

The Catholic

thecatholicmirror.org

April 2019

mirror



Joining the *journey*

Local faith seekers tell what drew them to the Catholic Church



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Catholics confront the pain of the abuse crisis and find hope in the Resurrection

year for vocations | page 8

Diocesan priests and seminarians share the joys and inspirations of their vocations

local news | page 22

Local chapter of international Legatus organization seeks new members

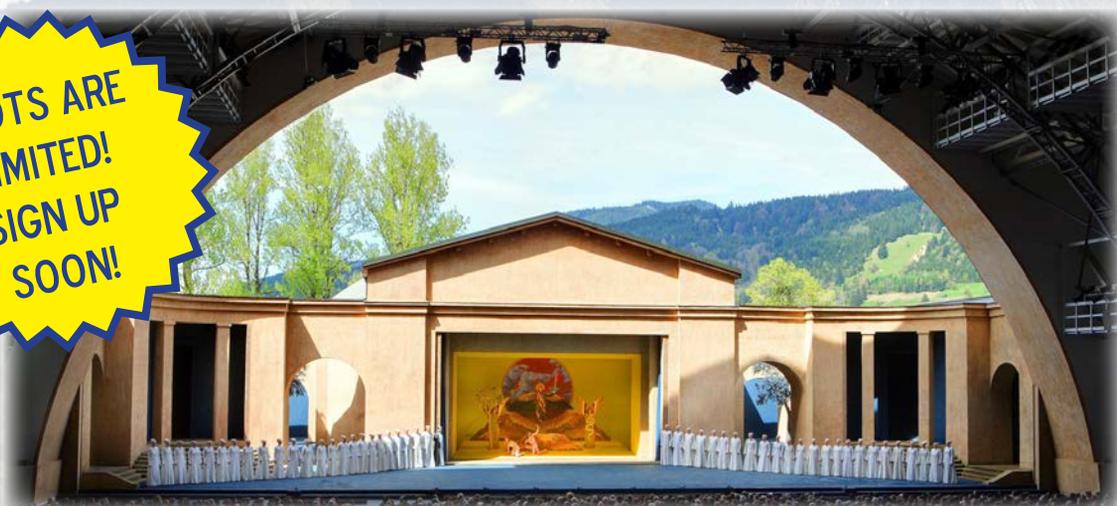
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'The Father's house'

New Catholics are welcomed to the Lord's table at Easter vigil

At a time when we might expect people to turn away from the faith, there are thousands who enter into the worldwide Catholic Church each year during the Easter vigil liturgy. In the Springfield Diocese, 100 faith seekers will be welcomed into full communion with the church this year and you will meet two of them, along with a woman who completed her sacraments just three years ago, in the cover story of this issue (pages 16-19).



REBECCA DRAKE, PH.D., editor of *The Catholic Mirror*. Submit comments, responses and suggestions to the editor at 413.452.0636 or rdrake@diospringfield.org.

Another sign of hope in the future of our faith can be found in the words of local priests and seminarians who are sharing the joys and inspirations of their vocations through their responses to a "mini-survey" asking three simple questions. Their answers are part of the "Year for Vocations" celebration in our diocese (pages 8-9).

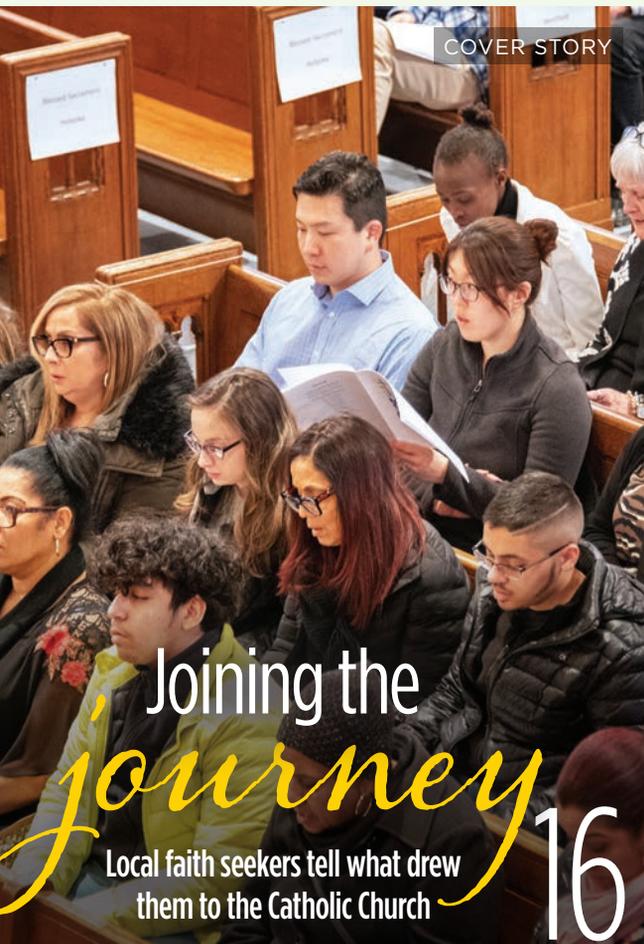
In this issue, we also honor Marie Renaud, who has been a production assistant for the "Chalice of Salvation" TV Mass for the last 50 years. Marie's dedication and loving hospitality was celebrated at a special Mass taping and reception in February (page 20).

If anyone would have reasons to pack up and leave the church, it would be 85-year-old widow Eileen Maxfield. But the Lee resident has relied on her faith to overcome tragedy and is a very special "Parish Angel" profiled on page 26.

In other local news, an East Longmeadow parishioner has established the western Massachusetts chapter of the National Christ Child Society (page 23); and the local chapter of Legatus, an international organization of Catholic business owners, is seeking new members (page 22).

Finally, Bishop Rozanski thanks all who have shared their thoughts, experiences and recommendations at the recent clergy abuse listening sessions (page 4).

As the pain and suffering of Christ's Passion fades away at the end of this Holy Week, we can reflect for a moment in the silence of the empty tomb, and then welcome the Risen Savior in the blessed company of both new and longtime parishioners — and continue the journey to God's kingdom together. †



COVER STORY

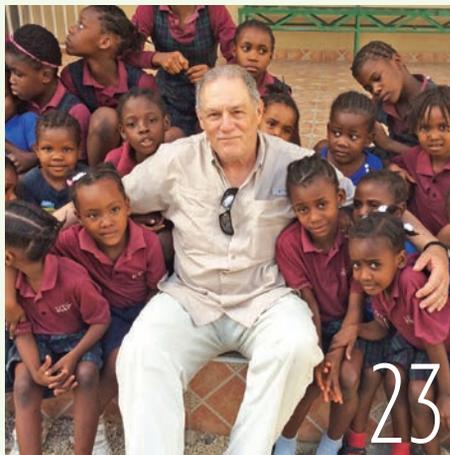


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Embracing the cross of Christ

Catholics confront the pain of the abuse crisis and find hope in the Resurrection

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Since February, I have attended listening sessions held across the diocese in response to the abuse crisis in the Catholic Church. These were difficult but necessary events designed to give voice and witness to the ongoing pain and distrust caused by the sexual abuse of minors. For even though much of the abuse — and failure to identify it — dates back many decades, feelings of hurt and betrayal remain present and must be acknowledged.

First, let me express my sincere gratitude to those who attended the sessions, particularly victim/survivors and their family members who were willing to speak, as well as to parishioners and all who attended and gave me insights for improving our response and moving ahead as a church. As you well know, this is a very emotional topic and it should be, given the horrors of any type of abuse and the need to deal with it as quickly and forthrightly as possible.

It was difficult to hear these stories of pain, but also necessary if we are to begin and continue the healing process. Those who minister in the church, whether they be clergy, religious or lay persons, are given a huge responsibility in the care of our younger members. Please know of my pledge, that while I cannot change the past, I want our church to be healthy by remaining vigilant to any signs of abuse as well as proactive in addressing any issue of abuse that is brought to my attention or to the diocese. Some helpful comments were made in how to use wisely our Review Board, resources, and counseling help that is available to victims. We plan to explore suggestions given, always open to meaningful improvements and changes.

One of the aftermaths of the crisis that was shared with me in the sessions is a questioning of one's faith, particularly in being a Catholic in today's world. I heard stories of struggle and of deep faith, appreciating who we are as church and wanting to be part of the solution. These were hopeful and helpful comments, both acknowledging the pain but also embracing the cross of Christ to look forward to Resurrection.

Finally, let me state again how very sorry I am for the harm done to victims of clergy abuse and their families. Know that you are in my prayers and, I hope, in the prayers of all Catholics.

Please, too, keep in prayer our faithful priests, deacons, teachers, faith formation staff, school administrators, and lay leaders in our parishes, that they may continue to minister to all, bringing both the healing message of the Lord Jesus and his care extended to us through his church here on earth. May we all approach Easter with great joy and hope, for it is in Jesus' Resurrection that we know all our faith is based. †

Sincerely in Christ,



MITCHELL T. ROZANSKI,
Bishop of
Springfield

GETTY IMAGES

The Catholic mirror

The Magazine of the Catholic Diocese of Springfield

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Liturgical Calendar: St. Francis of Paola, hermit **April 2** | St. Isidore, bishop and doctor of the Church **April 4** | St. Vincent Ferrer, priest **April 5** | Fifth Sunday of Lent **April 7** | St. Stanislaus, bishop and martyr **April 11** | St. Martin I, pope and martyr **April 13** | Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord **April 14** | Holy Thursday, **April 18** | Friday of the Passion of the Lord **April 19** | Holy Saturday **April 20** | Solemnity of Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord **April 21** | Divine Mercy Sunday **April 28** | Memorial of St. Catherine of Siena, virgin and doctor of the Church **April 29** | St. Pius V, pope **April 30**



RESPONDING TO NEGATIVE COMMENTS ABOUT THE CHURCH

My friend keeps making negative comments about the church. How do I respond?

1 Pray. As with most things, it is best to start by bringing this to Christ before addressing it through your words alone. Give thanks for the opportunity to speak kindly of the church. Ask for the wisdom of the Holy Spirit and the courage of saints.

2 When you feel the nudge of the Holy Spirit, start by letting your friend know how personally you take the comments since your faith is very dear to you. If your friend does not seem to be open to changing his opinion, maybe a request to respect something you love will encourage a stop to the comments.

3 Invite a conversation. Ask if she has questions she'd like to discuss. Acknowledge the church is not perfect, and it is rarely Catholics who claim it as such. Anything that is touched by humans is susceptible to corruption; even the Garden of Eden was tainted by sin once humankind was introduced to its perfect beauty.

4 Be sure not to become defensive and insinuate the church is the victim. Unfortunate choices have been made and no one is above reproach. It is for this exact reason that Catholics do not go to church for the priest, but to meet Christ in the Eucharist.

Speak with love. Take comfort in the fact that the Catholic Church is stronger than the sum of her parts. With Christ at the center, she will prevail. †

BY CYNTHIA KAAH

SAINT OF THE MONTH

St. Gianna Molla

FEAST DAY: APRIL 28

Gianna Beretta Molla, born in 1922 in Magenta, Italy, was a steadfast woman, both in her beliefs and in her career.



At the age of 20, just after she graduated high school, she began studying medicine in Milan. She instantly fell in love with the medical field and considered being a doctor a sort of “priestly mission”—not work. “Just as the priests can touch Jesus,” Gianna once wrote on a prescription pad, “so we doctors touch Jesus in the bodies of our patients: in the poor, the young, the old, and children.”

By the time Gianna met her husband, Pietro, in 1954, she was a pediatric specialist, she had obtained degrees in medicine and surgery, and she had opened a medical clinic in Mesero. But that didn’t stop her from becoming a wife and mother. She had three children with Pietro (Pierluigi, Maria Zita and Laura) while continuing her work as a doctor.

Gianna had a demanding professional and personal life that was exacerbated when she became pregnant with her fourth child in 1961. In her second month of pregnancy, Gianna developed a fibroma in her uterus—a tumor. Doctors gave her a few options, but she went with the riskiest one: the one that would prioritize the baby’s life over her own. She unequivocally advocated for the survival of her baby, saying, “If you must decide between me and the child, do not hesitate: Choose the child.” Though Gianna survived the surgery that removed the fibroma, she experienced complications throughout her pregnancy and died from septic peritonitis a week after her child, Gianna Emanuela Molla, was born.

Gianna was beatified by Pope John Paul II on April 24, 1994, and was canonized on May 16, 2004. Her husband and four children were present at these ceremonies, making it the first time a husband had witnessed his wife’s canonization. †



15th Annual Divine Mercy Medicine, Bioethics, and Spirituality Conference
 May 7-8, 2019 at College of Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts
 Register: 1-800-462-7426 or thedivinemercy.org/healthcare
 Author Gosia Brykczynska (above right), RN, PhD, the biographer of Blessed Hanna Chrzanowska, RN, will be the keynote speaker.
 This activity has been approved for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™.

Holyoke native named president of Houston high school



Basilian Father James Murphy, a native of the former Holy Cross Parish in Holyoke, has been named the third president of St. Thomas High School, a Catholic school for young men in grades 9-12. It was founded in 1900 and is located in Houston.

According to a press release on the website of the Congregation of St. Basil, Father Murphy was the

unanimous choice of the St. Thomas Board of Directors, with the approval of Basilian Father Kevin Storey, superior general.

“I’m honored and humbled that there’s a desire from the St. Thomas community to entrust me with this position,” Father Murphy said. “I have great confidence and enthusiasm to partner with our exceptional faculty, staff, students and administrators to fulfill the school’s vision.

“We are committed to excellence in all aspects of campus life while strengthening our strong Basilian values,” he continued. “St. Thomas is here to challenge, support, and care for our students as they develop into men of faith, accomplished scholars, athletes, artists and engaged citizens in their community.”

Father Murphy had served as interim president when Father Storey, the former president, was elected superior general in June 2018.

Father Murphy has lived the Basilian vocation of education for a quarter century and brings a distinguished academic and leadership career. In addition to serving as interim president, he had also served on the Board of Directors, and as a faculty member, assistant dean of students, assistant athletic director, assistant drama director, and in campus ministry.

He earned a bachelor of arts in communications/journalism from St. John Fisher College, Pittsford, N.Y., in June 1994; a master of divinity degree in 2001 from the University of St. Michael’s College in Toronto, Canada; and his master of education degree from the Lynch School of Education at Boston College in 2016.

St. Agnes Academy headmaster to retire



St. Agnes Academy in Dalton, Berkshire County’s leading parochial school serving students from pre-school through eighth grade, has announced the retirement of its headmaster, **James Stankiewicz**, effective June 30.

Father Christopher Malatesta, pastor of St. Agnes Parish, reaffirmed his commitment to the academy, announcing the

formation of a search committee to replace the long-time educator.

“Jim has been a steady hand, a strong leader, and a great contributor to our school, advancing our mission as an institution of academic excellence,” said Father Malatesta.

After retiring from a 35-year career in public education, Stankiewicz took over the headmaster’s post in 2011 and oversaw the school’s reorganization, which included a rebranding as St. Agnes Academy. Stankiewicz oversaw an ambitious strategic plan which included numerous renovations and an alignment of the school’s curriculum.

Stankiewicz’s long educational career in Pittsfield and Dalton spanned 43 years. After earning a degree in music from the University of Massachusetts at Lowell, he started as a music teacher in 1976 and rose to administrative roles as assistant principal and principal, later serving as Central Berkshire Regional School District’s assistant superintendent of schools. He was named Central Berkshire Superintendent of Schools in 2009 and served in that role for two years. He also earned a master’s of education degree from the former North Adams State College, now known as the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA).

In memoriam

Sister of St. Joseph Mary Lou Lacey (formerly Sister Edward Grace), 89, died on Jan. 17, in Framingham, Mass. A native of Holyoke, Mass., she was in the 73rd year of her religious life.

Sister of Providence Mary John Bosco died on Feb. 5. A native of Worcester, Mass., she was in the 74th year of her religious life.

Sister of St. Joseph James Bernard Laughnane, 95, died on March 10 in Holyoke. A native of Southbridge, Mass., she was in the 77th year of her religious life.

Complete obituaries can be found at iobserve.org.



Appointments — Diocese of Springfield

Effective Nov. 1, 2018:

Father William Pomerleau has retired and is residing in Easthampton.

Effective Feb. 1:

Father John Tuohey, formerly parochial vicar at St. Mary Parish, Westfield, is now unassigned and residing at St. Patrick Parish, South Hadley.

Effective March 1:

Conventual Franciscan Father Adam Ziolkowski, formerly assigned outside the diocese, was named parochial vicar at Our Lady of the Cross Parish, Holyoke.



Celeste Labbe appointed diocesan director of faith formation

Celeste Labbe, a longtime religious education director at local parishes, has been named director of faith formation for the Springfield Diocese.

Labbe, who began her work at the diocesan office on Jan. 14, previously served in catechetical ministry at the former St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Parish in West Springfield and at St. Mary Parish, Longmeadow. She has been certified through Our Lady of the Elms College in catechetical studies, theological studies, pastoral studies, and advanced theological and pastoral studies.

Labbe's duties in her new position will include assisting all of the diocesan parishes with their elementary faith formation programs; helping to develop and implement training programs and certifications for catechetical leaders; and assisting parishes with summer Bible camps.

Labbe said her long-range goals for her new position include "developing a standard across the diocese for faith formation programs and catechetical leadership, seeing more family-based programs in our diocese, and working with families to help them be more successful in prioritizing faith practices in their homes."

On a personal level, Labbe can claim an intimate understanding of the challenges of contemporary family life: She and her husband of 38 years, Paul, are the parents of five children and 14 foster children they helped to raise for the State of Massachusetts Therapeutic Foster Care Program. The couple reside in West Springfield.

Throughout her catechetical ministry, Labbe said she has been "most inspired by bringing people of all ages to the sacraments.

"I do not think that I will ever not receive great fulfillment watching someone receive the Eucharist for the first time or going to the sacrament of reconciliation or confirmation," she said.

"One other opportunity that I have had as a catechetical leader, that fills me with hope, is being with teens for eucharistic adoration," she added. "In the very busy, noise-filled world that they live in, they do not often have the opportunity to sit in silence with the Lord. When they do, it is a very beautiful thing."

Labbe can be contacted at c.labbe@diospringfield.org or 413.452.0841.

Seventeenth Annual Diocesan Wide Eucharistic Rosary Procession

"FIAT - One Word That Changed the World"

DATE & TIME (RAIN OR SHINE):

Sunday, June 9, 2019
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

WHERE:

The Church of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish
99 King St., Northampton 01060

- Fr. Chris Alar, MIC to speak on "Saying Yes, as Mary did, to the Will of God"
- Confessions, Rosary Procession, Adoration and Benediction, Divine Mercy Chaplet
 - Reception will follow at 10 Hawley Street.

For more info, call George or Brenda D'Astous, 413-221-4372
www.eucharisticprocessionnorthampton.net



Frances Nevins: Mid 20th Century Carmelite - Friend, Scholar, Wife, Nun, Mystic

by Joan Ward Mullaney, PhD ~ Pittsfield, MA



2017 book about a cloistered nun. Spiritual biography of Frances Nevins/Sr. Christine born into a prominent, wealthy, Longmeadow, MA family.

Sr. Jane Morrissey SSJ, PhD, former president of the Sisters of St. Joseph defines Frances Nevins/Sr. Christine as a "rare and holy woman".

Albany Bishop Howard Hubbard calls the book "a fascinating story".

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The Eucharist, the parish family, **THE PRESENCE OF GOD**

Diocesan priests and seminarians share
the joys and inspirations of their vocations

During this Year for Vocations in the Springfield Diocese, Catholic Communications has invited seminarians and priests, both active and retired, to participate in a three-question “mini-survey.” Their answers will be posted in *The Catholic Mirror*, on iobserve.org and the Catholic Communications Facebook page, and in the Parish Packet for use in parish bulletins. Here are some of the responses received so far:

Father Brian McGrath

*Pastor of St. Mary, Mother of the
Church Parish in Lee*

What gives you the most joy as a priest or seminarian?

I still get tremendous joy each and every time I celebrate Mass. It is such an honor and such a profound mystery. Even when I am sad or tired or beat-up, God's joy comes through his sacrament. Another great area of joy is in my school. Sure, there are extra meetings and the constant concern about something. But to be around our youth, to see their enthusiasm and wonder, to know we are providing a great service of education and formation ... I am so blessed to be part of a parish with a school!

What do you find most inspiring about the Catholic faith?

That God came to us! He knows us inside and out. He sees our struggles and wants. And he comes to us!

What gives you hope for the future of vocations in the Catholic Church?

God calls. I know I ran from a vocation for years, but God still got through to me. I cannot express the happiness and blessing it is to be a priest. I believe he is calling others.



Father Wayne Biernat

*Pastor of St. Michael Parish,
East Longmeadow*

What gives you the most joy as a priest?

My greatest joy as a priest is experiencing the humbling blessing of celebrating Mass with my parish family. It is truly inspiring to see how the Word of God and the miracle of the Eucharist can transform hearts right before my eyes.

What do you find most inspiring about the Catholic faith?

I find that the most inspiring grace concerning our Catholic faith is how we gather around the sacred altar of Christ to be strengthened by him in the beauty and miracle of the Eucharist. He is who unites us. He is who loves us and strengthens us in our time of need and in moments of thanksgiving.

What gives you hope for the future of vocations in the Catholic Church?

I find that the continual prompting of the Holy Spirit gives me hope for the future of vocations in the Catholic Church. God is always knocking on the doors of many hearts to inspire many to a calling in the church. It is inspiring and enlivening to think that we are being called to work with Christ in nurturing those hearts to be open to that sacred calling.



Stanislaus Achu

St. John's Seminary,
Brighton, Mass.

What gives you the most joy as a seminarian?

Among the things that make my life as a seminarian joyful is getting to know that a lot of people are praying for me, for my perseverance in my vocation to the Catholic priesthood and that God will help me be a good and holy priest for them and for the Diocese of Springfield. Whenever I remember this, I am instantly filled with joy, knowing that by God's grace, when I become a priest, I will help to bring Jesus to all people who long for him and to bring them, too, to Jesus Christ.

What do you find most inspiring about the Catholic faith?

The fact that the Catholic Church is one, holy, catholic and apostolic is the most inspiring thing, I think. She is one and the same everywhere you go in the world and confesses one faith. She is holy because her founder, Jesus Christ, is holy and; her holiness shines in Mary and all the saints. She is catholic because she is everywhere, universal. And she is apostolic because Jesus Christ governs her through St. Peter and the apostles represented in their successors, in the persons of the pope and the bishops.

What gives you hope for the future of vocations in the Catholic Church?

God is alive and he is active in our world today and he hears all the prayers that we make to him. The whole church and the people of God, especially in our Diocese of Springfield, at almost every Mass, pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, religious and married life. I am very convinced that God hears our prayers because he told us to "Ask and you shall receive...." So, as we persistently ask him in this Year for Vocations in our diocese and, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Vocations, the future of vocations in the Catholic Church will be bright, fruitful, and hopeful.

Father Matthew Alcombright

Pastor of St. Mary Parish in Westfield,
co-director of vocations for the
Springfield Diocese, and director of
the diocese's Ministry With the Deaf

What gives you the most joy as a priest or seminarian?

The most joy I receive in my priestly ministry is when I see someone having an encounter with God. It is a joy to see that present when I'm able to



celebrate Mass with a community and to experience Christ truly present among us in the Eucharist. It is also a joy to see that encounter happen at the bedside in the hospital, at the doors of the school, in the classroom of faith formation, in the confessional and many other places. That would be the great joy: to see how God desires to be with his people, and walking with people to find him and have that encounter in the Living God.

What do you find most inspiring about the Catholic faith?

The most inspiring part of our faith is that Christ presents himself to us in a true and unique way in the Eucharist. It is true that God is all around us and makes himself known in a variety of ways but we, as Catholics, have the gift of the Eucharist, Christ himself, present to us. It is truly unbelievable!

What gives you hope for the future of vocations in the Catholic Church?

My hope for vocations is in what Jesus told us: "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few." We may be facing times of shortage but the people are out there. Young men and women are out there ready to respond to the call, but we have to be courageous enough to ask and encourage them. While it can seem dismal, I think there is a great challenge found in vocations right now and, if accepted and lived out by people not afraid to either respond or ask, we will see more laborers stepping forward to serve the church. †

Are YOU willing to lay down
your life for CHRIST?

myvocation.com
Vocation Office • Diocese of Springfield

OUR FAITH IN ACTION



ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

Celebrating 60 years of giving

Celebrating 60 years in the Diocese of Springfield, the Annual Catholic Appeal calls on all of us to put *Our Faith into Action*. Supporting ministries, social services, and diocesan programs, the money raised each year reaches tens of thousands of people. As we promote social justice, respect for human life from conception until death, the elderly, families in crisis, children, and young adults, we are the face, the hands, and the feet of Jesus Christ on earth.

Please prayerfully consider making a tax deductible contribution to the 2019 Annual Catholic Appeal and put your *Faith into Action*.

PARISH DONATIONS THROUGH MARCH 25TH

St. John Paul II	Adams	\$15,613	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	Northampton	\$36,150
St. John the Evangelist	Agawam	\$23,568	St. Patrick	Northfield	\$3,505
Newman Center	Amherst	\$4,065	St. Mary	Orange	\$6,563
St. Brigid	Amherst	\$4,893	St. Mary of the Lakes	Otis	\$580
St. Francis of Assisi	Belchertown	\$23,461	St. Thomas the Apostle	Palmer	\$10,395
St. Christopher	Brimfield	\$4,825	Sacred Heart	Pittsfield	\$28,138
St. Mary of the Assumption	Cheshire	\$8,332	St. Charles	Pittsfield	\$12,565
Holy Name	Chicopee	\$9,635	St. Joseph	Pittsfield	\$19,973
St. Anne	Chicopee	\$41,339	St. Mark	Pittsfield	\$19,400
St. Anthony of Padua	Chicopee	\$9,978	Holy Family	Russell	\$5,965
St. Rose de Lima	Chicopee	\$30,730	Our Lady of the Valley	Sheffield	\$4,360
St. Stanislaus	Chicopee	\$24,940	St. Joseph	Shelburne Falls	\$6,090
St. John	Colrain	\$850	Holy Family	South Deerfield	\$9,956
St Mark	Conway	\$875	St. Patrick	South Hadley	\$28,115
St. Agnes	Dalton	\$40,943	St. Theresa of Lisieux	South Hadley	\$14,085
St. Michael	East Longmeadow	\$40,656	Our Lady of the Lake	Southwick	\$11,685
Our Lady of the Valley	Easthampton	\$27,260	Blessed Sacrament/All Souls	Springfield	\$3,795
Sacred Heart	Feeding Hills	\$17,097	Holy Cross	Springfield	\$20,335
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Granby	\$6,955	Holy Name	Springfield	\$24,745
St. Peter	Great Barrington	\$5,320	Mary, Mother of Hope	Springfield	\$15,681
Blessed Sacrament	Greenfield	\$12,265	Our Lady of Mount Carmel	Springfield	\$9,865
Holy Trinity	Greenfield	\$33,922	Our Lady of the Sacred Heart	Springfield	\$6,698
Most Holy Redeemer	Hadley	\$9,466	Sacred Heart	Springfield	\$40,775
St. Mary	Hampden	\$17,240	St. Catherine of Siena	Springfield	\$28,127
Our Lady of Grace	Hatfield	\$6,010	St. Patrick	Springfield	\$22,490
Our Lady of the Hills	Haydenville	\$10,693	St. Paul the Apostle	Springfield	\$5,330
Blessed Sacrament	Holyoke	\$25,152	St. Michael's Cathedral	Springfield	\$21,015
Immaculate Conception	Holyoke	\$1,372	St. Joseph	Stockbridge	\$984
Our Lady of the Cross	Holyoke	\$19,440	Divine Mercy	Three Rivers	\$7,982
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Holyoke	\$5,300	Our Lady of Czestochowa	Turners Falls	\$3,535
St. Jerome	Holyoke	\$10,065	Our Lady of Peace	Turners Falls	\$18,595
St. Teresa of Calcutta	Housatonic	\$2,919	All Saints	Ware	\$10,480
Immaculate Conception	Indian Orchard	\$4,864	St. Mary	Ware	\$6,880
St. Mary	Lee	\$12,142	St. Thomas the Apostle	West Springfield	\$45,574
St. Ann	Lenox	\$11,290	St. Patrick	West Stockbridge	\$8,385
St. Vincent de Paul	Lenox Dale	\$2,890	Holy Trinity	Westfield	\$6,137
St. Mary	Longmeadow	\$70,165	Blessed Sacrament	Westfield	\$24,865
Christ the King	Ludlow	\$15,775	St. Mary	Westfield	\$35,720
Our Lady of Fatima	Ludlow	\$10,725	St. Peter and St. Casimir	Westfield	\$5,340
St. Elizabeth	Ludlow	\$44,165	St. Cecilia	Wilbraham	\$64,883
St. Patrick	Monson	\$13,670	Sts. Patrick/Raphael	Williamstown	\$7,660
St. Elizabeth of Hungary	North Adams	\$13,402	<i>Non-Parish Donations</i>		\$25,978

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SO WHAT IS A
**hot cross
bun?**

CULTURE

By Michelle DiFranco

Photos by Shane Folkertsma

'Hot cross buns, hot cross buns!

One a penny, two a penny, hot cross buns!

If you have no daughters, give them to your sons,

One a penny, two a penny, hot cross buns!'

AH YES, THE WORDS OF AN ALL-TOO-FAMILIAR recorder tune many of us tortured our parents with in grade school. Even today, it continues to irritate eardrums everywhere, mine included, making the association to the bun a cringeworthy one.

But for Europeans and those immigrants who have brought over the tradition of the hot cross bun, there's more to the story.

They are traditionally made and eaten during Holy Week and on Good Friday. But that has me scratching my head. A sweet bun made with eggs, butter and sugar seems a bit indulgent for a strict Lenten fast. I wanted to get a better understanding of these curious baked goods, so I did some research.

From expelling bad spirits in the kitchen, to them being banned and then reintroduced in England (on certain holidays) by Queen Elizabeth I, there is plenty of history, including legends and even superstitions, surrounding hot cross buns. So much so, I cannot fit it all in this column. So I'll get to the important stuff.



As they did with other early Christian culinary traditions, the European faithful of days gone by positioned the hot cross bun as a commemoration of Christ's crucifixion. It was a widely known custom to mark a new loaf of bread with the sign of the cross before baking or cutting into it. But for the hot cross bun, the cross was intentionally scored on top or piped with a flour and water paste to make the symbolic blessing stand out. From what I gather, the icing was a modern add-on that came later.

It is said that the buns originated in the 14th century at St.

Alban's Abbey, where a monk baked and then distributed them to the poor on Good Friday. They later became popular in England and Ireland before making their way across the pond.

It still seems odd that something so delicious would be eaten on a day we reserve for deep reflection and fasting for our Lord's suffering. But I certainly appreciate them much more now, knowing the religious intent behind the cross that adorns them! †



MICHELLE DIFRANCO

is a designer and the busy mom of three children.

Hot cross buns

- 1 package **active dry yeast**
- 1 cup lukewarm **2% or whole milk** (around 105°)
- 2 **large eggs**
- ¼ cup **butter** (melted and cooled)
- ¼ cup plus 1 teaspoon **sugar**
- ½ teaspoon **ground cinnamon**
- ¼ teaspoon **ground allspice**
- ½ teaspoon **salt**
- 3½ cups **all-purpose flour**
- ½ cup **raisins or currants**
- 1 **egg yolk**
- 2 tablespoons **water**
- ½ cup **confectioners' sugar**
- 1-2 tablespoons **2% or whole milk**

DIRECTIONS

■ In a small bowl, dissolve teaspoon of sugar in lukewarm milk. Sprinkle yeast on top. Let stand for 5-7 minutes or until bubbly, then give it a stir. In a separate small bowl, whisk egg, melted butter and sugar.

In a large mixing bowl, thoroughly combine flour, salt and spices. Pour yeast mixture and egg mixture over the dry ingredients and combine them using a wooden spoon. Fold in currants and raisins. Transfer dough to a lightly floured surface and knead until dough is smooth and elastic (about 3-5 minutes).

Grease large bowl with vegetable oil. Place the dough in the bowl, turning once to coat evenly, then cover tightly with plastic wrap. Place in a warm, draft-free area to rise for 1-2 hours or until doubled in volume.

Preheat oven to 375. Punch down dough and then divide and shape into balls of equal size. Place in a greased 9"x13" pan or on a greased baking sheet. I prefer placing them closer together in the pan, since I like pull-apart rolls. Cover with plastic wrap and let rise in a warm, draft-free area for 40-50 minutes or until buns are doubled in size.

In a small bowl, whisk egg yolk and water and brush glaze over the buns. Bake for 18-20 minutes or until light golden brown.

For the icing, mix confectioners' sugar and enough milk to reach consistency for piping. Spoon icing into a plastic sandwich bag and cut a tiny corner off of the edge. Pipe a thin cross on top of each bun (or one continuous line, vertically and horizontally across). They can be served warm, right out of the pan, or transferred to wire racks to cool slightly. They are best, however, served warm!



Why do Catholics oppose abortion?

EACH TIME OUR CULTURE ATTEMPTS to normalize an evil, we as Catholics need to take the time to see why something is good or bad, right or wrong, moral or immoral. This way, our response to the questions that arise are, in the words of Scripture “strong, loving and wise.”

Before we get into it, I want to be sure and let you know that, if you are reading this and have participated in an abortion in any way, God loves you. I pray that right now, as you read this, you sense the love our God has for you and his hunger to heal you of this wound. It is exceedingly rare that anyone does an evil for evil's sake: Sometimes, we feel desperate, sometimes, we decide without thinking. All of us have sinned and fallen short, but no one reading this is beyond the reach of our Father's mercy: Have hope! Come to him through the sacrament of reconciliation and receive the mercy that he is literally dying to give you. You belong to God and nothing can change that: Let him heal you.



Why do Catholics oppose abortion?

The Catholic Church has, from its beginning, equated abortion to nothing less than the taking of an innocent human life. We'll start with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

2270 Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person — among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life.

2271 Since the first century the Church has affirmed the moral evil of every procured abortion. This teaching has not changed and remains unchangeable. Direct abortion, that is to say, abortion willed either as an end or a means, is gravely contrary to the moral law.

Don't be distracted!

I have discussed this issue extensively with people and often, others will ask questions about abortion that take us from the core issue. Ultimately, there is only one question that matters in this discussion: Are we talking about a human life?

If the being in the womb is a human, then this is not primarily an issue about bodily autonomy.

If the being in the womb is a human, then we are talking primarily about her rights.

If the being in the womb is a human, then no law can give a person a right to take that life.

It's that simple, morally speaking.

To me, we have to ask three questions:

1. If that which is in the womb is not human, what is it?
2. When does it become human?
3. Who makes that determination?

The way our laws work right now, it is quite literally true that the being in the womb is only human if a more powerful human determines it to be so. Folks, that is an exceedingly

dangerous position to take. As Christians, we recognize that giving another human the power to confer or revoke personhood always has dreadful and long-lasting consequences for the individual and for society.

What about the death penalty and immigration? What about all the other issues we face?

Those issues and many, many others are important, too. This is why I embrace the battle cry that we must be more than anti-abortion, we must be pro-life.

With that, let's be clear: There is no moral equivalent in American politics right now that matches up to abortion. For example, there were 25 executions in the U.S. last year. We average that many abortions every 11 minutes.

Again, if we are talking about a human, abortion is the taking of a human life. If we are not talking about a human, what is it?

What can we do?

First, and you will grow weary of me saying this, but we must pray. We must pray like mad for God to end this legalized horror in our country. We must pray that God hold back his judgement on us. We must pray for the many lost who procure abortions because they simply don't see better options or because they were desperate or deceived. We must pray for them, that they seek and receive mercy from God and us.

Second, we must be pro-life. You and I need to live in our human community as shining examples of people who respect all life. The way we talk, the way we act ... all of it must shout that we believe each person we encounter is filled with the dignity of God. We are not called to be solely anti-abortion, but pro-life.

Third, we must be ready. In my lifetime at my parents' house, they took in dozens and dozens of people who needed help. As a priest, I have been blessed to encounter many such people in every parish I've served, and I invite us to continue doing the same and step up our game!

God is calling, let's answer with love and vigor. Enjoy another day in God's presence! †



FR. JOE KRUPP
Send your questions to: "In the Know with Fr. Joe" The Catholic Mirror, P.O. Box 1730, Springfield, MA 01102-1730, Or: JoeInBlack@faithpub.com



Catholics from the Diocese of Springfield gathered to pray the rosary in front of Planned Parenthood in Springfield, Saturday, Feb. 23. They stood in solidarity with pro-life groups across the country for the National Day of Mourning, held in response to New York's new law which allows abortion up to birth. (PHOTO BY CAROLEE MCGRATH)

Local pro-life community responds with prayer after push for abortion expansion

On the day New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo ordered One World Trade Center's spire to be lit up in pink, along with other buildings and bridges in New York, the pro-life community turned to prayer.

Gov. Cuomo and other pro-abortion groups celebrated the passage of the Reproductive Health Act on Jan. 22, the day which commemorates Roe v. Wade, the controversial Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion nationwide. The law allows abortion up until a woman's due date.

In response, Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish in Westfield held a Holy Hour for Life, Sunday, Feb. 10. Springfield Bishop Mitchell T. Rozanski delivered a welcome at the Holy Hour.

"Now, given an even wider and wider range of when abortion can take place, in New York it's up to birth. This is the slippery slope," Bishop Rozanski said. "We as Catholics, as Christians, as people who are pro-life, we need to stand up with all our brothers and sisters of faith and even no faith, who truly believe that this expansion of so-called abortion rights is really infanticide."

On Feb. 23, Catholics gathered to pray in front of Planned Parenthood in Springfield, in solidarity with pro-life groups in New York, for a National Day of Mourning. Rallies were held in Albany and across the country. Parishioners from St. John the Evangelist Parish met outside the Springfield abortion clinic to pray the rosary, focusing on intentions for the unborn, their parents, and all of those who are vulnerable.

Other states, including Massachusetts, are considering similar measures. The proposed Roe Act, or "An Act to Remove Obstacles and Expand Abortion Access," allows doctors to perform abortion after 24 weeks up until birth,

citing any of the following reasons: physical, emotional, psychological, familial, and the person's age. It removes the parental consent requirement for teenage girls under 18 years old. According to Massachusetts Citizens for Life, it also opens the door for infanticide.

"It goes all the way to legalizing infanticide. A child born during an abortion alive may be left to die," said C.J. Williams, the director of community engagement for MCFL.

"Whatever side of the issue you stand on, you should oppose S1209. It leaves 13- and 14- year-old girls at the mercy of sexual predators by removing both judicial supervision and parental consent. It permits

the killing of seven-, eight-, and nine-month preborn children for any reason — a procedure that takes three days usually — and no longer requires those late-term abortions be performed in a hospital," explained Williams.

"It even takes Healthy Start public funds and reallocates them to fund killing infants rather than giving their mothers pre- and post-natal aid. As citizens of this state, how can we not care about this level of extremism?"

Williams said concerned voters should contact their senator and consider signing the petition to say no to the "Roe Act" at masscitizensforlife.org.

Local screening of 'Unplanned' movie

Abby Johnson's new movie "Unplanned" was released March 29.

Johnson, the former director of a Planned Parenthood clinic in College Station, Texas, had a dramatic change of heart on an issue she once championed after seeing and assisting with an ultrasound-guided abortion in 2009. "Unplanned" is based on Johnson's best-selling book.

Massachusetts Citizens For Life (MCFL) held several pre-screening events, including one at the Newman Catholic Center at the University of Massachusetts (UMass) in Amherst.

"I wanted to see this movie because she was totally pro-choice, a strong advocate in a leadership position and she totally changed her mind," said Jasmine Moss, a UMass senior and founder of UMass for Life.

The movie also details how Abby Johnson's story intersects with the beginning of the 40 Days for Life Campaign. The very first 40 Days for Life Campaign was held outside of the clinic in Texas where she worked. Johnson and the leaders of the 40 Days campaign, Sean and Marilisa Carney, eventually became friends. †



Local faith seekers
tell what drew them
to the Catholic Church

Joining the *Journey*

A woman who was told she could not conceive gives birth to a child who would transform the faith of the mother.

This sounds like a narrative straight out of the Bible — but it also is the story of how one Springfield resident came to be an aspiring convert to Catholicism. She is among the 44 catechumens (those who have never been baptized) and 56 candidates (those who have previously been baptized as Christians) who will enter into full communion with the Catholic Church during this year’s Easter vigil liturgies in the Springfield Diocese.

At a time when the ongoing clergy abuse scandals might, understandably, turn people away from the church, the worldwide Catholic population had exceeded 1.3 billion by the end of 2017. This, according to the 2019 “Anuario Pontificio,” the “Statistical Yearbook of the Church,” represents about 17.7 percent of the world’s population.

For this Easter cover story, *The Catholic Mirror* interviewed three people: two current catechumens, who will enter the church this Easter, and a former candidate who entered into full communion in 2016. While the stories vary, they are tied together by threads of love, compassion, and, in one case, the miracle of human life itself.



Bishop Mitchell Rozanski poses with some of the RCIA candidates who will enter into full communion with the church during the Easter vigil.

The 'miracle' child

Now 48 years old, Heather Mulrooney was stunned when, at age 40, doctors told her she was five months pregnant. "I was told I wasn't going to have any kids," she says. "I was older, diabetic — there were so many things — I kept saying no."

"The doctors all advised me to terminate the pregnancy," Heather says, "and I told them that there was somebody higher than me that was going to make that decision."

She recalls that one doctor told her, "If you were my wife, I wouldn't let you

"My daughter came home from school and she told me that she would like to be baptized and asked me to do it with her, so we could do it together."

make this decision. Your life could be in danger, and the baby's life."

But, trusting in that higher authority, Heather persevered with the high-risk pregnancy. She spent 14 weeks in the hospital and, throughout the constant monitoring of the pregnancy, she says, "They couldn't understand it — her heart rate was great, my water level was great, there were no complications."

The baby, Giavonna, was born, at 6 pounds, 11 ounces, on Nov. 1, 2011, just after a late October snowstorm that knocked out power throughout the Greater Springfield Area.

Giavonna spent one day in the NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) before going home with her parents.

"She truly is a miracle. There is no doubt," Heather says. However, the story of this "miracle," did not end with childbirth.

Several years later, Heather and her husband, Todd, were looking for a school for their daughter when Heather saw a sign outside of a Springfield church. "I saw a sign in front of St. Catherine's that said, 'St. Michael's Academy,'" Heather recalls.

"We went to an open house at St. Michael's and the minute I walked in there, I knew it was where she belonged," she says.

And, although Heather says her daughter loves "everything" about St. Michael's Academy, there is a particular subject that has captured the little girl's attention.

"Her religion class is where she excels. She comes home and talks about it and the teacher says she loves to go to Mass, she loves Stations of the Cross, she loves it all.



Heather Mulrooney and her daughter, Giavonna, pose at St. Michael's Academy in Springfield, where Giavonna is a first-grader. (PHOTO BY REBECCA DRAKE)

She excels in it," says Heather. "And then she started talking about the first Communion."

"My daughter came home from school and she told me that she would like to be baptized and asked me to do it with her, so we could do it together."

Speaking to the *Mirror* shortly after the March 10 Rite of Election for catechumens, Heather reflects on the journey that has led her to the Catholic faith.

"It was a long way to where I am. I went to many churches. I've been members of other churches. I've tried all kinds of religion classes," she says. "I've been everywhere because I was searching always when I was younger."

Now, she says, she believes that her daughter was given to her to bring her to where she belongs, about to join the Catholic Church during the Easter vigil at Holy Cross Church in Springfield.

"That's how I'm here — God's plan," she says. "It just took a long time to get there, but it's definitely through her."



Carla Tacke, her husband, Andrew, and their children, Ryan and Ashley, attend Mass at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Church in Westfield.

A doctor's love

Dr. James Wang, a surgical resident at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, will be baptized into the Catholic faith at St. Michael's Cathedral on April 20. The 31-year-old grew up in San Diego and describes his family as "agnostic and not really in any particular one faith."

He did attend a Catholic school when he was in sixth grade and says Catholicism "did resonate with me somewhat... And then as an adult, I thought that I should start the journey."

"There is genuine warmth when folks are in Mass, which can't be said for other walks of life. In any other environment, you don't have that warmth, that genuine wishing well upon others."

But there was another factor that drew him to the Catholic faith: The medical student he fell in love with, now his fiancée, Dr. Bonny Lee. Bonny, a lifelong Catholic, grew up in Los Angeles.

"I think that her faith is one of the

best parts about her. It has made her a very compassionate person and a very wonderful person," James says about his future wife, who has also been his sponsor in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) at St. Michael's Cathedral Parish.

James recalls that when he and Bonny were in medical school, they sometimes went to Mass together on Sundays. "That also is another triggering event that made me want to go down this road," he says. He was impressed by the sense of caring he felt from the people in the congregation.

"There is genuine warmth when folks

are in Mass, which can't be said for other walks of life," he says. "In any other environment, you don't have that warmth, that genuine wishing well upon others."

Although his reception of the sacraments of baptism, first Communion

and confirmation during the Easter vigil will be a special moment, James says he believes it will be just the beginning of a lifelong journey.

On the night of the Easter vigil, he says, "I would hope that I would feel a sense of pride and belonging. And the whole concept of how Jesus sacrificed himself in the Eucharist, and that he died for our sins, is something that I intend to reflect upon."

Mercy and forgiveness

Like many of the candidates participating in RCIA this year, Carla Tacke, 42, was baptized as a Catholic and always identified as a Christian. But it wasn't until she was married to a Catholic man and sending her children to faith formation classes that she made the decision to enter into full communion with the church in 2016.

"One Sunday, we were sitting at church and my son asked me, 'How come you're not taking Communion, Mom?' And I said, 'I can't. I'm not Catholic.' And he said, 'Oh.'"

"That's how it all started," Carla says. She also notes that she completed her



sacraments in 2016, during the Year of Mercy declared by Pope Francis.

“That really struck a chord with me,” she says. “So that was a big deal — mercy and forgiveness.”

Asked why the clergy abuse scandal has not caused her to turn away from the church, she says, “Because it’s all about Jesus Christ and it’s all about living his example and trying to be better and worthy.”

Regarding the abuse by clergy, Carla says laypeople need to be involved, to demand accountability from the bishops. But she believes people will still be drawn to the church by their longing for peace, mercy, and forgiveness. “It calls to people and people are looking for a place where they can be themselves and give their gifts to the church.”

In addition to the brotherhood formed in the parish, Carla says that raising a Catholic family helps to build a stronger, more compassionate community. And Carla says that the Catholic Church brought her the gift of love that she found in her husband, Andrew, a “cradle Catholic.”

“It taught him to be a good father,” she says. “And I feel like it gave him the heart that I fell in love with.” †

Bishop Rozanski welcomes new members to the Catholic faith

Editor’s note: Springfield Bishop Mitchell T. Rozanski had the following responses when asked to comment on those coming into full communion with the church each year.

What do you believe continues to draw people to the Catholic faith in spite of the clergy abuse scandal that has caused so much pain in recent years?

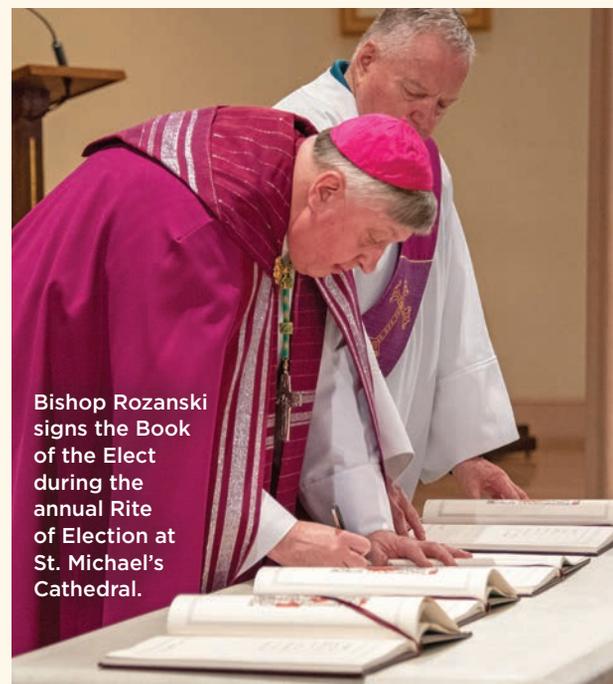
First of all, I really am inspired at the Rite of Election to see the catechumens and candidates who are coming to the Catholic Church for full communion with us at the Easter vigil. The diversity of candidates in age, background, varying faiths, or no faith at all before this, is a living testimony to the power of our Catholic faith. In recent times, particularly in the sexual abuse crisis, I am heartened by those who want to become Catholic. I think that the beauty of our faith, its consistency in its teachings, the sacred liturgy and its rootedness in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, attract people to the Catholic faith.

As bishop, what is your experience when welcoming new Catholics to the diocesan family? What is your message to them?

As bishop, it is so interesting to me to hear the stories of the journey that different people have taken to become Catholic. The variety of faith experiences and what has drawn them to the faith has been a great source of amazement and inspiration to me. It is truly the work of the Holy Spirit. My advice to those who are coming into the church at the Easter sacraments is this: Get involved in your parish community; it is there that faith is lived and nourished. Learn more about the faith; there are so many facets to Catholicism that one could not learn about them all in one lifetime. And remember that we journey with Jesus; sometimes the journey takes us to the top of Mt. Tabor with Jesus’ disciples to witness his Transfiguration and other times we follow Jesus to Calvary. Living our faith is acknowledging the life, death and resurrection of Jesus daily in our lives.

How can all of us help to make our church a welcoming place for those new members?

When we witness the people in RCIA in our churches, we need to reach out to them to tell them of our admiration for them in coming into the church and we need to make them feel welcome. I cannot overstate the importance of reaching out to new members of our congregation. Do not let them think that they are alone; we are God’s people in the family of the church. Taking the time and effort to reach out to new Catholics is everyone’s responsibility and joy!



Bishop Rozanski signs the Book of the Elect during the annual Rite of Election at St. Michael’s Cathedral.



Longtime “Chalice of Salvation” production assistant Marie Renaud poses with Springfield Bishop Mitchell T. Rozanski and William Baker, constituent services director at the office of Springfield Mayor Domenic Sarno. Baker presented Marie with a special proclamation in recognition of her years of service in the TV Mass ministry.

(PHOTO COURTESY OF PASSIONIST BROTHER TERENCE SCANLON)

brothers over the last half century, including Father Cyril Schweinburg, Father John Patrick Moore and Brother Damien Carroll.

“I remember all our altar cloths and we still use them today,” she said. “Brother Damien had them made for us because we were just

throwing anything on the altar to make it look good, so he said, ‘No, we need some nice altar cloths.’”

Marie takes great pride in helping to set up and decorate the altar, which, she said, changes with the liturgical calendar.

“You have to know the color of the season that we’re in. We have to know what goes on the altar at the time. We decorate around the altar to make it more interesting,” she said.

Viewers might recognize a few constants that have been on the weekly Mass, the first being the chalice itself.

“We still have the original chalice, and on the chalice it says ‘Chalice of Salvation’ and it is a silver chalice, absolutely beautiful,” said Marie.

And though he may not be the “original,” Passionist Brother Terrence Scanlon, who began his career on with “Chalice” as the first altar server more than 60 years ago, has been hosting the program since the 1980s. Along with reciting the Prayer of the Faithful each week, Marie goes over scripts with Brother Scanlon and runs the teleprompter for his segments that are taped before each Mass begins.

“Marie and I go back to actually 1981,” said Brother Scanlon in an interview with Catholic Communications. “She’s the hallmark of our program.”

In the mid-1990s, under the direction of then-Bishop John Marshall, a new studio chapel was built adjacent to St. Michael’s Cathedral in Springfield. The Holy Spirit Chapel now is host to the weekly “Chalice” Mass.

“And Marie still continues, to this present day, her wonderful hospitality to all the people who come here,” said Brother Scanlon.

Even though she could have retired years ago, Marie says she stays with the program because of the people it serves.

“You see how people come to you and say thank you, because we need this Mass because my mother, or my grandmother, or my husband is sick and they can’t get out to go to Mass. And this is a wonderful thing for them,” said Marie. “People stop us on the streets or, if you’re in a restaurant, they’ll come up and talk to you and they just love this program. I hope it can go on for many, many years to come.” †

Marie Renaud celebrates 50 years as production assistant for ‘Chalice of Salvation’

SPRINGFIELD - Marie Renaud, longtime assistant to the producer of the “Chalice of Salvation” weekly television Mass of the Diocese of Springfield, marked a very special milestone in late winter.

She celebrated her golden anniversary of 50 years as a member of the television ministry team.

It all began at the top of Provin Mountain in the Feeding Hills section of Agawam in 1969. At that time, the studios of WWLP-TV22 were located on the mountaintop and the weekly Mass was broadcasted live from a studio chapel there. Passionist Father Fidelis Rice had founded the program 10 years earlier.

The former Marie Mazzeo had begun dating Alberic Renaud, an accomplished photographer hired by then-Bishop Christopher J. Weldon of Springfield to take pictures for the “Chalice” Mass and also *The Catholic Observer* newspaper of the Diocese of Springfield. Marie would accompany Alberic to the studios and soon found herself becoming involved in the production. The two were married in 1970; Alberic passed away in 1987.

“When I started, there was Father Fidelis Rice and, of course, Bishop Weldon and each week there would be somebody different coming up,” recalled Marie in an interview with Catholic Communications. “They had many priests and they had no trouble getting a priest on Sunday morning.”

She said Father Fidelis was the newly married couple’s first house guest.

“He came to our house on the first day we moved in and I had to use my new stove which I knew nothing about,” she said, noting that Father Fidelis celebrated a Mass and blessed their new home. “He was really a wonderful man.”

During those early years of live television, Marie said a lot of her time was spent helping to set up and take down the temporary studio chapel each weekend, greet the guests, and operate the teleprompter. Eventually, she made her way in front of the camera and has spent many years as a lector.

She recalls working with several other Passionist priests and

Chalice of Salvation

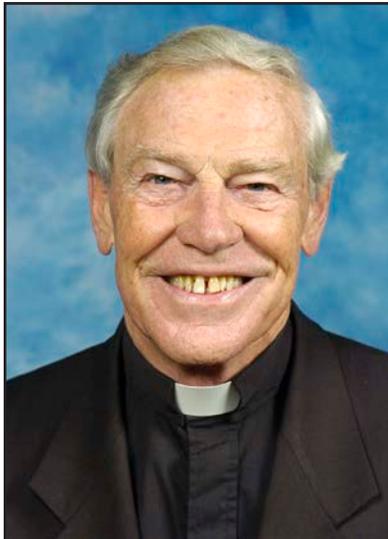


Mother's Day and Father's Day Remembrances

Each year, we invite the *Chalice of Salvation* viewing community to join us in remembering those who have played parental roles in our lives. All are invited to send in the names for inclusion in our **Mother's Day** and **Father's Day Remembrances**. The names will be placed before the altar during the the weeks surrounding Mother's and Father's Day.

Please watch your mailbox for forms or contact Catholic Communications at 413.732.3175 to be included!

Chalice of Salvation can be seen Sunday mornings at 6 a.m. on WXXA Fox23 and 10 a.m. on WWLP 22News



Rev. Hugh Crean Distinguished Lecture

"Catholic Women in the United States: Values and Vision"

**Wednesday, April 24
4 p.m.**

**Veritas Auditorium
Elms College**

The late Fr. Hugh Crean was a respected pastor and theologian who devoted his life to the pastoral care, spiritual leadership, and education in the Diocese of Springfield. His wisdom and depth as a theologian made him an extraordinary professor of religious studies at Elms College.



Guest Speaker

**Sr. Mary Johnson,
SNDdeN, Ph.D.**

*Distinguished Professor of
Sociology and Religious Studies,
Trinity Washington University*

LOCAL CHAPTER OF INTERNATIONAL LEGATUS ORGANIZATION seeks new members



GETTY IMAGES

SPRINGFIELD - Legatus in North America brings faith-filled Catholic Christian business owners together for a common purpose.

The organization was founded by Thomas Monaghan, founder of Domino's Pizza and Ave Maria University. Comprised of more than 2,000 businesses and 70 chapters in the United States and internationally, its monthly meetings bring top Catholic business owners together for prayer, worship, educational seminars, spiritual growth activities, food, and fellowship.

The western Massachusetts chapter of Legatus was founded in 2006 by 12 couples. The local chapter is seeking new members and several of the present members spoke to Catholic Communications, sharing their experiences in Legatus, which, in addition to helping them meet ethical challenges in the workplace, also has enhanced their marriages and family lives.

Larry Eagan, co-owner of Collins Electric, spoke candidly about his faith working in and through his business.

"As a business owner, you

have to make some difficult decisions about the operations, employees, and contracts," Eagan said. "Knowing that your decisions may have an impact on many people, I learned that careful discernment of big decisions must

go way beyond just the financial implications. Legatus has helped me by seeking advice of other Legates on how to implement changes while being mindful of total impact on all the related parties."

Deacon Joe Peters, also a charter member and the current president, had a similar reason for becoming part of the Legatus mission.

"I joined because of the motto: 'Being Ambassadors for Christ to the Marketplace,'"

Deacon Peters said. "I had always tried to run our business that way and was excited to join with a group of likeminded business people."

Deacon Peters and his wife, Jan, have attended five national summits, which are organized more like a spiritual

retreat. "We have always felt that the friends we have made at Legatus are true friends because our core values are exactly the same," said Deacon Peters. "Over the years we have helped each other with life and business issues that come up."

Deacon David Southworth, owner of the former Southworth Paper Co., and his wife, Ann, also founding members, have enjoyed what is referred to as "date night." Deacon Southworth recalled a very special dinner prepared by Father Leo Patalinghug, a Filipino priest who evangelizes through cooking. He's been featured on the food network and even defeated an "Iron Chef."

Both the Southworths and Eagans mentioned their encounter with Mother Olga of the Daughters of Our Lady of Nazareth.

"Her compassion, serenity and meaningful insights on how it is possible to strive to be like saints in

our daily lives is very encouraging," said Eagan. He and his wife, Mary Anne, have joined the board of directors for Mother Olga's congregation, which is located in Quincy, Mass.

Larry Eagan also spoke about another benefit of Legatus membership.

"Not only are the monthly dinner meetings a top-notch date night, we have witnessed how well other Legatus couples interact and see it as a model for a joyful marriage," he said. †



Deacon Joe and Jan Peters



Ann and Deacon David Southworth

Local business owners interested in Legatus can contact Deacon Joe Peters at 413.561.3470 or joep63@mac.com. More about the requirements and benefits of membership can be found at legatus.org.



Larry Eagan



(Left) Chuck Alfano, a member of St. Michael Parish in East Longmeadow, is pictured with children at an orphanage during a volunteer immersion trip to Haiti.

(PHOTO COURTESY OF CHUCK ALFANO)

(Below) Mary Virginia Merrick, left, founded the National Christ Child Society in 1887. She devoted her life to the society's mission and died on Jan. 10, 1955 at the age of 88.

Local parishioner forms western Massachusetts chapter of Christ Child Society

SPRINGFIELD - In 1887, Mary Virginia Merrick was just 20 years old, disabled, and had lost her parents the year before, leaving her to care for her six siblings. But her love of the Christ Child led her to formally establish the National Christ Child Society (NCCS) to help disadvantaged children with literacy, life skills, and basic needs.

Chuck Alfano, a parishioner of St. Michael Parish in East Longmeadow, came across Merrick's biography just over a year ago and was inspired to establish the Christ Child Society of Western Massachusetts.

"I first learned of the Christ Child Society in January 2018, while researching saints on the Vatican website. I came across the name of Mary Virginia Merrick, Servant of God and founder of the Christ Child Society," said Alfano, who serves his parish as a lector, eucharistic minister, and parish council member.

Merrick was born on Nov. 2, 1866 in Washington, D.C. According to the NCCS website, www.nationalchristchild.org, "Mary Virginia Merrick as early as age 12 wanted to devote herself to serving children in need, inspired by her love of the Christ Child."

As a result of an accident at age 14, Merrick became paralyzed and unable to sit without support. At age 16, she began her mission of serving children by giving a gift of handmade baby clothing to a needy family expecting a child at Christmastime. After establishing the NCCS a few years later, she dedicated the rest of her life to the leadership and expansion of the society. She died on Jan. 10, 1955 at the age of 88.

In 2011 the Archdiocese of Washington officially opened the sainthood cause for Merrick.

"Her life story fascinated me, which led me to contact the national office," Alfano said. "After months of discussions and speaking with board members and staff, I was invited to attend



their national conference in September in Milwaukee. In November, we agreed that I would start a chapter of the NCCS in western Massachusetts."

Alfano has since completed the initial requirements for chapter formation, including state and federal filings for organizations and tax exempt status. At press time, there were 10 active members of the local chapter, which requires annual membership dues of \$50.

There are 45 NCCS chapters throughout the U.S. with more than 6,000 members. The

western Massachusetts chapter will be the second one in New England; the other chapter is based in Boston.

One service project shared by all of the chapters is the layette ministry with which Merrick began the organization. Last year the NCCS distributed more than 30,000 layettes — filled with essential baby board books and care information — to needy families.

Alfano notes that, in addition to the layette ministry, the local chapter plans to work with preschool children in reading enrichment programs and tutoring for elementary and middle school students. The local chapter also will offer parenting education classes, along with leadership, self-esteem and wellness programs.

"In addition, we intend to support children's needs for new clothing, school supplies, and toys," Alfano said, adding, "I'm aware that there are a number of organizations providing the same services. Our intention is to fill a void as well as partner with existing organizations."

Among the areas of need that the local chapter is presently exploring is human trafficking awareness and training.

As he focuses on growing the membership in the local chapter, Alfano expressed gratitude for the support of his parish and his pastor, Father Wayne Biernat. †

Those interested in joining the local chapter of the Christ Child Society can contact Alfano at cea49a@gmail.com or 860.508.0805.

Practice the virtue of

HUMILITY

GETTY IMAGES

“Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her” (John 8:7).

MY MOM HAD A WAY OF CUTTING TO THE CHASE IN A DOZEN WORDS OR LESS. HER GOAL WAS TO HELP US GET TO HEAVEN, SO SHE ALWAYS SAID THERE WAS NO TIME FOR MESSING AROUND. ONE DAY, I CAME HOME SO EXCITED THAT I HAD BEEN GIVEN A SOLO PART FOR AN UPCOMING CONCERT. HER RESPONSE STILL STICKS IN MY MIND LIKE A LABEL ON A JAR! SHE SMILED, TOLD ME SHE WAS PROUD OF ME AND KISSED MY FOREHEAD. A MILLISECOND LATER SHE SAID, “NOW, DON’T LET IT GO TO YOUR HEAD! PRIDEFULNESS ISN’T PRETTY ON ANYBODY!” THAT WAS HER STYLE: LOVE HARD AND SPEAK THE TRUTH.

This passage from John’s Gospel challenges us to check our focus, as Jesus cast a beacon on humility. True humility calls us to look inward instead of out. It challenges us to focus on our own sinfulness and relationship with the Father. Competition and comparison can be the norm, but those are not the things that will win us the rewards of heaven. St. Augustine said, “It was pride that changed angels into devils; it is humility that makes men as angels.”

If sainthood is our mission, then humility seems to be one of the tools of the trade. Humility is not a sign of weakness or passiveness — it’s the opposite. True humility allows us to see and act like Jesus. Remember Jesus’ words in Luke 14: “For every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.” Here are some ideas for helping us grow in humility.

- Talk about yourself as little as possible. If we believe God truly knows us and the desires of our heart and our focus is to please him, rather than those here on earth, this makes perfect sense.
- Choose the more difficult or less appealing jobs. There is

- great humility in doing the task nobody else wants to do.
- Don’t worry about other people’s business, don’t talk about other people’s business and don’t even be curious about things that don’t concern you.
- Recognize your talents, gifts and graces, then promptly thank God for them and move along. We should use them well, but the ambition to be the best or be recognized is not going to build our humility.

Humility keeps us grounded, balanced and rooted in the Lord. It also helps us “look up” instead of being tempted to “pick up” stones we have no business throwing.

PRAY: Spend some time prayerfully considering where you might need to grow in humility. Pray about gossip, pride, comparison and competition, asking the Father to help you identify any area you can change or surrender. If you’re really up for a challenge, begin to pray the Litany of Humility.

STUDY: Scripture is full of wisdom and direction on humility. Look up one of the words above that might be tugging at your heart, and find some encouragement in God’s word.

ENGAGE: Choose one of the suggestions above and put it into practice. Maybe you could volunteer for a task at your parish that is more difficult or undesirable, such as the clean-up crew, as a way to practice humble service.

SERVE: The greatest way to shift the focus from ourselves is to shift it to others. Start a conversation with someone with the purpose of genuinely listening, or generously offer one of your gifts or talents to build someone up. †



SHERI WOHLFERT

is a Catholic school teacher, speaker, writer and founder of Joyful Words Ministries. Sheri blogs at www.joyfulwords.org

1 Pope leaves for Panama, confirms visit to Japan -

Pope Francis confirmed that in November he would visit Japan during remarks to journalists on the flight from Rome to Panama City, Panama.

2 Freedom of Religion Act seeks to ban immigration discrimination -

The Freedom of Religion Act introduced in the House of Representatives by 124 co-sponsors would, if enacted in its current form, ban religious discrimination in the U.S. immigration system.

3 Catholic leaders welcome plan to cancel fee for migrants to stay in U.K. -

Catholic leaders welcomed the government's decision not to charge European Union migrants to pay to stay in Britain before the country leaves the EU.

4 Pope invites young people to join global prayer network online -

Pope Francis helped launch an app called "Click to Pray," which connects Catholics to a global network to share prayer intentions via their smartphones.

5 Survey assesses views of U.S. bishops, diaconate directors on women deacons -

Two key findings of a report by CARA found that 62 percent of diocesan diaconate directors said their bishop would implement the sacramental ordination of women as deacons, but just 54 percent of bishops said they would consider implementing it in their diocese.

6 Church in Fiji threatens to close all Catholic schools -

The Catholic Church in Fiji is prepared to shut down all of its 44 primary and 19 secondary schools if the government continues to elect non-Catholics as the principals of those schools.

7 Site of baptism of the Lord nears reopening -

Churches at the site along the banks of the Jordan River where Jesus is believed to have been baptized could reopen within a year, following progress on a project to clear thousands of landmines and other ordinance from the location.

8 "Induced" deaths rise in Netherlands, sparking concerns from doctors, ethicists -

The *Guardian* newspaper recently reported that "well over a quarter" of deaths in the Netherlands in 2017 were "induced." This included euthanasia, assisted suicide and 32,000 "who died under palliative sedation." Currently, a doctor is being investigated in the first case of euthanasia malpractice in the Netherlands.

9 Pope announces access to wartime documents in Vatican Secret Archive -

Pope Francis announced that documents in the Vatican Secret Archives relating to the wartime pontificate of Pope Pius XII will be open to scholars in 2020.

10 Non-Catholic students in Catholic schools -

The government of Saskatchewan in Canada is arguing that it should be allowed to pay for non-Catholic students to attend Catholic school, appealing a 2017 court decision that could force up to 10,000 students out of Catholic schools because they are not Catholic.



*Being Ambassadors for Christ
to the Marketplace*

Legatus, the international organization for Catholic business leaders and spouses, is growing its membership in the Western Massachusetts area!

If you are, or were, a business owner, CEO, President, or Managing Director or Partner, Legatus would like to invite you and your spouse to join their monthly dinner meetings. The evening begins with Rosary and confession followed by Mass, cocktails, dinner, and a guest speaker.

Join together with other local business leaders to share and explore ways to bring Catholic values into your business practices.

For more information:

Joseph Peters

413-561-3470 or joep63@mac.com

David Southworth

413-297-8038 or davcsouthworth@gmail.com

Strength for the hard times

Lee parishioner credits her Catholic faith for her perseverance, generosity

LEE - Eileen Maxfield agrees that she has a lot of reasons to be sad and bitter.

Her husband passed away 30 years ago. The mother of five lost a daughter to pancreatic cancer. One son became a drug addict and died from an overdose. Another son was injured at age 18 and is a disabled veteran.

But the parishioner of St. Mary, Mother of the Church Parish, here, is upbeat, caring and always singing God's praises.

"Oh my God, I would never, ever, ever be where I am without my faith in God," she says.

At age 85, she also has a pretty good reason to relax and take it easy. However, she does not. She is a driver for the Lee Council on Aging and senior center. Pat DiGriglio, director of the center, nominated her as a "Parish Angel" because of all she does.

"She drives people to and from their doctors' appointments. Now, we are only open from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, but Eileen has people calling her at home, at all hours, day and night, who may need a ride here or there and she just jumps in her car and goes!" says DiGriglio. "When people call the center, they request her. We have to say that she is not free as she is driving someone else. Her mission doesn't stop there.

"She is at our Oratory Chapel several times a week; she is also a volunteer at the Lee Food Pantry, where she also receives calls that someone needs some food, so she will meet them at the food pantry and helps them get what they need," DiGriglio continues. "She also collects clothing and personal items for our local veterans' shelter. And she does not like attention drawn to herself."

When asked about all that she does, Eileen says, "I just love doing things for others. My mother helped others and my grandmother helped others."

Her pastor, Father Brian McGrath, praises her spirit. "Eileen exemplifies Jesus' call to love. Her care and concern are amazing — maybe more so because they happen in such quiet and unassuming ways," says Father McGrath. "She just steps up to help at the local food pantry, or our prayer oratory, or in so many ways around the parish. She is great."

And it was Eileen's generous spirit that brought her into the Catholic faith.

"My neighbor was Catholic and I would give her rides to church," she recalls. "She would tell me to come in and go to Mass with her, so I had been going to St. Mary's well before I became Catholic.

"And I realized I wasn't getting what I needed from my church. I met Father Tony Cullen, the pastor at the time, and we clicked. We talked and talked and I became Catholic," she says.

Eileen says she joined at the perfect time because "I never would have been able to get through the hard times,



losing my children, without my faith. I needed something strong, real strong."

She says she also needs to visit the chapel at her parish at least four times a week to pray. "I need to go to talk. I need to go to God," she says.

"I ask for his help. I need help dealing with the elderly people, although, I guess I am one of them. I need to pray for them. I often worry about them," she says.

Eileen says that God often puts her at the right place and she encounters parents or relatives who are coping with a family member who has a drug addiction. "I sit and I listen. They can cry or scream," she says.

In fact, Eileen tries to help most people she meets. "I give them a hug or fix a meal or talk on the phone," she says. And she talks openly about her faith. "Some believe, some don't," she says.

But it is her belief that sustains her. "We don't know what's going to happen tomorrow but we do know that God is in charge," she says. †

Parish Angels

Nominations of lay volunteers from the Springfield Diocese for *The Catholic Mirror's* "Parish Angel" series may be sent to r.drake@diospringfield.org; or Rebecca Drake, Editor/News Director, Catholic Communications, P.O. Box 1730, Springfield, MA 01102-1730. Please include contact information for the person or persons being nominated.

MEMORIAL DAY CEMETERY SERVICES

MAY 27, 2019

Thank you for visiting our Cemeteries

CEMETERY	CITY	PARISH	TIME	TYPE OF SERVICE
St. Stanislaus Kostka	Adams	St. John Paul II	9:00	Mass (<i>in church if rain</i>)
Calvary Cemetery	Chicopee	Holy Name of Jesus Parish	11:00	Mass
St. Patrick Cemetery	Chicopee	Holy Name of Jesus Parish	9:00	Mass
St. Rose de Lima	Chicopee	St. Rose de Lima	9:00	Mass (<i>in church if rain</i>)
St. Stanislaus	Chicopee	St. Stanislaus Basilica	10:00	Mass (<i>in church if rain</i>)
St. Brigid Cemetery	Easthampton	Our Lady of the Valley Parish	9:00	Mass (<i>in church if rain</i>)
Calvary	Greenfield	Blessed Sacrament	9:00	Mass (<i>in church if rain</i>)
Mater Dolorosa	Greenfield	Our Lady of Peace	9:00	Mass
Holy Rosary	Hadley	Most Holy Redeemer	9:00	Mass (<i>in church if rain</i>)
Calvary Cemetery	Hatfield	Our Lady of Grace	9:00	Mass (<i>in church if rain</i>)
St Mary of the Assumption	Haydenville	Our Lady of the Hills	9:00	Mass (<i>in church if rain</i>)
St. Jerome Cemetery	Holyoke	St. Jerome Parish	9:00	Mass (<i>in chapel if rain</i>)
St. Aloysius	Indian Orchard	Springfield Diocesan Cemeteries	9:00	Mass
St. Mary	Lee	St. Mary Mother of the Church	8:00	Mass (<i>in church if rain</i>)
St. Mary of the Assumption	Haydenville	Our Lady of the Hills	9:00	Mass (<i>in chapel if rain</i>)
St. Ann	Lenox	St. Ann	10:00	Mass (<i>in church if rain</i>)
Bethany	Monson	St. Patrick	11:00	Mass
St. Mary	Northampton	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	8:30	Mass (<i>in church if rain</i>)
St. Thomas the Apostle	Palmer	St. Thomas the Apostle	9:00	Mass (<i>in church if rain</i>)
St. Joseph	Pittsfield	St. Joseph	11:00	Mass
Mater Dolorosa	South Hadley	Our Lady of the Cross	9:00	Mass (<i>in church if rain</i>)
Notre Dame	South Hadley	Springfield Diocesan Cemeteries	9:00	Mass
Precious Blood	South Hadley	Springfield Diocesan Cemeteries	9:00	Mass at ND
St. Rose	South Hadley	Springfield Diocesan Cemeteries	9:00	Mass/Parade/Military Service
Gate of Heaven	Springfield	Springfield Diocesan Cemeteries	9:00	Mass
St. Michael	Springfield	Springfield Diocesan Cemeteries	9:00	Mass
Sts. Peter and Paul	Three Rivers	Divine Mercy Parish	10:00	Mass (<i>in church if rain</i>)
Our Lady Czestochowa	Turners Falls	Our Lady Czestochowa	9:00	Mass (<i>in church if rain</i>)
St. Anne	Turners Falls	Our Lady of Peace	10:30	Mass
St. Mary Assumption	Turners Falls	Our Lady of Peace	10:30	Mass
Mt. Carmel	Ware	All Saints	9:00	Mass (<i>in church if rain</i>)
St. Mary	Ware	St. Mary	9:00	Mass/Military Service (<i>in church if rain</i>)
New St. William	Ware	All Saints	8:00	Mass (<i>in church if rain</i>)
St. Mary Cemetery	Westfield	Springfield Diocesan Cemeteries	8:00	Mass
St. Thomas Apostle	W. Springfield	St. Thomas the Apostle	8:00	Mass (<i>in church if rain</i>)

***Catholic Cemeteries –
Here to serve our
parishioners of Western Mass.***





The Bright Sides OF NEW ENGLAND

Easter is almost here, and even though the main course is the centerpiece of this special occasion, your side dishes deserve just as much attention. Take a look at these Easter side dish ideas that will accompany and elevate any kind of entrée, like our Carando spiral ham. They just might outshine your main dish. Yum!

→

HOT CROSS BUNS

30 min. **2 hr.** **30 min.** **12**
PREP TIME RISE BAKE TIME SERVINGS

A traditional holiday favorite for every dinner table.

¼ cup apple juice

½ cup dried currants

½ cup raisins

2¼ tsp. rapid rise dry yeast

2 Tbsp. warm water, between 105°F-115°F

1 cup Big Y whole milk

1 stick Big Y unsalted butter, cut into pieces

½ cup Big Y sugar

1 tsp. Big Y salt

1 Big Y large white egg

3½ cups Big Y all-purpose flour

½ tsp. Big Y ground cinnamon

¼ tsp. ground nutmeg

¼ tsp. ground cloves

-Big Y no-stick cooking spray

1 large egg white

1 Tbsp. plus 6 tsp. Big Y whole milk, divided

1½ cups Big Y powdered sugar

1½ tsp. Big Y vanilla extract

Scan the code for the full recipe
or go to bigy.com/magazine.



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GRAPEFRUIT SALAD WITH ORANGE CHAMPAGNE VINAIGRETTE

25 min. **6**
PREP TIME SERVINGS

Mix up your salad game with something tart and tangy that complements any main course.

- 1 orange, juiced**
- 1 Tbsp. Big Y honey**
- 1 Tbsp. shallots, peeled and minced**
- ¼ cup champagne vinegar**
- ¼ cup Big Y extra virgin olive oil**
- sea salt and fresh ground pepper to taste**
- 6 cups your favorite salad greens**
- 2 small pink grapefruit, peeled and sectioned**
- ¼ cup pine nuts**

1. In a small bowl, whisk together orange juice, honey, shallots and vinegar. Whisk in oil and season to taste with salt and pepper; set aside.
2. In a large serving bowl add salad greens; top with grapefruit and pine nuts.
3. Serve with vinaigrette.

NUTRITION INFORMATION PER SERVING

Calories: 180 (Calories from Fat: 117);
Total Fat: 13g (Saturated Fat: 1.5g); Protein: 2g;
Total Carbohydrates: 15g (Dietary Fiber: 2g;
Sugars: 11g); Cholesterol: 0mg; Sodium: 9mg



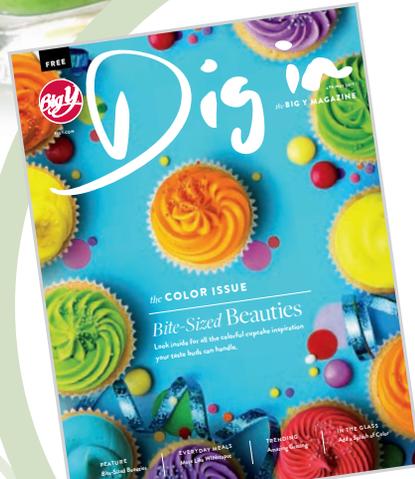
CHILLED CUCUMBER SOUP

30 min. **4 hr.** **8**
PREP TIME CHILL TIME SERVINGS

Cleanse the palate with a refreshing herbal soup shot that finishes with just the right amount of spice.

- ½ cup Big Y sour cream**
- ¼ cup water**
- 1 Tbsp. lime juice**
- 4 scallions, roughly chopped**
- 1 medium avocado, peeled, pitted and roughly chopped**
- 1 small jalapeño pepper, seeded and roughly chopped**
- 1 garlic clove, roughly chopped**
- ¼ cup fresh basil leaves, divided**
- ¼ cup fresh parsley leaves, divided**
- 4 medium cucumbers, peeled, seeded and roughly chopped**
- sea salt and fresh ground pepper to taste**
- 2 Tbsp. Big Y pure olive oil**
- 1 Tbsp. coarse kosher salt**
- 1 lime, cut into wedges**
- cucumber slices for garnish**

Scan the code for the full recipe or go to bigy.com/magazine.



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THINGS TO DO

Sacred Heart Parish Travel Club, 395 Chestnut St., Springfield will sponsor an **April 27 Bus Trip to the 9/11 Memorial** and free time in New York City. For more information, contact Jim and Caroline McAleer at 413.734.3676 or mcaleer2006@verizon.net.

The John Boyle O'Reilly Club, 33 Progress Ave., Springfield, will sponsor an **April 27 Day Trip to New York City**. For reservations, contact Alesia Barbaro at 413.478.8611.

St. Catherine of Siena Parish, 1023 Parker St., Springfield will host an **April 28 Inspirational Concert by the Dan Kane Singers** at 3 p.m. in the church.

The **Opening Reception for "Images of Faith in Black and White,"** by photographer Mary Jeanne Tash will be held **Sunday, May 5** from 2-3:30 p.m. in the Cloister Gallery at St. Michael's Cathedral. The display will remain until June 30. For more information, email mjtash@gmail.com.

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, 123 William St., will sponsor a **May 13-23, 2019 Trip to Tuscany, Florence and Rome**. For information or to sign up, call Concetta at 413.737.3852 or Paula at 413.739.6635.

St. Elizabeth Parish, Ludlow, will sponsor the following trips in 2019: **Alaska: Land and Cruise, June 4-16; Bar Harbor, Acadia National Park and Campobello Island, June 26-29; Scotland with Military Tattoo, Aug. 19-27,** and the **Christmas Season in Charleston, Savannah and Jekyll Island**. Contact Jim Martin at 413.583.6339 or jamesmartin47@gmail.com.

The Gathering of Deacons, Candidates, Aspirants, and Wives meets monthly at Holy Trinity Parish in Westfield. The remaining 2019 dates are **June 8, Sept. 14, and Nov. 9**. For more information, contact Jeanne Wainwright at 413.785.5567.

The **17th Annual Diocesan Wide Eucharistic Rosary Procession** will be held on **Sunday, June 9**, rain or shine, at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, 99 King St., Northampton, from 1-4 p.m. Begins with talk by Marian Father Chris Alar. For more information, call George or Brenda at 413.221.4372 or visit www.eucharisticnorthampton.net.

Registration is open for **Camp Holy Cross overnight summer camps** for children ages 8-15, to be held **July 7-12 and July 14-19**. Includes team sports, arts and crafts, swimming and boating, daily prayer and opportunity for Mass. Cost is \$350 and includes accommodations, meals, and all camp materials. Young adults age 16 and over are welcome to apply for consideration as camp staff members. To register, visit www.campholycross.com. Donations to help defray the cost for campers requesting scholarships may be sent to Camp Holy Cross, c/o St. Agnes Parish, 489 Main St., Dalton, MA 01226.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Belchertown, will sponsor a **Seven-Day Danube River Cruise, starting Aug. 4, 2019**. For more information contact Cheryl at Sturbridge Travel, 508.347.9511.

St. Anthony Maronite Catholic Church, 375 Island Pond Rd., Springfield, will sponsor a **Sept. 7-14 Pilgrimage to Lourdes, St. Bernadette Nevers, and the Miraculous Medal in Paris**. For more information, call Father George Zina at 413.732.0589 or Guiseppe Polimeni at 413.262.6562.

St. Patrick's Travel Group, South Hadley, will sponsor a **Sept. 25-Oct. 5, 2019 River Danube Cruise**. For more information, call Marion at 413.536.2185.

St. Theresa Parish, 9 East Parkview Dr., South Hadley, will sponsor an **Oct. 6-16 Tour to the Wild Atlantic Way and North Coast of Ireland**. Tour guides will be Fathers Michael Twohig and William Lunney. For more information, contact Kathy Gallivan at 413.536.9709 or kgallivan04@gmail.com.

Father Timothy Campoli and Msgr. Ronald Yargeau will be the spiritual directors for an **Oct. 11-21, 2019 Pilgrimage to Greece, Patmos and Ephesus**. For more information, contact Helen Shea Murphy at 413.824.8733 or helensheamurphy@verizon.net; or visit www.pilgrimages.com/helensheamurphy.

The **Mother of God Community of Lay Carmelites** meets at the Jericho Pastoral Education Center in Holyoke on the first Sunday of the month. For more information, contact Mary Bart, community director, at 413.268.7201 or mabart129@verizon.net

The **St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Community of Discalced Carmelites, Secular** meets monthly at the Marian Center in Holyoke. For more information, call Trish Regan, community president, at 413.567.6816.

For more events in the Springfield Diocese and beyond, log onto iobserve.org and click on "Calendar of Events."



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2019 Spring Confirmations

PARISH	CITY/TOWN	DAY	DATE	TIME
Christ the King	Ludlow	Wednesday	05/08/19	7:00 p.m.
Holy Family	South Deerfield	Saturday	05/11/19	4:00 p.m.
Holy Name & Holy Cross	Springfield	Sunday	5/19/19	4:00 p.m.
Holy Trinity	Westfield	Saturday	04/27/19	4:00 p.m.
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Granby	Sunday	05/05/19	11:45 a.m.
Mary, Mother of Hope	Springfield	Saturday	4/27/19	4:00 p.m.
Our Lady of Fatima	Ludlow	Wednesday	5/8/19	7:00 p.m.
Our Lady of Grace	Hatfield	Sunday	05/12/19	10:00 a.m.
Our Lady of Peace	Turners Falls	Sunday	05/19/19	10:00 a.m.
Our Lady of the Cross <i>(all Holyoke parishes)</i>	Holyoke	Friday	05/03/19	6:00 p.m.
Our Lady of the Lake	Southwick	Monday	05/06/19	7:00 p.m.
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart	Springfield	Saturday	5/18/19	4:00 p.m.
Our Lady of the Valley	Easthampton	Saturday	05/04/19	5:30 p.m.
Pope John Paul II	Adams	Tuesday	05/07/19	7:00 p.m.
Sacred Heart	Springfield	Monday	04/29/19	5:15 p.m.
St. Agnes	Dalton	Sunday	05/05/19	5:30 p.m.
St. Ann	Lenox	Sunday	04/28/19	9:45 a.m.
St. Anne	Chicopee	Sunday	05/19/19	2:00 p.m.
St. Catherine of Siena	Springfield	Saturday	05/18/19	4:00 p.m.
St. Cecilia	Wilbraham	Sunday	04/28/19	1:00 p.m.
St. Christopher	Brimfield	Sunday	05/05/19	2:00 p.m.
St. Elizabeth	North Adams	Sunday	04/28/19	5:30 p.m.
St. Elizabeth	Ludlow	Sunday	05/19/19	2:00 p.m.
St. Francis of Assisi	Belchertown	Saturday	05/25/19	4:00 p.m.
St. Mary	Hampden	Saturday	04/27/19	5:30 p.m.
St. Mary	Westfield	Sunday	05/05/19	2:00 p.m.
St. Mary & All Saints	Ware	Sunday	05/19/19	11:10 a.m.
St. Michael's Cathedral	Springfield	Sunday	06/09/19	4:00 p.m.
St. Paul the Apostle	Springfield	Sunday	06/23/19	11:00 a.m.
St. Rose de Lima	Chicopee	Friday	04/26/19	5:00 p.m.
St. Thomas the Apostle	West Springfield	Tuesday	04/23/19	5:00 p.m.
St. Thomas the Apostle	Palmer	Sunday	04/28/19	11:00 a.m.



Catholic Communications
Diocese of Springfield
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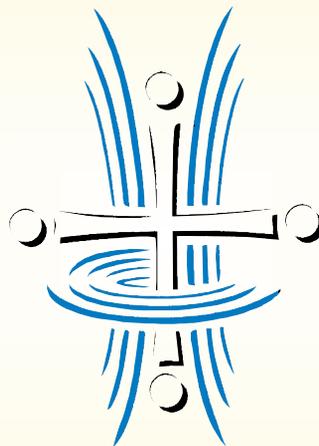
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