

Catholic TRANSCRIPT

DECEMBER 2019

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A TRUE SYMBOL OF CHRISTMAS

*Crèche collections from
around the world*

- KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
CHRISTMAS IN EUROPE
- CATHOLIC CHARITIES
MARKS 100 YEARS
- FIFTEEN MINUTES OF
PEACE AND QUIET



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ON THE COVER:

Father Robert Tucker, pastor of St. Louis de Montfort Parish in Litchfield, holds a crèche from Vienna, Austria.
PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

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CHRIST is the Reason for the Season



KAREN AVITABILE
is editor of the
Catholic Transcript.

Christmas is such a beautiful time of the year to participate in time-honored traditions, such as baking Christmas cookies, putting up the tree, decorating with lights outside the house and listening to Christmas carols. It is the time of the year to host parties, visit with family

and friends, cook special meals and, of course, shop for the perfect gifts.

As we get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season, though, it is easy to forget the true meaning of Christmas and the reason why we should all be celebrating.

With Advent, a time to prepare the way of the Lord for his coming as our King and Savior, let us embrace Archbishop Leonard P. Blair's suggestion (see page 6) of setting aside 15 minutes each day for complete peace and quiet. Let us use this time to truly grow spiritually with Christ our King this Christmas season — and hopefully long afterward.

Putting out the crèche will take on a new meaning this year after reading about the crèche collections of three of our archdiocesan priests, Father Nicholas Melo, Father Robert Tucker and Father Christopher Tiano. (See page



PHOTO BY KAREN A. AVITABILE

Photo of goodies made by the editor for entertaining at Christmas.

8.) These crèches are exquisite and quite symbolic because they connect us to the Christ Child, who was born in poverty and simplicity. If you have the opportunity to see these collections during their open houses, I highly recommend it.

To further enhance your Christmas season, take a road trip to the "Christmas in Europe" exhibit (see page 12) at the Knights of Columbus Museum in New Haven. You will be able to learn about unique customs and festivities followed

in Europe to celebrate the babe in Bethlehem. Also, be sure to also check out the museum's 19th annual Festival of Trees. Several Catholic schoolchildren have decorated these Christmas trees.

If you are inspired to do so, consider sharing your family Advent and Christmas customs with us so we may feature them next year. You can email responses to newsct@aohct.org or mail them to us directly.

Until Christmas morn, remember to slow down and rediscover the glory of the season. We wish you a blessed and safe Merry Christmas! 🎄

Heavy winds on Nov. 1 caused a 35-foot aluminum steeple at Holy Infant Church in Orange to lean at a 45-degree angle. The steeple will be reinstalled after a scheduled roofing replacement project is completed.

PHOTO BY JOE PISANI



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PHOTO BY SHANE KOLBERTSMA

Celebrate the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe with this Delicious Mexican Chocolate Cake



PHOTO BY TOM GENINARA

Is Dec. 25 Really Jesus' Birthday?



PHOTO BY PHILIP SHIPPERT

Make This Advent Centerpiece



Columnist Joe Pisani Explores the Dark Side of the Holiday Season



Video Extra:
Hear What Speakers at the Synod Weekend Had to Say



See More Crèche Collections from Fathers Melo, Tucker and Tiano

During Christmas Eve Mass last year, Archbishop Leonard P. Blair blessed the crèche with incense in the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford.



Fifteen Minutes of Peace and Quiet



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

PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

Soon, the season of goodwill and peace on earth will be upon us, and it will be celebrated at many levels, some profoundly religious, and some not religious at all.

I'd like to propose something simple. Each of us sets aside 15 minutes of complete peace and quiet before Dec. 25 to reflect on the meaning of Christmas.

I have to warn you that there's a catch to my proposal. People are often asked what something "means to them." That's fine for what it's worth. My question does not exclude a personal answer, but what I propose is something different, namely, what is Christmas — not just for me, not just here and now — but for the world and for every person through all of history.

The "goodwill and peace on earth" of Christmas is often taken to mean a world without hatred, war or injustice. I would be a grinch to belittle this, and a heretic to dismiss it, but there is still something missing. Many movements and ideologies throughout history have

promised (and have failed to deliver) a happy world.

What is Christmas? Christmas is not just about earth; it's also about heaven. Christmas is not just about man; it's also about God. Indeed, with the birth of Christ, the Church proclaims that "heaven is wedded to earth," and that righteousness has looked down from heaven.

There's a lot more to Christmas than feelings of good cheer and human wishful thinking about a better world. Hopefully, a 15-minute meditation will take us much deeper. Please consider as food for thought the following from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

WHY DID THE WORD BECOME FLESH?

457 *The Word became flesh for us in order to save us by reconciling us with God, who "loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins."*

458 *The Word became flesh so that thus we might know God's love: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."*

459 *The Word became flesh to be our model of holiness: "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me." Jesus is the model for the beatitudes and the norm of the new law: "Love one another as I have loved you." This love implies an effective offering of oneself, after his example.*

460 *The Word became flesh to make us "partakers of the divine nature": "(S)o that man, by entering into communion with the Word and thus receiving divine sonship, might become a son of God."*

In order for these four truths about Christmas to come alive, we have not only to know and believe them, but also to live them, to live by them. This is exactly what saints do. And that should be the real hope of our 15-minute meditation, hopefully the first of many meditations: that we will allow ourselves to be transformed by all that God intends for us and the world as a result of Christ's birth.

How much the world today needs our witness to the reality of Christmas! May God bless us, our archdiocese, our communities and all peoples with the truth and love born at Bethlehem on the first Christmas night. And may he grant you and your loved ones a holy Christmas and Happy New Year. **CT**

Quince Minutos De Paz Y Tranquilidad

EL ARZOBISPO LEONARD P. BLAIR

es el decimotercer obispo de la Arquidiócesis de Hartford.

Pronto, el tiempo de buena voluntad y paz en la tierra estará sobre nosotros, y se celebrará en muchos niveles, algunos profundamente religiosos y otros no religiosos.

Me gustaría proponer algo simple... Que cada uno de nosotros reserve 15 minutos de completa paz y tranquilidad antes del 25 de diciembre para reflexionar sobre el significado de la Navidad.

Tengo que advertirles que hay una trampa en mi propuesta. A menudo se pregunta a la gente qué significa "algo para ellos". Esto tiene su propio mérito. Mi pregunta no excluye una respuesta personal, pero lo que pregunto es algo diferente, me refiero a qué es la Navidad, no solo para mí, no solo aquí y ahora, sino para el mundo y para cada persona a lo largo de la historia.

La "buena voluntad y paz en la tierra" de la Navidad a menudo se entiende como un mundo sin odio, guerra o injusticia. Sería un grinch si menospreciara esto, y un hereje para descartarlo, pero todavía falta algo. Muchos movimientos e ideologías a lo largo de la historia han prometido (y no han logrado entregar) un mundo feliz.

¿Qué es la Navidad? La Navidad no se trata solo de la tierra, también se trata del Cielo. La Navidad no se trata solo del hombre, también se trata de Dios. De hecho, con el nacimiento de Cristo, la Iglesia proclama que "el Cielo está casado con la tierra", y que la justicia ha mirado hacia abajo desde el Cielo.

La Navidad es mucho más que sentimientos de buen ánimo y deseos humanos sobre un mundo mejor. Con suerte, una meditación de 15 minutos nos llevará a algo mucho más profundo. Asumamos como alimento para el pensamiento lo siguiente del *Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica*:

¿POR QUÉ EL VERBO SE HIZO CARNE?

457 *El Verbo se encarnó para salvarnos reconciliándonos con Dios: "Dios nos amó y nos envió a su Hijo como propiciación por nuestros pecados".*

458 *El Verbo se encarnó para que nosotros conociésemos así el amor de Dios: "Porque tanto amó Dios al mundo que dio a su Hijo único, para que todo el que crea en él no perezca, sino que tenga vida eterna".*

459 *El Verbo se encarnó para ser nuestro modelo de santidad: "Tomad sobre vosotros mi yugo, y aprended de mí..." Él es, en efecto, el modelo de las bienaventuranzas y la norma de la Ley nueva: "Amaos los unos a los otros como yo os he amado". Este amor tiene como consecuencia la ofrenda efectiva de sí mismo.*

460 *El Verbo se encarnó para hacernos "participes de la naturaleza divina": (P)ara que toda persona al entrar en comunión con el Verbo y al recibir así la filiación divina, se convirtiera en hijo de Dios".*

Para que estas cuatro verdades sobre la Navidad cobren vida, no solo tenemos que conocerlas y creerlas, sino también vivirlas, vivir por ellas. Esto es exactamente lo que hacen los santos. Y esa debería ser la verdadera esperanza de nuestra meditación de 15 minutos, con suerte la primera de muchas meditaciones: que nos permitirá ser transformados en todo lo que Dios desea para nosotros y el mundo como resultado del nacimiento de Cristo.

¡Cuánto necesita el mundo de hoy nuestro testimonio de la realidad de la Navidad! Que Dios nos bendiga, bendiga nuestra arquidiócesis, nuestras comunidades y todos los pueblos con la verdad y el amor nacidos en Belén la primera noche de Navidad. Y que él les conceda a ustedes y a sus seres queridos una santa Navidad y un feliz año nuevo. **CT**



Archbishop Leonard P. Blair greets and blesses children during the Christmas Eve Mass last year at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford.

A TRUE SYMBOL OF CHRISTMAS

Three priests find joy in crèche collections from around the world.

Story by **JOSEPH PISANI** | Photos by **AARON JOSEPH**

Father Christopher Tiano has collected 150 crèches from such faraway places as Africa, Latin America, the Holy Land and the German village of Oberammergau, renowned worldwide for its woodcarvers.

Yet, the pastor of Our Lady Queen of the Apostles Parish in Derby says his most treasured Nativity is one that occupies a place of honor on the mantel at the rectory of St. Mary Church in Derby — a Hummel set his mother gave him, one piece at a time, on his birthday, Christmas and his ordination anniversary.

Father Nicholas Melo, pastor of Christ the King Parish in Wethersfield, still has the first crèche he received from his parents — a small snow globe with plastic figures that has since dried up. He displays it along with 380 other Nativities he has collected for more than 36 years from countries around the world, including Uganda, where he visited a medical clinic his parish supported financially.

When they were newly ordained, both priests were assigned to St. Ann Church in New Britain and served with Father Robert Tucker, who has been collecting crèches since his ordination on May 23, 1970. His love of this Christmas devotion may have been contagious because all three men have magnificent collections acquired over the years and across continents. Some are simple creations, others extravagant, but they have one common characteristic: They give glory to God as a babe in the manger.

CRECHE INSPIRES 'NEW LIFE AND NEW HOPE'

"They're not just holiday decorations," says Father Tucker, now pastor of St. Louis de Montfort Parish, which includes St. Anthony of Padua Church in Litchfield, St. Thomas of Villanova




in Goshen and Our Lady of Grace in Bantam. "They provide a profound sense of religious inspiration. The nicest thing about a crèche is that it gives you hope in life and Christ every day, so that you don't just have to think about the cross ... but that God became man to share the joy of a new life. You look at the crèche and you find hope."

Shortly after Father Tucker was ordained, he went to Spain and received his first crèche in Madrid. He immediately became fascinated with their history.

In recent years, he has given many away, but still has 100 on display throughout the rectory — pieces from Poland, Amsterdam, Bethlehem and Ars, France, home of St. John Vianney, where Father Tucker once said Mass. Two are made from lava from Mount St. Helens and Mount Etna in Sicily, while another is crafted from Irish peat. He has a stacking crèche from Russia and clay sets from Latin America, including





“IT IS ALWAYS A REMINDER THAT WE WERE MADE IN THE IMAGE AND LIKENESS OF GOD.”

— Father Nicholas Melo

A crèche from Thailand, made from metal.

one with the Holy Family in a boat.

A crèche from Alaska depicts the Holy Family as eskimos in an igloo. A Lladró® porcelain Nativity is displayed in his dining room, and one from the Philippines is on the stairway. Among his favorites is a Nativity triptych from Ghent, Belgium.

“I have about 40 in my family room from trips I’ve taken,” Father Tucker says. “And when I look at them, fantastic memories come back.”

They are memories of his time in Bethlehem, where he acquired crèches made of olive wood carved by Palestinian Christians. When he was vocation director for the Archdiocese of Hartford, he traveled to a conference in New Orleans, where he found a crèche of a black Holy Family.


“Everybody looks forward to Christmas, and even though your heart may be broken because of divorce or a loss, it always brings us hope,” he says. “At that time of year, something special happens when you put out the Nativity set. People see it, and it inspires them to new life and new hope.”

KEEP THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS ALIVE

After 36 years of collecting more than 380 crèches, Father Melo is still fascinated to see the many ways people depict the Christ Child, Mary and Joseph.

“It is always a reminder that we were made in the image and likeness of God,” says Father Melo, pastor of Christ the King Parish, which is made up of Corpus Christi and Sacred Heart.

After he was ordained, he was assigned to St. Ann, where Father Tucker was in residence.



“(THE NATIVITY) CONNECTS YOU TO THE VERY EARTHINESS OF JESUS’ BIRTH.”

— Father Christopher Tiano

“He had a number of Nativities around the rectory, and it was pretty cool, and it became a hobby for me as well,” Father Melo recalls. “When people asked what I wanted for Christmas, I said a gift certificate to Ten Thousand Villages.” Ten Thousand Villages is a non-profit, fair trade organization that sells handcrafted items by artisans from around the world.

About 250 sets from Father Melo’s collection, which represents 76 countries, are on display. During the Christmas season, parishioners are invited to tour the rectory.

He acquired many crèches during his travels, including his trips to Uganda with a parishioner from his previous parish, St. Thomas Church in Southington.

His collection includes Russian nestling dolls, a carved birch crèche from Poland, a tapestry from Istanbul, handcrafted onyx figures from Argentina, Latin American clay sets and a Czech crèche made from reeds.

Last year, Father Melo went to Colombia to celebrate a wedding Mass for the sister of Father Hector Rangel, parochial vicar of Todos los Santos in Waterbury, and the family gave him several crèches as a gift.

This, Father Melo says, is the message of Pope Fran-

cis, who is trying “to make us aware of the voiceless people in our world who had no voice for so long.”

He believes the Nativity, which shows baby Jesus in poverty and simplicity, can help keep the spirit of Christmas alive all year long.

CHRIST REVEALED IN A HUMAN WAY

Father Tiano, pastor of Our Lady Queen of the Apostles Parish, which includes Church of St. Mary the Immaculate Conception and St. Jude Church in Derby, believes the spiritual secret of the crèche is that it can show people Christ in a human way.

“It connects you to the very earthiness of Jesus’ birth,” he said. “Sometimes, we get a notion of our Savior that is completely alien. Pope Benedict, in his second Christmas homily, said when you look into the crèche and you see a baby looking back at you with his arms

outstretched, all you can do is love him.”

There is another spiritual truth, which his mother, Betty, and Pope Benedict both understood, he says. That is finding God in beauty, whether it’s the beauty of the natural world, the beauty of a magnificent cathedral or the simple beauty of the Nativity.

When Father Tiano’s mother died, he preached on beauty because it was an important part of her life.

“My mother loved beautiful things,” he says, “and when she had people over for dinner, the table was always set beautifully.”

It was this same spirit that prompted her to give him his Hummel set. When she learned the North Haven gift store where she bought the figures was closing, she was provident enough to “stock up.”

“For me, my mother’s Hummel set has a value beyond its value,” Father Tiano says. He also believes that if you have something beautiful, you should share it with others, which is why he has given away many of his 150 Nativity sets to friends, family members and staffers. Why, too, he has an annual open house to display them on the feast of the Immaculate Conception or the Holy Family.

Many of his crèches are from Latin America, Africa, the Holy Land and Europe. Several have special sentimental value, including a Fontanini set he received from his staff when he was



Father Tiano surveys a small part of his crèche collection displayed near the entrance to the rectory at the Church of St. Mary the Immaculate Conception, Our Lady Queen of Apostles Parish, in Derby.



Father Tiano treasures the porcelain Hummel Nativity figurines he received as a gift from his mother.

executive editor of the *Catholic Transcript*. Among his favorites is an egg-shaped ceramic crèche designed by a Ukrainian artist from Quebec.

A crèche reminds us that Christ is God among us, Father Tiano says. The most important lesson is a simple one, he says: “The crèche challenges us to connect with the Christ Child. That baby who came into the world will grow up ... and die to save us.”



A crèche from Rome.

TO SEE MORE CRÈCHE COLLECTIONS, VISIT ARCHDIOCESEOFHARTFORD.ORG/CATHOLICTRANSCRIPT.



Father Tucker holds a Nativity from Leyte, Philippines.

Crèche Origin Dates Back to 1223

Story By **JOSEPH PISANI**

When Francis of Assisi visited the Holy Land in 1221 to see the place where Jesus was born, he brought back a spiritual devotion that would forever change our celebration of Christmas.

“*Il Poverello*” — the “Poor Little Man” of Assisi — was so inspired by his pilgrimage, he decided, with characteristic flourish, that if people couldn’t go to Bethlehem, he would bring Bethlehem to them.

After getting permission

from Pope Honorius III, he re-created the Nativity in the hillside town of Greccio on Christmas Eve 1223 with a hay-filled manger, a donkey and an ox, which he placed in front of a temporary altar. According to an account by Francis’ biographer, St. Bonaventure, one holy man in the crowd was blessed with an apparition of the Christ Child while Francis preached about the “babe in Bethlehem.”

Over the next century, the idea took off. Soon churches and villages throughout Italy were creating Nativities at Christmas with a cast of live characters. The practice even-

tually evolved into life-size statues of the Holy Family that were displayed year-round in churches.

By 1500, wealthy families were commissioning “static Nativities,” eventually called “crèches,” for their homes made from wax, terracotta and wood with small figures dressed in colorful clothes. The word “crèche” is believed to be either a French mispronunciation of the town Greccio or a derivation of the word “cratch,” which was an ancient synonym for “manger.”

The idea spread throughout Europe. Nativity scenes became particularly popular in

Germany, and Moravian Germans are credited with bringing the devotion to the United States. In 18th-century Naples, the art form called “presepe,” which means “in front of the crib,” led to an entirely new approach and families competed to create extravagant scenes, depicting the city, its nobility, craftsmen and noted citizens among those adoring the Christ Child.

Today, the devotion is ensconced on every continent. Modern versions are usually crafted from porcelain, resin, china, ceramic or wood, and some scenes can include up to 100 or more figures.

Christmas in Europe

Exhibit at Knights of Columbus Museum represents 30 countries, crèches, religious art.

Story by **JOE PISANI**

The message of Christmas is the same all over the world, yet, each country celebrates it differently, adorning the simple story of the babe in Bethlehem with unique customs and festivities.

This year, in its 15th annual exhibition, the Knights of Columbus Museum in New Haven is presenting “Christmas in Europe.” The exhibit, which runs now through Feb. 2, 2020, is featuring art and traditions from across the continent, with more than 80 crèches, religious artworks and icons that represent 30 countries, including Italy and Spain in the south, France and Germany in the west, Ireland and Scandinavia in the north, and Poland and Ukraine in the east.

“The idea has been to put one region or country under the microscope and share with visitors how Christmas has evolved in that area,” says Peter Sonski, Knights manager of education and outreach. “In the United States, we are accustomed to our own traditions, which

have been passed down from generation to generation ... many of which came from Europe.”

Over the centuries, Sonski says, European artists, from the great masters to craftsmen, have incorporated local customs, architecture, clothing and people into their interpretations of the Nativity.

“A central feature of the exhibition will be a replica of a European Christmas market,” Sonski says. “Beginning in November each year, many European cities host outdoor markets with dozens of vendors, selling ornaments, candles, crèches, pottery and

handcrafted gifts, along with seasonal foods and beverages.”

Knights curator Bethany J. Sheffer, who has been planning the exhibit for



Bethany J. Sheffer, curator/registrar of the Knights of Columbus Museum, holds a Neapolitan crèche. The figure is a member of the band that has come to play for Christ and announce his birth to all.

PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH



Crèche, Krippenpyramide, Germany.

The Holy Family, 18th century, Italy, Lombard School, oil on canvas, from the Knights of Columbus Museum collection.

PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH



IMAGE COURTESY OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MUSEUM

KNIGHTS' NEAPOLITAN CRÈCHE

The grandeur of European crèches can be seen in the work of Neapolitan artists, who created Nativity scenes with hundreds of figures, including local citizens from nobles to peasants — all of them focused on the baby in the manger with his arms outstretched in a loving embrace to ev-

eryone, regardless of their station in life.

One of the centerpieces of the “Christmas in Europe” exhibition at the Knights of Columbus Museum is a crèche set in 18th-century Naples, composed of 144 figures, including the Holy Family, shepherds, the Magi, animals, angels, various craftsmen, citizens and even a band playing musical instruments.

◀ The Knights of Columbus Neapolitan crèche was made in 2014 by Bottega D'Arte Presepiale Cantone & Costabile in Naples, Italy, and features about 144 figures (human, animals and angels) and multiple structures. The setting is 120 square feet and is viewable from all four sides.

months, said it also includes two large diorama settings. One is a crèche from France with close to 200 pieces and small terra-cotta figures dressed in the fashion of a 19th-century community in the Provence region. The figures, which are known as “santons,” or “little saints,” also include a Catholic priest.

The other is a Fontanini collection of almost 140 pieces, made in Tuscany and donated to the museum by the original owner, who collected them over a 20-year period.

One of the most unusual crèches, which is on loan from Glencairn Museum in London, is made of beechwood by London designer Sebastian Bergne.

FAMILY DAY

The museum will also host its annual Christmastime Family Day celebration on Sun., Dec. 29, from noon to 3 p.m. The event, which is free to the public, will feature children’s activities, live Christmas music and refreshments.

Customs and traditions of the following European regions will be showcased with lectures and demonstrations on the following dates: Dec. 14 and 15, Northern Europe, including the Baltic states, Ireland and Scandinavia; Jan. 11 and 12, Southern Europe, including the Balkans, Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain; and Jan. 25 and 26, Eastern Europe, including Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine. 🇺🇸

Knights curator Bethany J. Sheffer says the display, which contains various buildings and settings, occupies more than 120 square feet. The crèche is part of the museum’s collection and was made in 2014 by craftsmen in Naples who belonged to the family workshop of Bottega D’Arte Presepiale Cantone & Costabile. It was originally featured in the 2014 museum exhibit “Christmas in Italy.”

The style is similar to that employed by Neapolitan artists 300 years ago, who used wire frames, hemp cording, fabric and polychrome terracotta and glass eyes to make the faces appear lifelike.



In 2018, the tree created by St. Gabriel Catholic School in Windsor was voted most creative depiction of St. Nicholas.

PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH



St. Lawrence Catholic School in West Haven was voted most creative use of ornaments in 2018.

PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

FESTIVAL OF TREES

In past centuries, artisans used terracotta, wax and wood to create decorations that celebrate the birth of the Savior. Much like those craftsmen, Catholic schoolchildren from across Connecticut will be given an opportunity to express their creativity with Popsicle sticks, paper rolls, crepe paper and pipe cleaners to make decorations for the 19th annual Christmas Tree Festival at the Knights of Columbus Museum.

One of the most popular holiday displays, the festival features 24 Christmas trees that have been transformed by handmade ornaments and decorated by students.

This year’s theme is “Christmas in Europe.” Schools are chosen by lottery to decorate the trees. Students make their ornaments, trim, garland, tree toppers and skirts in class, then, the week after Thanksgiving, five to six schools go to the museum each day to decorate the trees, receive a tour of the museum and meet other students from around the state.

Sheffer says that St. Capetian, in the 16th century, began the practice of featuring local people and customs from Neapolitan society in Nativity scenes. By the 18th century, King Charles III of Spain, who ruled the kingdoms of Sicily and Naples, encouraged the display of crèches at Christmastime, and the laity soon embraced the practice.

Owning an extravagant crèche became “a true status symbol,” she says, prompting wealthy families to commission artists to create elaborate settings that typically used the Campagna countryside as a background and featured recognizable buildings.

BEFORE YOU GO

The museum, which is at 1 State St., in New Haven, is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily (except Christmas Eve and Christmas) with free admission and parking. For more information, call 203.865.0400 or visit kofcmuseum.org.

Don't Let Anxiety Weigh You Down This Christmas



SDI PRODUCTIONS / GETTY IMAGE



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

For most people, few things are more anxiety-inducing than the holiday season. From a celebration of the birth of our savior Jesus, we have tragically morphed it, consciously or not, into a frantic sequence of parties and endless gift swapping.

Now, it is at the core of our Christian identity to care, and mainly for one another. The festivities during the Christmas season are an excellent reminder to us and the whole world of the true meaning of loving and caring for each other. We celebrate the coming in the flesh of the one who “from his fullness we all have received grace upon grace.” (Jn 1:16)

In the Bible, disquiet and uncertainties of everyday life are vividly depicted in the terminology of “anxiety” as concern, care, worry, fear or dread. On the one hand, Scripture describes some instances where there are legitimate anxieties. For example, St. Paul, in 2

Corinthians 11:28, affirms that his ministry to the early Christian communities brings him “daily pressure” because of his “anxiety for all the churches.” In Philippians 2:20, he describes Timothy as one who is genuinely “anxious” for the well-being of Jesus’ disciples there. Also, in the same letter, he says he wants to ease his “anxiety” by sending Epaphroditus to care for them for a while. (2:28)

On the other hand, the Bible calls out the undue anxiety that comes from a distorted outlook that focuses on selfishness and superfluities of life. Jesus warns us that excessive attention to the “cares of the world,” the “delight in riches” and

the “desire for other things” obstruct the life of faith and the Christian participation of the kingdom of God. (Mt 6:19-20, 13:22; Mk 4:19) Jesus, though, does not forbid us from genuine concern about food or shelter (or from celebrating gatherings with gift exchanges for that matter).

He does remind us that we should keep things in their proper perspective. We should place our burdens on God, who protects and cares for his people. (1 Pt 5:7; Phil 4:6) We must make our relationship with God our priority, and subsequently, everything else will fall into place. (Mt 6:33) Then, when the temptations of giving in to stress come up, we will say, like the psalmist praising God: “When the cares of my heart are many, your consolations cheer my soul.” (Ps 94:19)

During these days of Christmas, and as 2020 approaches, let us pray for the grace and strive to be vigilant against unjustified concerns. Let us trust in our Lord’s care and the love of our dear ones: “Anxiety weighs down the human heart, but a good word cheers it up.” (Prv 12:25). Merry Christmas to you all! **CT**

No Dejen ue La Ansiedad Les Agobie Esta Navidad

EL OBISPO AUXILIAR JUAN MIGUEL BETANCOURT

es el noveno obispo auxiliar de la Arquidiócesis de Hartford.

Photos by **AARON JOSEPH**

Muchos admiten que pocas cosas provocan más ansiedad que la temporada navideña. Trágicamente, hemos transformado la celebración del nacimiento de Nuestro Salvador Jesús, conscientemente o no, en una sucesión frenética de fiestas con un intercambio interminable de regalos.

Ahora, según nuestra identidad cristiana es fundamental preocuparnos, y principalmente cuidar, el uno al otro. Las festividades durante la temporada navideña son un excelente recordatorio para nosotros y para todo el mundo del verdadero significado de amarse y cuidarse el uno al otro. Celebramos la venida en la carne de Aquel que “de su plenitud todos hemos recibido gracia sobre gracia” (Jn 1,16).

En la Biblia, la inquietud y las incertidumbres de la vida cotidiana se describen vívidamente con el vocabulario de “ansiedad”, como preocupación, cuidado, desasosiego, miedo o temor. Por un lado, las Escrituras describen algunos casos en los que se dan “ansiedades”


legítimas. Por ejemplo, San Pablo, en 2 Corintios 11, 28, afirma que su ministerio a las primeras comunidades cristianas le trae “presión diaria” debido a su “ansiedad por todas las iglesias”. En Filipenses 2, 20, él describe a Timoteo como alguien que se siente realmente “ansioso” por el bienestar de los discípulos de Jesús. Además, en la misma carta, dice que quiere aliviar su “ansiedad” enviando a Epafrodito a cuidarlos por un tiempo (2, 28).

Por otro lado, la Biblia condena una ansiedad indebida que proviene de una perspectiva distorsionada que se enfoca en el egoísmo y las superfluidades de la vida. Jesús nos advierte que una atención excesiva a las “preocupaciones del mundo”, el “deleite en las riquezas” y el “deseo de otras cosas” obstruyen la vida de fe y la participación cristiana en el reino de Dios (Mt 6:19-20; 13:22; Mc 4:19). Jesús no nos prohíbe una preocupación genuina por lo que vamos a comer o dónde vivir, o celebrar convivios con intercambios de regalos. Sin embargo, Él nos recuerda que debemos mantener las cosas en una perspectiva adecuada. Debemos poner nuestras cargas a los pies de Dios, quien protege y cuida a su



Communion on Christmas Day at St. Rose of Lima Church, New Haven.

pueblo (1 P 5:7; Flp 4:6). Debemos hacer que nuestra relación con Dios sea nuestra prioridad y, posteriormente, todo lo demás caerá en su lugar (Mt 6:33). Luego, cuando nos venga la tentación de sucumbir al estrés, alabaremos a Dios con el salmista alabando a Dios: “Cuando los cuidados de mi corazón son muchos, tus consolaciones alegran mi alma” (Sal 94:19).

Durante estos días de Navidad y Año Nuevo 2020, pidamos la gracia, y luchemos para rechazar las preocupaciones innecesarias. Confiemos en el cuidado de nuestro Señor y en el amor de nuestros seres queridos: “La ansiedad pesa sobre el corazón humano, pero una buena palabra lo alienta” (Pr 12:25). ¡Feliz Navidad a todos! 

CONFIEMOS EN EL CUIDADO DE NUESTRO SEÑOR Y EN EL AMOR DE NUESTROS SERES QUERIDOS: “LA ANSIEDAD PESA SOBRE EL CORAZÓN HUMANO, PERO UNA BUENA PALABRA LO ALIENTA” (PR 12:25).



Auxiliary Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt delivers the homily during Christmas Day Mass at St. Rose of Lima Church, New Haven.

Looking Back, Forging Ahead:

Most Holy Trinity Parish in Wallingford marks 150 years.

Story by **SHELLEY WOLF**

Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration

This year's Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration begins with a novena to Our Lady on Dec. 4, 7 p.m. The celebration itself will feature mariachis singing before an image of the Blessed Mother on Dec. 11, 8 p.m., followed by a special Mass on Dec. 12, 6 p.m. All events will be held at Most Holy Trinity Church, 84 North Colony St., Wallingford.

Many parishioners at Most Holy Trinity attended the 150th anniversary Mass in September.



PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

Witnessing a demographic shift from Irish to Italian to Hispanic, Most Holy Trinity Parish in Wallingford has endured as a Catholic community of faith, marking 150 years as a parish dedicated to growing in love for Jesus Christ.

The seeds of Most Holy Trinity began in Wallingford in 1847 when a missionary priest celebrated the first Mass in an Irish Catholic home. The community grew to mission status before it was incorporated as a stand-alone parish in 1869 under the leadership of Father Hugh Mallon, who led the community for 30 years and oversaw construction of the current church structure on North Colony Street. After his death, Father

Mallon was laid to rest in a small, gated garden directly in front of the church.

“He laid bricks himself to finish the church,” says Father Adrés Mendoza Floyd, the current pastor of the parish. The parish is now led by Father Floyd with assistance from parochial vicar Eduar Gutiérrez.

Over the years, Wallingford changed and the parish community changed with it. The first Spanish Mass was celebrated

in 1973. Today, the Spanish Mass is celebrated every Sunday at noon, and on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m.

The parish includes sizable Italian and Hispanic communities. The Latin community has shifted from Puerto Rican in the '70s to primarily Mexican and Ecuadorian today, with a growing number from Central and South America.

Parishioners now enjoy music sung by both English and Spanish choirs. Every

“NO MATTER WHO WE ARE OR HOW WE CAME TO FIND OURSELVES UNDER THE ROOF OF MOST HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, GOD DOES NOT CARE ABOUT OUR ORIGINS.”

— Father Adrés Mendoza Floyd, pastor

November, the church honors Christo Rey, or Christ the King, with a special Mass, procession and reception. Every December, it holds an Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration.

Last September, the parish celebrated its 150th anniversary with a gala dinner and dance at Anthony’s Ocean View in New Haven. Next day events included a bilingual Mass with Archbishop Leonard P. Blair and a reception in the church hall.

“You are all part of the never-ending story of Most Holy Trinity Church,” Father Floyd told parishioners at the dinner. “No matter who we are or how we came to find ourselves under the roof

of Most Holy Trinity Church, God does not care about our origins. Instead, he cares about what we are doing in the here and now to build up his kingdom.”

HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL

The parish also operates Holy Trinity School. It was initially staffed by the Sisters of Mercy, an order from Ireland; today, it’s run by Deacon Dominic Corrado, principal, and is staffed by lay teachers. Educating 166 students from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade, the school added pre-kindergarten in the fall to introduce young families to a Catholic education. It also added language instruction in Spanish, Italian and French.

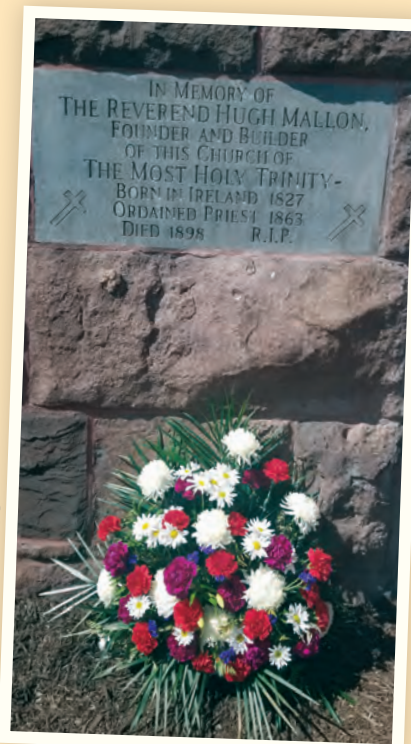
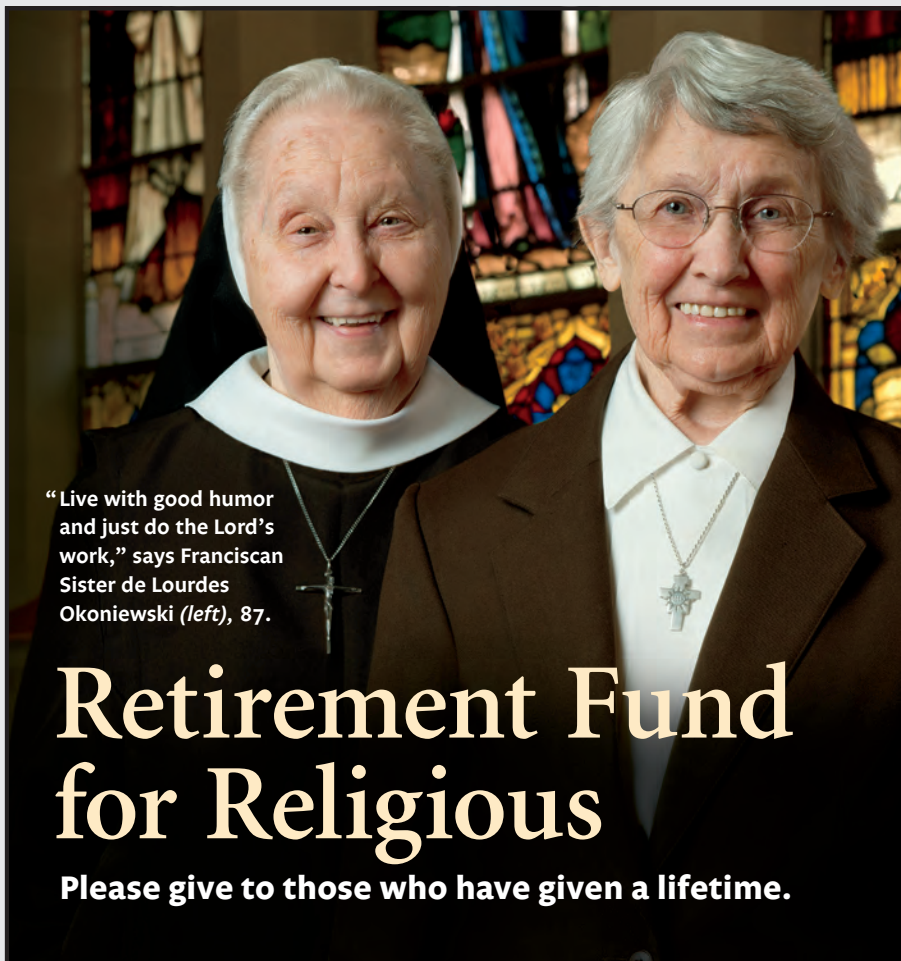


PHOTO BY FATHER ADRES MENDOZA FLOYD

Father Hugh Mallon, who oversaw the construction of Most Holy Trinity Church on North Colony Street, Wallingford, in 1887, was laid to rest in a small, gated garden next to the church.



“Live with good humor and just do the Lord’s work,” says Franciscan Sister de Lourdes Okoniewski (left), 87.

Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

Like Sister de Lourdes and Sister Florence Kruczek (right), 91, some 30,000 senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have spent their lives doing the Lord’s work. Most served for little or no pay, and now their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious offers vital support for necessities, such as medications and nursing care. Please be generous.

Roughly 94 percent of donations aid senior religious.

Please give at your local parish December 7–8.

To donate by mail:
Archdiocese of Hartford
Attn: Arlyn Page
134 Farmington Avenue
Hartford CT 06105

Make check payable to the Archdiocese of Hartford/RFR.

retiredreligious.org

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Photo: Jim Judkis



PRAYER AND DISCERNMENT

Synod delegates bond as they review propositions to renew the life of the Church.

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

“**W**ith everyone talking about young people leaving the Church, they may be the ones leading us back,” predicts Justin Murphy, a synod delegate and parish council member from St. Margaret Parish in Madison. “They have a deep understanding of the Gospel, and I was impressed with their conviction.”

Murphy, who had just met three younger delegates, is one of 300 delegates who attended a synod meeting in October at the Hartford Marriott Farmington. The three-day event was a time for synod delegates to recommend priorities and practical steps for promoting the life and mission of the Church by reflecting on four themes: encountering Christ, becoming missionary disciples, sent on mission and collaborating in the local Church. The synod is only one of three synods in the 175-history of the archdiocese.

The Synod Preparatory Committee will now synthesize the recommendations into a document for consideration

by Archbishop Leonard P. Blair. The final document will be signed by the archbishop at the synod closing Mass at the Toyota Oakdale Theatre in Wallingford on Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2020.

During the synod weekend, Alyssa M. Ambulo, a 29-year-old delegate and youth minister from St. John Bosco Parish in Branford, says she made delegates aware of the recent emergence of young adult groups, like Frassati New Haven and Crossroads 4 Christ, which are helping Catholics connect to their faith.

“I moved here last December,” she says. “My first night, I



went to a Crossroads 4 Christ meeting at St. Francis in New Britain and was immediately immersed in Catholic culture. ... Many aren't aware there are young adults who want to step up and do more."

Michelle Boisseau, a delegate and Bible study teacher from St. Junipero Serra Parish in South Windsor, says she asked her small group meeting to amend language on training for both parishioners and priests. "There were a lot of recommendations to support the clergy," she says. "I think we can all agree they have a lot to do."


Michael Coppotelli, master of ceremonies for the weekend, praised the "robust dialogue" that ensued from the meeting. Delegates worked in small groups to discuss and cull down suggestions from earlier parish listening sessions, then reported back to the larger group.



They also head inspiring national speakers address the four themes of the synod.

"There were incredibly moving moments when each of the invited speakers spoke and I watched the delegates respond to the message and the call," Coppotelli says.

"I think the incredible courage and wisdom of the synod in the life of the Archdiocese of Hartford are just as radical as the message Christ preached," he says. "It's vital to rejuvenating our Church, and this is the vehicle to do it."

Peter Burak, one of the invited speakers from Intentional Disciples, was also encouraged by the delegates' response. "I definitely noticed the energy, hope and joy in the room," he says. "People seem receptive and want to get started. I felt there was an anointing of the Holy Spirit." 

"THE ARCHBISHOP HAD A GREAT IDEA TO CONVENE A LAY SYNOD SO THERE'S LAY PARTICIPATION AND INPUT. HE HAS THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT OUR SUGGESTIONS, BUT I JUST FEEL VERY POSITIVE. AND ROME WASN'T BUILT IN A DAY."

— Carline Thurston, delegate from St. Patrick Parish, Collinsville



Help and Hope

Catholic Charities marks 100 years of service in the Archdiocese of Hartford.



JOHN P. NOONAN is the director of development and communications at Catholic Charities in the Archdiocese of Hartford.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES



A once-in-a-lifetime celebration is soon to be underway: Throughout 2020, Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Hartford will celebrate 100 years of providing help and creating hope to people of all faiths in our community.

Marek Kukulka, CEO of Catholic Charities in the Archdiocese of Hartford, sees the

occasion as a privilege and a joy. "Celebrating 100 years of service to people in need in our archdiocese is a great honor," he says, "as well as an opportunity to share wonderful works of mercy that are made possible through the professional contributions of hundreds of employees and the generosity of friends and supporters of Catholic Charities."

Kick Off the Celebration

The Centennial celebration kicks off on Dec. 11 at 7 a.m. with the Help & Hope Breakfast fundraising event at the Hartford Marriott Downtown which will feature Archbishop Leonard P. Blair as the guest of honor, longtime WFSB news anchor Irene O'Connor as emcee and Joseph Calafiore, an executive with professional soccer franchise the Hartford Athletic, giving the keynote address. Jim and Cathy Smith will be recognized for their longstanding commitment to philanthropic causes across our region. All proceeds raised from this event will support Catholic Charities programs for children and families. To learn more, visit ccaoh.org or call 1.888.405.1183.

Mission Statement

The Catholic Charities mission statement: Reflecting God's love, we partner with all to strengthen families and inspire people to achieve their fullest potential. Each day, more than 400 staff members of Catholic Charities strive to uphold this mission, helping individuals and families achieve greater safety, stability, and independence in compassionate communities where people are valued, connected and take care of one another.



Getting Involved in the Centennial

Catholic Charities has assembled a Centennial planning committee, consisting of former and current board members and staff members, as well as longtime friends and supporters. Father Matthew Gworek, secretary to the archbishop, is representing the archdiocese on the committee.

"Over the past 100 years, Catholic Charities has worked to serve people of all faiths, and this desire to help wherever it's needed is truly a Catholic attitude," Father Gworek says. "From the beginning, Jesus gave the great commission to his disciples to go out to all nations, and this group has done that, providing a model of care and charity that is essential to who we are as Catholics and inspiring others to reach out in similar ways."

Are you a former staff member of the organization? Was your family at one time affected by the mission of Catholic Charities? Do you have a photograph, anecdote or artifact that represents how Catholic Charities made an impact in your community?

All memories and perspectives are welcome and appreciated. As director of development and communications, I invite Catholic Transcript readers to contact me, John P. Noonan, directly at jpnoonan@ccaoh.org to share their points of view on what 100 years of Catholic Charities means to them.

The First 99 Years

The organization that became Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Hartford came into being in May 1920 with the establishment of the Diocesan Bureau of Social Services, which coordinated and systemized the work of all Catholic aid organizations in the region.

From the beginning, the organization was responsible for a variety of services and agencies. It had a large foster home care program for children, a commitment to unwed parents and provided permanent adoptive homes for infants.

The Connecticut Council of Catholic Women provided invaluable support along the way, including board leadership, financial support, and a host of volunteer activities.

Over time, the Diocesan Bureau of Social Services changed its name to Catholic Family Services. After many years as an umbrella and unincorporated agency, the agency united under one Board of Trustees in 1983 and became Catholic Charities/Catholic Family Services. In 2004, it adopted the name Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Hartford.

Catholic Charities Today

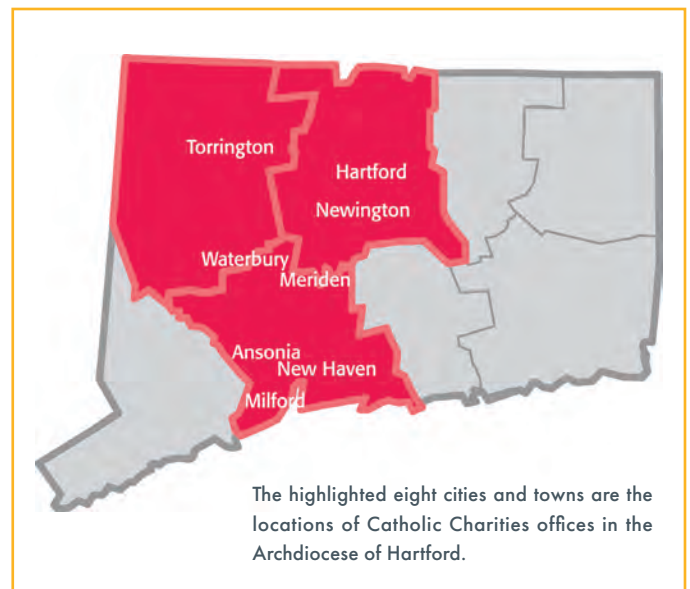
Last year, Catholic Charities provided help and created hope for more than 18,000 people — Catholics and non-Catholics alike — operating out of 30 locations in eight towns and cities across the archdiocese.

This work takes place at Family Centers, which offer children and parents a comprehensive array of programs in neighborhood-based locations. It takes place at accredited and affordable school readiness programs for 3- to 5-year-olds, preparing children to enter kindergarten ready to learn.

It takes place at behavioral health clinics for adults, families and children, addressing problems associated with substance abuse, depression, anxiety, trauma, grief and other mental health issues.

It takes place 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at group homes where adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities feel safe and secure, interact with caring people and develop their skills and interests. It takes place in two senior centers in Hartford, where services include social and recreational activities, health and wellness education and on-site meals among others.

Catholic Charities is excited to mark this Centennial milestone, and to invite you to be part of the celebration. The agency sincerely thanks all who make its work possible.



Frequently Asked Questions

Does Catholic Charities benefit non-Catholics, too?

■ Catholic Charities serves people of all faiths and backgrounds. While the mission of the organization is rooted in the Gospel and Catholic social teachings, no one must be Catholic to receive services or to work for Catholic Charities.

Where does funding come from?

■ About half of funding is from grants from state government agencies. About 20 percent is from program service fees. Generous donations to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal represents about 10 percent of revenue. Catholic Charities is a proud partnering agency of the United Way. The agency is grateful for and depends upon the generosity of all individuals, families, and organizations whose investment makes a difference in the lives of those who are less fortunate.

How can someone begin receiving services from Catholic Charities?

■ There are many ways to receive help. The first is to reach out. Catholic Charities provides programs and services across Hartford, Litchfield and New Haven counties. If you or a loved one is in need, please call, e-mail, or send a message through the Catholic Charities website or social media channels. Each inquiry will receive a response. If Catholic Charities is not the right match to assist, there may be other community resources that the experienced staff can recommend.

Where can I find my local Catholic Charities office?

■ Catholic Charities has more than 30 locations across the Archdiocese of Hartford – in Ansonia, Hartford, Meriden, Milford, New Haven, Newington, Torrington and Waterbury. Catholic Charities also operates 10 group homes for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. For assistance, call 1.888.405.1183 or visit ccaoh.org.

How does Catholic Charities provide help and create hope?

■ Many readers may associate Catholic Charities with basic human needs, such as food, clothing and shelter. While there are indeed some funds available to address such needs in times of crisis, Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Hartford is also one of the largest providers of human services and social services in the state of Connecticut and has been for many years.



HBF Awards More Than \$500,000 to Catholic Charities

Information and photos provided by **THE HARTFORD BISHOPS' FOUNDATION**



Toddler playgroup at Southside Family Center in Hartford.

The Hartford Bishops' Foundation's most recent grant announcement in September marks more than \$500,000 in support of Catholic Charities to date.

Thanks to supporters of the foundation-led **Forward with Faith** campaign, part of the funding will strengthen the agency's seven family centers in Hartford, Waterbury, Meriden and New Haven.

The sites include the Southside Family Center in Hartford. Located on the campus of the former SS. Cyril and Methodius School, the center serves more than 400 families annually with a range of human services — including home visiting, child care, family-oriented recreational and educational programs, and parenting support.

"We help families in the most critical stages of their lives," says Maria Zayas, a director at the Center. "Families who come here often have nowhere to go and don't know where to begin. They find a home here because we care, we listen, we address their needs, and help them feel empowered."

Many of the center's community-based programs and events are led by former clients whose lives have been given new opportunities thanks to the work and care of the center.

"The growth and change we see in these families is remarkable," Zayas says. "If my mom could have come to a place like this, it would have made such a meaningful impact on her life."

One of the center's clients, Diana, is a

mother from Central America who fled to the United States in 2016 after suffering years of human trafficking and domestic violence. She faced all these challenges while trying to raise her two children.

Diana and her 2-year-old son were welcomed at Southside Family Center, but she was initially reluctant to interact with case managers and specialists visiting her home.

"She came to us crying each day. There was a distance because of the pain she had been through. We immediately knew we had to connect her with the right people and resources," says Ivelisse Acevedo, a family specialist who now works closely with Diana.

The staff provided Diana with food, clothing, utility assistance and advocacy services while providing developmental support for her son. Over time, Diana began bonding more with the staff and

brought her son to Southside for recreational and educational programs. In 2017, Diana was reunited with her daughter when she came to the United States. The staff is now working with Diana and her daughter to help obtain a work permit and visa.

"Now she smiles and holds her head up high," Acevedo says. "She recently said, 'I know God has big plans for me.' I was so proud and happy to hear her say that with so much hope that we never heard before."

Catholic Charities changed Diana's life. Like many other current and former clients, Diana now volunteers for Southside and is actively involved in the Toddler Playgroup and the maintenance of the center's garden. Earlier this summer, she helped lead the Hartford Family Center Network's Children's Festival.

"That is why Southside is a vital part of the community," Zayas says. "We help these families who don't know how to advocate for themselves. By bringing these families together and building their

relationships with our staff and other families, they leave feeling empowered to better serve their community."

Funds from the **Forward with Faith** campaign will strengthen the ability of Southside and the other family centers to serve thousands more clients like Diana annually with long-term administrative support, supplies and additional staff.

Thank you to all the supporters of the Forward with Faith campaign who have made these grants possible!



From left to right, staff members Quettsy Garay, Yolanda Collazo and Ivelisse Acevedo at the Southside Family Center.

SAFEGUARDING YOUR QUALITY OF LIFE

Connecticut Catholic Conference fighting for drug reform and religious freedom.

Story by JACK SHEEDY

Health and religious freedom are big parts of one's quality of life. The Connecticut Catholic Conference, the voice of all the Catholic bishops in Connecticut, is safeguarding quality of life on a daily basis by tackling such issues as legalizing marijuana, vaping and religious freedoms.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article highlights quality of life issues that the Connecticut Catholic Conference, the voice of all the Catholic bishops in Connecticut, has tackled in the past.

In the words of Chris Healy, executive director of the Connecticut Catholic Conference, "Quality of life issues include the right to practice your religion freely, provide for your family and enjoy all the benefits of a good working society."

He adds, "Freedom of religion is always a number one goal, a thing that we wake up every morning worrying about."

▶ LEGALIZING MARIJUANA?

This year, the CCC opposed the legalization of marijuana "for what is euphemistically called — I never understood this term — recreational use, as if you're out there playing basketball or something," Healy says. "You're smoking marijuana!"

In the 2019 General Assembly session, Senate Bill 1085 sought to legalize the retail sale and possession of cannabis for personal use. In his testimony opposing the bill, Deacon David Reynolds, CCC's associate director for public policy, referred to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (2291): "The use of drugs inflicts very grave damage on human health and life. Their use, except on strictly therapeutic grounds, is a grave offense."

He also cited health hazards, including psychotic disorders and harm to developing brains of infants, who ingest THC or tetrahydrocannabinol, one of at least 113 cannabinoids identified in cannabis, through breast milk.

Lori Stewart, CCC's legislative liaison, was part of a planning committee on the marijuana issue and worked behind the scenes to reach out to other faith groups. With the marijuana issue, she says, "My job became contacting and getting everyone together for conference calls and things like that.

"We reached out to the Rev. Abraham Hernandez, executive director of the Connecticut Chapter of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Confer-



From left, Anne LaMonica, Chris Healy, Lori Stewart and Deacon David Reynolds of the Connecticut Catholic Conference.

PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

DEMAERE/GETTY IMAGES

“IF SOMEONE WANTED TO HOLD A MEETING ON MEDICAL ETHICS WITHIN CATHOLIC DIRECTIVES, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO THAT IN A CATHOLIC BUILDING OR HEALTH-CARE FACILITY.”

— Deacon David Reynolds

ence, as well as the black clergy alliance,” she adds. The conference represents more than 200 Hispanic evangelical churches in the state.

The bill died without a vote. Several supporters of legalization, including Gov. Ned Lamont, indicated in September that it likely would not reappear in 2020. “So if [Lamont] is not certainly in favor of it, that’s a good sign, but we’re obviously diligent about it because of the growing trend toward legalization of it in other states and the revenue that’s derived from it,” Healy says.

▶ ADDICTION CONCERNS

A top pharmacy chain recently discontinued the sale of all tobacco products, citing a disconnect between its stated role of promoting good health and the sale of dangerous products. Vaping, once thought to be a safer nicotine-delivery system than tobacco products, has recently been linked to a variety of lung-related illnesses and even death.

“We are obviously concerned about vaping,” Healy says. “We deal with that in the Catholic schools, but we haven’t really engaged on those specific issues.”

Promoting a healthy environment for life, and certainly whether it is opioid overdose addiction or vaping in our schools, is a key issue of the CCC.

“We will support any programs that deal with trying to remove those hazards from the public market,” Healy says. “Many people of faith have died in this

last year from drug overdoses.”

Currently, the CCC is not involved in the smoking and vaping issues, but it will present them to the bishops.

“With the marijuana issue, we’re trying to control something that is detrimental to society,” Deacon Reynolds says. “Maybe it could be applied to vaping, too. Maybe it would be something the bishops would want to discuss, but we can’t say we have a position on it when we have no history on it.”

While the CCC has not had to take a position on alcohol use, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (2290) warns: “The virtue of temperance disposes us

to avoid every kind of excess: the abuse of food, alcohol, tobacco or medicine. Those incur grave guilt who, by drunkenness or a love of speed, endanger their own and others’ safety on the road, at sea or in the air.”

▶ RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

This year’s SB 1137 would have required nonprofits, including churches, to pay a 25 percent annual fee “in lieu of taxes” on certain properties, based on what they would have had to pay if they were not nonprofits. The money raised would have gone to help struggling communities. But the legislation



Lori Stewart.

PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

This year, during the 2019 legislative session, was the first time Lori Stewart presented CCPAC’s legislative concerns for the legislative session before the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus in an effort to identify issues of mutual interest. In looking to identify areas that align with the Catholic Church’s tenets regarding the corporal works of mercy, she testified on issues the conference had not previously addressed, such as the Clean Slate Act. In addition to publicly representing the CCC at the Legislative Office Building and in the community, Stewart also assists with maintaining the conference’s budgets, office logistics and event planning, which included the conference’s successful co-sponsored rally at the State Capitol in April 2019 to protect pregnancy resource centers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about the Connecticut Catholic Conference and to follow legislation affecting Catholics, visit ctcatholic.org.

“THIS IS A MATTER OF KEEPING A COMMITMENT,” DEACON REYNOLDS SAID. “THERE’S A BIG PUSH NOW TO KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT YOUR FAMILY LINEAGE, BUT WHEN YOU MAKE A PROMISE TO A CLIENT, YOU HAVE TO KEEP THAT PROMISE.”

— Deacon David Reynolds

died in committee.

The bill was aimed at hospitals and colleges that do not pay taxes on certain buildings they own. While it did not directly target the Catholic Church, it would have had a negative impact on parishes and Catholic health care providers, so the conference opposed it.

“When I testified against it, I said this would be taking money from the collection plate and sending it to a state bank account,” Deacon Reynolds says.

An ongoing attempt to limit religious freedom is the so-called Captive Audience legislation. Deacon Reynolds said the proponents of such legislation try to prevent employers from talking about religion in the workplace.

The CCC successfully lobbied to have

CONNECTICUT CATHOLIC PUBLIC AFFAIRS CONFERENCE

2019 LEGISLATIVE SCORE CARD

<p>DEFEATED LEGALIZATION OF RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA</p> <p>✓</p> <p>INTER-FAITH GROUP RALLIED SUPPORT AGAINST LEGALIZATION EFFORTS.</p> <p>BILL FAILED.</p>	<p>DEFEATED PHYSICIAN ASSISTED SUICIDE</p> <p>✓</p> <p>BILL ALLOWED PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE IN CONNECTICUT.</p> <p>BILL FAILED.</p>	<p>PROTECTED PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTERS</p> <p>✓</p> <p>BILL TARGETED AND CENSORED ONLY PRO-LIFE RESOURCE CENTERS FOR ONLY OFFERING PRO-LIFE RESOURCES.</p> <p>BILL FAILED.</p>	<p>SAVED CATHOLIC SCHOOL STUDENT SERVICES</p> <p>✓</p> <p>BILLS REPEALED CATHOLIC SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION FOR & CUT STATE FUNDING FOR HEALTH SERVICES FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS</p> <p>BILLS FAILED.</p>	<p>PROTECTED RELIGIOUS FREEDOM & CHURCH PROPERTY</p> <p>✓</p> <p>BILL FOR REVIEW OF A NEW, LOWER GAS RATE FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP.</p> <p>BILL PASSED.</p>
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The Connecticut Catholic Public Affairs Conference tracked and testified on many bills in the January 2019 session of the Connecticut General Assembly. The CCPAC marked the above bills for priority and activated grassroots campaigns to advocate Catholic concerns regarding such bills.

the language modified to allow employers of such facilities, including Catholic schools and Catholic hospitals, to talk about religion as it pertains to what employees need to know about the day-to-day workings of the business.

“If someone wanted to hold a meeting on medical ethics within Catholic directives,” Deacon Reynolds says, “we should be able to do that in a Catholic building or health-care facility.”

Whenever revisions to the bill come up, the CCC checks to make sure the exemption stays in it. “The unions have always respected our exemption, and we are grateful for that,” he adds.

▶ ACCESS TO ORIGINAL BIRTH RECORDS

A bill that would have adversely affected clients of Catholic Charities passed the Senate this year, but it was never called in the House. SB 972 would have required Catholic Charities to expose the identities of mothers who gave children up for adoption, although Catholic Charities (and other adoption agencies) promised never to do so.

“This is a matter of keeping a commitment,” Deacon Reynolds said. “There’s a big push now to know everything about your family lineage, but when you make a promise to a client, you have to keep that promise.”



Archbishop Leonard P. Blair and Connecticut Catholic Conference executive director Chris Healy chat during the Social Justice Dinner and Awards ceremony recently.

PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH



▶ TO READ CCC’s 12th Annual Abortion Report, visit ctcatholic.org.

Christmas Mass Schedule at the Cathedral of St. Joseph

December 24

■ 3:00 p.m. – Prelude

Carols from Around the World

Dr. Ezequiel Menéndez, Organ

Ms. Meredith Neumann, Choirmaster

The Cathedral Schola Cantorum

The Cathedral Brass Quintet

■ 4:00 p.m.

Nativity of the Lord Vigil Mass

Celebrated by

Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair

Archbishop of Hartford

■ 9:00 p.m. – Prelude

Carols from Around the World

Dr. Ezequiel Menéndez, Organ

Ms. Meredith Neumann, Choirmaster

The Cathedral Schola Cantorum

The Cathedral Brass Quintet

■ 10:00 p.m.

The Solemn Mass of Christmas

Celebrated by

Very Reverend Kevin G. Donovan, Rector

December 25

■ 9:30 a.m. – Prelude

Dr. Ezequiel Menéndez, Organ

Ms. Meredith Neumann, Choirmaster

Members of the Cathedral Schola Cantorum

The Cathedral Brass Quintet

■ 10:00 a.m.

The Nativity of the Lord

Celebrated by

Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair

Archbishop of Hartford

WATCH the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass at 10 a.m. Christmas Day on WCCT, TV 20 and WCTX, My TV9



"As the rector of the Cathedral of St. Joseph, it is my pleasure to invite you to come and celebrate the birth of the Lord with the parishioners of the cathedral parish. Archbishop Blair will preside and preach at the Christmas Eve 4:00 p.m. Mass, which will also be televised for those who may not be able to attend in person."

– VERY REVEREND KEVIN G. DONOVAN

Cathedral of St. Joseph

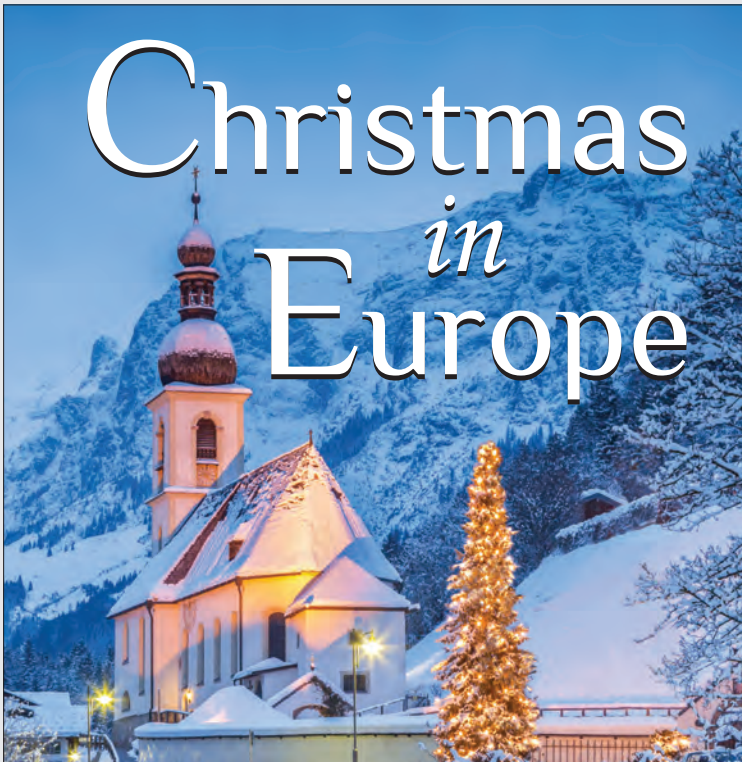
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Hartford, CT 06105

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www.hartfordcathedral.org

Christmas *in* Europe



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Living Nativity

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Christmas and the Priesthood



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

The Incarnation of the Son of God, which we celebrate at Christmas, is a day of great joy for all Christians. Yet, in a special way, this great solemnity is special to our priests, as it is the Incarnation that makes the Catholic priesthood possible.

Theologically, we believe that Christ is the mediator between God and man, specifically in his humanity. Every priest stands *in persona Christi Capitis* (in the person of Christ the head) and, therefore, in the person of Christ as a mediator between God and humanity. Our priests carry our prayers to almighty God in the holy sacrifice of the Mass, and also make the love of God visible to us, in both their sacramental ministry and in their very persons.

At Christmas, we celebrate that the Incarnation of the son of God, which occurred nine months earlier in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary, made visible to us. What had been hidden is now known to our senses. In just this way, the priest makes Christ visible to the people by his own life and ministry. The God who is working invisibly in their lives is made visible in the person of the priest. This is one of the reasons why priests dress in an identifiable manner. They are called to be a visible sign of the presence of God among us.

Further, Christmas occurred in a specific time and place. God does not remain in abstract time or in some distant space, but truly was born in our world on a cold winter's night, bereft of the shelter of an inn. Priests serve in very distinctive times and places. To be a priest in the year 2019 in the state of Connecticut looks different than it would have 50 years ago or as it does today in another part of the world. God is present even here. The Catholic faith is incarnational. Time and space matter. Connecticut needs priests here and now, not in some distant future or limited by the nostalgia of a bygone



Philippe de Champaigne (1602–1674) *L'Annonciation*, 1644, Metropolitan Museum of Art.



Adoration by the Shepherds, Agnolo Bronzino (1503–1572).

“OUR PRIESTS CARRY OUR PRAYERS TO ALMIGHTY GOD IN THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS, AND ALSO MAKE THE LOVE OF GOD VISIBLE TO US, IN BOTH THEIR SACRAMENTAL MINISTRY AND IN THEIR VERY PERSONS.”

— Father Michael Casey

era. Rather, here and now, we need priests who understand and revere the depth of Catholic tradition and who seek to make that reality present here today.

Finally, there is the beautiful angelic hymn, the *Gloria*, sung by the angels proclaiming the birth of Christ, which the priest intones in the holy Mass. Glory to God in the highest.

The life of the Catholic priest is to give glory to God and to lead all people to do likewise. He fittingly intones this great hymn in which the congregation joins, all together echoing the angelic choirs. And so in this season of joy and celebration we, in union with our priests, give glory to almighty God for the great gift of Christmas. ☪

+ INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE about the priesthood, the diaconate or vocations? If you think God may be calling you, do not be afraid. Visit archdioceseofhartford.org/vocations or call the Office of Vocations, 860.761.7456.



■ **Sister Rose Mary Iannucci**, 102, a member of the Daughters of the Holy Spirit, died on Sept. 29, 2019, at St. Joseph Living Center in Windham.

Born on June 6, 1917 in Waterbury, the daughter of the late Giovanni (John) and Antoinette Conte Iannucci, Sister Rose Mary entered religious life in 1938 and made her profession at the Motherhouse in St. Brieuc, France on March 27, 1940. She was then known as Sister Jean Antoine.

She remained in France for her first community in LeLegué. Once the United States declared war on Germany, she and 23 other Daughters of the Holy Spirit were arrested. Sister Rose Mary was held in the detention camp at Vitteil for more than two years.

Once back in the United States, she taught in elementary schools in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Vermont while obtaining her bachelor's and master's degrees in education. In 1975, she moved to West Sacramento, Calif., for 22 years where she ministered as teacher before earning her certificate in pastoral care from the Medical Center in San Francisco in 1980.

Upon retirement in 1998, she resided at St. Clare Convent in Newport, R.I., before moving to the Provincial House in Putnam in 2007. She was one of the first Sisters to begin the new community at St. Joseph Living Center in Windham in 2016.

■ **Sister Theresa Looby**, of the Sisters of Mercy, died on Oct. 12, 2019, at St. Mary Home in West Hartford. She was born in Thompsonville on June 14, 1930, the daughter of Arthur Looby and Mary (Flynn) Looby.

Sister remained a lifelong resident of Connecticut. After graduating from high school, she entered the Sisters of Mercy on June 27, 1948 and professed her vows on Jan. 2, 1951.

She earned her bachelors' in education and a master's in religious studies from St. Joseph College, now the University of St. Joseph. Sister also took classes in pastoral counseling. She began her Mercy ministry in elementary education and taught for 26 years in 11 elementary schools in Connecticut.

In 1977, Sister transitioned to South Catholic High where she taught for 11 years. After 36 years as an educator, she turned her energy to the elderly and transitioned to St. Mary Home in West Hartford as a resident care coordinator where she ministered to the elderly for 12 years. During this period, Sister Theresa attended the Mercy Conference on Aging where she

learned more about the spiritual and corporal needs of the aging. Seeing the needs of her Sisters at Mercyknoll, she ministered to her aging sisters for six years.



■ **Sister Mary Rose Boothe** (Joan Cecilia Boothe), a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambery, West Hartford, died on Oct. 18 at St. Mary's Home, West Hartford. Born in Drayden, Md., on Oct. 30,

1920, she was the daughter of the late Joseph T. Boothe and Elizabeth C. (Hammett) Boothe. She entered the Sisters of St. Joseph on Aug. 7, 1938, and celebrated her profession of vows on Aug. 23, 1944. She was 98 years old and in her 81st year of religious life.

Sister Mary Rose earned a bachelor of arts degree in education and a master's degree in biological science from Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. She also earned a master's degree in pastoral ministry from Fairfield University, Fairfield, receiving certification from the National Association of Catholic Chaplains. Her first teaching assignments were in the elementary schools in the Archdiocese of Hartford. She then moved into secondary schools.

After retiring from teaching, she became a pastoral associate in the Pastoral Care Department at St. Joseph Medical Center, Stamford, eventually assuming the position of coordinator of pastoral care and later, that of director.

■ **Rev. James Archambault** went home to God on Oct. 21, 2019, at home in Bradenton, Fla. Born in Waterbury, on Dec. 23, 1938, Father Jim was ordained in May 1967 at St. Joseph Cathedral, in Hartford. He served as a pastor in several parishes in the Archdiocese of Hartford. He also served as chaplain at St. Mary's Hospital in Waterbury. In the mid-1990s, Fr. Jim moved to Florida where he served as an assisting priest at St. Joseph Church in Bradenton for over 25 years.

■ **Deacon Raymond J. Fugere Jr.**, 81 of West Hartford and Winchester, died on Oct. 26, 2019, surrounded by his family. He was born in Springfield, Mass., the son of Raymond J. Fugere and Mary (Ward) Fugere. He attended Springfield schools and graduated from Classical High School in 1955 and Worcester Polytechnic Institute with a degree in mechanical engineering in 1960. In 1967, he received his MBA from the University of Connecticut. He was employed by Pratt & Whitney Aircraft, Fafnir Bearing and the

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

■ **Rev. James A. Shanley**, appointed vicar for clergy for the Archdiocese of Hartford, effective Oct. 10, 2019, for a term of six years. Completed appointment as episcopal vicar for the Northern Vicariate of the Archdiocese of Hartford, effective Oct. 10, 2019.

■ **Very Rev. John P. Melnick**, appointed episcopal vicar for the Northern Vicariate of the Archdiocese of Hartford, effective Oct. 10, 2019. This appointment is in addition to his assignment as pastor of St. Damien of Molokai, Windsor.

■ **Rev. Canon Joel Estrada**, of the Institute of Christ the Sovereign Priest, appointed pastor of St. Patrick Church and rector of the oratory in Waterbury, effective Oct. 15, 2019, for a term of six years.

■ **Rev. Frederick M. Aniello**, appointed pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Waterbury, effective, Oct. 27, 2019.

■ **Msgr. Thomas J. Barry**, appointed administrator of St. Patrick Parish, Farmington, for an additional year, effective Oct. 2, 2019.

— REV. RYAN M. LERNER, CHANCELLOR, OCT. 28, 2019

Torrington Co., retiring in 2001. He also served as a U.S. Army lieutenant in Kitzingen, West Germany, during the Berlin Wall and Cuban Missile crises. In 1973, he was ordained to holy orders as a deacon in the Catholic Church. He served in Holy Family Church in Enfield, and St. Helena and St. Mark the Evangelist churches in West Hartford. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and served for many years as chaplain of his council.



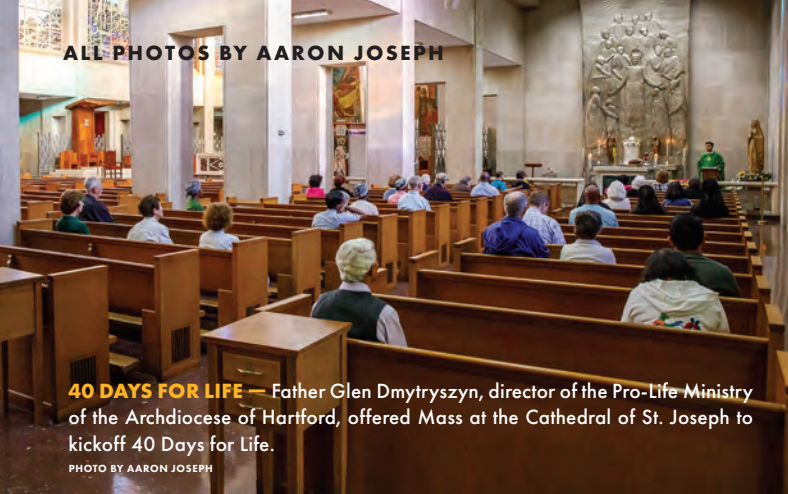
■ **Rev. Robert Barry Vargo, J.C.L.**, 57, of Madison, died on Nov. 8, 2019, at Yale-New Haven Hospital. Born in Milford on March 19, 1962, son of Charles Robert Vargo of Madison and the late Lois Constance (Green) Vargo, he was raised in Milford and was a graduate of St. Ann Elementary School in Devon and Notre Dame High School in West Haven.

After graduating from high school, Father Vargo continued his education at Pennsylvania State University in University Park, Pa. After discerning his call to the priesthood, he enrolled at St. Mary Seminary and University in Baltimore, Md. He was ordained on Feb. 25, 1989, at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford by Archbishop John F. Whealon. After serving as parochial vicar for two years at St. Lucy Church in Waterbury, he was assigned to the Metropolitan Tribunal as an auditor/case instructor.

In 1992, Father Vargo began graduate studies at The Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, also known as the Angelicum, in Rome, Italy, where he earned a licentiate in canon law. In 1994, he became canonical adviser to the moderator of the curia and judge and defender of the bond at the Metropolitan Tribunal. Father Vargo also assisted at St. James Parish in Rocky Hill for one year before

being assigned to St. Joseph Parish in the Poquonock section of Windsor. In 1996, he became the vice chancellor of the Archdiocese of Hartford and in September 2003, he was appointed as the judicial vicar of the Archdiocese of Hartford. Father Vargo continued to serve at St. Joseph Parish in Poquonock being appointed as pastor in March 2002.

In 2013, he was appointed as the pastor of the linked parishes of St. Joseph and St. Gabriel in Windsor, now St. Damien of Molokai Parish. In 2016, Archbishop Leonard Blair appointed Father Vargo as the vicar for clergy and later as the director of the Mission Office for the Archdiocese of Hartford. Father Vargo's time in Rome gave him a comfort and ease to travel to many parts of the world even if he was not familiar with the language or the culture. He loved skiing and cycling and often did both while traveling domestically and internationally. The consummate priest, he was a tireless worker both at the chancery and in his parishes. Through his devout faith, he encouraged everyone who knew him to be their best. Besides his father Charles, he leaves a sister, Gale Margonis of New Haven; and a brother-in-law, George Haight of Milford. He was predeceased by his mother, Lois Vargo; and a sister, Karen Haight. A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated by The Most Rev. Leonard P. Blair, S.T.D., at the Chapel of St. Thomas at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center. A graveside service was held at St. Mary Cemetery, Milford.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE — Father Glen Dmytryszyn, director of the Pro-Life Ministry of the Archdiocese of Hartford, offered Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph to kickoff 40 Days for Life.

PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH



INSTALLATION OF ACOLYTES FOR DEACON CANDIDATES — Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt presided over the installation of deacon candidates to the Order of Acolyte at the Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center in West Hartford. This follows the rite of candidacy and installation to the ministry of lector, and is the last step before ordination to the permanent diaconate next spring. Congratulations, from left to right: Alan J. Bielawski, Angel L. Garcia, Confesol Rodriguez, Paul F. Travers and Robin G. Gingras, who stand with family and friends.

PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH



MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY MASS — Archbishop Leonard P. Blair imparted a blessing on married couples celebrating significant anniversaries after they renewed their promises made before the Lord on their wedding day at the annual Marriage Anniversary Celebration at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, Hartford. This year, 138 couples registered for the event, celebrating anniversaries from one to 73 years.

PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH



AROUND THE

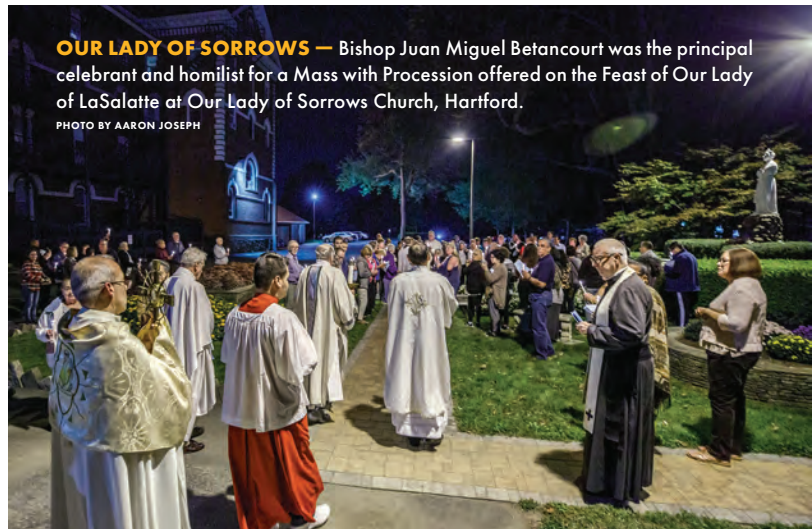


RESPECT LIFE MASS — At the annual Respect Life Mass held at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford, Archbishop Leonard P. Blair bestowed the St. Gianna Beretta Molla Pro-Life Award to, from left to right: Sister Patricia Glass F.S.E. (volunteer for Pro-Life Ministry), James O'Boyle and Pro-Life Committee (Mary, Gate of Heaven Parish, Windsor Locks), Lynn Reynolds (executive director, Two Hearts Pregnancy Care Center, Torrington) and Deacon David Reynolds (founder and board chairman, Two Hearts Pregnancy Care Center, Torrington).

PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH



ROSARY RALLY — Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt was the guest speaker at the 30th annual Rosary Rally sponsored by Rosary Rally of Connecticut at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Waterbury.



OUR LADY OF SORROWS — Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt was the principal celebrant and homilist for a Mass with Procession offered on the Feast of Our Lady of LaSalatte at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Hartford.

PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH



APOSTLES OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS MARK JUBILEES, CELEBRATION OF PERPETUAL VOWS — The Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus recently celebrated the anniversary of religious profession for 14 sisters, who together have 780 years of service. Of the 14 jubilarians, six celebrated 60 or more years as vowed Apostles. Celebrating 60 years were Sisters Eleanor Perfetto and John Martin Sullivan. Celebrating 65 years were Sisters Maria Battaglia and Anthony Novara. Sister Theodore Bollati celebrated 75 years and Sister Dolorita Colianni marked her 80 years. In addition, celebrating 50 years were: Sisters Marialice Ackermann, Cora Lombardo, Deborah Lopez, Maureen Martin, Benjamin Merlotti, Jude Ruggeri and Nancy Strillacci. Sister Diane Mastroianni celebrated 25 years. The Apostles also celebrated the profession of first and perpetual vows of Sister Catherine Ann Phillips and Sister Christine Marie Rattini.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF APOSTLES OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

ARCHDIOCESE



Archdiocese of Hartford
Office of Safe Environment
467 Bloomfield Ave.,
Bloomfield, CT 06002



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

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

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

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

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

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



ST. PATRICK'S IN WATERBURY IS HOME FOR TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS — St. Patrick's, 50 Charles St., Waterbury, has been entrusted to the pastoral care of clergy from the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest and is the home of a new oratory commonly known as the traditional Latin Mass. Local priests of the archdiocese will continue to offer the English-language Mass at St. Patrick's each Saturday at 4 p.m., while the Latin Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays. For more information on Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest, visit www.institute-christ-king.org. To contact St. Patrick office, call 203.756.8837. In the photo, left, holding the thurible is the Rev. Canon Matthew Talarico, provincial superior of the United States province of the Institute of Christ the King. Next to him is the new pastor of St. Patrick's, the Rev. Canon Joel Estrada.

PHOTO BY STUART CHESSMAN, SOCIETY OF ST. HUGH OF CLUNY



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