

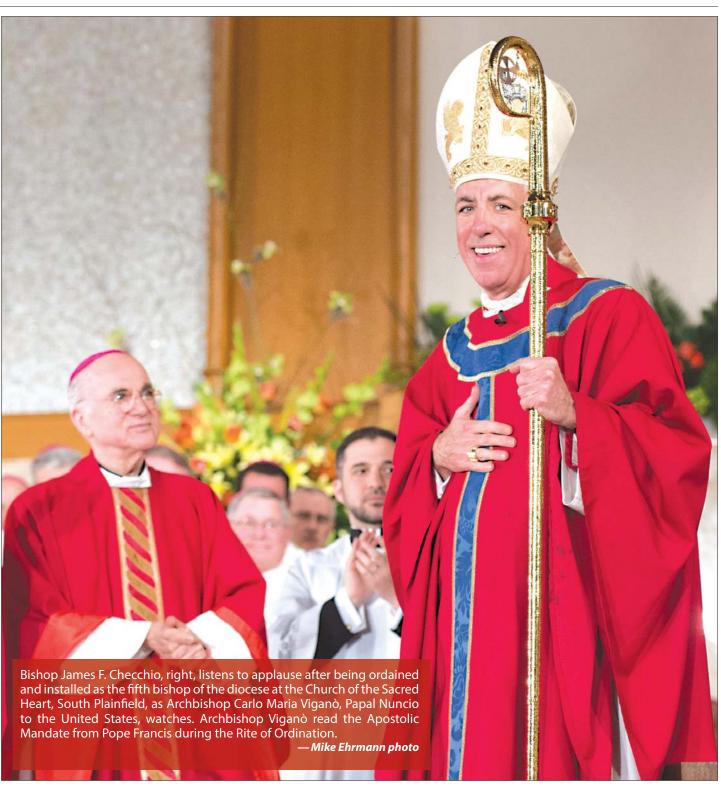
# New shepherd is installed

**By Chris Donahue** Associate Editor

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — Vatican representatives, cardinals, bishops, priests and people throughout the world witnessed the ordination and installation of Bishop James Francis Checchio May 3. Twelve hundred gathered in the Church of the Sacred Heart and others were able to watch on television, computers and mobile devices as Bishop Checchio became the fifth shepherd of the Diocese of Metuchen.

The three-hour service began as the strains of "Be Reconciled to God," a song written especially for the occasion, were sounded and representatives of the Knights and Dames of Malta and Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre processed into the church. A half hour later, the last to enter was Archbishop John J. Myers of the Archdiocese of Newark, who served as consecrating bishop. The diocese's fourth shepherd, Bishop Paul G. Bootkoski, and Bishop Continued on page 14

This issue was mailed on May 10 Your next issue will be May 26



#### **Polish Pride**

Visiting bishop helps faithful in diocese celebrate anniversary Special Feature...3,6-7



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# MAY 12, 2016 THE CATHOLIC SPIRIT

# Retired priest from diocese mourned at funeral Mass

By Deacon Patrick Cline Correspondent

Msgr. Armando J. Perini, a retired priest of the diocese, was remembered as a "good and faithful servant" by his longtime friend, Father Joseph Murphy, at a funeral Mass April 26 at St. Mary Church in his hometown of Alpha.

Msgr. Perini died April 1, two days shy of his 86th birthday.

Bishop Paul G. Bootkoski, apostolic administrator of the diocese served a principal celebrant; Msgr. Terrance M. Lawler, pastor, St. Mary Parish, priests from the diocese and priest friends and classmates of Msgr. Perini from his seminary years concelebrated.

Msgr. Lawler noted, "Msgr. Perini celebrated his first Mass in this parish 60 years ago this June. He was baptized, received first Eucharist and confirmation here and will be buried here, next to his parents."

In his homily, Father Murphy, a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Newark, and a brother priest of Msgr. Perini from the Immaculate Conception Seminary, said, "After leaving the seminary, Msgr. Perini gave 60 years of service to the people of the Diocese of Trenton and then Metuchen. He was a good and faithful servant."

He added that, "As we thank Armando and thank God for the life and ministry he had, we should also thank his family for sharing him with us."

As he ended his homily, Father Murphy addressed the deceased in words from the Gospel of Matthew (25:23), "Well done good and faithful servant," a sentiment that was echoed by many of the people at the Mass.

Msgr. Perini studied at Alpha Public Grammar School and Philipsburg High School. He attended St. Charles Seminary and College in Catonsville, Md., and Immaculate Conception Seminary in Mahwah.

He was ordained May 26, 1956, in Trenton by Bishop George W. Ahr.

Over his decades of ministry he served at St. Ann Parish, Browns Mills: St. Paul Parish, Princeton; St. Joachim Parish, Trenton; St. Ann Parish, Raritan Borough; St. Joseph Parish, Keyport; and St. Philip and St. James Parish, Philipsburg.

In 1972, Msgr. Perini was appointed pastor at St Helena Parish, Edison, where he served for 36 years.

He was known as a very strong and active advocate for the poor because he believed helping the less fortunate was a central tenet of the Catholic faith. While at St. Helena, Msgr. Perini established a very successful weekly Lenten collection for the poor. The money raised provided significant assistance to the diocese's Operation Rice Bowl program in support of Catholic Relief Services.

For their efforts, in 2008, the Catholic Charities Solidarity Team awarded Msgr. Perini and St. Helena Parish the Global Herald Award.

During his tenure, he made improvements to the church, and was responsible for the construction of science, art, music and pre-kindergarten classrooms in St. Helena School as well as enlarging the school's library.

At the forefront in using solar technology, in early 2005 Msgr. Perini had solar panels installed on the roof of St. Helena's rectory and the adjacent

In an interview with The Catholic Spirit, he said, "Social justice is helping the environment and making sure that energy is being conserved. That's our duty to preserve the earth and keep the air clean."

After his retirement in 2008, Msgr. Perini continued to serve as a weekend assistant at St. Lucy Parish in Newark.

Memorial Masses were celebrated April 17 at St. Lucy Church and at St. Helena Church on the anniversary

of his ordination.

Msgr. Perini was the son of the late Gino and Maria Perini. He once said his mother prayed every day and took him to church where he was an altar server.

He was also influenced to become a priest by the pastor of St. Mary Parish, Franciscan Father Jaczak Benevenuto.

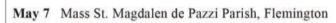
He is survived by two brothers and sisters-in law and a number of nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.



Robert Perini lays the cremains of his brother, Msg. Armando J. Perini, in a grave with his parents at St. Mary Cemetery in Alpha, Msgr. Perini had celebrated his first Mass at St. Mary Parish nearly 60 years ago.

# The Bishop's Schedule

May 5 Mass and May Crowning Mount Saint Mary Academy, Watchung



Mass at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, Metuchen

May 10 Deanery Mass at Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish, Middlesex

May 11 Deanery Mass at St. Mary Parish, Alpha

May 13 Installation of the Most Rev. Bernard A. Hebda as Archbishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis

May 17 7:30 p.m. Deanery Mass at St. Bartholomew Parish, East Brunswick

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June 2, 2016 - 7:00 pm **Our Lady of Peace Church** 26 Maple Avenue • Edison



#### Dr. Jennifer Pascual

#### Director of Music, St. Patrick's Cathedral, NYC

OLP is pleased to be hosting an organ concert by the internationally renowned organist, Dr. Jennifer Pascual. In 2008, Dr. Pascual had the privilege of conducting the music for the visit of Pope Benedict XVI to New York City.

Thank you to the many OLP parishioners and friends who financially supported the purchase of our new organ. The concert will last approximately one hour and will feature pieces that show off the versatility of our new organ. There is a festive reception to follow.

THERE IS NO CHARGE TO ATTEND THE CONCERT.

Attendees are invited to make a free will offering



# Catholics of Polish descent celebrate historic spiritual event

#### By Marianne Zanko Komek

PERTH AMBOY — Polish pride and feelings of heartfelt gratitude to God filled the air at St. John Paul II Parish, St. Stephen worship site April 16. Polish immigrants from throughout New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania gathered there to celebrate the 1,050th anniversary of the establishment of Christianity in Poland.

Roses, lilies, gladiolas and carnations in red and white, the colors of the Polish flag, adorned the main altar.

The Pulaski Cadets, members of the Polish American Veterans Association, Church societies, and representatives of Polish adult and youth organiAbove, Bishop Emeritus Jozef Wysocki of the Diocese of Elblag, Poland, blesses children dressed in traditional Polish garb at Mass at St. John Paul II Parish, St. Stephen worship site. Right, Bishop Wysocki served as principal celebrant and homilist of the Mass.

zations, carrying flags and banners, led the procession at the beginning of the Mass.

Bishop Emeritus Jozef Wysocki of the Diocese of Elblag, Poland, served as principal celebrant and homilist. Sixteen priests from the dioceses of Metuchen, Newark, Trenton, and New York concelebrated.

In his homily, Bishop Wysocki



Some of the 16 priests from the Diocese of Metuchen and three other dioceses who concelebrated a Mass to mark the 1,050th anniversary of the establishment of Christianity in Poland give blessings to religious women.

John Batkowski photos



the same time, God's providence gave us the Year of Mercy.'

He referred to the importance of Pope Francis' upcoming pilgrimage to World Youth Day which will take place in Krakow, Poland this year.

Bishop Wysocki spoke about the history of Poland and cited the miracle on the Vistula River in 1920 in which Poland, through divine intervention, defeated Soviet forces. The bishop then emphasized present positive political changes in Poland with the election of a new, good president.

He said that Polish history reflects Psalm 80, 8: "Restore us, O God; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved." The bishop reflected that, "God has more to give than he has already given, and we cannot waste those gifts."

He also said that while the anniversary is momentous, it is occurring at a difficult time for Catholics in general. The process of secularization makes people lose their identity and forget about their spirituality. "We can have

Continued on page 6



can it be found?



#### Last issue's image...



The image, which was featured on page 3 of the April 21 issue of The Catholic Spirit, can be found at St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Port Reading.

#### The winner is...

Eileen Gurney, parishioner at St. Anthony of Padua, Port Reading.

To be a winner, you must call (732) 562-2424 after 9 a.m. Monday. The first caller to correctly identify the image and its location will receive a one year subscription, renewal or gift subscription to The Catholic Spirit. Those who correctly identify an image are not eligible to take another guess for 90 days.

# Pope gives Gospel-based teaching on marriage, family

Some Catholic

intellectuals and

bloggers are very

critical of the direction

Pope Francis is giving

the Church through

his papacy and in

particular through

this document.

I smiled as I read about a panel discussion that Fordham University hosted April 19 titled "Is the Pope Catholic?" This funny title takes significance in the context of the Pope's post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*, or the Joy of Love. Some Catholic intellectuals and bloggers are very critical of the direction Pope Francis is giving the Church through his papacy and in particular through this document. Their accusation is that he is destabilizing the Church, creating division, confusion and ambiguity

I smiled again because this is exactly

## Guest Commentary

By Father Abraham Orapankal

the kind of accusation Jesus had when he preached the kingdom of God. The Pharisees brought Jesus to Pilate accusing him of "perverting our nation" and that "he stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea..." (Lk 23 1-5). The religious leaders felt that Jesus was changing the most sacrosanct of the divine prescription when he broke the Sabbath by healing and even declaring that Sabbath is made for man (Mark 2:27). This was blasphemy for them. They felt threatened as they could not accept the truth that would make them

free (John 8:32).

In my understanding, what Francis is trying to do without changing any Church

doctrine, is to invite us all to look at the reality of the struggles our people are going through in their attempt to live the sacramental reality of marriage and family life and see how even those who fail to live this ideal can be made to feel welcome in the Church. Following the mind of Jesus who was mercifully seeking the lost, the outcast and those who felt excluded, Francis

affirms that there is place for everyone at the table of the Kingdom of God here on earth

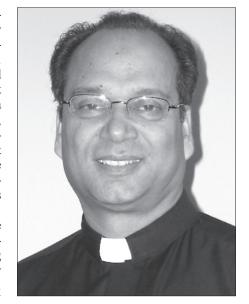
The Pope's words bring so much balm of relief to those hurting Catholics who feel there is no way back to the Church. He asks priests to listen to people as they genuinely struggle to bring their lives in harmony with the Church teachings in the wake of divorces, struggles with Natural Family Planning, and a host of other challenges in marriage and family life.

The statements and conclusions

Pope Francis has made are very remarkable and worthy of acceptance as they are rooted in the very core of the Gos-

pel of Jesus Christ. One line that touched me very much is that the Eucharist "is not a prize for the perfect, but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak." There is a vast wealth of insights and teachings in Amoris Laetitia, which is a 256 page document. No wonder, the pope is asking us all to read it slowly and reflectively. That's exactly what I

was doing — until a wonderful parishioner of mine put me to shame when she told me that she already finished reading the whole document, not once but twice! She found it very refreshing



and rewarding. And she believes that the pope is truly Catholic!

Father Orapankal is director, diocesan Office of Family Life Ministry, and pastor, St. John Neumann Parish, Califon

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Call 732-494-3399, x11 for more details



# The Solemnity of St. Philip Neri May 26, 2016

The Jubilee Year in honor of the 500th anniversary of the birth of our founder is drawing to a close.

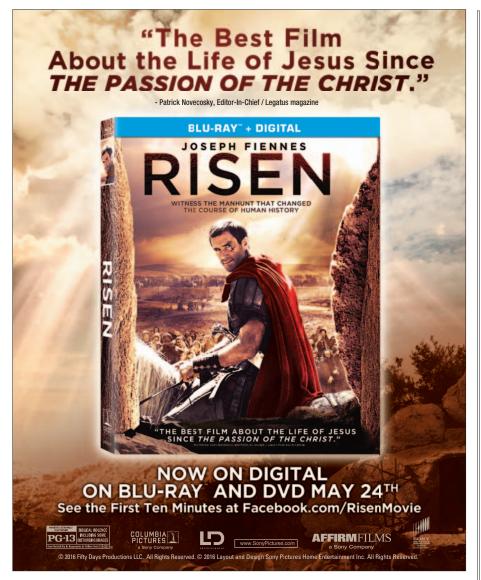
Join us as we celebrate St. Philip's feast day:

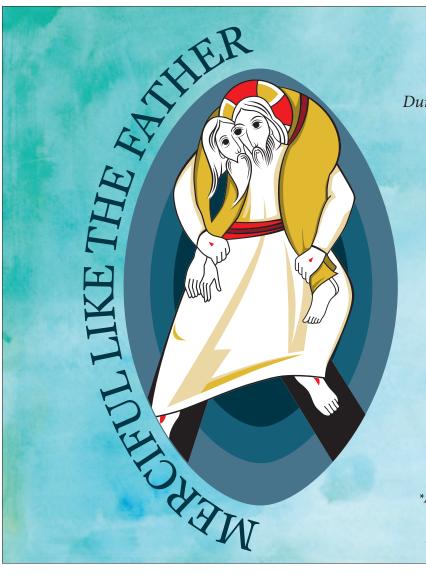
Thursday, May 26, 2016
beginning at 7:00 PM
St. Peter the Apostle Church,
New Brunswick

Mass will be followed by a time for fellowship with refreshments in St. Peter's Parish Hall.



The New Brunswick Oratory of St. Philip Neri 94 Somerset Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 732-545-6820 www.nboratory.org oratorians@nboratory.org





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\*A donation will be made to the Gianna Center for Women's Health and Fertility.

For more information or tickets contact Tess Johnson at 908-470-1457; or the Parish Office at 908-234-1265



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- · Liebeslieder Waltzes Op. 52, Johannes Brahms Brenda Day, Piano; Shea Velloso, Piano
- · Songs of Innocence, Norman Noll Shea Velloso, Piano

Grant funding has been provided by the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission, Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders through a grant provided by New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a division of the Department of State.







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Edison Family Service Center - 26 Safran Avenue

Far Hills - St. Elizabeth, 34 Peapack Road

Flemington Family Service Center - 6 Park Avenue

Hillsborough - St. Joseph, 34 Yorktown Road

**Hopelawn** - Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary,

625 Florida Grove Road

Jamesburg - Holy Cross Cemetery, 840 Cranbury S. River Rd. Laurence Harbor - St. Lawrence, 109 Laurence Parkway Metuchen - Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi 32 Elm Ave.

Milford - St. Edward the Confessor, 61 Mill Street

New Brunswick - St. Mary of Mt. Virgin, 190 Sandford Street New Brunswick - Sacred Heart, 56 Throop Avenue

**Old Bridge** - St Thomas the Apostle, One St. Thomas Plaza Parlin - St. Bernadette, 20 Villanova Road

Peapack - St. Brigid, 129 Main Street

**PerthAmboy** - Most Holy Name of Jesus - LaAsuncion worship site, 777 Cortlandt Street

**Phillipsburg Family Service Center** - 700 Sayre Ave. Piscataway - St. Frances Cabrini, 208 Bound Brook Ave.

Piscataway - St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, 146 Metlars Lane

**Piscataway Twp.** - Resurrection Cemetery, 899 Lincoln Ave. (Hoes Lane & Park Ave)

Sayreville - Our Lady of Victories, 42 Main Street

Sayreville - St. Stanislaus Kostka, 225 MacArthur Avenue

Skillman - St. Charles Borromeo, 47 Skillman Rd.

Somerset - St. Matthias, 168 JFK Blvd.

**South Amboy** - Sacred Heart, 531 Washington Avenue South Plainfield - Sacred Heart, 149 So. Plainfield Ave.

South River - Corpus Christi, 100 James Street **Spotswood** - Immaculate Conception, 18 South Street

Three Bridges -St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, 105 Summer Rd. Warren- Our Lady of the Mount, 167 Mount Bethel Rd.

Whitehouse Station - Our Lady of Lourdes Parish,

390 County Rd. 523

Woodbridge - St. James, 148 Greenville Street

# Bishop lauds Poles' strong faith

"We all need to

rise like Jesus

Christ. Remember,

Jesus is your life,

stay close to him

and let your family

and home be a

church."

-Bishop Emeritus Jozef

Wysocki

Continued from page 3

everything but can lack the Spirit. That is why we should remember the words of our Holy Father St. John Paul II: 'Let your Spirit descend and renew the face of the earth! The face of this land!

And do not quench the spirit' (1 Thessalonians 5:19).

The bishop said, "We should ask ourselves if we are truly the witnesses of the Holy Spirit."

He spoke about emigration and the strong faith of the Polish people, including that of its writers and poets who were also patriotic such as Juliusz Slowacki and Cyprian Kamil Norwid.

"Everything that takes place nowadays is similar to what happened when Mary Magdalene visited the tomb of Jesus. She was astonished by the empty tomb and surprised by the resurrected Jesus."

The bishop said that everything that happens here and in Poland is similar to this miracle and the astonishment of resurrection through which

the faithful attain salvation: through God's word and evangelization. "We all need to rise like Jesus Christ. Remember, Jesus is your life, stay close to him and let your family and home be a church. God bless all. Amen!"

> After the homily, the bishop blessed the congregation with holy water. During the offertory, children dressed in costumes from the various regions and time periods in Poland brought up gifts of Communion wafers, wine, water, holy oils, a white baptismal garment, a loaf of bread, a candle with 966 written on it and flowers.

The bishop urged the congregation to come up and be prayed

over by the priests after the distribution of holy Communion.

Afterwards, the congregation read a prayer to Our Lady of Czestochowa, as the mother and queen of Poland, which was composed especially for the occasion.

Mateusz Stasiek, from the Polish Continued on next page



Above, Bishop Emeritus Jozef Wysocki of the Diocese of Elblag, Poland, principal celebrant and homilist, and priests from the dioceses of Metuchen, Newark, Trenton and New York who concelebrated are shown during the consecration at Mass at St. John Paul II Parish, St. Stephen worship site, Perth Amboy. Right, Redemptorist Father Waldemar Latkowski, pastor, St. John Paul II Parish, speaks from the ambo. The Mass was celebrated to mark the 1,050th anniversary of the establishment of Christianity in Poland. Catholics of Polish descent from New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania were among the worshipers.

— John Batkowski photos



# Pastor: 'Our common baptism gives us unity with God and each other'

Continued from previous page Consulate in New York, then spoke briefly.

Polish teenagers' and children's choirs, directed by Redemptorist Father Lukasz Drozak, parochial vicar, St. John Paul II Parish, performed during the Mass. Jakub Pasierb and Renata Lagutko provided additional music.

Anna Warchol, a member of St. Mary of the Lake Parish, Lakewood, works at the Lakewood Polish Supplementary School. She said, "We teach the children from three years old to 15 the language, history and traditions of the Polish people so that they can keep the customs alive. The children can connect what they learn in the classroom to this celebration and say, 'I learned this in the fifth grade.'"

Walter Szuba, a member of St. John Paul II Parish, Polish American Congress and United Poles in America, said, "This is a day when the Polish people are full of pride. The whole nation is almost 95 percent Catholic. We are strongly committed to Christianity that we received in 966 from the Czech princess, Dobrawa, when she married our Duke Mieszko I, introducing Catholicism to the Poles. In the theatrical program today, the kids are going to show the panorama of our

history over 1050 years."

Wojciech Sobolewski, a member of Sacred Heart Parish, South Amboy, said, "This was a nice surprise, seeing Bishop Wysocki. He was the leader of my parish youth group in Poland and it was nice talking to him again."

Redemptorist Father Waldemar Latkowski, pastor of the parish, is also responsible for Polish pastoral concerns for the diocese. He said, "This is a very important religious and historical event because it brought Christianity and peace to Poland. The children performed a beautiful artistic program. I was very pleased with the work of our committee consisting of clergy and laity who organized this. Our common baptism gives us unity with God and each other."

Magdalena Domaradzki contributed to this article.



After Mass, children present a theatrical program showing the history of Poland over 1,050 years. Polish teenagers' and children's choirs, under the direction of Redemptorist Father Lukasz Drozak, performed during the Mass.

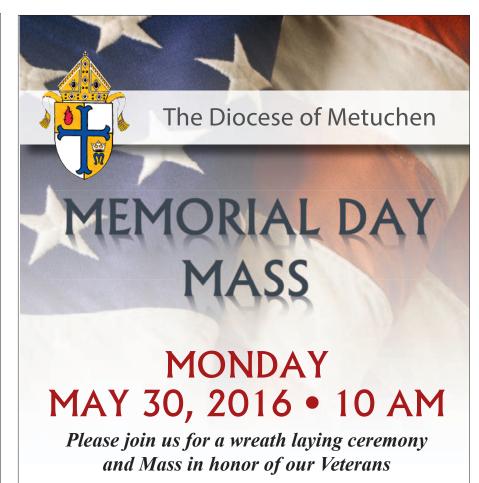


The Pulaski Cadets process from Mass at St. John Paul II Parish, St. Stephen worship site. Christianity was introduced to Poland in 966 when the Czech princess, Dobrawa, married Duke Mieszko I.

— John Batkowski photos







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# **Year of Mercy Parish Events**

St. Bernard Parish, Bridgewater, will call out a monthly challenge to parishioners that speaks to Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy throughout the Jubilee Year. Parishioners are asked to sign a challenge poster as acknowledgement of their participation. The challenge for May is "instruct the ignorant." For information on the challenge, visit www.stbernardbridgewater.org or call the parish office, (908) 725-0552.



Parish of the Visitation St. Mary of Mount Virgin worship site, New Brunswick, will present "Mary, the Mother of Mercy" on the first Saturday of the month beginning in May and ending in Sept. The program will be presented May 7, July 2, and Aug. 6 after the 7 a.m. Mass. On June 4, 10 a.m., a Novena and Healing Mass will be

held followed by a talk by Religious Teacher Filippini Sister Mary Elizabeth Lloyd. The program will conclude on Sept. 3, 10 a.m. with Mass, reconciliation and a presentation by Msgr. Joseph Celano. For details, call (732) 545-5090 or email smmv nb@hotmail.com.

#### June

6/6 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. – Jubilee Year of Mercy Confessions will be held at Ss. Peter and Paul Parish, Great Meadows. For information, call (908) 637-4269.

#### **July**

7/8 St. Stephen Protomartyr Parish, South River, will present "Divine Mercy of God on the Pages of the Bible" a lecture and reflection. The program will be held in English at 6 p.m. and in Spanish at 8 p.m. For details, call (732) 257-0100 or visit www.StStephennj.com.

7/11 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. – Jubilee Year of Mercy Confessions will be held at Divine Mercy Prayer Center, Washington. For information, call (908) 535-9989.

#### **August**

8/13 Parish of the Visitation, New Brunswick, will hold a pilgrimage to the Blue Army Shrine, Washington. For details, call (732) 545-5090 or email smmv nb@hotmail.com.

8/20 St. Stephen Protomartyr Parish, South River, will present a documentary film on the history of the Divine Mercy apparitions and devotions. The presentations will be held in English at 6 p.m. and in Spanish at 8 p.m. For details, call (732) 257-0100 or visit www.StStephennj.com.

#### September

11/9

9/1 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. – Jubilee Year of Mercy Confessions will be held at The National Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima, Washington. For information, call (908) 689-1700.

9/12 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. – Jubilee Year of Mercy Confessions will be held at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Hackettstown. For information, call (908) 852-3320.

## **Year of Mercy Pilgrimages**

9/12 A Holy Year of Mercy Jubilee Pilgrimage, under the direction of Father Damian Breen, -9/22 pastor of Corpus Christi Parish, South River will be offered. Tour Poland, Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovenia. Visit the shrines of the Infant Jesus, the Black Madonna, St. Faustina, St. John Paul II and others. The tour only pilgrimage includes, hotels, breakfasts, dinners, tours and taxes for \$2667. The tour with airfare is \$3839. For details, call Juliet Banaag Hobson, (732) 439-2835.

A Year of Mercy Pilgrimage to Rome, Assisi and other cities will be held under the -11/18 direction of Father Greg Uhrig and Father Leonard Rusay. Key churches in Assisi and Rome will be visited with an opportunity to walk through all the Jubilee Doors of Mercy. A tour of the catacombs under the Vatican and a public audience with Pope Francis will be included. For details, call Bridget Hackman, (908) 534-2319, ext. 14.

# "Merciful like the Father," a three-day encounter with mercy

"This retreat

reinforced what I've

grown to become

and what I've been

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Jesus Christ. Jesus

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spread the Word."

-Florence Ruvolo

**By Sue Getz** Correspondent

In its continuing celebration of the Year of Mercy, the diocesan Office of Evangelization, sponsored "Merciful like the Father: a three-day encounter with Mercy." The purpose was to offer "a kerygmatic event, that is, a Gospel proclamation in a semi-retreat format in order to facilitate an encounter with Jesus, Mercy Incarnate," said Jodie D'Angiolillo, director of the office and moderator of the program.

More than 100 people attended the program, which included talks, the opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation, a Holy Hour, the recitations of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and personal prayer. Crossroads, a parish-based ministry from St. Magdalen de Pazzi Parish, Flemington, provided music for the program, which was held at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, Piscataway, last month.

The encounter concluded with Bishop Paul G. Bootkoski celebrating the Vigil Mass for the Feast of Divine Mercy. Msgr. Joseph G. Celano, selected by the Vatican to serve as a Missionary of Mercy during the Year of Mercy, delivered the homily. Msgr. Celano, pastor, St. Bernard of Clairvaux Parish, Bridgewater, was also one of the encounter's presenters.

#### **Franciscan Reflection**

Leading off the three-day event was Father Mariusz Koch, a local servant of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal in Paterson. He reflected on God's mercy by weaving a story of his love for us as first manifested in his work of creation, most especially of humanity made in his image and likeness; then through the Incarnation and ultimately in the Redemption.

Father Koch spoke of the intimate and personal love that God shows us in the little things such as when Jesus sat on the seashore making breakfast for his disciples, or the many times he met a sinner where they were at, as in the case of the adulteress, Zacchaeus and many others.

Father Koch encouraged participants to open wide the doors of their hearts to the Merciful Love of God since we are made for him and he will not disappoint us

After Father Koch's talk, Estefany Rodriguez, a member of Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Perth Amboy, shared her personal testimony of how she has come to experience the love of God for her in good times and in a very difficult one. Then participants moved to the chapel for Night Prayer.

At the close of the first day, some individuals spoke of their desire to draw close to the Father's loving heart. A few were had tears in their eyes and expressed how much the talk, testimony

and prayer had been just what they needed.

During the second day, the topic of God's mercy in the midst of our sinfulness was brought before all gathered by Lori Bragg Harris, director of Kerygma Teams USA based in Tyler, Texas.

In the spirit of John the Baptist, Harris called all to reflect on their need for personal conversion and repentance but always in the light of the fact that, as Pope Francis tells us, we never forget "the fundamental law that dwalls in the

law that dwells in the compassionate heart of God is mercy."

#### **Powerful Witness**

During the morning of the third day, the presentations focused on the reality of Jesus' profound act of mercy in the work of salvation and our response to this great gift through a free-willed gift of self in the call to leave all to follow him. These two sessions were led by Father Koch and Msgr. Celano, respectively.

The afternoon talks focused on the call to be agents of mercy. Two presenters, Harris and Teresa Bonapartis, shared their personal experiences on putting into practice the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

Harris converted to Catholicism as an adult. After having seven children and being dissatisfied with the CCD [religious education], RCIA [Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults], and youth programs at her parish, she and her husband traveled with three of their children to India through the Kerygma program.

Today, she and her husband, Alan, are missionaries and directors of Keryg-

ma Teams USA through which disciples are trained for evangelization opportunities and mercy ministries in the United States and abroad.

"God has his own unique calling in your life. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit. You never know where God is going to use you, but be obedient. Get out of your comfort zone. God will not intrude into your space if you don't let him. When you say, 'Come Holy Spirit, open the

door and let me know where I'm supposed to work,' you better watch out," she said jokingly.

Bonapartis is the co-developer with The Sisters of Life of "Entering Canaan a Sacramental Journey to an Inheritance of Mercy," a post-abortion ministry published by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. She also developed with the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal specialized programs for men, siblings of aborted babies and

those who aborted as a result of an adverse diagnosis.

"God wants us to trust in his mercy. He doesn't force us but he invites us to trust in him," Bonapartis said, as she shared how she accepted that invitation and how God brought her to mercy

She spoke about her suffering that spanned 15 years following her abortion at the age of 17. Bonapartis explained how her family disowned her and coerced her to have an abortion. Eventually, she met and married a man, and gave birth to two sons. Their marriage was troubled because she felt unforgivable for the abortion and her husband suffered from addiction.

"God works in each one of us in different ways according to what our needs are. But his mercy in each one of our souls brings us to him no matter what our experiences in life are," she said.

She met a priest at her son's first reconcilation meeting who spoke on the topic of God's mercy and God's forgiveness. Encouraged, she began meeting with the priest and began a spiritual relationship with God.

"I still struggled to forgive myself, until one night while on my knees for eight hours, I prayed over and over again, 'Jesus, I trust in you.'

"Afterwards, I felt God's healing wash over me. My life was changed forever," she said.

#### **Trust in Jesus**

In his homily at Mass, Msgr. Celano spoke about Thomas' skeptical reaction to the news that Jesus had risen from the dead and appeared to the apostles and says he wants to see the wounds for himself

"Like Thomas, sometimes our faith is feeble, our lives are wounded and we falter in our efforts to be good persons," Msgr. Celano said.

"We come to realize that it is not what we have done but because of what Christ has done that heaven lies open to every single one of us. We seek God because God is seeking for us.

"All we can do when we come to this moment of life-changing encounter is to come as we truly are. What Christ brings to this encounter is faithful love and tender mercy. This is the moment in which we discover the truth that renews our lives and sets us free. We are loved and everything else is grace. All we can do is fall to our knees and say, 'Jesus, I trust in you.'"

Reflecting on the Encounter with Mercy program, Florence Ruvolo said, "I gained a new perspective on how the Gospels describe God's mercy."

She said after the discussion of the Gospel reading where Jesus prepares breakfast on the beach for the disciples while they were fishing, she thought about it all the next day.

"You don't recognize it at first, but in so many ways Jesus humbled himself," Ruvolo said. "Here was the Son of God making breakfast for his friends who had all abandoned him when he was taken away and crucified. Jesus showed pure love and mercy.

"This retreat reinforced what I've grown to become and what I've been working on. It encouraged me to continue to follow Jesus Christ. Jesus wants to have a relationship with us and he wants us to spread the Word. You can get caught up with daily frustrations, and this brings you back to Jesus. Something special happens when you are at a retreat and you are open to it."

**OUR DIOCESE** 

# Diocese's newly initiated Catholics share faith journeys at Mass

By Deacon Patrick Cline

Correspondent

PISCATAWAY— At the Easter vigil, more than 300 catechumens and candidates received the sacraments of initiation at parishes throughout the diocese.

They became the Church's newest Catholics, or neophytes, but their journey through the Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA) process was not complete. That would come only after their period of mystagogy, which lasts until Pentecost Sunday, 40 days after Easter.

To help the neophytes during mystagogy, each year the diocesan Office of RCIA invites the candidates and catechumens to worship at Mass and afterwards listen to inspiring faith stories. This year, many of the Church's newest Catholics, together with family and friends, gathered at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center chapel April 18 for the Neophyte Mass.

Father Brian J. Nolan, executive director, diocesan Department of Formation and Leadership and pastor, St. Mary-Stony Hill Parish, Watchung, celebrated

In his homily, Father Nolan welcomed the neophytes and the faithful. He asked the newly initiated to think back to the Easter Vigil and all the thoughts that were going through there minds that night. He read a portion of the great Easter proclamation — the Exsultet: "Rejoice, let Mother Church Rejoice."

Father Nolan told the neophytes that the Church rejoices in their presence; that they heard the call and responded; and acknowledged that they had become new creations through the sacraments of

Father Nolan closed by acknowledging that he was sure the neophytes had encountered wonderful priests, deacons, RCIA directors and catechists who had helped them on their journey. "But now that you have your sea legs, you cannot depend on those good people. You have to take responsibility for your continuing journey," he said.

At the end of Mass, Matthew Minchello, a member of St. Bartholomew Parish, East Brunswick, who was baptized, confirmed and made his first holy Communion at the Easter Vigil, spoke about his journey into the Catholic faith.

"I was raised by a Reform Jewish mother and an agnostic father, resulting in my previous lack of faith," Minchello said.

His college years did not help his faith grow, and, in fact, it was diminished. Meeting his wife, whose heart, he said, is full of compassion, patience, and joy, transformed his life.

"I started going to St. Bartholomew

Parish with my wife and instantly had a connection that could not be broken," he said. "I wanted my own family to live like the disciples of the Messiah.

"This past Easter, after studying the Gospels, the prayers and the principles of the Church with my best friends and mentors, I was baptized into the arms of Jesus." Minchello said it is his hope that his journey may inspire others to follow in his footsteps.

The second neophyte to speak of a faith journey was Ivana Markovic of St. Bernard of Clairvaux Parish, Bridgewater.

Already a baptized Roman Catholic, Markovic completed her initiation and was confirmed and received her first Holy communion at the Easter Vigil. She described her journey, both physical and spiritual, to where she is today.

"I was born in a Communist country where religion was not openly practiced, she said. "My mother was Catholic and had me baptized when I was six months old."

Markovic lived in small town outside of Belgrade directly across from a tiny Catholic Church and remembers going to Mass on Sunday with cousins and her extended family before she immigrated to the United States. "When I started a family 10 years ago a seedling



From left, neophyte Ivana Markovic, Deacon Patrick Cline, Father Brian J. Nolan and neophyte Matthew Minchello.

— Marlo Williamson photo

of faith started to stir in me," she said. "I wanted my children to have the same closeness that I had as I was growing up. I had our children baptized in Belgrade, where I grew up, by the same priest that baptized me and married my parents."

Four years later, some events caused Markovic to be drawn closer and closer to Jesus. "Going through the RCIA helped introduce me to Catholic teaching, taught me about its history and helped answer my questions," she said.

When listening to the Liturgy of the Word, she added, "I find deep meaning in the readings."



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# ishop James F. Checchio

#### FRANCIS BISHOP **SERVANT OF THE SERVANTS OF GOD**

To Our beloved Son James Francis Checchio, presbyter of the Diocese of Camden, until now Rector of the Pontifical No11h American College, appointed Bishop of Metuchen, greetings and Apostolic blessing.

So that we might be reconciled to God, Jesus established His Holy Church, for which, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, We, unworthy though We are, exercise pastoral care. Accordingly, it is Our responsibility to provide devotedly and carefully that each Local Church have its own Ordinary. Consequently, Our eyes turn toward the State of New Jersey, looking with particular attention to that Flock, located in the region of the "Historic Brainy Borough," which, owing to the resignation of Our Venerable Brother Paul Gregory Bootkoski, eagerly awaits a new Shepherd. And so, We look to you, beloved son, recognizing you as a person formed in the virtues and qualities of character requisite for governing the People of God.

Therefore, upon consultation with the Congregation for Bishops, from Our Apostolic authority, We name and appoint you Bishop of Metuchen, granting to you the rights and imposing the obligations, which the canonical laws assign to such a position. Indeed, you may receive Episcopal Ordination outside the city of Rome from any Bishop of the Catholic faith in accordance with the liturgical norms. However, prior to this, you must make the Profession of Faith and take the Oath of Fidelity toward Us and Our Successors. In addition, you will take care to inform the clergy and the faithful of this ecclesiastical community about this Letter of Ours, which carries Our seal, and We exhort them to comply with your instructions with the affection of sons and daughters.

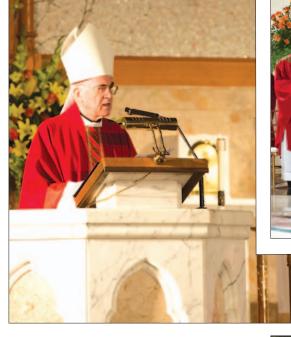
Finally, beloved Son, as you carry out day-to-day matters, follow the example of Saint John the Apostle, keeping your attention fixed first and foremost on Christ hanging from the wood of the cross, standing next to the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, Conceived without sin, in prayer, so that you may serve zealously the people of Metuchen with a truly steadfast heart.

Given at Rome, at St. Peter's, on the eighth day of the month of March, in the year of the Lord two thousand sixteen, the Jubilee of Mercy, the third of Our Pontificate.

#### **FRANCIS**

Francesco Di Felice, Protonotary Apostolic

Having received the signs of his office, an episcopal ring, miter and crosier, Bishop James F. Checchio sits in his cathedra listening to the applause of attendees at his Ordination/Installation as the fifth Bishop of the Diocese of Metuchen.— CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz



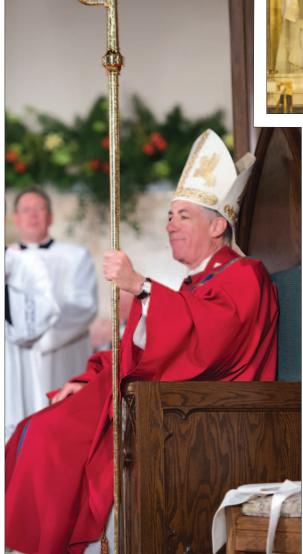
Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganó, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, reads the Papal Bull issued by Pope Francis. The decree, which can be see at left, appoints Bishop James F. Checchio as the Bishop of Metuchen.

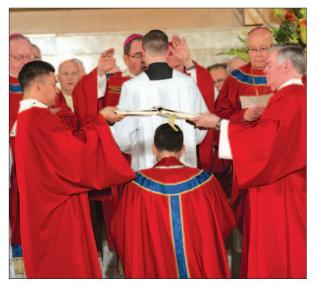


trates himself before the altar as the choir sings the Litany of Supplication. The prayer invokes the Blessed Mother, angels, martyrs and saints to intercede for the new bishop. — Mike Ehrmann photos



Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, the founding bishop of the Diocese of Metuchen prays over Bishop James Checchio, the fifth bishop of the diocese.





During the Rite of Ordination, deacons hold an open Book of Gospels over the head of Bishop Checchio as Archbishop John J. Myers, consecrator prays. To the right of the archbishop is Bishop Paul G. Bootkoski, fourth bishop of Metuchen and a co-consecrator. At his left is Bishop Dennis J. Sullivan of the Diocese of Camden, also a co-consecrator.

ORDINATION / INSTALLATION

# Bishop-elect Checchio takes ceremonial steps to episcopacy at liturgy

**By Chris Donahue** Associate Editor

METUCHEN —Although he would not be formally ordained and installed as the fifth shepherd of the Diocese of Metuchen until the next day, the door to the Catholic community of 650,000 souls was opened for Bishop-elect James F. Checchio at an Evening Prayer and Blessing of the Pontifical Insignia at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi May 2.

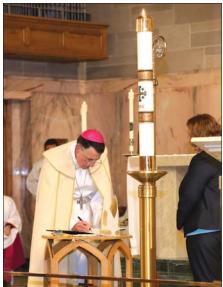
Bishop Paul G. Bootkoski presided at the liturgy, which included the Blessing of the Pontifical Insignia. In the rite, Cardinal Edward O'Brien blessed the ring, miter and crosier that were formally conferred on Bishop-elect Checchio at the Mass of ordination.

The prayer service opened with the rite of Reception into the Cathedral Church in which Bishop-elect Checchio, principal celebrant, was received at the front door. He was welcomed by Bishop Paul G. Bootkoski and Msgr. Robert J. Zamorski, rector.

As Bishop-elect Checchio entered the Cathedral, he was presented with a crucifix, which he venerated. When Bishop-elect Checchio reached the baptismal font, he was presented with blessed water by Bishop Bootkoski.

During the greeting and welcome, Lori Albanese, diocesan chancellor, an-





Above left, Bishop-elect James F. Checchio expressed his gratitude from the ambo at the Evening Prayer and Blessing of the Pontifical Insignia at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi. Right, Bishop-elect Checchio signs the Profession of Faith and Oath of Fidelity as Lori Albanese, diocesan chancellor, watches. — John Batkowski photos

nounced the names of representatives from the diocese and local community and they extended a personal greeting. Members of the clergy from several faiths were among the representatives.

Following the welcome, Bishop-elect Checchio made a profession of faith and oath of fidelity.

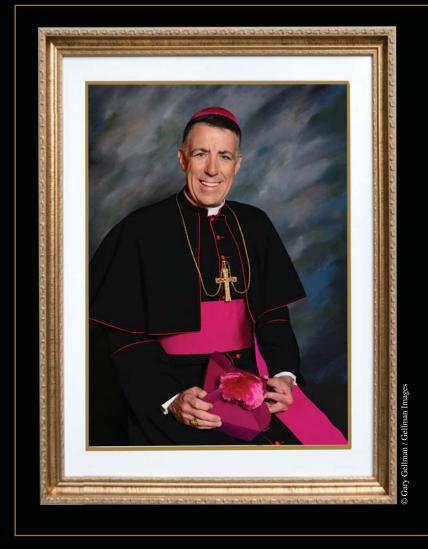
In his remarks of gratitude, Bishopelect Checchio said, "Praised be Jesus Christ! Boy, it's good to be here, and it's good to be home!

"There will be more thanks tomorrow, but I would be remiss not to offer a brief word of thanks to all those who made this evening's prayer so moving as we gathered for this moment of welcome and blessing.

"Thank you to the many representatives of the Diocese of Metuchen and local community, who were introduced by our chancellor, Lori Abanese. I am grateful for your presence and very much look forward to worshipping and ministering with you here in Metuchen.

"To Bishop Bootkoski, thank you for your warm welcome and many kindnesses over these days and weeks. I look forward to learning from you in these years ahead.

Continued on next page



# BISHOP James F. Checchio PHOTO ORDER

The official portrait of Bishop James F. Checchio is available to all Catholic parishes, schools and other institutions within the Diocese of Metuchen.

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Gary Gellman, portrait photographer, was honored to create this beautiful image of Bishop Checchio at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, Metuchen.



Continued from previous page

"Thank you to all the members of our Cathedral Parish community, our rector, Msgr. Zamorski, the Cathedral parish staff as well as the ushers, sacristans and altar servers, the Cathedral choir members and musicians and the Immaculata High School Chamber Choir: I look forward to praying often with you in this beautiful Church.

"Thanks also to the masters of ceremonies and the diocesan worship office for all their good work in preparing for this evening.

"A word of thanks to two priest mentors who assisted this evening in this liturgy: to His Eminence, Cardinal O'Brien, who served as my rector in Rome, I am so grateful that you would be here and bless the bishop's insignia I will receive tomorrow.

"And to Bishop [Nicholas] DiMarzio for preaching this evening for us. I lived with and worked with Bishop during his whole tenure as Bishop of Camden, so I'm grateful Bishop, that you would have a special place in these liturgies.

"I would also like to thank all the Cardinals and Bishops who have joined us. You truly honor us by your presence and we are grateful for your joining us in prayer this evening and tomorrow, too.

"To Archbishop [Carlo Maria] Vigano in particular, the Pope Francis' representative in the United States, you have been a blessing to our country, so thank you for your years of service in this our beloved homeland, and for your many kindnesses to me over these years too.

'To all who are gathered here tonight, thank you for your presence, but especially for your prayers which are both appreciated and needed."

In his homily, Bishop DiMarzio, chief shepherd of the Diocese of Brooklyn, N.Y., said, "I have known Msgr. Checchio for the last 16 years, and I know that there is no task too small for this really big man. His leadership at the Pontifical North American College [Rome] has proven this to be true. No detail of his administration there was left undone. He was certainly a leader during his tenure as rector. He increased the enrollment of seminarians for formation after a period of decline in the number of men studying for the priesthood in Rome...

"Most of all, your bishop to be is a great priest. Clearly, his leadership at the North American College is proof. Msgr. Checchio was not just a rector for the seminarians, but also their friend. He walked the halls constantly and knew all of the seminarians by name.'

He told Bishop Bootkoski, "You have a worthy successor, as you are a worthy predecessor. You can pass on the crozier, the symbol of pastoral authority, with confidence to Bishop-elect Checchio. I am sure he can rely on you for advice and a smooth transition."

At a reception, Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, the founding bishop of the diocese, described the impending ordination and installation of Bishop Checchio the following day as "a historic time and I can't think of any other time when the fifth bishop is installed and first bishop is still around."

"That's because he is so young and I am so old." he added with a smile.

Cardinal McCarrick added that he still feels very close to the diocese and enjoys still seeing many of the priests who were



Above, Linda McCarron, one of Bishopelect James F. Checchio's two sisters, gives the reading from the ambo at an Evening Prayer and Blessing of the Pontifical Insignia at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, Metuchen. Right, Bishop-elect Checchio is shown greeting Msgr. William J. Haughney, the oldest priest in the diocese, during a ceremony of meeting representatives from the diocese. Msgr. Haughney, who turned 95 on April 14, lives at the Maria Regina Residence, Somerset.

there when he served as its first shepherd.

Greg Zannetti, a native of Edison whose home parish is St. Helena, is in his first year of formation to the priesthood at Immaculate Conception, Seminary, Seton Hall University, South Orange. He was pleased to not only have someone with Bishop Checchio's experience at a seminary such as North American College guiding the diocese, but someone born and raised in

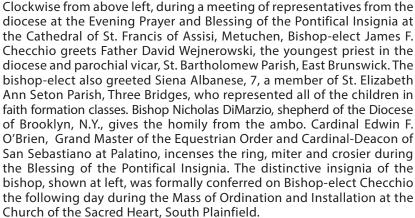
New Jersey, too.

"We [seminarians from the diocese] met him at the evening prayer service [at the Cathedral March 8]," Zannetti said. "He seemed very approachable. He had a humble demeanor and a good sense of humor.

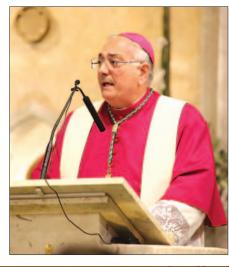
"I spoke to a few guys from [the Diocese of Camden who are at our seminary and they spoke highly of him."

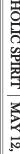












ORDINATION / INSTALLATION

# MAY 12, 2016 | THE CATHOLIC SPIRIT

# In homily Archbishop Hebda compares Bishop Checchio to St. James

Continued from page 1

Dennis J. Sullivan of the Diocese of Camden were co-consecrators.

Visiting archbishops, including Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò, Papal Nuncio to the United States from Oct. 19, 2011 to April 12; and bishops and priests from the Diocese of Metuchen concelebrated. Archbishop Viganò also read the Apostolic Mandate from Pope

Archbishop Bernard Anthony Hebda of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, Minn., gave the hom-

The chalice of Bishop Vincent De Paul Breen, the second shepherd of the diocese, was used at the Mass.

#### A Link With Philip and James

In his homily, Archbishop-elect Hebda, who served as an adjunct spiritual director at the North American College, reflected on the providence of then Bishop-elect Checchio's ordination and installation on the feast of two of the Church's earliest shepherds, St. Philip and St. James.

"While pilgrims traveling to Rome so often associate the Eternal City with Peter and Paul, the princes of the apostles, the apostles Philip and James are actually buried in Rome in the Church of the 12 Apostles, a stone's throw from the Casa Santa Maria where the young Father Checchio lived as a stu-





Four priests served as assistants to Bishop Checchio at his Ordination/Installation. Seen with him above are Father Austin Vetter, left of the bishop, and Father William Byrne. Behind them is Msgr. James Tracy. The fourth assistant was Father Robert Hughes. At right Mercy Sister Marjorie Smith, principal at the elementary school the bishop attended, serves as lector. — Mike Ehrmann photos

dent, pursuing his doctorate in canon law," Archbishop Hebda said.

"My suspicion is that from this day forward, this newest successor of the apostle is going to experience a profound link with Philip and James. They certainly would serve as inspiring role models and already share some similarities with our new bishop.

"In speaking of St. Philip, Pope Benedict [XVI] observed that he was a problem solver. A go-to guy.

"When the Lord was faced with feeding the multitude, he went to Philip.

"When the Greeks wanted an audience with Jesus, they went to Philip. It is very New Jersey. I would bet that he had an uncle in the old neighborhood who knows someone, who knows someone," Archbishop Hebda added, eliciting laughter from those in atten-

"If Philip were to live in 2016 in Metuchen, he would have an M.B.A. [Master of Business Administration] and a doctorate in canon law [like Bishop Checchio]."

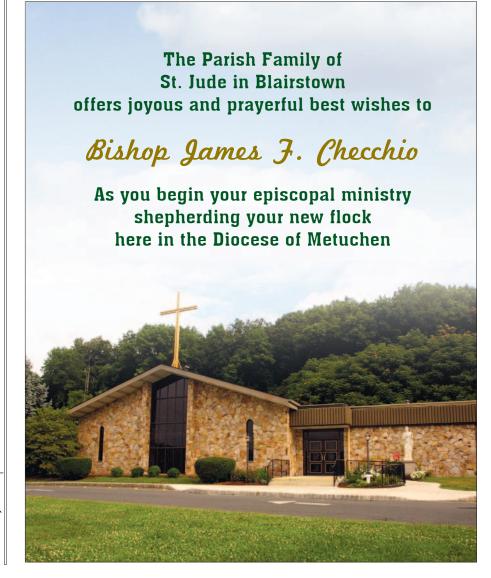
St. James, he continued, offers a similar youthful example for Bishop

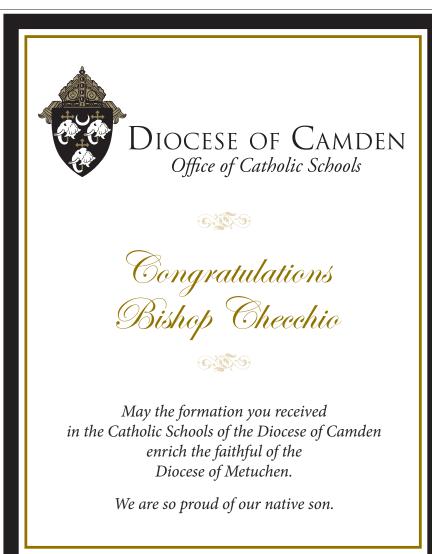
Checchio, especially in this Year of Mercy. Church tradition says he appreciated the importance of good works, of the corporal and spiritual works of

In addition, there is something about apostles sharing a feast day because "it reminds us today that those who minister in the Church never minister alone."

He encouraged Bishop Checchio to seek the wisdom and support of the bishops in the providence and the clergy and religious and laity in the diocese

Continued on next page





Continued from previous page to help him in his ministry.

To the people of the diocese, Archbishop Hebda said, "I challenge you to be collectively the Philip for this new apostle James. Walk with him, love him and open your hearts to that same

humble leadership that has made Bishop-elect Checchio so effective in his ministry in the Diocese of Camden and the North American College.

"The Lord has blessed you with a holy shepherd. Take good care of him."

#### Making It Official

The Rite of Ordination began with the presentation of Bishop Checchio by one of his Chaplains, Father William Byrne.

Sent on behalf of Pope Francis, Archbishop Vigano then read aloud the decree appointing Bishop

Checchio as the Bishop of Metuchen. When he had finished, the assembly broke into thunderous applause as all rose to their feet.

Lori Albanese, chancellor of the diocese, took the apostolic mandate and showed it to members of the College of Consultors, who examined the

At top Lori Albanese, diocesan chancellor, shows Msgr. William Benwell, a member of the College of Consultors, the Papal Bull. (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz) Above bishops from throughout the country fill the side pews at the Church of the Sacred Heart.

document.

"As the new

shepherd of this

beautiful diocese.

I look forward to

getting to know you

better in the coming

days and to deepen

our friendship with

Christ through our

prayer and concern

for his Church."

—Bishop James Checchio

After Archbishop Myers questioned Bishop Checchio regarding his resolve to uphold the faith and discharge his duties, the new bishop prostrated himself before the altar as the choir sang the Litany of Saints.

> In a very moving scene, Archbishop Myers placed his hands on Bishop Checchio's head and prayed. He was followed by Bishop Bootkoski, Bishop Sullivan and all the Bishops present.

The archbishop anointed the new bishop with chrism. An open Book of the Gospels was placed over Bishop Checchio's head after which he was presented with his episcopal ring, a sign of his fidelity to the Bride of God, the church; miter which signifies his resolve to pursue holiness and crosier, which signi-

fies his duty of guiding the church entrusted to him.

Formally installed in his new post, Bishop Checchio assumed the role of presider for the remainder of the ceremony and Eucharistic liturgy.

#### Be Reconciled To God

At the end of the Mass Bishop Checchio extended a heartfelt thank you for "the love and kindness you have shown me during the past two months of transition."

"As the new shepherd of this beautiful diocese, I look forward to getting to know you better in the coming days and to deepen our friendship with Christ through our prayer and concern for his Church," he added.

The diocese, which was established by then-Pope, now St. John



Paul II in 1981 by the partitioning of the Diocese of Trenton, serves 650,000 Catholics in 90 parishes.

"It's good to be home back in New Jersey. I feel blessed to be here in the Diocese of Metuchen," said Bishop Checchio, a native of Camden who celebrated his 50th birthday April 21.

In his comments, the bishop also touched on one of his favorite themes God's mercy.

"Just this past weekend in St. Peter's Square, Pope Francis - very conveniently for me - spoke on these words, which are the same as my episcopal motto and come from St. Paul: be reconciled to God," Bishop Checchio

"The Holy Father said that these words are an invitation to all Christians, especially in this Jubilee Year of Mercy. God offers us his forgiveness and our sins can never keep us from his mercy as long as he finds in that person, the Holy Father said, some sign of contrition for the evil.

"This Holy Year of Mercy is a time for each of us to accept his offer of reconciliation and to bring it to the world.

"Being reconciled with God not only brings inner healing and peace,

At top Archbishop Bernard Anthony Hebda of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, Minn., delivers the homily at the Mass of Ordination and Installation, May 3. Above Religious Teachers Filippini Sister Marianne Mc-Cann, delivers the second reading from II Corinthians 5:14-20.

the Holy Father said, but also compels us to bring reconciliation to our society at every level. And thus contribute to the building up of a global culture

Continued on page 18



Archbishop John Myers gives Bishop James Checchio the Book of Gospels during the Rite of Ordination. - Mike Erhmann photos

**By Tracy Liston** Correspondent

EDISON — The Pines Manor was the place to be immediately following the Mass of Ordination and Installation of Bishop James F. Checchio at the Church of the Sacred Heart, South Plainfield, May 3.

Several coach buses, accompanied by a police escort, quickly transported hundreds of people through Central Jersey rush hour traffic to the banquet facility, where food and drink awaited them.

The staff of The Pines Manor was prepared to host up to 1,200 guests as the faithful of the diocese and many out-of-town visitors congratulated the new bishop, and also wished good tidings to retiring Bishop Emeritus Paul G. Bootkoski.

"As of 3 p.m. when I laid hands on Bishop Checchio's head as a co-consecrator, I am retired," the bishop emeritus said to a round of applause. "As I sat in the Church of the Sacred Heart, I had many memories and beautiful thoughts. And I sat there like a proud papa – like I had a son."

Bishop Emeritus Bootkoski presented Bishop Checchio with two gifts. The first for the evening. was an antique statue of The Good Shepherd. "This is certainly the theme of our Holy Father," he said. "We welcome you

as our new good shepherd and we hope you do smell like your sheep – but not too bad."

builds towers and The second gift was character, and for an icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, of which the whom the faithful bishop emeritus noted the child's one shoe was falling of Metuchen should off his foot because he was be very grateful to running so fast toward Our Lady for her protection. God and to Pope "Jim, may she protect you during the difficult days of ministry ahead," he said. "I am really pleased that you are with us. God bless.'

Cardinal Edwin F. O'Brien, former rector of

the Pontifical North American College in Rome while Bishop Checchio was a who in between introducing speakers instudent, and currently the Grand Master terspersed humorous bits of advice for the of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, provided the toast



At a reception at the Pines Manor, Edison, Bishop Checchio stops to talk with Newark Archbishop John J. Myers, who was the consecrating bishop at his Ordination/Installation, and Bishop Emeritus Paul G. Bootkoski, fourth bishop of Metuchen and co-consecrator at the Mass. Camden Bishop Dennis J. Sullivan also — *Mike Castronova photos* College in Rome. served as a co-consecrator.

"He is a man who

Francis."

—Cardinal Edwin F.

O'Brien

Cardinal O'Brien said he would "attempt to explain the phenomenon of James Francis Checchio." He noted attributes

> alty," his "inner serenity and humble confidence," his "clear vision of the mission and goals set forth for him by his church," and his "steely determination gracefully joined to an affable and unflappable disposition.'

He concluded the toast with: "He is a man who builds towers and character, and for whom the faithful of Metuchen should be very grateful to God and to Pope Francis."

The emcee for the evening was Bishop Chec- proud.

chio's friend, Father William D. Byrne, people who will now have to work with the

of whether Bishop Checchio will root for Philadelphia or New York athletic teams, Father Byrne, pastor of Our Lady of Mercy such as his "staunch loy- Parish in Potomac, Md., settled the matter.

> "He is going to be rooting for the teams of Bishop Ahr High School and the said. "He is going to be rooting for your

> of his two sisters, Linda McCarron, said she wanted to thank her brother for his decision to enter the priesthood. "Everyone is always thanking us for my brother," she said. "We are also grateful because we have all had so many experiences, and have met so many wonderful people, that we never

"Jimmy is a great brother. We have always been a very close family, and all of us siblings are good friends. I am just beyond

Bishop Checchio, who was available for guests to meet and greet, also provided some thoughts for the day. After thanking the many people in the diocese "who worked so hard to put this day together"

In an effort to answer the question

Spartans of Immaculata," Father Byrne he is "very happy and relieved that Bishop

Speaking on behalf of the family, one

Among the many friends who attended the reception after Bishop Checchio's Ordination and Installation were two of his friends Duluth Bishop Paul Sirba, left, and Father Rvan Moravitz, who serves in the Diocese of Duluth as Vocations director. Like Bishop Checchio, Father Moravitz is an alumnus of the North American

and the people "who came from afar," he added. "As I have said before. I love being a priest. I am delighted to be here ... and so happy to be in New Jersey so close to my family and friends and able to have their

He pledged to do his best, and said Bootkoski will be living close by to help with guidance as I take my first steps as bishop of the diocese.'

The speakers concluded with the alumni of the Pontifical North American College assembling in the front of the room. "It is our tradition to wish someone many happy years by singing," said Father Byrne. "So in gratitude for your leadership and with promises of prayer for your future, we sing Ad Multos Annos."

Below, Bishop James F. Checchio is surrounded by alumni of the Pontifical North American College in Rome, where he is an alumnus and was rector for 10 years prior to becoming the fifth Bishop of Metuchen. During Bishop Checchio's tenure at the college, 490 men became — Mike Castronova photo

# Family, friends, educators rejoice for Diocese of Metuchen's new shepherd

Correspondent

The rain and fog did not seem to dampen the joyous mood in central New Jersey as family and friends of Bishop James F. Checchio celebrated his ordination and installation as the fifth bishop of the diocese, May 3.

"I don't know how to describe it, it is beyond words," said Jim Checchio, the bishop's father. "When he prostrated himself on the altar, I just filled up with tears. We are so very proud of him, and by the amount of cardinals and bishops who came today I can tell Jim is

of ordination is something she will remember forever. "The moment when they dressed him, when he received his ring and his miter and his pastoral staff, that is when it hit me," she said. "And I thought he looked so handsome!"

This year will be the first Mother's Day in 12 years that her son will be able to spend the day with her. "He said to me the other day, 'I am coming home on Sunday Mom,' and I was just so happy."

One of his two sisters, Linda McCarron, described Bishop Checchio as "a good brother" in a family where there is "a lot of mutual respect and all of us [siblings] are always supsister, Mary Ann Kehoe, and a brother, David, said her brother "was anxious to come back going to have a bigger parish now.

"He always has time for people," Mc-Carron added. "He never makes you feel like you are a bother."

Friends and family seated in the front pews of the Church of the Sacred Heart in people.' South Plainfield were eager to share memories of "Jimmy" during the hour prior to the processional. Cousin Tim Galanaugh said, "He will bring his pleasant disposition and his dedication to the Church and its teachings to his new diocese, which is a very good com-

Debbie Maugeri, who counts Bishop Checchio as her best friend, said she met him 24 years ago when her son Sal served as Bishop Checchio's first altar boy at St. Agnes

cited and said I just had to meet the new priest because he was so nice," Maugeri said. "So I gave Jim my address and told him to stop over

Sure enough the young priest came over for a visit "and he never left" joked her husband Sal. "He is just such a part of our lives," Maugeri said. "He has been through so much

When another son, Christian, was in a very serious car accident several years ago, Maugeri said Bishop Checchio dropped everything in Rome and flew to New Jersey to sit at his bedside for two weeks.

"He was such a comfort to our family," His mother, Helen, said the last couple of Maugeri said. When we drove him to the airdays have been "overwhelming" but the Mass port to go back to Rome, Christian was still unconscious. But when we got back to the hospital – he was awake. He never knew Jim was there." She added, "He is going to be such a gift to your diocese.'

> Diana Raroha, a close friend of the bishop's mother, Helen, said, "Jim was always a special boy, always willing to help out and he always had a smile on his face. When he received his letter of acceptance to seminary, he brought it over to my house on Thanksgiving to show it to me.'

Raroha said she always told him he should become either a priest or a psychologist, but she was hoping for a priest. "He will portive of each other." McCarron, who has a bring the love of God here, and he will bring the people together," she said.

Bishop Checchio asked two of his for-[to New Jersey] and be a pastor. When the mer educators to do readings at his Mass of announcement came I said, 'I guess you are Ordination. Mercy Sister Marjorie Smith was principal of St. John Elementary School in Collingswood while Bishop Checchio was a student there. "He is such a good, faith-filled human being," she said. "And he comes from a very faith-filled family. They are wonderful

She recalled that Bishop Checchio was particularly close to Mercy Sister Joanne Tarpey, who was his teacher for grades six, seven and eight. She said young Jim would tell Sister Joanne that he did not know what to do because he wanted to be priest and he wanted to be a lawyer.

"And she would tell him, 'Jimmy, you can be both,' which is exactly what he did!" Sister Marjorie said. "Bishop Checchio came to the nursing facility where Sister Joanne Church in Blackwood. "My son, who was now lives during Holy Week and when she only nine years old then, came home all ex- saw him, she just held on to him and cried and

Above, Bishop Checchio poses with his

parents, siblings and their spouses, and niece. At right, the bishop is pictured with Msgr. James R. Tracy, a longtime friend of the Checchio Family. Below, James and Helen Checchio beam as they pose with their son. The new bishop's father said, "We are so proud of him, and by the amount of cardinals and bishops who came today [to the Ordination/Installation] I can tell Jim is well-liked."

— Mike Castronova photos



cried she was so happy.'

The second reader was Bishop Checchio's English teacher and then vice principal of Pope Paul VI High School in Haddon Township. Religious Teachers Filippini Sister I was pleasantly surprised that he was assigned Marianne McCann recalls traveling with Jim so close to home."

to Europe on school trips. "He was always so thoughtful and very, very kind," Sister Marianne said. "Many people have said through the years that Jim would someday be a bishop.

ORDINATION / INSTALLATION



# Bishop grateful to God for grace which led him to the priesthood

Continued from page 15

of justice, peace and solidarity, Pope Francis concluded.

"Let us accept, therefore, the invitation to be reconciled to God, to become new preachers and to be able to radiate his mercy among our brothers and sisters."

#### **Grateful Bishop**

Before being appointed bishop by Pope Francis March 8, Bishop Checchio served as rector of the Pontifical North American College in Rome for 10 years after serving there as vice rector for 2 1/2 years. Bishop Checchio noted that his experience at the college deepened his love for the priesthood and the Church.

He spoke, too, about the importance of vocations to consecrated life to serve the spiritual and pastoral needs of the faithful.

"I love being a priest," said Bishop Checchio, who was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Camden June 20, 1992. "I am so grateful to God for his gift of love in calling me to follow him in his holy priesthood. I am likewise grateful to God for the grace he has given me over these years of my priestly ministry.

"I certainly pray that many more young men in our diocese will respond to that call and we need to make every effort to ensure that our young people can hear the call of God and know what a blessed life it is, whether it is the priesthood or religious life."

He gave thanks to Bishop Bootkoski, who served for 14 years, Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, Archbishop Emeritus of Washington, D.C. and for their love and hard work on behalf of the faithful.

Bishop Checchio thanked his mother, Helen, and father, James, for teaching him, his brother and two sisters "what love looks like in daily life."

During Bishop Checchio's tenure as rector of the North American College Rome, 689 seminarians were formed, 490 men be-

came priests for 100 dioceses, 833 renewed at the Institute for Continuing Theological Education, 328 priests received graduate degrees, and more than \$90 million was raised to benefit priestly formation.

He also oversaw the addition of a \$7 million, 10-story building during his

term as rector.

Among the laity at the Mass were Meena Rodriguez and Joan Blessing, members of the Church of the Sacred Heart.

"It was so inspiring, uplifting, enriching," Rodriguez said.

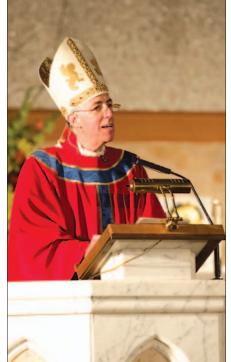
"He seems as though everyone is go-

ing to love him," Blessing said. "You can feel the love, just welled up within the church. Of course, that could have been the Holy Spirit, too."

The diocese, in concert with the Diocese of Brooklyn, broadcast the Mass on NET TV, EWTN and Catholic TV.



Above left, Bishop Checchio's family fills the front pew of the Church of the Sacred Heart. At the end of the pew are his father, James, and mother, Helen. In addition, the bishop has two sisters, a brother, and six nieces and nephews. At right, the bishop extends gratitude at the end of his Ordination/Installation, May 3.







Pictured above is Bishop James Checchio kneeling at the altar of the Church of the Sacred Heart, South Plainfield, after his Ordination/Installation. Twelve hundred cardinals, bishops, priests and faithful filled the church for the historic occasion.

Above, after he was ordained, Bishop James Checchio sat in the cathedra which has his coat of arms at the top. To the left is Metuchen Bishop-emeritus Paul G. Bootkoski. At right are Camden Bishop Dennis Sullivan and Newark Archbishop John J. Myers. Bishops Bootkoski and Sullivan were co-consecrators at the Ordination and Archbishop Myers served as consecrator. — *Mike Ehrmann photos* 

For more photos of Bishop Checchio's Ordination/Installation Visit: gallery.dcsphoto.net/bishopchecchio

ORDINATION / INSTALLATION



## **Closing Ceremony**

At the end of the Ordination/Installation of Bishop James F. Checchio, with Knights of Columbus lining the aisle, representatives of the Knights and Dames of Malta and Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre lead the recessional from the Church of the Sacred Heart, South Plainfield. They are followed by the priests, bishops, and cardinals who traveled from across the country and around the world to attend the milestone in the history of the Diocese of Metuchen.

— Mike Ehrmann photo

# **Paying Respects**

Before Evening Prayer May 2, Bishop-elect James F. Checchio, Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, the founding bishop of the Diocese of Metuchen, and Bishop Paul G. Bootkoski visit the graves of their predecessors, Bishop Edward T. Hughes, the second bishop of Metuchen who died Dec. 25, 2012 and Bishop Vincent dePaul Breen, the third bishop of Metuchen, who died on March 30, 2003.

— Michael Walsh photo



## **Transition Complete**

At the end of the day which began with the Ordination/Installation of Bishop James F. Checchio and ended with a reception at the Pines Manor, Edison, the diocese's newest bishop poses with his predecessor, Bishop-emeritus Paul G. Bootkoski.

- Erin Friedlander photo

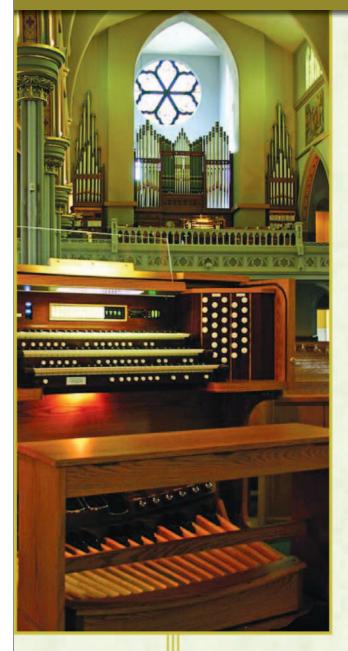
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# Composer's hymn echoed theme of Bishop Checchio's motto

**By Christina Leslie** Correspondent

The joyful celebration that was the ordination and installation of Bishop James F. Checchio was a musical tour de force with works spanning the history of the Catholic Church.

Ranging from ancient Latin chants to major choir octavos to upbeat, bilingual songs, all were well-loved, oft-performed pieces chosen to fit the grandeur and liturgical significance of such a momentous event in the life of the diocese.

The grand procession and entrance hymn, "Be Reconciled to God," was created by diocesan composer Tim Keyes. The nearly 30-minute modular work was composed soon after the March 8 announcement that Bishop Paul G. Bootkoski's resignation was accepted and Bishop Checchio would become the fifth shepherd of the diocese. Keyes recalled the genesis of the piece, especially tailored for the new bishop, before its debut performance.

"The [diocesam] Worship Office commissioned me to compose a piece a week before Easter, but they told me, 'We have no text,'" Keyes recalled. "On a conference call the Tuesday after Easter, I learned [the future bishop's] motto, and was told 'we have rehearsals of the choir beginning next Tuesday."

Bishop Checchio's selection of "Reconciliamini Deo," or "Be Reconciled to God," as his episcopal motto inspired Keyes to use it as his work's soring refrain:

Be reconciled to God, the God of love and mercy

Be reconciled to God, the source of peace and justice

Be reconciled to God, and dwell in unfailing love

The work's nine verses were inspired by Psalm 147 and the Easter Proclamation, or Exsultet. "I wanted it to cover salvation history and how God's mercy is part of that," Keyes stated.

He realized the work would be performed by organ, brass and timpani and sung by an ordination choir of nearly 100 singers from throughout the diocese, so he composed the three verses from the Exsultet longer in length and intended to be sung by a smaller group. "I needed to make sure the theme was clear," Keyes said.

The expansive procession of cardinals, archbishops, bishops and priests posed its own challenge to the composer. Since no one was quite sure how many prelates would attend the ordination, Keyes knew flexibility was crucial



Composer Tim Keyes poses at the Church of the Sacred Heart, South Plainfield, before his procession and entrance hymn "Be Reconciled To God" was performed at the Mass of Ordination and Installation of Bishop James F. Checchio.

— Mike Ehrmann photo

"I was told it had to cover a procession of about 30 minutes," he said. "Also, it needed to be able to be expanded or contracted, to be modular. It was a challenge: how could people sing that long and still sing an entire Mass?"

The solution lay in variety. Keyes constructed the piece in three main sections and inserted clear points in the score where another piece of music or an organ improvisation could be inserted. "I wanted to keep the structure, have variety," he said. "I also wanted to add in an entrance antiphon for the Feast of the day: the feast of Saints Philip and James, Apostles."

"I used my church choir as guinea pigs," he added with a laugh. The choirs of St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Montgomery Township, where Keyes serves as pastoral assistant for music and liturgy, gave him valuable input in earlier drafts. "They tried out the sections and saw what worked."

The message of mercy in "Be Reconciled to God" is clear. "There is a release and a resolution in the score that the congregation will hear," Keyes said. "The text is from St. Paul: it's okay what you have done, give it up and be reconciled. Rely on God's mercy. God will forgive you.

"It was a huge honor to have been asked to do this," Keyes added. "I know the piece in just this form might never be performed again in this configuration. It is so unique in this circumstance, but I have written a more simplified, practical version appropriate for parish use."

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# Designer recreates Vatican Gardens to honor bishop's time in Rome

**By Tracy Liston** Correspondent

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — Design consultant Meg Poltorak Keyes was hard at work with her small team preparing the Church of the Sacred Heart two nights before the ordination and installation of Bishop James F. Checchio.

"It is very exciting to be a part of this, and it all happened rather quickly," said Poltorak Keyes. "This is a huge hon-

"There will be

many interna-

tional visitors

here for the

ordination and

the people will

also bring their

own colors to

the ceremony."

-Meg Poltorak Keyes

or to be selected to design the liturgical environments. I am doing this as much for Bishop Paul [G. Bootkoski] as I am for Bishop James," she said, noting that she has worked with Bishop Bootkoski since the beginning of his 14 years in the diocese.

For the celebration of Evening Prayer, held the night before Bishop Checchio's ordination, Poltorak Keyes said she chose a white decorating theme to adorn the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen "to

reflect the liturgical color of the day, which was the Memorial of Saint Athanasius, who was a bishop and doctor of the Church."

However, for the installation and ordination, which fell on the feast of St. Philip and St. James, who were apostles and martyrs, the liturgical color is red, and Poltorak Keyes said she did not want him of Rome." to focus on that particular color.

Instead she chose "to use the architectural elements of the church to reflect and capitalize on the colors that were already here." Hence her color scheme of butterscotch, pale yellows, and persimmon came to life and accentuated the buff, sand, beige, bronze and oak tones so prominent at Sacred Heart.

"There will be many international visitors here for the ordination and the

> people will also bring their own colors to the ceremony," she added.

> To honor the nearly 13 years Bishop Checchio spent in Rome at the Pontifical North American College, Poltorak Keyes decided to research the Vatican Gardens and learn what flowers and shrubs grow there. "A lot of thought went into this," she said. "I wanted to recreate what would be typical at the Vatican Gardens."

> The Stephanotis, Oleander, Jasmine and Confederate Jasmine that Poltorak Keyes

special ordered were all carefully placed in pots by design team members, Anne Poltorak, her sister, and Pru Cadena.

After the festivities, the flowers were delivered to the new bishop "so he can plant them at either his private residence or around the Cathedral to remind

A designer of liturgical environments for more than 30 years, Poltorak Keyes does regular work for St. Joseph Parish, North Plainfield, where she is a member, and Mount Saint Mary Chapel, Watchung. She also worships at St. Charles Borromeo Church, Montgomery Township.

A member of the diocesan Liturgical Commission, she also specializes in church renovation and restoration.



In the background above are some of the creations Meg Poltorak Keyes designed for the Mass of Ordination and Installation of Bishop James F. Checchio at the Church of the Sacred Heart, South Plainfield. At left is one of the arrangements assembled by Poltorak Keyes and design team members Anne Poltorak, her sister, and Pru Cadena. Poltorak Keyes has been designing liturgical environments for more than 30 years.

— Mike Ehrmann photos

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#### **Rewarding Experience**

Deacon Rich Lutomski, assistant campus minister at Bishop George Ahr High School, Edison, holding check at left, was recently given a surprise reception by members of the school community after being honored with a \$2,500 teaching grant from the "Farmers Insurance Thanks America's Teachers" program. Deacon Lutomski learned he had received the grant after walking into the school's chapel, where he was greeted by a welcoming group of supporters, including students, teachers, administrators and two representatives from Farmers Insurance, Maria Victoria Portales and Edward van Eckert (Bishop Ahr Class of '78).

Lutomski won the grant by submitting a teaching proposal which centers on a weeklong summer service program offering students the chance to focus on living out the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, through participation in community service and other projects. Deacon Lutomski's proposal was listed, along with other teachers' projects, on the Farmers Insurance website, and members of the public were asked to vote for the proposals they believed would deliver the greatest impact.

Lutomski told the enthusiastic well-wishers the money would be used to defray the costs of the BGA summer weeklong service program, which "invites young people to really embrace service and give of themselves."

Felician Sister Cynthia Babyak, campus minister, said she was thrilled by the outcome. "Deacon Rich truly deserves this honor. Besides coordinating the freshman service program, he is a great help to me and everyone here at Bishop Ahr. He leads by example."

— photo courtesy of Bishop George Ahr High School



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# Faith Alive!

# 'Joy of Love' can build fruitful homes

"No family drops down from heaven perfectly formed; families need constantly to grow and mature in the ability to love," Pope Francis writes in a major new document titled "The Joy of Love."

#### **GOD IN OUR MIDST**

By David Gibson

Speaking directly to families, the pope encourages them never to allow their "limitations" to cause them to "lose heart." No "stereotype of the ideal family" exists, he points out, "but rather a challenging mosaic made up of many different realities, with all their joys, hopes and problems."

Pope Francis insists from the outset that "families are not a problem; they are first and foremost an opportunity."

In this document, he enters into a conversation with families, as well as with the Church at large and the many pastoral ministers serving couples and families. He clearly hopes families themselves will read at least parts of the document, and he even offers a bit of guidance for reading it.

Pope Francis suggests that "the greatest benefit, for families themselves and for those engaged in the family apostolate, will come if each part is read patiently and carefully or if attention is paid to the parts dealing with their specific needs.

In reading the document he hopes that "all will feel called to love and cherish family life."

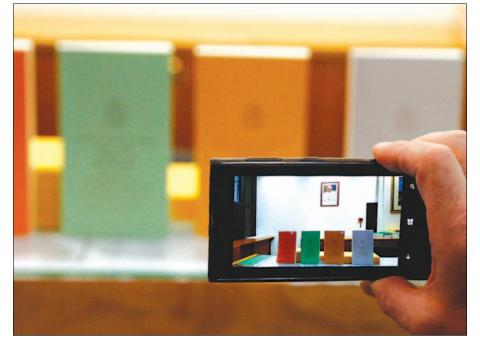
"The Joy of Love" represents the pope's response to the assemblies of the world Synod of Bishops on the family held in the fall of both 2014 and 2015. These meetings were reported widely in the media.

The synod sessions came to be known by many for their deliberations on certain specific pastoral issues involving the Church's relationship with divorced Catholics who remarry without an annulment of a first marriage, for example, or with unmarried couples who cohabitate and may be raising children.

Not as widely reported was the synod's attention to couples and families across the board — to the riches of their lives together, but also to the pressures and anxieties they experience due to cultural realities and the sometimes extreme demands today of meeting each family member's unique needs.

The document, known as an apostolic exhortation, addresses all the concerns mentioned above and many others

Christ "dwells in real and concrete families with all their daily troubles and



A journalist takes photos of copies of Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation on the family, Amoris Laetitia ("The Joy of Love"), during the document's release at the Vatican April 8. In the document, he enters into a conversation with families, as well as with the Church at large and the many pastoral ministers serving couples and families.

— CNS photo/Paul Haring

struggles, joys and hopes," Pope Francis writes in the document's chapter on the spirituality of marriage and the family.

Moreover, he says, "moments of joy, relaxation, celebration and even sexuality can be experienced as a sharing in the full life of the resurrection."

He considers it "a profound spiritual experience to contemplate our loved ones with the eyes of God and to see Christ in them."

Why would couples and families spend time with "The Joy of Love"? One reason is that it shares countless points of concrete, practical advice for "building sound and fruitful homes." Furthermore, the pope's kindness toward families is always apparent here.

If, on the one hand, he affirms that a family's continued growth in love "is a never-ending vocation," he also cautions against "judging harshly those who live in situations of frailty."

I imagine many couples will choose to spend time with Chapter 4 in "The Joy of Love." Titled "Love in Marriage," this chapter concentrates on ways to keep love alive in a marriage over the course of time.

'We have to realize that all of us are a complex mixture of light and shadows," Pope Francis advises couples. "The other person," he says, "is much more than the sum of the little things that annoy me," and "love does not have to be perfect for us to value it."

He recommends developing "the habit of giving real importance to the other person." Furthermore, he disparages "the logic of domination and competition" related to intelligence or power in families, convinced that this "destroys love" for them.

It is important to communicate well in marriage and family life, the pope comments. Be ready "to listen patiently and attentively to everything the other person wants to say," he urges.

"The Joy of Love" devotes careful attention to the education and ethical formation of children; to marriage preparation, the accompaniment of couples during a marriage's early years and the Church's continuing relationship with its divorced members; and to welcoming children as a reflection of a couple's love.

In a chapter on Scripture, the pope shares his hope that couples and families will discover that the word of God for them "is not a series of abstract ideas." Instead, he says, God's word is "a source of comfort and companionship for every family that experiences difficulties or suffering."

I assume that in some way, at some time and to some degree, that includes just about every couple and family.

With "The Joy of Love," Pope Francis expresses compassion and support for contemporary families.

A reason the document is timely in this Year of Mercy, he observes, is that it "seeks to encourage everyone to be a sign of mercy and closeness wherever family life remains imperfect or lacks peace and joy.'

Gibson served on Catholic News Service's editorial staff for 37 years

# Church teaches all human lives have worth, meaning

As the Canadian

Bishops observed in

their 2005 pastoral

letter to the sick:

"[even] illness may

seem to rob people

of dignity, but a

patient's intrinsic

dignity is never

diminished."

Article 38 - Catechism of the Catholic Church Series
Paragraphs 355-368

Paragraphs 355-368 *In the Image of God* 



By Father John Gerard Hillier

It occurred to me during a recent visit to JFK Hospital in Edison that the familiar and beautiful notion of being made in the "image and likeness of God" is not so convincing when contemplated from the seated position of a hospital waiting room. I sat across from a 73-year-old woman holding back tears as she prepared for her surgery. With a long blond wig that had twisted in the wind during her journey from the parking lot, her husband sat next to her but was more fixated on playing poker on his iPad rather than tending to the needs of his ill spouse.

Over the shoulder of this man, I could see through the large window another couple and their young grandson (I assume) making their way toward the waiting room from the outdoors. It was a sad sight watching the aged woman seated in an old worn wheelchair, with equally tattered clothes, being pushed by her husband who was at least as wide as the wheelchair, huffing and puffing as he entered the hospital. The child was blissfully oblivious to the sad portrait to which he was a main subject. Then there were the twins seated to my left. They were mistaken by a hospital employee as husband and wife before being told by the female of the two that they were brother and sister born just minutes apart almost 80 years before. Both struggled with each breath that sounded like a speeding locomotive.

Sadly, as I watched I was suddenly gripped by the fact that each of the senior citizens I saw were once small babies, then children, later teenagers, and finally young men and women with the strength and vitality of youth, easily dis-

cernible back then as being made in the "image and likeness of God." But the ravages of age, coupled with the tragedy of illness, made this term more difficult to reconcile with the faces before me.

Yet, it is in the lives of just such as these that we are summoned to discern the "image of God."

In my previous article I talked about God as Creator of the visible world. In other words, the world and the universe have traces of God everywhere. Just as artists leave something of themselves on their canvas, so God left some of his perfection on everything he made. At the top of the list are human beings

Humanity is the Creator's masterpiece, "the only creature on earth that God has willed for its own sake" and "alone is called to share, by knowledge and love, in God's own life" (ccc 356). According to the Catechism, "God created everything for humanity" (ccc 358) and "attached so much importance to salvation that he did not [even] spare his own Son for the sake of humanity" (ccc 358).

What makes humanity supreme over created things? Sacred Scriptures tells us that God formed Adam out of the slime of the earth and "blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being" (*Gn 2:7*). What was cold and lifeless became warm and pulsing with life; what was dust and incapable of thought received the spark of intelligence. Being in the image of God the human possesses the dignity of a person, who is not "just something, but someone" (ccc 357).

"God created everything" (ccc 358) for this "someone" called the human being. It is humanity's intelligence and will that makes the human person supreme over all visible creation and for whom "the heavens and the earth, the sea and

TREATMENT FAMILY HOMES PROGRAM...
Where Children Grow Best in Families

all the rest of creation exist" (ccc 358). As we look at their faces, their hearts, their words, their works, and their attitude toward all things, it is evident that they, in a special way, are an image

of God. Only humans have founded states and cities, developed and cultivated arts and sciences, developed trade and commerce, and advanced culturally and economically. Humans use the stars to direct their journey over the ocean and in the desert. Human beings have wrung medicine from coal and from mold! They use soybeans to make food and clothing! Everyday human minds plan, discover and set new goals for their genius to achieve.

Yet, the Catechism, quoting the Second Vatican Council tells us, "it is only in the mystery of the Word made flesh that the mystery of man truly becomes clear" (ccc 359).

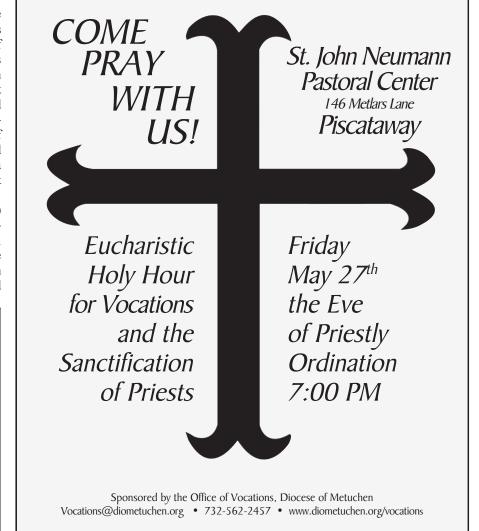
"The human person, created in the image of God, is a being at once corporeal and spiritual" (ccc 362), and "the

human body" shares in "the dignity of the image of God" (ccc 364). As such, we have an obligation to regard our bodies "as good and to hold it in honor since God has created it and will raise it up on the last day" (ccc 364).

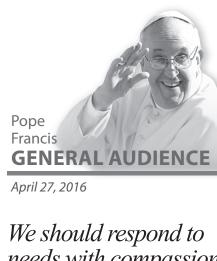
The final part of this section emphasizes the teaching of the Church that "every spiritual soul is created immediately by God" (ccc 366), unlike our bodies which are "produced" through the DNA of our parents. In addition, the human soul "is immortal" and "does not perish when it separates from the body at death" (ccc 366). Finally, our souls "will be reunited" with our bodies "at the final Resurrection" (ccc 366).

Human life deemed worthless or without meaning, according to the Catechism, is impossible to fathom. No such human life exists. As the Canadian Bishops observed in their 2005 pastoral letter to the sick: "[even] illness may seem to rob people of dignity, but a patient's intrinsic dignity is never diminished." Thus, the people I saw in the hospital waiting room at JFK on that windy day enjoy the fullness of being in "the image and likeness of God" — the value of which can never be measured.

Father John G. Hillier, Ph.D., serves as Assistant Chancellor to the Bishop and the bishop's liaison to persons with disabilities.







# needs with compassion

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

In our catechesis for this Holy Year of Mercy, we now turn to the parable of the Good Samaritan.

Jesus had taught the great commandment of love for God and neighbour. In reply to the question: "Who is my neighbour?", he recounts the story of the priest and the levite who pass by a man in need at the side of the road. Their religiosity is ultimately inauthentic, for it does not find expression in service to others.

Love, the Lord tells us, is never abstract or distant; it "sees" and it responds.

The compassion shown by the Samaritan is an image of the infinite mercy of God, who always sees our needs and draws near to us in love.

The command to love God and neighbour, then, is supremely practical; it entails caring for others even to the point of personal sacrifice.

By the end of the parable, we see that the "neighbour" is not so much the man in need, but rather the one who responded to that need with compassion. Jesus tells all of us to be neighbours in this sense: "Go and do likewise". He himself is the model of the Good Samaritan; by imitating his love and compassion, we show ourselves truly to be his followers.

#### Be at Peace

Do not look forward to the changes and chances of this life with fear. Rather, look to them with full confidence that, as they arise, God to whom you belong will in his love enable you to profit by them. He has guided you thus far in life. Do you but hold fast to His dear hand, and He will lead you safely through all trials. Whenever you cannot stand, He will carry you lovingly in his arms...

Be at peace then, and put aside all useless thoughts, all vain dreads and all anxious imaginations.

Never be in a hurry; do everything quietly and in a calm spirit.

Do not lose your inner peace for anything whatsoever, even if your whole world seems upset.

— St. Francis de Sales

# Status of St. George/Rite of anointing

I attended Catholic schools for 12 years, and I view that experience as a prime factor in my success in life. In 1966 when I was confirmed, I took George as my confirmation name. Shortly after that, my class was told that many saints never existed and that George was one of them.



By Father Kenneth Doyle

Our teacher explained that George was a folklore hero — a cultural myth much like Paul Bunyan, who existed only in storybooks. (Strangely, though, we were told that we could still pray to him.) I'm wondering whether there is any new thought on this and what the current state of sainthood is for good old St. George. (Owings Mills, Md.)

Whoever told you that St.

George never existed was wrong. He was born to a Christian family in Lydda in Palestine in the late third century and became an officer in the Roman army. When the emperor Diocletian decreed that every soldier should renounce Christianity and offer sacrifice to the Roman gods, George refused — the result being that he was decapitated for professing his faith, most likely in the year 303 A.D.

From that time on, Christians revered him as a martyr, and a basilica was later built in his honor in Lydda. That much is factual, but the legend of George as a dragon slayer, a story carried back to Europe by the Crusaders in the 12th century, seems to have little basis in fact.

The confusion over the status of George arises, in part, from a 1969 revision in the Church's liturgical calendar when it was decided that some names should be removed from the calendar of the saints and several others, including St. George, should have their feast day celebrations made optional.

That change was the logical consequence of the Second Vatican Council's determination in its decree on the liturgy that "lest the feasts of the saints take precedence over the feasts that commemorate the very mysteries of salvation, many of them should be left to be celebrated by a particular church or nation or religious community; only those should be extended to the universal church that commemorate saints who are truly of universal importance" (Sacrosanctum Concilium, No. 111).

On April 23, 2013, just a month after his election as pontiff, Pope Francis joined several cardinals in celebrating Mass in a Vatican chapel in honor of his patron saint on St. George's feast day. (The pope's baptismal name is Jorge.)

Is there a limit as to how often one can receive the sacrament of the anointing of the sick? Our church now administers this sacrament monthly. My husband will be facing several procedures over the next few months. Is he allowed to receive this blessing each month there is a procedure or only once a year? (Jeffersonville, Ind.)



In the 1960s, when the Second Vatican Council changed the preferred name from extreme unction to anointing of the

sick, that change was meant to indicate a change in purpose — or rather, a return to this sacrament's original purpose. No longer was it to be administered only at the point of death but to those whose illnesses, though serious, were not immediately life-threatening.

The frequency for receiving this sacrament is a matter of judgment, but some guidelines exist. In No. 998 of the Church's Code of Canon Law, we read that the sacrament is intended for "the faithful who are dangerously ill.'

However, the Catechism of the Catholic Church clarifies that and expands on it in No. 1515: "It is fitting to receive the anointing of the sick just prior to a serious operation. The same holds for the elderly whose frailty becomes more pronounced." The rite of anointing itself says that "old people may be anointed if they are in weak condition even though no dangerous illness is present."

It's important, I think, not to limit "illness" to the physical. Every priest I know would welcome to the sacrament those in the throes of psychological depression or struggling with an addiction.

Now, as to your specific question: In offering the sacrament monthly, your parish is not suggesting that the same people receive it every month but that there are probably new candidates each time. That could mean people newly diagnosed or whose situations have worsened or who are facing serious surgery.

I do not know what procedures your husband will undergo, but certainly if they involve serious risk, he could receive the sacrament each time. The Code of Canon Law encourages erring on the side of caution. In No. 1005, it says that the sacrament is to be administered in a case of doubt whether the sick person is dangerously ill.

Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at askfatherdoyle@ gmail.com and 40 Hopewell St. Albany, NY 12208.

# Even in a world of darkness, love can win

During the Second Vatican Council, love became one of its constant themes. My German pastor would cry out "Love, love, love: That's all you hear these days! It is as if it never existed before." He didn't like the changes brought about by the council. He especially thought some used the word love for their own purposes.



By Father Eugene Hemrick

In one way, he was right. Many of its advocates misused and abused its meaning. Repeatedly speaking of love correctly, however, can never be overdone. It is the ultimate foundation of all virtues.

When love is applied to what we do every day, its depths are bottomless. Take, for instance, two examples of love: benevolence and mercy. Benevolence urges us to be well-disposed toward others, ourselves, God and the world, reflecting kindness.

Mercy implores us to open our hearts to others so that they never lose heart. When these qualities are lived, they generate heartfelt inspiration that can move mountains.

An example of this is a series of programs I recently saw at St. James Cathedral in Seattle. Its large staff runs programs that include ministering to those released from prison, helping them re-enter society and regain dignity. They help immigrants get settled and provide them with English lessons. They also provide support to pregnant women.

When the programs are studied, one thing surfaces most, and that is benevolence. People sacrifice time and talents to create dignity in others. They free people from fears that accompany poverty, the pitfalls of being impoverished and the addictions that enslave them.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, also in Seattle, created a program in which professional clothes are donated for the poor so they can go out and obtain work. The rationale behind the program is that the better you look, the better you feel about yourself. These are but a few examples of millions of programs throughout the world that are based on benevolence, mercy and the restoration of heart in those who may

Creative programs like these are the perfect antithesis to the violence and senseless deaths we experience daily. They are a testament that God's love is forever winning over a culture of death and darkness.

**OUR FAITH** 

# Jesus fulfills his promises

Solemnity of Pentecost (C)

"I will not leave you orphans . . . I will ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always" (*Jn 15:18a, 16*). In our Scripture readings this Pentecost Sunday, Jesus dramatically fulfills these promises to send another helper to forever accompany his followers. Jesus had ascended back to the right hand of the Father in Heaven, and now true to his word, sent the Holy Spirit upon his gathered disciples. The Holy Spirit, "the artisan of God's works," brought the ongoing Christian community (the Church) into being, empowering it to carry the message of Jesus in unity to all peoples and nations.

#### **SCRIPTURE STUDY**

By Msgr. John N. Fell

As St. John portrays it, the Resurrection, Ascension, and Descent of the Holy Spirit all take place on Easter Sunday itself. The occasion of the bestowal of the Spirit is Jesus' Easter evening appearance to his disciples. The Gospel tells us that Jesus breathed on the disciples, significantly using the same verb as in the Greek versions of Genesis 2:7, the account of the Lord God breathing life into Adam. Just as that first transmission of the Spirit had created the original human life, this second sending of the Spirit brings new life in Christ Jesus.

St. Luke presents a different and more detailed version of these special events. In the Acts of the Apostles, St. Luke places the Descent of the Holy Spirit on the Hebrew feast of Pentecost, 50 days after Passover. For the Jewish people, Pentecost was a time for giving thanks after the barley harvest, as well as a commemoration of God's gift of the Ten Commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai. This was the day the Hebrews gave thanks for God's forming them into his people. Both the appearance of God as fire and the arrival of the Spirit amid the sound of rushing wind would have been very reminiscent of Sinai for these gathered people.

And so, 10 days after his ascension, Jesus showed himself to be the one who would baptize with fire and the Holy Spirit, fulfilling the promise made by John the Baptist (see Luke 3:16). As the 120 followers were gathered, they heard a sound like a strong, driving wind. Then, tongues of fire appeared and came to rest upon each of them. These outward signs strikingly witnessed to the glorious internal fact, "All were filled with the Holy Spirit!" (*Acts 2:4a*).

The remainder of the reading from Acts relates the sensational effects that the indwelling Spirit had upon the disciples. They began to boldly testify about "the marvels God has accomplished" to the assembled crowd. This would have been extraordinary enough for the formerly timid group, but St. Luke further tells us that each of the multitude heard the apostles' testimony

in their own language. This extraordinary ability points to the missionary nature of their new commission; they received the ability to speak in various languages because they were now commissioned to continue their testimony to the farthest bounds of the earth. Perhaps there is also another intention as the author hints at the reversal of the punishment meted out at the construction of the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9); whereas pride had brought disunity to the human race, the power of the Holy Spirit would now enable the restoration of that primordial unity. A Byzantine liturgical hymn beautifully captures this theme: "When the Most High descended and confused tongues, He scattered the people; but when He distributed the tongues of fire, He called all people to unity. Therefore with one voice, let us praise the Most Holy Spirit" (Kontakion of Pentecost Sunday).

That unity is the focus of our second reading, taken from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. Paul teaches that the multitude of differences among members of the Christian community are intended to build up the Church. "To each person the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good" (*I Cor 12:7*). The talents and charisms of each member serve the unity of the Church because they all testify to the same reality, i.e. that "Jesus is Lord" (*I Cor 3b*). Further, every talent and charism emanates from the same Source: "All of us have been given to drink of the one Spirit" (*I Cor 13*). Paul offers the image of the Holy Spirit as the principle of life vivifying the Body of Christ and unifying its members in a singleness of love and mission.

With the events of Pentecost, our Easter celebrations have come to their completion. Humanity's sinfulness has been redeemed by the passion, death, and Resurrection of the Lord. Jesus has set forth a way of living and believing intended to insure that all people hear about and embrace his life-giving presence. The sending of the Holy Spirit, the fulfillment of Jesus' promise, marks the completion of Jesus' foundation of the church. From the moment of Pentecost onward, we are assured of the power of the indwelling Spirit leading the Christian community to its mission on earth and its fulfillment in heaven. Every member of that community, far from being passive spectators in this process of salvation, is likewise promised the guidance of the Holy Spirit in bringing the teaching and presence of Christ to every corner of society. The Church proclaims the great significance of this feast in its prayer, asking the Father of heaven "with the divine grace that was at work when the Gospel was first proclaimed [to] fill once more the hearts of believers" with the ongoing presence of the Spirit (from the Collect of the Mass of Pentecost).

Msgr. Fell is a Scripture scholar and pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Bernardsville

#### **WEEK IN SCRIPTURE**

**SUNDAY, MAY 15 - SATURDAY, MAY 28** 

**Sun 15** Acts 2:1-11 • 1Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 • Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34 • Jn 20:19-23

**Mon 16** Jas 3:13-18 • Ps 19:8, 10, 15 • Mk 9:14-29

**Tues 17** Jas 4:1-10 • Ps 55:7-8, 9-10a, 10b-11a, 23 • Mk 9:30-37

**Wed 18** Jas 4:13-17 • Ps 49:2-3, 6-7, 8-10, 11 • Mk 9:38-40

**Thurs 19** Jas 5:1-6 • Ps 49:14-15ab, 15cd-16, 17-18, 19-20 • Mk 9:41-50

Fri 20 Jas 5:9-12 • Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8-9, 11-12 • Mk 10:1-12

**Sat 21** Jas 5:13-20 • Ps 141:1-2, 3, 8 • Mk 10:13-16

**Sun 22** Prv 8:22-31 • Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 • Rom 5:1-5 • Jn 16:12-15

**Mon 23** 1Pt 1:3-9 • Ps 111:1-2, 5-6, 9, 10c • Mk 10:17-27 **Tues 24** 1Pt 1:10-16 • Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 • Mk 10:28-31

**Wed 25** 1Pt 1:18-25 • Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 • Mk 10:32-45

**Thurs 26** 1Pt 2:2-5, 9-12• Ps 100:2, 3, 4, 5 • Mk 10:46-52

Fri 27 1Pt 4:7-13 • Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13 • Mk 11:11-26 Sat 28 Jude17, 20b-25 • Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6 • Mk 11:27-33



#### Rita of Cascia

circa 1381 - 1457 feast - May 22

Born near Spoleto, Italy, Rita wanted to be a nun but married in deference to her parents. For nearly 20 years, she endured her profligate husband's mistreatment. Following his violent death, she was admitted after three refusals to an Augustinian convent at Cascia, where she spent the next 40 years. She is remembered for her devoted care of sick nuns and for a deep forehead wound that lasted 15 years, caused she said by a thorn from Christ's crown of thorns. She has a large popular following, and is invoked in Italy for difficult situations.



# SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for May 15, 2016

Acts 2:1-11

Following is a word search based on the second reading for Pentecost Sunday, Mass of the Day. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

**TONGUES** PENTECOST **TOGETHER** OF FIRE **HOLY SPIRIT SPEAK DEVOUT EVERY NATION HEAVEN** SOUND **CROWD** NATIVE **LANGUAGE MESOPOTAMIA MEDES** JUDEA **PONTUS EGYPT CYRENE ROME CRETANS** 

#### **LANGUAGE**

M T I R I P S Y L O H E
O E G A U G N A L O E D
F N S N A T E R C V A E
F E S O U N D H E N V V
I R U J P T O R A C E O
R Y T K J O Y N E R N U
E C N P E N T E C O S T
V G O E A G F A O W S P
I E P T Y U L E M D P Y
T M I F M E D E S I E G
A O K W L S J U D E A E
N R E H T E G O T Y K A

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# MAY 12, 2016 | THE CATHOLIC SPIRIT

#### AROUND THE DIOCESE

#### **Prayer and Worship**

May 16, 7 p.m. — Our Lady of Victory Parish, Sayreville, will hold a Mass and healing service. The celebrant will be Father John Campoli, director of His Love Ministries. Individual healing prayers will be given following Mass. For information, call Marilyn, (732) 991-7379 or visit www.frjohncampoli.com.

May 25, 7 p.m. — St. Philip and St. James Parish, Phillipsburg, will hold a Divine Mercy Healing Mass. The celebrants will be Father Bill Halbing, Father Tom Ganley and the ministry team. Music and prayers of healing will be offered. For information, call Father Ganley, (732) 514-7160 or e-mail, dmhealing@aol.com.

May 29, 11 a.m. — Shrine Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament, Raritan, will hold the 27th annual Corpus Christi Mass and Outdoor Procession. Children who have received first Communion are invited to attend in their communion attire. Parishes who plan to attend are welcome to bring a parish banner. For details, call (908) 722-1489.

June 4, 10:30 a.m. — World Apostolate of Fatima Shrine, Washington, will present "You at Least Try to Console Me." The celebrant and guest speaker will be Father Nicholas Bozza, pastor of St. Lawrence Parish, Chester. The day will begin with confes-

sions followed by recitation of the Rosary, Mass, Benediction, a children's video, a talk on the last vision of Fatima and concluding with Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3 p.m. For details, call (908) 689-1700 ext. 210 or visit www.bluearmy.com.

June 5, 3 p.m. — Metuchen Diocesan Union of Holy Name Societies, will hold a Mass at Sacred Heart Parish, Manville, offered for their patron. Prayers and petitions for the Cause for Canonization of Blessed John of Vercelli. Refreshments and fellowship will follow Mass. For information, call Mike Corbin, (732) 406-8966 or email mike.corbin516@gmail.com.

#### **Fun and Food**

May 19, 7:30 p.m. — St. Thomas the Apostle HSA, Old Bridge, is sponsoring a Designer Pocketbook Fundraiser in the school auditorium. An advance game package is \$25 or \$30 at the door. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Bring your own food. No one under 18 years old will be admitted. To purchase tickets, email PTA@sttaob.com.

May 22, 8 a.m. to noon — The Piscataway Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a breakfast to benefit Piscataway's Buddy Ball Program, a basketball program for special needs children, at St. Frances Cabrini School cafeteria, Piscataway. Tickets are \$7 in advance or \$8 at the door and seniors are \$6 in advance or \$7 at the door. Children are \$5 each. To purchase tickets, call Dave Losey, (732) 309-3898.

June 3, 7:30 p.m. - The Columbiettes of Knights of Columbus Council #4907, Spotswood, will host a Scramble (Tricky Tray) at the Columbian Club Hall, Spotswood. Admission is \$8. Doors open at

6 p.m. Adults only will be admitted. Bring vour own food and non-alcohol drinks. Light refreshments will be available for purchase. To purchase tickets, call Liz, (732) 251-2173.

#### **Special Programs**

June 1, 7 to 9 p.m. - Mount St. Mary House Continued on next page

# Mass of Remembrance scheduled

Father Pervaiz Indriaswill preside at the monthly Mass of Remembrance June 4 at 9 a.m. in the Mausoleum Chapel at Holy Cross Burial Park, East Brunswick.

Father Michael Crummy will preside at the same time in the Mausoleum

Chapel at Resurrection Burial Park, Piscataway.

All are invited to participate at either site. These Masses are offered for all the deceased in the cemeteries. For more information, contact the diocesan Cemetery Office at (732) 463-1424.

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# THE CATHOLIC SPIRIT | MAY 12, 2016

#### AROUND THE DIOCESE

Continued from previous page

of Prayer, Watchung, will hold spiritual reading and poetry. Nourish your spiritual life through inspirational reading, including poetry. The cost is \$20-\$30 as you are able to pay. To register, call (908) 753-2091 or e-mail msmhope@msmhope.org.

July 22-24 — Worldwide Marriage Encounter of Central New Jersey will present a weekend of enrichment. The weekend will give you time and tools to revitalize romance, communication and spirituality in your marriage. Space is limited. For cost and location, call (732)

904-9636 or visit www.aweekendforvourmarriage.org.

#### **Support Programs**

May 22, 7 p.m. — The EnCourage Support Group will be held on the fourth Sunday of every month. If you have a loved one who is dealing with same sex attraction issues please consider joining us. The support group is confidential. All calls are confidential. For details, call (732) 248-9460 or visit www.courageRC.org.

#### **Pilgrimages**

May 17, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. — Our Lady of

Lourdes Altar Rosary Society, Milltown, is sponsoring a bus trip pilgrimage to the Miraculous Medal Shrine and Art Museum, Philadelphia, Pa. The cost is \$25 per person. Bring a lunch. Drinks and snacks can be purchased from vending machines at the church. For information or reservations, call Lynn DeAmicis, (732) 828-1282.

#### **Communion Breakfasts**

June 5, 9:30 a.m. — St. Elizabeth-St. Brigid Daughters of Mary, Far Hills-Peapack, will host a buffet Communion Breakfast at Hamilton Farm Golf Club, Gladstone. The day will begin with Mass at 9:30 a.m. at St. Brigid Church, Peapack. The guest speaker will be Ronald C. Rak, J.D. president and CEO of Saint Peter's Healthcare System. A basket fundraiser will also be featured. Tickets are \$40 per person. The breakfast is open to women and men. To purchase tickets, call (908) 234-1265.

#### **Concerts and Plays**

May 13 and May 14, 7:30 p.m. and May 15, 2 p.m.— St. Joseph Theatre Group, Hillsborough, invites all to a performance of "Godspell" as part of the parish's 150th anniversary celebrations. Admission is free. A free-will offering will be accepted. For details, call Terri Macor, (908) 917-2376.

May 15, 4 p.m. — St. Mary Parish, South Amboy, will present Music at St. Mary's final concert of the season in the church. The St. Mary Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Maestro Christopher M.C. Deibert, will perform a Mozart Festival, A wine and cheese reception will follow the concert. For information, call (732) 857-0202.

May 29, 5 p.m. — Transfiguration of the Lord Parish, Edison-Highland Park, invites all to a fundraising concert at Guardian Angels worship site, Edison. Strings, flutes, voices and piano will be featured. A suggested donation of \$10 for general audience and \$5 for seniors and students will be accepted. For information, call Carol, (732) 572-0977.

June 2, 7 p.m. — Our Lady of Peace Parish, Fords, invites all to a concert performed by Dr. Jennifer Pascual, director of music of St. Patrick's Cathedral, NY. The concert is a "thank you" for the many parishioners who financially supported the purchase of the new organ. Attendees are invited to make a free will offering. For information, call (732) 738-7940.

#### **School Open Houses**

May 19, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. — Immaculate Conception School, Somerville, will hold an open house for Pre-K through grade eight. For information, call (908) 725-6516 or visit www.icsschool.org.

#### **Clothing Drives**

May 21 and May 22, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - St. Helena School, Edison, is sponsoring a clothing drive. Donations of clothing, shoes, handbags, linens and stuffed animals will be accepted. Bicycles, baby accessories and hard toys will also be collected. Items should be placed in plastic bags. Shoes should be bagged separately. For information, call Cindy Jacklets, (908) 670-2260.

#### **Bus Trips**

**Sept. 4**, 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. — Good Shepherd Parish, Hopelawn, is sponsoring a trip to the Polish-American Festival at The national Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown Pa. Mass will be held in English at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$55 per person. Food and drinks are your responsibility. For information or reservations, call Phyllis, (732) 442-0843 or Marie, (732) 442-6916 by June 30.

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Pre registration required by June 3

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May

- 5/14 Open house, Office of Cemeteries, Resurrection Cemetery, Piscataway, May 14, 9 a.m.
  & 5/15 to 4 p.m. and May 15, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Open house incentives will be offered. Memorial Counselors will be available to answer questions and assist you in pre-planning. For details, call (800) 943-8400 or visit www.dimetuchen.org/cemeteries.
- 5/15 NJ Catholic Youth Rally, Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Six Flags Great Adventure, Jackson. The cost of \$50 includes admission, free parking, Bounce-back tickets and an all-you-can-eat buffet. For details, call Pat Martin, (732) 529-7931 or email pmartin@diometuchen.org.
- "Peoples of the World Made One by the Mercy of God," Diocesan Multicultural Mass, Office of Multi-Cultural Ministry, 4 p.m., Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, Metuchen. The main celebrant and homilist be will be Msgr. William Benwell, JCL, Vicar General. A reception will follow Mass. For information, call Sister Ruth Bolarte, (732) 562-2454 or email rbolarte@diometuchen.org.

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- Be a practicing Roman Catholic with knowledge of Catholic teaching and tradition
- Possess excellent writing and editing skills, as well as superior production skills
- Have a minimum of three years' experience in print media, writing, and/or editorial content, and a minimum of five years' experience in production management and staff supervision
- Possess a BA in journalism, communications, public relations or related field
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sisterwilliam@gmail.com

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Our desire is to build on a foundation of academic excellence and 80+ years of tradition and compassion for students, faculty, parents and community. St. Catharine School is fully accredited with 350+ students (Pre-K- 8th Grade). Candidates will be practicing Catholics, with deep spiritual faith, possess educational vision, leadership skills, organizational ability and interpersonal strengths.

Candidates will have financial and business acumen and be able to run the day-to-day operations in accordance with the mission of the school. They should also be familiar with the STEM program and Project Lead The Way (PLTW). Candidates should have an understanding of marketing development strategies in order to help advance the schools' enrollment as well as ensuring the school's authentic Catholic identity.

Candidates also will have the ability to help create a path for continuous improvement, and maintain a high-expectations environment for faculty, staff, students, and families. The successful Candidate will be able to nurture a school culture where well-established faculty and staff members work collaboratively to ensure the school's mission and ultimately student achievement.

#### **Professional Requirements:**

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