he chose the following symbols:

- The Lamb, giving his life for the Church
- A red and white banner to represent Hartford, his new local Church
- The star and blue background, signifying the strong presence of the Blessed Mother in his life
- The Cross of the Apostles with red stones as a reminder of the wounds of Christ
- The Schoenstatt Shrine carved into the altar, acknowledging the spirituality of the contemplative religious community that formed him — the Servants of the Holy Eucharist and of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Left: Members of the bishop’s religious community kneel for a blessing. A reporter from Fox 61 interviews the new bishop. Attendees bow for a blessing during the reception at Aetna.



Delegates return from FIFTH NATIONAL ENCUESTRO with energy and enthusiasm

More than 3,000 Hispanic delegates from Catholic dioceses around the United States returned from the Fifth National *Encuentro*, or *V Encuentro*, in Grapevine, Texas, energized by their participation and ready to share their experiences with those they represented.

Inspired by the call to become “Missionaries Disciples, Witnesses of God’s Love,” the delegates gathered Sept. 20-23 to discern ways in which the U.S. Catholic Church can help Hispanic Catholics strengthen their Christian identity and their response as missionary disciples for the entire Church. Representing 163 dioceses, the delegates presented the concerns and suggestions voiced by more than 250,000 Catholic Hispanics who participated in parish, diocesan and regional sessions in the two years leading up to the national conference.

In four breakout conversations, delegates discussed and prioritized the ways the U.S. Church can strengthen its pastoral response to Hispanic Catholics. In the final session, delegates identified best practices in 28 ministerial areas. The goals discerned through the *V Encuentro* process reveal the importance placed on addressing the needs of Hispanic youths and young adults, now 60 percent of Catholics in their age group.

In the final session, delegates identified Leadership Development, Family Ministry and Youth and Young Adult Ministry as the highest priorities.

A key experience for many participants was the dinner for young adults with the more than 100 bishops who attended *V Encuentro*. The 700 young adults participating had an opportunity to converse directly with the bishops and express their interest in being involved and included in leadership in the Church. The bishops, in the words of Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller of San Antonio, are encouraged by “the enthusiasm and courage, witness of faith and commitment to the Church” expressed by the young delegates during this session.

Delegates are charged with returning to their parishes and dioceses and inviting their communities to discern ways the goals can be achieved locally. They are also preparing pastoral plans guided by the concluding document from the conference.

The effects of *V Encuentro* are already rippling through the U.S. Church. According to Bishop Nelson Perez, bishop of Cleveland and chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) Subcommittee on Hispanic Affairs, 288 parishes have started a Hispanic ministry as a direct result of the local preparation for the national event. He reported that more than 50 dioceses have added staff dedicated to Hispanic ministry, including 35 that have added additional pastoral staff.

Following the close of the conference, Archbishop Garcia-Siller stated, “The *V Encuentro* process, and especially the national gathering, will go down in history as a special moment of grace for the Church in the United States in these turbulent and difficult times.”

As Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, president of the USCCB, aptly put it in his welcoming remarks: “Amidst this darkness, the *Encuentro* is a light that shines and illuminates the way forward. The enthusiasm, the passion, the love, and the joy of the *Encuentro* process is a means of grace, a gift to us as we rebuild the Church.”

The Archdiocese of Hartford sent nine delegates from parishes in Waterbury, Torrington, Hartford and New Britain to the national *encuentro* as well as seven delegates from its archdiocesan offices. Here, two parish delegates share their personal experience of attending the national event.

“

‘Enthusiasm’ comes from Greek and means, ‘God within.’

As I have experienced in the past four *encuentros*, I know we will all be hit with a blast of enthusiasm when we arrive, and hopefully when we depart. May the Lord Jesus give each delegate the strength and wisdom to be a missionary disciple over the long haul.

”

— Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus Peter A. Rosazza, archdiocesan delegate



**ROMER
SANTANA**

Age: 28

Parish: All Saints —
Todos los Santos Parish,
Waterbury

Occupation: Student at
University of Bridgeport,
Bridgeport; in master’s program
for molecular biology

My experience during the culmination of the *V Encuentro* was both enlightening and empowering. I am impressed by the amount of *jóvenes* (young adults) who share the passion and love of God in our nation. The conference was filled with committed and talented youth eager to be part of *la Iglesia en Salida* (the Church on the go).

Unlike what is perceived of us, our youth is one of action, and our *dones* (gifts and talents) are not being used due to the disproportionate balance of leadership in the Catholic Church of the United States. The numbers don’t lie; we are today’s Church and the hope amid the tribulation the Church faces today.

I take home from this process the excitement of bringing the shared experiences from youth around the country; the eagerness to accompany the marginalized communities in our city and implement the model of encounter in my parish. We can break the language, age and



“I’m not alone, I know that I am connected to more than 700 young adults from around the entire country who are ready to take action and be pillars of our faith.”

culture walls between the parishes in our Archdiocese of Hartford and build bridges that strengthen us as one Church of Christ.

I’m not alone, I know that I am connected to more than 700 young adults from around the entire country who are ready to take action and be pillars of our faith.



**MILAGROS
CASTILLO**

Age: 21

Parish: All Saints —
Todos los Santos Parish,
Waterbury

Occupation: Student at Albertus
Magnus College, New Haven; in
bachelor’s program for biology

The “fifth encounter” was a wonderful experience. I learned a lot, but what I liked the most was the experience we were able to have with the bishops of the Church. It was a true honor and experience to be able to have dinner with them.

At this dinner, we were able to talk about our experiences and struggles of being involved with the youth at our parishes. The bishops were attentive and professional. One of the most important questions discussed at the dinner was, “What can the Catholic Church do for the youth?” Everyone at the table agreed that formation and funding are essential to have a fruitful youth group and to bring in more teens and young adults.

In addition to the dinner, the fifth encounter also had various talks. Each talk was well-developed and engaging. The Masses were outstanding. I have never seen that many priests and bishops present to celebrate each and every Mass. The volunteers were beyond helpful and made the experience much more enjoyable.

As for my personal experience, I would like to start by saying that I am eternally grateful. I was surprised and honored when I found out that I would be attending the *V Encuentro*. I was present for the parish,

archdiocesan and regional *encuentros* (encounters), but never thought that I would have the privilege to attend such an important encounter.

This encounter gave me the necessary push and energy I needed to continue to pursue the youths and young adults in my parish. This encounter was also an eye-opening experience. There were a lot of adults present and this normally intimidates me. However, the adults present at this encounter were also eager to learn and were very welcoming. They were aware that having the participation of the youth is really important.

I cannot stress enough the fact of how grateful I am to have participated at this event. I am so thankful to my parish and to the archdiocese for allowing me to go on this encounter and bond with various young adults from different parts of the United States of America.

After this fifth encounter, I hope to see a change in the management of the youths and young adults. I would love to see the support from the bishops and dioceses. With this help, I am confident that the Catholic Church can prosper and have an influx of youths. †

Los delegados regresan del QUINTO ENCUENTRO NACIONAL con energía y entusiasmo

Más de 3,000 delegados hispanos de las diversas diócesis católicas de los Estados Unidos regresaron del Quinto Encuentro Nacional, o V Encuentro, en Grapevine, Texas, energizados por su participación y listos para compartir sus experiencias con aquellos a quienes representaron.

Inspirados por el llamado a convertirse en “Discípulos Misioneros, Testigos del Amor de Dios”, los delegados se reunieron del 20 al 23 de septiembre para discernir las formas en que la Iglesia Católica de los Estados Unidos puede ayudar a los católicos hispanos a fortalecer su identidad cristiana y su respuesta como discípulos misioneros para toda la Iglesia. Representando a 163 diócesis, los delegados presentaron las inquietudes y sugerencias expresadas por más de 250,000 hispanos católicos que participaron en sesiones parroquiales, diocesanas y regionales en los dos años previos a la conferencia nacional.

En cuatro sesiones de trabajo, los delegados dialogaron y priorizaron las formas en que la Iglesia de los Estados Unidos puede fortalecer su respuesta pastoral a los católicos hispanos. En la sesión final, los delegados identificaron las mejores prácticas en 28 áreas ministeriales. Las metas discernidas a través del proceso V Encuentro revelan la importancia que se da a las necesidades de los jóvenes y adultos jóvenes hispanos, que ahora son el 60 por ciento de los católicos en su grupo de edad.

En la sesión final, los delegados identificaron el Desarrollo del Liderazgo, el Ministerio Familiar y el Ministerio de Jóvenes y Adultos Jóvenes como las prioridades más altas.

Una experiencia clave para muchos participantes fue la cena para jóvenes adultos con más de 100 obispos que asistieron al V Encuentro. Los 700 adultos jóvenes participantes tuvieron la oportunidad de conversar directamente con los obispos y expresar su interés en

participar y ser incluidos en el liderazgo de la Iglesia. Los obispos, en palabras del Arzobispo Gustavo García-Siller de San Antonio, se sienten alentados por “el entusiasmo y el valor, el testimonio de fe y el compromiso con la Iglesia”, expresado por los jóvenes delegados durante esta sesión.

Los delegados están encargados de regresar a sus parroquias y diócesis e invitar a sus comunidades a discernir las maneras en que se pueden alcanzar los objetivos a nivel local y preparar planes pastorales guiados por el documento final de la conferencia.

Los efectos del V Encuentro ya se están observando a través de la Iglesia de los Estados Unidos. Según el Obispo

Nelson Pérez, obispo de Cleveland y presidente de la Subcomisión de Asuntos Hispanos de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos (USCCB), 288 parroquias han iniciado el Ministerio Hispano como resultado directo de la preparación local para el evento nacional. Informó que más de 50 diócesis han agregado personal dedicado al ministerio hispano, incluyendo 35 que han agregado personal pastoral adicional.

Tras el cierre de la conferencia, el Arzobispo García-Siller declaró: “El proceso del V Encuentro, y especialmente la reunión nacional, pasará a la historia como un momento especial de gracia para la Iglesia en los Estados Unidos en estos tiempos difíciles y turbulentos”.

Como el Cardenal Daniel DiNardo, presidente de la USCCB lo expresó acertadamente en sus comentarios de bienvenida: “En medio de esta oscuridad, el Encuentro es una luz que brilla e ilumina el camino hacia adelante. El entusiasmo, la pasión, el amor y la alegría del proceso del

Encuentro es un medio de gracia, un regalo para nosotros mientras reconstruimos la Iglesia”.

La Arquidiócesis de Hartford envió nueve delegados de las parroquias de Waterbury, Torrington, Hartford y New Britain al encuentro nacional, así como a siete delegados de sus oficinas arquidiocesanas. Aquí, dos delegados de la parroquia comparten su experiencia personal de asistir al evento nacional.



[La palabra] ‘*entusiasmo*’ viene del griego y significa, ‘Dios dentro’. Como he experimentado en los últimos cuatro Encuentros, sé que todos nos veremos renovados con entusiasmo cuando llegemos, y con suerte cuando nos vayamos. Que el Señor Jesús le dé a cada delegado la fuerza y la sabiduría para ser un discípulo misionero a largo plazo.



— El Obispo Auxiliar Emérito Peter A. Rosazza, delegado de la arquidiócesis



ROMER SANTANA

Edad: 28 años

Parroquia: All Saints —
Todos los Santos, Waterbury

Ocupación: Estudiante en la
Universidad de Bridgeport,
Bridgeport, en el programa de
maestría en biología molecular

Mi experiencia durante la culminación del V Encuentro fue a la vez esclarecedora y empoderadora. Estoy impresionado por la cantidad de jóvenes que comparten la pasión y el amor de Dios en nuestra nación. La conferencia estuvo llena de jóvenes comprometidos y talentosos deseosos de formar parte de la Iglesia en Salida.

A diferencia de lo que se percibe de nosotros, nuestra juventud es una de acción, y nuestros dones no se utilizan debido al desproporcionado equilibrio de liderazgo en la Iglesia Católica de los Estados Unidos. Los números no mienten; somos

la Iglesia de hoy y la esperanza en medio de la tribulación que la Iglesia enfrenta hoy.

Me llevo a casa de este proceso la emoción de llevar las experiencias compartidas de los jóvenes de todo el país; el afán de acompañar a las comunidades marginadas en nuestra ciudad e implementar el modelo de encuentro en mi parroquia. Y así, podamos romper los muros del idioma, la edad y la cultura entre las parroquias en nuestra Arquidiócesis de Hartford y construir puentes que nos fortalezcan como una Iglesia de Cristo.



MILAGROS CASTILLO

Edad: 21 años

Parroquia: All Saints —
Todos los Santos, Waterbury

Ocupación: Estudiante en
Albertus Magnus College,
New Haven, en el programa
de licenciatura en biología.

Los obispos se mostraron atentos y profesionales. Una de las preguntas más importantes discutidas en la cena fue: “¿Qué puede hacer la Iglesia Católica por los jóvenes?” Todos en la mesa acordaron que la formación y el financiamiento son esenciales para tener un grupo de jóvenes fructíferos y para atraer a más adolescentes y adultos jóvenes.

Además de la cena, el V Encuentro también tuvo varias charlas. Cada charla fue bien desarrollada y atractiva. Las misas fueron sobresalientes. Nunca he visto a tantos sacerdotes y obispos presentes para celebrar cada misa. Los voluntarios fueron más que útiles e hicieron que la experiencia fuera mucho más agradable.

En cuanto a mi experiencia personal, me gustaría comenzar diciendo que estoy eternamente agradecido. Me sorprendí y me sentí honrado cuando supe que asistiría al V Encuentro Nacional. Estuve presente en los Encuentros parroquiales, arquidiocesanos y regionales, pero nunca pensé que tendría el privilegio de asistir a un encuentro tan importante.

Este encuentro me dio el empuje y la energía necesarios para continuar apoyando a los adolescentes y adultos jóvenes de mi parroquia. Este encuentro fue también una experiencia reveladora. Había muchos adultos presentes y esto normalmente me intimida. Sin embargo, los adultos presentes en este encuentro también estaban ansiosos por aprender y fueron muy acogedores. Estaban conscientes de que contar con la participación de los jóvenes es realmente importante.

No puedo enfatizar lo suficiente el hecho de lo agradecido que estoy de haber participado en este evento. Estoy muy agradecido a mi parroquia y a la arquidiócesis por permitirme ir a este encuentro y vincularme con varios jóvenes adultos de diferentes partes de los Estados Unidos de América.

Después de este V Encuentro, espero ver un cambio en la gestión de los jóvenes y adultos jóvenes. Me encantaría ver el apoyo de los obispos y las diócesis. Con esta ayuda, confío en que la Iglesia Católica puede prosperar y tener una multitud de jóvenes. †

El “quinto encuentro” fue una experiencia maravillosa. Aprendí mucho, pero lo que más me gustó fue la experiencia que pudimos tener con los obispos de la Iglesia. Fue un verdadero honor y experiencia poder cenar con ellos.

En esta cena pudimos hablar sobre nuestras experiencias y luchas de estar involucrados con los jóvenes en nuestras parroquias.



Archbishop Cronin celebrates his golden jubilee among fellow bishops, priests

Archbishop Emeritus Daniel A. Cronin has served the Catholic Church as a bishop for 50 years, a rare occurrence among his peers. On Oct. 3, more than 80 priests, 15 bishops, and one cardinal gathered at St. Thomas Chapel at the Pastoral Center in Bloomfield to celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving and the 50th anniversary of the episcopal ordination of Archbishop Cronin. He was ordained a bishop on Sept. 12, 1968.

Friends and family members were also in attendance at the 2 p.m. Mass, and shared in a luncheon hours prior to the Mass and in a reception later in the day.

Timothy Cardinal Dolan, archbishop of New York, was also in attendance. Archbishop Cronin was the principal celebrant of the Mass. Archbishop Leonard P. Blair was the principal concelebrant.

Throughout the special service, Church leaders reflected on the many facets of leadership.

In his remarks at the golden jubilee, Archbishop Blair shared the

ideals of a bishop as enumerated by Pope St. John Paul the Great, including the ability to develop “constructive relationships” and an “innate sense of goodness.”

Archbishop Cronin embodies these virtues and many others, Archbishop Blair said, adding, “We thank you for your integrity and your faithful service to God’s people. May God continue to bless you with good health.”

Archbishop Cronin turned 91 on Nov. 14.

Archbishop Cronin himself charmed the attendees during the

**STORY BY
SHELLEY WOLF**

**PHOTOGRAPHY
BY AARON
JOSEPH**

 Archbishop Daniel A. Cronin is seen here posing for photos outside St. Thomas Chapel at the Pastoral Center in Bloomfield, following the Mass of Thanksgiving for his 50 years as a bishop. He is wearing the gold embellished mitre that was placed on his head by Cardinal Richard Cushing at his episcopal ordination in Boston on Sept. 12, 1968.

homily, detailing numerous highlights from his long and fascinating career, which took him from Boston to Rome to Ethiopia in the 1950s and '60s, when he served as an attaché in the Vatican's diplomatic corps. He later became auxiliary bishop of Boston and the bishop of Fall River, before being named the third archbishop of Hartford in 1991.

During his homily, Archbishop Cronin recalled the two men who influenced him the most: Pope St. Paul VI, who was canonized on Oct. 14, and Cardinal Richard Cushing, who was archbishop of Boston when Archbishop Cronin was a young seminarian and priest in that diocese.

Archbishop Cronin said he was fortunate to have the opportunity to work with Pope St. Paul VI at the Vatican, describing him as “a model,” “a strong and farsighted leader” and as “gentle,” “humble” and “holy.”

“I cherished the experiences,” he said, “and I pray in gratitude for his personal kindness and encouragement.”

Of Cardinal Cushing, the prelate who ordained him as a bishop, he said, “Everything he did was about furthering the knowledge of Jesus Christ, his person and his message.”

According to Archbishop

“
I've tried
my best
over these
50 years
to become
a good
shepherd
but, really, it
is Christ who
is the good
shepherd.
There have
been times
when I have
fallen short
and he has
picked up
where I was
lacking.”

— Archbishop
Emeritus Daniel
A. Cronin

Cronin, during the 50 years since his ordination as a bishop, one of his most important duties “was to lead the people of God to adjust to the changes in the Church, while never losing faith in the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit.”

The privilege of being the chief shepherd in two dioceses, he said, brought him “joy and happiness.” However, he also acknowledged that “the awesome responsibility” of leading the people in their lives of faith and spiritual growth did present “moments of anxiety and concern.”

“It has not always been an easy ministry,” he admitted. “It has not lacked its moments of loneliness and the feeling of being misunderstood or misinterpreted. But there are good times and bad times, and for me the good times far outweighed the bad times. For that, I give thanks to God and to the clergy, religious and laity of the Archdiocese of Hartford and the Diocese of Fall River.

“Their cooperation and my intense desire to bring about a living out of the Catholic faith, I pray, have resulted in the growth in holiness in the people of God entrusted to my care,” he said.

Over the 50 years, he noted, he tried to emphasize the importance

of the Holy Spirit in the lives of young Christians as he conferred the sacrament of confirmation. “It is so true that with the Holy Spirit's influence,” he said, “our otherwise stony hearts will become inflamed with the love of God.”

Archbishop Cronin summed up his ministry as a bishop in a heartfelt conclusion.

“Well, I've tried my best over these 50 years to become a good shepherd but, really, it is Christ who is the good shepherd,” he said. “There have been times when I have fallen short and he has picked up where I was lacking, so that God's people would always be properly nourished and cared for in good times and in bad times.

“In the midst of challenges and changes, in the face of loyalty and disloyalty, in times of faith or the lack of it, I thank God for these 50 years as a bishop. I hope I've done all right. I tried my best. So pray for me as I pray for you. And may God love and bless you all,” he said, as the audience erupted in loud and sustained applause.

Cardinal Dolan shared a few final thoughts on leadership at the end of the Mass.

He said, “Winston Churchill said, ‘The essence of leadership is to provide memories and dreams.’” Both of these are necessary, Cardinal Dolan added, pointing out that Archbishop Cronin just shared many fond memories of two great Church leaders, thereby inspiring others. He was also filled with dreams as a young man and, as a bishop, fostered the dreams of others.

According to Cardinal Dolan, one Hartford priest told him that, even in tough times, Archbishop Cronin always had a smile and a word of encouragement.

“He never seemed to lose hope,” Cardinal Dolan said, “and that's what dreams are about. We have a man here with us who inspired both memories and dreams. Thanks be to God.” †



Cardinal Timothy Dolan, archbishop of New York, addresses the attendees after the Mass, saying Archbishop Cronin was a leader “who inspired both memories and dreams.”

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May they rest in peace

■ **FATHER ROBERT L. BELOIN**, the seventh chaplain of St. Thomas More, the Catholic Chapel and Center at Yale University, died Sept. 23. He was 71.

Born Feb. 13, 1947, in Springfield, Mass., his family moved to Madison, Conn., in 1962. He attended St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield, and received his bachelor's degree and master's in divinity from Our Lady of Angels Seminary in Albany, N.Y., and completed his master's degree in moral and religious science at the University of Louvain in Belgium. He was ordained to the priesthood on Aug. 25, 1973.

After his ordination, he served as assistant pastor at St. Ann Church in New Britain and returned to Europe as the director of pastoral formation at the American College of Louvain. While there, he earned his Ph.D. in religious studies.

In 1983, he became an associate director of the Center for Human Development in Washington, D.C., and gave retreats for priests. In 1991, he joined the advisory board for the National Alliance of Parishes Restructuring into Communities and gave workshops on restructuring throughout the country. He was co-pastor at St. Barnabas Church in North Haven for 10 years before being appointed chaplain at St. Thomas More at Yale in 1994.

While at Yale, he directed major initiatives that expanded Catholic campus ministry, including the adaptation of the "Small Church Community" model for students, and managed a capital campaign to advance Catholic intellectual life on campus. The campaign cul-

minated in the construction of the Thomas E. Golden, Jr. Center, as well as in the renovation of the chapel and residence. The new Golden Center was dedicated on Dec. 1, 2006. At its close, the construction and endowment effort raised \$75 million.

In addition, he worked in the soup kitchen, directed programs for spiritual development and participated in interreligious activities. In recognition of his many accomplishments on campus, the Association of Yale Alumni presented him with the Yale Medal, its highest award, in 2011.

Father Beloin also contributed throughout the archdiocese, sitting on many boards, including the Board of Directors for the Connecticut Catholic Conference and the Board of Trustees for St. Raphael's Hospital. He was a founding council member of Leadership Roundtable.

He was also a strong advocate for those facing deportation.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Sept. 28 at St. Thomas More Chapel.

■ **DEACON JOHN J. CONTE, JR.** died on Aug. 18. A Mass of Christian Burial was held at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Hamden.

■ **FATHER JOHN BAPTIST PESCE**, a Passionist priest, died on Sept. 26 after a brief illness. He was 95 years old.

Father Pesce was born on Nov. 2, 1923. He attended high school in Union City, N.J., and college at Seton Hall College in South Orange, N.J.

He entered the Passionist novitiate, professed vows and was ordained to the priesthood Feb. 27, 1951, at St. Michael's Monastery, Union City, N.J. He was stationed at St. Joseph Monastery, Baltimore, Md., St. Paul of the Cross Monastery, Pittsburgh, Pa., and St. Michael's Monastery.

An eloquent speaker, Father Pesce conducted parish missions and retreats while living at St. Mary's Monastery, Dunkirk, N.Y., and then served at Sts. John and Paul, the Passionist Generalate in Rome, Italy, for one year.

Returning in 1966, Father Pesce was the rector of Calvary Retreat Center, Shrewsbury, Mass., and was involved in the Passionist second novitiate program. He also assisted in the preaching apostolate at Holy Family Monastery, West Hartford, and at Immaculate Conception Monastery, Jamaica, N.Y.

From 1970 to the present, Father Pesce lived at Holy Family and preached at retreats for laity, clergy and religious. An independent scholar and an advocate for social justice, he received the Most Rev. Joseph F. Donnelly Memorial Award from the Archdiocese of Hartford's Office of Catholic Social Justice Ministry on Oct. 26, 2010. He continued a life of study, prayer and service in local parishes in the Hartford area, and was noted for his spiritual guidance at Holy Family Monastery until his death.

The funeral liturgy for Father Pesce was at Holy Family Monastery Chapel on Oct. 1, and he was interred at Holy Family Cemetery on the grounds of the monastery in West Hartford.

Appointments

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

■ **Rev. Gerald H. Dziejczak**: appointed to Presbyteral Council.

■ **Rev. Alphonso R. Fontana**: completed term on Presbyteral Council.

■ **Rev. John S. Golas**: appointed to Presbyteral Council.

■ **Rev. Dariusz Gosciniak**: appointed dean of Deanery Four.

■ **Rev. Monsignor Vittorio Guerrera**: completed term on Presbyteral Council.

■ **Rev. Thomas W. Hickey**: completed term on Presbyteral Council.

■ **Rev. Joseph F. Keough**: appointed to Presbyteral Council.

■ **Rev. John L. Lavorgna**: appointed to Presbyteral Council.

■ **Rev. Andres Mendoza**: completed term on Presbyteral Council.

■ **Rev. Philip R. Schulze**: appointed dean of Deanery One, and to Presbyteral Council.

■ **Rev. Christopher M. Tiano**: appointed to Presbyteral Council.

■ **Rev. Michael G. Whyte**: completed term on Presbyteral Council.

■ **Rev. Carlos M. Zapata**: appointed to Presbyteral Council.

■ **Rev. Brendan W. Bartlett**: priestly faculties for the calendar year 2018, residing with the Franciscan Brothers of the Eucharist, Meriden, priest of the Diocese of Arlington.

■ **Rev. Thomas J. Barry**: reappointed as administrator of St. Patrick Parish, Farmington for an additional year.

■ **Rev. Eduar Gutiérrez**: from parochial vicar, Our Lady Queen of Angels Parish, Meriden, to parochial vicar, Most Holy Trinity Parish, Wallingford, effective Oct. 30, 2018.

■ **Rev. Lee W. Hellwig**: from chaplain, St. Mary Hospital, Waterbury to parochial vicar, Our Lady Queen of Angels Parish, Meriden, effective Oct. 30, 2018.

■ **Deacon Nicholas J. Diorio, Jr.**: senior status, effective Nov. 16, 2018. Will continue to serve at St. Louis de Montfort Parish, Litchfield and Blessed Sacrament Parish, Waterbury.

■ **Deacon Kenneth Bangs**: from St. Matthew Parish, Forestville to St. Patrick Parish, Collinsville, effective Oct. 20, 2018.

— REV. RYAN M. LERNER, CHANCELLOR, OCT. 26, 2018

** 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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AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE



➦ On Oct. 5, Archbishop Leonard P. Blair raises the power on a new HD Radio digital transmitter and relocated antenna in Farmington for WJMJ. The upgrades will improve reception in the Hartford area for its traditional FM signal at 88.9 FM as well as for three digital HD Radio channels. WJMJ features “music that you can’t hear anywhere else,” along with inspirational messages, local news, weather and sports, including Catholic high school football games.

➦ Men of all ages pour into the registration area of St. Paul’s Catholic High School in Bristol on Oct. 20 for the 2018 Connecticut Catholic Men’s Conference. The 500 attendees listened to inspiring speakers and participated in the Mass. Ken Santopietro, director of the conference, said the event provided “the spiritual booster shot that men need.”



➦ Monsignor Thomas M. Ginty was installed on Sept. 30 as the 19th rector of the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford. He has previously served as a pastor, chaplain, chancellor and secretary to an archbishop. As rector, he is now the steward for daily activities at the cathedral in service to Archbishop Blair, and is responsible for overseeing its reconstruction and renovation.



➦ Catholics participate in an All Saints Vigil on Oct. 31 in celebration of All Saints Day at St. Joseph Church, part of St. Mary Parish, in New Haven. The prayer service included readings from the saints, selections of sacred music, preaching, sung Night Prayer, a chanted Litany of the Saints and an indoor procession with relics from the saints.

➦ Students from St. Bernadette School in New Haven are ready to eat at the 12th annual Archbishop’s Columbus Day Breakfast held Oct. 5 at the Omni Hotel in New Haven. This year’s event, sponsored by the Foundation for the Advancement of Catholic Schools (FACS), drew 300 supporters to raise scholarship funds for students attending 14 Catholic schools in the greater New Haven area.



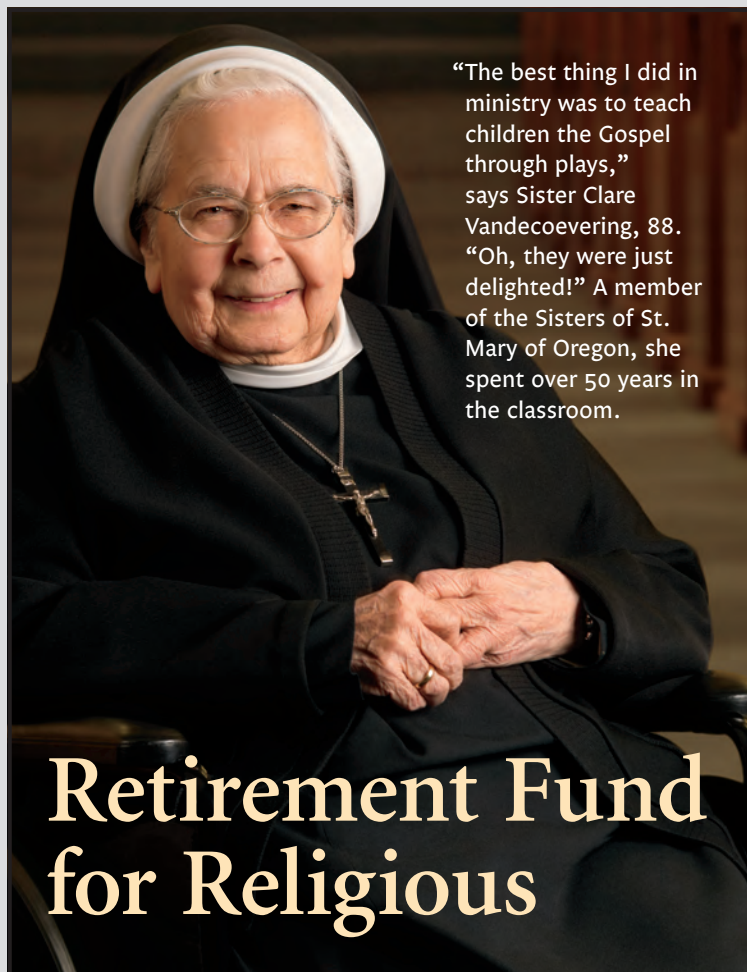
PHOTO BY TOM DZIMIAN

➦ Caroline Buckley leads 60 people in prayer in front of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in West Hartford on Oct. 28 at the start of an inter-faith "Share the Journey Pilgrimage" walk. Parishioners from local churches walked a mile to St. James Episcopal Church to raise support for migrants and refugees.

➦ More than 100 married couples renewed their wedding vows on Sunday, Oct. 14 at the Wedding Anniversary Mass. The special Mass is held each year at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford for all Catholics in the archdiocese celebrating significant anniversaries. After the Mass, couples also pose for formal portraits with Archbishop Blair.



➦ On Oct. 2 at the Seven Angels Theatre in Waterbury, Archbishop Blair blesses a DOT sign renaming a nearby memorial bridge on I-84 after Najla G. Noujaim, a matriarch of the Lebanese-American community. She volunteered in the arts, theater, and at St. Peter and Paul Church in Waterbury and at St. Ann Melkite Greek Catholic Church in Danbury. (Photo submitted)



"The best thing I did in ministry was to teach children the Gospel through plays," says Sister Clare Vandecoevering, 88. "Oh, they were just delighted!" A member of the Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon, she spent over 50 years in the classroom.

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