

Catholic TRANSCRIPT

JUNE 2020

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'DEVOUT *and* VIBRANT'

Indian community bonds through Syro-Malabar Masses



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PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

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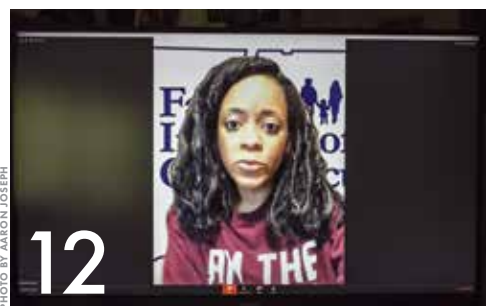


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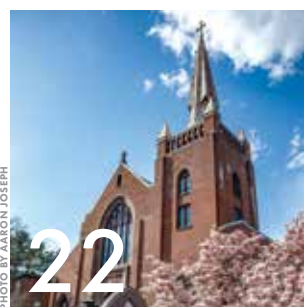


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ON THE COVER: Father John Kuzhikottayil, administrator of the Parishes of St. Francis of Assisi and St. Vincent Ferrer in Naugatuck, stands next to a statue of St. Francis of Assisi on the grounds of the parish under his patronage.

Inset: Father Joseph Pullikattil, parochial vicar of St. Gianna Beretta Molla Parish in West Hartford and pastor of the St. Thomas Catholic Syro-Malabar community, offers Mass at the Church of St. Helena in West Hartford. PHOTOS BY AARON JOSEPH

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Catholic TRANSCRIPT

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Silver Linings During a Quarantine



KAREN AVITABILE
*is the editor of the
Catholic Transcript.*

The world was one way until the middle of March when COVID-19 broke out. Then, it abruptly changed.

In a short period of time, the world as we knew it became a totally different place. Our old life has been transformed; moving forward, we are going to have to navigate the new normal that is called social distancing.

While there are so many disappointing aspects of being physically distant and remaining in isolation, maybe your ample downtime has given you something positive to focus on. Or, do you and your family have a newfound gratitude for someone or something that you may

have taken for granted in the past?

One of the first things that comes to mind is the appreciation for the countless number of frontline workers in all capacities who are putting their lives at risk to help others during this global pandemic. We have also heard the moving stories of volunteers making a difference by delivering food to shut-ins, organizing free drive-thru food distribution operations, feeding the frontline workers and truck drivers, making masks, donating hand sanitizers to hospitals and so many more. It is likely these stories about the kindness of strangers and the random acts of compassion have reaffirmed faith in humanity and God that may have been forgotten.

Many of the organizations that the Archbishop's Annual Appeal supports have been following Christ's command to love thy neighbor for their work on the frontlines — by helping the poor, the hungry and the homeless during this health crisis. Another organization, The Hartford Bishops' Foundation, is helping to support parishes and ministries facing critical operational and emergency needs arising from the pandemic through its recent establishment of an Emergency Response Fund.

The Archdiocese of Hartford has been bringing your inspirational stories to others through its "Acts of the Archdiocese" that was established in late April. These have been uplifting stories of how you adopted a new way to pray at home, helped your parish or pastor, set up a prayer group, started reading the Bible with others online or how you performed a service project to help the sick, homebound or frontline workers. You have also told us about special ways that God inspired you with his love.

If you have not told us your story yet, the archdiocese wants to hear from you. Do an "act" and document it in a video, an audio recording or in pictures that you can upload on our special website: cutt.ly/actsofthearchdiocese. By doing so, you will share your story while inspiring others when the archdiocese shares it through social media.

As it says in Hebrews 13:16: "Do not forget to do good and to share with others, for such sacrifices God is pleased." And maybe, you will find silver linings during a quarantine. ☪

FAITH AS TRUST



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

A time of worldwide pandemic, with all the fears to which it gives rise, puts us all to the test — a test of our ability to cope with our fears, our medical and material needs and our very faith in God amid the suffering and dying of many.

There are many aspects to faith, but the one that is especially needed in our present circumstances is faith understood as trust.

The Old Testament emphasizes faith under this aspect of trust, epitomized in the figure of Abraham. Faith means accepting and believing the messages, promises and commandments of God as he did. Another way of putting it is to say that faith involves confidence in God, who is faithful and trustworthy. He is to be trusted without hesitation, doubt or fear. At the same time, the Bible also reveals faith as a movement of the intelligence toward realities that are not seen. The whole history of Israel is the story of a people being led by the hand of God. Their infidelity, which, at root, was a lack

of trust, was denounced by the prophets, who recognized the true depths of human sinfulness and the need for God himself to create a trusting human heart in a new covenant yet to come. This was fulfilled with the advent of Christ.

The New Testament Letter to the Hebrews says, “Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” On a personal level, this means that when the providence of God is not so apparent, and he seems distant or remote, we are being called to exercise faith on a deeper and purer level. A great saint, John of the Cross, teaches that this ever-increasing purification of faith is what most directly and most immediately unites us to God. The self-abandonment and the trust that faith entails are very pleasing to God, and bring us very close to him.

Jesus, in his sacred humanity, became one like us in all things, including temptation, but without sin. He was beset by weakness, but he put all his trust in his heavenly Father. Reflecting on this, Sister Ruth Burrows, OCD, writes: “We, like Jesus, have to shut our eyes, give up the controls, allow God to work and say, with Jesus, our ‘yes yes!’ Is this that we cease to be in control by trying to be our own god, our own creator, and we accept, as he did, to be human: wholly contingent; with no answer, no fulfillment in ourselves; an emptiness that looks to infinite love for its com-

pletion. Because of Jesus we, too, can learn obedience, learn to accept with all our hearts the painful but wonderful vocation to be human ... This ‘yes’ of Jesus is that all-powerful word that upholds the universe, taking it to God.”

(The Essence of Prayer, p. 207)

The need for trust in God also brings us face-to-face with his Church, not in the sins and failures of her members, which are all too evident and painful to see, but in her mystery as the body and bride of Christ. The visible, human rock on which Christ chose to “build his Church” was St. Peter, and it is not out of place to compare his faith to Abraham’s. In the Old Testament, the prophet Isaiah calls upon the people to

“TRUST IN GOD AND HIS LOVING PROVIDENCE FOR EACH OF US AND FOR THE WORLD, AND TRUST IN THE WAY HE HAS REVEALED IN AND THROUGH HIS BODY AND BRIDE, THE CHURCH.”

“look to the rock from which you were hewn ... look to Abraham your father.” (51:1-2) On account of his faith, Abraham, the father of believers, is seen as the rock that supports creation. And St. Peter, thanks to his profession of Christ as the “Son of the living God,” becomes the rock on which the Church is built, the rock that is to prevail against the destructive forces of evil until the end of time.

At a difficult time for the world, the Church and each of us individually, let us renew our faith under the aspect of trust — trust in God and his loving providence for each of us and for the world, and trust in the “way” he has revealed in and through his body and bride, the Church. **✠**



Archbishop Leonard P. Blair gives a sermon at St. Mary Star of the Sea Church, Unionville, while Father Mochael J. Motta, pastor, looks on. The archbishop celebrated Mass here before the coronavirus broke out.

Fe Como Confianza

Esta época de pandemia mundial, con todos los temores que da lugar, nos pone a prueba a todos — prueba de nuestra capacidad para hacer frente a nuestros miedos, nuestras necesidades médicas y materiales y nuestra fe en Dios en medio del sufrimiento y la muerte de muchos.



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

Hay muchos aspectos de la fe, pero el que es especialmente necesario en nuestras circunstancias actuales es la fe entendida como confianza.

El Antiguo Testamento enfatiza la fe bajo este aspecto de la confianza, personificada en la figura de Abrahán. Fe significa aceptar y creer los mensajes, promesas y mandamientos de Dios como él lo hizo. Otra forma de decirlo es decir que la fe implica confianza en Dios, quien es fiel y confiable. Se debe confiar en Él sin vacilación, duda o miedo. Al mismo tiempo, la Biblia también revela la fe como un movimiento de la inteligencia hacia realidades que no se ven. Toda la historia de Israel es la historia de un pueblo dirigido por la mano de Dios. Su infidelidad como pueblo, que, en el fondo, era una falta de confianza, fue denunciada por los profetas, quienes reconocieron las verdaderas profundidades de la pecaminosidad humana y la necesidad de que Dios mismo creara un corazón humano confiado en un nuevo pacto por venir. Esto se cumplió con el advenimiento de Cristo.

La Carta del Nuevo Testamento a los Hebreos dice, “La fe es fundamento de las cosas que se esperan, prueba de las que no se ve”. A nivel personal, esto significa que cuando la providencia de Dios no es tan evidente, y él parece distante o remoto, estamos llamados a ejercer la fe en un nivel más profundo y puro. Un gran santo, Juan de la Cruz, enseña que esta purificación cada vez mayor de la fe es lo que nos une más directa e inmediatamente a Dios. El abandono y la confianza que conlleva la fe son muy agradables a Dios y nos acercan mucho a él.

Jesús, en su humanidad sagrada, se convirtió en uno como nosotros en todas las cosas, incluida la tentación, pero sin pecado. Estaba acosado por la debilidad, pero puso toda su confianza en su Padre celestial. Reflexionando sobre esto, la Hermana Ruth Burrows, OCD, escribe: “Nosotros, como Jesús, tenemos que cerrar los ojos, renunciar a los controles, permitir que Dios trabaje y decir, con Jesús, nuestro ‘¡sí, sí!’ Es así como dejamos de estar en control tratando de ser nuestro propio dios, nuestro propio creador, y aceptamos, como Él lo hizo, ser humanos: totalmente dependiente; sin respuesta, sin realización en nosotros mismos; un vacío que mira al amor infinito para su finalización. Gracias a Jesús, nosotros también podemos aprender obediencia, aprender a aceptar con todo nuestro corazón la vocación dolorosa pero maravillosa de ser

humanos ... Este “sí” de Jesús es esa palabra todopoderosa que sostiene el universo y eleva hacia a Dios”. (*The Essence of Prayer*, p. 207)

La necesidad de confiar en Dios también nos pone cara a cara con su Iglesia, no en los pecados y fracasos de sus miembros, que son demasiado evidentes y dolorosos de ver, sino en su misterio como el cuerpo y la novia de Cristo. La roca humana visible sobre la cual Cristo eligió “construir su Iglesia” fue San Pedro, y no está fuera de lugar comparar su fe con la de Abrahán. En el Antiguo Testamento, el profeta Isaías llama a la gente a “mirad a la roca de la que fuisteis tallados ... mirad a Abrahán, vuestro padre”. (51:1-2) Debido a su fe, Abrahán, el padre de los creyentes, es visto como la roca que sustenta la creación. Y San Pedro, gracias a su profesión de Cristo como el “Hijo del Dios viviente”, se convierte en la roca sobre la cual se construye la Iglesia, la roca que prevalecerá contra las fuerzas destructivas del mal hasta el fin de los tiempos.

En un momento difícil para el mundo, la Iglesia y cada uno de nosotros individualmente, debemos renovar nuestra fe bajo el aspecto de la confianza — confianza en Dios y su providencia amorosa para cada uno de nosotros y para el mundo, y confianza en el “camino” que él ha revelado en y a través de su cuerpo y novia, la Iglesia. 🕊



El Arzobispo Leonard P. Blair bendice a los fieles de la iglesia St. John the Evangelist en New Britain durante la procesión final de la Misa antes del brote de coronavirus.

Father Joseph Pullikattil, parochial vicar of the Catholic community St. Gianna Beretta Molla Parish in West Hartford and pastor of the St. Thomas Catholic Syro-Malabar community, is offering Mass at the Church of St. Helena in West Hartford.

'DEVOUT *and* VIBRANT'

Indian community bonds through Syro-Malabar Masses around the archdiocese.

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

The tiny state of Kerala in southern India is considered one of the most beautiful places in the world, a traveler's paradise with pristine beaches and beautiful hills. But nothing sets it apart more than the faith of its Catholic population, known for their fervent devotion and family values, which have inspired countless vocations to the religious life and more than 20 causes for sainthood.





It is the home of Catholic families who are members of the Syro-Malabar Church, which traces its heritage back 2000 years to St. Thomas the Apostle, who arrived there in 52 AD and established churches in southwestern India. It is where he was martyred and where his remains are entombed.

In the Archdiocese of Hartford, the St. Thomas Catholic Syro-Malabar community has celebrated its faith for 20 years at the Church of St. Helena in West Hartford. With more than 100 families, it is the largest group from Kerala in Connecticut and continues to attract faithful from Fairfield County and even Springfield, Mass.

“The Indian Catholic community is very devout and vibrant,” says Father Joseph Pullikattil, pastor, who is one of several priests from India currently serving in the archdiocese. “It has always been this way. Every evening they have family prayer in their homes, and every Sunday after 11:45 Mass, people get

A Community of Indian Priests

Father John Kuzhikottayil, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Naugatuck, lives in a community with two other Salesians of Don Bosco, Fathers Binny Issac and Joy Jacob, assigned to three parishes in the valley. They are among the 13 Indian priests, many of whom came at the request of the Archdiocese of Hartford.

“Christianity is rooted deep in the state of Kerala, and there you will find churches packed for Sunday Mass,” says Father Kuzhikottayil, a native of Kerala.

Father Kuzhikottayil, who can celebrate both the Syrian and Latin rite Masses, is the youngest of eight children. He felt called to the priesthood in the sixth grade when a Salesian priest came to his school. At 11 years old, he left home to enter a minor seminary in Calcutta. After the novitiate and courses of study in philosophy and theology, he was ordained at age 30. For 37 years, he has been a Salesian in the order founded by St. John Bosco, which is committed to the education and spiritual formation of youth.



Father John Kuzhikottayil.

Over the years, Father Kuzhikottayil has taken parishioners on pilgrimages to India to visit religious sites that included Mother St. Teresa’s tomb, the Basilica of St. Thomas and the mount where he was martyred. He says they are always amazed to see the depth of faith among Indian Catholics, and on one occasion they witnessed 2,000 children with their backpacks attending 6 a.m. Mass before going to CCD class.

“The faith of the Christian community is very strong,” he says. “The services and sacraments are very important to them. At Mass, there is a lot of music and real participation between the celebrant and the community. Even the children take an active part in the liturgy.”

The Syro-Malabar community, Father Kuzhikottayil adds, enriches the faith of the archdiocese in many ways, particularly by its spiritual devotion, strong work ethic and emphasis on family values.

“The father and mother and children form a strongly knit family, not like in America where children often go on their own and parents lose control,” he says. “In India, parents support their children financially and make sacrifices, and once they are married, they take care of their parents.” His brother cared for their mother for 30 years. **CT**

together for a social gathering.”

The church is an Eastern rite that is Syrian in worship. Malabar is the name of the southwestern coast where the community began. There are some 80,000 believers in 44 churches and 42 missions in America, with large concentrations in Texas, New Jersey, Florida and Arizona.

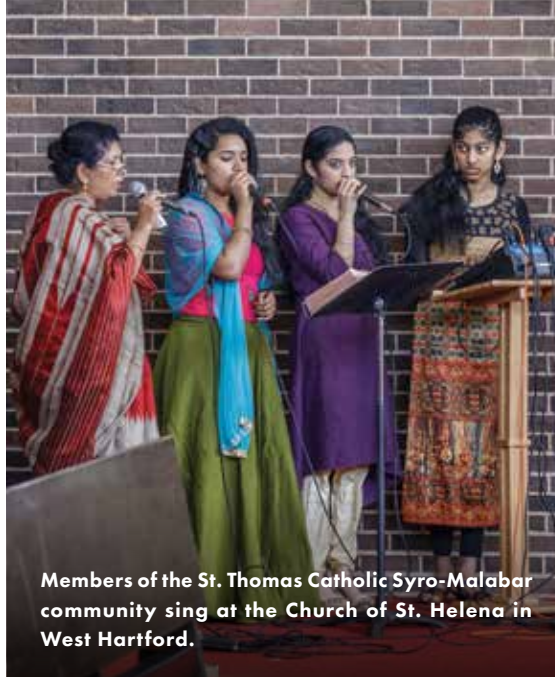
In India, a country that is said to have more ethnic and religious groups than most other countries of the world, in addition to several languages and dialects, the majority of the population are Hindus.

But there is also a substantial population of Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Christians and supporters of folk religions.

Father Pullikattil, who also serves as parochial vicar at St. Helena, came to the United States in 2007 to minister to Indian Catholics at the invitation of former Archbishop Henry J. Mansell. He is one of several Indian priests in the archdiocese. Many families came to the archdiocese over the past 20 years, he says, and found a welcoming place here that observed the faith they practiced in India.

“Our community is keen in providing opportunities for children and youth to develop their talents and to be enriched in our liturgical heritage with cultural and social events,” Father Pullikattil says.

In addition to CCD classes, students are instructed in the Malayalam language. On the observance of the feasts of St. Thomas



Members of the St. Thomas Catholic Syro-Malabar community sing at the Church of St. Helena in West Hartford.

and St. Alphonsa, the community walks together through West Hartford. The celebration on the second Sunday in August attracts several hundred Catholics. A religious sister from Kerala, St. Alphonsa was the first female Indian saint of the Syro-Malabar Church who died in 1946 at 35 years old and was recognized by Pope St. John Paul II for her sanctity and acceptance of a life of physical and spiritual suffering.

Sister Clare Millea is the archdiocesan director for the Office of Faith and Culture, which supports ethnic groups in the Archdiocese

of Hartford. She often encourages pastors and lay leaders from different faith communities to come together and hold devotions so they can learn from one another.

She has attended the Syro-Malabar Mass and says, “It is a beautiful experience and we have so much to learn from these people who come with a deep faith. They are a close-knit community, who bring their living faith to the rest of us and are adding to the richness of the archdiocese.”

ST. THOMAS A SOURCE OF PRIDE

When Binnoy Scaria arrived in Connecticut in 2013, the first thing he did was conduct an internet search to find a Syro-Malabar church. A software architect, he left Kerala in 2010 for Arkansas, where he worked for IBM on the Walmart account.

“The community is always welcoming and that fellowship

Going to Mass Translates Into Vocation



Father George Vellapackil.

Father George Vellapackil, parochial vicar of Christ the King Parish in Wethersfield recalls how his family of 12 gathered promptly at 7:30 every evening to pray. The youngest of 10 siblings, he credits his deeply religious parents, Joseph Chacko and Pennamma, for his vocation and that of his sister, who is mother superior of a Franciscan congregation in India.


He first felt his calling to the priesthood in the second grade while at Sunday Mass.

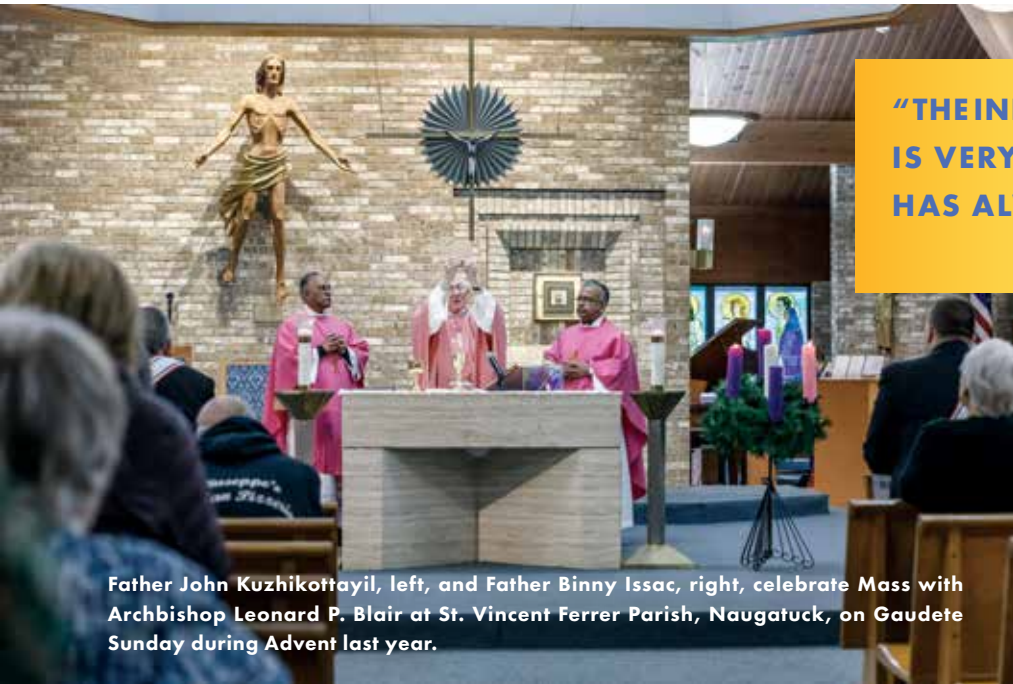
“After that, I prayed every day for it, and I was an altar server after my First Communion in the third grade until I went to the seminary,” he recalls.

He says he is also proud to be related to Bishop Chandy Palliveetil, from his mother’s side of the family, who was the first bishop

of India from 1667 to 1678.

After Father Vellapackil was ordained, he was an associate pastor for nine years before being asked to come to the Archdiocese of Hartford, where he was assigned to St. Mary Church in Windsor Locks. He has served in administrative positions in several parishes, including St. Ann Church in Hamden, where he was responsible for the soup kitchen. In addition, he helps Father Pullikattil when he needs a priest to fill in and celebrate the Syro-Malabar Mass.

The secret to his vocation and many others in Kerala is simple, Father Vellapackil says. “I became a priest because I went to Sunday Mass with my parents and prayed with them ... We would have more priests if young people came to Mass.” 



Father John Kuzhikottayil, left, and Father Binny Issac, right, celebrate Mass with Archbishop Leonard P. Blair at St. Vincent Ferrer Parish, Naugatuck, on Gaudete Sunday during Advent last year.

“THE INDIAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY IS VERY DEVOUT AND VIBRANT. IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN THIS WAY.”
 — Father Joseph Pullikattil

everything,” Mathew says. “I encourage them to say, ‘thank you, Jesus for this beautiful, wonderful day, for my family, for my teachers, for everything that happens to me.’”

She stresses the importance of giving children a firm foundation because when they reach the teenage years, they will be able to confront the challenges of the secular world with a strong faith in Christ. Sharing that mission with a

community of believers at St. Thomas makes it easier.

keeps you going back and back,” says Scaria, who is a trustee of St. Thomas. “Whenever all the families gather and we have the social hour, we feel like we are back in Kerala and sharing our day-to-day activities.”

The community is divided into seven prayer units, or small Christian groups, with their own patron saint. The families get together several times a year for prayer, discussions and social gatherings, Scaria says. This gives him, his wife, Sindhu, and sons, Alen and Alwin, opportunities to meet and worship with other families who share their culture.

“Kerala is a very small state that is blessed with many churches and faith communities,” Scaria says. “The vocations and saints coming out of the Church show how deep-rooted the faith in God is there.”

When Babitha Mathew was growing up in Kerala, her parents and two brothers would walk more than a mile to Mass at St. George Church every Sunday. Years later, she moved to Ireland to work as a psychiatric registered nurse and continued the practice, walking to Mass four days a week. In her family, no one missed Mass, and that tradition is still observed by her husband, four children and in-laws.

Every evening at 7 o’clock, they gather in the family room to pray the Rosary, sing spiritual songs and read the Bible. And every morning before school, the children assemble to give thanks and praise to God.

“I teach them that you have to praise God and that is why we have daily prayer ... to be thankful to God for ev-

“We are growing as a community, and more and more families are coming to join us,” says Mathew, who is the leader of the Women’s Forum and Parish Council secretary.

When Allwyn Mathew (no relation to Babitha Mathew) was in fifth grade, his father took him to the place where St. Thomas was martyred on a small hill in the city of Chennai for converting several thousand Hindus to Christianity. That site has tremendous significance for Syro-Malabar Christians, and Mathew is proud to describe himself as a “St. Thomas Christian.” He also has a strong devotion to St. Alphonsa, whose tomb was five miles from his home. Whenever he returns to India, he visits it.

A trustee of St. Thomas, Mathew came to America when he was 17. At the time, the Indian community was not as active, and it celebrated the Syro-Malabar Mass once a month in Newington. However, 20 years ago they began to worship regularly at St. Helena’s.

He said a typical Sunday begins at 9:30 a.m. with CCD and language classes, which his two children attend. Mass, which is celebrated partly in English and Malayalam, begins at 11:45 a.m., and is followed by fellowship until about 2:30 p.m. The cultural and faith education the children receive is very important to parents.

“We all grew up learning our faith from our parents,” Mathew says. “Social bonding is very important to us, and we connect as a community when we follow the Syro-Malabar Mass.”



God's Love is

UNWAVERING



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

It is an understatement to say that much has happened since the coronavirus crisis started making its way around the world. As we have strived to keep calm after so many weeks of uncertainty and disquiet, many of us have learned how to remain in contact with others in varied ways. We have done our best to make it possible to return to our regular schedules. The question remains, though: Will our lifestyle ever be the same after this challenging and grueling experience?

One thing remains true and constant for sure: In his loving providence, God has been with each one of us every step of the way. He has remained in contact with us. We can rest assured that he provides his grace, strength and peace to our troubled hearts because he has promised so.

These past weeks, I have returned many times to some of my favorite biblical texts that remind me of our Father's love for all of us. Here, I present to you a few of them, with the hope we can keep them in mind and elevate our hearts in prayer every time we might feel overwhelmed by everyday circumstances and difficulties.

■ **Isaiah 41:10** – Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

■ **Joshua 1:9** – I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

■ **John 16:33** – I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.

■ **Psalms 23:4** – Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

■ **Psalms 29:11** – May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!

■ **Matthew 21:21-22** – Jesus answered them, “Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt... it will be done. Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive.”

■ **Psalms 5:11** – But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, so that those who love your name may exult in you.

■ **John 14:27** – Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

These texts have been a source of encouragement for me all my life. I hope and pray that they become significant to you as well. ☪



Auxiliary Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt delivers the homily during Good Friday in St. Thomas Chapel, located in the Pastoral Center, Bloomfield.

El amor de Dios es inquebrantable



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

Todos podemos decir que han sucedido muchas cosas desde que la crisis pandémica comenzó a abrirse camino en todo el mundo. A medida que nos hemos esforzado por mantener la calma después de tantas semanas de incertidumbre e inquietud, muchos de nosotros hemos aprendido a mantenernos en contacto con los demás de diversas maneras. Hemos hecho todo lo posible para que podamos volver a nuestros horarios regulares. La pregunta sigue siendo si nuestro estilo de vida será el mismo después de esta experiencia desafiante y agotadora.

Una cosa sigue siendo cierta y constante: En su providencia amorosa, Dios ha estado presente a cada uno de nosotros, cada paso del camino. Él se ha mantenido en contacto con nosotros. Podemos estar seguros de que Él proporciona su gracia, fuerza y paz a nuestros corazones atribulados porque Él lo ha prometido.

Estas últimas semanas, he leído muchas veces algunos de mis textos bíblicos favoritos que me recuerdan el amor que nuestro Padre tiene por todos nosotros. Aquí les presento algunos de ellos, con la esperanza de que podamos tenerlos en cuenta y elevar nuestros corazones en oración cada vez que nos sintamos abrumados por las circunstancias y dificultades de cada día.

■ **Isaías 41:10** – No temas, pues yo estoy contigo; no te angusties, pues yo soy tu Dios; yo te fortalezo y te ayudo, y te sostengo con mi brazo victorioso.

■ **Josué 1:9** – Yo te he mandado que seas fuerte y valeroso. No temas ni te acobardes, porque el Señor tu Dios estará contigo dondequiera que vayas.

■ **Juan 16:33** – Les he dicho todo esto, para que puedan encontrar la paz en su unión conmigo. En el mundo encontrarán dificultades y tendrán que sufrir, pero tengan ánimo, yo he vencido al mundo.

■ **Salmos 23:4** – Aunque pase por un valle tenebroso, ningún mal temeré, porque tú estás conmigo; tu vara y tu bastón me dan seguridad.

■ **Salmos 29:11** – El Señor da fuerza a su pueblo, el Señor bendice a su pueblo con la paz.

■ **Mateo 21:21-22** – Jesús les respondió: Les aseguro que si tienen fe y no dudan ... así pasará. Y todo lo que pidan con fe en la oración lo obtendrán.

■ **Salmos 5:12** – Que se alegren los que se refugian en ti, y su alegría sea eterna; protégelos, y se llenarán de gozo los que te aman.

■ **Juan 14:27** – Les dejo la paz, mi paz les doy. Una paz que el mundo no les puede dar. No se inquieten ni tengan miedo.

Estos textos han sido una fuente de aliento para mí toda mi vida. Espero que también ellos se vuelvan importantes para ustedes. 🕊



KATLEHO SEISA/GETTY IMAGES



BUILDING A *Coalition for Life*

Pro-life supporters urged to speak up, contact legislators and pray.

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

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Due to COVID-19 restrictions prohibiting large gatherings, the inaugural Connecticut March for Life at the State Capitol was canceled in April. Instead, a webinar, "Connecticut Login for Life," was held that addressed pro-life issues and physician-assisted suicide. The webinar was sponsored by the Connecticut Catholic Conference, the Family Institute of Connecticut and the March for Life Education and Defense Fund.

"We all have the same goal, to allow for life to flourish."

"You are all lobbyists for life."

"We need to continue advocating for life during these times."

These messages were explicitly delivered by Tom McClusky, vice president of governmental affairs from the National March for Life office in Washington, D.C., to nearly 400 attendees who took part in the one-hour, pro-life webinar, "Connecticut Login for Life."

The push for a grass-roots effort in pro-life issues is more important now than ever, even in the face of the coronavirus pandemic, according to the webinar panelists. Faith-based pregnancy centers that provide help and support to women and men facing a pregnancy decision have been targeted by those

who are lobbying in support of abortion through false advertising.

Because legislators are basing their decisions on these "fake reports," it is time for people to start becoming lobbyists with a goal of overturning the lies, urged Lisa Maloney, president of the Pregnancy Care Coalition and director

DOWNLOAD YOUR HARTFORD 101 DOCUMENT

What is the pro-life landscape of Connecticut? What should you say to your legislators? What do I do at a legislative hearing? How do I prepare for a meeting with members of Congress? How does a bill become a law? Lobbying during COVID-19?

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of Care Net Pregnancy Resource Center of Southeastern Connecticut.

“They take things and they twist it and these legislators are being fed all these lies,” Maloney says. “We can out-truth the enemy. And that’s our hope. We have stuff to back up what we are saying.”

Maloney was joined by pro-life advocates Christina Bennett, communications director of the Family Institute of Connecticut, and Cathy Ludlum, co-founder of Second Thoughts CT, a disability organization opposed to physician-assisted suicide. McClusky served as moderator.

So far, pregnancy centers have been successful in fighting proposed legislation, including House Bill 7070, An Act Concerning Deceptive Advertising Practices of Limited Services Pregnancy Centers, which targeted faith-based organizations and speech.

“We attribute a lot of our success to God, he’s in charge of this,” Maloney says. “The bottom line is in following what God is directing us. We stand on the side of truth and sometimes truth takes a beating but in the end it always wins.”

A great lobbying tip, disability advocate Ludlum says, is to talk to legislators addressing disability arguments and opinions against physician assisted suicide. “It’s great to have religious conviction and faith and those are good things in your personal life,” she says.

Calling the health-care system “discriminatory,” she says persons with disabilities have a difficult time getting access to health care. She cited the following reasons why: doctors tend to think that they are already going to die, so efforts to prolong life is met with reluctance; they

think that some people with disabilities need lifelong support, which is expensive; and, as health-care professionals, they are looking to cut costs.

Several times, Second Thoughts CT has thwarted House Bill 5898, Not Dead Yet, which would have legalized assisted suicide.

“Death is cheaper than life, but that doesn’t mean it should be our goal,” Ludlum says, adding that disabled persons would be the collateral damage of assisted suicide.

Although Connecticut is one of the weaker pro-life states, the “pro-life movement in Connecticut is thriving,” Bennett says. “There is hope ... We are making great strides. ... We are live, we are present and we are here.”

Bennett got involved with the pro-life movement in her 20s after her mom revealed to her that she was almost aborted. However, she says, when a janitor in Hartford told her mother, “God would give you the strength to have her,” her mother walked out and decided against the abortion.

“I would have been forcibly torn apart in the womb ... and brought to an incinerator,” Bennett says. She calls abortion a “cruel act of violence.”

Life begins at conception, she adds. “I have heard many times that first trimester abortions are OK because the baby won’t feel pain. ... It’s not OK in any circumstance.”

Although the 2020 General Assembly has been canceled due to the national health emergency, there are many roles people can take on in this pro-life movement, Bennett says. “We want people to run, to get involved on the local level.”

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Speakers who took part in Connecticut Login for Life and the Connecticut Catholic Conference have made the following suggestions to keep the pressure on legislators.

1. Find your state legislators by visiting cga.ct.gov and scroll down to the section that says “Find Your Representatives.” Then, visit their Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts to find out how they stand on pro-life issues and to express your opinions.
2. Write letters to the editor of newspapers and representatives from the Connecticut calling out anti-life legislators.
3. Tour a pregnancy center and encourage legislators to visit one as well. Inform them of mistruths being distributed about pregnancy centers.
4. Flood your legislators’ mailbox, email and voicemail.
5. Gather friends and present a united front to organizations you are involved in.
6. Once the General Assembly resumes, testify against anti-pregnancy and assisted suicide bills at the Legislative Office Building. Organize and attend pro-life rallies.
7. Sign up to receive email blasts from the Family Institute of Connecticut (ctfamily.org) and the Connecticut Catholic Conference (ctcatholic.org) and follow them on social media.
8. Stay up to date on future legislation.
9. Connect with candidates who will be running in upcoming elections to let them know you support life.
10. Always approach legislators in a friendly manner and thank them for their support.
11. Start a pro-life group on a college campus.
12. Finally, pray, pray, pray.

THE PRIEST AND THE MASS: *The Lifeblood of the Church*

The time of suspension of public celebration of the sacraments during the coronavirus pandemic (which is still in effect at the time of this writing) has been a time of great sadness for the faithful and for priests alike. However, one aspect of priestly life which many may not have considered is that every priest is urged to celebrate the holy sacrifice of the Mass each day.



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

Canon law states: “Remembering always that in the mystery of the Eucharistic sacrifice the work of redemption is exercised continually, priests are to celebrate frequently; indeed, daily celebration is recommended earnestly since, even if the faithful cannot be present, it is the act of Christ and the Church in which priests fulfill their principal function.” (Code of Canon Law: 904). The fact that priests should celebrate Mass each day, even when the faithful cannot be present, should be considered the lifeblood of the whole Church.

The holy Mass has a value in and of itself. This is the foremost way a priest lives out his conformity to Jesus Christ.

In the holy Mass, the priest speaks the words of institution in union with Christ the high priest: “This is my body, this is my blood.” This principle purpose of holy Mass provides for the objective holiness of the Church, even when the faithful are, lamentably, not able to be present.

Theology teaches that there are differing “fruits” of the holy Mass: The general, specific and ministerial. (c.f. Charles Belmonte, Faith Seeking Understanding v.1 541-542) The “general fruits” benefit the universal Church, both on earth and in purgatory. This means



Father Robert Villa, pastor of St. Martha Parish, Enfield, celebrates Mass without a congregation during the cancellation of public Masses due to the coronavirus. Father Villa is one of many priests who has livestreamed the Mass regularly on parish Facebook pages.

that the whole Church is made holier by the Mass, even when no congregation can be present.

The “specific fruits” benefit those physically participating in the Mass, both priest and people — each according to their own role — which means that we grow in holiness from our very presence at Mass, even if we cannot receive holy Communion. These are the fruits which the faithful are most missing in this time, and whose absence is a burden for the people.

The “ministerial fruits” benefit those for whom the holy Mass is offered, since priests still offer Mass for requested intentions even now. In this regard, we can come to a greater understanding that

a Mass intention is not primarily about having a loved one’s name read and remembered, but about the application of the ministerial fruits of the Mass to a particular person or intention.

This time of global pandemic and suspension of public sacraments is a tremendous burden for the universal Church. However, if we use this time to develop our understanding of the sacramental life of the Church, we will return to Mass with renewed love and understanding, primed for greater growth in holiness. **✠**

Prayer for Vocations

O God, Who wish all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of Your truth: send, we beg You, laborers into Your harvest, and grant them grace to speak Your word with all boldness; so that Your word may spread and be glorified, and all nations may know You, the only God, and Him Whom You have sent, Jesus Christ Your Son, Our Lord, Who lives and reigns world without end. Amen.

(This is one of many prayers for vocations provided by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.)

GOD IS CALLING NEW VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD, RELIGIOUS LIFE AND THE DIACONATE. ARE YOU ONE OF THEM? If you think God may be calling you, do not be afraid. Visit archdioceseofhartford.org/vocations or call the Office of Vocations, 860.761.7456.

YOUR SUPPORT WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

As a result of the Coronavirus, the outreach of Church spiritually and materially, will be needed more than ever. Please join us in this vital mission to serve thousands in Christ's name and achieve our \$10M goal.

NO GIFT IS TOO SMALL!



\$10 Million

\$6,377,629



Please take a few moments to view this year's Archbishop's Annual Appeal video at archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal/ for just one example of how any gift, no matter of the size, can make a significant difference in one person's life.

If you are one of the **24,318 donors** across Litchfield, New Haven and Hartford Counties who have made your 2020 gift — **THANK YOU!**

For additional questions, please call 800.781.2550. To donate online, please visit: <https://archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal/> or use your smartphone to scan the QR code below. All funds contributed to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal are used exclusively for the purposes outlined in the Appeal literature, which can be found at <https://archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal/>. **NO APPEAL FUNDS ARE EVER USED FOR LEGAL FEES, SETTLEMENTS OR ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.**



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100% of your gift will be allocated to archdiocesan agencies and local charities that rely on your support.

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A CALL TO SERVE GOD'S PEOPLE

Seminarian to be ordained a priest during challenging times.

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

Jaime Maldonado-Avilés took an unexpected path in the months leading up to his priestly ordination later this month. Instead of finishing his studies at the Theological College in Washington, D.C., and The Catholic University of America, he was asked to finish his final semester of schooling and formation at the Pastoral Center in Bloomfield in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

"It's also called me to be compassionate to other people," Maldonado-Avilés says of completing his journey during the pandemic. "There's a great deal of suffering, loss of loved ones, people have lost jobs and there's no easy access to resources. I'm just more aware of my call to serve those who are really struggling."

Now more than ever, it's important to "reflect Jesus Christ," he says. "I see it as a call to strive to be holy not just in public but in private."

In mid-March, Maldonado-Avilés joined his fellow seminarians at the Pastoral Center to continue classes online and priestly formation. He's been completing courses in presiding liturgies and American Sign Language. Fellow seminarians have helped him with his pastoral counseling class.

"I've been able to take classes through livestream and videos, and the Pastoral Center has a library here that's very good," he says.

In addition to taking part in adoration with fellow seminar-



Sean Yates.

Seminarians Join Together in Prayer for the People of God

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

Seminarians in the Archdiocese of Hartford are shedding God's light on the darkness in the world by gathering in solemn devotion every day to pray for an end to the pandemic.

"They spend the whole morning in adoration in front of the Blessed Sacrament — taking turns — so they can pray for all these people and for the intentions of the people of the Archdiocese of Hartford," says Auxiliary Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt, who serves as archdiocesan director of seminarians.

Since mid-March, a dozen seminarians have been living in the Pastoral Center in Bloomfield to continue their preparation for the priesthood through online studies and daily prayer. This community of prayer became possible when Archbishop Leonard P. Blair and Bishop Betancourt invited the seminarians to spend the rest of the semester at the Pastoral Center, the former St. Thom-

as Seminary, when the global pandemic broke out.

"I find it God's blessing at this point that from five different schools, now all these seminarians are together," Bishop Betancourt says. "They live in the same community. And of course, the amount of prayer they are doing is not only for the archbishop but for the pandemic and for the people who are on the front lines."

Additionally, the seminarians have been hard at work, completing their courses online. "Many of them are going to have summer studies here," the bishop says. "If things get better, they might go to parishes."

Seminarians currently residing at the Pastoral Center are Ryan Budd and Matthew Collins from Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md.; Andrés Galeano-Moreno, Sean Yates, Daniel Hackenjos, Martin Chouinard and Mitchell Kendrioski from Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit,



Newly ordained Deacon Jaime Maldonado-Avilés glows with joy after Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt ordained him to the transitional diaconate at St. Louis Church in West Haven in 2019.

ians during the pandemic at the Pastoral Center’s St. Thomas Chapel, Maldonado-Avilés assumed a pivotal role assisting Archbishop Leonard P. Blair and Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt in celebrating numerous daily Masses in addition to Holy Week Masses for the Archdiocese of Hartford.

“He dealt with the whole thing like a champ,” Bishop Betancourt, who serves as archdiocesan director of seminarians, says of Maldonado-Avilés. “He sang everything so beautifully. He did the whole triduum in English with the archbishop and then he did the whole thing with me in Spanish. And then the same thing happened when we did it for the seminary community here.”

Maldonado-Avilés considers it a “privilege” to assist in the Masses, some which were recorded, while others were live-streamed online or broadcast on television on ORTV. “I had to be attentive to how the liturgies are meant to be celebrated and also adjusted for our time,” he says. “It was a good learning experience for me.”

TRAINED AS A NEUROSCIENTIST

Maldonado-Avilés, who just turned 41, redirected his life toward the priesthood after a career as a neuroscientist. Drawn to the sciences, he studied biology at the University of Puerto

Mich.; Colin Lane, Jeremy Belk and Anthony Caruso from Our Lady of Providence Seminary in Providence, R.I.; and Joseph MacNeill, from the Pontifical North American College in Rome. These seminaries closed temporarily due to the pandemic.

Collins says spending time in the parishes, observing how priests interact with one another and with parishioners, has confirmed he is on the right path. “It helped me to understand,” he says, “that this is the life I want to live.”

Getting his start in the faith at St. Matthew Parish in Forestville, Collins says his courses on the liturgy and the sacraments have been the most inspiring.

“The sacraments are an imitation of Christ’s life. He instituted them here on earth,” he explains. “The Eucharist really draws me to learn more about the sacraments — their meaning and how they are implemented to ex-

press the love of Christ.”

Collins is also hoping to be assigned to a parish this summer. In past years, he has assisted at St. Matthew, The Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Waterbury, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish in North Haven and St. Teresa of Calcutta in Manchester.

MacNeill flew home from Rome and was quarantined offsite before joining his fellow seminarians at the Pastoral Center. He was studying at Pontifical Gregorian University. “That’s where the action is,” he says. “It’s more in the center of Rome, is Italian-speaking and it’s where seminarians from around the world go.”

Because a couple of MacNeill’s classes are live-streamed, he gets up at 4:30 a.m. “All my classes are in Italian,” he adds.

This year, he has been taking one seminar course in



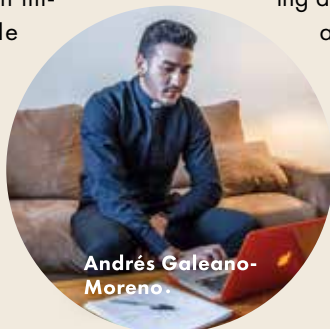
English on the early Church fathers, which is his favorite. “I’ve enjoyed learning about them,” MacNeill says, especially about how they confronted problems similar to those today.”

Going to school so far from home and coming back to

Connecticut, he says, has given him a new perspective on his vocation. Home for MacNeill is Annunciation Parish in Newington. During school breaks, he assisted at St. Damien of Molokai Parish in Windsor.

“Being away makes you fonder of the place and know why you chose it,” he says. “Coming back to the archdiocese, there’s so much appreciation for being here. It’s more apparent, that I’m called to be here in the archdiocese for the rest of my life.”

MacNeill is hoping to spend part of his summer in a parish, assisting with the sacraments. He says, “They show us that God is present to us always.” **CT**



“NEVER STOP PRAYING. BE HONEST WITH CHRIST THE LORD, AND ASK FOR WISDOM AND TO BE ENLIGHTENED. WE ARE WHO GOD CALLS US TO BE.”

— Jaime Maldonado-Avilés

Rico, earned a doctorate at the University of Pittsburgh’s Center for Neuroscience and landed a post-doctoral fellowship at Yale University, where his research focused on addiction, depression and eating disorders.

During the last year of his fellowship, Maldonado-Avilés, who was applying for jobs, had an epiphany. “I had to give a presentation to people in a lab,” he recalls. “I’m discussing data, they’re asking questions, I’m calculating what needs to be done, and I’m thinking ‘Is this going to be the rest of my life? Do I really want to be doing this, dedicating my life and efforts?’”

In that moment, he says, God was asking him to reassess his life. Maldonado-Avilés recalls having “a sense of incompleteness” and felt he was “being called to something else.” So he decided to discern a vocation to the priesthood, a call that had been tugging at him for years.

“I’m not discerning alone,” Maldonado-Avilés says. “The diocese is discerning if I have the traits for a priest and the seminary is discerning, too. In the end you have to say ‘yes’ in freedom and in faith. Faith is what’s not seen. We need to trust in God. Freedom is when you choose to say no to other things.”

Raised by Catholic parents, who he describes as “excellent witnesses of living out the faith,” Maldonado-Avilés began his faith journey in Puerto Rico.

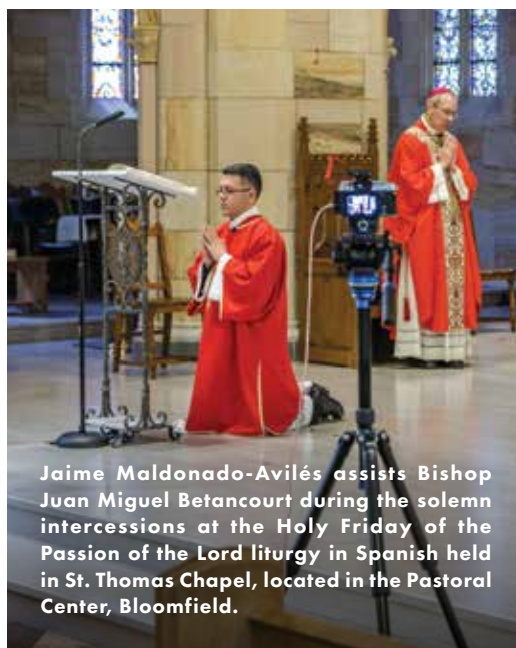
He was also influenced by Father Robert Soler, “a priest who celebrated the sacraments with dignity and faith,” Maldonado-Avilés says, “but also came and visited our home.”

TIME FOR COMPASSION

Once he is ordained, Maldonado-Avilés is looking forward to spiritually supporting parishioners. “I’d like to be able to accompany people, just be there with those who need to laugh and with those who need to cry, and to provide them with access to the sacraments,” he says.



Jaime Maldonado-Avilés poses with Auxiliary Bishops Peter A. Rosazza and Juan Miguel Betancourt after his ordination to the transitional diaconate at St. Louis Church in West Haven last year.



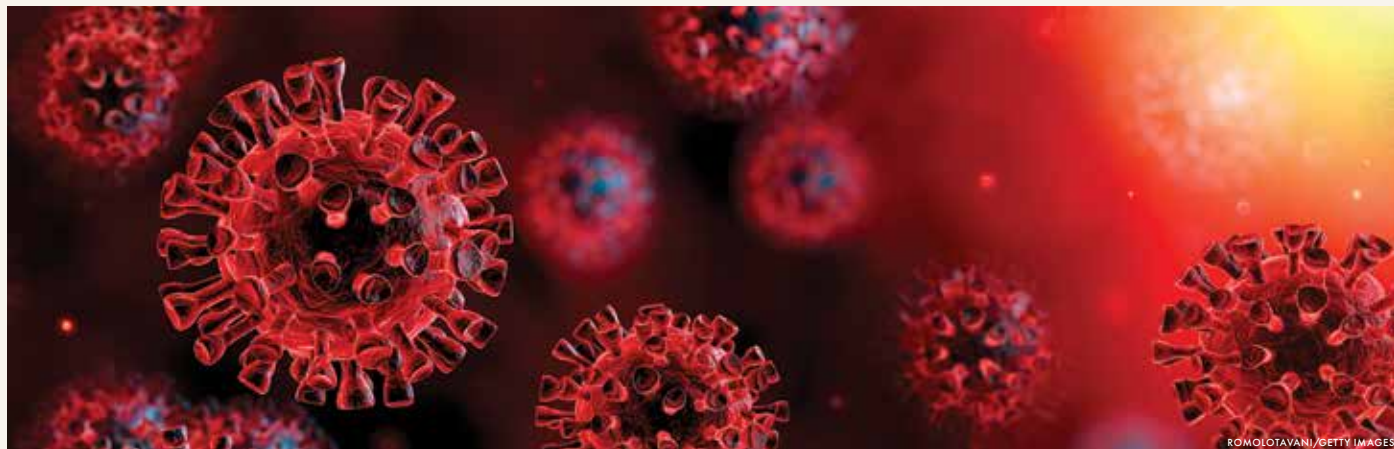
Jaime Maldonado-Avilés assists Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt during the solemn intercessions at the Holy Friday of the Passion of the Lord liturgy in Spanish held in St. Thomas Chapel, located in the Pastoral Center, Bloomfield.

He also believes he will need to make an extra effort to reach out following the conclusion of the stay home order, which canceled all public Masses and liturgies in the churches throughout the archdiocese.

“We can’t assume that once this is over, people will return to the faith,” Maldonado-Avilés says. “We’ll need to be compassionate and call them back to repentance and to the joy of the Gospel.”

His advice to others who may be considering a vocation to the priesthood? “Never stop praying,” he says. “Be honest with Christ the Lord, and ask for wisdom and to be enlightened. We are who God calls us to be.” **CT**

THE HARTFORD BISHOPS' FOUNDATION LAUNCHES EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND TO SUPPORT PARISH COMMUNITIES IMPACTED BY COVID-19



ROMOLO TAVANI/GETTY IMAGES

The Hartford Bishops' Foundation has established an Emergency Response Fund to support parishes and ministries facing critical operational and emergency needs arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.



"As COVID-19 takes a human and economic toll on all in its path, the Foundation has temporarily shifted its priorities to provide im-

mediate and critical support to our parishes and ministries that need our help," says Jim Smith, general chairman of the Hartford Bishops' Foundation.

As of April 2020, the Foundation has raised nearly **\$250,000** toward the Emergency Response Fund and is actively seeking support from individuals and organizations to secure additional funding. With the funds received, the Foundation will quickly direct grants toward parishes and ministries with urgent needs.

"We need to act now to help our faith communities get through this crisis," says Bill McLean, acting executive director of The Hartford Bishops' Foundation. "When sacramental life was disrupted in March, there was an immediate impact on parishes, Catholic schools and social service programs. The Emergency Response Fund is an opportunity for all of us to come together to support the vitality of our parishes and ministries by helping to restore what has been lost. We hope that all Catholics will continue to support their parishes through direct contributions as well."

Beyond the Emergency Response Fund, personnel from the Foundation and the **Forward with Faith** Campaign office are working directly with pastors to develop and implement outreach programs — including livestreaming of Masses, website enhancements and online giving capabilities — to keep

parishioners engaged and supporting their offertory even while normal collection activities are suspended.

"One of our immediate priorities is to help equip every parish with the tools and resources they need to engage their parishioners at home through new communications channels and technologies, both now and into the future," McLean says.

When asked about the Foundation's response to the pandemic, Smith stressed the importance of flexibility, speed and generosity in times of crisis, noting it's natural and appropriate that the Foundation is taking on a lead role alongside the Archdiocese of Hartford.

"This is precisely why The Hartford Bishops' Foundation was created — to gather and distribute resources that address the extraordinary needs of our parishes, schools and ministries, and to support services that are vital to the well being of our parishioners and communities," Smith says. "Our Board of Directors stands with Archbishop Leonard Blair, our parishes and the archdiocese as we work together to chart the course forward."

TO SUPPORT the Emergency Response Fund or apply for funding, visit hartfordbishopsfoundation.org.

About the Emergency Response Fund

The Hartford Bishops' Foundation is currently accepting applications on a rolling basis over the funding period — expected to last 90 to 180 days — for one-time grants that are projected to range from approximately \$5,000 to \$50,000. Further details on funding priorities and how to apply are available on the Foundation website listed above.

ST. ALOYSIUS: *Brilliant Young Man, Merciful Caretaker of the Sick*

FEAST DAY: JUNE 21

“Jesus and Mary” were Aloysius Gonzaga’s first words, according to tradition. That became the motto for his life. Aloysius was born on March 9, 1568, in the Castle of Castiglione in Italy. Headed for life as a nobleman, at the

age of 8 he was sent to Francesco de’ Medici’s palace in Florence as a page. At 12, he went to Brescia, where he met St. Charles Borromeo and was deeply influenced by him, which helped sow the seeds of a religious vocation.

In 1581, Aloysius went to Madrid, Spain, where his father placed him and his brother as pages to the son of King Philip II. At court, Aloysius was drawn to the Discalced Carmelites, but decided to become a Jesuit instead.

He went back to Italy in 1584 and, after many arguments with his father, renounced his inheritance in favor of his brother. The renunciation was such a serious matter that it required the approval of the emperor. Aloysius then

went to Father Claudius Acquaviva, who accepted him into the Jesuit Order on Nov. 25, 1585, when Aloysius was 17.

Aloysius was a brilliant philosopher, even as a teen. In 1591, during his fourth year of theology at the University of Alcalá in Spain, a plague broke out in Italy. Although he was in frail health due to a lifelong kidney ailment, he took care of the sick and dying. He contracted the plague himself and died of it in Rome on June 21, 1591, at the age of 23.

ST. ALOYSIUS PARISH PRAYER FOR GOOD STEWARDSHIP

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.

Through your goodness we have been blessed with all that we are and all that we have.

We beg you, in your mercy, give open hearts and generous spirit to the parishioners of St. Aloysius Parish, that we might be true partners with the Church in carrying out the mission given to us by Jesus.

Loving Father, we implore you to send the Holy Spirit upon us, that all might be moved to support our parish ministries, contributing time, talent or treasure.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



A statue of St. Aloysius has been placed in an alcove in St. Aloysius Parish, Plantsville.

PHOTO BY KAREN A. AVITABILE

St. Aloysius Parish Honors Its Patron Saint

BY SHELLEY WOLF

Father Ronald Zepecki, a former history teacher, knew nothing about his new parish’s patron saint when he was assigned in 2017 as pastor of St. Aloysius Parish in Plantsville.

“When I came here three years ago, I began reading about him and I fell in love with him,” he says.

Today, Father Zepecki now guides his parishioners to reflect on their patron saint through prayer, sacred art and a parish feast. “St. Aloysius Parish Prayer for Good Stewardship” (printed on this page) is included in each missalette.

A statue of St. Aloysius, which was recently repainted, is positioned in an alcove at St. Aloysius Church. “He wears a cassock and surplice

because he was a seminarian,” Father Zepecki explains. “He holds a cross,” which represents the Passion of St. Matthew. “He read the Passion of St. Matthew every day and had a devotion to him.”

A stained-glass window of St. Aloysius depicts the young man kneeling at an altar. “The skull represents everything he gave up to follow Jesus,” Father Zepecki says.

To honor the Italian saint, Father Zepecki introduced an Italian feast. “Around June 21, I hire an orchestra and the parishioners come in for food — all Italian food,” he says. “And I bring the statue into the parish hall. We get people of all ages, who dance and eat or just sit and listen to the music.” **CT**

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100TH ANNIVERSARY VIDEO

View the 100th Anniversary Video for St. Thomas the Apostle Parish



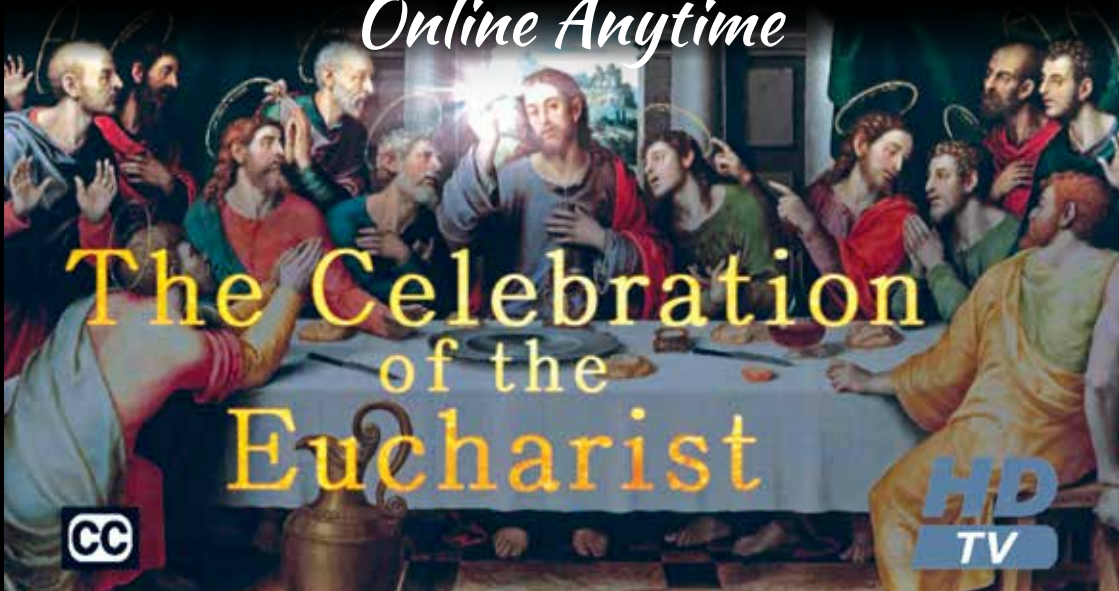
PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

See a slide show of the inside of The Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Waterbury



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A Church for All People

Marking its 100th anniversary, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish honors the past, builds its future.

Story by **SHELLEY WOLF**

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in West Hartford considers itself “a church for all people.”



Father Edward M. Moran, pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish.

“No matter what your current family and marital situation, no matter your personal history, age, background, race; no matter what your own self-image, you are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved and respected here,” according to its mission

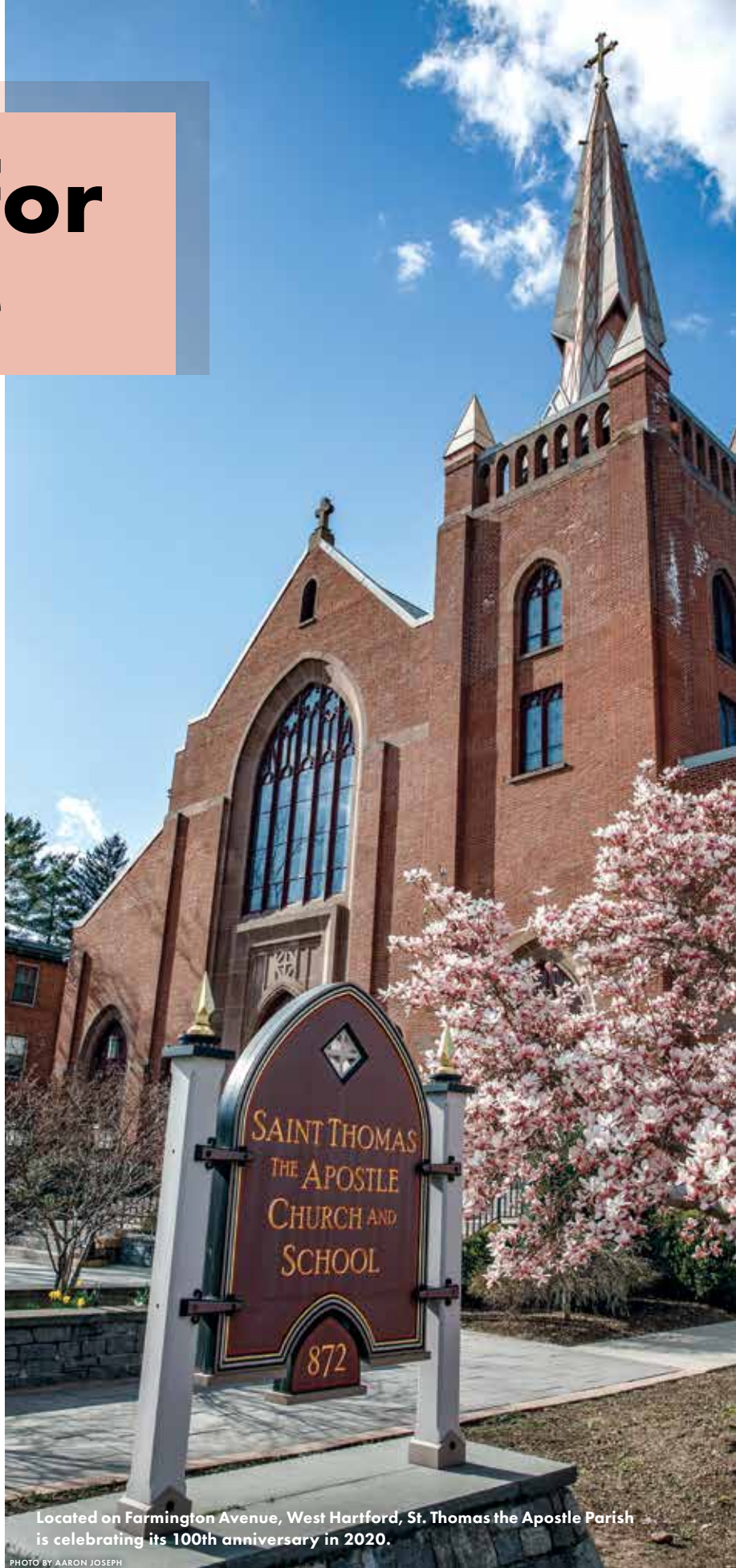
statement, which is recited by Father Edward M. Moran, pastor, in the parish’s 100th anniversary video that can be viewed on its website, stawh.org.

This year, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish on Farmington Avenue is marking its 100th anniversary and has adopted the theme of “Honoring Our Past, Building Our Future.”

Father Moran, who has spent 25 of his 40 years as a priest ministering to the people of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, says he has found his home here. “What makes me happiest is I’ve found a family,” he says.

During the pandemic, the Church was decorated outside for Easter to lift the spirits of its members, who were also invited to share messages of hope and love in a video posted on the parish website.

St. Thomas the Apostle offers a number of unique



Located on Farmington Avenue, West Hartford, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2020.

PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH



parish ministries, including Little Lambs for preschoolers, the Children’s Rosary, Crossfire for young adults, four different choirs and a monthly Divine Mercy prayer hour. Parish ministry updates were also posted online during the pandemic.

SECOND CATHOLIC PARISH IN TOWN

Established in 1920, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish was the second Catholic parish in West Hartford. Its first parishioners gathered in a portable wooden structure on the corner of Quaker Lane and Boulevard, until land was purchased on the corner of Farmington Avenue and Dover Road.

A basement chapel was erected in 1926, and parishioners worshiped there for decades, until the current brick church was added on top and dedicated in 1951. The brick façade was erected in the Gothic style with a tower and steeple to the right of the main entrance. A beautiful stained-glass window with quatrefoil design is located above the center door, and glass transoms let in light above the inner doors.

A frieze of witnesses to the Crucifixion flanks both sides of the crucifix, all located on the wall behind the main altar. A giant tapestry of Jesus, in contemporary style, is draped on the right of the altar.

St. Thomas the Apostle is a leader in encouraging interfaith cooperation. It has joined the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Hartford in co-sponsoring “Common Ground — Holy Ground,” an interfaith panel discussion intended to promote mutual understanding between members of the three Abrahamic faiths. The panel has included spiritual leaders from Beth David Synagogue, located directly across the street from the church, and from the Farmington Valley American Muslim Center Inc., a nonprofit, religious organization based in Avon.

“They were very well received,” Father Moran says of the talks, “and there will be more to come. We

St. Thomas, Pray For Us

O Saint Thomas,

We pray that through your intercession

We may be protected from all trials, dangers and temptations and be strengthened

In the love of your triune God, Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(This prayer was reprinted from 40daysofprayer.org.)



TO SEE the 100th anniversary video for St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, visit stawh.org.

are blessed in having a great relationship with Rabbi Adler and Beth David.” Beth Rabbi Yitzchok Adler has been Beth David’s rabbi since 1995.

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish is known for its very public expressions of Catholic social teaching. In 2018, for instance, parishioners joined in prayer in front of the church, then walked through downtown West Hartford carrying signs as they marched in solidarity with migrants and refugees as part of Pope Francis’ Caritas Internationalis “Share the Journey” campaign, which was launched in 2017.

The parish runs a Catholic elementary school that was constructed on Dover Road in 1937. It was originally staffed by the Sisters of Mercy and later by the Ursuline Sisters. By 1989, the elementary school graduates went on to St. Timothy Middle School, a joint educational venture with St. Timothy Parish in West Hartford.


Today, St. Thomas the Apostle School serves students in pre-kindergarten through grade 5. This year, the elementary school is celebrating 83 years of excellence in spirituality, scholarship and service.

HOLY LAND TRIP PLANNED

Father Moran is hopeful that a scheduled pilgrimage to the Holy Land that he is leading later this year to mark the parish anniversary will still be able to be made.

“If we go, we want to walk in the footsteps of Jesus,” he says. “He is the heart and soul of this parish. What better place to celebrate his presence among us?”

A trip to the Holy Land, Father Moran adds, will make the Gospel come alive as parishioners walk in the steps of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. He strongly believes that everyone should plan at least one trip there in their lifetime.

Highlights of the pilgrimage will include visits to holy sites at Capernaum, Nazareth, the Jordan River, Jerusalem and Bethlehem. 

The interior of the Church shows off Brescia marble columns. Visible over the High Altar is the baldachin with marble columns and a canopy in gilded wood. The semi-dome is done in a textured gold mosaic, representing the subject of the Immaculate Conception.

A Living Symbol of Faith

The Basilica of the Immaculate Conception has a rich history in Waterbury.

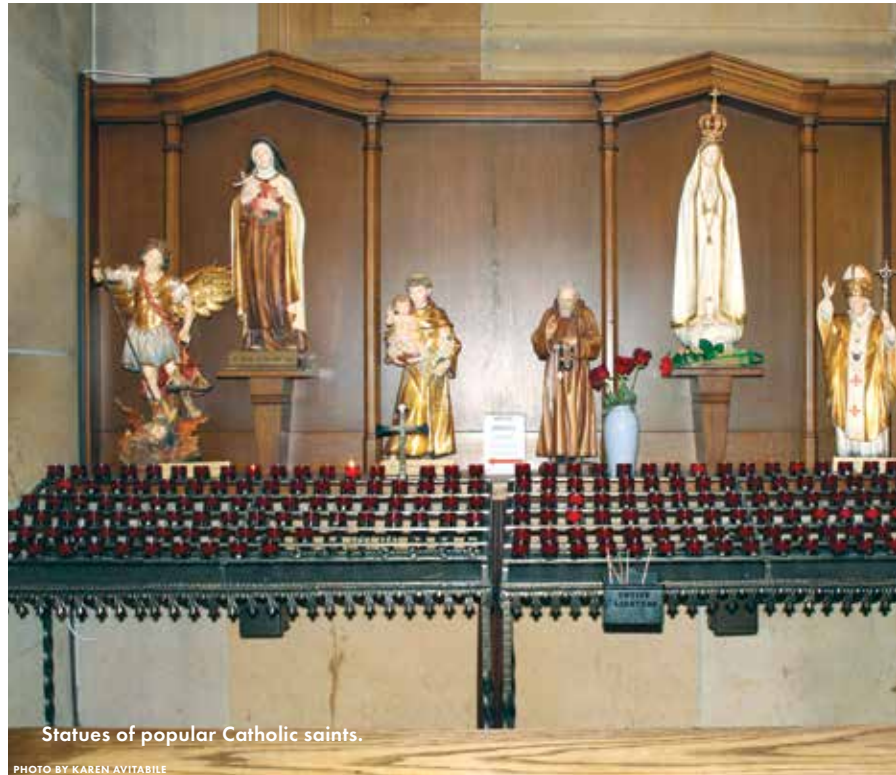
Story by **KAREN A. AVITABILE**

PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH



The statue of Mary is "one of the centerpieces of the Basilica," Father James Sullivan says. "Everyone has a love for Mary."

PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH



Statues of popular Catholic saints.

PHOTO BY KAREN AVITABILE



The original parish of The Basilica of the Immaculate Conception has been a living symbol of faith, beauty and devotion in the city of Waterbury for nearly 175 years.

Long referred to as the Mother Church of Waterbury and beyond, The Basilica of the Immaculate Conception is a special Church to visit to view its impeccable architectural appointments, the decorous old altar, the Communion railing, patterned marble flooring, the capacious sanctuary, the bronze pulpit and the huge windows reminiscent of the Italian Renaissance period.

“To be assigned here is beautiful,” Father James M. Sullivan, pastor, says while emphasizing the Basilica’s “beauty, history, art and the sacramental life.”


Father Sullivan’s affinity to the Basilica dates back to regularly attending the 6:15 a.m. daily Mass while still working as a contractor. He celebrated his very first Mass at the Basilica after he was ordained a priest on May 17, 2014. “This church has an incredible history and has always been the loving and embracing arms of a mother,” he says.

The Church traces its roots to 1847, when a Catholic community created a parish under the patronage of St. Peter. Ten years later, St. Peter Church was renamed to honor the recently proclaimed dogma of the Immaculate Conception. Ground was broken for the current Church building – which is based on the design of the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome – in 1924. It was dedicated on May 20, 1928.

The bestowal of a “minor basilica,” which sets the church apart in rank from other churches, was conferred upon the parish church dedicated to God in honor of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary by Pope Benedict XVI on Feb. 9, 2008.

For the past 25 years, the Basilica has used a chapel for perpetual eucharistic adoration 24 hours a day, seven days a week, except Holy Thursday at night until after the Easter Vigil Mass. During the coronavirus, adoration was moved to the church. The priests have been celebrating Mass in the chapel by themselves.

Because of its beauty, designation as a basilica and location halfway between Boston and New York, The Basilica of the Immaculate Conception has been “a place for destination weddings,” Father Sullivan says. “It’s everyone’s parish.”

A virtual, 3-D church tour of the Basilica has been recently completed and is available for viewing on the Basilica website as well as the website for the Archdiocese of Hartford, archdioceseofhartford.org. Currently, the Basilica is open daily, 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information, visit waterburybasilica.org or call 203.574.0017. 

EDITOR’S NOTE: *At Christmastime, The Basilica of the Immaculate Conception began livestreaming Masses and posting them on Facebook. So the priests were ready to continue celebrating all Masses and reciting the Rosary and the Stations of the Cross when public Masses and liturgies were canceled for the duration of the coronavirus. “We were ahead of the curve,” says Father James M. Sullivan, pastor, who says there has been thousands of viewers. “We want the people to know we are alive, it’s a joy to have you with us.”*

PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH



The adoration chapel has been a private place of worship, 24 hours a day. Since public masses were suspended due to the COVID-19 outbreak, priests at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception have been saying daily Mass in the adoration chapel. Adoration is currently taking place in the Church.

SPIRITUAL PRIVILEGES FOR VISITORS

Spiritual benefits are attached to the bestowal of a minor basilica. All Catholics who are properly disposed may seek a plenary indulgence by visiting The Basilica of the Immaculate Conception on one of the days below and fulfilling conditions outlined on the website.

■ **Feb. 9:** Date of the concession of the title of minor basilica in 2008 conferred on the Church.

■ **May 20:** Date of the dedication of the Church of the Immaculate Conception in 1928.

■ **June 29:** Solemnity of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul.

■ **Aug. 14:** Death of Father Michael McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus, who died on Aug. 14, 1890. He was born in Waterbury on Aug. 12, 1852.

■ **Dec. 8:** Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin.

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Social Well-being for Seniors

Catholic Charities offers programs, activities for older adults.

Story and photos by **JACK SHEEDY**

Rosa Baez is using the grace of God to help seniors every day. A health coordinator at the Hispanic Senior Center in Hartford, run by Catholic Charities, she says she is “giving back and paying it forward.”

“God has given us grace, our different ministries and skills,” Baez says. “So we are giving back. ... We love what we do. We love our seniors.”

The center is one of many programs Catholic Charities offers at the Institute for the Hispanic Family, at 45 Wadsworth St.

Eighty percent of seniors served at the Hispanic Senior Center live alone, says Migdalia Diaz, who coordinates activities here. The center makes seniors feel welcome by offering bingo, Dominoes, exercise, cooking, sewing, games and activities to interact with children.

Sigifreda Ossa enjoys similar services run by Catholic Charities at Hartford’s South End Wellness Senior Center, at 830 Maple Ave. “It’s a beautiful, beautiful place,” he says. “The people are very, very friendly.”

Both centers open their doors daily and welcome a community of area seniors, 55 and older. Joel Cruz, director of the Institute for the Hispanic Family who oversees both centers, says they offer enriching and rewarding programs to encourage seniors to socialize, learn and just have fun.

“We respect everybody,” says Franciszka Sadowski, on-site director of the South End Wellness Senior Center. “If you don’t have a car or you don’t have a house, that’s not

important. I’m here to make friends. I’m not here to judge people. We all are gifts from God. Everybody’s life is precious.”

The South End Wellness Senior Center provides a spacious dining/activities room, a conference room, a nurse’s office, a ceramics shop, game rooms and even hair-cutting services.

“We have a barber who comes on Monday and volunteers his time,” Sadowski adds. Tips are welcome, but the haircuts are free, as part of the center’s \$20 annual membership fee.

The South End Wellness Senior Center offers a wide range of exercise classes, as well as legal aid, prevention programs, a pharmacy, flu clinics, hearing aid services, \$2 lunches and a visiting farmers market. The center organizes outings too at a nominal cost.

“We provide happiness,” Sadowski says. “You don’t need to be stuck at home and look at the soap operas on TV that go 20 or 30 years. No, you come here, you socialize. You want to read the Bible, you read the Bible. You want to go on computer, you go on computer.” **✪**

Donations to the Archbishop’s Annual Appeal represent about

10%

of revenue that Catholic Charities receives.



Jaime Gomez, left, and Al Reese share a laugh in the pool room at South End Wellness Senior Center.

EDITOR’S NOTE: As Catholic Charities marks 100 years of service in the Archdiocese of Hartford during 2020, the Catholic Transcript has been highlighting some of its programs. Although both senior centers featured here temporarily closed during the stay-at-home efforts to curb the coronavirus, staff provided check-ins and delivered meals to seniors who needed them for the duration of the crisis.



Senior Center Member Succumbs to Coronavirus

Luz Correa, a senior who has been utilizing services at the Hispanic Senior Center for 20 years, pictured in the center, died of complications from the coronavirus. Here is what she had to say about the Hispanic Senior Center when she was interviewed for this story:

“This is the first place that I visit each day, and I’m very happy,” Correa said. “If I don’t come here and I had to stay home, I would be in a big depression. The people here are really nice people.”

She is pictured with Migdalia Diaz, coordinator at Hispanic Senior Center, left, and Rosa Baez, health coordinator at the center, right.

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



PHOTO BY DAVID ELLIOTT

EVANGELIZING FOR THEIR COMMUNITY



PHOTO BY KAREN A. AVITABILE



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP PHOTO: Social distancing during a meeting are, left to right clockwise: Father George S. Mukuka, Father Matthew Gworék, Archbishop Leonard P. Blair, Sister Mary Grace Walsh and Monsignor James Shanley. On Holy Saturday, many people made a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Lourdes in Litchfield to pray the Stations of the Cross. Father Ronald May, pastor of the Church of St. Dominic, Southington, shares recipes during his cooking show on Facebook. During the canceling of public Masses, ORTV has been placing pictures of viewers on the empty chairs during the broadcast of the daily Mass.

PHOTO BY KAREN A. AVITABILE

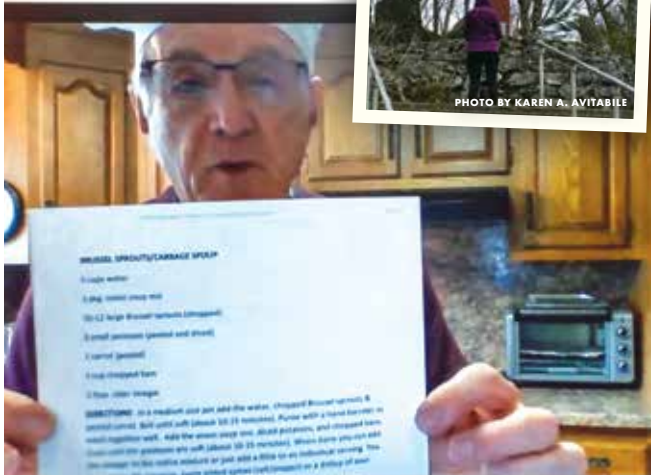
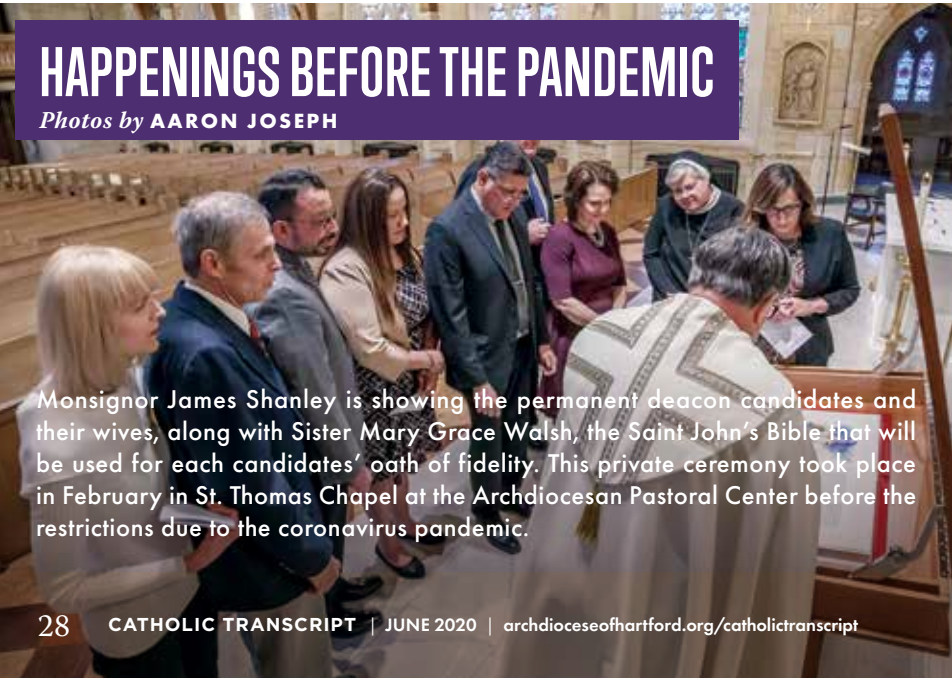


PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

AROUND THE

HAPPENINGS BEFORE THE PANDEMIC

Photos by AARON JOSEPH



Monsignor James Shanley is showing the permanent deacon candidates and their wives, along with Sister Mary Grace Walsh, the Saint John's Bible that will be used for each candidates' oath of fidelity. This private ceremony took place in February in St. Thomas Chapel at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center before the restrictions due to the coronavirus pandemic.



The four permanent deacon candidates make a profession of faith in the presence of their wives, Monsignor James Shanley and Sister Mary Grace Walsh. The four permanent deacon candidates are, from left to right: Paul Francis Travers, Confesol Rodriguez, Angel Luis Garcia and Alan Joseph Bielawski.



PHOTO BY KAREN A. AVITABILE



PHOTO BY KAREN A. AVITABILE



PHOTO BY DAVID ELLIOTT



PHOTO BY KAREN A. AVITABILE

CLOCKWISE FROM THE TOP, LEFT: Before confessions were canceled because of the pandemic, Father Joseph Cronin, pastor of St. Thomas Parish, Southington, hears confessions in his car outside the rectory. Father James Sullivan, pastor of The Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Waterbury, sets up his cell phone to livestream the daily Mass. Archbishop Leonard P. Blair leads the recitation of the Rosary in St. Thomas Chapel at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center. The archbishop was the main celebrant during Palm Sunday Mass.

ARCHDIOCESE



In February, before the coronavirus restrictions prevented large gatherings, Deacon Ernie Scrivani, a Lay Carmelite of the Ancient Observance and director of the Office of Pastoral Services for the Archdiocese of Hartford, gave a presentation entitled "My Journey with the Saints" at Frassati on Tap at Stony Creek Brewery in Branford. He encouraged all present to be open to whomever wants to be their God-given friend; for we do not choose them, they choose us, he says.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

EDITOR'S NOTE: *At press time, the events listed here were scheduled. For the latest updates, call the phone numbers listed or check the websites provided for each event.*

BISHOP PETER ROSAZZA SOCIAL JUSTICE VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

The 2020 Bishop Peter Rosazza Social Justice Conference, "Rooted in Faith — Opening Wide Our Hearts," by the Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry of the Archdiocese of Hartford, will take a new format this year. Its theme, "Open Wide Our Hearts," will be offered as a year-long online conference that begins **June 6**, 10 a.m. in English, and 1 p.m. in Spanish.

The conference is designed as a means to familiarize participants with "Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love — A Pastoral Letter Against Racism." This letter is a call of conversion of hearts and minds to a love that respects human dignity and unites everyone in Christ.

The conference will begin on June 6 with a 90-minute webinar featuring Alejandro Aguilera-Titus, national coordinator for the *V Encuentro*, and lead staff for Hispanic ministry for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops under the Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church. Aguilera-Titus will provide an overview of the main themes in the bishops' letter.

The virtual conference will continue throughout the year with monthly webinars and events. Future topics will include: institutional racism, the Hispanic experience and the influence of racism in health care and human trafficking. This special opportunity to learn and grow together will culminate in a full conference at the Pastoral Center in Bloomfield in June 2021.

The first webinar is free and open to the public. Advanced registration is required and is available online at catholicsocial-justice.org or by calling 860.242.5573 ext. 2688. The second webinar is set for **July 8**, 7 p.m.

WJMJ RADIO-THON SET

WJMJ is one of Connecticut's most popular radio stations and is operated by the Archdiocese of Hartford Office of Radio and Television. WJMJ is a non-commercial radio station and is listener-supported by fundraising events twice a year, including biannual radio-thons. The next radio-thon will run **June 11 to**

15. During this time, listeners will have the opportunity to pledge a donation by calling 877.342.5656 or make a credit card donation on the station's website, wjmj.org.

FRANCISCAN SPORTS BANQUET TO HONOR ELI MANNING

The 35th annual Franciscan Sports Banquet and Silent Auction will be held on **Sept. 1**, 5:30 to 9 p.m., at the Aqua Turf Club, Plantsville. Sports celebrities to be honored for their Christian values include Eli Manning, legendary quarterback of the New York Giants; Jackie DiNardo, head girls' basketball coach of Danbury High School; Andy Bessette, executive vice president and chief administrative officer of Travelers; Nathan Grube, executive director of the Travelers Championship; Rich Marazzi, author and Major League Baseball rules consultant; Tom and Donna Finn, marriage and family advocates; Special Olympics Connecticut; and others. Tickets, which include dinner, are \$65. The event benefits the Franciscan Life Center and Franciscan Home Care and Hospice Care. To R.S.V.P. and for tickets, call 203.237.8084 or visit flcenter.org.

MALTA HOUSE OF CARE'S WONDER WOMEN CLASS OF '20

Malta House of Care has rescheduled the Wonder Women Class of '20 event to **Oct. 21**, 6 to 8:30 p.m., at the Hartford Marriott Downtown Hotel. All proceeds will support the Malta House of Care Mobile Medical Clinic, an independent non-profit that provides free primary care to the uninsured adults on a van that goes to four Hartford-area neighborhoods each week. For more information and to R.V.S.P, visit malthouseofcare.org/wonder-women-20.

REGISTER WITH YOUR PARISH

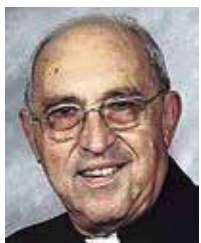
If you have been attending the same parish but have not registered, now is the time to do so. Becoming a member allows your parish the ability to reach out to you and let you know about upcoming events, and prayer and volunteer opportunities. All registered parishioners will also receive a copy of the *Catholic Transcript*, mailed free 10 times a year. Call the church office to register and officially join your church community.

Deacon James F. Papillo died on March 21, 2020. He was ordained at St. Joseph's Cathedral in Hartford by the Most Rev. Henry J. Mansell on June 12, 2004. First assigned at St. Peter Claver Parish in West Hartford, he would later be assigned to serve at Sacred Heart Parish in Bloomfield, St. Ann Parish in New Britain, St. Luke Parish in Hartford and the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Waterbury.



Rev. David Lewandowski died on March 31, 2020, after a brief illness. He was born in Torrington on Nov. 6, 1929, son of the late Chester and Helen (Koczur) Lewandowski. He attended local schools and entered St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield in 1943 and graduated in 1949. He continued his study in philosophy and theology at St. Bernard's Seminary in Rochester, N.Y., from 1949 and graduated in 1955. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 19, 1955, by Archbishop Henry J. O'Brien at St. Joseph's Cathedral in Hartford.

He served as assistant priest at St. Thomas Church in Thomaston from August 1955 to 1959, then served at St. Stanislaus Church in Waterbury from 1959 to 1966. From there, he was sent to serve at Sacred Heart Church in New Britain and also served as principal of Sacred Heart School from 1969 to 1974 and as priest director from 1974 to 1977. In July 1977, he was appointed administrator and then pastor of St. Hedwig Church in Union City until 1992. He was then appointed pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Southington from 1992 until Nov. 26, 2004. During that pastorate, a religious education center was constructed and dedicated in 2005. He retired from parish administration in November 2004 and resided at the family home in Bristol. During the next 12 years, while health permitted, he assisted local Bristol parishes in the celebration of Masses and administration of the sacraments.



Rev. Joseph R. DeCarolis, 87, died peacefully on March 31, 2020. He was born on April 22, 1932, in Bristol, a son of the late John and Mariannina (Rizzi) DeCarolis. He graduated from Bristol High School and entered St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield. He then entered St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, Md., and was ordained in St. Joseph's Cathedral on May 18, 1959. His first assignment was at St. Paul's Church in Berlin, then Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Meriden, Immaculate Heart of Mary in Harwinton, St. Anthony of Padua in Litchfield and St. Pius X in Wolcott; his final assignment was at St. Anthony Church in Prospect.



Deacon Eugene P. Nebiolo, 96, of Southington, died on April 16, 2020. He was born on Sept. 23, 1923, in Torrington and was the son of the late Secondo and Egidia (Saracco) Nebiolo. A 1941 graduate of Torrington High School, he served during World War II with the U.S. Marine Corps and received a Purple Heart for wounds received in action during the battle for

Okinawa. He was a 1950 graduate of St. Michael's College, receiving a bachelor's degree in chemistry. He later earned a master's degree in chemistry from Brooklyn Polytech. He took post-graduate courses at

Newark College, Seton Hall, Northeastern and Central Connecticut State University. A 1989 retiree from the Stanley Works Corporate Laboratory, he enrolled in the Archdiocese of Hartford Diaconate Program and was ordained in 1993. He served his home parish of the Church of St. Dominic in Southington for more than 25 years. Prior to the Stanley Works, he worked at Stanley Chemical, Baltimore Paint and Color, Interchemical Corp. and the Hercules Powder Co.

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

- **Deacon Carmelo Hernandez**, senior status, effective March 2, 2020.
- Archbishop Blair is pleased to announce that at his request, Pope Francis has honored two archdiocesan priests by naming them chaplains of his holiness with the title of monsignor: **Monsignor James A. Shanley** and **Monsignor Robert F. Tucker**.
- **Deacon John H. Charles**, senior status, effective March 13, 2020.
- **Rev. Anthony J. Smith**, temporary administrator, St. Mary Magdalen Parish, Oakville, effective March 15, 2020, in addition to duties as pastor, St. John the Evangelist Parish, Watertown.
- **Rev. Michael S. Galasso**, senior status, effective May 5, 2020.

— REV. RYAN M. LERNER, CHANCELLOR, APRIL 21, 2020



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

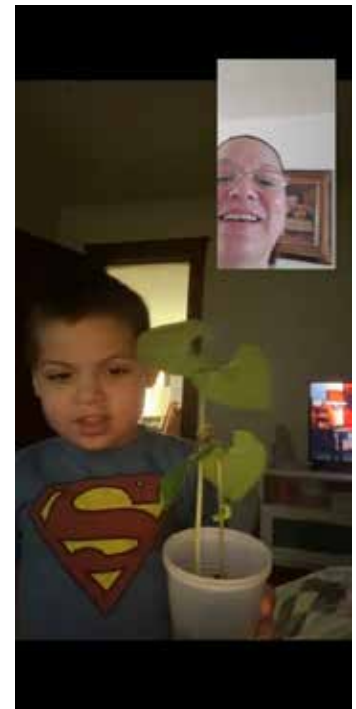


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