

# Catholic **TRANSCRIPT**

JULY/AUGUST 2019

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## LEGISLATIVE WATCHDOG

Connecticut Catholic Conference's  
new executive director

### FAITH WITH FOUNDATIONS

Catholics of Ghanaian ancestry  
celebrate new designation

### REVIVING THE CHURCH

Synod members share thoughts

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**ON THE COVER:**

Connecticut Catholic Conference Executive Director Chris Healy.

PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

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# Catholic TRANSCRIPT

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# The Power of Prayer



**KAREN AVITABILE**  
is the editor of  
*Catholic Transcript*

Back in early May, I took a one-day pilgrimage with roughly 35 folks from St. Paul Parish in Kensington to Fonda, N.Y., to see the shrine of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, whose feast day will be celebrated on July 14.

We left early in the morning on this unseasonably cool day. We could even see the freshly fallen snow along the Massachusetts Turnpike. We were on schedule and the trip was going smoothly until the bus pulled over to the side of the highway. The bus had broken down and the engine had to be shut off. Needless to say, it got chilly inside, and we did not know how long it was going to take to fix the bus or get another one. We were stuck on the side of the highway with cars and trucks speeding by.

What happened next was so unexpected but incredibly inspirational. Instead of complaining or getting upset that our excursion was already delayed and may have to be canceled, many passengers began reciting the Rosary, with their beads in hand. Several people took turns leading the prayers and announcing the mysteries. Afterward, some people held hands together in prayer as special intentions were announced.

After two hours on the side of the highway, a replacement bus arrived, but we were apprehensive about departing the stranded bus and getting on the new one along a busy highway. It easily could have been a danger-

ous situation. However, all of our prayers that morning ensured we would be OK.

The weather never improved, but it really did not matter. We arrived safely to the shrine for lunch, a tour and to celebrate Mass. Then we got back on the bus and departed for home with no hiccups.

The visit to the shrine of St. Kateri Tekakwitha kicks off a new feature, called Going Places, in this edition of the magazine. This new feature series will highlight spiritual journeys to shrines, cathedrals and religious places to further one's faith. Stay tuned for more inspirational visits in future issues.

This combined July and August edition of the *Transcript* is overflowing with interesting articles and columns. As you can see on the cover, we have brought you a story about Chris Healy and his involvement with the Connecticut Catholic Conference. This is only the first of several stories we will be bringing you that will provide updates of issues the CCC will be taking a stand on. Be sure to read Archbishop Leonard P. Blair's column, which further delves into why we, as Catholics, need to stay focused on the political process.

On a side note, you may notice some changes with this issue of the *Transcript*. We have given it a fresh design and increased the font size to help make the magazine easier to read. We hope you like this new layout.

Enjoy your summer and any trips you have planned. Before you leave, take AAA's advice and make sure your car is road-trip ready. And do not forget to bring along the power of prayer. **CT**



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is the 13th bishop of the  
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# SPEAKING THE TRUTH WITH LOVE

**T** HIS MONTH'S FEATURE STORY on the work of the Connecticut Catholic Conference highlights an important aspect of our engagement in the world as people of faith. According to the social teaching of the Church, responsible citizenship is a virtue and participation in the political process is a moral obligation.

Increasing numbers of Americans, including many Catholics, think that faith and religion have nothing to do with the political process, as if government were an a-religious, a-moral machine that simply monitors the economy and provides agencies like the FAA to make sure that airliners are safe. To the extent that our government turns into a machine, it will surely eat people up as many other governments have through history, and still do throughout the world today.

The fact is, religion and the moral and ethical teachings of religion have everything to do with our nation's pursuit of the common good and authentic human progress. Individually and as a Church, we have a responsibility to bring a moral voice and conscience to the public square. Participation in the political process, in the words of the U.S. Bishops, "... bring[s] together the guidance of the Gospel and the opportunities of our democracy to shape a society more respectful of human life and dignity, and more committed to justice and peace."

I still remember a newspaper cartoon that appeared during President Clinton's legal woes in the 1990s. The cartoon was based on the Old Testament episode of the people's infidelity to God at the foot of Mount Sinai when Moses took so long

coming down. The cartoon shows a startled Moses, holding the Ten Commandments and looking at the people running riot below him. A voice shouts out from the crowd, "It's the economy, stupid."

For a person whose conscience is formed by Catholic faith and morals, a country cannot be measured by material well-being alone, important as that is. There is also moral and spiritual well-being, which, if undermined, will surely destroy material well-being too. What Jesus asks of individuals can also be applied to a whole nation: "What does it profit you to gain the whole world if you lose your soul in the process?"

Our voice and our vote ought to reflect our faith. To be a Catholic is to believe objective truth exists, including moral truth, and that it can be known by faith and reason. In the words of Pope St. John Paul: "... an alliance between democracy and ethical relativism ... would remove any sure moral reference point from political and social life, and on a deeper level make the acknowledgement of truth impossible. Indeed, 'if there is no ultimate truth to guide and direct political activity, then ideas and convictions can be easily manipulated for reasons of power. As history demonstrates, a democracy without values easily turns into open or thinly disguised totalitarianism.'" (*Veritatis Splendor*, no. 101)

The effectiveness of the Connecticut Catholic Conference relies on an important, and sometimes neglected, aspect of Church life, namely, that "it belongs to the laity to seek the kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and directing them according to God's will ... permeating social, political and economic realities with the demands of Christian doctrine and life." (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 898f)

Undoubtedly, there are many fine practicing Catholics in all walks of American life, including politics, but it must also be acknowledged with sadness that things are not what they should be. Some admit to a lack the conviction or courage to

stand up and be counted. Still others claim to be Catholic, yet pick and choose when it comes to the actual content of Catholic faith and morals.

I invite all of us to rise to the moral and ethical challenges of our day and, formed by our Catholic faith, to "speak the truth with love" in the public square and the halls of government in dialogue with all people of goodwill. ☪



PHOTO BY ARRON JOSEPH

**SAPLING BLESSING** — In May, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish of Hamden held a Mass for the first anniversary of the tornadoes that ravaged areas of Hamden, Cheshire, Wallingford, North Haven and other towns in May 2018. Archbishop Leonard P. Blair celebrated the Mass and blessed saplings.



PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

## HABLAR LA VERDAD CON AMOR

**L**A HISTORIA DE ESTE MES sobre el trabajo de la Conferencia Católica de Connecticut destaca un aspecto importante de nuestro compromiso con el mundo como personas de fe. Según la enseñanza social de la Iglesia, la responsabilidad ciudadana es una virtud y la participación en el proceso político es una obligación moral.

Cada vez más estadounidenses, incluyendo muchos católicos, piensan que la fe y la religión no tienen nada que ver con el proceso político, como si el gobierno fuera una máquina irreligiosa y amoral que simplemente vigila la economía y proporciona agencias como la Administración Federal de Aviación para asegurarse que los aviones de pasajeros sean seguros. En la medida en que nuestro gobierno se convierta en una máquina, seguramente consumirá a la gente como muchos otros gobiernos lo han hecho a lo largo de la historia, y en otras partes del mundo todavía.

El hecho es que la religión y las enseñanzas morales y éticas de la religión tienen todo que ver con la búsqueda del bien común de nuestra nación y el progreso humano auténtico. Individualmente y como Iglesia, tenemos la responsabilidad de llevar una voz moral y conciencia a la plaza pública. La participación en el proceso político, en palabras de los Obispos de EE. UU., "... reúne la orientación del Evangelio y las oportunidades de nuestra democracia para formar una

sociedad más respetuosa de la vida, de la dignidad humana, y más comprometida con la justicia y la paz".

Todavía recuerdo una caricatura de un periódico que apareció durante los problemas legales del Presidente Clinton en la década de 1990. La caricatura se basó en el episodio del Antiguo Testamento de la infidelidad de la gente a Dios al pie del Monte Sinaí cuando Moisés tardó tanto tiempo en venir. La caricatura muestra a un Moisés sobresaltado, sosteniendo los Diez Mandamientos y mirando a las personas que están realizando disturbios debajo de él. Una voz grita desde la multitud: "Es la economía, estúpido".

Para una persona cuya conciencia está formada por la fe y la moral católica, un país no puede ser medido solo por el bienestar material, por importante que sea. También hay un bienestar moral y espiritual que, si se socava, seguramente también destruirá el bienestar material. Lo que Jesús pide a los individuos también se puede aplicar a toda una nación: "¿De qué te beneficia ganar todo el mundo si pierdes tu alma en el proceso?"

Nuestra voz y nuestro voto deben reflejar nuestra fe. Ser católico es creer que la verdad objetiva existe, incluida la verdad moral, y que puede ser conocida por la fe y la razón. En palabras del Papa San Juan Pablo: "... una alianza entre democracia y relativismo ético ... eliminaría cualquier punto de referencia moral seguro de la vida política y social, y en un nivel más profundo haría imposible el reconocimiento de la verdad. De hecho, 'si no hay una verdad última que guíe y dirija la actividad política, entonces las ideas y las convicciones pueden ser fácilmente manipuladas por razones de poder. Como lo demuestra la historia, una democracia sin valores se convierte fácilmente en un totalitarismo abierto o ligeramente disfrazado". (*Veritatis Splendor*, n. 101)

La efectividad de la Conferencia Católica de Connecticut se basa en un aspecto importante, y algunas veces descuidado, de la vida de la Iglesia, a saber, que "los laicos tienen como vocación propia el buscar el Reino de Dios, ocupándose de las realidades temporales y ordenándolas según Dios ... [y] de idear los medios para que las exigencias de la doctrina y de la vida cristianas impregnen las realidades sociales, políticas y económicas". (*Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica*, n. 898, 899)

Sin lugar a dudas, hay muchos católicos practicantes en todos los ámbitos de la vida estadounidense, incluida la política, pero también debe reconocerse con tristeza que las cosas no son lo que deberían ser. Algunos admiten que les falta la convicción o la valentía para levantarse y ser contados. Otros afirman ser católicos, pero eligen fuera del contenido real de la fe y la moral católica.

Los invito a todos a enfrentar los desafíos éticos y morales de nuestros días y, formados por nuestra fe católica, a "hablar la verdad con amor" en la plaza pública y en los pasillos del gobierno en diálogo con todas las personas de buena voluntad. ☺



# PARISH CELEBRATES 100<sup>TH</sup>

*St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish in Bristol observes 100 years as a parish community.*

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

There were many interesting items pinned to the memory boards in the parish center at St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish in Bristol: the first census list of parishioners, photos of its founding families in their finest attire and portraits of the many priests who shepherded the faithful throughout its 100-year history.

But perhaps the greatest source of pride — rivaling Poland’s national coat of arms, which was hung around the parish hall — may have been the black and white photos under the heading: “Priests ordained from our parish.”

St. Stanislaus Parish celebrated its 100th anniversary with a Mass and reception on April 28, exactly 100 years and one week after its founding on April 21, 1919. The Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Leonard P. Blair and was followed by a celebration in the Monsignor Bartlewski Parish Center.

In his homily, Archbishop Blair

acknowledged that the last century has seen both growth and shrinkage in the local Catholic Church. Nevertheless, Catholics have always met challenges.

“We are called and graced by God to be faithful, to persevere, to bear witness as parishioners of St. Stanislaus Parish have done for 100 years,” he said. “And I remember that the Polish people have always taken pride in that motto in Latin, *semper fidelis*, always faithful, as members of the one body of Christ.”

The archbishop gave thanks for Monsignor George Bartlewski, who founded the parish and served parishioners for nearly 50 years, as well as for the many priests, religious and laity. “We also praise God for the present,” Archbishop Blair said, “for the privilege of witnessing this day, of being part of such a long line of faith, and for fulfilling our mission to hand on what we have received as good stewards of God’s mercy.”

Also present was Bristol Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, who presented a document proclaiming this day ‘St. Stanislaus Day’ in the city of Bristol, and Darek Barcikowski, honorary consul of the Republic of Poland.



Attendees file past boards posted with historic photos of the parish’s founders, pastors, priests and school students.

## PARISH VIDEO TO BE RELEASED



A parish history video, created by the staff at Nutmeg Television will be available for viewing by the general public on July 18 at 7 p.m., at the Bristol Historical Society. The society charges a \$5 fee for non-members. The video can be viewed by visiting [www.ststanislausbristolct.org](http://www.ststanislausbristolct.org).

► FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PARISH’S MINISTRIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS, VISIT: [WWW.STSTANISLAUSBRISTOLCT.ORG](http://WWW.STSTANISLAUSBRISTOLCT.ORG)





Two young girls in Polish folk dress deliver the gifts to Archbishop Blair.

## PRESERVING FAITH AND CULTURE

The Polish consul stressed the importance that Catholic parishes play in preserving both faith and culture. “They are not only centers of spiritual life, but they are guardians of our history, they are curators of our culture and custodians of our honor,” he said. “They are pillars of our communities and play a crucial role in preserving our Polish American heritage.”

Barcikowski gave an impassioned plea for everyone to do all they can to support their parish and fend off the closures that other churches in the archdiocese have experienced: “I want to stress how important it is that we all, as Polish Americans, support our parishes by showing up and participating in services and events, by supporting them financially, by volunteering, by running spiritual and social programs and events and, most importantly, by engaging our youth and encouraging them to follow the example of the patron of this parish, St. Stanislaus Kostka, so that we can all meet here again to commemorate another anniversary.”

Today, St. Stanislaus includes more than 900 registered households and is led by Father Tomasz Sztuber, who became the parish’s sixth pastor on Feb. 12,

2018. “Through the years,” he explained, “our parish has remained vibrant and continues many of the beautiful Polish customs and traditions that go back to the original members and founders of our church.”

Back in 1902, immigrants from Poland who were drawn to jobs in the factories and foundries of Bristol founded a mutual-aid society known as the St. Stanislaus Kostka Society. Some members from this group petitioned the bishop of Hartford to create St. Stanislaus Parish until they received permission to found a parish in 1919.

Father Bartlewski rented the town hall for Masses in 1919 until a basement church was dedicated in 1921, followed by a school in 1930 and a larger church building for the growing community in 1956. A convent was completed in 1964 and a rectory in 1967. The school closed in 1986 and was later demolished.

In the 1980s, a new wave of Polish immigrants sparked a renewal of Polish traditions and devotions in the church. Various pastors reinvigorated the parish over the years with additional Masses in Polish, and through the founding of new social clubs such as the Golden Agers and the Towarzystwo (Polish Society), which continues to promote Polish cultural and intellectual life to this day. The annual parish picnic was replaced with Dozynki, and the 40 Hours devotion was added.

## ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Parishioners will add anniversary-themed touches to their annual Dozynki (Polish Harvest Festival) Sept. 7 to 8. On Saturday, a Mass at 3 p.m. will kick off the weekend and the festival will run until 10 p.m. On Sunday, Mass will take place at 10:30 a.m. followed by the festival until 7 p.m.

The church’s annual Polish play will take place in late September but a date was not set at press time. A jubilee dinner for parishioners on Nov. 16 at Chippanée Country Club in Bristol will round out the year of celebration, and a 2020 parish calendar will extend it.

Today, the church has a thriving parish center. Recent capital improvements include a new church bell, an elevator in the church and air conditioning.

Unique among the church offerings are the CDC Parents Committee, Dozynki Committee, Polish Rosary Society, Men’s Organization and Sandwich Ministry. It also has a parish library that offers books and periodicals in English and Polish.

In 2013, the parish added the St. Stanislaus Youth Ministry program, which enables young people (eighth-graders through high school) to socialize with their Catholic peers, deepen their relationship with God and perform service work. ☺





PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

# FOLLOW GOD'S TEACHINGS AND SAVE TIME FOR REST



**AUXILIARY BISHOP JUAN MIGUEL BETANCOURT**

is the ninth auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Hartford.

**O**ur 21st-century lifestyle is marked by an attitude of business amid a hectic calendar.

On most of our days, we get up early in the morning and try to keep up with our already determined schedule, until we crash in bed at night to start the same routine the next day. Some of us survive through the long working hours by looking forward to the weekend, hoping to take a break. When the weekend finally arrives, we are already overbooked with family, social, sports and sometimes church events. At the end of the weekend, we find ourselves in greater need of a break, lamenting that the work week is about to start again. And so, the cycle begins one more time.

Social and cultural changes have influenced our thinking that the busier we are, the better we become. However, at what price? Many physical and mental health issues in our modern times are exacerbated, if not provoked, by our current busy lifestyles.

We are in the midst of summer, and we usually plan an opportunity to pause from our agitated life and relax during these beautiful, warmer months. However, from my experience, there is the danger of forgetting that, as human beings, rest is part of our existence. It is in our nature, the need to repose. It is not healthy in any way to keep doing and doing without allowing time to rest from our particular routines. Moreover, not dedicating time for rest is contrary to God's will. At the time of the creation of the world, we read in the Book of Genesis that "on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the

seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work he had done in creation." (Gn 2:2-3)

As we see, our sacred Scriptures acknowledge and even prescribe physical rest, setting guidelines to ensure that everyone is permitted time for healthy inactivity. Even Jesus needed some downtime: "Jacob's well was there and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon." (Jn 4:6, Mk 4:38; 6:31; Lk 9:58)

Also, the Bible declares sleep as a preferred form of physical rest: "Sweet is the sleep of laborers, whether they eat little or much; but the surfeit of the rich will not let them sleep." (Ecc 5:12, Ps 4:8; 127:2) Moreover, there are several instances where God's word mandates to keep some time dedicated to repose from work: "Six days you shall work, but on the seventh day you shall rest; even in plowing time and in harvest time you shall rest." (Ex 34:21, Mk 2:27, Dt 5:12-15, Lv 23:3, Is 58:13-14)

There is a tendency provoked by our own inclinations or by the secular world to equate rest with laziness. That should not be our outlook. Besides the restoration of our bodies, the Bible attests to some functional purposes of taking time for some good rest. Repose renews our strengths (Is 40: 29-31; Lam 5:5) and makes us find peace by entrusting our cares to God. (Mt 6:25-34; Jb 11:18-19; Ps 3:5; 16:8; Prv 3:24; Phil 4:6-7) As Christians, we must remember that when we rest, we also give glory to God. Pope St. John Paul II says that "rest is something sacred because it is man's way of withdrawing from the sometimes excessively demanding cycle of earthly tasks in order to renew his awareness that everything is the work of God." (*Dies Domini*, 65) **GT**

**TOP PHOTO:** Auxiliary Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt was one of several religious leaders from across the state invited to speak recently at a press conference at the Legislative Office Building against the legalization of recreational marijuana in Connecticut.



# SIGUE LAS ENSEÑANZAS DE DIOS Y AHORRA TIEMPO PARA DESCANSAR

AUXILIARY BISHOP JUAN MIGUEL BETANCOURT

**N**uestro estilo de vida contemporáneo está marcado por una actitud de ajetreo en medio de un calendario ya agitado.

La mayor parte del tiempo, nos levantamos temprano en la mañana e intentamos seguir nuestro horario hasta que exhaustos, nos quedamos dormidos por la noche para comenzar la misma rutina al día siguiente. Algunos de nosotros sobrevivimos las largas horas de trabajo esperando el fin de semana, con la esperanza de tomar un descanso, y cuando el fin de semana finalmente llega, nos vemos sobrecargados de eventos familiares, sociales, deportivos y, a veces, religiosos. Al final del fin de semana, nos encontramos en peor necesidad de un descanso, lamentándonos de que la semana laboral está por comenzar de nuevo. Y así, el trágico ciclo comienza de nuevo.

Los cambios sociales y culturales han influido en nuestro pensamiento de que cuanto más ocupados estamos, mejor nos volvemos. Sin embargo, ¿a qué precio? Muchos de los problemas de salud física y mental en nuestros tiempos modernos se ven agravados, si no provocados, por nuestros “ocupados” estilos de vida.

Estamos en pleno verano y, por lo general, planeamos una oportunidad para hacer una pausa en nuestra vida agitada y descansar durante estos hermosos y cálidos meses. Sin embargo, según mi experiencia, existe el peligro de olvidar que el descanso es parte de nuestra existencia humana. Está en nuestra naturaleza la necesidad del reposo. De ninguna manera es saludable “seguir haciendo y haciendo” sin permitir un tiempo para descansar de nuestras rutinas particulares. Además, no dedicar tiempo al descanso es contrario a la voluntad de Dios. Durante la creación del mundo, leemos en el Libro de Génesis que “en el séptimo día, Dios terminó la

obra que había hecho, y descansó en el séptimo día de toda la obra que había hecho. Entonces Dios bendijo el séptimo día y lo santificó, porque en él descansó Dios de toda la obra que había hecho en la creación” (Génesis 2: 2-3).

Como vemos, las Sagradas Escrituras reconocen e incluso prescriben descanso físico, estableciendo pautas para garantizar que todos tengan tiempo para la inactividad. Incluso Jesús necesitó tiempos de inactividad de cuando en cuando: “El pozo de Jacob estaba allí y Jesús, cansado de su viaje, estaba sentado junto al pozo. Era cerca del mediodía” (Juan 4: 6, ver también Marcos 4:38; 6:31; Lucas 9:58).

Además, la Biblia declara el dormir como una forma preferida de descanso físico: “Dulce es el sueño de los trabajadores, ya sea que coman poco o mucho; pero el exceso de los ricos no los dejará dormir” (Eclesiastés 5:12, ver también Salmos 4: 8; 127: 2). Además, hay varios casos en que la Palabra de Dios ordena mantener un tiempo dedicado al reposo del trabajo: “Seis días trabajarás, pero en el séptimo día descansarás; incluso en tiempo de arar y en tiempo de cosecha descansarán. (Éxodo 34:21, ver también Marcos 2:27; Deuteronomio 5: 12-15; Levítico 23: 3; Isaías 58: 13-14)

Hay una tendencia provocada por nuestras propias inclinaciones o por el mundo secular para equiparar el descanso con la pereza ... Esa no debe ser nuestra perspectiva. Además de la restauración de nuestros cuerpos, la Biblia atestigua algunos propósitos funcionales de tomar tiempo para un buen descanso. El reposo renueva nuestras fortalezas (Isaías 40: 29-31; Lamentaciones 5: 5) y nos hace encontrar la paz al confiar nuestras preocupaciones a Dios (Mateo 6: 25-34; ver también Job 11: 18-19; Salmos 3: 5; 16: 8; Proverbios 3:24; Filipenses 4: 6-7). Como cristianos, debemos recordar que cuando descansamos, también damos gloria a Dios. El Papa San Juan Pablo II dice que el descanso es algo sagrado, porque es la forma del hombre de retirarse del ciclo a veces excesivamente exigente de las tareas terrenales para renovar su conciencia de que todo es obra de Dios” (*Dies Domini*, 65). ☪

# Reinvigorating the Church

*Synod Preparatory Committee members share their thoughts on the synod.*

Story by **SHELLEY WOLF**

**“THE YOUNG ARE THIRSTING FOR CHRIST,”** says Emily Naylor, a member of the Synod Preparatory Committee, “but they are also thirsting for an authentic Church — and it’s our job to make it that way.”



**EMILY NAYLOR**

PHOTO BY DAVID ELLIOTT

Naylor — one of 17 Catholics who sit on the committee for the Archdiocese of Hartford Synod 2020, parish secretary at St. John Bosco Parish in Branford and co-founder of the Frassati New Haven young adult group — says she is representing her generational peers and parishioners from a

merged parish by serving on the committee.

“I see it as an exciting opportunity to shape the future of the archdiocese,” Naylor says. “I am truly honored to be participating and helping be the voice of the young adult generation.”

In addition, Naylor was on the front lines of a parish merger in Branford “and saw up close how much change and disorientation there still is in the hearts of the people,” she says. “We restructured the physical buildings and now it’s time to gather to restructure and awaken the hearts of the faithful. How can we build up faith? What can the Holy Spirit rebuild in our hearts out of the buildings we have closed?”

Other Synod Preparatory Committee members say the invitation to participate has been a chance to deepen their own faith, give back and contribute to the development of the local Church.

“Simply put, I felt I could contribute to what I see as an exciting moment in our archdiocesan faith journey,” says committee member Sister Delores Lahr, who also serves as executive director for mission integration at St. Mary’s Hospital in Waterbury. “It is my hope that the synod will not only re-energize



**SISTER DELORES LAHR**

PHOTO BY DAVID ELLIOTT

the participants, but also Catholics in our archdiocese and perhaps beyond.”

Archbishop Leonard P. Blair convoked the synod to put forth recommendations on reinvigorating the life of the local Church and to reorder it to serve the mission of evangelization.

The Synod Preparatory

Committee was tasked with participating in parish and deanery listening sessions in 2018, attending a day of formation along with 300 parish delegates this past spring and recommending a list of main topics to the archbishop for the upcoming synod meeting this October.

So far, synod committee members say, there have been no big surprises. And they expressed appreciation for the open, honest atmosphere during the listening sessions as well as the advisory nature of the synod process. In the earliest phase of the process, they heard parishioners throughout the archdiocese share their thoughts on what the archdiocese is doing well, not so well and what it is not doing that it should be doing.

“Parishioners who participated in their parish gatherings were very engaged and ready for something to happen,” Sister Delores says. “They want to participate, to be heard, to be involved.”

Committee member Dr. Thomas Martin, a Catholic school supporter and physician at St. Raphael Campus of Yale New Haven Hospital, admits that the question of, “What can the Church do better?” provoked some passionate responses from parishioners.

“However, the more I listened at these meetings, the more I became impressed and inspired by two things,” Martin says. “The first was the fact that the archdiocese was genuinely interested in self-examination and introspection about how it could better serve each member of its flock.”

The second, he adds, was that the passion demonstrated by each of these parishioners bore witness to how important the



PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

**“I AM EMBRACING THE SYNOD AND EAGERLY AWAITING POSITIVE CHANGES IN OUR ARCHDIOCESE TO GUIDE OUR FUTURE.”**

— SYNOD PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MEMBER  
DEBBIE SOUSA

women, and a wide variety of ethnic groups. “The universality of the Church is so inspiring,” he says.

The committee is only partway through the synod process, which concludes in May 2020. But its members are still moving forward with optimism.

Debbie Sousa, another member of the Synod Preparatory Committee and a volunteer leader of youth ministry at St. Stanislaus Parish in Bristol, says she is hoping the synod might eventually lead to greater collaboration between the many parishes in her local area, perhaps even through the shared financial support of regional youth ministers and youth activities.

“I am embracing the synod,” Sousa says, “and eagerly awaiting positive changes in our archdiocese to guide our future.”

Martin also sees spiritual growth ahead for both young and old.

“The sheer magnitude of the opportunities to live one’s Catholic faith outside of the confines of simply attending Sunday Mass is astounding,” he says. “If we can have people understand that the Church is a community in which we can live, play, work and pray every

Church is in their lives and how they want to see the Church succeed. “People don’t become passionate about things that they don’t value to the highest degree,” Martin says.

### **A COLLABORATION OF MANY**

Synod committee members say they have appreciated the chance to get together with their fellow Catholics from around the archdiocese.

“I have most enjoyed getting to meet so many new people,” Naylor says, “and being able to collaborate with those of both generational and ethnic differences.”

According to Martin, that collaboration has included working with clergy and lay people, young and old, men and

day and not just on Sunday, we will have gone a long way to realizing the synod’s goals.”

Naylor adds she is hopeful about the prospects for a renewed personal prayer life and greater evangelization of the faith.

“I have great hope for the Church in the archdiocese,” she says, “because of the explosion of grass-roots young adult ministries that have popped up that rediscover and revitalize ancient practices like eucharistic adoration but also bring in the ‘newness’ of proclaiming the Gospel through social media.”



# Forward with Faith Campaign Update

Submitted by **THE HARTFORD BISHOPS' FOUNDATION**

## THE ERA OF THE "BISHOPS"

The name, Hartford Bishops' Foundation, is meant to evoke Hartford's historic secular "Bishops," as they were once known. These were the city's community leaders – mainly from the insurance and banking industries – dating back to the late 19th century, who worked together to address the social and economic challenges of their time. Several of Hartford's parks, cultural institutions and landmarks were made possible because of their efforts to support the city and the wider region.

One of the leading Bishops of the time was John Filer, the former chairman and CEO of Aetna. Under Filer's leadership, Aetna and the city of Hartford jointly developed the Hartford Civic Center in 1975. Filer was nationally recognized for his civic endeavors and business acumen, being named by President Gerald Ford to the Task Force on Private Sector Initiatives in 1975 and later named chairman of the National Commission on Private Philanthropy and Public Need.

When describing the work of the Bishops, Filer said, "We are very much dependent on a city that governs itself well, provides the services and the infrastructure – but also that has people living in it who are successful, happy and productive."

## THE BISHOPS OF TODAY

Chaired by Jim Smith, the chairman of Webster Bank, the Hartford Bishops' Foundation is an independent, lay-governed 501(c)(3) organization led by a board of community and business leaders from organizations such as Stanley, Black & Decker, United Technologies, Cigna, the Knights of Columbus, Prudential, Aetna and several other leading organizations across the state.

Like the bishops of old, the leaders of the Foundation came together to invest in the future of the Catholic Church and wider community of Litchfield, Hartford and New Haven counties through philanthropy and the engagement with local businesses, foundations, and civic organizations.



*"A vibrant Church means a vibrant community."*

"A vibrant Church means a vibrant community," said Beth Costello, executive vice president and CFO of The Hartford. "We have the power to impact people across the region through the Church – whether that is supporting

ing cultural landmarks like our cathedral, empowering social service organizations that provide healthcare and other life-saving services to thousands of

additional families from all backgrounds and faiths, or making long-term investments in the parishes, ministries and services that benefit everyone in those surrounding communities."



Auxiliary Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt visits a childhood development center run by Catholic Charities. The organization has received \$400,000 in grants from the Hartford Bishops' Foundation since 2018.


## CARRYING THEIR LEGACY FORWARD

The Foundation is now leading an \$80 million capital campaign, **Forward with Faith**, to make strategic investments in the long-term sustainability of the Archdiocese of Hartford's parishes, communities, schools, ministries and services.

"**Forward with Faith** is an opportunity to revitalize the legacy of the Bishops by bringing together business and community leaders who are dedicated to supporting the broader community of Litchfield, Hartford, and New Haven counties through the work of the Catholic Church," Costello said.

Since the campaign began in 2018, the Foundation has already **distributed more than \$1 million in grants** to support Catholic initiatives throughout the region, including the restoration of the Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Catholic Charities program and facility upgrades and new Catholic education initiatives.

The Foundation also distributed more than \$200,000, its first semi-annual disbursements, in June 2019, to the seven "Pilot Parishes" that served in the first phase of the campaign that launched in 2018.

Costello remarked, "One of the core beliefs of the Hartford Bishops was a shared responsibility to help one another, regardless of religion. We need to think that way today by addressing issues inside and outside the Church that affect all of us and the generations that come after." 

**+ TO LEARN MORE** about the Hartford Bishops' Foundation and the **Forward with Faith** Campaign, please visit [hartfordbishopsfoundation.org](http://hartfordbishopsfoundation.org).

# FAITH WITH FOUNDATIONS IN AFRICA

## *New quasi-parish is created for Catholics of Ghanaian ancestry.*

Story by **MARK JAHNE** | Photos by **AARON JOSEPH**

**“We are not transient anymore. We know where we are heading. This is a parish.”**

These powerful words, delivered by Thomas Andoh, president of the Ghanaian Catholic Parish Council, were spoken about the designation of their parish as a quasi-parish of the Archdiocese of Hartford.

The Ghanaian Catholics, who have been worshipping as a group within the archdiocese for more than two decades, trace their ethnic and cultural roots back to the West African nation of Ghana. It is important for the group to actively practice there while at the same time preserving cultural traditions. Many of them were the products of Catholic education in their African homeland. English is their native country’s official language, but a total of 250 languages and dialects are often spoken.

“We felt that we should be joining the Church,” Andoh adds. “The people have a sense of ownership.”

The Ghanaians, who celebrate Mass at 11 a.m. every Sunday at St. Isaac Jogues, 1 Community St., East Hartford, recently held a special ceremony whereby the Rev. Paul Baffour-Awuah was installed as pastor



of the St. Isaac Jogues Ghanaian Catholic Parish. Auxiliary Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt presided at the ceremony, and Bishop Joseph Osei-Bonsu of Konongo-Mampong was also in attendance.

Being named a quasi-parish means the parish has its own pastor, Finance Council, trustees and other positions. But the parish does not own a church building — yet. The Ghanaians hope they can raise a sufficient sum to purchase their own church in the future. Until then, they will continue to worship at St. Isaac Jogues.

Some people come to Sunday Mass in colorful African garb. Uplifting Ghanaian music sung in Twi had the entire congregation moving to the rhythm. Women waved white handkerchiefs. There was a period during Mass when seven conga lines were formed, one for each day of the week, and people joined the line of their birth date to dance forward and place monetary donations in baskets at the altar.

At the end of Mass, everyone formed another conga line and joyfully danced their way to the altar to a lilting African beat. There they received a special blessing from Father Baffour-Awuah.

Despite all of the unique cultural flair displayed during Mass, Andoh emphasizes that “everything at the core is Catholic here,” and Christianity is prominent in his country of origin and Catholicism is a dominant branch. 🇬🇭



Ghanaians celebrated their designation as a quasi-parish during a special Mass recently with Auxiliary Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt presiding. The Rev. Paul Baffour-Awuah, top photo, was installed as pastor of the St. Isaac Jogues Ghanaian Catholic Parish.

A photograph of Chris Healy, a man in a blue suit and glasses, speaking with Rep. Ann Dauphinais, a woman in a white cardigan and patterned top. They are standing in a grand, ornate legislative chamber with high ceilings, columns, and a balcony. The scene is brightly lit, and other people can be seen in the background.

Chris Healy speaks with Rep. Ann Dauphinais, R-44th, representing Killingly and Plainfield.

# LEGISLATIVE WATCHDOG

*New Connecticut Catholic Conference executive director pledges to fight for Church issues.*

Story by JACK SHEEDY | Photos by AARON JOSEPH





Chris Healy fields phone calls from staff and legislators.

In the cafeteria of the Legislative Office Building in Hartford, a loudspeaker is calling legislators to report to the floor of the House of Representatives in the State Capitol next door. Men and women in business attire are bustling, hoisting briefcases, wearing lanyards, moving with purpose.

Chris Healy, the new executive director of CCC, for Connecticut Catholic Conference, is talking with Deacon David W. Reynolds, assistant director for public policy, about an ongoing topic: pro-life pregnancy care centers that are constantly under attack by Planned Parenthood, Pro-Choice America and other pro-choice factions. This is only one of a host of issues the CCC is involved with.

The CCC is the official voice of all the Catholic bishops in Connecticut, representing the Archdiocese of Hartford, the Dioceses of Bridgeport and Norwich and the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford. Under the guidance of the bishops, the CCC advocates on behalf of all Connecticut's Catholics and clarifies policy on such issues as immigration, pro-life, human trafficking, assisted suicide, religious

liberty, education and more.

It is the start of a long April day of lobbying by members of the CCC, the watchdog arm for Connecticut's bishops. Healy and company spend a lot of time educating legislators on issues important to the Church, and why this or that bill is good or bad for public policy overall. It's a job that requires good communication skills, attention to detail and a firm stand on matters that are important to the Church.

"When I took the job with the bishops and archbishop, I said we are going on offense in the sense that we are not playing defense anymore," says Healy, who became the fifth executive director of CCC when he stepped into the position in December 2018. He succeeds Michael C. Culhane, who retired in November 2018 after 11 years on the job.

### ▶ A BATTLE OF GOOD AND EVIL?

While some perceive the issues as a battle between good and evil, Healy insists that he does not. "No, I never have. Everyone's human. They come to these things with their own set of beliefs and preconceived notions. A lot of what we're trying to do here and have done is educate people on the issues," he says.

Healy's past jobs have paved the way for his defense of religious freedoms, he says, adding that a lot of the issues in his political career are issues that people of faith like — the ability to worship without interference, school choice, keeping families together, promoting family life and culture, protecting life, he says.

Healy grew up in Manhattan's Upper East Side. He attended The Gunnery in Washington, Conn., and graduated from Denison University. He was a

**“I LIKE THE ISSUES. I SAW THE CONSTANT THREAT OF THE STATE AGAINST THE CHURCH — NOT JUST THE CATHOLIC CHURCH BUT ALL FAITHS — FOR SECULARIZATION OF POLICIES, THE DEMEANING OF PEOPLE OF FAITH. THEY JUST GOT MY JUICES FLOWING.”** — CHRIS HEALY



Discussing the agenda at the start of the day are, left to right, Anne LaMonica, Chris Healy and Lori Steward.

newspaper reporter before working in the Republican Party in the 1980s with former Torrington Mayor Delia Donne.

In 2000 and 2008, he was a delegate in the Republican national conventions and was on the platform committee both years, advocating for pro-life issues. He was press secretary for U.S. Rep. Gary Franks of Waterbury, and he worked on the Connecticut campaigns of presidential hopefuls Bob Dole and John McCain. He ran the congressional campaign in 2012 of Lisa Wilson-Foley.

In addition, Healy worked in President George H.W. Bush's administration and then came back to Connecticut and began a career in lobbying. While lobbying for the law firm of Updike Kelly & Spellacy, which represented the CCC, he came to understand the issues that are of interest to the bishops' group.

“I like the issues,” he says. “I saw the constant threat of the state against the

church — not just the Catholic Church but all faiths — for secularization of policies, the demeaning of people of faith. They just got my juices flowing.”

Healy had recently been working in the Senate Republican Caucus on policy, politics and recruiting when he heard about the opening at the CCC. “Just by happenstance I heard that Michael Culhane was retiring and they were looking for a replacement,” he says. “So I made sort of a blind call and said, ‘Is this position still open? Can I apply?’ And here we are.”

### ► OPTIONS TO ABORTION

On this April day at the Legislative Office Building, Healy talks about a bill that would empower the state's attorney general to force pro-life pregnancy centers to educate clients about abortion, which these centers do

not provide. The central argument by supporters of the bill, he says, was that pro-life pregnancy care centers “should be under some sort of obligation to tell people all their options.”

But abortion clinics would not be under the same sort of obligation. They would not have to advise clients that there are alternatives to abortion, including adoption, foster care and raising the child, Healy says. “It is a complete abuse of state powers. It violates the First Amendment rights” to practice one's religion.

Another initiative, House Bill 7070, would ban “limited services pregnancy centers,” pro-life centers, from disseminating information that is “explicitly or implicitly false, misleading or deceptive,” although no complaints by clients have been made, Deacon David W. Reynolds, CCC's assistant director for public policy, says. Only limited services centers would be targeted under the bill, not abortion centers. As of press time, the bill had not come up for a vote.

### ► FAMILY-BASED RELIGIOUS PRECEPTS

In other social justice ministry initiatives, the CCC is working on a domestic workers' rights bill with a coalition, Healy says. “We've been active in immigration rights, voting rights for people that complete their [prison] sentences and have demonstrated that they're good citizens. You know, we want to tell the story more and show the people that we are what we say we are, which are positive, moral advocates for a better, stronger society based on family, based on our religious precepts.”

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## OTHER INITIATIVES OF INTEREST TO THE BISHOPS' GROUP THAT THE CCC IS INVOLVED IN INCLUDE:

### EXPANSION OF GAMBLING

In March 2017, the Catholic Bishops of Connecticut released the statement "A Catholic Perspective on Expanded Gambling in Connecticut," outlining their opposition to expansion of gambling in the state.

### LEGALIZATION OF RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA

Deacon Reynolds says that legalization in some other states did not deter illegal dealing in other drugs. A grass-roots parish-based action began in May to make voices of citizens who oppose legalization heard by lawmakers.

### STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

Bishops oppose increasing the civil statute of limitations but support efforts to expand the statute of limitation for criminal offenses.

### PAID FAMILY LEAVE

The CCC supports legislation that establishes a new account at the state level, funded by employee contributions.

### RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Bishops oppose any efforts to mandate services against religious beliefs but support efforts to assist making places of worship safe from acts of violence.

### A TAX ON NON-PROFITS

The bishops' group opposes a bill that would require nonprofits, including the Archdiocese of Hartford, to pay a fee to the state to help struggling communities, "taking money from the collection plate and sending it to a state bank account," in Deacon Reynolds' words.

The CCC often works closely with the Office of Catholic Social Justice Ministry, headed by Lynn Campbell, on issues such as a domestic workers' bill of rights.

Another bill that made headlines during this year's session was Senate Bill 972, which would allow access to original birth records by adult adopted persons. The bishops' group opposed this bill because the state had promised long ago that mothers who gave up children for adoption would remain anonymous. A bill in 2014 opened up records previous to October 1983. Senate Bill 972 would open more recent records as well.

Catholic Charities of Hartford, which serves as an adoption agency, also opposes the bill, Healy says. "You can't keep moving the goal post every four years," he says. "The bottom line is this: the state makes a solemn agreement to keep your privacy and now they renege."

Anne LaMonica, associate director for education for the CCC, has been advocating for Catholic school students, their parents, teachers and principals



Representing the Catholic perspective in the legislative process are, from left: Legislative Liaison Lori Steward, Deacon David W. Reynolds and Associate Director for Education Anne LaMonica.

since she joined the conference in 2015. Earlier this year, she was instrumental in preventing a bill that would have curtailed access by Catholic school students to taxpayer-funded busing — a basic right first codified in Connecticut in 1957 and strengthened in the 1970s.

LaMonica also helped write this year's CCC testimony opposing the physician-assisted suicide bill, House Bill 5898. This is the fifth time such an endeavor was thwarted by the CCC and its allies.

"I have great people working for me,"

## ► NEW PLATFORM FOR CATHOLICS TO SPEAK OUT

Thanks to a new website platform, Catholics will be able to be involved with the issues and communicate effectively with the decision-makers in Hartford and in Washington, D.C. "We're going to be better organized in getting people of faith more actively engaged in what goes on here, doing it through a more robust, ramped-up social media platform which we're investing heavily in," Healy says.




Chris Healy speaks to Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt following a press conference at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford against the legalization of recreational marijuana in Connecticut.

Healy says. "David knows everything. Anne as well, in education. And Lori [Steward], who we brought in to do more outreach for us."

Now the longest-serving member of CCC, Deacon Reynolds has served under three directors. Steward is legislative liaison, acting as both administrative professional and a conduit to establishing relationships with other agencies. LaMonica works with the schools branch of the Office of Education, Evangelization and Catechesis to protect the rights of parents and students seeking a Catholic education.

NationBuilder is a website platform used by leaders of organizations to mobilize their members or followers. According to Healy, NationBuilder will allow the CCC to share vital information to people of faith who sign up and enlist new congregants to join the effort.

"We're going to give people the opportunity to be heard and to use their voices to talk to their legislators with the tools that we have and say, 'Look, we're not going to apologize for being Catholic, we're not going to apologize for being people of faith,'" he says. "We are integral, positive parts of our community." 

## STORIES TO COME IN THE TRANSCRIPT

Over the next several months, the *Catholic Transcript* will be spotlighting some issues that are of interest to the Archdiocese of Hartford and that will come under scrutiny by the Connecticut Catholic Conference. For more information on issues important to Catholics, visit [ctcatholicpac.org](http://ctcatholicpac.org).

### Watch for:

#### EDUCATION ISSUES

How are the conference and other agencies protecting the rights of Catholics and other people of faith when it comes to private school education?

#### CLERICAL SEXUAL ABUSE

The CCC works with the Office of Safe Environment to measure and review allegations of abuse and is in contact with a legal team to improve transparency in reporting, Healy says. A list of credibly accused clergy appears on the websites of all the arch/dioceses of the state and will be updated in stages this year by independent evaluators, he adds.

#### PRO-LIFE ISSUES

This is a broad topic that includes the right to life for the unborn, the right of prisoners not to be put to death, the right to palliative care for the terminally ill and more.

#### QUALITY OF LIFE

Programs the Archdiocese of Hartford sponsors or supports include the Malta House of Care vans.

#### SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES

These include fighting against human trafficking and protecting the rights of immigrants, to name a few.



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# FOLLOW GOD'S CALL

## *Be courageous in responding to life as a priest.*

Story by **FATHER MICHAEL CASEY**, director of vocations

**O**ur Lord, early in his ministry, decided to call certain men to follow him more closely and learn to act on his behalf. This band of followers were eventually sent out to preach the message of the kingdom, to heal the sick and to drive out demons.

Today, just as surely, Jesus is still calling brave young men to follow him in this adventurous vocation. Summer, particularly as enjoyed by those on holiday from school, can be a time of rest and renewal, which allows young men the freedom to ask deeper questions about the direction in which one's life is going. How do I know if God is calling me to be a priest? What should I do if he is calling? What about the many challenges priestly life will entail?

### **How do I know if God is calling me to be a priest?**

A priestly vocation is at once a gift and a mystery, as famously described by St. John Paul II in his memoir of the same name. Each man called to the priesthood is called in a unique and personal way. It often won't include extraordinary phenomena, but is rather the still small voice as heard by the prophet Elijah, the desire for something more, the love of Christ which overflows into zeal for souls. Once the noise and other distractions are cleared away, only the individual, in the depth of his heart, can authentically experience if God is calling him.

### **What should I do if he is calling?**

The fundamental stance of a young man who believes God may be calling him to the priesthood is to open himself entirely to desiring whatever it is Jesus desires. If Jesus wants me to be, a priest then, "Yes! I want that." If Jesus is not calling me, then I want whatever he is calling me to. If he is calling me to the diocesan priesthood or to religious life, whatever it may be, I want whatever Jesus wants. And the important part is, "I want it because he wants it." A vocation comes from outside of ourselves. To seek to desire what Jesus wants because he wants it is the necessary first step. This is a surrender which is achieved in prayer, particularly in eucharistic adoration and in the company of Our Lady in the holy Rosary.



### **What about the many challenges priestly life will entail?**

Priesthood is a challenging life. There are many moments of difficulty, but God promises us greatness where others can offer only comfort. The priestly life is one filled with deeper joys than merely worldly pleasures. It is a life where one can confidently lead souls into a deeper union with the eternal God. It is a life where one daily stands in the place of Jesus Christ and changes ordinary bread and wine into his body and blood for the life of the world. There are challenges in any walk of life and the priesthood is no exception. However, the rewards of priestly life are not trophies or accolades or comforts in the world. Rather, priesthood finds its ultimate reward and purpose in the reality of heaven.

**"FOLLOW ME, AND I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS OF MEN."**

— MATT 4:19

"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." The call of the Lord is mysterious and awe-inspiring. We hear that the first disciples left everything to follow the Lord Jesus.

I firmly believe that today the call of God is just as present and that there are many more young and zealous men being called by the Lord. If you feel God is calling you, be courageous in responding, knowing that God is never outdone in generosity and that the priestly life is truly a life worth living. **31**



**Father John Gancarz has been appointed temporary parochial vicar of St. Jeanne Jugan Parish in Enfield, effective July 5, 2019.**

# Meet the Newest Priests of the Archdiocese of Hartford

Photos by **AARON JOSEPH**

**J**ohn Gancarz and Anthony Federico were ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Leonard P. Blair on June 22 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford. Says Gancarz, who grew up in Suffield: "I started reading the Gospels more and realized Jesus is a man I wanted to model my life on." Federico, who attended Catholic schools, says: "I feel so privileged the Lord has invited me to participate in his priesthood, knowing all of my past, my weaknesses, my failings and also my gifts."



**Father Anthony Federico has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Bridget of Sweden Parish in Cheshire, effective July 5, 2019.**





# A PILGRIMAGE TO ST. KATERI SHRINE

Story and photos by  
**KAREN A. AVITABILE**

**A** visit to the 178-acre St. Kateri Tekakwitha National Shrine and Historic Site in Fonda, N.Y., is an opportunity to be in the presence of Kateri Tekakwitha. She was a Native American woman who endured extreme loss, suffering and ridicule before deepening her love of Jesus and living a more Christian-focused life.

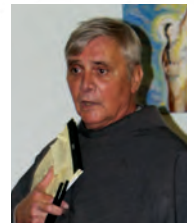
St. Kateri Tekakwitha, who is referred to as the patroness saint of Native Americans and the Lily of the Mohawks, lived in Caughnawaga, an Indian village in Fonda, from 1666 to 1677. She died in 1680 at the young age of 24. Her remains are entombed in St. Francis Xavier Church on the Kahnawake Reservation in Quebec.

Because of the miracles and healing abilities attributed to St. Kateri, she was canonized on Oct. 21, 2012. She was the first Native American woman to be named a saint. Her feast day is celebrated on July 14.

Each year, roughly 2,000 pilgrims visit the shrine for a guided or self-guided tour. The conventual Franciscan Friars established the shrine in 1938 at the request of Rev. Edmund F. Gibbons, then the bishop of Albany, and continue its administration today. It wasn't until 1950 that Father Thomas Grassman began unearthing the Indian settlement a few

## VISITING AN OLD FRIEND

A bus trip to St. Kateri Tekakwitha National Shrine and Historic Site on May 13, organized by St. Paul Parish in Kensington, was also an opportunity for parishioners to visit with their old friend, Father Timothy Lyons. Last August, Lyons, a Franciscan friar, left St. Paul to become the chaplain of the shrine in Fonda, N.Y.



Father Timothy Lyons.

“I feel challenged here,” says Lyons, who had never visited the St. Kateri shrine before becoming its chaplain. “Ever since I’ve been here I’ve been doing a lot of research on St. Kateri, the Mohawks and their traditions.”

Most people visit the shrine for a day of silence, peace and healing, Lyons says. “I am able to pray more and I feel my prayer more relaxed,” he adds. “It’s not as hectic as it was for me in a parish.”





**THE SHRINE IS LOCATED AT  
3636 STATE HIGHWAY 5 IN  
FONDA, N.Y.**

## HOURS OF OPERATION

### Summer season

The summer season runs May 1 to Oct. 31. The candle chapel, St. Peter's Chapel, the museum, the outdoor sanctuary and hiking trails are open year-round, dawn to dusk. Vigil Mass is celebrated at 4:30 p.m. on Saturdays. Sunday Mass is celebrated at 10:30 a.m. The gift shop is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Fridays through Mondays. Office hours: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Mondays through Fridays.

### Winter season

The winter season runs Nov. 1 to April 30. The candle chapel, outdoor sanctuary and hiking trails are open year-round, dawn to dusk. St. Peter's Chapel, the museum and public bathrooms are closed. No Masses are celebrated. Access to the gift shop is by appointment only. Office hours: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Mondays through Fridays.



St. Maximilian Pavilion.



St. Peter's Chapel.


miles away. This settlement is believed to be the only completely excavated Iroquois Indian village in the country.

Some people come to the shrine just to walk or hike the beautiful, serene grounds. Others stop for prayer and reflection at the statues or the Stations of the Cross located outside. Or, enjoy a picnic lunch while listening to songs by finches, woodpeckers and warblers. A small candle chapel is open at the entrance of the shrine. A memorial bell tower on the property was erected in 1982, with three bells cast in 1918. These bells pealed until 1972 in the original Blessed Sacrament church in Mohawk, N.Y.

Masses on weekends are celebrated in an outdoor shelter, called St. Maximilian Pavilion, at the shrine. During inclement weather or when some guided tours are given, Mass can also be held on the property in St. Peter's Chapel, where St. Kateri was baptized on April 5, 1676. St. Peter's Chapel and an impressive museum are both located in a 236-year-old barn that was renovated in 1938 under Father Grassman's direction. In the museum, a display of Native American artifacts from multiple tribes, including ones from the Iroquois, are displayed. A highlight of the museum is the large miniature replica of a Mohawk village.

To remember your pilgrimage to the St. Kateri Shrine, visit the gift shop on the property which carries a wide variety of St. Kateri keepsakes, other devotional items and fine art and craft work.

## MOHAWK INDIAN VILLAGE

After leaving the shrine, drive four-tenths of a mile up the road across from Hickory Hill Road to see where the only archaeological-excavated Mohawk Village once stood. Also, St. Kateri's spring, where the water for her baptism was drawn, is still located on the property today. Many people have said they have been cured by the water in the spring. 



Candle chapel.



St. Kateri overlooks the grounds.

**+ FOR MORE INFORMATION** about St. Kateri and her shrine, visit [www.katerishrine.com](http://www.katerishrine.com).

# St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Native American and Convert

FEAST DAY: JULY 14

**S**t. Kateri Tekakwitha, who was given the name Tekakwitha, was born in 1656 to a Christian Algonquin mother and Mohawk father. At an early age, she embraced a life of gentle service to others. Born in the Mohawk village of Ossernenon, she and her family contracted smallpox in an epidemic when she was a child; she was scarred from the disease and lost her family to it.

Although her uncle took her in, he treated Tekakwitha as a slave. She found solace, however, in listening to the blackrobes, or Jesuit missionaries, who visited her village and would meditate often on their teachings.

At the age of 19, Tekakwitha was baptized by the Jesuits (taking the name Catherine at her baptism), and then refused marriage in order to dedicate her life to God. After death threats from the villagers because of her Catholic faith, a priest recommended she flee from her village in upstate New York to a town near Montreal. After a 200-mile journey, she received her first Communion in 1677 and served her new village by teaching prayers to children, attending daily Mass and watching over the elderly and sick.

Many healings are attributed to Kateri's intercession. She died in 1680, just before her 24th birthday. Under Pope St. John Paul II, she was beatified in 1980 and she was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI at St. Peter's Basilica in 2012.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Kateri is the Mohawk form of Catherine, which she took from St. Catherine of Siena.
- She is the first Native American woman to be canonized.
- She is the patron saint of people in exile.



## St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish to Install Statues of Patron Saint

By **SHELLEY WOLF**

In July, St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish will celebrate the saint's feast day with three new statues. "In our continuing effort to unify our three worship sites into one community of faith," says Monsignor Vittorio Guerrera, pastor of the parish, "we recently purchased three statues of St. Kateri, crafted in Italy and plan to place one in each church in anticipation for her feast day on July 14."

Formed in June 2017 through a merger, St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish is comprised of three worship sites: Sacred Heart in Kent (where the parish office is located), St. Bernard in Sharon and St. Bridget in Cornwall Bridge. About 300 registered families make up the parish.

The size of the parish has its benefits. "Given that we are that we are a small parish community, it is easier to get to know everyone and people look out for one another," Monsignor Guerrera says.

It is only fitting that St. Kateri is the patron saint of the parish, the monsignor adds, because she is definitely a saint for our times. "She was a young woman of deep, quiet faith who maintained her serenity in the midst of opposition from her family and other members of her tribe, who mocked her for her conversion to Christianity," he says. "She is a good role model for young people today who are trying to live their faith in the midst of the challenging times in which we live.

St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish plans to honor the saint at its annual picnic on Sept. 8 at 11 a.m. in Macedonia State Park in Kent. This year, the parish is also organizing a pilgrimage to the National Shrine of St. Kateri Tekakwitha in Fonda, N.Y., so parishioners can learn more about their patron saint. **CT**

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CCUSA PHOTO BY LAURA SIKES

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



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

**Kathleen D. Nowosadko, Victim Assistance Coordinator**  
**860-541-6475 • [kathleen.nowosadko@aohct.org](mailto:kathleen.nowosadko@aohct.org)**

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

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

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



Every  
Monday

July 10

July 12  
to 13

# MARK YOUR

## 100TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBIT, JULY AND AUGUST, AVON

St. Ann Parish in Avon is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year with a parish history exhibit during the months of July and August in the History Corner of the Avon Free Public Library, 289 Arch Road, Avon. The display is a dual exhibit with Avon Congregational Church, which is celebrating its 200th anniversary. Library hours: **Mondays through Thursdays**, 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., and **Saturdays**, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Closed Sundays in the summer as well as July 4, 6 and Aug. 31.** For library information, call 860.673.9712.

## YOUNG ADULTS GROUP, JULY AND AUGUST, WATERTOWN

During July and August, meet other Catholic young adults, ages 18 to early 30s, at the Greater Waterbury Chapter of Crossroads 4 Christ Catholic Young Adult Group on **Mondays**, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., at St. John the Evangelist Formation Center, 9 Academy Hill, Watertown. For more information, email John Lynch at jlyn8460@gmail.com or just stop by any Monday.

## HOLY HOUR OF REPARATION, HAMDEN

The Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus are inviting the public to pray at a Holy Hour of Reparation for all the ways we break Christ's heart on **July 5 and Aug. 2**, 7 p.m., at the Mount Sacred Heart Chapel, 295 Benham St., Hamden.

## PRAYER CIRCLE, MADISON

The Sisters of Mercy will lead a weekly Centering Prayer Circle on **July 10**, 6 to 7 p.m., in the Lyons Chapel at the Mercy by the Sea Retreat and Conference Center, 167 Neck Road, Madison. No prior experience is necessary; a 15-minute how-to session is available for newcomers. To arrange an introduction, contact Anne Simpkinson at 203.245.0401 ex 128 or at asimpkinson@mercybythesea.org.

## ANNUAL BAZAAR, NEW BRITAIN

The Holy Cross Church Annual Bazaar is set for **July 12 to 13**, on Friday from 6 to 11 p.m., and Saturday, from 5 to 11 p.m., in the school parking lot at 221 Farmington Ave., New Britain. There will be entertainment nightly, food for purchase and a BMW raffle. Admission is free. For more information, contact the parish office at 860.229.2011.

## MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER RETREAT, MANCHESTER

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter retreat is scheduled for the weekend of **July 12 to 14** in Manchester. The weekend will focus on improving communications skills, understanding God's plan for your marriage and making the relationship a priority, all in the context of the Catholic Church's teaching of marriage as a covenant relationship. To register, visit <https://wwmectw.org> or call 909.332.7309.

## VICTORY CARNIVAL, WEST HAVEN

The 62nd annual Our Lady of Victory Carnival will be held **July 16 to 20**, 6 to 10 p.m., at Our Lady of Victory Church, 600 Jones Hill Road, West Haven. Enjoy rides, games, prize drawings, and food ranging from fried dough to ice cream. For information, call 203.934.6357.

## ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA HISTORY VIDEO, BRISTOL

The Bristol Historical Society will show a parish history video on St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish in Bristol on **July 18**, 7 p.m. The video, created by Nutmeg Television, highlights the parish's 100th anniversary. The historical society, located at 98 Summer St., Bristol, charges \$5 for non-members. For more information, call 860.583.6309.



NATALIYA PYZHOVA/SIGNATURECOLLECTION/GETTYIMAGES



Aug. 16 to 18



Aug. 22 to 25



Aug. 24 to 25

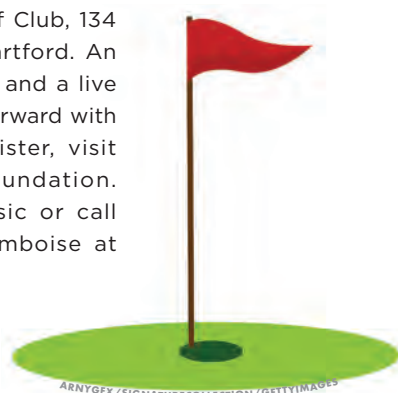
# CALENDAR

## CANOEOING WITH THE ROSARY

The archdiocesan Annual Catholic Committee on Scouting Retreat will offer Canoeing with the Rosary from **Aug. 16 to 18**. Canoeing is open to all Boy Scouts and leaders who will paddle down river stopping along the way to learn about the Rosary. Cub Scouts are invited to join on land for the retreat. The fee is \$30 per person, which includes meals. Canoe rental is available. For more information and updates, visit [www.catholicedaohct.org](http://www.catholicedaohct.org).

## CONNECTICUT GOLF CLASSIC, WEST HARTFORD

The Hartford Bishops' Foundation will host its second annual Connecticut Golf Classic, chaired by board member John Chapman, on **Aug. 19**, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., at the Hartford Golf Club, 134 Norwood Road, West Hartford. An afternoon of golf, dinner and a live auction will benefit the Forward with Faith campaign. To register, visit [www.hartfordbishopsfoundation.org/connecticutgolfclassic](http://www.hartfordbishopsfoundation.org/connecticutgolfclassic) or call Lisa Owens/John LaFramboise at 860.913.2627.



## UNIQUE BOUTIQUE, MANCHESTER

The Parish of St. Teresa of Calcutta, St. Bridget Church and St. Bartholomew Church in Manchester is sponsoring a unique boutique and tag sale **Aug. 22 to 25**. Hours: Thursday, 5 to 8 p.m., with wine, cheese and shopping with a \$10 admission; Friday, 4 to 8 p.m., with \$1 admission; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., with free admission; and Sunday, 8 to 11 a.m., with free admission.

## POLISH HARVEST FESTIVAL, NEW BRITAIN

The 39th annual Dozynki (Polish Harvest Festival) will be held on **Aug. 24 to 25** at Falcon Field, 721 Farmington Ave., New Britain. The event runs Saturday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and begins with Mass at 11 a.m. followed by opening ceremonies and a celebration of Polish food, music and dancing. The festival continues Sunday, noon to 10 p.m.

## SISTERS OF THE CONGREGATION RECEPTION, WATERBURY

This upcoming **Sept. 8** culminates the year of celebration of the arrival of five Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame from Montreal to Waterbury 150 years ago. In the tradition of their foundress, St. Marguerite Bourgeoys, the sisters established Notre Dame Academy and Waterbury Catholic High for girls and continued to minister in the Children's Community School, Puerto Rican Youth Organization and Holy Cross High School. On Sept. 8, Archbishop Leonard Blair will celebrate the noon Mass at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. A reception/dinner will follow at 1:30 p.m., at La Bella Vista, 380 Farmwood Road, Waterbury. Tours of the former buildings are planned for Sept. 7, 1 to 4 p.m.



## MOST HOLY TRINITY 150TH DINNER, NEW HAVEN

Most Holy Trinity Parish in Wallingford will celebrate its 150th anniversary dinner on **Sept. 14**, 6 to 10 p.m., at Anthony's Ocean View, 450 Lighthouse Road, New Haven, with dinner, a disc jockey and a photo booth. The cost is \$90 per person before July 1, \$95 per person after. For reservations, call 203.269.8791 or visit [www.mhtwallingford.org](http://www.mhtwallingford.org).



**MALDONADO-AVILES ORDAINED TO TRANSITIONAL DIACONATE**

Jaime Maldonado-Aviles was ordained to the transitional diaconate on May 18 by Auxiliary Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt in St. John XXIII Parish (St. Louis Church) in West Haven. He will be entering his fourth year of theology at Theological College in Washington, D.C., this fall.



**PAPAL HONORS AWARDED**

Congratulations to the 14 members of the archdiocese who were recipients of papal honors from Pope Francis on the occasion of the 175th anniversary year of the archdiocese. The Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Cross was bestowed on 10 individuals. Four others have been named to the Order of St. Gregory the Great, a papal knighthood with the title of knight conferred on three men, and the title of dame conferred on one woman.

# AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE



**BLESSED CLELIA MERLONI MASS**

Sister Eleanor Peretto of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus holds up a relic of Blessed Clelia Merloni on April 7 after a special liturgy at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford commemorating Mother Merloni's beatification.



**RELIC OF THE CURE D'ARS VISITS TRUMBULL**

Archbishop Emeritus Daniel A. Cronin visited St. Catherine of Siena parish in Trumbull to celebrate Mass in the presence of the heart of St. Jean-Marie Vianney, the Curé d'Arns, patron saint of all parish priests. This visit, part of the Heart of a Priest relic pilgrimage organized by the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus, drew hundreds of people from around Connecticut, and also from New York and Massachusetts, to pray in the presence of the heart, which is still intact although St. Jean-Marie died 160 years ago.



**ST. BRIGID CHURCH ANNIVERSARY**

Members of the 100th Anniversary Committee of St. Brigid Church, part of St. Gianna Molla Parish in West Hartford, hold a 1940s photo of the original Ladies Guild, as they stand in front of a history display in the church vestibule. They will celebrate the history of their community with an anniversary Mass on Aug. 18, 11 a.m., at the church, followed by an old-fashioned picnic and outdoor activities.



**SISTERS OF THE POOR ANNIVERSARY MASS**

Archbishop Leonard P. Blair greets members of the Little Sisters of the Poor, who celebrated the 150th anniversary of their arrival in this country at an anniversary Mass on May 4 at St. Thomas More Chapel in New Haven. After the Mass, a reception was held at the Knights of Columbus Museum.



**Monsignor John P. Conte**, 82, of West Haven, died on May 21, 2019, with his family by his side. A son of the late Frank and Erminia Grande Conte, he was born in New Haven Aug.

5, 1936. He graduated from Notre Dame, West Haven, in 1955, and also held degrees from Iona College and Notre Dame University.

Monsignor was ordained on May 7, 1964, and was a priest in the Archdiocese of Hartford for 55 years. His assignments included St. Thomas the Apostle (West Hartford), Sacred Heart (Bloomfield), Our Lady of Fatima (Yalesville), St. Rose (East Hartford), St. Donato (New Haven), St. Frances Cabrini (North Haven), Holy Trinity (Hartford) and most recently St. Margaret (Madison). He served as the chaplain for St. Mary's Hospital in Waterbury and the Hospital of St. Raphael in New Haven. His additional roles included dean of the Manchester Deanery, Priest Advisory Board, minister for priests, Serra Club, episcopal vicar of the New Haven Vicariate, member of the College of Consultants and 4th Degree member of the Knights of Columbus Assembly 2459 in New Haven.



**Rev. Robert J. St. Martin**, 88, died May 16, 2019, at his summer home in Amston. Born on Sept. 21, 1930, in Hartford, he was the son of the late Paul and Alida (Dumas) St. Martin. Father St. Martin

grew up in Hartford and as a youth was a parishioner at St. Anne's Church. He attended St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield and then went on to St. Bernard's Seminary in Rochester, N.Y.

After his ordination in 1956, his first assignment for the Archdiocese of Hartford was assistant pastor at St. Ann Church in Bristol. During this time, he also taught part-time at St. Anthony High School in Bristol. In 1961, he received permission to join the U.S. Air Force and served as a chaplain in Greenland and England during the Vietnam War. He retired as a lieutenant colonel and returned to the ministry in 1965.

Throughout his ministry, he served at St. Ann Church and St. Peter & Paul Church in Waterbury, St. Patrick Church in Enfield, Sacred Heart Church in Bloomfield, St. Aloysius Church in Plantsville, St. Augustine Church in Hartford, St. Mary Star of the Sea in Unionville, St. Philip Church in South Windsor, St.

Frances Cabrini Church in North Haven and Mary Our Queen Church in Plantsville. Father St. Martin retired from active ministry in 2005 after 60 years in the priesthood. During his retirement, he resided at Mary Star of the Sea in Unionville and, later, St. Paul's Church in Glastonbury.



**Sister Agnes Ciulla**, 93, a member of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Ragusa, died on April 6, 2019, at the Hospital of St. Raphael. Born on March 4, 1926, in Palermo, Italy, to Giuseppe Ciulla and Margherita Moavero, Anna, as she was christened, had two brothers, Nicolò and Vincenzo, and two sisters, Antonina and Margherita, all of whom but the last predeceased her.

Answering a call to the religious life, Sister Agnes entered the Congregation of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on April 30, 1953, and became a full member on July 11, 1962. She received a diploma in Italy and later studied at Rosary College and Madaille College in Buffalo, N.Y., where she obtained her bachelor's degree in early childhood education. She was one of the three sisters who came to North Haven in 1982 to establish the St. Frances Cabrini Daycare and Preschool Learning Center, now known as Sacred Heart of Jesus Daycare — Preschool — Kindergarten.

From 1958 to 1970, Sister Agnes and two other sisters worked with the Catholic Charity at 12th Street in Niagara Falls, N.Y., ministering to needy children. From 1970 to 1982, she taught and prepared second-graders for their first holy Communion at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Silver Creek, N.Y.



**Sister Anita V. Isidoro (Sister Marie Lydie)**, age 81, died on April 22, 2019, in St. Mary's Home, West Hartford. She was born in Canalate Malolos Bulacan, Philippines, on July 9, 1937, the daughter

of the late Agustin and Carmen Velasco Isidoro.

Sister Anita entered the Congregation of Jesus Crucified (Benedictines) on March 29, 1959, in France. She became a novice on Oct. 7, 1959, and made her perpetual profession on May 30, 1966, at Regina Mundi Priory in Devon, Pa. She received a master of arts degree in formative spirituality from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pa., in 1986. Sister Anita lived in monasteries in France and in American houses.

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

**Monsignor Joseph T. Donnelly**, appointed episcopal vicar for the Western Vicariate, effective May 1, 2019, in addition to duties as pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Southbury.

**Rev. Glenn Ray Breed, MSA**, priestly faculties for the calendar year 2019.

**Rev. Anthony Giampietro, CSB**, priestly faculties for the calendar year 2019.

**Rev. Fernando Salvador Nuño, LC**, temporary priestly faculties from July 1, 2019, until, Aug. 2, 2019.

**Rev. Javier Flores Hernández, LC**, priestly faculties for the calendar year 2019.

**Rev. Leo C. Holleran, MS**, priestly faculties for the calendar year 2019.

**Rev. Thomas J. Reilly, MS**, priestly faculties for the calendar year 2019.

**Rev. Nathan Torrey, LC**, priestly faculties for the calendar year 2019.

**Rev. Patrick Tukwasibwe**, temporary priestly faculties from May 2, 2019, until June 30, 2019.

**Deacon James F. Papillo**, from Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Waterbury, to leave of absence, effective April 24, 2019.

**— REV. RYAN M. LERNER, CHANCELLOR, MAY 17, 2019**

*(Clergy who are not incardinated in the Archdiocese of Hartford must request permission from the archbishop to minister here; that is, they request faculties. Because deacons and priests have received the sacrament of holy orders and therefore never retire in the canonical sense, the term "senior" priest or deacon describes their status.)*



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**JULY/AUGUST 2019**

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