The incentive to write this column came from a call from Tablet reporter Marie Elena Giossi. She asked that I “up front and personal” give Josiah and Anne’s Residence in Coney Island to celebrate the Eucharist, which I have been doing four times a week for more than a year, and to explain why I consider it important to do so. By way of encouragement, she also repeated that it would make “wade-interest” for readers.

Despite the encouragement, my initial response was not very enthusiastic. I have never put in print my personal views based on experience. The reason is that personal views are too rare and unique to be important to anyone but myself.

The Eucharist is not an abstract concept. It is a liturgy worship service, an expression of the life of every Christian. It is not something that can be read or heard, but something that must be experienced. It is a gathering of people to reflect on the sacrifice of Christ and the forgiveness of sins. It is a time to share food and drink, and to pray together. It is a time to remember the presence of Christ in our lives.

A woman walks past a placard showing a bank note with the picture of the late Pope John Paul II. A commemorative bank note will be issued in October to celebrate the anniversary of Cardinal Karol Wojtyla’s election as Pope John Paul.

**Papal Currency**

Bishop Places Priest on Administrative Leave

Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio has placed a Brooklyn parochial vicar on administrative leave after accepting the Diocesan Review Board’s finding that an allegation of inappropriate behavior with a young lady two decades ago was credible.

The priest announced his decision on the status of Father Paul Vashapilly in a letter read to parishioners of SS. Simon and Jude Church, where he had served since 1979. Mayor Kevin B. Nolan, the Episcopal Vicar, read the letter at the conclusion of the fourth weekend Masses April 22-23.

As a priest on administrative leave, Father Vashapilly may not present himself as a priest, celebrate Mass publicly or administer the sacraments. He is permitted to offer Mass privately. The diocese will submit documentation on the matter to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith at the Vatican “for its review and any direction it may wish to provide to our Diocese,” the bishop said.

In his letter, the bishop stated his concern for the well-being of the person who presented the allegation against the priest.

Youth Ministers, Coaches Must Attend Workshop

All youth ministers and student coaches in the diocese, whether full time or part time, must attend a three-hour Virtual Work shop in order to work with young people.

For a full list of upcoming workshops, call 718-965-7300, ext. 3132.