

Catholic TRANSCRIPT

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021

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- CATHOLIC SCHOOLS DEVELOP A CHILD'S MIND, BODY, SPIRIT
- A WEEKEND TO CELEBRATE BLESSED MICHAEL MCGIVNEY
- IMMACARE TACKLES HOMELESSNESS



A New Kind of Ministry

Carrying on the Church's work during a pandemic

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In 2020, the Archdiocese of Hartford, through the Archbishop's Annual Appeal Vicariate Outreach Program was able to provide funding to more than 215 organizations throughout Hartford, New Haven and Litchfield counties. These charities offer programs that our neighbors depend on for a warm jacket, a safe place to sleep, a hot meal or a comforting word. This would not have been possible without the generosity of donors to the 2020 Archbishop's Annual Appeal, **THANK YOU!!**



READ ALL ABOUT IT: In 2021, the *Catholic Transcript* will be providing you stories about some of the organizations and Archdiocesan ministries that are able to continue to receive funding only because of the generosity of the donors to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. Turn to **page 18** to learn about this month's organization.



PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH



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PHOTO BY JAKE BELCHER

ON THE COVER: Father Jeffrey V. Romans, pastor of St. Bridget of Sweden Parish in Cheshire, shows how to make his antipasto squares appetizer during a filming of "Beyond the Bulletin" on Facebook. COVER PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

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Much to Look Forward to in 2021

THOMASVOGEL/GETTY IMAGES



KAREN AVITABILE
is the editor of the
Catholic Transcript.

During the unprecedented crisis of COVID-19, priests in the Archdiocese of Hartford have found creative ways to keep their parishioners connected with God, the Church and each other. Whether learning to livestream Mass or figuring out new ways to teach the faith remotely, inside and outside of church, our priests have met the challenge.

Several priests also adopted new — and anomalous — ways to stay in touch with YOU, their flock. During 2021, to celebrate our priests, the *Transcript* will be bringing you some of those stories. To kick it off, we went to St. Bridget of Sweden Parish in Cheshire, where Father Jeffrey V. Romans, the pastor, Father Anthony Federico, parochial vicar, and their four-legged friend, Fenway, are connecting with parishioners in unique ways. Read about it beginning on page 8.

Also during 2021, we will be highlighting some of the programs and ministries helping thousands of people around the state through the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. In this edition of the *Transcript*, learn how ImmaCare Inc. in Hartford strives to prevent and eliminate homelessness in the Hartford region by creating safe and affordable housing options for those who are struggling. Turn to page 18 to read more about it.

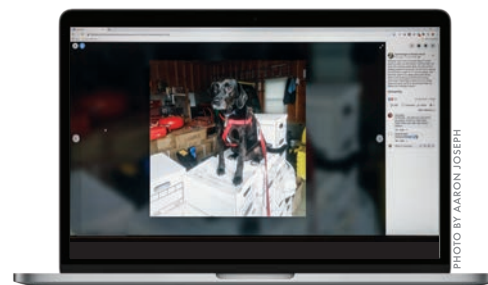


PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

Although the coronavirus pandemic limited attendance to the beatification Mass of Father Michael J. McGivney at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford, hundreds of people participated in events at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Waterbury and at St. Mary's Church in New Haven, historical churches for Father McGivney, which took place over the beatification weekend. You can find those stories and pictures in this edition, as well as information

about the new Blessed Michael McGivney Pilgrimage Center, formerly the Knights of Columbus Museum in New Haven. There are still more stories to tell about Blessed McGivney, his life and how he is being honored, which we will bring to you in future editions.

A new year imparts the promise of new goals, new hopes and new intentions. As we forge a new beginning, we should be reminded of Philippians 4:6 — "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." May God be with you this year and fill your life with blessings. 🙏



PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

Catholic TRANSCRIPT

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All Time Belongs to Him — and all the ages

As we move into 2021, I'm reminded of the beautiful prayer at the blessing of the paschal candle every Easter: "Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, the alpha and the omega. All time belongs to him and all the ages. To him be glory and power through every age and forever. Amen."



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

I take great encouragement from these words, and I hope you do too, as we continue to face the challenges of COVID-19, the tensions in the world today and amid the temptation many people feel to turn away from religious faith and practice.

A recent study reports a growing decline in religion worldwide, most dramatically in the United States. From 1981 to 2007, our country ranked as one of the world's most religious. Since then, though, it has shown the largest move away from religion of any country for which the study had data. (CARA Report, Fall 2020)

For more and more people, religion is relegated to the private sphere, and is increasingly being blamed for oppression and the world's conflicts. Religion no longer has a decisive influence on our culture, the arts and sciences, public life and on moral and ethical issues. A common understanding of good and evil, justice and injustice, right and wrong, is eroding. Today, even the life of unborn babies is no longer protected, and something as fundamental as marriage is no longer believed to have any God-given meaning and purpose, but can be redefined by us at will.

An article in *USA Today* once reported on the growing number of Americans who "simply shrug off God, religion, heaven or the ever-trendy search-for-meaning and/or purpose. Their attitude could be summed up as 'So what?'" Consider the example of a young Chicago adult identified as Catholic: "The more [he] read evolutionary psychology and neuro-psychology, the more it seemed to him, 'We might as well be cars. That,

to me, makes more sense than believing what you can't see."

Without faith in what is unseen, the comparison of the human person to a car is not surprising. The Second Vatican Council taught that "once God is lost sight of, the human person is lost sight of too." Where doubt over God becomes prevalent, then doubt over humanity follows inevitably. We see today how widely this doubt is spreading. We see it in the joylessness, in the inner sadness that can be read on so many human faces today, in the emptiness and aimlessness that leads to addictions and suicides. Religion gives me the conviction that it is good that I exist, that it is good to be a human being, even in hard times.

When the Second Vatican Council met in the 1960s, the Council Fathers taught that concern about the world to come should not diminish our concern for this world. Now more than a half-century later, we almost have to turn that statement around. Concern for this world should not diminish our concern for the world to come. People today need to hear a convincing and uplifting message about the ultimate purpose of their lives. They also need to recognize that implanted within them is a deep thirst for God.

"Faith," Pope Benedict once said, "makes a person happy from deep within," because we know that God's love for us will never cease and neither will we. Because his love embraces us here below, we live in confident hope of eternal life. True freedom is not the human ability to do whatever we want, but rather the divine grace to love and overcome the shackles of

our human weakness and sin so that we can do what is right and good.

Needless to say, our Catholic faith is not about professing beliefs in church on Sunday and then during the week being a party to unjust laws, social or racial prejudices, corrupt practices, ignoring or exploiting the poor and the marginalized or promoting sexual behavior contrary to Catholic moral teaching, including the right to life of every human being from conception to natural death.

As believers, our mission is to be loving and courageous witnesses to the truth about God, about Jesus, about the reality of sin and the need for repentance and faith. In the words of Pope Francis, "we cannot passively and calmly wait in our church buildings," but wherever we find darkness we must bring the unquenchable light of Christ. Let this be our resolution in 2021! 🙏



Archbishop Leonard P. Blair visited St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish in Manchester and offered the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at St. Bartholomew Church.

PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

Suyo Es El Tiempo y Todas Las Edades

A medida que nos acercamos al año 2021, viene a mi memoria la hermosa oración de bendición del cirio pascual: "Cristo ayer y hoy, Principio y Fin, Alfa y Omega. Suyo es el tiempo y la eternidad. A él la gloria y el poder por los siglos de los siglos. Amén".



EL ARZOBISPO LEONARD P. BLAIR es el 13er obispo de la Arquidiócesis de Hartford.

Encuentro gran aliento en estas palabras, y espero que ustedes también, ya que seguimos enfrentando los desafíos del COVID, las tensiones del mundo de hoy y rodeados de la tentación que sienten muchas personas de alejarse de la fe y las prácticas religiosas.

Un estudio reciente nos informa de un creciente declive de la religión en todo el mundo, más dramáticamente en los Estados Unidos. De 1981 a 2007 nuestro país se calificó como uno de los más religiosos del mundo. Desde entonces, ha mostrado el mayor abandono de la religión de cualquier país donde el estudio obtuvo información (Informe CARA, otoño de 2020).

Cada vez para más personas, la religión está relegada a la esfera privada y cada vez se le culpa más por la opresión y los conflictos del mundo. La religión ya no tiene una influencia decisiva en nuestra cultura, las artes y las ciencias, la vida pública y en las cuestiones morales y éticas. La comprensión común del bien y el mal, la justicia y la injusticia, el bien y el mal, se está erosionando. Hoy día, incluso la vida de los bebés por nacer ya no está protegida, y ya no se cree que algo tan fundamental como que el matrimonio tenga significado y propósito dado por Dios, sino que podemos redefinirlo como se quiera.

Un artículo de *USA Today* informó una vez sobre el creciente número de estadounidenses que "simplemente se encogen de hombros ante Dios, la religión, el cielo o la siempre de moda búsqueda de significado y/o propósito. Su actitud podría resumirse como "¿Y qué más da?" Consideren el ejemplo de un joven adulto en Chicago identificado como católico: "Cuanto más leía psicología evolutiva y neuropsicología, más le parecía: 'Podríamos lo mismo ser como automóviles. Para mí, eso, tiene más sentido que creer en lo que no puedes ver'".

Sin fe en lo que no se ve, la comparación de la persona humana con un automóvil no es sorprendente. El Concilio Vaticano II enseñó que "una vez que se pierde de vista a Dios, también se pierde de vista a la persona humana". Donde prevalece la duda sobre Dios, es inevitable la duda sobre la humanidad. Hoy vemos cuán ampliamente se está extendiendo esta duda. Lo vemos en la tristeza, en la congoja interior que hoy se puede

leer en tantos rostros humanos, en el vacío y la falta de rumbo que conducen a las adicciones y al suicidio. La religión me da la convicción de que: es bueno que yo exista, que es bueno ser un ser humano, incluso en tiempos difíciles.

Cuando se reunió el Concilio Vaticano II en la década de 1960, los Padres conciliares enseñaron que la preocupación por el mundo venidero no debe disminuir nuestra preocupación por este mundo. Ahora, más de medio siglo después, casi tenemos que darle la vuelta a esa afirmación. La preocupación por este mundo no debe disminuir nuestra preocupación por el mundo venidero. La gente de hoy necesita escuchar un mensaje convincente y edificante sobre el propósito último de sus vidas. También necesitan reconocer que implantada dentro de ellos hay una profunda sed de Dios.

"La fe", dijo una vez el Papa Benedicto, "hace feliz a una persona desde lo más profundo", porque sabemos que el amor de Dios por nosotros nunca cesará y nosotros tampoco. Porque su amor nos abraza aquí abajo, vivimos en la confiada esperanza de la vida eterna. La verdadera libertad no es la capacidad humana de hacer lo que queramos, sino la gracia divina de amar y vencer las cadenas de nuestra debilidad humana y el pecado para que podamos hacer lo que es correcto y bueno.

No hace falta decir que nuestra fe católica no se trata de profesar credos en la iglesia los domingos y luego durante la semana ser parte de leyes injustas, prejuicios sociales o raciales, prácticas corruptas, ignorar o explotar a los pobres y marginados o promover el comportamiento sexual contrario a la enseñanza moral católica, incluyendo el derecho a la vida de todo ser humano desde la concepción hasta la muerte natural.

Como creyentes, nuestra misión es ser testigos amorosos y valientes de la verdad sobre Dios, sobre Jesús, sobre la realidad del pecado y la necesidad del arrepentimiento y la fe. En palabras del Papa Francisco, no podemos esperar pasiva y tranquilamente en los edificios de nuestras iglesias, pero dondequiera que encontremos oscuridad debemos traer la luz inextinguible de Cristo. ¡Que esta sea nuestra resolución para el 2021! 🙏



El Arzobispo Leonard P. Blair fue el celebrante principal de la Misa celebrada en la iglesia de St. Thomas, Southington.

FOTO POR AARON JOSEPH

Father Jeffrey V. Romans.

A New Kind of Ministry

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first of several articles that will focus on new ways churches are helping parishioners discover, follow and stay connected to Christ when many people are isolated and struggling with fear and uncertainty as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

Priests and apostolates are discovering innovative ways to carry on the Church's work during a pandemic.

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

LIFE IS DIFFERENT THESE DAYS — far different than most of us would have ever imagined. No one could have predicted that global society would be confronted with a coronavirus crisis that has caused a deep spiritual hardship for many people, here and around the world. But this unprecedented time has also been a defining moment for the Church.



Do you worry about your loved ones who have passed away? Father Anthony J. Federico and Victoria Clarizio discussed heaven, hell, purgatory and the souls of those who have gone before us and the Church's teachings on the afterlife during a segment of "Apologetics 101" held at St. Bridget of Sweden Cemetery in November.

Nearly a year after the pandemic started, mask wearing, social distancing and isolation continue to exist today. Although churches in the Archdiocese of Hartford have not been able to return to full capacity and the dispensation to physically attend Sunday Mass continues in order to protect the health and well-being of everyone, parish priests and staff members have worked diligently to provide creative, alternative ways to keep their congregants connected, engaged and participating in the Church.

The clergy have come to embrace technology to livestream Masses, Bible studies, virtual prayer sessions and to pray the rosary. They are reaching out and staying connected through social media, emails, video conferencing, Zoom, Facebook pages and YouTube. In the absence of celebrating public Masses, they are offering Mass online for the faithful every day. They are using nontraditional methods for continued sacramental preparation and religious education classes.

And along the way, priests are providing fellowship — in some very unusual but extraordinary ways.

St. Bridget of Sweden Parish in Cheshire has been using social media since early 2016. Since the pandemic prevented gathering at Mass, the pastor, Father Jeffrey V. Romans, has been creative in keeping in touch with the congregation.

"Since the pandemic, we've done things to reach out to people," he says. "I do believe using the tools available to us is a major part of ministry in this time."

For example, Father Romans started "Casual Conversations" on Facebook on Saturdays when everyone was in lockdown. "It was an opportunity for anyone to ask questions about the faith or life," he says. "It garnered great interest."

On Thursdays, Father Anthony J. Federico, parochial vicar, and Victoria Clarizio, administrative assistant for social communications, meet on Facebook for "Apologetics 101," where they present a topic and answer questions. One week, spiritual warfare was a topic.

"All of us as Christians are involved in spiritual combat throughout our lives," Father Federico said on Facebook.

Clarizio added, "A lot of it happens and begins in our minds. That's where the devil starts to try to get us to doubt God's love for us and lead us toward sin."

Sometimes, "Apologetics 101" takes a field trip, to St. Bridget Cemetery for example, to discuss how to help the beloved dead get to heaven. The Facebook page often links to videos about a topic and information from "Apologetics" can also be found on the church website, stbridgetcheshire.org.

On Mondays, a question is posted on the parish Facebook page for "Beyond the Bulletin" (#beyondthebulletin). For example, on Oct. 26, the question was: "We asked Father Romans what his favorite appetizer is. Can you guess it?"

Followers then post their answers — some said Italian, eggplant rollatini and cheese balls. Someone posted "bacon-wrapped

scallops” were the pastor’s favorite. But Father Romans quipped that bacon-wrapped scallops are Father Federico’s favorite.

The answer to the question was revealed the following day when Father Romans cooked his favorite appetizer during a live Facebook session. He did provide a hint, though: “I do like Italian food, as you know.”

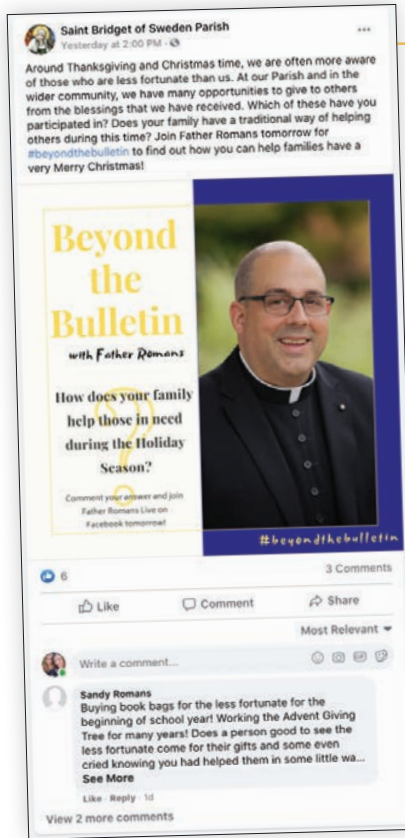
While Father Romans’ preferred appetizer is his mom’s dill dip in a rye bread bowl, he says he enjoys making his antipasto squares and demonstrated how to do it during that taping of #beyondthebulletin. “It is just easy,” he says, and can be prepared in 10 to 15 minutes.

He says: Buy two cans of crescent rolls, put one down, then layer cheese, meat, cheese, meat and cheese. On top of that, put roasted peppers. Pour on an egg mixture of egg, pepper and Pecorino Romano cheese (and a few secret spices), another layer of the dough and more egg on the top. Cover with foil, bake for 30 minutes at 350 degrees, then remove the foil and put it back in for 20 to 30 minutes.

“Watch the top, you don’t want it to get black, but you do want it to brown nice though,” Father Romans recommended online.

During the filming of the appetizer segment and all of his cooking shows, Father Romans, who dons his Boston Red Sox apron, is assisted by his friend and sous chef, Fenway, his black lab beagle. Fenway loves American cheese, so Father Romans shared a piece of cheese with him. To save cooking time, Father Romans already baked one pan of antipasto squares, which he shows to the viewers.

During an episode of “Beyond the Bulletin,” Father Romans makes his favorite soup, lobster bisque, which was his grandmother’s specialty. He says he would include the recipe – a “Romans thing” – in an upcoming online cookbook if his mother, Sandy, would give her blessing.



“WE REALLY LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU, OFFERING THIS OPPORTUNITY TO YOU AND BEING ABLE TO BE AN INSTRUMENT OF GOD’S MERCY AND LOVE TO YOU IN THIS TIME OF PANDEMIC, AS WE CONTINUE TO GRAPPLE WITH THIS.”

— Father Romans, in his invitation on Facebook

“Your guests will be salivating,” he says, “as my staff is now.” (Editor’s Note: I tried one of the squares he made and it was delicious. I made them the following weekend, and I will agree, they are easy to make.)

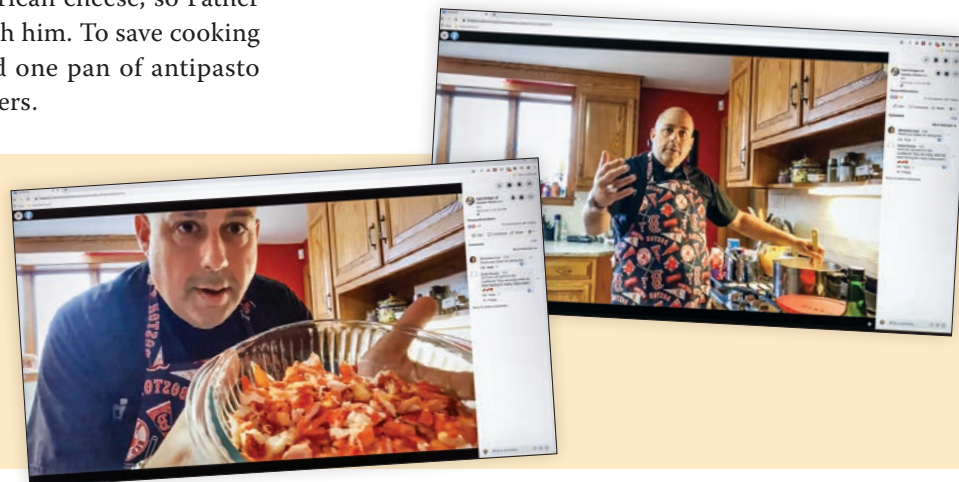
Other past #beyondthebulletin questions have included: “What is your favorite kind of soup to make or eat?” Father Romans’ answer: lobster bisque, his grandmother’s Thanksgiving specialty. Or, “What unexpected blessings have you been thankful for in this difficult year?” He was happy to read the responses live.

On Fridays, the pastoral staff of the parish meet to lay out plans for engaging the whole congregation. “I rely on our staff to help us out with this,” Father Romans says.

In addition to livestreaming Masses and weekly adoration, Father Romans and Father Federico post videos about the lives of saints or promote special events.

Because people told the priests they missed receiving holy Communion in church, a drive-up holy Communion in the parking lot was held in November.

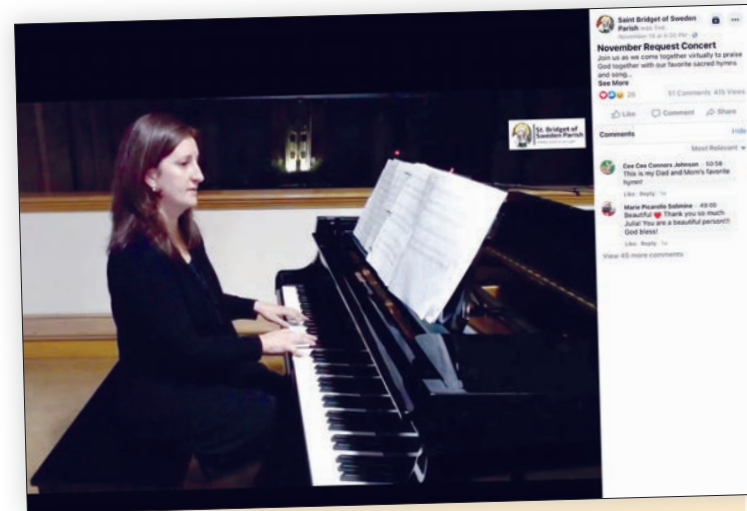
“We really look forward to seeing you, offering this opportunity to you and being able to be an instrument of God’s mercy and love to you in this time of pandemic, as we continue to grapple with this,” Father Romans said in his invitation on Facebook.



FACEBOOK POSTING FROM FENWAY, NOV. 13

“Wowzers that’s a lot of boxes! Doesn’t it feel good to clean out old closets? Dad has been on quite the cleaning spree lately. He tells me he’s getting ready for tomorrow. The School is having its Fall Shred-it event 9-12. Got old papers and bills that need to be safely destroyed? Bring them to the parking lot behind the rectory tomorrow! Small bags & boxes are \$10, larger bags and boxes are \$15. All proceeds help my friends at St. Bridget School!”

#fenwayfriday



Julia Atwood, director of music at St. Bridget of Sweden Parish, regularly holds a concert of sacred hymns and songs on Facebook. Participants comment on Facebook about what they would like her to play or email her at jatwood@stbridgetcheshire.org.

Other regular happenings at St. Bridget of Sweden posted on Facebook include monthly concerts of sacred hymns and songs with Julia Atwood, director of music at the parish. Fenway Fridays is a Facebook posting by Fenway about some activity the church may be involved in or a message to be extended to parishioners. The Sunday Mass is livestreamed on Facebook, YouTube and the parish website.

Oftentimes, events promoting St. Bridget of Sweden School are also promoted on the church Facebook page.

St. Bridget of Sweden Parish has its own YouTube page that anyone can subscribe to in addition to its own Instagram page at #sboscheshire.

PANDEMIC Parish Cookbook

During the pandemic, discussions on St. Bridget of Sweden Parish Facebook page have centered around food, recipes and cooking, with Father Romans and Father Federico experimenting with different recipes. The interest from their Facebook viewers was the catalyst to create an online parish cookbook that the whole parish can partake in.

“People talked constantly about ‘What are you cooking, what is a new recipe you are working on?’ ‘What does Father Federico like to eat?’” Father Romans says.

Instead of submissions for every category of food all at once, the parish chooses what recipes will be accepted at any given time. For example, the following was published in a past parish bulletin: **“At this time we are looking for your favorite SOUP & SALAD recipes. Send in those family specialties to: cookbook@stbridgetcheshire.org.”**

When it is organized, the cookbook will be posted at stbridgetcheshire.org.

“This will be on the parish website and designed to add to it through the years,” Father Romans says. “We wanted to do something to bring people together.”

A New Year to Renew OUR FAITH IN GOD

With the mercy and grace of God, we have begun a new year, a fresh start that gives us hope. There are still quite a few difficulties to overcome, but we can see some light at the end of the tunnel — and our expectations of resuming our old normal can be part of our plans now.



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

Indeed, many of us have been sustained during these difficult times by the prayers of our brothers and sisters. It is through our baptism in Christ that we are one family (cf. Jn 15:1-6; Eph 1:22-23; 5:23-32; Col 1:18,24), called to assist with our prayer every member of the Church, especially those in most need. (Acts 2:42; Rom 15:30; 1 Pt 2:9; Rv 20:6; CCC 946)

As Catholics, we profess that we believe in the help of the prayers for one another and the saints in heaven; we are all one “Catholic” family in heaven and on earth, united together, as children of the Father, through Jesus Christ. (cf. Eph 3:14-15)


The beatification of Father Michael J. McGivney, a tremendous blessing that will provide very many graces to our archdiocese, to the whole nation and the world, reminds us of the importance of sustaining one another with prayer. (cf. Eph 6:18) Our priests and all of us now have a new and compelling example of a pastor who gave his life for his people living an ordinary priestly life.


Moreover, as a parochial vicar at St. Mary’s in New Haven and as pastor of St.

Thomas Church in Thomaston, everyone remembered him as a remarkable man who devoted, amid so many priestly duties, ample time to pray for his people. He took to heart the Lord’s mandate to pray in faith so we could receive grace and favor as God our Father provides for our needs. (Mk 11:24; cf. Jn 2:3) He is a remarkable example and a new patron for us priests who are to implore God’s mercy upon the people entrusted to our care by observing the command to pray without ceasing. (cf. Roman Pontifical, p. 91)

Roman Pontifical, p. 91

Father McGivney “is an intercessor for our most heartfelt prayers, as a friend in times of trouble who has gone before us into heaven. He is a Blessed for our times who knows the needs of the people of our parishes, our communities, our nations, and our world.” (Novena, Day 9)

With the example and intercession of Blessed Michael McGivney, we are encouraged to dedicate ourselves during this new year with its blessings and challenges to care more for one another. It is our duty as brothers and sisters in the Lord to accompany one another with our prayers. Let us renew our belief that although we may come from different origins and have diverse backgrounds and political preferences, we are one family in the Lord. (cf. Rom 8:35-39) 

Rom 8:35-39) 



Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt is incensed by Deacon Ernest Scrivani during the recent ordination of permanent deacons at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford.

Un nuevo año para renovar nuestra fe en Dios

Con la misericordia y la gracia de Dios hemos iniciado un nuevo año, un nuevo comienzo que nos da esperanza. Todavía quedan bastantes dificultades que superar, pero podemos ver algo de luz al final del túnel, y nuestras expectativas de reanudar nuestra antigua normalidad pueden ahora formar parte de nuestros planes.



EL OBISPO AUXILIAR JUAN MIGUEL BETANCOURT es el noveno obispo auxiliar de la Arquidiócesis de Hartford.

De hecho, muchos de nosotros hemos sido sostenidos durante estos tiempos difíciles por las oraciones de nuestros hermanos y hermanas. Es a través de nuestro bautismo en Cristo que somos una familia (cf. Jn 15, 1-6; Ef 1, 22-23; 5, 23-32; Col 1, 18-24), llamados a ayudar con nuestra oración a cada miembro de la Iglesia, especialmente los más necesitados (Hch 2, 42; Rm 15, 30; 1 P 2, 9; Ap 20, 6; CIC 946).

Como católicos, profesamos que creemos en la ayuda de las oraciones de unos por otros y de los santos en el cielo; todos somos una familia “católica” en el cielo y en la tierra, unidos, como hijos del Padre, a través de Jesucristo (cf. Ef 3, 14-15).

La beatificación del P. Michael J. McGivney, una tremenda bendición que ofrecerá abundantes gracias a nuestra arquidiócesis, a toda la nación y al mundo, nos recuerda la importancia de apoyarnos unos a otros con la oración (cf. Ef 6, 18). Nuestros sacerdotes y todos nosotros tenemos ahora un ejemplo nuevo y convincente de un pastor que dio su vida por su pueblo viviendo una vida sacerdotal ordinaria. Como vicario parroquial en St. Mary en New Haven,

y como pastor de la iglesia St. Thomas en Thomaston, todos lo recordaban como un hombre extraordinario que dedicó, en medio de tantos deberes sacerdotales, amplio tiempo para orar por su pueblo. Él tomó en serio el mandato del Señor de orar con fe para que pudiéramos recibir gracia y bendición a la vez que Dios nuestro Padre provea por nuestras necesidades (Mc 11, 24; cf. Jn 2, 3). P. McGivney es un

amigo en tiempos de problemas que ha ido antes que nosotros al cielo. Es un Beato para nuestro tiempo que conoce las necesidades de la gente de nuestras parroquias, nuestras comunidades, nuestras naciones y nuestro mundo” (Novena, Día 9).


El ejemplo y la intercesión del Beato Michael McGivney, nos anima a dedicarnos durante este año nuevo, con sus bendiciones y desafíos, a cuidar más

“EL EJEMPLO Y LA INTERCESIÓN DEL BEATO MICHAEL MCGIVNEY, NOS ANIMA A DEDICARNOS DURANTE ESTE NUEVO AÑO, CON SUS BENDICIONES Y DESAFÍOS, A CUIDAR MÁS LOS UNOS DE LOS OTROS”.

— Obispo Auxiliar Juan Miguel Betancourt

ejemplo extraordinario, un nuevo patrón para nosotros los sacerdotes, que debemos implorar la misericordia de Dios sobre el pueblo confiado a nuestro cuidado, observando el mandamiento de orar sin cesar (cf. Ritual de órdenes, p. 144).

P. Michael McGivney “es un intercesor de nuestras oraciones más sentidas, un

los unos de los otros. Es nuestro deber como hermanos y hermanas en el Señor acompañarnos unos a otros con nuestras oraciones. Renovemos nuestra creencia de que, aunque vengamos de diferentes orígenes y tengamos diversos antecedentes y preferencias políticas, somos una familia en el Señor (cf. Rm 8, 35-39). 



Outdoor classroom teacher Rebekah Chestna and second graders pick carrots at St. John the Evangelist School in Watertown.

Developing the Whole Person

Catholic schools develop a child's mind, body and spirit.

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



Catholic education is focused on the whole child: mind, body and spirit. That total understanding of the person sets Catholic schools apart from all others.

“A school that’s not animated by the Catholic vision of what the human person is, is only there for the sake of the mind,” says Patrick McLaughlin, director of campus ministry at East Catholic High School in Manchester. “But it is Catholic education that really has this united vision of what a human being is as mind, body and spirit — or soul.

“And we recognize the need to cultivate and nourish each of those aspects of human personhood,” he says. “So we try to have a comprehensive educational program that addresses all of those needs.”

In addition to rigorous academics and robust athletics, Catholic schools as a whole are unique in addressing each child’s spirit. They do that by developing each student’s faith in God, relationship with Jesus, Catholic values and potential for doing good in a challenging world.

Here is just a sampling of how Catholic schools throughout the Archdiocese of Hartford are supporting the spirit of each child and helping them grow into well-rounded, faith-filled adults.

PRESENCE OF GOD

On any given weekday, Father Jeff Gubiotti, pastor of Assumption Parish in Ansonia, and Father David Madejski, parochial vicar, can be seen walking through the halls of Assumption School in Ansonia, saying hello to the students. Both serve as approachable and accessible disciples of Jesus who frequently drop in on classes at this elementary and middle school.

“It’s so important for them to be visible fixtures in the school,” says Rebecca Goddard, principal. “Both priests are experts in the faith. And the kids, they love it.” In a school that aims to help children realize the presence of God in their lives and in the world, Goddard says these two priests

are the school’s biggest assets.

Father Madejski also teaches religious education to grades four and five. During a recent class on the sacrament of reconciliation, he used PowerPoint slides with bulleted points and religious artwork to teach the students about God’s love and forgiveness. To explain the seal of confession and address their fears, he told the children, “We don’t have to be afraid to go to confession because we know that everything we say in confession to a priest can never, ever be repeated by the priest, ever.”

“What I do is teach them things they don’t really get in the books,” Father Madejski explains. “I give them a lot of catechesis.” The young priest says it’s crucial for clergy and religious to visit Catholic schools. “Most people don’t see them except in church, but Mass is formal and reverent.” The school setting, however, is more relaxed and informal. Inquiring minds can feel free to ask questions.

Gabriella Hakins, a fifth grader, says of Father Madejski, “I like how he gives

Academic Excellence

- All schools accredited by New England Association of Schools and Colleges.
- Elementary students display steady growth and regularly score above grade levels on IOWA Assessments. Due to the pandemic, IOWA Assessments were not administered this past spring. Plans are in place to administer the IOWAs this year.
- Technology is integrated across the curriculum.
- High school students consistently outperform their peers nationally and statewide on all sections of the SAT.

information and a lot of knowledge. I liked baptism. I got to learn a lot.” She also says being around priests makes her feel closer to God. “They’re like another version of God, but just here on earth.”

MAKING CONNECTIONS

When it comes to younger children, “A lot of what we teach is through our actions,” says Mary Alice Nadaskay, principal at St. Bridget School in Manchester, which teaches elementary and middle school children. “We teach that our actions show who we are.

“For example, when we make the sign of the cross, that is the greatest action that shows we are followers of Jesus,” she says. “We make the connection that we’ll see professional athletes making the sign of the cross, which tells everybody what they believe.”

Older children in the higher grades



Father David Madejski teaches the sacrament of reconciliation to fifth graders at Assumption School in Ansonia.



Seventh-grader Raymond Martin adds another bead to the paper rosary at St. Bridget School in Manchester.

are taught to lead others in faith. Last October, the seventh graders led a school-wide rosary. One by one, each student announced a prayer intention, then recited a prayer as their image was projected in classrooms around the school through Zoom, enabling all classes to recite the second half of the prayers. Finally, the seventh grader pinned a paper rosary bead onto a bulletin board until all the colorful paper beads formed a completed rosary.

Raymond Martin, a seventh grader who introduced the rosary and recited the Apostles' Creed, says, "I believe the rosary is a set of prayers that bring us closer to Mary and connects us to the events in the life of Jesus." He says the rosary also teaches us about "the suffering of Jesus and Mary, and how we are all one in some way."

Learning prayers in school and then taking them home is important, he adds, because it helps us do "a little soul searching every day that helps us to figure out who we are." Martin prays every night and enjoys praying with his classmates every morning. "Our whole class joins in a class prayer, which I think is great," he says. "Maybe we're not friends, maybe we are, but we all still have that spiritual connection through God and through the Holy Trinity."

VALUES AND VIRTUES

St. Rita School in Hamden does all it can to live up to its motto: St. Rita School ... the place to be where the love of Christ is lived and shared. "We talk about and model values, we talk about morals, we talk about right and wrong daily," says Patricia Tiezzi, principal of the elementary and middle school.

Each year, the school has a guiding theme to make its point. "Our theme this year is 'Be the light.' We talk about how it's their job to reach out to somebody in the school who is feeling down and be that person's light and encourage them and give them kindness," Tiezzi says. "We want children to understand that Catholics are different and to treat every other child the way Jesus would want us to be treated."

St. Rita School also passes on a love for ancient devotions and combines it with emphasis on the virtues. In November, it celebrated the enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus at its monthly First Friday Mass at St. Rita Church, part of Divine Mercy Parish. Two eighth grade students, Tyler Farina and Conall Burns, were



Conall Burns and Tyler Farina, from St. Rita School in Hamden, crown Jesus during the enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus at St. Rita Church.

chosen to put the glittery paper crown on a statue of Jesus. They were elected for this honor by their peers for displaying humility, leadership and kindness.

"I can't believe I was chosen for this," Farina says. He adds that his role models at school are his math teacher, Mrs. Cindy Brennan, and the vice principal, Sister Anne D'Alessio of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. "They're kind, patient and understanding," he says. "I'd like to live up to those virtues."

STEWARDSHIP AND CHARITY

On a fall day at St. John the Evangelist School in Watertown, second graders picked root vegetables from the ground and snapped off the greens. Fifth graders picked green beans from a trellis overhead at the direction of Rebekah Chestna, a parent volunteer and outdoor classroom teacher.

Nearby, a tiny statue of St. Fiacre, an Irish hermit herbalist who healed the sick, was planted in the soil.

Two years ago, this Catholic elementary and middle school came up with a unique way to teach stewardship of the earth and care for others through an outdoor classroom that will one day feed the poor. It's comprised of a garden with eight large growing beds. There, students from each grade learn about a different academic theme, such as microclimates, irrigation systems, edible seeds and composting.

"We teach math, science, religion and language arts all through this outdoor space," says Marylou Iannone, principal. "And the centerpiece is protecting God's earth and sharing God's gifts, putting

each of us in service to the next." The children also learned about Pope Francis' encyclical on caring for creation: *Laudato Si'*.

Through the campus garden, they raise and harvest carrots and tomatoes, then donate them to the school's kitchen for lunches and snacks, thereby caring for one another. Next year, when the garden is more established, they plan to donate produce to a nearby shelter and to Watertown's St. John the Evangelist Parish, which cooks meatloaf meals for the homeless.

In the meantime, for Catholic Schools Week, they will be preparing 400 sandwiches to send to soup kitchens in Waterbury and Torrington. "If we can be successful developing that kind of a commitment to service," Iannone says, "we're doing the right thing to help students really live their faith actively."

RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

When Lucia ("Lulu") Spielman began attending East Catholic High School in Manchester four years ago, she came from a public school and was unsure of her faith. "I only knew the basics of what I learned in church, which is really confusing for someone so young and not sure of what they believe and what's going on in the Scripture," she admits.

However, in religious education classes, she began to study the Bible and salvation history, coming at it with an open mind. Spielman says she asked herself, "What is the best way to form my relationship with God and continue to have it grow?" Because I didn't want to do it wrong. I didn't want to have any



Patrick McLaughlin, director of campus ministry, offers the third-period prayer over the intercom at East Catholic High School in Manchester.

false interpretations. I just wanted to come here and be able to create the best relationship with God that I could."

Now in her senior year, Spielman is more confident in her faith. She even serves as a "peer minister" at the school, helping to facilitate small group discussions during retreats. "I'm able to speak to others about what my views of faith are, and help guide others if they are searching for guidance," she explains. For guidance herself, she says, she now looks to her teachers and to God.

Spielman credits her new outlook on life to the welcoming and open-minded atmosphere at East Catholic, a place where the big questions of life can be asked and answered. "I'm able to talk about God, my teachers are able to say that they'll pray for me," she says, "and we're able to talk about questions that most other students and friends who don't go here aren't able to do."

Patrick McLaughlin, the school's director of campus ministry, says Spielman's transformation is not uncommon. "It's often the case at the high school level

now that students are having their first religious experiences," he says. "What I mean by that is an experience that goes beyond just learning about what God is, or who God is, but of actually cultivating a relationship with God, of recognizing oneself as being a child of God, a creation of God, of recognizing God's presence in one's own life."

At East Catholic, two campus ministers aim to lay the groundwork for that personal relationship with God through annual retreats, service work and a new discussion program called Agape Latte. The Agape Latte small group discussion series, modeled on the one at Boston College, began at East Catholic in spring 2019 and was held weekly and later twice a month toward the end of a long lunch hour. It's something new the school has tried that has "really stuck," McLaughlin says.

He puts out an open invitation, offering free coffee and pastries baked by student peer ministers along with a philosophical or faith-related question of the week, such as "What constitutes good music?" or "Is there life after death?" Students are then welcome to share their thoughts, which evolve into thought-provoking discussions on spirituality and faith.

"If you get kids talking about something they're interested in, you can always turn that back toward something religious or spiritual," he says. "Getting everybody in dialogue has been a great way to get people more comfortable sharing their faith or their lack of faith, just where they're at in their journey."

Agape Latte was put on hold last fall due to the pandemic, but is slated to return in the spring. ☪

Archdiocese of Hartford

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

38 SCHOOLS

27 ARCHDIOCESAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

4 ARCHDIOCESAN HIGH SCHOOLS

5 PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOLS

2 PRIVATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS



ELEMENTARY: 5,630 students

SECONDARY: 3,558 students

TOTAL: 9,188 students

100% OF SCHOOLS PROVIDE TUITION ASSISTANCE

GRADUATION RATE 100%

TACKLING HOMELESSNESS



Tony Mack, ImmaCare's mobile outreach case manager, stands beside his van outside of Casa de Francisco apartment complex.

ONGOING MOBILE OUTREACH

Tony Mack is ImmaCare's lone mobile outreach case manager. "I go out and provide services for the homeless," he says, "searching for them along railroad tracks, at bus stations, under bridges and at campsites along the river, basically in places not fit for human habitation."

Mack, who has been doing this for 16 years, adds, "I pack lunches and bring them basic necessities. Then I try to build rapport and help them to get food stamps, housing, and provide medical transportation to doctor's appointments."

He also tries to persuade them to go to the shelter, where they will be assigned a case manager to assess their needs. Unfortunately, he says, "A lot who won't go into a shelter have mental health issues or substance abuse problems." Mack also acts as a case manager, too. "I have a case load of 10, but I'm still all over the place."

Mack spends a fair amount of time guiding homeless individuals through the process of obtaining key documents — such as birth certificates, ID cards and Social Security cards — so they can apply for housing, other social services and jobs.

He says he has no problem keeping his spirits up, despite what he witnesses each day. "I've been doing this so long it doesn't bother me anymore," he explains. "I give tough love. Once you work with me, I'm going to make you work. I make them all hustle to get their documents."

Last November, Mack expected seven out of 10 of his cases to be housed by the end of 2020.



Louis Gilbert, ImmaCare's executive director, steps down from the choir loft.

ImmaCare offers hope, shelter to the homeless in renovated former Catholic church.

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

Nathaniel, whose last name is being withheld, has had more than his fair share of housing challenges during his lifetime. With a prison record from his youth, he says he had a hard time qualifying for apartments on his own. "I was young then and had no sense of direction," he recalls. "It comes back to haunt you and people don't want to take chances."

So Nathaniel says he lived with and took care of his parents until they passed away. Then he lost his home in a fire. Alone and with nowhere to turn, he became withdrawn and resorted to living in his little gray car in Hartford for two years. "It was more like I wanted to be on my own," he explains. "I didn't want to be bothered with anybody after my parents died."

Then Nathaniel met Tony Mack, the mobile outreach case manager for ImmaCare, a nonprofit agency that strives

to end homelessness, and Mack persuaded him to try ImmaCare's emergency shelter on Park Street in Hartford in the former Immaculate Conception Church. Nathaniel lived there for nine months, until ImmaCare announced that it would be closing the shelter for renovations; he relocated to another shelter, yet the ImmaCare staff stayed in touch. "They still helped me and made sure I was all right," he says. "They were there for me."

Finally, through a Hartford-area network, ImmaCare found Nathaniel an

EDITOR'S NOTE: Throughout 2021, the *Transcript* will be highlighting some of the organizations and archdiocesan ministries that receive funding from the Archbishop's Annual Appeal.

apartment, and he moved in on Feb. 1, 2020. "I'll never forget that day," says the 69-year-old, who relies on a walker to get around. "They did a miracle for me. It was a blessing from God."

LINKING PEOPLE AND HOUSING TOGETHER

ImmaCare Inc., which tackles homelessness in the Hartford area, is supported in part through the the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. "We appreciate the Archbishop's Appeal and all the parishioners

helping us," says Louis Gilbert, who has been ImmaCare's executive director since 2013. "Our ideas are a lot bigger than our bank accounts."

With the tagline "linking people and housing together," the agency aspires to create safe and affordable housing options for those who struggle with a

housing crisis. It offers three essential services: mobile outreach to the homeless, an emergency shelter in the former Immaculate Conception Church and permanent supportive housing at its Casa de Francisco apartment complex on Hungerford Street.

According to the most recent figures

available, ImmaCare's mobile outreach served 439 individuals on the streets in a single year. The agency's emergency shelter served 188 unique individuals. ImmaCare also participates in the Greater Hartford Coordinated Access Network, an alliance of state agencies and nonprofits that serve the homeless, to place them in permanent housing. Some are directed to its Casa de Francisco, which has set aside 25 apartments for the homeless and 25 for low-income people.

"The homeless are placed on one unified list and housed based on vulnerability," explains Teresa Wierbicki, ImmaCare's, director of strategic development. "I care so much about what we do, and now the whole Hartford Access Network has made this so much more humane."

ENDING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

Last November, after being closed for a year for renovations, ImmaCare reopened its emergency shelter in the old Immaculate Conception Church and



The main floor of the new ImmaCare Housing Navigation Center in Hartford retains the former Catholic church's Gothic arches and artwork.



Teresa Wierbicki, ImmaCare's director of strategic development, shows off the shelter's new kitchen.

The shelter will eventually sleep 75.

renamed it the ImmaCare Housing Navigation Center. Now, it's a place where the homeless can land for a short stay and gain access to a greater array of services, ranging from permanent housing to referrals for medical care, treatment programs and jobs.

During the first week the shelter reopened, it welcomed 18 men. Though the shelter will eventually serve up to 75 guests, it will be limited to 40 during the pandemic for social distancing.

"It's based on a West Coast model," Gilbert says. "We want it to be not just a shelter for a bed and a meal. We want to get people into the permanent housing sector, and we want shelter stays to be brief and nonrecurring."

Wierbicki adds, "There's always going to be a need for an emergency shelter, but our goal is to make the stay shorter."

ImmaCare specifically focuses on homeless men, many of whom suffer from mental health issues, substance abuse issues or have served time in prison. Gilbert says the agency was one of the first in the area to adopt the "housing first" concept, which adheres to the belief that everyone deserves housing, no matter their troubles.

"If someone doesn't know where they are going to sleep at night, it's pretty ridiculous to think they're going to be able to maintain sobriety living under a bridge," Gilbert says. "So we get them in housing. And once people know where they are going to sleep at night, then case managers can work with them in a non-judgmental and non-coercive way to help them realize there's so much more than their addiction or whatever their issues

are, and help them to build that inner strength and desire to want to get clean. But we don't predicate their continued housing on being successful."

INSIDE THE HOUSING NAVIGATION CENTER

A plaque near the entrance to the new ImmaCare Housing Navigation Center reads "Frog Hollow Historic District 1894."

Housed in the old brick Gothic church on Park Street, ImmaCare began as a ministry of Immaculate Conception Church under the direction of Father James Donagher. As a missionary of La Salette, he was known for his love and compassion for the poor, founding the shelter and a soup kitchen that were initially staffed by parishioners.

"It started as a winter-only seasonal shelter back in 1981 as a ministry of the church," Gilbert says, then became year-round after a young homeless man died out in the cold. Ten years later, the ministry incorporated as Immaculate Conception Shelter and Housing Corp.



The dining hall/meeting space.



In 2000, it purchased Immaculate Conception Church after the parish merged with St. Anne Church. The agency later shortened its name to ImmaCare.

Gilbert, a Catholic himself, says although the building is no longer used as a worship space, "It's still the outreach of what churches do — the corporal works of mercy as we continue to carry out caring for people." And now it has a new lease on life. "We were closed for over a year to do a gut rehab."

On the outside, the agency replaced the roof, fixed the steeple, did masonry work, painted all the trim, fixed gutters and put in new landscaping. The inside called for new electrical, plumbing, a sprinkler system and handicapped access. "It's much safer and more functional. So its purpose built at this point," Gilbert says.

The main floor includes a conference room and several offices along with six program rooms and an open area. The basement has 75 new beds in a bunkhouse-style dormitory, new showers and toilets, a laundry room, a fully-outfitted kitchen and a dining hall/meeting space.

Much of the beauty and inspiration of the old church has been retained. Inside, a painting of the Virgin Mary appears in the sanctuary. Scenes from the New Testament are visible in the Gothic arches. The Stations of the Cross, original light fixtures and choir loft remain.

"It still has a lot of the original artwork," Gilbert says. "We tried to be as careful as we could to maintain the integrity of the building." ☪

Hear the Voice of God THROUGH SILENCE



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

In the first Book of Kings, we hear the story of the prophet Elijah, who is called by God to serve him in a very dark time in Israel's history. On Mount Horeb, Elijah hears the voice of God not in a fire, or wind or earthquake but in a soft whisper. The story of the prophet Elijah teaches us the need for silence in the spiritual life and in any process of vocational discernment.

In order to hear the voice of God in our lives, we need to cultivate both exterior and interior silence. Exterior silence is the process of actually reducing the noise in which we daily immerse ourselves. It means turning down or completely turning off the radio in the car, turning off the television as background noise and reducing the amount of time we spend locked into a screen.

It means finding times when we don't need to be talking to someone, when we can just sit and be with almighty God. Interior silence is the recollection that grows as a result of exterior silence. This is the inner peace which marks the lives of so many of the saints. This is the focus which drives away all distractions and allows us to enter deeply into contemplation. Interior silence can endure even when there may not be perfect exterior silence. It is possible, once a degree of interior silence and peace has been attained, to keep it throughout the day even in the midst of a busy world.

Growth in silence takes time and practice. We should start by seeking some times of exterior silence, and allow these to slowly develop into interior silence. I recently spoke with

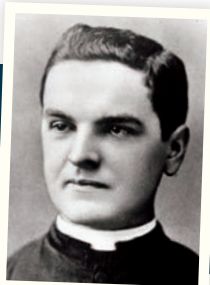


ANTONIO GUILLEN / GETTY IMAGES

a university student who began by simply not listening to media while in the car. At first, it was difficult, but soon that time has become a much-appreciated time of quiet. Another good practice is to set times when we unplug from phones, tablets and other connected devices. These tools give us unprecedented connectivity but also present the risk of easily accessible distraction. Whenever possible, we should try to spend some time with our phones off every day or at least in airplane mode with notifications off. This is a great first step to begin cultivating silence and peace.

In any process of vocational discernment, one of the first main steps is to reduce the clutter of noises and distractions which are vying for our attention. As with Elijah, many people expect God to be in big events and in awe-inspiring natural occurrences. More often than not, it is in the quiet stillness of recollection that we truly hear and are empowered to respond to the voice of God. Growing in the practice of both interior and exterior silence is a very powerful step in growth in the spiritual life and freedom for vocational discernment. ☪

+ ARE YOU DISCERNING A CALL TO THE PRIESTHOOD, RELIGIOUS LIFE OR THE DIACONATE? Father Michael J. McGivney, a priest in the Archdiocese of Hartford who answered the call to the priesthood, is the first person in Connecticut to be recognized as "Blessed" and is on his way to becoming a saint. If you think God may be calling you, do not be afraid. Visit archdioceseofhartford.org/vocations or contact the Office of Vocations, 860.761.7456, to learn more.



FATHER MCGIVNEY UNDATED PHOTO BY JOHN TIERNEY/PHOTO COURTESY OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

THEY CAME IN *Hope and Faith*

Story by JOE PISANI



PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

Museum-quality outdoor displays have been placed along the walkway between St. Mary's Church and the Dominican Priory that tell the story of Father Michael J. McGivney's life, with a special focus on his time in New Haven, along with information on how the lives and intercession of blessed and saints can assist us in living as disciples of Jesus.

At St. Mary's Church, hundreds turn out in reverence to Blessed Michael McGivney.



PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

Mary Walsh and her daughter Juliette, 8, walked up the aisle of St. Mary's Church and knelt to pray before the relic of Father Michael J. McGivney, the first American priest to be declared "Blessed." Their request was a simple one — that Juliette be cured of leukemia.

The Walsh family had heard of the miraculous healing of an unborn child that led to the beatification of Father McGivney, a priest of the Archdiocese of Hartford and founder of the Knights of Columbus. Five years ago, the Schachles of Tennessee refused to have an abortion and prayed for a miracle, and their son was cured in utero of fetal hydrops, a rare and always fatal condition. Michael "Mikey" McGivney Schachle, now 5, was at the beatification Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford on Oct. 31 with his parents and siblings.

The Walsh family — Mary and Gary and their children, Juliette and Ryan — like many others, came in hope and faith to St. Mary's on the joyful day of beatification, where Father McGivney founded the Knights in 1882 for Catholic men and their families, a fraternity which over the past 140 years has helped millions of people worldwide.

Juliette, who was diagnosed with leukemia in April, said she first learned about Father McGivney when she saw a poster of him.

"Juliette is seven months into a 2½-year treatment plan," Gary said. "It's a tough road, but we are moving along. We came to pray together as a family because of her."



PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

Panelists gave different perspectives on the life of "Father McGivney: A Model for Our Times." Participating, left to right, are: Father Patrick Briscoe, OP; Bishop John Oliver Barres, Rockville Centre, N.Y.; Brian Caulfield of the Knights of Columbus and vice postulator for Father Michael J. McGivney's cause for sainthood; Kathryn Jean Lopez of New York, N.Y.; and Father Peter John Cameron, OP.

Gary and Mary were married at St. Mary's and their children were baptized there.

Mary said she also prayed for her family members and deceased father, and that a local Planned Parenthood shut down and become a ministry for women who have had abortions.

It was a weekend of celebration at St. Mary's Church. The liturgy of beatification in Hartford was livestreamed on large screen televisions as part of the three-day McGivney Festival at the New Haven church. Parishioners, priests, Knights and students stood outside the Gothic-style church to watch the Mass, and when the decree declaring Father McGivney "Blessed" was read in Hartford, applause erupted from the crowd, the church bells began to ring and a large tapestry of his portrait was unveiled above the main entrance.

Soon after, there was a procession into St. Mary's with a major relic of Blessed Michael McGivney. A piece of bone that had been authenticated by the Vatican was displayed for veneration in a reliquary in front of the altar.

Bishop John Barres of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, N.Y., led pilgrims in the rosary at the McGivney sarcophagus and later celebrated Mass. The festival events included all-night adoration, prayer vigils, a panel discussion titled "Father McGivney: A Model for Our Times," a candlelight procession and a family rosary with the testimony of the Schachle family.

Father Jordan Lenaghan, OP, who is in residence at St. Mary's and executive director of University Religious Life at Quinnipiac University, was in attendance. "This is so important not



A Mass of Thanksgiving was held at St. Mary's Church on Nov. 1, the beatification weekend.

PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

BEATIFICATION EVENTS
St. Mary's Church



Father John Paul Walker, pastor of St. Mary's Church, and Archbishop Mieczyslaw Mokrzycki, the archbishop of Lviv, Ukraine, carry relics of Blessed Michael McGivney during a candlelight procession.

PHOTO BY JAKE BELCHER

she attends a Holy Hour at the Basilica, where she prays to Father McGivney.

As a child, Rose Valentino attended Mass at St. Mary's with her father, who was a Knight. "We would always say the prayer for Father McGivney, so he is very special to me," she said. "Last night, we came to the prayer vigil, and it was so beautiful and holy. I could actually feel his presence."

Robert Franco, a parishioner of St. Mary's who watched the beatification Mass on the television screen, said, "I pray to him and ask his intercession now more than ever before. The story of the miracle is amazing. It is a miracle for modern times and such a beautiful story about a family that was not afraid to have a Down syndrome baby."

Wendy and James Sintay of St. Mary's both pray regularly to Father McGivney and said, "It's so nice to have a priest like the rest of us, and we're proud he was from New Haven."

Father Patrick Briscoe, OP, associate chaplain at Providence College, said Father McGivney was a true man of the Church and a person of heroic virtue "who shows us everything that a priest should be — a man of compassion for his people, a man of action who works to alleviate material suffering and a man of faith who was deeply invested in catechizing his people and serving them sacramentally. He gives us the vision of a great priest."

The son of Irish immigrants, Father McGivney is the 16th American to be beatified or canonized and the third youngest among them. He died of pneumonia at 38 years old on Aug. 14, 1890, during the Russian flu pandemic while he was pastor of St. Thomas Church in Thomaston.

"What is so precious about him is that he is a local son," Father Briscoe added.

Even today, 130 years after Father McGivney's death, young adults are inspired by his example. "During his lifetime, he was known to have a kind of dynamism with young people, and they were attracted to him," Father Briscoe said, "so I think there is a strong sense of Father McGivney as a saint for young people."



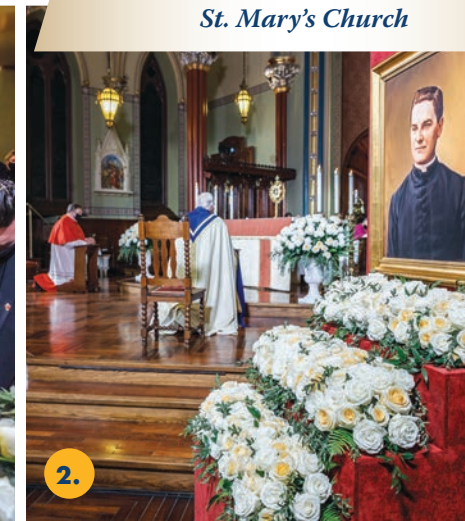
Families joined in on an outdoor candlelight procession with Father Michael J. McGivney's relics from St. Mary's Church through streets in New Haven following the beatification Mass.

PHOTO BY JEFFREY BRUNO

BEATIFICATION EVENTS
St. Mary's Church



1.



2.



3.



4.

PRAYER VIGIL
for Priests

PHOTOS BY AARON JOSEPH

The night before the beatification of Father Michael J. McGivney, priests and seminarians of the Archdiocese of Hartford and beyond, and members of the Knights of Columbus gathered for a prayer vigil at St. Mary's Church, New Haven.

1. Praying at Father Michael J. McGivney's remains, placed in a sealed, double bronze coffin within a polished granite sarcophagus at the rear of St. Mary's Church, are left to right: Father Anthony Smith, pastor of St. John the Evangelist in Watertown; Father Jeffrey Romans, pastor of St. Bridget of Sweden in Cheshire; and Father Anthony Federico, parochial vicar of St. Bridget of Sweden. 2. Archbishop Leonard P. Blair, right, and Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, left, pray before the Blessed Sacrament during the prayer vigil. Cardinal Tobin, the archbishop of Newark, N.J., was the principal celebrant of the beatification Mass for Father Michael J. McGivney on Oct. 31 and served as the representative of the Holy Father, Pope Francis. 3. Father James Sullivan, rector of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Waterbury, the parish where Father Michael J. McGivney made his sacraments, lights a candle at the conclusion of the prayer vigil for priests. 4. Members of the choir of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., assisted at the prayer vigil for priests, the beatification Mass and the Mass of Thanksgiving.



Jerry Kristafer
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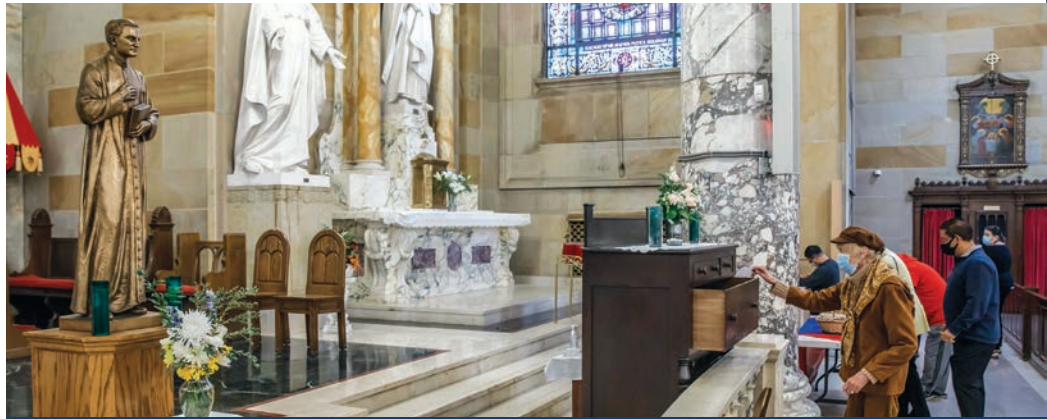
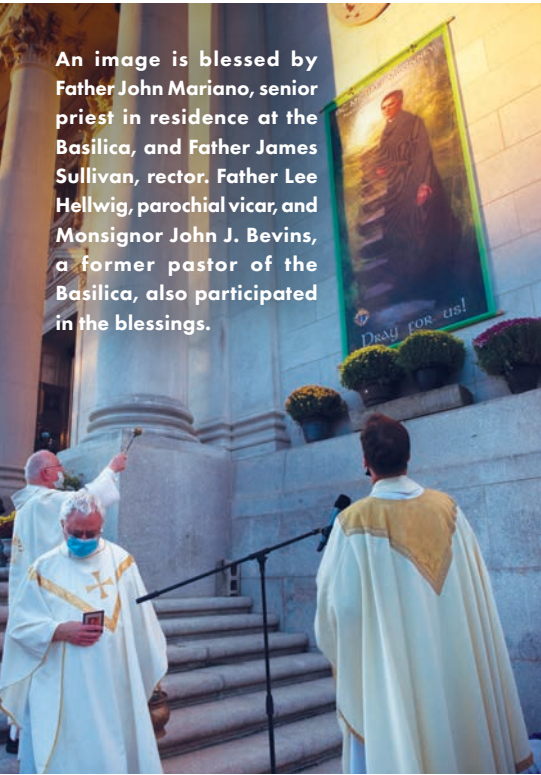
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- The Mass is televised at 10 a.m., 7 days a week, on WCCT Channel 20 and WCTX MyTV9 and airs each weeknight on WJMJ at 8 p.m.
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FATHER MCGIVNEY'S PARISH Celebrates His Beatification

An image is blessed by Father John Mariano, senior priest in residence at the Basilica, and Father James Sullivan, rector. Father Lee Hellwig, parochial vicar, and Monsignor John J. Bevins, a former pastor of the Basilica, also participated in the blessings.



The weekend prior to the beatification Mass, Father Sullivan put a dresser believed to have been owned by Father McGivney in the Basilica sanctuary and asked people to put prayer intentions in one of the drawers. Father Sullivan said that he would bring their prayer intentions to the beatification Mass held at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford on Oct. 31. Two days before it was announced that Father McGivney would be beatified, the dresser was given to the Basilica by a family in Hamden who has had it in their possession for dozens of years.



Jim and Terry Waldron Tottenham stand in front of the new painting of Father McGivney. Terry, a parishioner of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, is the painter. The image includes the wooden steps leading into St. Thomas Cemetery in Thomaston, where Father McGivney performed many burials.



Priests from the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception and Fourth Degree Knights pose for a picture with a new painting of Father McGivney unveiled the same day as the beatification.

The Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Waterbury, the parish where Father Michael J. McGivney grew up, marked his beatification with an outdoor procession after the vigil Mass and the unveiling of a new image of Blessed McGivney. The Basilica's church hall will be named the Blessed Michael McGivney Parish Center. The project, which will take about one year to complete, is underway.

FATHER MICHAEL MCGIVNEY and His Legacy

New pilgrimage center advances the vision of the Knights of Columbus founder.

Story by KAREN A. AVITABILE | Photos by AARON JOSEPH



EDITOR'S NOTE: Due to COVID-19, the the newly renamed Blessed Michael McGivney Pilgrimage Center, formerly the Knights of Columbus Museum, is closed. For information about the Blessed Michael McGivney Pilgrimage Center and when it will open, call 203.865.0400 or visit michaelmcgivneycenter.org. A virtual tour will be forthcoming.

Blessed Michael J. McGivney (1852-1890) empowered Catholic men around the world to discover the meaning of brothers in service to all by forming the fraternal organization, the Knights of Columbus. From the United States to the Philippines, the devotion to Father McGivney is far and wide and is highlighted in a new center dedicated to promoting the spiritual and charitable legacy of its namesake.

The Blessed Michael McGivney Pilgrimage Center, formerly the Knights of Columbus Museum, advances the vision of Knights of Columbus founder Blessed Michael J. McGivney. The new center will focus on the cause for canonization, Father McGivney's beatification last Oct. 31 and further steps needed for the parish priest to be declared "saint."

"We made a decision to use a timeline about the cause for canonization to date," says VivianLea Solek, archivist at the Knights of Columbus Museum. The next and final step of the canonization process is a second miracle attributed to Father McGivney that has occurred since the beatification. *The Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney can be found on page 28.*

Photos from around the world — including Poland, France, Iraq, Canada,



Supreme Knight Carl Anderson, far left, and McGivney family members cut the ribbon at the Blessed Michael McGivney Pilgrimage Center. From left to right, John and Kay Walshe and Margaret and Robert Ransom.

THE PRAYER FOR THE CANONIZATION OF BLESSED MICHAEL MCGIVNEY

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Blessed Michael J. McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue, may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his Body which is the Church. Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify your venerable servant Blessed Michael J. McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will.

Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present (here make your request). Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mexico, Uganda, South Korea, Philippines and the United States — depict people honoring Father McGivney and grace the entrance to the McGivney Pilgrimage Center. The center offers insight into the priest's life and legacy reaching out to the needy and the outcast and invokes his heavenly intercession.

On March 29, 1882, Father McGivney established the Knights of Columbus — the largest Catholic lay organization in the world — in St. Mary's Church in New Haven to enable Catholic men to support one another and their families

with spiritual and temporal needs. A chronology of the canonization process and letters associated with it and photos from the beatification have been placed in the center.


The original McGivney Gallery in the Knights' Museum traces Father McGivney's early life in Waterbury, his call to the priesthood, his parish work at St. Mary's Church and his death while pastor at St. Thomas Church in Thomaston. It ends with the beginning of the canonization process, opened by the Archdiocese of Hartford in 1997.



Photos of places important to Father McGivney.

Central to the gallery is a life-size bronze statue of Father McGivney by Stanley Bleifeld, with the reliquary room adjacent. Father McGivney's cassock, parts of his vestments, metal fragments of the coffin handles and remains of the holy rosary placed in his hands, among other items, can be seen in the gallery too.

In the future, there are plans to add to the McGivney Pilgrimage Center which serves as an archive for the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council, and maintain a permanent gallery to showcase the Knights' history and its focus on Father McGivney. More than a century's worth of historical records are preserved.

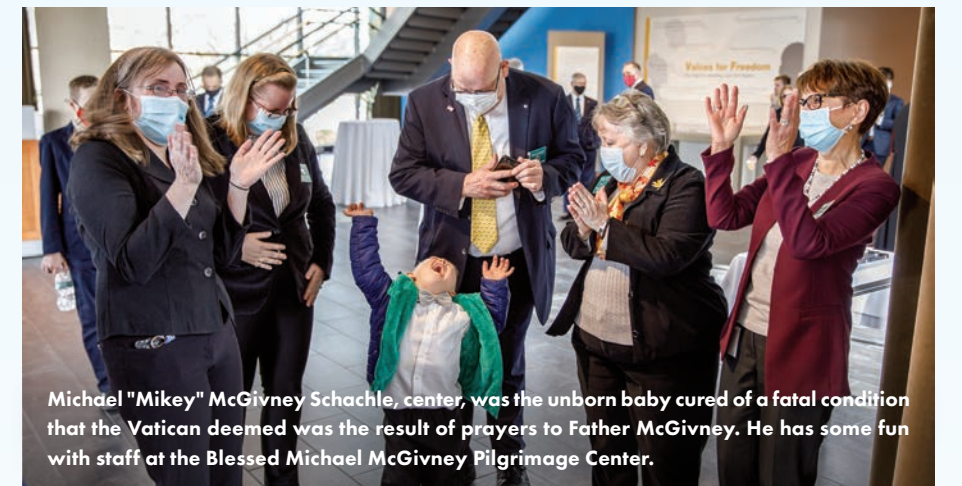
"While the museum will continue to recount the Knights' history, it will also broaden its mission by focusing more on the spirituality and charitable vision of our founder and his legacy," says Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. "A visit to the Blessed Michael McGivney Pilgrimage Center will enhance the formative experience of a pilgrimage to Father McGivney's tomb at St. Mary's." 

"ALTHOUGH BUT A FEW YEARS ORGANIZED, THE ORDER HAS EFFECTED INCALCULABLE GOOD IN MANY HOUSEHOLDS. NOT ONLY IN SICKNESS, BUT WHEN DEATH TAKES THE SUPPORT OF THE FAMILY AWAY, THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COMES TO THE RELIEF OF THE WIDOW AND ORPHAN IN A VERY SUBSTANTIAL MANNER."

— Father Michael J. McGivney, May 30, 1885



Portrait by John Tierney/Courtesy of the Knights of Columbus



Michael "Mikey" McGivney Schachle, center, was the unborn baby cured of a fatal condition that the Vatican deemed was the result of prayers to Father McGivney. He has some fun with staff at the Blessed Michael McGivney Pilgrimage Center.



Displays inside the Blessed Michael McGivney Pilgrimage Center.



Photos from around the world depict people honoring Father McGivney. They grace the entrance to the Blessed Michael McGivney Pilgrimage Center.



The new Blessed Michael McGivney Pilgrimage Center was unveiled on Nov. 1, the day after Father McGivney was beatified.



JOIN THE FATHER MCGIVNEY GUILD — To register for a free membership in the Father McGivney Guild, visit fathermcgivney.org and click on "About the Guild" at the top of the page. The Guild publishes a quarterly newsletter and offers a weekly Mass for the intentions of members.



Hope, Help
and Dignity

FATCAMERA/GETTY IMAGES

Family centers of Catholic Charities offer a variety of services for the whole family.

Story by JACK SHEEDY

Imagine a neighborhood gathering place that provides fun activities and support services for families seeking respect and empowerment. You will find a comprehensive array of these services in the family centers of Catholic Charities, located in Hartford, Meriden, New Haven and Waterbury.

These centers “serve individuals, families and children through education classes and programs,” says Joel Cruz, the director of the Institute for the Hispanic Family and family strengthening programs.

She adds that the centers provide “a healthy, supportive and safe environment during the early years of childhood. Family centers focus on the safety, stability and well-being of families through Christ’s teachings of compassion, love

and care. Families are welcomed and acknowledged from a strength-based approach. We recognize that each family brings strengths, value and skills vital to the foundation of the home.”

Parenting support, basic needs and temporary assistance programs, child and adolescent psychiatric services, a

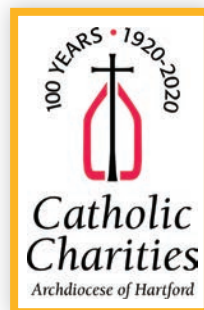
Latino outreach program and a program that empowers and educates fathers in their unique role in family life are just a

few of the services provided in or through the family centers.

Maria Zayas, the director of the South Side Family Center in Hartford, says the family centers offer a home visiting program funded through Catholic Charities’ Office of Early Childhood. “We have a total of five home visitors,” she says. “Within the five, there’s

a caseload of 44 families.” During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, home visits were done virtually.

At South Side, she adds, “We have our basic needs program. We cover the entire state for the Emergency Assistance Fund. In our building, we have a school readiness program, St. Cyril’s preschool



Donations to the Archbishop’s Annual Appeal represent about 10% of revenue that Catholic Charities receives.

program, and they’re connected to the family center. We also have a migration and refugee program that is housed at our family center.”

There is psycho-social and employment counseling for refugees, Zayas says, including a drumming therapy group, a sewing class for the elderly and medical interns from Connecticut Children’s Medical Center who come in and provide health classes for anyone who’s interested in a particular topic, for example.

Elsa Koulla of Hartford volunteers at South Side — she does cleaning, organizing and more. She is giving back because family centers helped her enroll her two children in a camp years ago, an experience that enriched their lives and hers. An immigrant from Cameroon in Africa, Koulla took parenting classes, cooking classes, budgeting classes and more at a family center.

“They’re teaching me how to advocate for my children, teaching me how to fight for my rights,” Koulla says. “When I see the school system is not working for my children, I have a voice. Sometimes, you are behind on your light bill or your gas bill, and they say, ‘Oh, bring your bill and we’ll see what we can do.’”

Now, she is paying it forward to other families — her time, her experience, her testimony. “I tell them that because of this family center, because of these people working for me, my life got easier. I had hope.”

“With everything that they do for you, you’re keeping your dignity,” Koulla adds. 🗣️

TO LEARN MORE about Catholic Charities, call 1.888.405.1183 or visit ccaoh.org.

Father of Canon Law Served as Papal Chaplain

FEAST DAY: JAN. 7

St. Raymond of Peñafort was a Spanish Dominican friar, known as the “Father of Canon Law.” His collection of canonical laws, *Decretals of Gregory IX*, remained a major part of Church law until the 1917 *Code of Canon Law*.

Born near Barcelona in 1175, Raymond became a professor of canon law at the University of Barcelona at age 20, and completed his doctorates in civil and canon law at the University of Bologna.

Inspired by Blessed Reginald while in Bologna, Raymond joined the newly established Order of Dominicans in 1222, and wrote one of the most widely used guides for confessors in the late Middle Ages.

Pope Gregory IX called Raymond to Rome in 1230 to serve as a papal chaplain. Aware of his legal expertise, Pope Gregory commissioned him to organize canon laws into one document, a task that had not been undertaken for nearly 100 years. Raymond’s work, *Decretals of Gregory XI*, was declared authoritative by Pope Gregory in 1234, and was the standard for canon law for nearly 700 years.



TOMMASO DOLABELLA, PUBLIC DOMAIN, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Raymond returned to Barcelona in 1236. Although he sought a quiet life there, he was soon elected the master general of the Dominicans. He revised its constitution before retiring two years later.

In addition to his legal contributions to the Church, Raymond’s evangelization efforts in later life led to the conversion of thousands of Muslims in Spain. He continued to preach and evangelize until his death at the age of 100. He died in 1275 and was canonized in 1601.

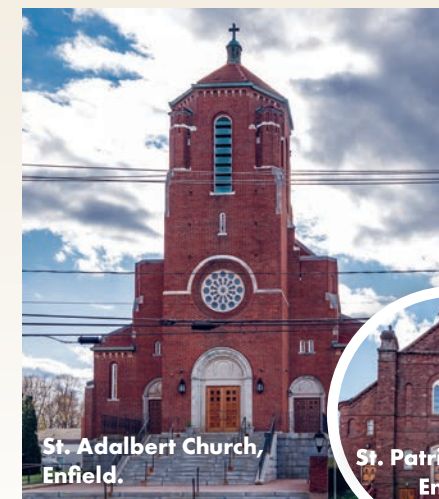
St. Raymond of Peñafort Parish Promotes Community Service

Story by KAREN A. AVITABILE | Photos by AARON JOSEPH

St. Raymond of Peñafort Parish serves the churches of St. Adalbert and St. Patrick in Enfield. The mission statement of the parish is: “We are a Catholic community, a community where the Gospel of Jesus Christ is lived and is fostered in the tradition of inspirational liturgy; we respond actively and generously to the commandments of the Gospel within and beyond our parish family; and parishioners are encouraged to be actively involved in many ministries so as to serve the many diverse cultures and people in our community.”

On a regular basis, the parish supports the Enfield Food Shelf and Enfield Loaves and Fishes. Homefront Day, a St. Patrick’s ministry, takes place the first Saturday in May, with volunteers helping to renovate homes for less fortunate neighbors. Since 2001, church volunteers have successfully renovated four or five homes a year.

The parish has an established prayer line by calling 860.745.6492 or sending an email to stpatrick@aol.com with your request. 🗣️



St. Adalbert Church, Enfield.

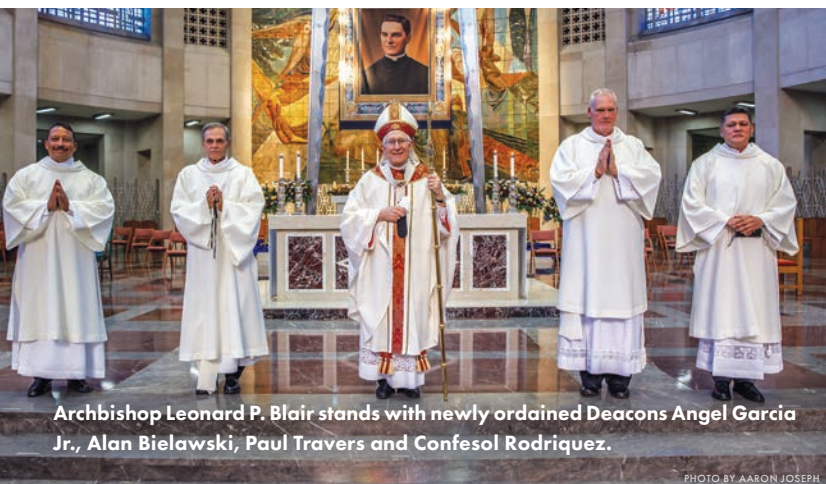


St. Patrick Church, Enfield.



Alan J. Bielawski, Angel Garcia Jr., Confesol Rodríguez and Paul Travers present themselves to Archbishop Leonard P. Blair to make their promise of obedience to the Archbishop of Hartford and his successors.

PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH



Archbishop Leonard P. Blair stands with newly ordained Deacons Angel Garcia Jr., Alan Bielawski, Paul Travers and Confesol Rodriguez.

PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH



The wives of the newly ordained deacons look upon their husbands, who have just been clothed in the vestments proper to their ministry.

PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

FOUR MEN APPOINTED DEACONS — The permanent diaconate ordination took place in November at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford. Deacon Paul Travers has been appointed to St. Timothy Parish, West Hartford. Deacon Angel Garcia has been appointed to St. John Paul the Great Parish, Torrington. Deacon Confesol Rodriguez has been appointed to Our Lady Queen of the Apostles Parish, Derby. And Deacon Alan J. Bielawski has been appointed to Divine Providence Parish, New Britain.

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

10 TEACHERS PRESENTED WITH LIGHT OF CHRIST RECOGNITION AWARDS

Congratulations to the 10 teachers who were honored with the 2020 Light of Christ Teacher Recognition Award, which recognizes outstanding performance among the educators in the Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Hartford.

The award, funded by The Hartford Bishops' Foundation, recognizes outstanding performance among the educators in the Catholic schools. Honorees are nominated by an administrator of their school for recognition as teachers who serve as role models for students, witnesses to Jesus, dedicated educators and responsible citizens whose lives are guided by Catholic principles.

They consistently demonstrate excellence in teaching and learning, while seeking to improve their school community and culture in positive ways. All awardees of the Light of Christ Award practice a commitment to "Teach as Jesus Did." They also exhibit innovation, collaboration and enthusiasm in the classroom, and embrace each student as a child of God, enabling each one to reach his/her full potential.

The Light of Christ Teacher Recognition Award brings with it a personal financial award of \$1,000, presented in recognition of professional excellence, along with an additional grant of \$500 for the teacher's

school, to be used in their classroom as each one determines.

The award winners are: Mari Adanosky, St. Mary Magdalen School, Oakville; Lisa Bonanno, St. Bridget School, Manchester; Gina Burby, East Catholic High School, Manchester; Elaine Cieslewski, St. John the Evangelist School, Watertown; Sherri Criscuolo, All Saints Catholic Academy, New Haven; Michelle Geoffrey, St. Bridget School, Cheshire; Virginia Gore, St. Mary School, Simsbury; Nicole Truhart, St. Rita School, Hamden; Christine Warren, St. Mary-St. Michael School, Derby; and Patricia Whalen, Southington Catholic School, Southington.

THREE APOSTLES OF THE SACRED HEART PROFESS FINAL VOWS

Photos courtesy of Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Despite limitations due to COVID-19, the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus joyfully celebrated the perpetual profession of three sisters. Sister Elizabeth Doyle, ASCJ, Sister Clara Mahilia Roache, ASCJ and Sister Christina Skelley, ASCJ professed their final vows in a small, socially distanced Mass celebrated by Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus Peter A. Rosazza at Mount Sacred Heart Chapel in Hamden. Rev. Jaime Maldonado-Avilés concelebrated and Rev. Matthew Gworek served as master of ceremonies.

Originally from St. Louis, Mo., **Sister Elizabeth** ministers at Sacred Heart Academy in Hamden as a teacher and director of campus ministry. She is an alumna of Cor Jesu Academy in St. Louis, Mo., the sister school of Sacred Heart Academy. Sister Elizabeth earned dual bachelor's degrees in Spanish and social work from the University of Missouri, and a master's in Spanish from St. Louis University. She also studied theology at both Holy Apostles College and Seminary in Connecticut and Pontifical Lateran University in Rome.

Sister Mahilia was born and raised in St. Lucia in the Caribbean. She joined the faculty at Cor Jesu Academy in St. Louis, Mo., and previously taught fourth grade at Santa Maria School in the Bronx, N.Y. She holds a bachelor's degree in international studies from Central Connecticut State University and a master's in international trade policy from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey in California. She also earned a four-year biblical studies certificate from the Catholic Biblical School of the Archdiocese of Hartford.

A native of Aurora, Ill., **Sister Christina** is a convert to the faith. She was received into the Catholic Church in 2006 while she was a student at Washington University in St. Louis, where she earned a bachelor's in humanities. She also holds a master's in education from St. Louis University. She teaches fifth grade and music at St. Joseph School in Imperial, Mo. She's been in ministry at St. Joseph since 2017.



From left to right, Sister Clara Mahilia Roache, Sister Elizabeth Doyle and Sister Christina Skelley kneel at the altar rail for the solemn consecration of the professed at Mount Sacred Heart Chapel in Hamden.



Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus Peter A. Rosazza says a blessing over Sister Christina Skelley, Sister Elizabeth Doyle and Sister Clara Mahilia Roache after they professed their perpetual vows. Also pictured is Rev. Matthew Gworek, left.



From left to right, Sister Catherine Francis Brodersen, Sister Allison Lorraine Masserano, Sister Kelsey Ann Shaver and Sister Catherine Ann Phillips renewed their temporary vows with the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

APOSTLES OF THE SACRED HEART CELEBRATE VOW RENEWALS, NEW NOVICE

The Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus celebrated the renewal of vows of four junior professed sisters and welcomed one sister into the novitiate.

In a Mass celebrated by Rev. Thomas Kelly, Sister Catherine Francis Brodersen, ASCJ, Sister Allison Lorraine Masserano, ASCJ, Sister Catherine Ann Phillips, ASCJ and Sister Kelsey Ann Shaver, ASCJ renewed their temporary vows of poverty, chastity and obedience at Mount Sacred Heart Chapel in Hamden. These vows are renewed annually until perpetual profession.

Sister Catherine Frances of Lansing, Kan., currently teaches theology at Cor Jesu Academy, the Apostles' Catholic high school in St. Louis, Mo. She holds a bachelor's degree in religious studies from Benedictine College and a master's in theology from Franciscan University of Steubenville.

A Bronx, N.Y., native, **Sister Allison Lorraine** started her new ministry as a teacher at Cor Jesu Academy last fall. For the past two years, she taught at St. Raphael Academy in Bridgeport. She earned a bachelor's degree in theology from Georgetown University.

Sister Catherine Ann is beginning her second year in ministry at Santa Maria School in the Bronx. A native of St. Louis, she is an alumna of Cor Jesu Academy. She holds a bachelor's degree in nonprofit leadership from Rockhurst University.

A convert to the faith, **Sister Kelsey Ann** is a native of Rolla, Mo. She was confirmed as a Catholic in 2009 while earning her undergraduate degree in exercise science at St. Louis University. She went on to earn a doctor of physical therapy from St. Louis University. She has been ministering as a physical therapist to the retired and infirm Apostles at Sacred Heart Manor in Hamden since 2017.

Prior to the renewal of vows, **Sister Allison Zink** entered the novitiate, the second phase of formation. It is at this stage that women receive the title of sister and officially become members of the congregation. A native of St. Louis, she holds a bachelor's degree in communication sciences and disorders from Rockhurst University.



Sister Allison Zink, new novice.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE ON RACISM

The "Opening Wide Our Hearts Webinar" series on the U.S. Bishops' letter against racism continues in 2021 on Wednesday evenings, 7 p.m. Upcoming topics will be: **Jan. 13**, Race and Human Trafficking; and **Feb. 3**, An Interfaith Panel: The 3 Amigos Speak About Race. To register and to learn more, visit catholicsocialjustice.org.

WEBINAR EXAMINES TEACHINGS OF POPE FRANCIS

A webinar series examining the teachings in Pope Francis' encyclical *On Care for Our Common Home* presented by the *Laudato Si'* Team of the Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry will take place on Thursday evenings, 7 to 8 p.m. For registration and more information, visit catholicsocialjustice.org. The topics will be:

- **Jan. 7**, The power of our money and how we use it
- **Jan. 28**, Water
- **Feb. 11**, How do we take better care of the air around us
- **Feb. 25**, Plastics
- **March 11**, Reduce, reuse, recycle
- **March 25**, Energy



Victoria Christgau, founder-executive director of Connecticut Center for Nonviolence.

'ONLY LOVE CAN DO THAT'

A nonviolence zoom conference, "Only Love Can Do That," will be held on **Jan. 23**, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., hosted by Wisdom House Retreat and Conference Center of Litchfield in conjunction with the Connecticut Center for Nonviolence in Hartford. Trainers from the Connecticut Center will address the significant role that nonviolence plays in today's climate. The interactive session will explore Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s practice and philosophy of nonviolence.

Participants will examine the basic concepts and strategies used in Kingian Nonviolence Conflict Reconciliation, including a civil rights historical perspective, an analysis of types and levels of conflict and the Six Principles of Nonviolence. The program will include film clips, dynamic visuals, breakout rooms and full group discussions. The cost is \$40/attendee. Registration is required by Jan. 22 and can be made by visiting wisdomhouse.org/programs or by calling 860.567.3163.



2021 CRS RICE BOWL INFORMATION

As the world continues to grapple with the effects of COVID-19, including an increased number of those going hungry, Catholic Relief Services is asking Catholics to remember Matthew 25:40 as CRS Rice Bowl begins.

CRS Rice Bowl is the Lenten program of Catholic Relief Services, the official relief and development agency of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Lent begins **Feb. 17**. The cardboard box, distributed by parishes and schools, is a tool for collecting Lenten alms. An alternative to receiving the cardboard box this year is for families to create their own collection tool.

Lenten alms donated through CRS Rice Bowl support the work of CRS in more than 100 different countries each year. CRS is helping families address the increased hardships of global hunger and malnutrition brought on by COVID-19 and several natural disasters.

Twenty-five percent of donations to CRS Rice Bowl stays in the Archdiocese of Hartford and is distributed through parishes for projects supporting hunger and poverty alleviation efforts. Traditionally, contributions should be directed through the participating parish or school to the archdiocese. This Lent, CRS is providing donors with the option of sending contributions directly to CRS by visiting crsricebowl.org.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNY DIAMOVA, CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

APPOINTMENTS

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

- **Rev. Ronald T. Smith**, administrator, Holy Apostles Parish, New Britain, for one year, effective Nov. 2, 2020, and chaplain for the Hospital of Central Connecticut, New Britain campus.
 - **Rev. Michael J. Dolan**, interim president of Northwest Catholic High School, West Hartford, effective Nov. 9, 2020.
 - **Rev. Joseph V. Napolitano**, administrator of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Hamden, effective Nov. 9, 2020.
 - **Deacon Paul Travers**, ordination to the permanent diaconate, Nov. 7, 2020, appointed as deacon of St. Timothy Parish, West Hartford, effective Nov. 12, 2020, for a term of five years.
 - **Deacon Confesol Rodriguez**, ordination to the permanent diaconate, Nov. 7, 2020, appointed as deacon of Our Lady Queen of the Apostles Parish, Derby, effective Nov. 12, 2020, for a term of five years.
 - **Deacon Angel Garcia**, ordination to the permanent diaconate, Nov. 7, 2020, appointed as deacon of St. John Paul the Great Parish, Torrington, effective Nov. 12, 2020, for a term of five years.
 - **Deacon Alan J. Bielawski**, ordination to the permanent diaconate, Nov. 7, 2020, appointed as deacon of Divine Providence Parish, New Britain, effective Nov. 12, 2020, for a term of five years.
 - **Rev. Kevin J. Forsyth**, senior status, effective Jan. 1, 2021.
 - **Rev. Geoffrey C. Smith**, senior status, effective Jan. 21, 2021.
- REV. RYAN M. LERNER, CHANCELLOR, NOV. 20, 2020



■ **Sister Mary Schaefer** (formerly known as Sister Bernard Mary), 91, died on Oct. 20, 2020, at St. Mary Home, West Hartford. She was born Sept. 4, 1929, in Torrington, the daughter of Anna McCafferty and George J. Schaefer. She entered the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady Mother of Mercy in 1947 in Baltic and professed final vows in the motherhouse in Tilburg, Netherlands, in 1952.

Having been educated at Annhurst, The Catholic University of America and Fairfield University, she shared her ministerial gifts in teaching, administration and counseling for more than 60 years. She lived in East Haven from 1962 until entering the nursing home in 2014. She was the founding principal of St. Vincent de Paul School, East Haven, and served from 1963 to 1969. She assumed leadership in the SCMM province in 1969 and continued teaching and counseling at St. Vincent's until 1978. The next phase of her ministry was to join the Notre Dame School Community in West Haven from 1978 to 2012.



■ **Sister Marian St. Marie, DHS**, 81, a member of the Daughters of the Holy Spirit, died unexpectedly on Oct. 19, 2020, in Putnam. Born Marian Therese St. Marie on Oct. 11, 1939, in Hartford, she was the daughter of Leonide and Gertrude Marion St. Marie. She entered religious life in 1957 and made her religious profession on July 2, 1959, at the Holy Spirit Provincial House in Putnam. She was then known

as Sister Therese Marian. She earned her bachelor of arts degree in education and theology from Diocesan Sisters College and a master's degree in history and political science from St. Joseph University, West Hartford.

A lifelong educator, she began her teaching career in elementary schools in Connecticut, Vermont and Massachusetts, then taught social studies and history at Putnam Catholic Academy in Putnam, South Catholic High School in Hartford until it closed and at Mercy High School in Middletown for 22 years. In her work, she aimed to make her students aware of the positive aspects of cultures other than their own and of the injustices that have been perpetuated throughout history into the present day.

She left teaching after 52 years when called to be a provincial councilor for the Daughters of the Holy Spirit in the United States in 2014. In addition, she was the adviser for the East Coast Associates. Her mandate as councilor ended June 30, 2020.

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 ages 18–59 should be reported to: **Connecticut Department of Developmental Services – AID Division for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities**
1-844-878-8923

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



Catholic Transcript
467 Bloomfield Ave.
Bloomfield, CT 06002
[archdioceseofhartford.org/
catholictranscript](http://archdioceseofhartford.org/catholictranscript)

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archdioceseofhartford.org

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021

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BLUEBERRY/GETTY IMAGES

***Fratelli Tutti, On Fraternity
and Social Friendship***



PHOTO BY PHILIP SHIFFERT

Give Thanks for Pie



DIGITALSKILLET/GETTY IMAGES

**I Felt Abandoned
During the Pandemic**



PUNNAKONG/GETTY IMAGES

**In Prayer, Offer Jesus
Your Fears**



GUDRYAN/SEV PAVEI/GETTY IMAGES

**Our Work Team Struggles to Agree
and Make a Decision**



REDFERRE/GETTY IMAGES

**Pope Francis Releases Apostolic
Letter on Sacred Scripture**



DR. JIM A. DOMARUS / JTD-US / WIKIPEDIA.COM/MONSIEUR

**St. Maria
Catherine Kasper
Feast Day: Feb. 2**



**Hope for
the Future in
Young Catholics**