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SEPTEMBER 2019

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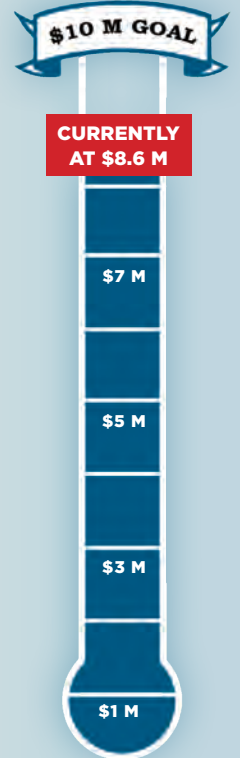
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SEPTEMBER 2019 CONTENTS

FEATURED ARTICLES

8 Creating Community with Ministerial Mentors

Parish lay ministers grow in knowledge and confidence in leadership formation program.

14 Defending Catholic Education

CCC, administrators and legislators advocate for strong school community.

18 Centennial Celebration

St. Ann Parish in Avon celebrates its 100th year.

20 God's Hands at Work

Catholic Relief Services diocesan director experiences firsthand assistance to Ethiopia residents.

ARCHBISHOP'S DESK

6 Think Parent

Today more than ever, the Church needs to educate and help parents in their God-given responsibility to raise their children.

GOING PLACES

24 Spiritual Journey

Open up to peace, prayer and devotion at Lourdes in Litchfield.

DEPARTMENTS

- 4 EDITOR'S DESK
- 12 BIBLE GUIDANCE
- 19 SAINTS CORNER
- 22 SYNOD 2020
- 26 VOCATIONS OFFICE
- 27 OBITUARIES, APPOINTMENTS
- 28 MARK YOUR CALENDAR
- 30 AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE



ON THE COVER:

Anne LaMonica and
Sen. Doug McCrory.

PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

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Catholic TRANSCRIPT

The *Catholic Transcript* is the official magazine of the Archdiocese of Hartford, which includes Hartford, New Haven and Litchfield counties. The magazine, published in Connecticut since 1829, is distributed free of charge through the generosity of donors to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal.

Telephone: 860.286.2828 or 1.800.726.2391

Website:
www.archdioceseofhartford.org/catholictranscript

Email: newsct@aoht.org

Distribution: More than 174,000

SEPTEMBER 2019

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CATHOLIC TRANSCRIPT (USPS 0094-540, ISSN 1081-4353) is published monthly, except for February and August, by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Hartford, 134 Farmington Ave., Hartford, CT 06105. Periodicals postage paid at Hartford, CT and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Catholic Transcript*, 467 Bloomfield Ave., Bloomfield, CT 06002-2999.

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If you have not visited archdioceseofhartford.org, now is the perfect time to get online and enhance your personal faith journey.

In September, you will notice that we have given the website a fresh design so it is an easier way to stay connected with the Archdiocese of Hartford and the *Catholic Transcript*. The new website is easy to navigate and features larger photos to illustrate areas of ministry.

Visit archdioceseofhartford.org to find the latest news, videos, events and happenings from parishes and schools around the Archdiocese of Hartford. You can also read columns and messages by Archbishop Leonard P. Blair, learn about all of the departments, agencies and different missions throughout the archdiocese and find contact information for all of them, too.


The website also has a link to donate to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal, gives updates on Synod 2020 and provides information about new vocations to the priesthood, religious life and the diaconate.

CATHOLIC TRANSCRIPT ONLINE

Now, you can read more stories and columns, and see more photos and videos from the *Catholic Transcript* by simply visiting archdioceseofhartford.org/catholictranscript.

The new site features web extra stories that you can only read about here, exclusive videos, additional photos from stories in the print magazine, submitted photos from schools and parishes, and an easy-to-flip document of the current print magazine and past ones in case you missed an issue or you need to reread something again.

Also, you can read the latest commentary from long-time *Catholic Transcript* columnist Joe Pisani, send the *Catholic Transcript* a message and even change your mailing address. **Check out page 11** in this edition to see an outline of some of the exclusive content you will find at archdioceseofhartford.org/catholictranscript. We hope you will check back often.

The Archdiocese of Hartford encourages you to connect with us through social media, too, so you will be the first to see exclusive videos and photos from parish and school events, Masses and feast day celebrations, in addition to special messages and videos from Archbishop Blair, priests and others. You can follow us on Facebook, facebook.com/ArchdioceseofHartford/, on Instagram, [@ArchdioceseofHartford](https://instagram.com/ArchdioceseofHartford), and on Twitter, [@ArchdioceseHart](https://twitter.com/ArchdioceseHart). So pick your favorite way to enhance your faith journey and you will be underway. 





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

'Think Parent'

The public advocacy that is made on behalf of our Catholic schools is featured in this edition of the *Transcript*, and a new academic year is underway. I have often spoken about the importance of Catholic education and the need we all have to support it. I would like to highlight another aspect, one that is no less important — perhaps even more important — when it comes to our children and their schooling.

When I was bishop of Toledo, there was a group in that diocese whose motto was “Think parent.” Their message was simple: Today more than ever, the Church needs to educate and help parents in their God-given responsibility to raise their children. The most fundamental thing we can do for our young people and our schools is to support parents!

Catholic schools and religious education programs for all our children are essential. However, as the Church has always taught, as studies show, and as common sense dictates, parents are the single greatest influence on their children. When young people are asked about the greatest influence in their lives, the vast majority say the biggest influence is their parents.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches that “the right and the duty of parents to educate their children are primordial and inalienable.” (2221)

Sadly, state governments do not always respect or support the rights of parents to choose an education for their children. Catholic parents, for example, are not afforded any substantial help to make the choice of parochial school possible for their children, even though our schools meet or exceed state standards.


The role of parents is also eroded at a deeper level. Young people still look to their parents, but parents themselves are often unsure of asserting themselves as parents or are overwhelmed by competing influences on the life of their children. For example, popular culture and the media are multibillion-dollar industries directed at the young with



PHOTO BY B-C-DESIGNS/GETTY IMAGES

messages that often do not reflect reverence for God, parents, lawful authority or a true understanding of human personhood, freedom, virtue or sexuality. And here, too, the state is more and more coercive, even to the point of claiming to redefine the divine institution of marriage and family.

Parenthood is not created or defined by the state, but by God. It is actual parents — not schools, government, child advocates or even churches — who have a divinely conferred and graced responsibility to raise their children and to educate them. There is certainly an important role — in some cases a very necessary role — for step-parents, adoptive parents, foster parents or others who have been given legal custody of a child for compelling reasons. However, these do not take away from the fundamental reality of a child’s biological father and mother.

The following words of Pope St. John Paul, spoken many years ago, are still very valid: “It is not enough to affirm and defend this principle of the parent’s right ... In this field, goodwill, love itself are not sufficient. It is a skill that parents must acquire with the grace of God, in the first place by strengthening their own moral and religious convictions, by setting an example, by reflecting also on their experience, with each other, with other parents, with expert educators, with priests ... In this way young people — strengthened in their Christian identity to face in the right way a pluralistic world often indifferent or even hostile to their convictions — will be able to become strong in faith, serve society, and take an active part in the life of the Church.” (International Family Congress, Oct. 30, 1978) 

Archbishop Leonard P. Blair stands at a reception following a Korean Catholic community Mass at Sacred Heart Church in Old Wethersfield. After celebrating the Mass, he blessed some parishioners.



PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

‘Padres Pensemos’

La defensa pública que se realiza en nombre de nuestras escuelas católicas se presenta en esta edición de la revista *Transcript*, y un nuevo año académico se está iniciando. A menudo he hablado sobre la importancia de la educación católica y la necesidad que todos tenemos de apoyarla. Me gustaría resaltar otro aspecto, uno que no es menos importante, quizás sea aún más importante, cuando se trata de nuestros hijos y su escolarización.

Cuando era obispo de Toledo, había un grupo en esa diócesis cuyo lema era “Pensemos Padres”. Su mensaje era simple: hoy más que nunca, la Iglesia necesita educar y ayudar a los padres en la responsabilidad que Dios les ha dado de criar a sus hijos. ¡Lo más fundamental que podemos hacer por nuestros jóvenes y nuestras escuelas es apoyar a los padres!

Las escuelas católicas y los programas de educación religiosa para todos nuestros niños son esenciales. Sin embargo, como la Iglesia siempre ha enseñado, como muestran los estudios, y como dicta el sentido común, los padres son la mayor influencia en sus hijos. Cuando a los jóvenes se les pregunta sobre la mayor influencia en sus vidas, la gran mayoría dicen que la mayor influencia son sus padres.

El *Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica* enseña que “el derecho y el deber de los padres de educar a sus hijos son primordiales e inalienables” (2221).

Lamentablemente, los gobiernos estatales no siempre respetan o apoyan los derechos de los padres a elegir una educación para sus hijos. Los padres católicos, por ejemplo, no reciben ninguna ayuda sustancial para hacer que la elección de la escuela parroquial sea posible para sus hijos, aunque nuestras escuelas cumplan o superen los estándares estatales.

El papel de los padres también se erosiona a un nivel más profundo. Los jóvenes aún miran a sus padres, pero los padres a menudo no están seguros de afirmarse como padres

o están abrumados por influencias competitivas en la vida de sus hijos. Por ejemplo, la cultura popular y los medios de comunicación son industrias multimillonarias dirigidas a los jóvenes con mensajes que a menudo no reflejan reverencia hacia Dios, los padres, la autoridad legal o una verdadera comprensión de la persona humana, la libertad, la virtud o la sexualidad. Y aquí, también, el estado es cada vez más coercitivo, incluso hasta el punto de pretender redefinir la institución divina del matrimonio y la familia.

La paternidad no es creada o definida por el estado, sino por Dios. Son los padres reales, no las escuelas, el gobierno, los defensores de los niños o incluso las iglesias, quienes tienen la responsabilidad divinamente conferida y agraciada de criar a sus hijos y educarlos. Ciertamente, hay un papel importante, en algunos casos un papel muy necesario, para los padrastros, padres adoptivos, padres de crianza u otras personas a quienes se les ha otorgado la custodia legal de un niño por razones de peso. Sin embargo, esto no quita la realidad fundamental del padre y la madre biológicos de un niño.

“La paternidad no es creada o definida por el estado, sino por Dios.”

Las siguientes palabras del Papa San Juan Pablo, pronunciadas hace muchos años, siguen siendo muy válidas: “No es suficiente afirmar y defender este principio del derecho de los padres ... En este campo, la buena voluntad, el amor en sí no es suficiente. Es una habilidad que los padres deben adquirir con la gracia de Dios, en primer lugar fortaleciendo sus propias convicciones morales y religiosas, dando un ejemplo,

reflexionando también sobre su experiencia, entre ellos, con otros padres, con educadores expertos, con sacerdotes... De este modo, los jóvenes, fortalecidos en su identidad cristiana para enfrentar de manera correcta un mundo pluralista a menudo indiferente o incluso hostil a sus convicciones, podrán volverse fuertes en la fe, servir a la sociedad y participar activamente en la vida de la Iglesia.” (Congreso Internacional de la Familia, 30 de octubre de 1978) **CT**



PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

Archbishop Leonard P. Blair offered the holy sacrifice of the Mass at Holy Trinity Church in Hartford on Father’s Day. Father Charles Jacobs, pastor, concelebrated. Four children and one adult received first Communion during the Mass. A reception followed in the church hall that included music by a mariachi band.

Creating Community with Ministerial Mentors

Parish lay ministers grow in knowledge and confidence in leadership formation program.

Story by **SHELLEY WOLF** | Photos by **AARON JOSEPH**

Jackie LePine recalls getting involved in parish ministry after seeing a video by Archbishop Leonard P. Blair in which he asked parishioners to grow in their faith and reach out to others. “All I remember is the call, the call to evangelize,” she says.



Jackie LePine.

To further her personal journey with God, LePine took part in a program, ELM Leadership Formation, sponsored by the Archdiocese of Hartford. She credits the program’s network of ministerial mentors for giving her the knowledge and support to speak publicly and confidently about her personal faith journey and to facilitate evangelization meetings.

“When I started, I was a reluctant leader,” she says. “I really didn’t consider myself a leader at all and was hoping my

priest would tell me what to do. Back then, I would have been happy if he took over our meetings,” she admits.

Today, LePine runs an evangelization ministry for Prince of Peace Parish at St. Teresa of Avila Church in Woodbury. Twice a month, she facilitates a Friday evening book discussion group called “Intentional Disciples” named after the book *Forming Intentional Disciples* by Sherry Weddell.

In June, LePine was among the first

group of participants in the ELM Leadership Formation program to receive certificates of completion from Archbishop Blair in a conferral of honors ceremony at St. Katherine Drexel Parish at St. Jerome Church in New Britain. For the 15 honorees, it was a happy conclusion to the 18 months of study and leadership development.

Father James Gregory, pastor of Prince of Peace who attended the ceremony to congratulate LePine, says, “I think it’s a great initiative, and I laud the archdiocese for providing this opportunity for formation of the laity. It’s going to be an important part of the Church in the future.”

■ THEOLOGY AND PASTORAL SKILLS

The ELM Leadership Formation program, which kicked off in 2018, is an updated version of the archdiocese’s former lay ministry training program. It’s being offered by the Archdiocese of Hartford Office of Education, Evangelization and Catechesis. Leadership formation is intended for both new and experienced parish lay ministers who want to deepen their knowledge of theology or develop their pastoral skills.

Many of the participants in the program are already running religious education classes, sacramental preparation, RCIA programs, youth groups, bereavement ministries, evangelization ministries and more. A few are full- or part-time employees of a parish, but many more are unpaid volunteers.

Nicole Perone, the archdiocesan director of adult faith formation, assisted in developing the new program, which includes a mix of online and in-person courses. The goal of the new initiative is to provide a more well-rounded ministerial foundation in the four pillars of formation: intellectual, pastoral, spiritual and human. There is also an increased emphasis on evangelization, with ELM standing for “evangelizing catechesis,” “lifelong formation” and “missionary discipleship.”

+ FOR MORE STORIES about other Leadership Formation students, visit archdioceseofhartford.org/catholictranscript.



“That mentor accompanying you can become the biggest tool in your tool kit because you have this library of wisdom, instead of going it on your own.”

— Nicole Perone

Archdiocesan director of Adult Faith Formation, Nicole Perone, center, introduces her husband, John Grosso, to Betty Jane Schiller, a mentor from St. George Parish in Guilford.

MINISTERIAL MENTORS

By far, the most popular program component, according to Perone and the budding lay ministers, has been the addition of ministerial mentors. Participants say they have benefitted from ongoing support provided by experienced parish lay leaders, who have acted as advisers, guides and conversation partners throughout the formation process. It was these mentors who answered the participants' questions about their studies, gave them a broader perspective of their service and helped them to begin applying their newfound knowledge in practical ways in the parish.

"That mentor accompanying you can become the biggest tool in your tool kit because you have this library of wisdom, instead of going it on your own," Perone explains.

Perone and her colleagues in OEEC poured over registration applications and acted as matchmakers between the program participants and some 300 possible mentors, many of whom attended the former lay ministry training program and were happy to help. Some mentors brought knowledge of multiple related parish ministries. Others specialized in just the right one.

"You're not trying to create BFFs," Perone says. "You're trying to find somebody



INTERESTED IN SIGNING UP for Leadership Formation training?

Learn more by visiting archdioceseofhartford.org/catholictranscript.

who has experience and wisdom to share."

LePine's mentor was Maureen Fuest, who has served in nearly every ministry that a parish can offer. Today at age 78, Fuest is currently a lector and an organizer of Days of Reflection at two parishes and at the Mercy by the Sea Retreat Center in Madison. She is in the process of starting a Walking with Purpose Bible study ministry for women from St. George in Guilford and St. Margaret Parish in Madison. She says she hopes to have the new group up and running in the fall.

She agreed to be a lay ministry mentor after being approached by Perone.

"Nicole Perone asked me and, after praying about this, I thought I might be of help to those who will come after me in serving the Church," Fuest explains.

LePine says the most important thing she has learned from Fuest is to have patience and to trust in God. "She knows what it takes to see that things get done, and she knows when to wait on the Lord for guidance and wisdom," Le Pine says of Fuest. "Maureen reminded me, 'Stay with it. Persevere. Be ready for the next opportunity. And, 'Not all the results are up to you.'"

According to Fuest, advising other lay ministers and parishioners comes down to one thing: "It's showing people what their gifts are and encouraging them to use them," she says.

Fuest characterized LePine as a good listener who is willing to learn as much as possible, and commended her for her perseverance. "Her reliance on prayer and the Holy Spirit truly impressed me," Fuest adds.

Fuest admits that she also learned a few things from her mentee. "I gained insight into how her generation perceives what the Catholic faith is all about and the struggles they are having," she says. "This helps me very much in my ministry."

NEW GENERATION OF PARISH LAY LEADERS

Throughout the process the mentors and mentees became inventive about staying in touch, Perone reports, since they lived many miles apart. Some used the phone, while others emailed or met in person over coffee. The youngest among them texted or used Skype.

Perone says she believes this support network, coupled with a more robust education, will help sustain a new generation of parish lay leaders. Cooperative, supportive relationships between lay ministers are critical to the strength and endurance of good lay ministries in parishes, Perone says. Just as priests need to support one another in service to God, lay ministers must do so as well.

"We need community and we need support, and in ministry you can't go it alone. You simply cannot," Perone says. "You will get burned out. It will be extremely difficult. It's not how God calls us to be." ❏

Archbishop Leonard P. Blair poses with the first group to receive certificates for completing the ELM Leadership Formation program. The next class begins January 2020.



Visit the *Catholic Transcript* Online!

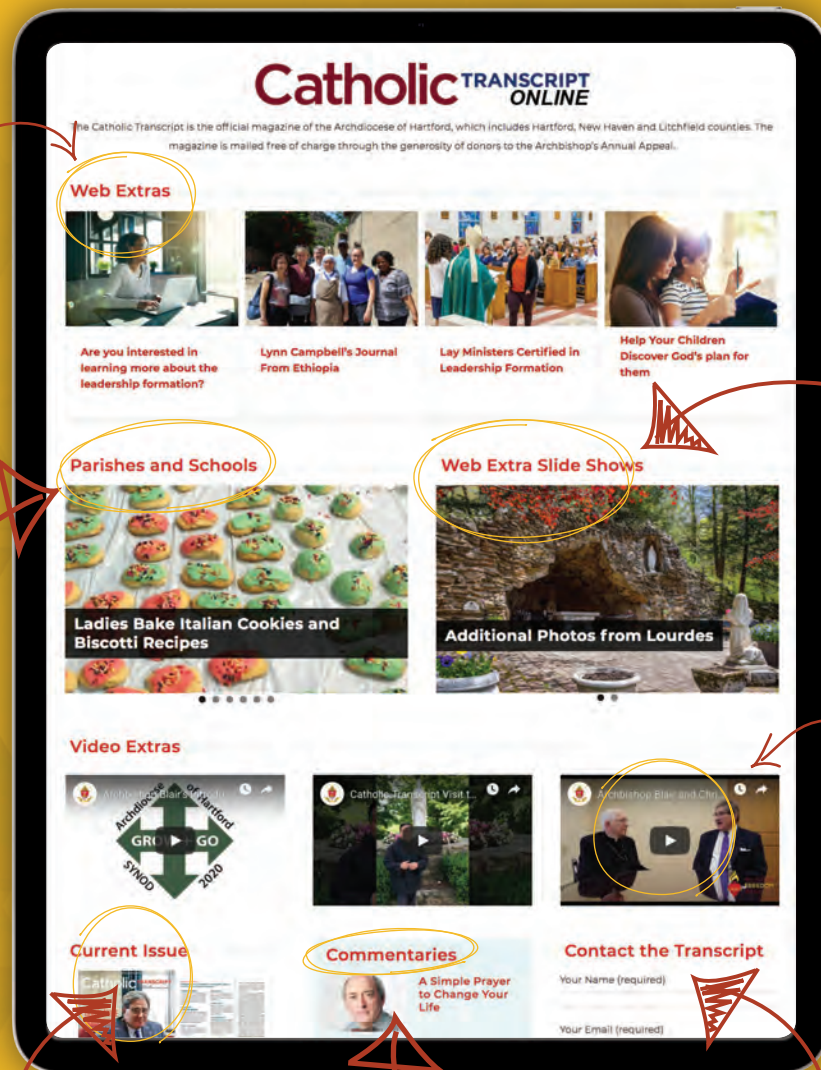
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Auxiliary Bishop Betancourt with his parents, Miguel and Gloria Betancourt.

PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH



“Where marriage strives, it blesses both the couple and the wider community.”

Marriage, as the foundation of the family and forming the principal unit of society, arises from God’s plan for humanity since the creation of the world. Where marriage strives, it blesses both the couple and the wider community. What this statement means is that marriage between a man and a woman is an essential part of God’s loving plan for the human race. Marriage was established since the beginning (Mt 19:4-5), so that people would care for each other in this world in preparation for the eternal life in heaven. (Rev 19:6-9) Marriage between a man and a woman is so valuable and beneficial that the Lord himself constituted it a sacrament. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1601)

Jesus performed his first miracle in the context of a wedding. (Jn 2:1-11) He espoused our human nature with his divinity when he was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Blessed Mother. Marriage is the mysterious reflection of that miracle of the Incarnation that shows us the most profound love God has for each one of us. Since God created humanity, man and woman, their mutual love becomes an image of the absolute and unending love with which God loves man. (CCC 1604)

It is very encouraging to know that, according to an article published by the Pew Research Center in 2018, love is the most important reason why Americans get married (88 percent of the general public). Making a lifelong commitment (81 percent) and companionship (76 percent) are the following top motives. However, it is concerning to find out that only 30 percent of our American population thinks that a “relationship recognized in a religious ceremony” is considered an important reason to get married.

There is a need in us and in our society to look again to the value of marriage, regardless of any religious or political affiliation. Let us become aware that every time we see a married couple walking together through life in faithful covenant, we see the face of God himself reminding us of how he wants us to have a relationship with him. ❧

God’s Design for Marriage



**AUXILIARY BISHOP
JUAN MIGUEL BETANCOURT**
*is the ninth auxiliary bishop for
the Archdiocese of Hartford.*

At the beginning of May, I went to Puerto Rico for a few days to celebrate an important milestone in our family: my parents’ 50th anniversary of matrimony. Extended family, friends, former co-workers and faithful of our home parish congregated for the anniversary Mass and the lunch reception, which consisted of a gathering of 270 guests. My sisters and I were overwhelmed with gratitude for the support and affirmation my parents received. All these years of Christian marriage witness! I have been blessed with the grace of having my parents persevere in the vows they took 50 years ago to love and cherish each other.

El Diseño de Dios Para el Matrimonio

POR EL OBISPO AUXILIAR JUAN MIGUEL BETANCOURT

A principios de mayo, estuve unos días en Puerto Rico para celebrar un momento importantísimo en nuestra familia: el quincuagésimo aniversario de matrimonio de mis padres. Familiares y amigos, antiguos compañeros de trabajo y fieles de nuestra parroquia local se congregaron para la misa de aniversario y el almuerzo de recepción, que consistió en una reunión de 270 invitados. Mis hermanas y yo nos sentimos abrumados de gratitud por el apoyo y la afirmación que recibieron mis padres. ¡Todos estos años de testimonio de matrimonio cristiano! He sido bendecido con la gracia que mis padres perseveran en los votos que hicieron hace cincuenta años de amarse y cuidarse mutuamente.

El matrimonio, como la base de la familia, y como la unidad principal de la sociedad, surge del plan de Dios para la humanidad desde la creación del mundo. El matrimonio es una bendición tanto para la pareja como para toda la comunidad. El matrimonio entre un hombre y una mujer es una parte esencial del plan amoroso de Dios para la humanidad. El matrimonio se estableció desde el principio (Mateo 19: 4-5), para que las personas se cuidaran unas a otras en este mundo en preparación para la vida eterna en el cielo (Apocalipsis 19: 6-9).

El matrimonio entre un hombre y una mujer es tan valioso y beneficioso que el Señor mismo lo constituyó como un sacramento (Mateo 19:6; *Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica*, 1601).

Jesús realizó su primer milagro en el contexto de una boda (Juan 2: 1-11). Él asumió nuestra naturaleza humana con su divinidad cuando fue concebido por el Espíritu Santo en el vientre de la Santísima Madre. El matrimonio es el reflejo misterioso de ese milagro de la Encarnación que nos enseña el amor profundo que Dios tiene para cada uno

de nosotros. Desde que Dios creó a la humanidad, hombre y mujer, su amor mutuo se convierte en una imagen del amor absoluto e infalible con el que Dios ama al hombre (*CIC* 1604).

Es muy alentador saber que, según un artículo reciente publicado por el Pew Research Center en 2018, el amor es la razón más importante por la que los miembros de la sociedad en EE.UU. se casan (88 por ciento del público en general). Contraer un compromiso de por vida (81 por ciento) y darse compañía mutua (76 por ciento) son los subsiguientes motivos principales. Sin embargo, es preocupante descubrir que solo el 30 por ciento de la población total en el país piensa que una “relación reconocida en una ceremonia religiosa” se considera una razón importante para casarse.

Existe una necesidad en nosotros y en nuestra sociedad de mirar de nuevo al valor del matrimonio, independientemente de cualquier afiliación religiosa o política. Tomemos conciencia de que cada vez que vemos a una pareja casada caminando juntos a través de la vida en un pacto de fidelidad, vemos el propio rostro de Dios que nos recuerda cómo él quiere que tengamos una relación con él. **CT**



“Tomemos conciencia de que cada vez que vemos a una pareja casada caminando juntos a través de la vida en un pacto de fidelidad, vemos el propio rostro de Dios que nos recuerda cómo él quiere que tengamos una relación con él.”



Students from Corpus Christi School in Wethersfield provided music during a ribbon-cutting ceremony, recognizing the successful completion of a major school renovation project.

DEFENDING CATHOLIC EDUCATION

CCC, administrators and legislators advocate for strong school community.

Story by **JACK SHEEDY** | Photos by **AARON JOSEPH**

As school bells ring in a new school year, Catholic school administrators and other guardians of Catholic education point to vigilance and tenacity in fending off challenges during the 2019 session of the General Assembly at the state Capitol. Below are some education issues that the Connecticut Catholic Conference has been involved in.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

This is the second in a series of articles highlighting the issues the Connecticut Catholic Conference, the voice of all the Catholic bishops in Connecticut, is involved with. This article focuses on educational issues.

► **BUSING SAVED – AGAIN!**

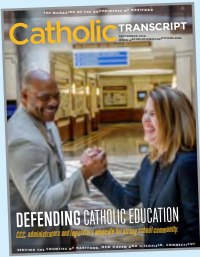
It began with a rather quick defeat of a bill that would have eliminated busing of Catholic school students. House Bill 5241 proposed “to eliminate the requirement that a municipality or school district provide the same kind of transportation services for children attending non-public, non-profit schools within the town or school district.” In other words, taxpayer-funded busing would be denied to many taxpayers who additionally pay tuition and save the state

more than \$400 million yearly in the per-student cost of public education.

The bill died in committee.

“Every year, we keep an eye on our busing mandate, our school transportation mandate,” says Anne LaMonica, associate director for education at the Connecticut Catholic Conference, the watchdog group for the Catholic bishops in Connecticut.

“That one has consistently popped up over the years. It started with cuts to the state funding, and we fought that



ON THE COVER: Anne LaMonica, associate director for education at the Connecticut Catholic Conference, often consults with Sen. Doug McCrory, deputy president pro tempore, who also serves as chairman of the Education Committee, vice chair of the Housing Committee and ranking member of the Internship Committee

of the General Assembly. In a special election in February 2017, McCrory was elected with the promise of continued accountability and accessibility as the state senator for the 2nd Senate District, representing parts of Bloomfield, Hartford and Windsor.

McCrory has been committed to strengthening neighborhoods through education, development and civic engagement. The Connecticut Catholic Public Affairs Conference respects his willingness to discuss school choice and appreciates his support of student transportation for nonpublic schools.



back until the state cut back on all of the funding. So there's no state funding anymore, but we still have our mandate for the towns to have our schools provide the transportation for those students," she adds.

In a letter to the Education Committee of the General Assembly in February, members of the CCC wrote: "We would appreciate the committee opposing any proposal that would [eliminate] this longstanding program that ensures the safety of many school children; and benefits all families in the towns that have both public and nonpublic schools by keeping kids on buses and more cars off of the road."

LaMonica says the bishops' group has tried in past years to expand the school transportation mandate to include interdistrict school busing. "We want to ensure that students can arrive to and from schools safely, as is allowed for magnet school students." That initiative was not attempted this year because of the focus to maintain intradistrict busing.

Tens of thousands of pages of legisla-

tion are proposed annually at the state Capitol, but the CCC and its network of lobbyists have never been blindsided, LaMonica says. They routinely scan all initiatives, looking for language that could affect Catholic schools and other areas of Catholic life.

► SCHOOL HEALTH, SCHOOL SECURITY

Health services in Catholic schools is another area that is under threat from time to time in state government. House Bill 7150 this year would have transferred some of the costs of providing nursing services in Catholic schools from the state to the parents.

"Instead of the state putting its share up for the payments to the towns, they wanted to put the payments onto the schools," LaMonica says, adding that schools would have split the costs with the towns. "But that measure has died. The funding was restored."

LaMonica indicates that funding for

A vice principal for the Capitol Region Education Council, McCrory has been an educator for more than 20 years. Beginning as a teacher at Sarah J. Rawson Elementary School, he has also taught at and served as vice principal at Lewis Fox Middle School. Recognizing the importance of strong role models and education as keys to positive development, he worked with fellow teacher Sadiq Ali to found the Benjamin E. Mays Institute, which emphasizes positive self-esteem through the use of a curriculum infused with African-American history and themes.

A graduate of South Catholic High School and a basketball player at the University of Hartford, McCrory has shared his love of sports with young people by coaching for Hartford's Northend Little League, the Hartford Hurricanes and the Boys & Girls Club. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Hartford and a master's degree in business administration. He also earned his master's degree in elementary administration from Sacred Heart University and is a member of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity.

the School Security Competitive Grant Program was threatened this year as the state tried to curtail spending. The grant began in 2013 as a response to the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in 2012. Common projects funded by the grant include electronic door locks, fencing, lighting, surveillance cameras, video archiving systems and more. SS-CGP grants can be up to \$3 million and must be matched by outside sources.

► SAVING FOR ALL LEVELS OF EDUCATION

Lawmakers also considered a bill limiting tax benefits for account holders of 529 plans, which allows families to save tax-free for education tuition. Originally intended to help with college tuition, 529 plans were broadened under the 2017 federal income tax law to include tuition to private elementary schools. House Bill 5255 would have excluded tuition for grades K-12 from state tax deductions, limiting it once again to higher education. This could have caused hardship for contributors to CHET, for Connecticut Higher Education Trusts, plans.

Connecticut offers an income tax deduction on a CHET account holder's first \$10,000 of income, LaMonica says. Savings could amount to as much as \$700. "If you didn't have the state income tax deduction for the K-12, then you couldn't use the 529 plan for it, whereas if you do have it, then that might make sending your child to K-12 a lot more affordable."

A letter the CCC sent to the Finance Review and Bonding Committee in February stated: "Removing the state tax benefit for K-12 tuition as is proposed in Bill 5255 will ensure CHET 529 plans will negatively impact lower and middle income families — not the higher income families."

The bill failed.

► FIGHTING TO KEEP 'WHAT'S OURS'

"Most often we find ourselves fighting just to keep services that our students already have," says Michael S. Griffin, recently retired archdiocesan superintendent of Catholic schools. He referred to busing and nursing as "mirror services" of public school services.

"Our students are supposed to receive those services the same as the public schools, but every now and then there are some legislative proposals that say, 'Let's end this for nonpublic schools or let's charge them,'" he says.

Philosophically, some legislators don't want to add any services or support for families who choose Catholic schools, Griffin says. "They view this as violating the separation of church and state."

He adds that many other states, up to 27 in fact, offer more tax credits, vouchers, educational savings accounts and more for nonpublic, nonprofit schools. "But in Connecticut, there has been this great insistence on keeping all the money for public school students."

A tax-advantaged educational savings account program for private, nonprofit schools was proposed last year; the bill never passed out of committee," Griffin says.



Teachers at St. Joseph School, Bristol, receive coding training.

► SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS, TEACHERS

Laura McCaffrey oversees government programs as they apply to Catholic schools. She said an exciting new program this past school year included the archdiocese's first-ever elementary school robotics competition.

"We had 15 elementary schools in the archdiocese come together on April 5," adding about 250 parents, grandparents and friends who attended. "We are emphasizing coding in robotics as part of the school day. It's helping with compu-

tational thinking and is really taking off."

McCaffrey says she works closely with the state of Connecticut to ensure Catholic school students and teachers receive eligible federal entitlement monies for tutoring, teacher training, English language instruction for immigrants, up-to-date equipment and more. For the 2018-2019 school year, \$744,497 in Title Funds was spent on students and teachers in Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Hartford.

► EDUCATING THE WHOLE PERSON

"Our schools are excellent academically," says Sister Mary Grace Walsh, ASCJ, Ph.D., provost for education, evangelization and catechesis. "Our test scores are well above the national average both in the elementary and in the high schools. I think our schools are excellent opportunities for young people."

At the Office of Education, Evangelization and Catechesis, the goal is to assist parishes, parish schools and our Catholic high schools, Sister Mary Grace adds.

OEEC was formed in 2016, incorporating the former Office of Catholic Schools and the Office of Religious Education and Evangelization.

"An important aspect of our mission is to make sure the schools have high-quality academics and have a faith formation program for not only students but also for faculty and administrators,



Student body at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, Meriden.

SEN. GEORGE S. LOGAN represents the 17th District, which includes Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Derby, Hamden, Naugatuck and Woodbridge. The assistant Senate Republican leader, he is ranking member of the Human Services and Veterans Affairs committees. He also serves as a member of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee and the Regulation Review Committee.

In the 2019 Legislative session of the Connecticut General Assembly, Sen. Logan sponsored a bill, “An Act Concerning the Prudence Crandall Safety and Learning Initiative,” that would have allowed for a study on educational savings accounts. This study would have examined how to expand parental choice in the education of their children. In addition to this effort, he supported pregnancy resource centers that were the subject of legislation. The Connecticut Catholic Public Affairs Conference applauds his support of these important issues.

Logan, a trained engineer and

businessman, has devoted his spare time to various community-based causes that have improved the quality of life for thousands of families. Offering his experience and volunteer time is an essential part of his life, including serving as a girls’ basketball coach at Assumption School, Ansonia, and as a board member for Griffin Hospital, the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Central Connecticut Coast YMCA and Junior Achievement of Western Connecticut. He is a first order Knight of Columbus.

As a trained engineer, Logan has spent most of his professional life working through the ranks of the largest private water company in the state — Aquarion — where he learned every aspect of providing clean drinking water to customers.

Logan graduated from Notre Dame High School in West Haven, earned his bachelor of science degree in engineering from Trinity College and earned a master’s degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Bridgeport.



“An important aspect of our mission is to make sure the schools have high-quality academics and have a faith formation program for not only students but also for faculty and administrators, so that really everyone in the school is growing in their relationship with Jesus Christ. That’s the difference.

— Sister Mary Grace Walsh, ASCJ, Ph.D.

“Enrollment is the key. When you have more students, you are able to generate the funds to keep the schools vital,” she adds. “We need to continue to develop our partnership with other supporting organizations such as the Hartford Bishops’ Foundation.”

Sister Mary Grace stressed that all the archdiocesan and parochial schools maintain ongoing accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

“NEASC accreditation, a requirement of all the schools in the archdiocese,” she says, “is most important to us because it shows that our schools are meeting the standards set by this independent organization.”

Several years ago, NEASC created a new accreditation instrument that adds important criteria specifically for Catholic schools. **CT**



Sister Mary Grace Walsh.

so that really everyone in the school is growing in their relationship with Jesus Christ. That’s the difference,” Sister Mary Grace underscored. “The academics are second to none and, most importantly, we add growing in our relationship with Jesus Christ. And that’s at every level, in our own office, for our faculty and staff members, for our administrators and for our students.”

She says the long-term outlook is hopeful for Catholic schools. Elementary school enrollment for 2018 was 7,263, while high school enrollment was 4,013.



FOR MORE INFORMATION on how to follow legislation affecting Catholics, visit ctcatholic.org. For information on Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Hartford, visit catholicdaohct.org.

Archbishop Leonard P. Blair delivers a homily.



Centennial Celebration

St. Ann Parish in Avon celebrates its 100th year.

Story by **SHELLEY WOLF** | Photos by **AARON JOSEPH**

WITH ITS MOTTO OF “WORSHIP, SERVICE AND LIFELONG LEARNING FOR ALL,” PARISHIONERS OF ST. ANN PARISH IN AVON ARE CELEBRATING THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR.

The parish community marked its centennial with a dinner dance on May 3 at the Riverview in Simsbury. Additionally, Archbishop Leonard P. Blair celebrated a special Mass of Thanksgiving in May at St. Ann Parish, followed by a reception in the Father Bennett Hall.



A choir and instrumentalists perform during St. Ann’s centennial Mass.

TRACING ROOTS TO 1848

The parish’s story began when priests from neighboring towns celebrated Mass in the homes of Irish Catholic immigrants in Avon, perhaps as early as 1848. Italian and Polish immigrants later joined them, and Mass was celebrated in the old Towpath School. The group raised enough funds to build a

chapel in 1919 that seated 150; it was dedicated to St. Ann.

St. Ann was a mission under the care of St. Patrick Parish in Collinsville and later St. Patrick Parish in Farmington until it earned full parish status in 1944. The parish eventually outgrew the chapel and required a new church, which was built in 1957. A parish hall was added in 1980. The church was renovated and expanded in 2010, when a 2,800-square-foot addition created a gathering space in front of the church building.

MORE THAN 2,000 FAMILIES

Today, the parish numbers more than 2,000 registered families and offers faith formation opportunities for parishioners of all ages and numerous spiritual, social and charitable ministries.

For its youngest members, ages 2½ to 6, the parish leads a Little Lambs group meeting during the 9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass, which provides a “little people’s version of the Liturgy of the Word.” It also runs a Vacation Bible Camp for children in late June.

There is a youth ministry for teens, and a young adult group meets twice a

month on Monday evenings for a social at a local restaurant and for The Crux! Bible study program.

Adult education programs are also available. Last spring, the parish’s offerings included Unpacking the Sunday Scriptures and Refreshing Catholicism, as well as a book discussion series.

The parish also has a strong presence in charitable and social justice work with planting for the St. Ann’s Food Pantry Garden, meal preparation for the ImmaCare homeless shelter in Hartford, handyman work for the St. Ann Cares HomeFront project and its ongoing Social Justice Committee.

In 2018, St. Ann began a parish engagement process to maintain the parish’s vibrancy, to help its parishioners grow in faith and service and to reach the unchurched.

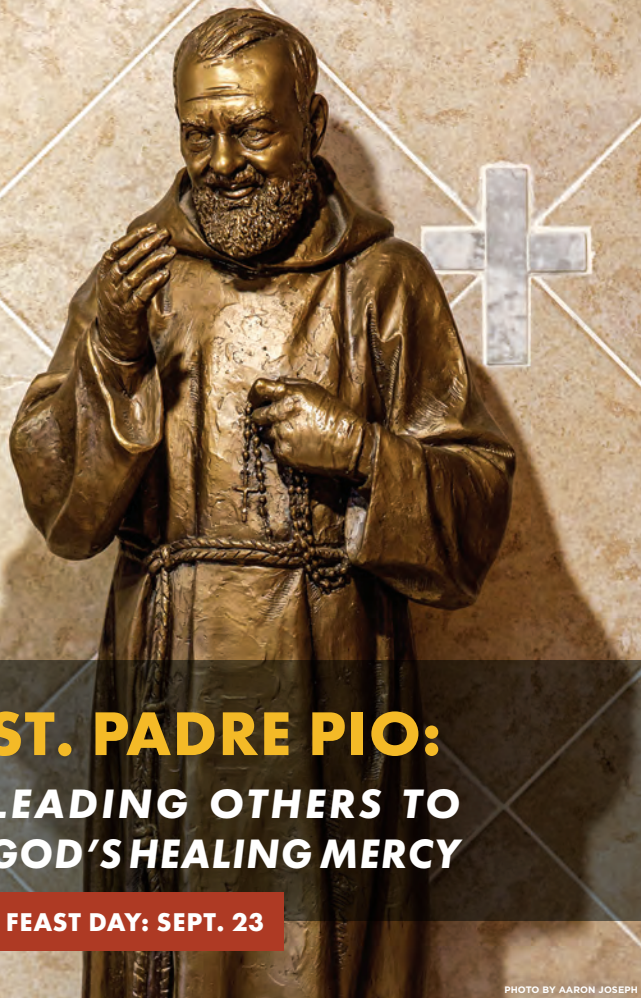
“Our staff and ministries have been working diligently to enhance communications, hospitality, mission building and prayer,” Father John McHugh, pastor of St. Ann, says. “We’ve been blessed to have dedicated parishioners who believe in the mission of the Church. We hope to continue offering opportunities for engaging worship, caring community, meaningful service and lifelong learning.”

“We’ve been blessed to have dedicated parishioners who believe in the mission of the Church.”

— Father John McHugh



Heather Maguire, Avon Town Council chairwoman, presents Father John McHugh with proclamations from the town of Avon and the state of Connecticut.



ST. PADRE PIO: LEADING OTHERS TO GOD'S HEALING MERCY

FEAST DAY: SEPT. 23

PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH


This is a statue of St. Pio at Our Lady of Pompeii in East Haven.

Devoted to Christ from his childhood in Italy, where he was baptized Francesco Forgione, St. Padre Pio became a Capuchin friar at age 15. Five years after he entered the priesthood, shortly after the dawn of World War I, Padre Pio was called into military service. His service was short-lived, however, because of severe illness.

DID YOU KNOW?
St. Padre Pio is said to have experienced the stigmata, painful marks in the same location as the wounds Christ received during his crucifixion.

When he returned, St. Padre Pio became a spiritual director. His five rules for spiritual growth were meditation, examination of conscience, spiritual reading, weekly confession and daily Communion. He is best known for his role as a confessor. Thousands of people traveled to him from across the world for the sacrament of reconciliation.

It is said that he spent up to 16 hours each day in the confessional. He helped people who came to him to receive God's mercy and resolve to make permanent changes in their lives.

St. Padre Pio was plagued by various illnesses throughout his life. Instead of despairing over his suffering, though, he offered the pain to Christ and continued to say Mass daily. He remained popular throughout his life. After his death in 1968, more than 100,000 people attended his funeral. He was made a saint in 2002 by St. John Paul II. 



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Saturday, September 21, 2019

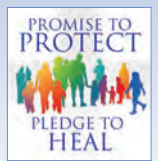
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**Kathleen D. Nowosadko, Victim Assistance Coordinator
860-541-6475 • kathleen.nowosadko@aohct.org**

**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**

GOD'S HANDS AT WORK

Catholic Relief Services diocesan director experiences firsthand assistance to Ethiopian residents.

PHOTO BY BOLOSO/GETTY IMAGES



CRS/PHOTO BY CHRIS WEST

Lynn Campbell, left, with Missionaries of Charity which receive SCRS support.

Story by **SHELLEY WOLF**

For Lynn Campbell, diocesan director for Catholic Relief Services, a trip to Ethiopia, one of the world's poorest countries, opened her eyes to God's work in motion.

"The country of Ethiopia is so large and beautiful," Campbell says. "I can see God through all of his creation."

As executive director for the Archdiocese of Hartford Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry and its diocesan director for Catholic Relief Services, Campbell was part of a small CRS delegation tour that traveled to Ethiopia recently to witness the work that CRS is doing there, and share her experiences with everyone at home.

Campbell, who says she knew nothing about Ethiopia beforehand, landed in Addis Ababa, the capital and cultural

center of Ethiopia, which also served as the group's home base. The country felt like another world, but one with beautiful mountain landscapes, boys driving donkeys and children reaching out to touch her hands, she says.

"We felt like we were in another world, but we all felt like we were part of the CRS family," she says.

Throughout the trip, Campbell also found herself reflecting on the many Gospel passages in the Bible regarding justice and care for the poor.

"It's the U.S. Bishops' response to international aid and development," Campbell says of CRS. "And that's what I saw, the aid and development linked together."

According to Campbell, being a participant in a CRS trip also changed her outlook on her own life. "You leave with a lot of gratitude for what you have," she says, "and you try to lead a more simple life."



TO SEE MORE PHOTOS from Lynn Campbell's Ethiopia trip and to read a journal she kept during the trip, visit archdioceseofhartford.com/catholictranscript.

PROJECTS HELP MANY

To see how CRS has helped bring clean water and food to residents, the group took one-hour flights to Dire Dawa, an eastern city divided by the usually dry Dachata River, and to Awasa, a southern city near Lake Awasa. Campbell was most taken by the enormity of the water project in Dire Dawa

CRS, which traced much sickness among the population to unclean water, addressed the problem by digging numerous wells, developing whole systems to pipe water to villages, installing toilets and educating villagers in sanitation practices such as hand washing and safe cooking practices, said Campbell.

In addition, CRS taught villagers how to conserve water and conserve and protect the land when they do get rain. The country has suffered from droughts in recent years and is now experiencing erratic weather patterns that cause people to migrate in search of water. Wells have been dug in different parts of the country, she said, to keep people in place.

"We felt like we were in another world, but we all felt like we were part of the CRS family."

— Lynn Campbell

"What impressed me about the water project was how comprehensive it was to address such a large number of people — 100,000 people," she says.

In Dire Dawa, the tour group visited a food distribution facility that is owned by the local Catholic diocese. The facility accepts food from the U.S. Agency for International Development — yellow peas, vegetable oil, beans and wheat flour — and then CRS distributes it. The tour group also saw the distributed food being cooked by Missionaries of Charity sisters at a home for people with disabilities.

The group witnessed villagers in Awasa who were displaced due to violence within Ethiopia. The displaced families were living in migrant camps in the center of large fields, Campbell says.

The tour group also met people who were being bused back to their home communities. The returning migrants said they were appreciative but were still hungry and in need of clothing.



Lynn Campbell poses for a photo with an Ethiopian refugee family.

CRS FOUNDDING

The Catholic bishops of the United States founded CRS in 1943 to serve World War II survivors in Europe. The organization's mission has since expanded to reach 130 million impoverished and disadvantaged people overseas in more than 100 countries on five continents.

Within the United States, CRS engages 8.5 million U.S. Catholics to live their faith in solidarity with the poor and suffering people of the world through contributions to CRS Rice Bowl and a national collection each year in April. According to Campbell, 25 percent of CRS's work in Ethiopia is funded by these collections; the other 75 percent comes from grants.

"CRS acts as a connector," she says. They listen to people's needs and connect them with other agencies and groups that also provide services.

For example, when CRS in Ethiopia learned there were 10 people who needed medical help among a group returning to a community that lost its medical clinic, the CRS organizers asked religious sisters who ran a nearby maternity clinic to come to their aid. CRS used its discretionary funds from CRS Rice Bowl to stock a makeshift clinic, brought in the sisters to run it and then contacted the government to take it from there.

U.S. Catholics should be proud of their support of CRS. "We are part of that family and we are doing amazing work," Campbell says. "We can't physically be in another country providing clothing, shelter, food and other works of mercy, but we're doing that through CRS." **CT**



An Ethiopian girl gets water at a pump.

Use Synod Themes in Everyday Life



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.

It's hard to believe but, after months and months of preparation, listening sessions, planning meetings and formation days, we are now just weeks away from the historic meeting of the synod delegates.



The Synod Preparatory Commission has compiled volumes of notes from the listening sessions where the Catholic faithful of the Archdiocese of Hartford prayerfully discerned and then spoke openly and honestly about where they believe God is calling us to “grow as disciples” and “go make disciples.” The commission in particular has been charged with the responsibility of taking all of this in — listening for the voice of the Holy Spirit as conveyed through the body of Christ — and then discerning how the Spirit might be calling us to strengthen the catholicity of our people and consider new possibilities as we move forward.

Following the first formation day on March 30, the delegates sensed a clearer vision of their role, mission and starting point for the synod process. On June 8, the eve of Pentecost, Peter Burak, director of Renewal Ministries in Michigan, addressed the delegates for their second formation day. His talks, the first on the theme of Grow and Go, and the second, on Discerning the Holy Spirit, were awesome. Both talks are available for all on our website: www.growandgo.com. Seriously, do not deny yourself the chance to be inspired by checking these videos out because you won't regret it.

During these months between the formation days and the actual meeting

of the synod delegates in October, it is incumbent on the delegates to prepare themselves by studying and reflecting on the synod documents, and through prayer and discernment.

After much prayer, discernment, and discussion, the Synod Preparatory Commission established the main themes to be addressed at the synod meeting. They are:

- 1. Encountering Christ:** About personal conversion needed as followers of Christ. There will be a real focus on the liturgy and devotional life as well.
- 2. Becoming missionary disciples:** About the need for formation as disciples. There will be a real focus on vocations, and faith formation of clergy and laity.
- 3. Sent on mission:** About the topic of evangelization. There will be a real focus on the proclamation of the Gospel, using the tools of today for effectively communicating the Gospel, and the outreach ministry of the Church.
- 4. Collaborating in the local Church:** About a clearer understanding of what it means to be members of the Church. There will be a real focus on moving beyond parochialism, coordinating and collaborating ministries in the face of pastoral planning and finding communion in our diversity.

As we prepare for October, we are seeking to establish propositions for each theme through which we can address each of these themes in our daily lives: as an archdiocese; as a parish; as a family; and as individuals.

It is our hope that these propositions will be very real ways in which we can together, individually and collectively, grow as a disciple and go make disciples! Please pray for the success of this historic synod! 🇺🇸



TO SEE VIDEOS of guest speaker Peter Burak at the June 8 synod meeting, visit growandgo.com or archdioceseofhartford.org/catholictranscript.

PHOTO BY DAVID ELLIOTT

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Spiritual Journey

Open up to peace, prayer and devotion to Mary at Lourdes in Litchfield.



Story by **KAREN A. AVITABILE** | Photos by **AARON JOSEPH**

A

few times a year, Jan Slavin of Harwinton visits the Shrine of Lourdes in Litchfield to spend some quiet time praying to Mary.

"I give her all my heartaches," says Slavin. "I feel so at peace here. I walk through the archway and peace overcomes me when I come here."

For more than 60 years, the Shrine of Lourdes in Litchfield has been a pilgrimage for people to come for peace, prayer, solitude, healing, renewal or even a miracle. Our Lady of Lourdes grotto is the main attraction on the 124-acre Lourdes in Litchfield, a replica of the famed Lourdes in the foothills of the Pyrenees Mountains of France and one of the most important shrines in the Catholic faith.

Lourdes in France rose to prominence in 1858 when 14-year-old peasant girl Bernadette Soubirous reported seeing 18 apparitions of Our Lady of Lourdes (the Virgin Mary) who delivered her a message of hope and encouragement in the nearby Massabielle grotto.

One hundred years after those appari-

tions, the Shrine of Lourdes in Litchfield was constructed of local fieldstone by two Montfort Brothers, Brother Alfonso and Brother Gabriel, with the help of Montfort seminarians and others in the area. Today, the open-air Our Lady of Lourdes grotto holds up to 300 people



Father Bill Considine.

for daily Mass or private prayer. A stone from the grotto in France is cemented into the Litchfield one.

The summer months are the busiest for the Shrine of Lourdes in Litchfield with buses arriving from all around the state, New England, New York and places farther away. In addition to participating in the liturgy, visitors can follow the way of the cross in a semicircular path up a wooded hillside to the magnificent depiction of the crucifixion of Jesus.

Visitors can also walk on trails around the property to see smaller shrines dedicated to St. Michael, Sacred Heart of Jesus, St. Joseph, St. Jude and St. Louis de Montfort, founder of the Montfort Missionaries Order.

Each day, Fathers Bill Considine and Donald LaSalle welcome guests to the grounds of the Shrine of Lourdes in Litchfield. "It's the gift of being able to welcome people from many different places and welcome them in different places in their lives," says Father Considine, who has been at the Shrine of Lourdes in Litchfield for 13 years. "People say they feel something special when they pull

+ LEARN MORE

For the latest news and upcoming events at the Shrine of Lourdes in Litchfield, including December's candlelight caroling and the living Nativity, visit shrinect.org.

in the parking lot."

Father LaSalle, who calls the shrine "the church without walls," says the Shrine of Lourdes in Litchfield is a place of evangelization and welcoming people back who might have left the church in the past.

Barry Demkar of Naugatuck travels to the Shrine of Lourdes in Litchfield once a week to participate in Mass. "It's serene here and a quiet place to be," he says.



TO SEE MORE PHOTOS from the Shrine of Lourdes in Litchfield, visit archdioceseofhartford.org/catholictranscript.

BEFORE YOU VISIT

The Shrine of Lourdes in Litchfield is located at 50 Montfort Road, Litchfield. The shrine is accessible for the disabled. The way of the cross can be a strenuous walk to the summit so comfortable shoes are recommended.

The grounds are open year-round, from dawn to dusk. The shrine's pilgrimage season runs May 1 to mid-October. Daily Mass is celebrated each day at 11:30 a.m. (except Mondays) in Our Lady of Lourdes grotto (weather permitting) until the pilgrimage season ends in the fall. During inclement weather, Mass is celebrated in the grotto chapel across from Pilgrim Hall. During the winter, Mass is celebrated in the Montfort Retreat House chapel.

The sacrament of the sick is celebrated after Mass on the last Sunday of each month. During the pilgrimage season, Sunday benediction and Marian prayer are celebrated at 3 p.m.

The Grotto Café, located in Pilgrim Hall, is open Wednesdays through Sun-

days, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Patrons can enjoy lunch inside Pilgrim Hall or sit outside in the picnic area or on a bench.

The Montfort Retreat House, which also serves as the residence for the Montfort Missionaries, is open for day sessions or weekend retreats at 83 Montfort Road.

A visit to the Shrine of Lourdes in Litchfield is not complete without a stop by the Grotto Gift Shop, which carries a variety of religious articles and gifts. From May through mid-October, the gift shop is open 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays at the conclusion of Mass. Call or check the website for off-season hours. All purchases help support the upkeep and ministry at Lourdes in Litchfield. ☎



FOR MORE INFORMATION, call 860.567.1041.
Grotto Gift Shop: 860.567.0891.
Grotto Café: 860.361.6026.
Montfort House: 860.567.8434.

Seminarians attended a retreat at the Montfort Retreat House at the Shrine of Lourdes in Litchfield.



A Feast of Victory for Our God



Recently ordained Father Anthony J. Federico.



Recently ordained Father John E. Gancarz.



FATHER MICHAEL CASEY is director of vocations for the Archdiocese of Hartford.

Photos by **AARON JOSEPH**



In June 22, we witnessed a moment of tremendous hope for the Archdiocese of Hartford. No one who has lived as a member of the Catholic Church in the preceding year needs reminding that these are not easy times for the Church. As a result of the scandals of the past and their coming to light in the present, many people have begun to lose hope in their Catholic faith.

There are many questions they may be asking: “Is there a future for our Church?” “What would such a future look like?” “Has God abandoned his Church on account of the sins of so many of her ministers?”

The answer to all of these questions came on this Saturday morning in June at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford when the Church celebrated the ordination of two men.

There was a palpable sense of joy as the rite of ordination progressed and Anthony Federico and John Gancarz were changed for all of eternity when they were ordained priests of Jesus Christ by Archbishop Leonard P. Blair. As the rites were concluded and the newly ordained priests turned to offer each other the sign of peace and to congratulate one another, the entire cathedral erupted into spontaneous applause.

For in these men, newly ordained priests in the Archdiocese of Hartford, God’s answer is crystal clear: He has not and will not abandon his people. He will not leave us in our brokenness and sin.

Rather, God will continue to raise up good, holy, faithful men who are unafraid to lay down their entire lives for the care of his people in the archdiocese. The Church will have its crosses, its difficulties and its uncertainties. But the victory of God is assured, and his love and providence cannot be thwarted.

If anyone should ever doubt that God still loves his Church and cares for his local Church in Hartford, he/she should simply look at a photo from the ordination on June 22, 2019, and see in Fathers John Gancarz and Anthony Federico the clear and resounding answer of the Lord God. ☪

+ INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE about the priesthood, the diaconate or vocations? Visit archdioceseofhartford.org/vocations or call the office of vocations, 860.761.7456.

Sister Bernadette Desrochers, CND, (Sister St. Felicia Marie) a sister of the Congregation of Notre Dame of Montreal, died on May 20, 2019, at Andrus Retirement Home in Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y. She was born in St. Johnsbury, Vt., in 1934 to Felix Joseph Desrochers and Marie Anna (Pinard) Desrochers.

In 1956, Sister Bernadette entered the Congregation of Notre Dame in Bourbonnais, Ill., making her first profession of vows in August 1958 and her perpetual vows in 1964. She later studied at Notre Dame College of Staten Island, N.Y., and at Centre Sevres de Paris, France. She moved on to New Haven, Conn., to teach seventh grade at St. John the Baptist School. From 1960 until she retired in 2017, she taught French in six different high schools.



Deacon Ronald L. Biamonte, 72, of Windsor, died on May 29, 2019, at his home. Born in Far Rockaway, N.Y., on Feb. 23, 1947, he was the son of the late Albert and Mary (Ciampi) Biamonte. He received a bachelor of arts in economics in 1969 at Lehigh University and a master's degree in actuarial science in 1971 from the University of Michigan.

In 2004, he received a master's degree in counseling from the University of St. Joseph in West Hartford. He was ordained to the diaconate in the Archdiocese of Hartford. His first parish assignment was at St. Gabriel Church in Windsor and later at St. Joseph Church in the Poquonock section of Windsor. Since 2007, he served as a deacon at Mary, Gate of Heaven Parish in Windsor Locks.



Sister Lillian Belcher, DHS, 98, a member of the Daughters of the Holy Spirit, died on June 12, 2019, at St. Joseph Living Center in Windham. Born Lillian May Belcher on Oct. 13, 1920, in Pittsfield, Mass., she was the daughter of the late Everett and Jane (Carboneau) Belcher. She entered religious life in 1946 and made her religious profession on Aug. 16, 1949, at the Holy Spirit Provincial House in Putnam. She was then known as Sister Edmond Thérèse. She earned a bachelor of arts from Annhurst College and a master of arts from Fairfield University.

A lifelong educator, she taught at St. Anne Academy, Swanton, Vt., St. Joseph, Waterbury, and St. Mary, Jewett City. In 1991, she was called to West Hartford and then to the Formation Center in Hartford. That same year, she became liaison for the sick in the Mercyknoll community in West Hartford. In 2003, she retired to the Provincial House in Putnam.

A lifelong educator, she taught at St. Anne Academy, Swanton, Vt., St. Joseph, Waterbury, and St. Mary, Jewett City. In 1991, she was called to West Hartford and then to the Formation Center in Hartford. That same year, she became liaison for the sick in the Mercyknoll community in West Hartford. In 2003, she retired to the Provincial House in Putnam.

Sister Joan Rocco, O.P., a Dominican nun at the Monastery of Our Lady of Grace, died there on June 13 after a long illness. She was born on Aug. 25, 1940, in Utica, N.Y. On Oct. 10, 1959, Sister Joan entered the Monastery of the Perpetual Rosary in Syracuse. She made first profession of vows as a Dominican nun on Sept. 15, 1962, and solemn profession on Sept. 4, 1966.



Deacon Henry (Harry) Doyle, 87, of Milford, husband of Sarah Young Doyle, died on June 19, 2019, at Milford Health Care. He was born in Nitshill, Glasgow Scotland, on Sept. 25, 1931. He was the son of the late Thomas and Mary McLoughlin Doyle. He was a veteran of the Royal

Air Force. In 1970, he immigrated to the United States with his family and resided in Milford. He was ordained as a deacon of the Archdiocese of Hartford on June 10, 1989, serving at St. Gabriel Parish, Milford for more than 25 years.

THE MOST REVEREND LEONARD P. BLAIR, S.T.D., HAS MADE THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS:

Rev. Piotr S. Buczek, from parochial vicar, St. Pio of Pietrelcina Parish, East Haven, to administrator, St. Bernadette Parish, New Haven, effective July 1, 2019.

Rev. Lee W. Hellwig, from parochial vicar, Our Lady Queen of Angels Parish, Meriden, to parochial vicar, Basilica of Immaculate Conception, Waterbury, effective June 1, 2019.

Rev. Mathieu Isaac, from chaplain, of MacDougal Correctional Facility, to parochial vicar, St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish, Manchester, effective June 1, 2019.

Rev. Sebastian K. Kos, from temporary parochial vicar, St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish, Manchester, to administrator, St. Raymond of Peñafort Parish, Enfield, effective June 1, 2019.

Rev. Nathaniel C. Labarda, appointed administrator, Our Lady of Loreto Parish, Waterbury, in addition to duties as pastor, St. Michael Parish, Waterbury, effective June 1, 2019.

Rev. Michael A. Ruminski, pastor, Our Lady of Hope Parish, New Hartford/Harwinton, graduate studies in sacred liturgy at the Liturgical Institute of St. Mary of the Lake University in Chicago, from June 3 to July 23, 2019.

Rev. Jorge E. Castro, from parochial vicar, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Hamden, to temporary administrator, Our Lady of Hope Parish, New Hartford/Harwinton, from June 3 to July 23, 2019.

Rev. James M. Sullivan, appointed administrator, St. Francis Xavier Parish, Waterbury, in addition to duties as dean of Deanery 5 and rector, Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Waterbury, effective June 1, 2019.

Rev. Kevin G. Donovan, appointed director of the Diaconate Program, in addition to duties as pastor, St. Basil the Great, Wolcott, effective May 20, 2019.

Rev. Mr. Jaime G. Maldonado, ordained a transitional deacon, May 18, 2019, appointed to St. John XXIII, West Haven, effective May 20, 2019.

Rev. John Mariano, from parochial vicar of All Saints Parish, Waterbury, to senior status, effective Aug. 9, 2019.

Rev. Nicola N.H. Trân, from chaplain, Hartford and St. Francis hospitals, released for service to the Diocese of Knoxville, effective July 1, 2019.

Rev. Faron Calumba, from parochial vicar, St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, Thomaston, moving out of archdiocese, effective June 30, 2019. Faculties are extended until July 21, 2019.

Rev. George N. Varkey, SDB, from pastor, St. Vincent Ferrer Parish, Naugatuck, to other duties as reassigned by provincial, effective, July 1, 2019. Faculties are extended until July 11, 2019.

Rev. John Kuzhikottayil, SDB, appointed administrator, St. Vincent Ferrer Parish, Naugatuck, effective July 1, 2019, in addition to duties as pastor, St. Francis of Assisi, Naugatuck.

Rev. Perumanamcheril Binny Issac, SDB, appointed parochial vicar, St. Francis of Assisi and St. Vincent Ferrer parishes, Naugatuck, effective July 1, 2019.

Rev. Kuttianickal Joy Jacob, SDB, appointed parochial vicar, St. Francis of Assisi and St. Vincent Ferrer parishes, Naugatuck, effective July 1, 2019.

Rev. Mathai Vellappallil, SDB, from pastor of St. Michael, Beacon Falls, to other duties as reassigned by provincial, effective, July 1, 2019. Faculties are extended until July 11, 2019.

Deacon Victor Lembo, appointed administrator, St. Michael Parish, Beacon Falls, effective July 1, 2019.

Rev. Tuan Anh Dinh Mai, appointed priest chaplain in the campus ministry program at University of Hartford, West Hartford, effective Aug. 1, 2019, in addition to current duties as pastor of St. Andrew Dung-Lac Parish, West Hartford.

Rev. Anthony J. Federico, from transitional deacon to newly ordained, appointed parochial vicar, St. Bridget of Sweden Parish, Cheshire, effective July 5, 2019.

Rev. John E. Gancarz, from transitional deacon to newly ordained, appointed parochial vicar, St. Jeanne Jugan Parish, Enfield, effective July 5, 2019, until Aug. 23, 2019, to return to Rome to continue studies.

— REV. RYAN M. LERNER, CHANCELLOR, JULY 1, 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.)



MARK YOUR

POLISH HARVEST FESTIVAL

St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish in Bristol will hold its annual Dozynki (Polish Harvest Festival) **Sept. 7 to 8**. The celebration kicks off on Saturday with Mass at 3 p.m., followed by the festival until 10 p.m. On Sunday, Mass is set for 10:30 a.m., with the festival running until 7 p.m. The event will be held on the parish property at 510 West St., Bristol.



MARIACHI MEXICO

Our Lady of Calvary Retreat Center will host a season-opening celebration featuring Mariachi Mexico Antiguo on **Sept. 8**, 2 to 4 p.m., at 31 Colton St., Farmington. Established in 2010, the group is known for its vibrant sound and focus on the antique traditions of the genre. Freewill offering. Register by calling 860.677.8519.

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

St. Joseph Church (St. Martin of Tours Parish) in Canaan will be open for 24 hours on **Sept. 11**. The public is invited to come, reflect and pray respectfully at any time. Beginning at midnight, the rosary will be recited every six hours. Beginning at 8:46 a.m., the names of those who died on Sept. 11 will be read. The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be said at 3 p.m. A Mass will be offered some time this day. For a schedule of events throughout the day, visit www.patriotday9-11-01memorial.com/.



LOURDES IN A DAY PILGRIMAGE

All are welcome to the Order of Malta's sixth annual Lourdes in a Day Pilgrimage, a day of grace and healing following in the footsteps of pilgrims at our lady's shrine in Lourdes, France, on **Sept. 21**, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., at St. Peter Claver Church, West Hartford. Lunch is included. R.S.V.P. by Sept. 15, by emailing with Mark Sullivan at slvnchrth@yahoo.com or by phone, 860.523.1405.

YOUTH MINISTER ACCOMPANIMENT DAY

The Archdiocese of Hartford's Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry is offering a Youth Minister Accompaniment Day on **Sept. 21**. Designed for youth ministers and the parish leaders who assist them, it will be an all-day event with speaker Dr. Bob Rice as the keynote, workshops provided by many of the region's top youth ministry leaders and time for fellowship. For more information, visit catholicdaohct.org or contact Michael Wellington, 860.242.5573 ext. 2678.

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING TO BENEFIT ST. BRIDGET SCHOOL

St. Bridget School in Cheshire will sponsor its sixth annual golf outing on **Sept. 23** at the Country Club of Waterbury, 1 Oronoke Road, Waterbury. This year's theme is "Playing FORE Our Children's Future." Registration begins at 10 a.m., lunch at 11 a.m., shotgun start at 12:15 p.m., cocktail hour at 6 p.m. and a buffet dinner at 7 p.m. Prizes will be awarded for lowest score, longest drive, closest to the pin, a hole-in-one contest and a putting green contest. A silent auction will also be held. Registration includes lunch, a gift package, golf, drink tickets and dinner. Collared shirts are required. For more information, contact Carolina Blier, Ken Blier or Tom Burkhard at Golf@stbridgetschool.org.

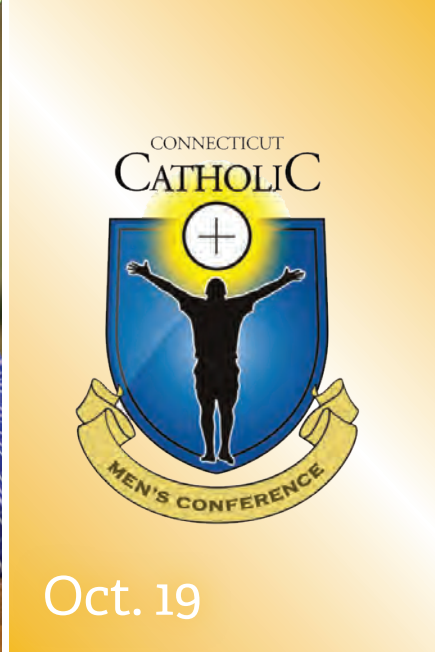


Sept. 21

PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHELLE BABYAK



Oct. 5



Oct. 19

CALENDAR

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

The Pro-Life Ministry of the Archdiocese of Hartford is joining the national and now-international 40 Days for Life campaign to pray for an end to abortion. This year's campaign is running from **Sept. 25 to Nov. 3**. The group will also hold a 40 Days for Life closing ceremony at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford following the 11 a.m. Mass on Nov. 3. The closing Mass will include guest speakers. For more information, email anneboers@prolifeministry.org.

TAG SALE IN WINDSOR LOCKS

The Parish of Mary, Gate of Heaven (St. Mary and St. Robert Bellarmine Church) will be holding its annual charity fundraiser tag sale **Sept. 27 to 28**, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., each day, in Father Farrell Hall at St. Robert Bellarmine Church, 52 South Elm St., Windsor Locks. Proceeds will go toward the parish high school senior scholarships.



FOURTH LATINO PILGRIMAGE TO BE HELD IN HARTFORD

The Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford will once again host a pilgrimage for the Latinos on **Oct. 5**. Like the previous ones, this pilgrimage is sponsored by the Knights of Malta. The pilgrimage is offered as an opportunity to pray together for hope and healing of our own spiritual or temporal needs and those of all our brothers and sisters. Principal celebrant of the Eucharist will be Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt, auxiliary bishop of Hartford. Some events of the day



will include: opening prayer and recitation of the Holy Rosary in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a conference, individual blessings of all present, Holy Mass, celebration of the Eucharist, lunch and faith sharing. Throughout the day, priests will be available for Confession, except during the Mass. Collaborating in the preparation of this day of prayer and celebration are the Knights of Malta; Secular Order of the Servants of Mary; Movement of the Cursillos of Christianity; Charismatic Movement; John XXIII Movement; and the Apostolic Group: Coffee with the Fragrance of Jesus. The public is welcome. R.S.V.P. by calling 860.205.2216.

DIOCESAN ROSARY

The 30th annual Diocesan Rosary Rally will take place **Oct. 6**, 2 to 3:30 p.m., at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Waterbury. The event will feature a procession, rosary, talk and benediction. Auxiliary Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt will speak about Mary's role in salvation history. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call Lorraine, 203.736.9606.



CONNECTICUT CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE

The 12th annual Connecticut Catholic Men's Conference is set for **Oct. 19**, 8:30 a.m., at St. Paul Catholic High School, 1001 Stafford Ave., Bristol. Doors open at 7:30 a.m. This year's theme is "Forge Your Path to Holiness." Auxiliary Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt is the opening speaker. Archbishop Leonard P. Blair will be the primary celebrant at the 4 p.m. vigil Mass. Other invited speakers include Dan Burke, Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers and Father John Bartunek. Boxed lunch is included. To buy tickets, visit www.ctcatholicmen.org.



REV. JAWOROWSKI ANNIVERSARY, BLESSING OF NEW STATUE — St. Anthony Parish in Prospect celebrated the 25th anniversary of priesthood of Rev. Gregory Jaworowski with a solemn Mass and reception on May 5. The Mass was celebrated by Rev. Witold Mroziewski, the auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Brooklyn, N.Y. In addition to the special Mass, there was also a ceremony to bless the new statue in the church courtyard of Pope St. John Paul II. The statue was donated to St. Anthony Parish by the Testa family in memory of their daughter, Krista Lee Testa. In the photo, from left, Elayna Buetel, altar server; Father Jaworowski; Auxiliary Bishop Mroziewski; and Father Archibald Cosmos.

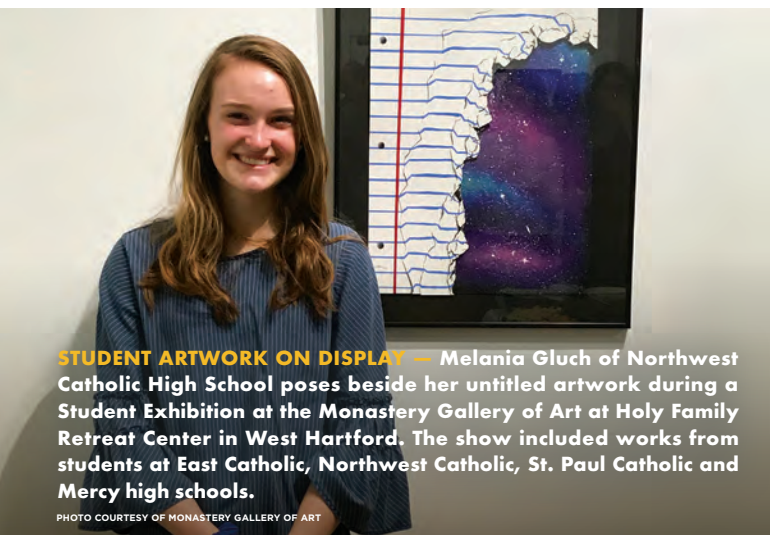
PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. ANTHONY PARISH



SISTER BEATA BECOMES DOMINICAN SISTER OF PEACE — At right, Sister Beata (Bea) Tiboldi, who served as a pastoral associate in the Archdiocese of Hartford and lived in the Dominican Sisters of Peace House of Welcome in New Haven during her formation, made her perpetual profession as a Dominican Sister of Peace recently in a celebratory ceremony at the Columbus Motherhouse Chapel in Columbus, Ohio. She receives her ring from Prioress Patricia Twohill.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DOMINICAN SISTERS OF PEACE

AROUND THE



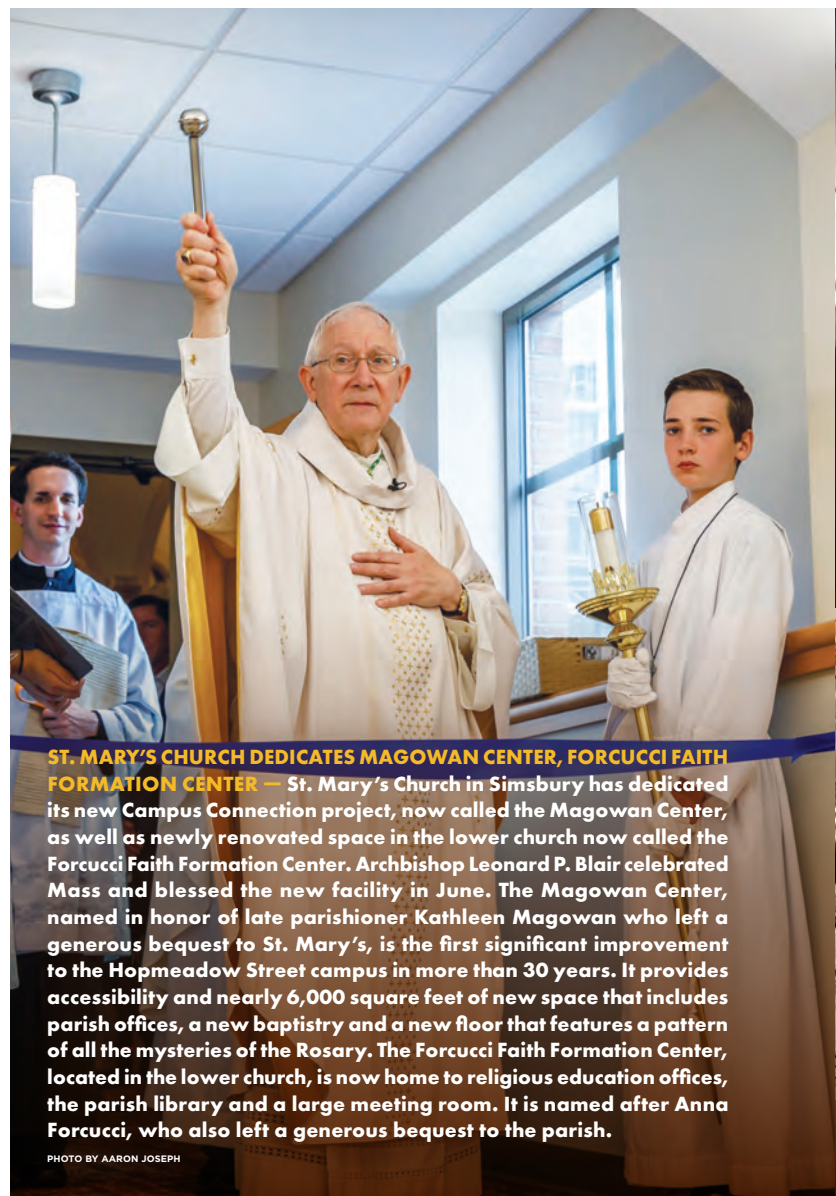
STUDENT ARTWORK ON DISPLAY — Melania Gluch of Northwest Catholic High School poses beside her untitled artwork during a Student Exhibition at the Monastery Gallery of Art at Holy Family Retreat Center in West Hartford. The show included works from students at East Catholic, Northwest Catholic, St. Paul Catholic and Mercy high schools.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MONASTERY GALLERY OF ART



DORNAN RECEIVES FAITH AND JUSTICE AWARD — Alan Dornan was honored with the 2019 Faith and Justice Award at the annual Social Justice Conference of the Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry. The award was presented by Bishop Peter Rosazza and Terry Steele, OCSJM board president. Dornan was recognized for his commitment to walk in solidarity with the millions of undocumented immigrants in the country, as he has walked 2.2 miles a day since 2017. In 2018, Dornan worked with the OCSJM to organize two public walking events, inviting others to give public witness toward the cause. He continues to work with OCSJM giving presentations to youth in churches.

PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH



ST. MARY'S CHURCH DEDICATES MAGOWAN CENTER, FORCUCCI FAITH FORMATION CENTER — St. Mary's Church in Simsbury has dedicated its new Campus Connection project, now called the Magowan Center, as well as newly renovated space in the lower church now called the Forcucci Faith Formation Center. Archbishop Leonard P. Blair celebrated Mass and blessed the new facility in June. The Magowan Center, named in honor of late parishioner Kathleen Magowan who left a generous bequest to St. Mary's, is the first significant improvement to the Hopmeadow Street campus in more than 30 years. It provides accessibility and nearly 6,000 square feet of new space that includes parish offices, a new baptistry and a new floor that features a pattern of all the mysteries of the Rosary. The Forcucci Faith Formation Center, located in the lower church, is now home to religious education offices, the parish library and a large meeting room. It is named after Anna Forcucci, who also left a generous bequest to the parish.

PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH



MURAL COMPLETE OF PARISH'S PATRON SAINTS — Archbishop Leonard P. Blair presides at a confirmation ceremony at St. Pio of Pietrelcina Parish in East Haven, which includes the worship sites of Our Lady of Pompeii Church and St. Vincent de Paul Church. Our Lady of Pompeii sported a new mural of the parish's many patron saints, painted by artist Paul Armesto.

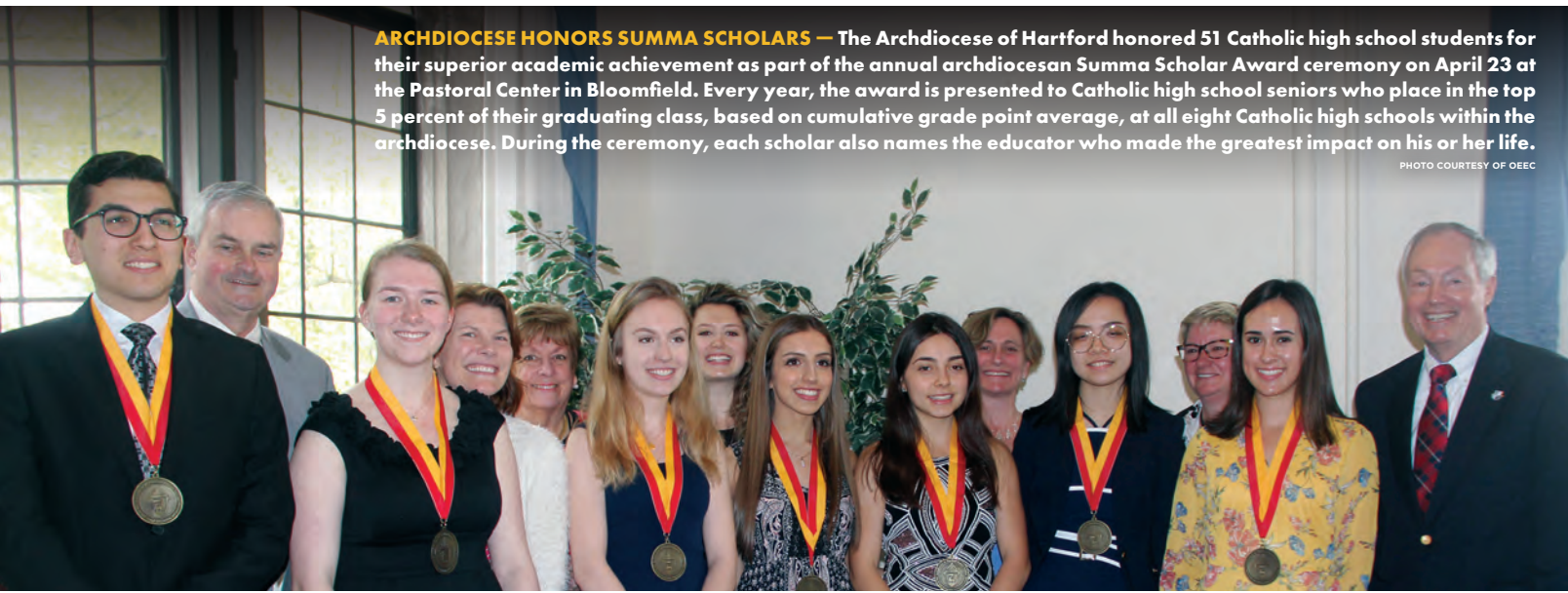
PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH



CELEBRATING CONSECRATED LIFE — On June 27, Sister Emilie of St. Michael, Little Sisters of the Poor, celebrated 50 years of consecrated life and renewed her public vows at a Mass offered at St. Joseph Chapel (in St. Joseph's Residence), which is run by the Little Sisters of the Poor, in Enfield. Many Little Sisters were in attendance, including many from her former assignment in Pawtucket, R.I., along with cousins, benefactors, sisters from other communities and many residents. Two of the residents wrote songs, which were performed by the St. Joseph Singers. The lyrics were given to Sister Emilie on scrolls.

PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

ARCHDIOCESE



ARCHDIOCESE HONORS SUMMA SCHOLARS — The Archdiocese of Hartford honored 51 Catholic high school students for their superior academic achievement as part of the annual archdiocesan Summa Scholar Award ceremony on April 23 at the Pastoral Center in Bloomfield. Every year, the award is presented to Catholic high school seniors who place in the top 5 percent of their graduating class, based on cumulative grade point average, at all eight Catholic high schools within the archdiocese. During the ceremony, each scholar also names the educator who made the greatest impact on his or her life.

PHOTO COURTESY OF OEEC



HELPING HANDS PROJECT SHINES IN MARLBOROUGH

A project that began as a way to connect parishioners with their global neighbors celebrated a culminating event on April 6, when more than 160 gathered at St. Thomas More Hall at St. John Fisher Parish in Marlborough to package 23,000 meals as part of the Helping Hands project. Helping Hands is a partnership between Catholic Relief Services and Rise Against Hunger.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. JOHN FISHER PARISH



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SEPTEMBER 2019

Advanced, comprehensive cancer care. Smilow Cancer Hospital at Saint Francis delivers.

Smilow Cancer Hospital is a national leader in personalized state-of-the-art cancer care, and we are at Saint Francis in Hartford and Glastonbury, bringing you today's most comprehensive cancer treatment. From advanced diagnosis to expert, compassionate treatment, including a wide range of clinical trials, you'll be cared for with a level of skill and groundbreaking technology few cancer centers can offer. Care you deserve, from Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center, the only National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center in Southern New England. World-class care ... and it's all close to home.

Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center – Hartford

Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center
114 Woodland Street
Hartford, CT

Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center – Glastonbury

Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center
31 Sycamore Street
Glastonbury, CT



Yale
NewHaven
Health
Smilow Cancer
Hospital



Adam
Boruchov, MD