The Call: A youth minister’s journey to Religious life

By Melissa McNally
Editor

BERKELEY HEIGHTS—“True love involves sacrifices,” said Jennifer Draeger, 25, director of youth ministry at Little Flower Parish. For her, “true love” is a passion for Christ and a desire to enter religious life.

The thought of living without a cell phone, an e-mail address, Facebook and other modern conveniences would make any young adult balk. Starting Aug. 15, Draeger and other young women will do just that as they begin the process of entering the Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia in Nashville, TN (http://nashvilledominican.org).

Founded in 1860, the order’s charism, or religious community identity, includes contemplative focus, an active apostolate, strong community life and a deep love for the Church.

Raised in Munnomy County, Draeger’s family fulfilled what she terms the “checklist” of how to be good practicing Catholics: they went to Mass, celebrated the Sacraments, said grace before meals, etc. “During my Confirmation, what it meant to be Catholic became more real. I wanted God to be in every part of my life. I became more involved in religious activities. That became a catalyst for my whole family to place God at the center of our hearts and values,” she explained.

Draeger first discerned a call to religious life in her senior year at Saint John Vianney High School in Holmdel. While attending a young adult conference in New England with more than 3,000 teens and young adults, she felt within herself an openness toward becoming a vowed Religious.

“During the conference, a speaker asked if anyone is open to vocations. There were hundreds of us who considered entering Religious life. We moved to the front of the room and he asked everyone to pray for us.”

After graduating from high school, she attended Providence College, a private, Catholic institution founded in 1917 by the Diocese of Providence and the Dominican Friars of the Province of Saint Joseph. “While in college, my clear sense of love for the Dominicans grew. I strengthened my desire for vocations,” Draeger explained. During her college years she travelled to parishes, gave retreats and participated in service projects. In her senior year, she applied for the youth minister position at Little Flower Parish on Catholicjobs.com. For the past three years, she has worked with teenagers and young adults in the Union County parish.

“I helped to prepare young people for Confirmation and helped teens grow closer to Christ. We coordinated a weekly youth mass, organized service projects and retreats, and sent a group of young people to World Youth Day in Madrid. This year, a few of us will be going to Rio de Janeiro,” she said. Peter St. Lawrence, a former assistant football coach at Don Bosco Preparatory School, Ramsey, will be taking over for Draeger at the parish.

While working with young adults, she still felt a deep yearning to enter Religious life. Last May, she began her discernment and considered different venues. “You would never think about marrying someone if you hadn’t been on a date,” Draeger quipped. A college friend who is a Catholic lay evangelist suggested the Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia.

“I went on an informal, intimate retreat with three other girls in Nashville. It just felt like home. It was the best four days of my life and a beautiful experience,” Draeger explained. “The Dominican charism of proclaiming the truth and living the truth of our faith resonated with my soul. The order was founded in the Middle Ages to combat heresy. Saint Dominic saw the need for religious communities to articulate their faith. That radical proclamation of love for the Dominicans grew. I strengthened my desire for vocations,” Draeger explained. During her college years she travelled to parishes, gave retreats and participated in service projects. In her senior year, she applied for the youth minister position at Little Flower Parish on Catholicjobs.com. For the past three years, she has worked with teenagers and young adults in the Union County parish.

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With The Catholic Advocate Online
Archdiocese Expands Digital Connections

Welcome to the premier edition of The Catholic Advocate Online. As you can see, its format is much the same as the printed edition the Archdiocese of Newark published for more than 60 years, until we decided to expand our communications efforts with an array of new choices.

These options offer exciting additional opportunities to connect with the 1.2 million Catholics who live in this great archdiocese, and who have seen their personal methods of communicating changed greatly in these fast-paced times.

Much to the chagrin of the Postal Service, how many of us now pay bills on-line, or only watch shows on network television? And, instead of calling, how many of us let our thumbs do the talking on the keypads of our smartphones?

The Catholic Advocate has changed but it’s still all about news and interesting feature stories. “Around the Archdiocese,” pastoral announcements, “Health and Senior News” are still here and editor Melissa McNally, an Advocate staff writer for seven years, continues to pound the archdiocesan beat. She welcomes your news releases, pictures, story ideas and other items at mcnally@rcan.org

Meanwhile, we invite you to follow the Archdiocese on Facebook, Twitter and Blogger. These outlets provide “breaking news” of our schools and parishes, as well as national and world events affecting the Church, the Vatican and Pope Francis. So like/follow the Archdiocesan pages and get engaged in our online community. You can find us at: facebook.com/nwarkarchdiocese; twitter.com/archdiocese; newarkarchdiocese.blogspot.com.

And look for the debut of our new monthly magazine, New Jersey Catholic, with the October issue. This will be an exciting new way to reinforce our faith and equip ourselves for evangelizing by hearing how folks around the Archdiocese practice and spread the Gospel. In the first issue, parents will explain why it is important for their children to be educated in Catholic schools.

In November, first responders will tell how their faith helps them do their often-difficult jobs. In addition to stories like those, New Jersey Catholic’s 32-pages will feature regular practical columns from our partners at Faith Catholic. These very readable columns will include “In the Know with Father Joe,” “Theology 101,” “Marriage Matters,” “Parenting Journey,” and “Work Life”—all aimed at buffing our knowledge of the truths of Catholicism and offering practical advice on how to live our faith every day.

New Jersey Catholic will be available in print, on-line and on your tablet and we are certain you will want to subscribe after the three-month, free trial period ends. The editor is Deacon Al Frank and he can be reached at frankal@rcan.org.

Finally, a revamped rcan.org website down the road will become a one-stop aggregation of all these resources, along with the standard links to archdiocesan offices, parishes and schools. As we conclude the Year of Faith, we are hopeful communicating better among ourselves will be a great aid in practicing the new evangelization.
**Journey**

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truth is needed today as it was 800 years ago."

The early Dominican friars and Sisters looked to several of the Church’s earliest saints as patrons of the Order. Saints were chosen because they embodied the qualities that defined the followers of Saint Dominic. Saint Cecilia, as the patron saint of music, was invoked and depicted in the choirs of most medieval churches. She was a fitting intercessor of the Dominican Order with its motto, "To praise, to bless, to preach." Saint Cecilia was also seen to accompany Our Lady in some of her apparitions to Saint Dominic and the early brethren.

Following her retreat in Nashville, she visited other communities including the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal in New York and the Sisters of Life in Stamford, CT. Last fall, after praying a novena to Saint Cecilia at her parents’ home parish, she realized she belonged with the Dominican Sisters. After sending in her application on Feb. 11, she received an acceptance letter a few weeks later. "It was one of the most exciting moments of life," she recalled.

There were 17 women accepted along with Draeger and there are others still in the application process. She met most of the girls while on retreat in Nashville and kept in contact with them through Facebook. "The whole process has been a joy. Vocations are not dying; you just have to know where to look. Our community is running out of space because so many women are interested."

The Chicago-based National Religious Vocations Conference published a fact sheet earlier this year that offered insights into those interested in Religious life. According to a recent study compiled by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University, 350,000 never-married men and 250,000 never-married women have seriously considered becoming a priest, Sister or Brother. Those of the millennial generation (born after 1982) are even more likely than the generation before them to consider a vocation. Surveys also suggest that entering Religious life today are a little younger than those who were entering ten years ago. Approximately 160 women and men professed perpetual vows in Religious life in 2012. About 110 of these newly professed were Sisters and nuns.

The results are encouraging, especially for Religious Sisters, who have seen their numbers decline to 57, 113 from 81,000 in 2000 and a peak of 181,421 in 1965, according to the Official Catholic Directory.

"Some young people who are interested in vocations don’t always know where to look. There are communities that are struggling. It is easy to despair but we have to pray about it. There is a phenomenon in the Church that more traditional, orthodox communities are booming. Orders that are living in a community, have a structured prayer life and maintain distinctive aspects apart from secular life are flourishing. I’m attracted to a more radical life with a clear sense of identity. It is such a gift to be wearing a habit and have a visual representation that I stand for Christ," Draeger explained.

Father James Chern, newly-appointed director of vocations for the Archdiocese of Newark and campus minister at Montclair State University (MSU), believes that statistics showing vocations in decline don’t explain the full story. "I was working with a young woman at MSU entering the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal. She had to raise almost $40,000 to pay off her college tuition debt so she could pursue Religious life. I hear more and more stories of young people making heroic sacrifices to join a Religious order. The number of Religious might be a lot smaller than 20 years ago, but there is a much more dynamic resurgence of people willing to go against the culture. We can’t replace the numbers of Sisters we’ve had, but the strength of character of those seeking a radical change is encouraging."

According to Fr. Chern, some young adults become interested in vocations while interacting with Religious during community outreach projects. Seeing the work of Brothers and Sisters first-hand opens the door to understanding their charism.

"Young people see a joy about Religious and are not disturbed that they have no car or are simply dressed. They ask themselves, ‘How is it possible to have so little and still be happy? Why am I fixated on material things?’" Sister Joanne Bednar, S.C.C., delegate for Religious for the Archdiocese of Newark, believes God is calling people to vocations. "There are still people interested in Religious life. Religious communities and the dioceses across the country are making the effort to draw people in. We are never going to go back to the 50s and 60s when over 20 people entered the communities every year, but there does seem to be a turn. We, as Catholic Christians, need to foster Religious vocations and it starts within families."

For those who hear the call to Religious life, Draeger advises an open mind and fearlessness. "Don’t be scared to jump in. True joy, happiness and peace are achieved when we follow God’s plan. It may not be easy, but it you are called, God gives you the grace to do it."

Entering Religious life is not a decision to be taken lightly and there are several reservations the average Catholic may have toward joining a community. For many, being away from home, living an intensely communal life and not having the trappings of modern culture seems a daunting task.

"For me, not getting to see my family will be the most difficult. We are allowed to write letters but there are no phone calls or e-mails. There are some Sisters who say they have actually grown closer to their families since joining Religious life. Because the visits with them are so rare and so special, you don’t take your loved ones for granted. My mother had a whole list of questions when she met with the Dominican Sisters. After having dinner with them, she said this," Draeger said.

Upon entering the Sisters next month, she will begin her first year as a postulate, wearing what she terms “a schoolgirl uniform” instead of a habit. After her first year, Draeger will become a novice and receive the Dominican habit with a white veil and a new Religious name. According to the congregation’s Web site, a novice “enters into a period of theological, philosophical, ascetical and spiritual formation.” Following her year as a novice, she will exchange her white veil for a black one, “symbolic of conversion, penance and consecration to God.” After five years in vows, she will make her final profession of perpetual vows. The year prior to this step is one of more intensive preparation. "Your Final Vows are like getting married," she explained. "It’s a serious commitment."

Aspects of religious life that some may find confining, Draeger finds freeing. "The vow of obedience, just saying ‘yes’ to God, might seem difficult in our independent culture but I find it liberating. Others believe living out celibacy is a distortion or repression but it is a comprehensive way of being called to love. To be a Sister is to be a bride of Christ: we are called to spiritual motherhood.”

Draeger assures young people that whatever they are called to do, prayer and trusting in Christ are essential to finding the right path. "God has an amazing plan for you. Only in God’s will do we find true joy.”

For more information about Religious life, call Sister Joanne Bednar, S.C.C., delegate for Religious, at (973) 497-4582 or e-mail bednaro@rcan.org.

Jennifer Draeger, left, and her friend Clare Girard will enter the Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia in Nashville next month.
Archdiocesan parishes welcome new pastors

Archbishop John J. Myers recently appointed 16 new pastors to begin their ministry this summer at local parishes. On June 27, eight first-time pastors attended a meeting with Rev. Msgr. Joseph A. Petrillo, director of clergy personnel for the Archdiocese of Newark. Below are brief biographies of the new pastors:

By Melissa McNally

Father Jorge E. Acosta

is the former administrator of Immaculate Conception Parish and Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, both in Newark. He has been appointed pastor of both parishes effective July 1. A native of Nicaragua, he was ordained to the priesthood Nov. 8, 1986 in San Salvador, El Salvador. Fr. Acosta has been appointed pastor of Saint Stephen Parish, Kearny, and Saint Aloysius Parish, Jersey City.

Alvarez, former parochial vicar of Saint Cecilia Parish, Kearny, has been appointed pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Parish, North Bergen. A native of Colombia, he was ordained May 29, 2004. Fr. Alvarez also served Saint Anne Parish, Jersey City, as a transitional deacon. He speaks several languages, including Spanish, Italian and Portuguese.

Father Paciano A. Barbieto

has been appointed pastor of Saint Andrew Parish, Westwood. He previously served as parochial vicar at Saint Stephen Parish, Kearny, and Holy Family Parish, Nutley. Fr. Barbieto was ordained to the priesthood Nov. 8, 1986 in the Philippines and was incardinated to the Archdiocese of Newark in 2011.

Father John D. Gabriel

is the former director of vocations for the Archdiocese of Newark, has been appointed pastor of Saint James Parish, Springfield. He also served a director of Emmanuel House of Discernment in Newark. Ordained in 1987, Fr. Gabriel was pastor of Saint Thomas More Parish, Fairfield, from 1999-2008. During his ministry, he served as parochial vicar at the following parishes: Saint Teresa of Avila, Summit; Saint Thomas the Apostle, Bloomfield, and Saint Michael, Union.

Very Rev. Timothy G. Graff, V.F.

has been appointed pastor of Saint Leo Parish, Elmwood Park. Ordained in 2004, he was previously in residence and served as parochial vicar at Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, Franklin Lakes. He also served Saint Joseph Parish, Maplewood, as a transitional deacon in 2003.

Father Dominick Dellaporte

is the former parochial vicar at Saint Stephen Parish, Kearny. He has been appointed pastor of Saint Rocco/ Saint Brigid Parish, Union City. The archdiocesan priest was ordained in 1985 by His Holiness Pope John Paul II at Saint Peter’s Basilica, Rome. Fr. Dellaporte was incardinated to the Archdiocese of Newark in 2011. He previously served as parochial vicar at the following parishes: St. Ann, Hoboken; Saint Lawrence, Weehawken and Saint Francis of Assisi, Hoboken.


Very Rev. John M. McCrone, V.F.

has been appointed pastor of Saint Paul Parish, Ramsey. Former pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Mountainside, he was also Dean of the Union Northwest Deanery #22. He has served Christ Hospital, Jersey City, and Bergen Regional Medical Center, Paramus, as chaplain. Ordained May 14, 1982, he was chaplain for the police department, fire department and emergency medical services in Paramus. Fr. McCrone also served as a chaplain at local hospitals including Jersey City Medical Center, Saint Mary Hospital, Hoboken, and Clara Maass Medical Center, Belleville.

Father Dominic J. Lenoci

is the former pastor of Assumption Parish, Emerson, and has been appointed pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Mahwah. Fr. Lenoci served as assistant director of vocation awareness for the Archdiocese of Newark from 1999-2002. Ordained in 1995, he served as parochial vicar of Saint Catharine Parish, Glen Rock, and Saint Theresa Parish, Kenilworth.

Father Manuel D. Rios

has been appointed pastor of Saint Rocco/ Saint Brigid Parish, Union City, and has been appointed pastor of Saint Mary of the Assumption Parish, Elizabeth. He is also a member of the Presbytery of the Archdiocese of Newark.

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Notes on the Liturgy

Saint Joseph will be invoked in the Eucharistic Prayers

In one of the first official acts of his pontificate involving the liturgy, Pope Francis has approved a directive requiring Saint Joseph to be mentioned in Eucharistic Prayers II, III and IV at Mass.

The changes took effect this week and supplement Saint Joseph’s listing in Eucharistic Prayer I—also known as the Roman Canon—in which the name of the husband of Mary was first inserted in 1962 by Pope John XXIII. Pope Benedict XVI initiated the idea of including him in the Roman Canon—in which the name of the husband of Mary appears for the first time. Many church writers and several Popes have written about God the Father’s most happy dedicating himself to the upbringing of Jesus Christ, was placed as guardian over God the Father’s most precious treasures.”

The Office of Divine Worship of the Archdiocese of Newark, led by Father Thomas A. Dente, issued a notice to local priests stipulating the wording to be included in the Roman Missal concerning Saint Joseph’s role in God’s plan of salvation, stating, for example, that Saint Joseph, “stands as an exemplary model of the kindness and humility that the Christian faith raises to a great destiny, and demonstrates the ordinary and simple virtues necessary for men to be good and genuine followers of Christ. Through these virtues, this Just man, caring most lovingly for the Mother of God and happily dedicating himself to the upbringing of Jesus Christ, was placed as guardian over God the Father’s most precious treasures.”

The Office of Divine Worship of the Archdiocese of Newark, led by Father Thomas A. Dente, issued a notice to local priests stipulating the wording to be included in the Roman Missal accordingly to the following formulas:

Eucharistic Prayer II
Have mercy on us all, we pray, that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with blessed Joseph, her Spouse, with the blessed Apostles….

Eucharistic Prayer III
May he make of us an eternal offering to you, so that we may obtain an inheritance with your elect, especially with the most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with blessed Joseph, her Spouse, with your blessed Apostles….

Eucharistic Prayer IV
To all of us, your children, grant, O merciful Father, that we may enter into a heavenly inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with blessed Joseph, her Spouse, and with your Apostles….

The translations were provided by the Congregation, which also issued translations for the Roman Missal in Latin, Spanish and other major western languages. Meanwhile, the Office of Divine Worship is again offering parishes several liturgical resources to parishes for use in the upcoming 2014 liturgical year. Most notably, the Lector Workbook and the Sourcebook for liturgical planning as well as several other “annual” titles are available to order.

Parishes can see significant savings by taking advantage of the discounts publishes accord the Archdiocese for bulk orders of these popular resources. Also, no shipping is charged to parishes that pick up their purchases at the Archdiocesan Center in Newark. For more information, call the Office at (973) 497-4345 or e-mail Fr. Dente at dentetom@rcan.org.

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New Pastors

From page 3

Elizabeth, and Saint John the Evangelist, Bergenfield. He was a member of the archdiocesan Vocations Board from 1993-1996.

Father Antonio Nuno Rocha has been appointed pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Elizabeth. A native of Portugal, he was ordained to the priesthood May 27, 2006. He previously served as parochial vicar at Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Newark, and Saint Agnes Parish, Clark. Fr. Rocha served his diocesan ministry at Saint Cecilia Parish, Kearny.

Father Michael Sgarito, O. Carm., has been appointed pastor of Saint Anastasia Parish, Teaneck. Ordained May 18, 1985, the Chicago native worked in Peru for 26 years. While in the South American County, he was pastor and director of the Carmelites school. Fr. Sgarito attended a Carmelite high school and graduated from Marquette University.

Father Paolo Tanzini has been appointed pastor of Assumption Parish, Emerson. Formerly in residence at Redemptorist Mater House of Formation in Kearny, Fr. Tanzini was ordained May 24, 2008. A native of Italy, he worked outside the archdiocese in the Diocese of Peoria, IL, last year. He was parochial vicar of Holy Redeemer Parish, West New York, and Saint John the Apostle Parish, Linden.

A native of Portugal, he was ordained to the priesthood May 27, 2006. He previously served as parochial vicar at Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Elizabeth, and Saint John the Evangelist, Bergenfield. He was a member of the archdiocesan Vocations Board from 1993-1996.

Catholic Home Missions allocates $10 million to aid Sandy victims

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) Subcommittee on Catholic Home Missions allocated $2.8 million in grants to five dioceses impacted by two separate natural disasters. The grants were awarded at the Subcommittee’s meeting in San Diego on June 8.

In May 2011, bishops were encouraged to hold a special collection to assist the victims of tornados and storm storms. Remittances from this appeal were split between the USCCB and Catholic Charities USA to meet humanitarian, pastoral and reconstruction needs. The Committee on National Collections tasked the Subcommittee on Catholic Home Missions with allocating the USCCB’s portion of the funds.

Initially, the Subcommittee received two applications for consideration at their meeting on June 8. Over $10 million in requests for pastoral needs were received from the Archdiocese of Newark and the Dioceses of Trenton in New Jersey, and the Dioceses of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, and $100,000 to the Diocese of Springfield in Massachusetts to assist with renovations of a retired priests’ residence. After Hurricane Sandy hit the East Coast in late 2012, dioceses were again asked to take up a special collection. To date, $10 million has been received from that special collection.

The Subcommittee received four applications for consideration at their meeting on June 8. Over $10 million in requests for pastoral needs were received from the Archdiocese of Newark and the Dioceses of Trenton in New Jersey, and the Dioceses of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, and $100,000 to the Diocese of Springfield in Massachusetts to assist with renovations of a retired priests’ residence. After Hurricane Sandy hit the East Coast in late 2012, dioceses were again asked to take up a special collection. To date, $10 million has been received from that special collection.

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Holy Name Medical Center’s Korean Medical Program honored by NJBIZ

TEANECK — The Korean Medical Program of Holy Name Medical Center has been named the winner in the Education Hero-Organization category of the 2013 Healthcare Heroes awards program. The program, produced by NJBIZ, a premiere New Jersey business publication, honors individuals and organizations making a significant impact on the quality of healthcare in New Jersey.

Finalists and winners in eleven categories were chosen by an independent panel of judges representing the Healthcare Institute of New Jersey, the New Jersey State Nurses Association, the Institute for Nursing, the New Jersey Association of Health Plans, the Princeton Public Affairs Agency, as well as a government affairs consultant.

Created in 2008, the mission of the Korean Medical Program (KMP) is to provide the Korean-American population in the New York metropolitan area with the highest attainable level of health through culturally and linguistically-sensitive medical services. Intensive media coverage in local Korean newspapers, radio and television, educational programs and direct mail has raised awareness of the importance of prevention, screening and early detection of medical conditions prevalent in the population, including breast cancer, diabetes, high cholesterol, hepatitis B and liver cancer as well as mental health issues. The number of annual patient visits (primarily first generation immigrants, including uninsured/underinsured families) to Holy Name Medical Center and two satellite locations, has grown to 40,000, a 90 percent increase over the Program’s first year. Community outreach programs through Korean churches and other community organizations have been able to reach patients who had previously experienced difficulty in accessing health care due to cultural and language barriers.

Kyungh Hee Choi, Holy Name Medical Center Vice President and Director of the Korean Medical Program, accepted the NJBIZ award at the June 18 awards ceremony. Noting the KMP’s strong infrastructure of services and physicians, she and KMP Medical Director Hee Yang, MD, look forward to expanding the program beyond the Korean-American community to serve members of other Asian ethnic groups.

For more information about the Korean Medical Program, please call (201) 833-3399 or visit www.kholyname.com. For information about the NJBIZ Healthcare Heroes Awards Program, visit www.njbiz.com.
Supreme Court decisions on marriage ‘tragic day for marriage and our nation’

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Supreme Court decisions June 26 striking down part of the Defense of Marriage Act and refusing to rule on the merits of a challenge to California’s Proposition 8 mark a “tragic day for marriage and our nation,” said Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco, chair of the U.S. bishops’ Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage.

The statement follows: “Today is a tragic day for marriage and our nation. The Supreme Court has dealt a profound injustice to the American people by striking down in part the federal Defense of Marriage Act. The Court got it wrong. The federal government ought to respect the truth that marriage is the union of one man and one woman, even where states fail to do so. The preservation of liberty and justice requires that all laws, federal and state, respect the truth, including the truth about marriage. It is also unfortunate that the Court did not take the opportunity to uphold California’s Proposition 8 but instead decided not to rule on the matter. The common good of all, especially our children, depends upon a society that strives to uphold the truth of marriage. Now is the time to redouble our efforts in witness to this truth. These decisions are part of a public debate of great consequence. The future of marriage and the well-being of our society hang in the balance.

“Marriage is the only institution that brings together a man and a woman for life, providing any child who comes from their union with the secure foundation of a mother and a father. “Our culture has taken for granted for far too long what human nature, experience, common sense, and God’s wise design all confirm: the difference between a man and a woman matters, and the difference between a man and a woman matters. While the culture has failed in many ways to be marriage-strengthening, this is no reason to give up. Now is the time to strengthen marriage, not redefine it. “When Jesus taught about the meaning of marriage—the lifelong, exclusive union of husband and wife—he pointed back to “the beginning” of God’s creation of the human meaning of marriage: one man, one woman, for life. We also ask for prayers as the Court’s decisions are reviewed and their implications further clarified.”

The federal Defense of Marriage Act, or DOMA, defining marriage as between one man and one woman, was ruled unconstitutional under the Equal Protection Clause by the Supreme Court in a 5-4 opinion.

In a separate case, the court sent back to lower courts a challenge to California’s Proposition 8, the voter-approved initiative barring same-sex marriage. The apparent result is that same-sex marriage will again be legal in California as soon as the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals formally dismisses the case, as the high court instructed it.

In this second 5-4 ruling, with a different lineup of justices, the court remanded the case on the grounds that the individuals who defended the law in court lacked legal standing to do so.

Neither decision will have the effect of requiring states to honor same-sex marriages from other jurisdictions, but the DOMA case likely will affect how the federal government must treat same-sex marriages for purposes ranging from Social Security benefits to taxation, immigration and benefits for military spouses.

The California case was brought by two couples who were denied marriage licenses after the state’s voters in 2008 approved a constitutional amendment limiting marriage to heterosexual couples. The law was passed after the state Supreme Court ruled earlier that year that statutes banning same-sex marriage were unconstitutional.

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**How to report abuse**

The Archdiocese of Newark takes very seriously any and all credible complaints of sexual misconduct by members of the clergy, religious and lay staff of the archdiocese. We encourage anyone with knowledge of an act of sexual misconduct to inform the archdiocese immediately so that we may take appropriate action to protect others and provide support to victims of sexual abuse.

Individuals who wish to report an allegation of sexual misconduct may do so by calling the Archdiocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection at (201) 407-3256.

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**Official Appointments**

Archbishop John J. Myers has announced the following appointments:

**ARCHIDOCESE AGENCY MINISTRY**

**Reverend Monsignor Robert E. Emery,** Pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, South Orange, and Adjutant Judicial Vicar in the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Newark, has also been appointed Regional Vicar for Essex County, effective July 1, 2013.

**Reverend Tonatiuh Espinosa,** O.A.R., Director of Centro Guadalupe, Union City, has been appointed Parochial Vicar of St. Augustine Parish, Union City, effective July 1, 2013.

**SUMMER PAROCHIAL VICAR**

**Reverend Jose Rivera** has been appointed Parochial Vicar of Our Lady of Victories Parish, Harrison Park, effective June 1, 2013 through August 31, 2013.

**CHAPLAIN**

**Reverend Joseph A. D’Amico,** Pastor of St. Aloysius Parish, Kenilworth, has also been appointed Chaplain of the Hudson County Serra Club, effective June 19, 2013.

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**Classifieds/ Professional Directory**

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**Around the Archdiocese**

July 17, 2013

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**July 12**

**ST. MICHAEL PARISH, Palisades Park, dinner cruise on The Spirit of New Jersey, leaves port of Edgewater at 6:30 p.m., $75 for adults/$50 per child, (201) 941-1061 or e-mail realtorangie@hotmail.com.

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**July 15-19**

St. Mary Parish, Dumont, Vacation Bible School, for grades Pre-K to 5, 9 a.m. - noon, cost: $15 per child, (201) 384-0557 or e-mail info@stmarysdumont.org.

**July 17-21**

**ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE PARISH, Saddler Brook, 54th Annual Festival of Fun, includes food, rides, raffles and more, (201) 843-1888 or e-mail ourparish@stphilipspsb.org.

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**July 26**

**WORLD APOSTOLATE OF FATIMA, the National Blue Army Shrine, Washington, Feast of St. Anne and St. Joachim, rosary/conversion at 11:30 a.m., Mass at noon, and Holy Hour at 1 p.m., (908) 689-1700 or e-mail shrine@bluearmy.com.

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**July 29-Aug. 2**

**ST. JOSEPH PARISH, Bogota, Vacation Bible Camp, campers from kindergarten to Grade 5, 6:30-9 P.M., $40 per child, (201) 384-3601 or e-mail rofood@yahoo.com.

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**Aug. 6-12**

**ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH, Bergenfield, family movie night screening of “Soul Surfer,” 7 p.m., (201) 384-3601 or e-mail rofood@yahoo.com.

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**Aug. 12**

**ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH, Bergenfield, “Faith in Flip Flops,” morning of games, activities and music, for children entering pre-K through Grade 1, aslo on Aug. 14 for Grades 2-6, 9:30 a.m.-noon, $5 per child, (201) 384-3601 or e-mail rofood@yahoo.com.

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**Aug. 18**

**OUR LADY OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT, Roseland, Drive- In Movie Night, 7:30 p.m., $20 per car, (973) 226-7288 or e-mail regina@clbs.org.

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**PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN**

Oh most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessities. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me that you are my Mother. Oh Holy Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to secure me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. I place this cause in your hands, Amen. Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. Novena is published in gratitude. Thank you.

W.B.