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May/June 2016

# Parable

**SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT**

St. Anthony of Padua School,  
Manchester

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES REPORT**

Do Something About Nothing

**BISHOP'S MESSAGE**

Enthronement of the Sacred  
Hearts of Jesus and Mary

*the comfort of a* [CANINE] *touch*

A SIMPLE AND PROFOUND MINISTRY

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We are on the cusp of our year-long celebration of the 10th anniversary of *Parable's* original launch back in 2007. This magazine would not have been possible without the support of Bishop John McCormack, the vision and determination of Father John Grace and Gary Bouchard, and our partnership with parishes throughout the state.

Back in 2006, the magazine was still just a hopeful proposal being passed around the diocese. At that time, we needed 30 parishes to sign on to send the magazine to the homes of their parishioners. Since then, we have grown and now go to the households of 52 parishes. With each new parish that signs up, we are able to bring *Parable* to hundreds of Catholic homes.

We would like to thank those parishes who partner with *Parable* to bring the magazine to the homes of their registered parishioners:

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■ Sarah Jane vonHaack is the editor of *Parable* and lives in Concord, N.H.



## COMFORT OF A [CANINE] TOUCH

Orla, a golden retriever, is trained for pet therapy. She and her owner, Kathryn McGrath, volunteer to comfort the sick and elderly. Photographer Matthew Lomanno documents their work and lives.

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## PARABLE IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY



STOCK PHOTOS OF SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND MARY

# Enthronement of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary

Last fall, in my pastoral letter "Love Is Our Mission" I encouraged the faithful of our diocese to observe the Holy Year of Mercy in a variety of ways, including the Enthronement of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary in all Catholic homes. Two of the more well-known symbols of Christ's love – and that of the everlasting love of his mother Mary – are images of their sacred hearts, pictured separately or together. Placed on a prominent wall or mantel, such displays are called enthronements, and have a long history throughout our Church's existence.

Enthronements are a wonderful way to remind ourselves and our children of the merciful love of Jesus and Mary, and to deepen your family's devotion during the Year of Mercy. For an expert explanation of enthronements and how they can enhance your family's home, I turn this column over to Mother Paul Marie of the Daughters of Mary, Mother of Healing Love, in Rochester, who tells us the following:

**WHERE DOES THE DEVOTION TO THE SACRED HEART COME FROM?**

"The origin of the Sacred Heart devotion is revealed to us through the sacred scriptures. Down through the ages, there have been saints who are well known for their burning love for the Sacred Heart.

These are the saints we should talk to in prayer, asking them to intercede on our behalf to have hearts like theirs, on fire to spread the love of Jesus. Among others, these saints include St. John the Evangelist, St. Paul the Apostle, St. Francis of Assisi and St. Francis de Sales.

"In more modern times, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque of France was visited by Jesus, who exposed his Sacred Heart to her and said, 'I feel this more than all I suffered during my passion. If only they would make me some return for my love. I should think but little of all I have done for them and would wish, were it possible, to suffer still more.' Jesus asked St. Margaret Mary for help in garnering King Louis XIV's devotion to the Sacred Heart, for a shrine, and for a Mass to be said for the Sacred Heart. The king did not comply

with these requests, and it can be noted that France was then defeated in two wars and suffered deeply from the French Revolution.

"Nearly two hundred years later, Father Mateo Crawley Boevey was cured of sickness while on pilgrimage to the Chapel of the Visitation where the Sacred Heart had appeared to St. Margaret Mary. Father Mateo vowed to carry out Jesus' requests and received papal approval to exalt and establish the reign of the Sacred Heart. The Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in families was born that day – Aug. 24, 1907."

**WHAT IS AN ENTHRONEMENT?**

"The image of Jesus' Sacred Heart reminds us that He took on our human flesh and became like us in all things but sin. His heart is bleeding and on fire, crowned with thorns and adorned with a cross. When Jesus is enthroned in a home, a solemn ceremony giving Jesus authority over the family is celebrated."

**CAN WE PLACE IMAGES OF JESUS AND MARY NEXT TO EACH OTHER WHEN AN ENTHRONEMENT OF THE SACRED HEART IS CELEBRATED IN A FAMILY?**

"Yes. The image of the two hearts speaks to us

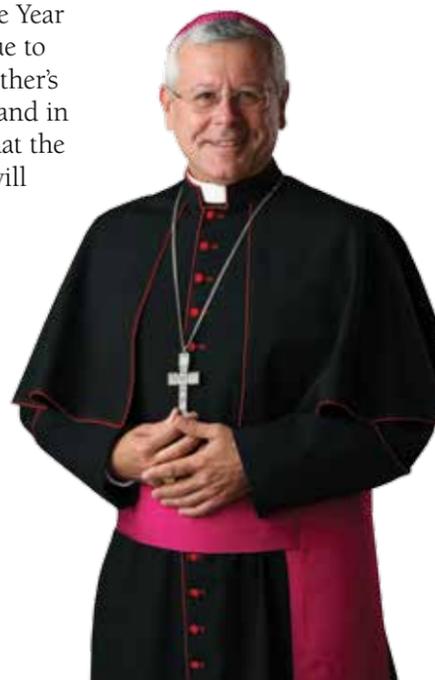
**info** If you need help with your family's enthronements, please contact the Daughters of Mary, Mother of Healing Love at [motherofhealinglove.org](http://motherofhealinglove.org).

*"The presence of Jesus in the home begins to change the hearts of family members...The corporal and spiritual works of mercy become alive in the hearts of family members."*

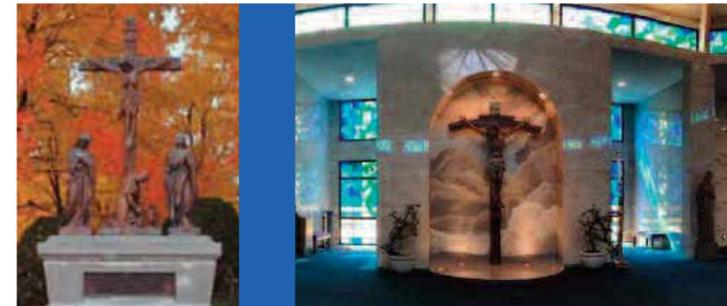
of their infinite love toward people, toward each parish, each family, and each individual. Both hearts were wonderfully united from the very beginning. The heart of Mary was the first to adore the heart of Jesus and to grasp profoundly the depth of His love.

"The presence of Jesus in the home begins to change the hearts of family members. Even children start to notice the needs of others and reach out to help them; this soon affects their neighborhood and school. Family members develop a heart to reach out to the sick, homebound, or kids that no one else talks to. The corporal and spiritual works of mercy become alive in the hearts of family members."

During this Jubilee Year of Mercy we continue to share in the Holy Father's work, in our words and in our deeds. I hope that the explanation above will inspire you to add an enthronement to your own home, as a reminder of Jesus' and Mary's burning love. I pray that this additional way of bringing the sacred hearts into your homes will enhance your experience of the Year of Mercy, and more fully open your hearts to the love of Christ. ■



■ Bishop Peter A. Libasci is the Tenth Bishop of the Diocese of Manchester. ■



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# “LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU.”

(JOHN 13:34)

**Dear Mae:** We were recently married and wondered if you have any advice for a couple just beginning their life together. (Jessica, age 29, and Michael, age 34)

**Dear Jessica and Michael:** Let me first congratulate you on your recent marriage and wish you both much love and happiness in your life together.

In response to your inquiry, I can only speak to you from a place of humility and honesty. Even though I have been happily married for almost 35 years, I must admit that I am still learning how to be the best wife and mother I can be and certainly do not consider myself an expert on the subject of marriage.

That being said, allow me to offer you some bits of wisdom and advice that are a product, not so much of all that I have done well, but rather the result of lessons I have learned along the way.

**Invite God into all areas and aspects of your life, bringing everything to prayer.**

Prior to being married, my husband George and I dated for six years, off and on, and recognized during that time that God was indeed leading us to each other and that He seemed to be calling us to a life together. We both sought God's direction in our relationship and trusted that our prayers were being answered. Prayer was definitely the “glue” that held us together, and has most assuredly become the solid foundation upon which we have built our life together.

George and I have been abundantly blessed in our 35 years of marriage, but we have also experienced our share of loss, heartbreak and disappointment. Through the eyes of mutual faith we now see that those challenging times of struggle not only tested us but strengthened our love for each other and deepened our faith in God.

I can truthfully tell you, without a doubt, that a shared faith in God and belief in the power of prayer will not only bring you closer to God and each other but will serve to sustain, heal and fortify your relationship.

**To experience true JOY in a marriage, put Jesus first, the Other second and Yourself last.**

It has become increasingly clearer with every passing year that by putting Jesus first in our marriage and seeking His guidance and direction, life's challenges and difficulties become easier to bear and usually prove to be opportunities for

significant personal growth.

No matter your age when you marry, whether in your 20's or 60's, I believe one of the greatest challenges is to put someone else's needs before your own. Clearly this attitude works best when both people are committed to offering each other mutual care and respect. There will be times when one person may require more attention or understanding than the other, when one spouse may be under greater stress or experiencing illness or personal loss. During these times, to know that you are loved is such a gift. Knowing that your spouse loves you more than they love themselves is a true blessing.

**The secret of keeping any relationship healthy and secure is to be generous with understanding, compassion and time, and stingy with criticism, sarcasm and busyness.**

We all desire to be secure in our relationships and to share a bond of mutual trust and respect. Maintaining mutual trust and respect is paramount to ensuring that a marriage will be healthy and spouses will remain devoted and loving toward each other. It is important to recognize that our habits may cause our spouse to feel neglected or insecure and that by sincerely offering a simple gesture of affection or word of affirmation the bond of love is strengthened.

One of the greatest things a couple can do to nurture their relationship is to make time for each other. This may seem obvious, but when we allow ourselves to always be busy and spend limited time together, we can quickly become merely roommates, partners in chores and errands and the relationship will suffer. As your lives inevitably become busier, you will find that spending quality time together will likely not happen



“naturally.” So, be sure to schedule a date night as often as possible. It need not be expensive, just doing something that you enjoyed together when you were dating.

If one or both spouses have a habit of being sarcastic or critical, even in a “lighthearted” manner, the bond of trust and respect may be weakened. Remember, words are powerful – once spoken, they can either harm or heal. They are not easy to forget, and you can never take them back.

**Be willing to forgive...again...and again...and again.**

Most couples do and say things that hurt or upset each other. They may not mean to offend one another, but occasionally they will. There is great wisdom in the advice: “Be slow to anger and quick to forgive.”

We all know what it feels like to be in need of forgiveness and how heavy the burden is to carry when we know we have hurt someone. God has given us a beautiful example of unconditional love and calls us to love each other in the same way. In a marriage we desire to love and be loved deeply and faithfully – unconditionally and without reservation. A love such as this develops over time and is the blessed fruit of repeated mutual acceptance and forgiveness.

**Live out your marriage vows each and every day as a powerful witness to the world around you.**

I believe we are constantly being invited to serve others and by the nature of our baptism to proclaim Christ to an indifferent world and be a loving example to our circle of influence. Your relationship and married life together offer you such an opportunity to serve others. As a married couple may you grow in understanding and compassion, not only toward each other, but also toward all those with whom you come in contact – the world needs your loving witness, now more than ever. Jessica and Michael, may God continue to abundantly bless your love and life together. ■



ART BY KATHRYN COSTA

■ Mae Edwards has worked as a youth leader for 24 years. She lives in Concord, N.H., with her husband. They have two grown sons.

## HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

A husband and his wife who had already had three children were having financial difficulties. The woman found that she was pregnant again and while she loved being a mom, both she and her husband didn't know how they would ever be able to afford a fourth child.

Abortion may have been an option to some, but they were Catholics who personally believed in the dignity of all life, thus this was not even considered. They could not afford prenatal care or a delivery charge so they decided that they would take their chances on a home delivery. Then, their parish priest told them about a Catholic hospital that had a pregnancy clinic that would give them prenatal care and deliver their baby on a very generous sliding scale payment. They took their priest's suggestion. Lo and behold, they had a healthy baby boy. That hospital was St. Margaret's Hospital in Boston and that mother was my mother.

St. Margaret's Hospital was a century-old fixture in Dorchester, Mass., and one of the last free-standing maternity hospitals in the nation. St. Margaret's closed its doors in July 1993 due to financial pressures and was transferred to St. Elizabeth's Medical Center. St. Margaret's had provided hundreds of women like my mother with the prenatal care they needed and could not afford.

While St. Margaret's Hospital didn't survive healthcare competition, at Catholic Medical Center's Pregnancy Care Center we continue to provide prenatal care for those mothers less fortunate, mothers that would otherwise have no place to turn. Having benefited from the gift of St. Margaret's Hospital's generosity, I am proud that we can provide that same prenatal care to women and their children who need it most. Through CMC's MOM's Place, we give these mothers and their babies the same high quality care when their baby is delivered. Every week CMC delivers babies from these blessed mothers that will have the opportunity to watch their children grow up to be anything they want – a doctor, a CEO or both.

From earth to heaven, Happy Mother's Day, Mom! ■

Sponsored by:



■ Dr. Joseph Pepe is president and CEO of CMC Healthcare System, which includes Catholic Medical Center, the New England Heart & Vascular Institute, and several subsidiaries. He and his wife reside in Manchester, N.H.



# the SELF we find in SONG

When Cardinal Karol Wojtyla became Pope John Paul II 38 years ago, the world was in for many surprises. One of those surprises might still be startling to many people today who don't know that the Polish native and now canonized saint was a prolific poet.

A lover of the arts and an actor in Poland's underground theatre, Karol began writing poems in his native Polish when he was a seminarian, completing a stirring sequence entitled *Song of the Hidden God*. As a priest in the 1950s and 1960s, Father Wojtyla published his poems in Catholic publications under the pen name "Andrzej Jasień." Andrzej's actual identity was carefully concealed by editors to confound communist censors, and prevent Wojtyla from joining many of his fellow priests in jail at a time when the Soviet government sought to squash religious practice. Occasionally, the man who would one day become one of the most admired and influential people in the modern world published poems under the pseudonym "Gruda," the Polish word for "dirt clod."

As a student, Karol Wojtyla wrote his doctoral thesis on the Spanish mystic St. John of the Cross. Now, trying to live and teach the Gospel under communist repression, the young priest experienced St. John's dark night of the soul in a frighteningly real way. The kind of layered meditative thinking that Wojtyla discovered in St. John's writings inspired him to write several cycles of poems.

May is Mary's month and I thought it fitting to offer for our reflection here a poem from Wojtyla's sequence called "Mother." In the short poem below, the poet speaks in Mary's voice, inviting us into prayer in an astonishing way. Using Mary's *Canticle* from the Gospel of Luke as a departure point, he contemplates not the words of the *Canticle* themselves, but what those words did for Mary when she sang them. Mary speaks to God about the discovery and transformation that took place within her while she sang the words of her *Canticle* in response to her cousin Elizabeth's greeting. (Luke 1:41-45)

Before approaching this poem, we would do well to first pray with Mary the very words Father Wojtyla recalls her having sung in Elizabeth's presence:

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my savior, for He has looked with favor on His lowly servant. / From this day all generations will call me blessed: the

Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is His Name. / He has mercy on those who fear Him in every generation. / He has shown the strength of His arm, He has scattered the proud in their conceit. / He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has lifted up the lowly. / He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty. / He has come to the help of His servant Israel, for He has remembered His promise of mercy, the promise He made to our fathers, to Abraham and His children forever." (Luke, 1:46-55)

Now let us enter deeper into the experience of this song through the words of the poet-priest who imagines Mary recalling what happened to her "when the song burst out and bell-like embraced me":

**The song opens** | By Pope St. John Paul II

I didn't know myself, that self I found in song.  
I walked among people, never parting their cares  
from my simple acts, my womanly thoughts  
always spoken aloud.

And when the song burst out and bell-like  
embraced me, I saw how the words  
discover your hiding place  
as light melts at the center of thought.  
When the song stops, hear my thoughts better.

Many long days will pass among the people,  
different people—in my blood's even pulsing  
I visit You in them, giving You no other song.  
When the first song returns, it will rebound,  
in deepest echo against all of creation—

to find its focus again in my lips' quiet whisper,  
where it lasts longest,  
endures at its simplest.

It is tempting to read the title of this poem simply as "The song begins," but the actual title is far more instructive and powerful. Its double meaning tells us that the very act of singing the *Canticle* "opens" Mary up to the Holy Spirit, to the transformative power of the incarnate God within her and to the profound events of salvation history that lie before her.

The poem's first four words, "I didn't know myself," are jolting given what has already taken place in Luke's Gospel. The angel Gabriel has appeared to Mary to inform her that God's living son is within her womb, and she has responded with perfect and humble obedience, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." (Luke 1:38) But Father Wojtyla, having heard

many confessions and walked and stumbled on his own spiritual journey, appreciates the natural human bewilderment and uncertainty that Mary must have known. He appreciates the intimate assurance she was seeking in her pilgrimage to see her older cousin.

After all, one day Mary had been going about her chores and the next she learns from an angel that she is pregnant with God's son. How could she have known "that self I found in song" when she "walked among people, never parting their cares / from my simple acts, my womanly thoughts / always spoken aloud"?

But then in the warm embrace of Elizabeth and in the words of the song that "burst out" and "embraced" her, Mary sees "how the words / discover your hiding place / as light melts at the center of thought." She professes in song what she has come to know, that God "has looked with favor on His lowly servant" and filled not just her hunger but the hunger of all His people "with good things" and "has remembered His promise of mercy."

Anyone who has ever professed their faith in song can appreciate the profound and comforting weight of the silence that follows when the music stops. In that silence we can pray as the poet imagines Mary to have done here: "When the song stops, hear my thoughts better."

We need only consider the extraordinary events and unspeakable suffering that lay ahead of this young mother in order to appreciate what living the words of this *Canticle* would mean. So too with the young poet-priest from Kraków, the "dirt clod" who would one day stand up as pope and confront communist oppression, and who would experience Mary's intervening grace protecting him when he was shot by an assassin in St. Peter's Square. And so too with our seemingly ordinary lives. "Many long days will pass among... different people in [our] blood's even pulsing."

As those days pass, may we resolve, in the words spoken by Mary, to seek God in those people, to offer God, even in our deepest discouragement, "no other song" than "the first song" of faith we sang. May our own *canticle* "rebound / in deepest echo against all of creation — / to find its focus again in our lips' quiet whisper, / where it lasts longest, endures at its simplest." Amen. ■



■ Gary Bouchard is the Chair of the English Department at Saint Anselm College in Manchester where he has been a professor of Early Modern and Shakespeare studies for 29 years. He and his wife Donna live in Goffstown. They have two grown sons.

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# Do Christians, Jews and Muslims ALL PRAY TO THE SAME GOD?

**D**ear Father Kerper: Muslims call their God “Allah.” Someone told me that “Allah” is a false God. But someone else told me that “Allah” is the same God that Christians worship. Who’s right? And I don’t understand how the pope can pray with Muslims. Please explain.

“Allah” is indeed the same God worshipped by Catholics and other Christians. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* states: “The plan of salvation also includes those who acknowledge the Creator, in the first place amongst whom are the Muslims; these profess to hold the faith of Abraham, and together with us they adore the one merciful God, mankind’s judge on the last day.” (CCC, 841)

This identification of “Allah” with the God of Jesus Christ is not new. In 1076, Pope St. Gregory VII wrote a very beautiful letter to King Azir, the Islamic ruler of Mauritania. After thanking King Azir for his gifts, the Holy Father recalled God’s desire that “all men be saved and none to perish.” He then noted, “We and you must show in a special way to the other nations an example of this charity, **for we believe and confess one God, although in different ways, and praise and worship Him daily as the creator of all ages and the ruler of this world.**” (Emphasis added)

We find Pope St. Gregory’s position echoed in the sixth and seventh solemn prayers used on Good Friday.

In regard to the Jewish people, the sixth prayer refers to them as the people “to whom the Lord our God spoke first.” We then pray that they “may attain the fullness of redemption.” Regarding other people, including Muslims, who believe in the one true God, we pray: “Almighty and ever-living God, grant to those who do not

profess Christ that, by walking before you with a sincere heart, they may find the truth.” Both prayers express hope and trust in the infinite wisdom of God, who listens patiently to every voice raised to His ears.

Catholic insistence on the equivalence of “Allah” and God has also entered the legal realm. In 2009, the Catholic bishops of Malaysia powerfully defended the position of Pope St. Gregory VII. After the Islamic government prohibited a Catholic newspaper from using the word “Allah” for God, the bishops went to court, arguing that this state-imposed restriction of “Allah” to Islam actually violated the religious freedom of Catholics whose liturgical texts used “Allah” for God.

But how can Christians and Muslims use the same name for God when Christianity and Islam are so different? To escape this apparent quandary, we need to distinguish between the generic “name” God and the many personal names attached to the divine.

Contrary to widespread belief, “Allah” is not Islam’s personal name for God. Rather, “Allah” is a contraction of two Arabic words – *al-ilah* – which mean “the deity.” As such, “Allah” is not a “name” but an impersonal generic “term.” To put it another way, “Allah” is simply the Arabic equivalent of *Theos* in

**“...the Catholic Church has always upheld essential monotheistic kinship with Jewish and Muslim people.”**

Greek, *Deus* in Latin, *El* in Hebrew, and *God* in English. These are all nouns, not names.

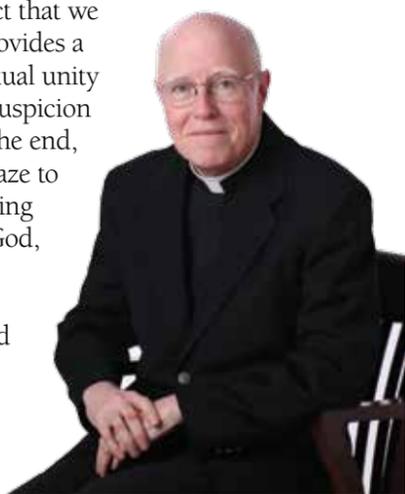
When believing monotheists – whether Christian, Muslim or Jewish – pray to God in whatever language they use, the prayers all terminate at the same point: the one true God.

True prayer can arise from worshippers who have wild misunderstandings of God. Indeed, both testaments of sacred scripture contain many examples of “unorthodox” people voicing prayers to the true God. This happens because all prayer somehow emerges from and through the influence of the Holy Spirit, “who blows where he wills.” The Holy Spirit operates within religious communities whose members misunderstand or fail to grasp the fullness of divine revelation.

God does not apply a preliminary theological test before listening to a person’s sincere prayer. If someone truly believes in God, even in a fuzzy way, and utters a simple prayer, the prayer necessarily moves toward the one true God. Where else would it go? Would the Father of Jesus refuse the plea of a destitute Somalian woman concerned for the life of her child because she called upon “Allah” and did not understand how Jesus could be human and divine?

Though all monotheists – Christians, Jews and Muslims – pray to the same God, this does not mean that we share the same religion. Not at all. Believers in Judaism and Islam regard Christians as profoundly mistaken about the nature and identity of Jesus Christ. Both of these religions, precisely in defending strict monotheism, reject the Christian doctrines of the Trinity and the Incarnation, the teaching that Christ is a divine person with a human and divine nature. Indeed, some monotheists even regard Christians as polytheists who supposedly believe in and worship three separate “gods” – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Of course, we aren’t polytheists, but we *appear* to be so, especially some Muslims.

Despite wars, violence and mutual persecutions throughout the centuries, the Catholic Church has always upheld essential *monotheistic kinship* with Jewish and Muslim people. The fact that we worship a common God provides a crucial foundation for eventual unity in the midst of much fear, suspicion and misunderstanding. In the end, all monotheists turn their gaze to the same One. And by looking together toward “Allah” or God, perhaps we will gradually rediscover our common status as children of the God of Abraham, our father in faith. ■



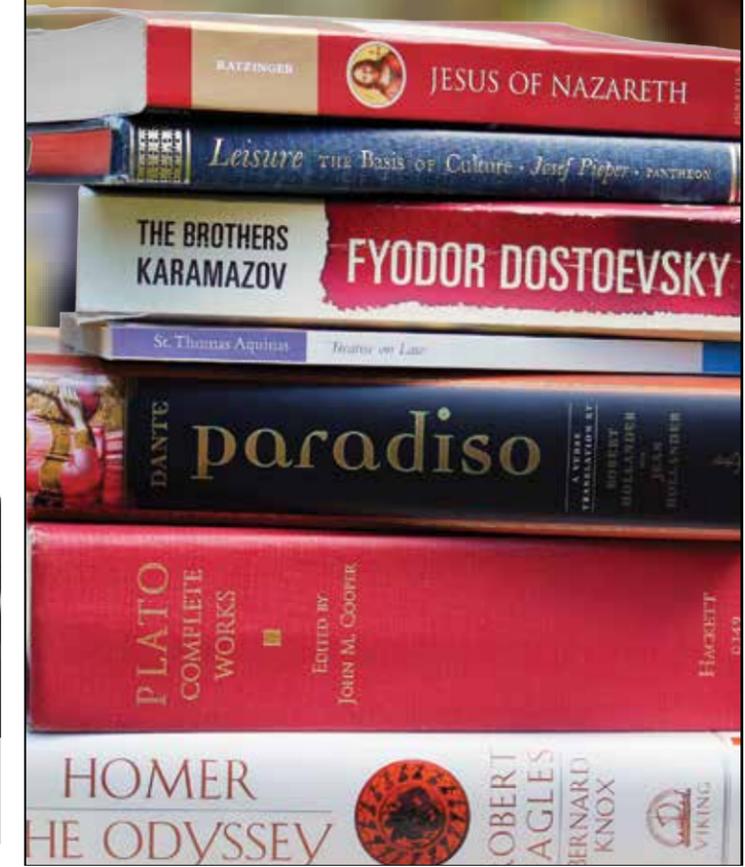
■ Father Michael Kerper is the pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Nashua, N.H.

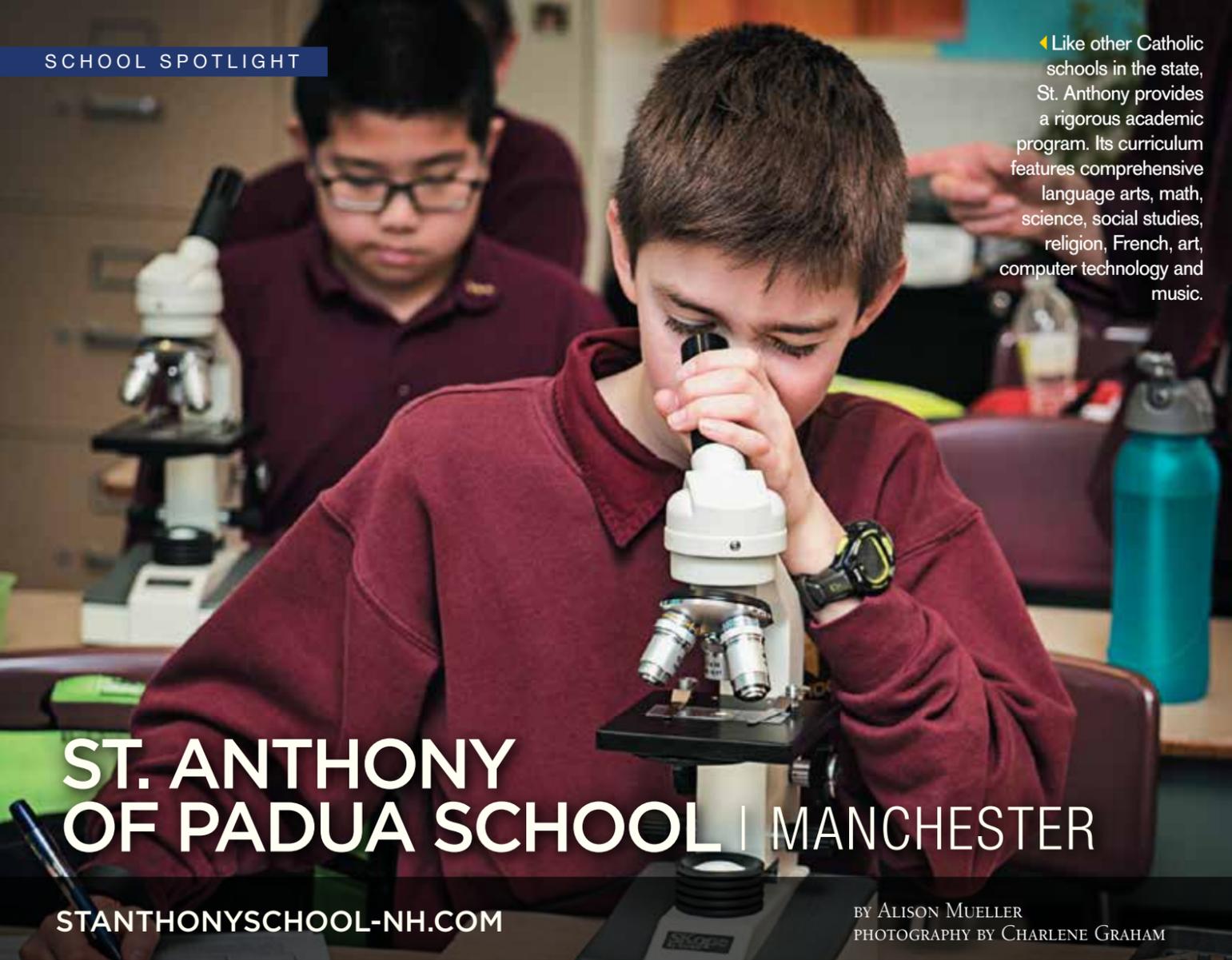


## NEW ENGLAND, GREAT BOOKS, CATHOLIC

[www.NortheastCatholic.edu](http://www.NortheastCatholic.edu)

603.456.2656





Like other Catholic schools in the state, St. Anthony provides a rigorous academic program. Its curriculum features comprehensive language arts, math, science, social studies, religion, French, art, computer technology and music.

# ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA SCHOOL | MANCHESTER

STANTHONY SCHOOL-NH.COM

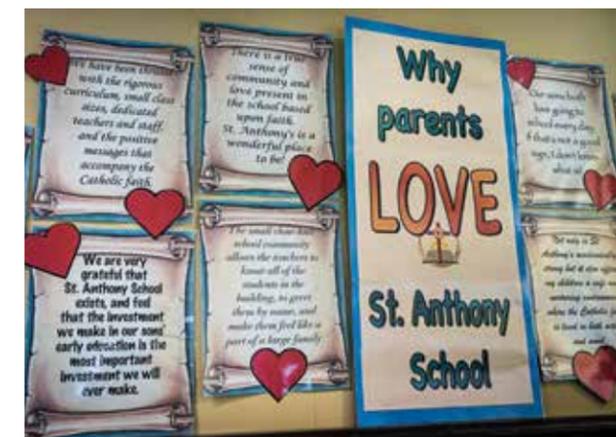
BY ALISON MUELLER  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHARLENE GRAHAM



Father Richard Dion, a dedicated and charismatic pastor, is a central part of the St. Anthony student experience. Here, Father Dion playfully asks the students to sing louder during the Mass.



Students enjoy time in the technology lab, outfitted with 25 large screen Mac desktop computers and an interactive whiteboard. Critical thinking, innovation and exploration are skills that are reinforced with the safe use of technology.



Parents are not shy in expressing their love for the school. Principal Betty Beebe recalls a story of a single parent who, when asked if his three daughters were returning to St. Anthony, quipped, "Of course. Where else would my girls go?!"



Founded in 1904 and located on the southeastern side of Manchester, St. Anthony shares its expansive and historic school building with St. Joseph Regional Junior High.



Happiness abounds during recess as children play a game of tag. The school provides a complete physical education program in its gymnasium and extracurricular clubs such as basketball, skiing, running, drama and robotics.



A cornerstone of Catholic education is the faith-filled relationship between teacher and pupil. Small class sizes and limited distraction help to foster this important bond.



To find out more about St. Anthony School in Manchester visit [stanthony-school-nh.com](http://stanthony-school-nh.com). For more information about NH Catholic schools, visit [catholic-schools-nh.org](http://catholic-schools-nh.org).

# A LABOR OF LOVE

By KATIE FIERMONTI, PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHARLENE GRAHAM

Every time a new church opens its doors in New Hampshire, welcoming parishioners in to pray and make the building a second home, Paul Harrington is there. For the past 17 years, Paul has witnessed the opening Masses at 13 brand new New Hampshire churches. Each one of them has special meaning to him.

“I really enjoy attending the blessings of each new church where the bishop does the ceremony. It is beautiful to witness. We just built Divine Mercy in Peterborough and had their ceremony in October.”

Paul is Director Secretary for Real Estate in the diocese. In addition to overseeing the construction of new churches and parish halls, he is responsible for all real estate issues, opportunities and challenges among the state’s existing 88 parishes, 11 mission churches, 18 Catholic schools, three high schools and 71 cemeteries. As a member of Bishop Peter Libasci’s cabinet, Paul is the person whom priests and Catholic school principals call when a roof needs to be repaired or replaced. He travels to parishes to represent the bishop whenever a parish council meets to discuss building closures and mergers. He also fields phone calls from those who are grieving and distraught about the upkeep of family burial plots. This part of Paul’s job can be a very sensitive one.

“Back in 1998, I had my own companies – in development and electrical,” Paul explains. “Msgr. John Quinn, Secretary of Finance and Real Estate, approached me about this position, and it’s been a labor of love ever since.”

Paul, who grew up Catholic and attended Manchester’s St. Raphael School as a boy, relies on his faith to guide him through his daily work. “When I come in every morning I go to the chapel and pray. It centers me and readies me for the day,” says the father of five, grandfather of 11, and great-grandfather of three. “My mission is to help the bishop and pastors. And that’s my life.”

He has learned to flex and strengthen his patience and kindness at the office, virtues he says weren’t always as important before taking his current position. “I take the bad calls, the ones



*Editor’s Note: Bishop Peter Libasci asked us to help our readers get to know some of the diocesan administration staff. We are excited to have the opportunity to hear the faith stories of our co-workers and share them with you.*

where people are upset about grave maintenance,

or parishioners in tears over a church closing. It is important to handle each situation delicately, especially when it is to close a church where parishioners attended Mass regularly for many years. I’ve had to learn to become a sort of counselor. You want to protect their world. You have to be courteous and patient. I try to help people mourn the deaths of their family members or their cherished buildings, and I help them move on.”

For his astute kindness and pragmatic determination, both pastors and parishioners are thankful. Paul often attends after-hours parish council meetings that can run late into the night, and he tries to make himself available to anyone needing his help. A day’s work might also include discussions with principals over security systems or purchase and sale negotiations, or long drives from the North Country or to the Seacoast.

In the years and months leading up to the construction of a new church or facility, Paul is the one who navigates the red tape, meeting with real estate agents, planning boards and contractors. He is glad to offer his expertise where he can. “I just want to take the pressure off the priests,” he says. “They have enough pressure on them. It’s enough that they have their ministry. I can be the guy who comes in and says, ‘Here’s how we’re going to do this.’ Quite honestly, that’s where I hope I help out.”

Paul takes special pride in every new church opening, and hopes to see more during his tenure. He aims to continue helping the state’s lay people and clergy wherever he can. “Whatever it is, big or small, that’s what I’m there for,” says Paul with a smile. “And if it wasn’t fun, I wouldn’t do it.” ■

## NEW CHURCH BUILDINGS (SINCE 2000):

- 2000: Holy Cross Church, Parish Hall, Derry
- 2000: St. Francis of Assisi, Church & School, Litchfield
- 2000: St. Kathryn Church, Hudson
- 2000: Parish of the Resurrection Church, Nashua
- 2001: St. Mary Church, Rochester
- 2001: St. Joseph Church, Nashua

- 2001: Our Lady of the Mountains Church, North Conway
- 2002: Immaculate Conception Church, Nashua
- 2003: St. Charles Church, Meredith
- 2004: St. Theresa Church, Henniker
- 2005: St. Matthew Church, Windham
- 2005: St. Katharine Drexel Church, Alton
- 2015: Divine Mercy Parish, Peterborough

**NOTHING**  
AN UNNECESSARY TRADITION

**TODAY'S MENU NOTHING™**

Nutrition Facts	Amount/serving	%DV*	Amount/serving	%DV*
Serv. Size 0	Total Fat 0g	0%	Potassium 0mg	0%
Servings 0	Sat. Fat 0g	0%	Total Carb. 0g	0%
Calories 0	Trans Fat 0g		Fiber 0g	0%
Fat Cal. 0	Cholest. 0g	0%	Sugars 0g	
	Sodium 0mg	0%	Protein 0g	
	Vitamin A 0% • Vitamin C 0% • Calcium 0% • Iron 0%			

Ingredients: Nothing  
Best if used by: No one

**DO SOMETHING AT NHFOODBANK.ORG/NOTHING**

Underwritten by: **Citizens Bank**

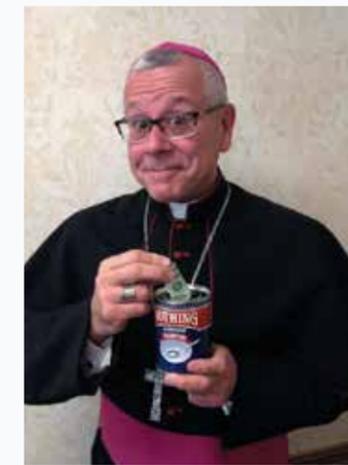
New Hampshire **FOOD BANK**  
A Program of Catholic Charities NH

## Do Something About Nothing

For the fourth year in a row, you can “Do Something About Nothing.” The NH Food Bank’s Nothing Campaign, underwritten by Citizens Bank, launched in April.

This year, the NH Food Bank, through its 400 plus agencies, will serve as many as 143,000 residents who are food insecure – that is one in nine state residents. For many, it’s a choice between medical care, paying their rent, heating, and buying food.

Among those affected by hunger are children: over 42,000, 15% of all people served by the NH Food Bank, are under 18. Without adequate food at critical stages in their lives, children are more likely to suffer



### SOMETHING ABOUT NOTHING

TO MAKE A DONATION TO THE NOTHING CAMPAIGN, VISIT [NHFOODBANK.ORG/NOTHING](http://NHFOODBANK.ORG/NOTHING).

### HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

Buy a can of Nothing at local New Hampshire grocery stores: Hannaford, Harvest Market, Market Basket, Sully’s Superette or Vista Foods locations. The proceeds go to the NH Food Bank to distribute healthy nutritious food. Each empty can represents the emptiness on the dinner plate of a hungry child or adult. And more importantly, if you fill your can with donations and return it to the NH Food Bank, you have replaced that emptiness.

### YOU CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT NOTHING!

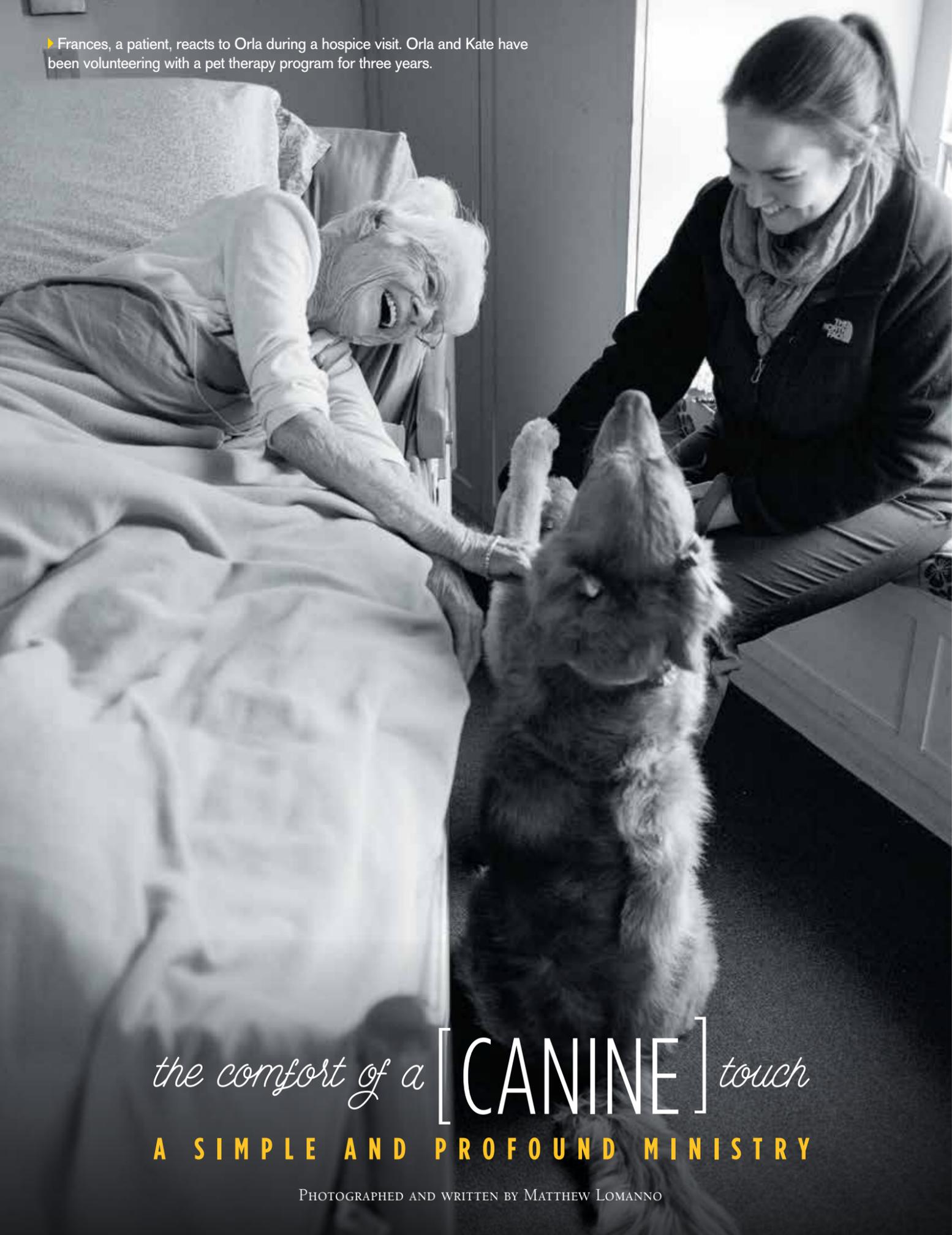
- \$25 donation provides 50 meals
- \$50 donation provides 100 meals
- \$100 donation provides 200 meals

While some think that nothing can be done to solve the issue of hunger, the NH Food Bank believes that we can all do something to ensure everyone in New Hampshire has enough food to eat. The Nothing Campaign inspires individuals to take action and fight hunger. In order to meet the increased demand for food, your support helps ensure that no one goes hungry.

The Nothing can, which looks like an empty soup can, represents a meal those less fortunate do not have. Many families with children have used the cans to help them understand the problem and the need to give back. Filling the empty can fills an empty stomach. ■



► Frances, a patient, reacts to Orla during a hospice visit. Orla and Kate have been volunteering with a pet therapy program for three years.



*the comfort of a* [CANINE] *touch*  
**A SIMPLE AND PROFOUND MINISTRY**

PHOTOGRAPHED AND WRITTEN BY MATTHEW LOMANNO

COVER STORY

Once per month, Orla, a golden retriever, becomes something of a celebrity, and her owner, Kathryn McGrath, becomes her handler. Orla delights in visiting with strangers, even offering them a paw to hold. Those few moments of interaction reveal a simple joy on the faces of her new friends, whose physical, psychological and emotional suffering is briefly held at bay.

The duo belong to Pet Partners, a national organization that trains and certifies animals and their respective human teammates. Their work brings them to area hospice care centers and nursing homes. Most of Orla's visits last about 10 minutes with a patient, allowing each to stroke her fur and hold her paw. The effect is immediately evident in the patient, whose joy is visible; but the same reaction can be seen in the caregivers and in Kathryn, who finds her own



► After a visit to a hospice facility, Orla rests while Kathryn finishes paperwork.



► Kathryn remains with Orla, who eagerly awaits visiting a new patient.

moments of spiritual peace during these visits.

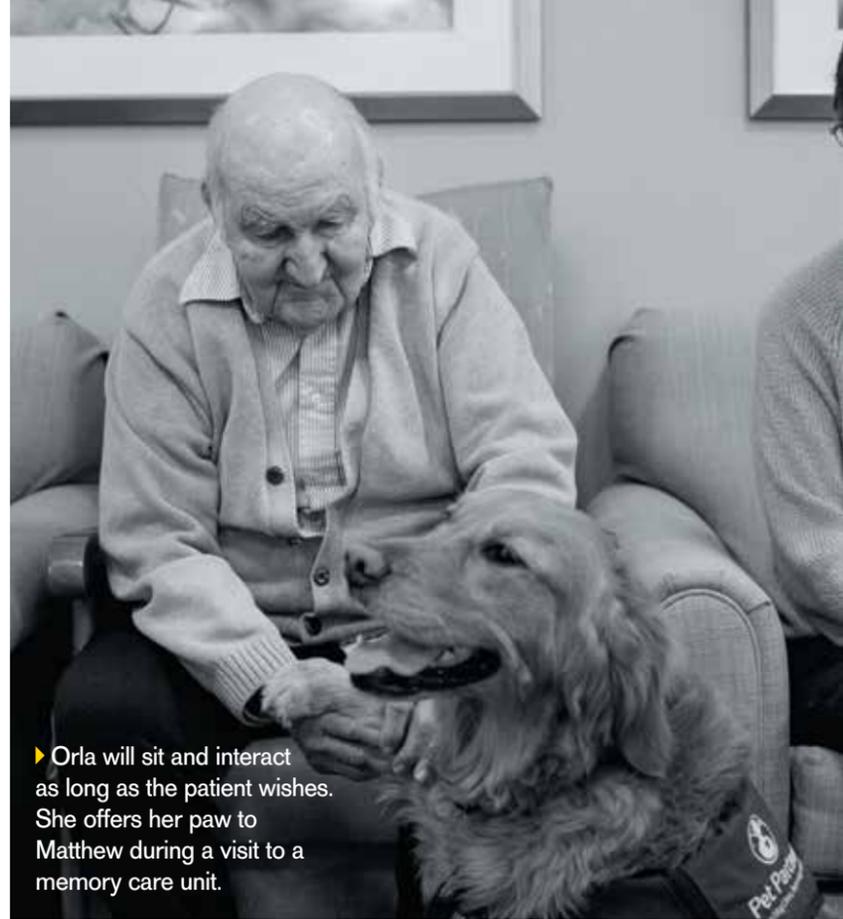
Sharing Orla with others “is a gift,” Kathryn says, “and to see people’s reactions to her...” She trails off, pauses, then finishes: “It’s moving.” Orla can simply be present and rest with the patient, and there is “a clarity in the simplicity of this work.”

Kathryn’s impetus for her and Orla to become certified as a pet therapy team comes in part from the losses she has suffered: at age eight, her older brother; when she was older, her grandmother. Throughout these, her faith in Christ and, accordingly, in the dignity of the person, have sustained her. As she was comforted, she and Orla now comfort. Their visits to others become, for Kathryn, both a corporal work of mercy (to visit the sick) and a spiritual one (to comfort the afflicted).

Witnessing the suffering in these environments makes the work difficult, but the rewards are greater. Kathryn recognizes the spiritual and personal benefits of slowing down, becoming present and gaining perspective. Their simple and faithful efforts yield immediate and tremendous fruit for all of those who they encounter. ■



► Orla and Kathryn greet Pete and his parents during a home hospice visit.



► Orla will sit and interact as long as the patient wishes. She offers her paw to Matthew during a visit to a memory care unit.



► Now five years old, Orla has been part of Kathryn's family since she was 8 weeks.



► Kathryn and Orla have been volunteering with Pet Partners for three years. In Gaelic, the name "Orla" means "golden princess."



*I think a pull quote would  
work nicely here.*

# FINDING PEACE AND FOCUS as an Athlete

BY VICTORIA SHEA, PARABLE INTERN

**W**e could all learn a little from Brenna Chrisom, a senior volleyball all-star from St. Thomas Aquinas High School, who has already reached significant milestones in her life. Through hard work and a strong dedication to her faith, she has been able to achieve success on and off the court.



God has always been an important part of Brenna's life and He has been a part of her volleyball career as well. Growing up in a Catholic household in Dover, Brenna's parents guided her and her siblings in their faith. The Chrisom family attended St. Joseph Church and now attend Parish of the Assumption weekly, and all five children, including Brenna, were enrolled in Catholic elementary school, middle school and high school.

Brenna and her mother Karen both talk about how Catholic school had an influence on Brenna. Karen explains, "Brenna is definitely more a spiritual type of person and learned to find peace with God and became a more focused athlete and I definitely see a difference."

Volleyball has also been a huge part of Brenna's life since she was young. Following in her two older sisters' footsteps, Brenna joined her first volleyball team in fifth grade. She has always looked up to her sisters, CC and Maria, and describes them as her role models. Both CC and Maria played volleyball at St. Thomas Aquinas. CC is currently a junior at Saint Anselm College and Maria is a sophomore at Assumption College in Worcester, Mass. All three sisters, Karen explains, involved their religion in their athletics: "I remember them all playing together and talking about putting each volleyball playoff game in God's hands."

Though Brenna went to public school for one year in eighth grade, she ultimately made the decision to go to St. Thomas Aquinas School in Dover. She realized that faith is an integral part of her life, and should be included in her education.

Brenna believes that her faith ultimately provided the personal foundation for her successes. Some highlights of her career include being awarded the Portsmouth Herald 2015 Volleyball Player of the Year and first team all-state for Division II. Her team was successful many times throughout their season, ending with a record of 11-7. Brenna and her team came out victorious again in the first round of the tournament against challenger Oyster River. After a hard fought battle, the team fell short to opponent Gilford in the quarterfinals.

Although the season did not end how the team had hoped, Brenna had outstanding personal success. She logged her 500th dig and 1,000th assist. Despite her accomplishments, Brenna says, "God and my family have helped me lead a spiritually religious life and have kept me humble with my achievements." Her faith has helped her find peace and focus as a person, something that all athletes know can be difficult in pressure situations and high stakes games.

Brenna's faith has taught her not only humility, but perseverance as well. She explains that although there have been times when she has been frustrated and aggravated with herself, "my faith came in and I knew that if I worked hard and kept on working at it then I could achieve pretty much anything. My faith has taught me to never give up." With God by her side, Brenna came to the realization that God gives her the strength to work extremely hard. She uses this positive influence both in private reflection, and with



those around her. For example, Brenna and her teammates pray before every game.

Although God is a part of Brenna's success, she believes that God also allows her to make her own choices. "I definitely think that God has a plan for me, but I do not think it is set in stone that this is what has to happen, but I think He is there and I am allowed to make my own choices." Brenna emphasizes how the relationships she cherishes are also a result of God's work. "I can see in those relationships that God is there and the love between those relationships is like the relationship between God and me, and I believe He put those people around me to help me succeed and that is where he has always come into play."

Karen has confidence in Brenna's faith. "As parents we have guided Brenna, but now she has come to take it on herself. It is hard for parents because you want to guide them through their faith, but I know now that it is very important to her

and that we don't have to guide her any more. She has her own guidance now."

Brenna's dedication to her faith also guided her decision on where she would attend college. Living and learning in a community where faith plays a role in the lives of the

students is of utmost importance. In high school, having the option to go to church in the middle of the day or on weekends gave her the opportunity to talk to God and relax. "Talking with God is something I did not want to give up and I knew that I would

be more comfortable going to a Catholic college." Next fall, Brenna will be joining her sister at Assumption College to further her education and volleyball career.

Brenna's story shows how faith can coexist with athletics, and what is more, how it can shape an athlete into the best version of herself. Brenna plans to continue to improve upon her sport and her education in college through her relationship with God. ■

*"Talking with God is something I did not want to give up and I knew that I would be more comfortable going to a Catholic college."*

# MARY KERINS BRADLEY: WIDOW, IMMIGRANT, MOTHER

1826-1900

While organizing the papers of Bishop Denis Mary Bradley, the life of his mother Mary, emerged as a remarkable woman of faith and resilience. Much is known about the life of Bishop Bradley, but his mother's compelling story had yet to be told. Using primary sources, I wrote an enactment of Mary's courage through a life of losses. Following is an adaptation of that dramatization. Mary's voice is written in her native Irish brogue.

In the spring of 1854, a cold mountain breeze blew into the Bradley's cottage in Kerry County when neighbors came to visit. "It should be warm now, but its no." Mary said. Her husband, Michael, leaned over and quietly said, "Mary, I don't feel well." Feeling the brow and chest of her otherwise strong husband for fever or palpitations, Mary's concern prompted her to call on her eight-year-old son Denis. "Harness the horse and put the wagon to, we must beckon the priest."

Driving two hours to the Catholic church, Mary convinced Father Desmond to return with her to anoint Michael. "He doesn't look bad, Mary, but since you have travelled this distance, I will anoint him." Mary's wifely intuition was sadly correct. By dawn, Michael Bradley was dead. Realizing her family's bleak future in Ireland, Mary decided they must soon

move to America.

Two weeks later, her three-month old son John perished. In July, Mary and her five remaining children, ages two to eight, boarded an immigrant ship and sailed into the unknown.

Living with her sister in Manchester, N.H., Mary found work in the mills, enrolled her children in school, and befriended the Sisters of Mercy from Dublin. Denis matured rapidly from boyhood to assume responsibilities that would have been his father's. Two years after arriving in Manchester, nine-year-old Margaret suddenly died. "Denis," Mary called. "Hire the funeral wagon; we must bury your sister." In his lifetime, Denis would bury all of his siblings.

Mary's friendship with Mother Frances Warde, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy in America, would become an enduring source of support. The

sisters prepared young Denis for Confirmation. Little did they know that Bishop Bradley would one day be their confessor. From the age of nine, Denis worked in the mills every summer while attending school. In 1864, graduating from the school for boys at St. Anne, he asked, "Mother, in a few years could you spare me to become a brother?"

"Yes, but would ye rather not be a priest?"

"O yes, mother, but the education..."

"Denis, if ye wish to become a priest, ye shall have the education."

After the deprivation of the American Civil War, the cost of meat was high and potatoes were scarce. Mary barely held her own but managed to purchase a house and take in boarders. With diligence and thrift, she saved \$300 in gold.

Mary approached Father William McDonald, pastor of St. Anne Parish. "Father, my son Denis wishes to become a priest." Seeing yet another Irish immigrant mill worker, Father McDonald said, "These times are difficult; you and Denis should be grateful for work and keep to it."

In a voice of pardonable pride, Mary objected: "Father, I didd'na come to ask for money, I came for your advice." She opened her wee purse and handed over the gold coins. Instantly, Father McDonald embraced her saying: "Mrs. Bradley, what a wonderful woman. Denis will be enrolled in Holy Cross College immediately!"

Having lost her husband and all her



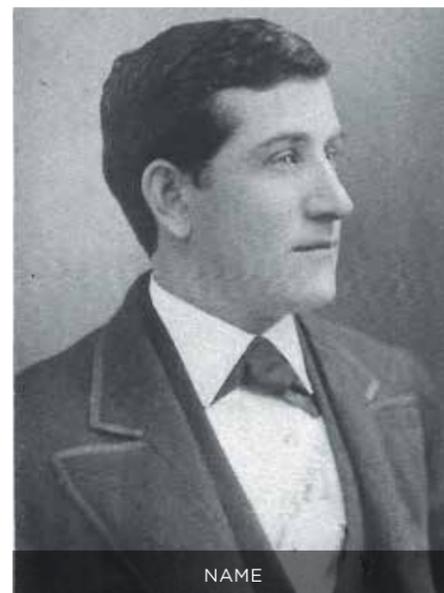
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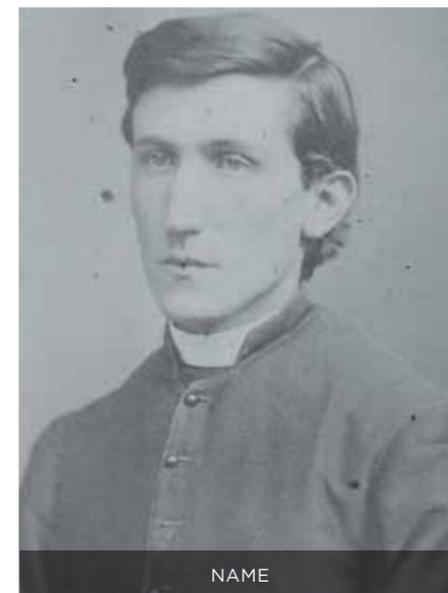
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children except Denis, mother and son became everything to each other. With the death of every one of her children, Mary pleaded: "Lord, God in your Mercy receive my child's soul." However, when Denis became ill, Mary did not ask God's mercy, she protested heaven. "You canna have him Lord. I need him. Your Church needs him." God answered her prayer.

In her old age, Mary lived in the bishop's house where she kept a

garden in the back yard. Reminiscent of the last, cold spring the Bradley family lived in Ireland, an ice storm in mid-May threatened her seedlings. Covering the plants with burlap, 74 year old Mary caught a cold that advanced into pneumonia. On May 25, 1900, Bishop Bradley commended his mother's soul to God. Dying in her son's arms, Mary whispered her final prayer: "Lord God, in your mercy, let me see your face." ■



Barbara D. Miles is the diocesan archivist and a parishioner at St. Joseph Cathedral.

To learn more about the diocesan archives, visit [catholicnh.org/archives](http://catholicnh.org/archives) or call 603.232.3980.

MAY



**NH Food Bank's 4th Annual Nothing™ Campaign**

For the fourth year in a row, you can "Do Something About Nothing." The NH Food Bank's Nothing Campaign, underwritten by Citizens Bank®, is in progress. When generously filled and returned with donations, each can will replace the nothing on your neighbor's table with 60 nourishing meals. Cans are available for purchase through the end of May at any New Hampshire Hannaford, Harvest Market, Market Basket, Sully's Superette and Vista Foods locations. Find out more at [nhfoodbank.org/nothing](http://nhfoodbank.org/nothing).

**Month of the Most Holy Virgin Mary**

The month of May is dedicated to the Most Holy Virgin Mary. It is customary to set up a home altar with a statue or prayer card of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a candle and fresh flowers. Why not make it a family activity to replenish the flowers every day and say a Hail Mary together?

**May 5: The Ascension of the Lord**

Today is a holy day of obligation. Call your parish for Mass times. The diocesan administration building is closed today.

**May 7-8: Catholic Communication Campaign**

This collection communicates the Gospel through Catholic social media activities and enriches our faith through podcasts, television, radio and print media (like *Parable!*) Half of all proceeds remain in our diocese and support local needs, so please be as generous as you can.

**May 7, Manchester: Marian Mass**

The NH Diocesan Council of Catholic Women cordially invites all women of the diocese to participate in the Marian Mass at St. Joseph Cathedral, Manchester. For more information, call Jo-Ann Ellison at **603.663.0147**.

**May 7, Manchester: 13th Annual Youthfest**



It is the 13th annual event for middle/high school youth and adult leaders. This event will take place from 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m. at Sullivan Arena, Saint Anselm College. \$35 early registration. The event includes awesome speakers, music, lunch, reconciliation and Mass with Bishop Libasci. To register and for more information, visit [nhyouthfest.org](http://nhyouthfest.org) or email [nhcatholicyouthfest@gmail.com](mailto:nhcatholicyouthfest@gmail.com).

**May 8: Mother's Day**

"Mothers hold their children's hands a short while, their hearts forever." Our grateful hearts and prayers go out to all mothers today.

**May 12, Manchester: Spaghetti Supper and Cultural Fashion Show**

Holy Cross Family Learning Center will be hosting its Fifth Annual Spaghetti Supper and Cultural Fashion Show at Holy Cross Center.

**May 13-15: Mindfulness**

"Finding God Throughout the Day" with Sister Aline Plante, p.m. Mindfulness seems to be the new buzz word today, for we live in such a busy and noisy world. In this retreat, you will see how the practice of mindfulness can help you to live in the present moment with focused attention and also how this tool can help to enhance your quality of life. Cost: \$190. For more information and to register, call **207.284.5671** or visit [mariejosephspiritual.org](http://mariejosephspiritual.org).

**May 15: Pentecost Sunday**

"When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim." (Acts 2:1-4)

**May 21, Concord: Passion & Purpose for Marriage**

What's the most important word in a marriage? What is really going on in your wife's head? What do you wish your husband knew about you? Discover key ingredients to a healthy and happy marriage at the Passion & Purpose for Marriage event at Christ the King Parish. Take your relationship to a whole new level! Tickets \$25. To register, visit [DynamicCatholic.com/Concord](http://DynamicCatholic.com/Concord).

Author and speaker Chris Stefanick



**May 25, Nashua: Reboot! Live!**

Reboot! Live! is a high energy renewal event presented by internationally acclaimed speaker and author Chris Stefanick, accompanied by musician Jon Niven. The experience is fresh and compelling and like hearing the Gospel for the first time again. Don't miss this rare opportunity. This event will sell out! 7-9:30 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church in Nashua. Cost \$19 (ages 12+). For more information, visit [reallifecatholic.com/REBOOT](http://reallifecatholic.com/REBOOT) or call Fatima Walsh at **603.315.6300**.

YOU ARE INVITED

MAY 28

ORDINATION OF DAVID HARRIS AND MATTHEW SCHULTZ



David Harris



Matthew Schultz

You are cordially invited to attend the ordination of David Harris and Matthew Schultz to the Sacred Order of the Diaconate through the laying on of hands and the invocation of the Holy Spirit by Bishop Peter Libasci on Saturday, May 28, at 10 a.m. at St. Joseph Cathedral.

JUNE 4

ORDINATION OF MICHAEL SARTORI



Michael Sartori

You are cordially invited to attend the priestly ordination of Michael Sartori through the laying on of hands and the invocation of the Holy Spirit by Bishop Peter Libasci on Saturday, June 4, at 10 a.m. at St. Joseph Cathedral.

**May 22: The Most Holy Trinity**

"But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth. He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears, and will declare to you the things that are coming." (John 16:13)

**June 3: The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus**

"My God, I offer You all my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings in union with the Sacred Heart of Jesus, for the intentions for which He

JUNE

pleads and offers Himself in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, in thanksgiving for Your favors, in reparation for my sins, and in humble supplication for my temporal and eternal welfare, for the needs of our holy Mother the Church, for the conversion of sinners, and for the relief of the poor souls in purgatory."

**June 4: The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

"Oh my Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer thee all my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day, for all the intentions of thy Sacred Heart in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass offered throughout the world, in reparation for my sins, and for all the intentions of the Holy Father. Amen."

**June 19: Father's Day**

This Father's Day, why not renew in your family the Catholic tradition of blessing your spouse and children each day? It's very simple. Just make the sign of the cross on their foreheads and say, "May almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you my child for time and eternity, and may this blessing remain forever with you."

**June 20: Summer Begins**

Looking for faith-filled places to go this summer? Check out our Summer Travel Series at [catholicnh.org/travel](http://catholicnh.org/travel).

**June 24: The Nativity of St. John the Baptist**

Throughout the world this feast day is celebrated with fire in honor of St. John. Why not have a bonfire and spread a blanket with a feast to be enjoyed out of doors? Or light some candles on a picnic table and say a prayer in honor of the prophet of the Most High!

**June 29: Sts. Peter and Paul**

On the solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul, the Holy Father places a pallium on the shoulders each new metropolitan archbishop during a ceremony at the

Vatican. The pallium are made from the wool of lambs blessed on the feast of St. Agnes. Once the pallia are sewn, they are stored in a special place beneath the altar of St. Peter's Basilica where St. Peter's bones are laid to rest. Due to their proximity to the saint's bones, the pallia become third class relics. [Source: [biltrix.com](http://biltrix.com)]

**June 30: The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church**

"Around these men with their holy lives there are gathered a great throng of the elect, who, though victims of jealousy, gave us the finest example of endurance in the midst of many indignities and tortures. Through jealousy women were tormented, like Dirce or the daughters of Danaus, suffering terrible and unholy acts of violence. But they courageously finished the course of faith and despite their bodily weakness won a noble prize." – Pope Clement I.





**MARDI GRAS GALA RAISES \$100,000 FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES**

■ **Concord** – There was music, dancing, good food and a wonderful spirit of giving when Catholic Charities NH hosted its 11th annual Mardi Gras Gala at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord on Feb. 6. The gala is the biggest fundraiser of the year for Catholic Charities, one of the largest nonprofit social service agencies in the state. Approximately 350 people attended, raising more than \$100,000 to go toward uplifting the lives of many.

“The money we raise from Mardi Gras supports programs that allow people to lead more independent lives,” says Lisa Merrill-Burzak, Vice President of Development for Catholic Charities. “We are indebted to our many donors for their gifts that help their neighbors succeed.”



**LENTEN FISH BAKE**

■ **Pelham** – A Lenten Fish Bake at St. Patrick’s Knights of Columbus Council # 6902 in Pelham was held every Friday in Lent. One day, the participants had a special visit from Bishop Peter Libasci. Photographed are the workers (l-r): Don Robey, Joel Bedard, Jim Dolan, G.K., (Bishop Libasci), Peter Grigas, Mike Melia and Norm Aubin. Not pictured: Eric Wright and John Mella

**HOMELESS AWARENESS PROJECT**

■ **Belmont** – St. Joseph Parish in Belmont invited students in seventh and eighth grades to highlight the plight of homelessness in Belmont community and the Lakes Region area. On the weekend of Jan. 9-10 they gathered to create their own “Box City” display, collect items to be distributed to local agencies serving the needs of individuals and families in the area, and get more information on this issue, with a presentation by Leonard Campbell from Catholic Charities in Laconia.

More than 50 winter jackets for men, women and children were collected as well as hats, mittens, scarves, socks, warm sweaters, sweatshirts, flannel shirts, blankets, baby items and diapers. Non-perishable food and personal hygiene items were also contributed.

With the help of Mr. Campbell the kids were able to make connections with and deliveries to: St. Joseph Food Pantry, Belmont Elementary, Middle and High Schools, New Beginnings, Belknap/Merrimack CAP Homeless Outreach and Head Start, Carey House and St. Vincent de Paul.



Also, direct donations to several local town assistance programs were made. Special thanks to the students for helping us all to live the teaching of Jesus and put into practice the corporal works of mercy.

**Info**

For up-to-date diocesan news, visit [catholicnh.org/enews](http://catholicnh.org/enews) or subscribe to eNews: [catholicnh.org/subscribe](http://catholicnh.org/subscribe)



▲ (Front row, l-r): Teresa Bellino, Amy Alterisio, Hannah Everitt, Adrianna Kenyon, Alexis Matte, Hannah Fraioli

(Back row, l-r) Asst. Coach Sue LaRose, Marilyn LaRose, Sophie LaRose, Jacinta Hogan, Cheyenne Bentley, Erin Diebold, Naomi Nelson, Coach Derek Tremblay

**LADY KNIGHTS EARN FIRST CHAMPIONSHIP IN GRANITE STATE CONFERENCE JV GIRLS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT**

■ **Sunapee** – The Lady Knights of Mount Royal Academy finished their 2016 season with the school’s first-ever high school championship. The girls’ basketball team won the 2016 Granite State Conference Junior Varsity tournament at Pittsfield Middle High School on February 23. MRA entered the tournament for the second consecutive season as the number one overall seed (12-3). The Lady Knights finish the season at 14-4 overall, as they were able to put last year’s defeat in the championship game behind them, proving to be strong contenders even though MRA is the smallest school in the entire NHIAA.

Marilyn LaRose was named to the all-tournament team because of her excellent all-around play. Cheyenne Bentley was also named to the all-tournament team, largely because of her defensive prowess. Alexis Matte was named “Most Valuable Player” for the tournament, and she also won the 3-point challenge.

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A program of The NHHEAF Network Organizations

**MOUNT CALVARY MASS**

■ **Lebanon** – On March 12, a special mass was held at the Mount Calvary mausoleum. During the Mass people who pasted away in the month of February were honored. Many loved ones came to show their support and find peace. This monthly Mass is held on the second Saturday with the goal of comforting families and remembering their loved ones. During this Mass, 62 cremated remains were also honored.



These remains were unclaimed at local funeral homes and ultimately found their final resting place. Mount Calvary worked on conjunction with four local funeral homes in Manchester; these include: Phaneuf Funeral Home, Lambert Funeral Home, Connor Healy Funeral Home and Cremation Society of N.H. Kevin Cody, the superintendent at Mount Calvary Cemetery, explained, “People were grateful that they were able to come. Some came only for the reason to pay respects to the abandoned urns.” The Year of Mercy was the inspiration for this Mass.

**WORLD MARRIAGE WEEK REPRESENTED BY A CELEBRATION AT SACRED HEART PARISH**

■ **Lebanon** – February 14 was a special day of celebration for the families of Sacred Heart Parish. The Knights of Columbus Council #2656 prepared a breakfast after the 10:30 Mass. Pictures from weddings of the parishioners were shared in a slideshow and handmade wedding cakes were at the center of the tables, arranged in a circle around the buffet. The couple who represented the most years married – 63 years – cut the beautiful cakes. Families gathered around the table to celebrate and appreciate the gift of marriage. It was, indeed, a blessed event and the couples gathered were thankful to confirm the gift of family and the fellowship of the parish. Pictures of the event are available at [lebanoncouncil2656.com](http://lebanoncouncil2656.com).

**AWARD RECOGNIZES SERVICE TO WOMEN, CHILDREN OR FAMILIES**

■ Bishop Libasci will recognize a volunteer who works to improve the lives of women, children or families through the Vita et Caritas award. The family of the late Ruthie Ford has established the award in memory of the work Ruthie accomplished. The award will be given to a volunteer, who through service to a non-profit agency helps transform the lives of women, children or families, exemplifies the Gospel message to love one another. The volunteer will be recognized at the Bishop’s Charitable Assistance Fund’s Summer Reception and the non-profit organization will receive a \$2,500 gift. Information and an application form are available at [catholicnh.org/vca](http://catholicnh.org/vca). The deadline for applications is June 24, 2016.



**FATHER JEFFREY PAVEGLIO DEPLOYED**



■ On March 5, Father Jeffrey Paveglia (Chaplain), CPT USARMY NG NHARNG, deployed along with the HHB 197th Field Artillery Brigade for a period of one year. Prior to heading to the Middle East in undisclosed areas as support of Operation Spartan Shield and Operation Inherent Resolve, they all will be at Fort Bliss in Texas, and at Fort Bragg in North Carolina. We thank Father Jeffrey for his service to the Church and to our country! We pray for his safety and for all of our brave men and women serving in our military.

**Dr. Varasteh Received Inaugural Vita et Caritas Award**

Bishop Peter A. Libasci presented the first Vita et Caritas award in 2015 to Dr. Nicole Varasteh to recognize her work caring for pregnant women. Dr. Varasteh volunteers her time with CareNet Pregnancy Center of Manchester and Nashua and CareNet Pregnancy Center of Greater Concord to enable the organizations to offer relevant medical services to their clients.



**FAST FOR SOCIAL ACTION**

■ St. John Neumann Parish in Merrimack held its 20th annual Fast for Social Action on March 4-5. The theme of this year’s fast was “As Children of God We Choose to Serve.” 71 students and 14 adults participated in the 30 hour fast drinking only juice and water. Throughout the fast the intention is to obtain a greater awareness of the need for social justice and to work together to

make a difference in the lives of others. All funds raised by means of this fast are given to local non-profit agencies that help those in need. The agencies chosen this year were Karg Day Away, End 68 Hours of Hunger, The Friendship Club, Southern NH Services, Tolles St. Mission and the Moore Center. This year over \$19,000 was raised and will be divided equally between the six agencies.

In addition to raising money, the team members hosted food drives in their schools and nearby parishes and 3,527 pounds of food was collected as a result of this fast for the St. John Neumann Food Pantry. To celebrate the 20th annual fast many alumni came back to support this generation of participants. This year’s fast was dedicated to Don Holt, one of the founding members.

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**“CULTURE OF LIFE” ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS**

**Manchester** – Congratulations to Ryan Brewitt, Ridge Gonzales, Mathias Miller and Richard Burleigh! The four eighth graders from St. Joseph Junior High School in Manchester were \$100 winners in the Knights of Columbus essay contest. The essay theme was “How I Can Use My Unique Gifts and Talents to Advance the Culture of Life.” The four students will be guests of the Knights at their award banquet April 30 at the Raddison Hotel.

**ONE GOOD TURN DESERVES ANOTHER**

**Dover** – In addition to being the Student Advisory Board President, a talented singer and an all around star student at St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Amelia Griffiths '16 is dedicated to improving the world – and she's traveling down a slippery slope to do so. As a four-year veteran volunteer with the Waterville Valley Adaptive Ski Program, Amelia works nearly every winter weekend with physically and developmentally disabled individuals and helps them participate in snow sports. She has devoted hundreds of hours to this cause and has spent quality time with clients from all walks of life, including disabled veterans. In contemplation of Amelia's four year, selfless journey on the slopes, it is clear that one good turn deserves another.



**ENVIRONMENTAL ART**

**Concord** – Congratulations to Eve Erickson, a fourth grade student at St. John Regional School. Eve entered the Casella Environmental Art Contest, and her piece, featuring examples of recycling, was chosen to be the picture featured on the company's calendar for January, 2016. Eve is the sixth child from her family to attend St. John Regional School.



**KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS**

**Manchester** – Maddie Kane, an eighth grader at St. Joseph Junior High School in Manchester, was the second place state winner in the Knights of Columbus “Keep Christ in Christmas” poster contest. Maddie received a cash prize and her winning poster has been sent on to the national competition.



**CONSTITUTION DAY**

**Rochester** – Joseph Roussos, an eighth grader at St. Elizabeth Seton School, won First Place/ Middle School category in the Annual Constitution Day essay contest for Foster's Daily Democrat. This year, students were asked to consider whether dress codes or restrictions that ban messages such as those that might be displayed on a t-shirt violate the First Amendment. Mrs. O'Brien, eighth grade teacher at SES, was on hand to see him honored at a reception at the NH Supreme Court on Nov. 18.

**CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT MULTIMEDIA ART CONTEST WINNERS**

**Manchester** – Three cheers for our Multimedia Art Contest Winners! Our first place winners in the 7-9th and 10-12th grade categories have been sent to the national contest.

**7TH – 9TH GRADE**

- **1st Place:** Samara St. John and Grace Durant (*Trinity High School*)
- **2nd Place:** Elaina Latino and Parisa Tbiatnejad (*St. Joseph School, Salem*)
- **3rd Place:** Patrick Dunn and Richard Burleigh (*St. Joseph RJHS, Manchester*)

**10TH – 12TH GRADE**

- **1st Place:** Nicole Calegari (*Trinity High School*)
- **2nd Place:** Madeleine Bayer and Mackenzie Wetherill (*Bishop Brady HS*)
- **3rd Place:** Lizzy MacBride (*St. Thomas Aquinas HS*)

**5TH – 6TH GRADE (DIOCESE ONLY)**

- **1st Place:** Andrew Krupski (*St. Elizabeth Seton School*)
- **2nd Place:** Adam Barton, Adreanna Campo, Katherine Merola, Andrew Rowley, Rafael Vazquez and Jet Wang (*Holy Trinity School*)
- **3rd Place:** Erin Morris (*St. Benedict Academy*)



**Man's Best Friend: Source of Comfort and Calm**

The hospital room was dark and somber. Patrick, the patient, was resting quietly. His young wife, parents and sister were gathered in the room. There was a gentle knock at the door and everyone looked up. A smile came across all their faces as they encouraged Joshua and Roberta to enter the room. Joshua, an adorable Bichon Frise, scampered on his four legs over to the mother and nudged her arm. With Roberta's encouragement, Joshua, a bundle of pure energy, joy and love, then approached each of the family members one by one. Patrick observed this and expressed that he was feeling left out. A covering was placed on the sheets and Joshua was lifted onto the bed. He immediately snuggled up close to Patrick.

Joshua became the focus of everyone's attention, instead of the cancer that was slowly robbing Patrick of his life and the profound sadness his wife and family were feeling. The family began reminiscing about dogs that had been part of their family over the years – calling to mind happier times. For a while there was joy in the room.

Marilyn is an 85 year old woman. Her physical health is deteriorating and she suffers from anxiety and depression. When she was hospitalized she frequently called out in despair – disturbing the other patients on the unit as well as breaking the hearts of the employees caring for her. A request was made to the Volunteer Services to send a pet therapy team to Marilyn's room. When Maggie, a beautiful, elegant, white standard poodle with painted toenails, and her handler, Jennifer, entered Marilyn's room they found her sitting in a chair and very agitated. Maggie paraded over to Marilyn. Maggie simply placed her head on Marilyn's arm and gazed into Marilyn's face and eyes. Slowly, Marilyn responded with a smile and began to gently pat Maggie's head. Few words were spoken between Marilyn and Jennifer – they were unnecessary. Maggie was working her magic – providing a soothing influence on Marilyn.

Roberta and Joshua, Jennifer and Maggie are two of the volunteer certified Animal Assisted Therapy (ATT) teams that visit St. Joseph Hospital regularly. The dogs' wet noses, wagging tails and joy that they bring to people lift the spirits of patients, family members and employees alike. They positively impact the emotional and physical well-being of our patients. They are important contributors to our mission “to provide exceptional compassionate person centered care to all we serve.”



Sponsored by:



■ **Kathleen Rice Orshak** is the Vice President of Mission Integration & Ethics at St. Joseph Hospital in Nashua, NH.



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