

# The Catholic TRANSCRIPT

## Sandy damages parish; Catholic Charities ready

By Mary Chalupsky  
Transcript Reporter

NEW HAVEN – When storm Sandy struck Connecticut in late October, Catholic Charities stood at the ready to assist victims of the storm with disaster relief efforts including emergency food and shelter.

Officials at the centers in the coastal towns of New Haven and Milford said that most of their initial assistance went to replenish food banks in Meriden and East Haven.

“We coordinated a drive through Centro San Jose in Fair Haven to replenish food, nonperishable items, cleaning supplies, batteries, battery-operated radios, diapers and baby wipes for distribution through the East Haven Food Bank,” said Peter O’Donnell, director of fund development for Catholic Charities.

He noted that Catholic Charities works through local offices, centers and parishes to provide basic human needs, rental support, counseling services or referrals to other types of resources as

Anyone needing help with relief from the hurricane can contact Catholic Charities through local offices.

requested by parishioners. A complete listing of the Catholic Charities offices and family centers in the archdiocese may be found online at [ccaoh.org/locations.html](http://ccaoh.org/locations.html).

Among the victims of Sandy was St. Gabriel Parish in Milford, where the 16-foot storm surge that hit the coastline at around midnight broke through a cement patio, spilling two to three feet of water into the first floor of the beachfront rectory; flooded the church basement with five to six feet of water that destroyed the furnace; and damaged the exterior of a newly built garage.

Continued on Page 27



**PASTOR SURVEYS SANDY’S DAMAGE** – Father Maurice J. Maroney, pastor of St. Gabriel Parish in Milford, looks over the ruins of the beachfront rectory, where he has resided for the past 16 years, following the devastation caused by storm Sandy on Oct. 30. The 16-foot storm surge broke through a cement patio and flooded the first floor of the rectory with two to three feet of water; flooded the church basement with five to six feet of water that destroyed the church’s furnace; and damaged a newly built garage. (Photo by Mary Chalupsky)

### Shepherds keep watching



**CHILDREN PREPARE FOR LIVING NATIVITY** – Three children in shepherd costumes get ready to play their parts in the living Nativity presented at the annual Franciscan Christmas Fair Nov. 17 at the Franciscan Life Center in Meriden. From left are Isaiah Hunter, who will be 2 in January, 7-year-old Jordan Chymbor and her brother Lucas, 6. The popular fair draws hundreds and hundreds of people who are seeking, among other things, Franciscan-made breads and pottery, a wide variety of gifts and crafts, and decorated or undecorated Christmas trees and wreaths. (Photo by Mary Chalupsky)

## Catholic conference recharges men’s faith, transforms lives

By Jack Sheedy  
News Editor

EAST HARTFORD – What is it about the Connecticut Catholic Men’s Conference that every year leads hundreds of men from all over the state to give up an entire Sunday to be away from their homes and families?

“I’ve been to four out of five [conferences],” said Ken Copija of Torrington, one of about 400 men attending the Oct. 27 conference at Goodwin College. “It’s been great. I look forward to it in October to come here and restore my faith, to get a shot in the arm.”

Mr. Copija, a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Harwinton, said he was moved by the first speaker, Dr. Jorge Valdes, a former Miami drug lord (in the 1970s) who turned his life around after serving time in a federal prison.

“It’s funny how the Holy Spirit works,” Mr. Copija said. “I lived in Miami in 1976, so I can relate to a lot of what he was talking about, being in the same part of the world as he was at that time.”

Dr. Valdes told the men, “There’s



Mark Houck

only one problem in America. There’s only one problem in the world, gentlemen. And the problem that we have in the world is real simple. It’s called a man problem.”

Men do not spend enough time with their wives and children, he said. He made tens of millions of dollars in the illegal drug trade and offered his son whatever he wanted. His son answered, “Dad, all I wanted was you, and it was free, and you couldn’t give it to me.”

He said we are all born with a big hole in our hearts. We can try to fill that hole with money and

things, or we can fill it with God.

Mike Klinger, a member of Corpus Christi Parish in Wethersfield and membership director of the Father James J. Gannon Wethersfield Council 4193 Knights of Columbus, said, “That was probably one of the most powerful talks. I’ve been to all five of [the conferences] and that was such a powerful, heartfelt experience.”

He added, “I don’t commit to too many things, but this is one thing that I do commit to every year. I tell my wife that on that Saturday in October every year, I need it for myself to recharge my batteries, and I always get something from them.”

He said of Dr. Valdes, “When he said that the greatest gift that God has given you is your wife and your kids, it brought tears to my eyes.”

Dr. Valdes now has a ministry called “Coming Clean,” which is also the title of his book.

Author and lecturer Mark Houck had a few men squirming in their seats when he spoke about the evils of pornography, masturbation and other sins of the flesh.

Continued on Page 27



### Archbishop to mark 50th

HARTFORD – Archbishop Henry J. Mansell will celebrate his 50th anniversary as a priest with a Mass at 11 a.m. Dec. 19 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

He was ordained to the priesthood on Dec. 19, 1962, in Rome.

Pope John Paul II appointed him auxiliary bishop of New York in November 1992.

The Mass is open to the public. A reception will follow.

### In this issue...

Crèche collection tells one story..... Page 6

Yale’s Catholic center celebrates..... Page 7

40 Days + 100 parishes = success..... Page 8

Catechists schooled on Year of Faith ..... Page 9

Mass in cemetery draws hundreds..... Page 11

Pope’s book out in English ..... Page 15

Theater review: ‘Ivanov’ ..... Page 18

Top 35 reasons to be Catholic..... Page 23

### Crèches depict joy of Christmas



**PASTOR SHOWS PART OF COLLECTION** – Father Robert Tucker, pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Litchfield, shows off a handful of the hundreds of crèches he has collected during his more than 40 years as a priest. See story on Page 6. (Photo by Jack Sheedy)



**MEN RENEW FAITH** – Dr. Jorge Valdes, a former drug lord from Miami, speaks to more than 400 men about how he turned his life around. Dr. Valdes was one of four inspirational lay speakers at the fifth Connecticut Catholic Men's Conference in October, emceed by Jason Calvi, a producer at the archdiocesan Office of Radio and Television (ORTV). Archbishop Henry J. Mansell celebrated a Mass, and Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus Peter A. Rosazza also addressed the men. (Photo by Jack Sheedy)

## Conference recharges men's Catholic faith

Continued from Page 1

He said he became a pornography addict as a teen and struggled with it for years.

"Pornography is the temptation of the lonely," he said. "I wounded a lot of women through my eyes. Pornography is an intimacy disorder."

He said a man's greatest weakness is also his greatest blessing. "Make your misery your ministry," he said.

He urged married men, "Pursue your vocation as a man. Romance your wife. Take her out on a date once a week. ... Start dating that woman. She's your helpmate. She's your most precious possession. Treat her like that."

Echoing the theme of this year's conference, "Real Catholic men, real Catholic faith," Mr. Houck said, "You have it in you to become that real Catholic man who's going to share his story, that's going to change a life."

Mr. Houck is co-founder of The King's Men, whose mission is to "unite and build up other men in the mold of leader, protector and provider through education, formation and action," according to its Web site, [www.thekingsmen.org](http://www.thekingsmen.org).

Doug Caverly, of All Saints Parish in Somers, said after Mr. Houck's talk, "We're bombarded every day by Satan, but I think some people have to come to the realization that they have to start talking about it. Our youth today is being brainwashed in the public school systems and even when they get to colleges."

Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus Peter A. Rosazza opened the conference with a call for the men to emulate the only perfect man who ever lived, Jesus Christ.

Noting that the only two sinless people in history were Jesus and Mary, Bishop Rosazza joked that it's no wonder Saint Joseph died young. "How would you like to have your first cup of coffee every morning with two people who were absolutely perfect?" he said.

"We need people who keep their gaze fixed upon Jesus. Learn from him what true humanity is. We need people whose intellect is enlightened by the light of God and whose hearts God may open up in such a way that their intellects may speak to the intellects of others and their hearts may open the hearts of

*"I don't commit to too many things, but this is one thing that I do commit to every year."*

— Mike Klinger

others," Bishop Rosazza said.

Also speaking were Vinny Flynn, a father of seven who has been involved in MercySong, a ministry of mercy, for more than 30 years; and Randy Raus, president of Life Teen, a Eucharist-based ministry aimed at transforming teens, parishes and culture.

Jason Calvi, a producer at the archdiocesan Office of Radio and Television (ORTV), emceed the event in the absence of ORTV director Father John Gatzak, who was in Rome. Mr. Calvi echoed Pope Benedict XVI's concern that there is "a profound crisis of faith" and he said, "We just hope that this day will give us a little inspiration to continue this battle to walk a Christian life."

During a two-hour lunch break,

workshop sessions were available with several lay and clerical Catholic leaders from the Archdiocese of Hartford, including Deacon Arthur Miller of St. Mary Parish in Simsbury; Peter Wolfgang, director of the Family Institute of Connecticut; and others. Father Michael Dolan, director of the archdiocesan Vocation Office, led a workshop titled "Catholic 101 – Questions and Answers," at which men asked questions about their faith.

"There were good questions about conversion, why we're born again as Catholics, what happened to sin, where one can find a spiritual director and more," he said. He suggested the retired priests at the Archbishop Daniel A. Cronin Residence for Retired Priests at the Archdiocesan Center at St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield as a valuable resource for spiritual direction.

Russell O'Connor, a member of Immaculate Conception Parish in Norfolk, said he has now been to three of the men's conferences. "It gives me a chance to be grounded and get out of the normal, societal pressures," he said.

What he took away from this one is, "Material things are not the answer. Family and loved ones are the key to being happy."

The day-long conference also included vendors, exhibitors, reconciliation and adoration. It concluded with a Mass celebrated by Archbishop Henry J. Mansell.

## Sandy damages parish

Continued from Page 1

Father Maurice Maroney, pastor of the parish for the past 16 years, said he had boarded up the rectory and left the parish by noon on Oct. 29 to stay with a cousin in Stratford after police came through to evacuate the area.

But when his secretary called the next morning with the devastating news, he was in a state of disbelief.

Water in the rectory destroyed belongings including pieces of furniture that were found floating through the rooms of the first floor.

"I thought we were prepared," he said. "We had just gone through Hurricane Irene in August of last year that took off the front porch; but we didn't get a drop of water in the rectory."

To heat the church in the following weeks, the parish rented large portable heaters to blow heat through large hoses into the building through openings made by removing some of the church's stained glass windows.

Since Irene, the parish pur-

chased a new furnace for the church, which now is installed; built a new garage that was finished only two months ago; and recently purchased a set of steps for the rectory. All were destroyed or damaged by Sandy.

"It's awful to see your belongings thrown away, and it's been exhausting to come here every day to help with the clean-up," said Father Maroney. "But when I think of all the families with children who've been disrupted or have lost their homes, it doesn't compare."

Father Maroney said parish records such as baptismal and marriage certificates were not damaged; all are housed in an office in the parish center.

Anyone needing help with relief from the hurricane can contact Catholic Charities through local offices. Small grants are also available to parishioners in the archdiocese who have fallen on hard times through the Emergency Assistance Fund, an initiative of the Archbishop's Annual Appeal.

## CNADP honors Bishop Rosazza

HARTFORD – Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus Peter A. Rosazza was honored for his work to abolish the death penalty in Connecticut at the annual meeting of the Connecticut Network to Abolish the Death Penalty (CNADP) on Nov. 17 at Theaterworks.

He was given the Reverend Walter Everitt Award, presented annually to an individual who, in the spirit of Reverend Everitt, has worked tirelessly to end the death penalty and, more generally, to create a more just and peaceful society.

In his remarks, Bishop Rosazza

said that he accepted the award in the name of the Roman Catholic bishops of Connecticut. He particularly thanked Archbishop Emeritus Daniel A. Cronin and Archbishop Henry Mansell for their unwavering support of abolishing the death penalty in Connecticut.

Reverend Everitt's son Scott was a murder victim. Reverend Everitt overcame rage and depression and forgave his son's murderer. He went on to advocate strongly for the end of capital punishment and even officiated at the murderer's wedding.



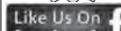
**Versatility that fuses outdoor performance with forward Style!**

DANSI FINN COMFORT SAS ORTHAHEEL ECCO LAMO SOREL

# Walking Shoe Store

152 Merrow Rd. at Fieldstone Commons (Across from Big-Y) • Tolland  
**(860) 870-9255 • [www.walkingshoestoretolland.com](http://www.walkingshoestoretolland.com)**  
 HOURS: Su. 11 AM - 4 PM • Mon. Closed; Tu., W., Th., Sa. 10 AM - 5:45 PM; F. 10 AM - 7:45 PM

**Board Certified Pedorthist on Staff**

Like Us On 

**FREE Computerized Foot Scan**

Measures pressure points, arch height and hose size to determine the correct shoe selection.

Cannot combine with any other offers. Offer Expires 1/5/13. CT

**FREE \$10 Gift**

With purchase of men's or women's shoes

Cannot combine with any other offers. Offer Expires 1/5/13. CT

**We Care in Every Way!**

# We Care Home Care

U.C.

**Companion Assistants**

on an hourly, part-time or 24-hour schedule, short or long term



Barbara Moyer, Owner

Personalized diverse home care services  
 Maturing, understanding, sensitive companions

**Reasonable & Affordable Free Consultation**

**860-841-2441 OR 860-657-8537**

150 Sycamore St., Glastonbury, CT 06033  
[www.wecarehomecarellc.com](http://www.wecarehomecarellc.com)  
 email: [c@wecarehomecarellc.com](mailto:c@wecarehomecarellc.com)

Fully Bonded and Insured. Registration #HCA0000317

**Your Home • Your Needs • Our Mission**

One of Central Connecticut's Only Catholic Home Care Agency Offering: Companions, Homemakers, Personal Care Attendants and Live-In Aides



# Franciscan Ever There Care

Do you or a loved one require assistance with

**Meal Preparation • Light Cleaning • Grocery Shopping**

• Laundry • Bathing/Personal Hygiene • Toileting

• Transferring • Live-In 24 Hour Care

This Agency is operated through the mission of the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist

Visit us on the web at [www.franciscanetc.org](http://www.franciscanetc.org)

**Call us today to find out more and receive a free in-home consultation: 203-630-2881**



# LUX Financial Services

LIGHTING THE WAY

401(k)'s & 403(b)'s  
 Corporate Pension Plans  
 Small Business Retirement Plans  
 Life, Long Term Care & Disability Insurance

Stock and Bond Brokers  
 IRAs  
 Mutual Funds & CDs  
 College Plans  
 Wealth Management

Leon Vaccarelli and Barry Michitsch at Lux Financial Services help everyday Americans grow their savings, and they may be able to help you too. In these uncertain financial times put your trust in the independent financial advice of two professionals who work for you. Call us or visit our website to learn more.

231 Bank Street - Suite A  
 Waterbury, CT 06702  
**Phone: 203.755.7676**  
**Toll Free: 1.888.589.1797**  
[www.luxfinancial.net](http://www.luxfinancial.net)

All securities offered through The Investment Center Inc., Bedminster, New Jersey. Member FINRA/SIPC  
 Advisory Services provided through IC Advisory Services, Inc.  
 A Registered Investment Advisor. Lux Financial is not affiliated with The Investment Center, Inc. or IC Advisory Services, Inc.