Inside

Sister Pat’s Job Is to Keep Children Safe

In the Brooklyn Diocese, teachers, volunteers, and anyone who works with children in parish religious education programs or school must attend a Protecting God’s Children workshop, part of the VIRTUS program, to learn how to create a safe environment for children. Sister Pat Hudson, C.S.J., the newly appointed coordinator of the diocesan Safe Environment Program, directs these workshops. P. 3

Deacons Urge Judges To Be Compassionate

Deacon Jorge González urged judges and lawyers to use compassion as they administer the law in their everyday work. The north end of the diocese, where the deacon serves, was the homilist at the annual Red Mass for members of the legal profession held at St. Charles Borromeo Church, Brooklyn Heights. Bishop DiMarzio was the main celebrant. P. 2.

Migration Office Honors Its Stars

Sixteen outstanding immigrants were honored at the first-ever “Shining Stars” dinner, sponsored by the Catholic Migration Office. The purpose of the dinner was to bring public recognition to the substantial contributions of “16 people who represent the best characteristics of immigrants today,” said Msgr. Ronald Marino, Vicar for Migration Affairs. P. 6.

Catholics from Peru Celebrate

The Peruvian community celebrated a Mass at Holy Innocents Church, Flatbush, in honor of its patron, Our Lord of the Miracles. Before Mass there was a procession that neither rain nor lightning could stop. Msgr. Rolin J. Dabouze, pastor, joined the march which was led by Father Carlos Pifeli, formerly from Holy Innocents. The main celebrant of the Mass was Father Fortunado Romero. After the liturgy, dinner was served in the auditorium while clowns entertained and dancers performed in their native attire.

After 20 Years, Still Saving Babies’ Lives

BY MARIE ELENA GISSI

Isaac, Bath and Jeremiah are the Hebrew names of Angela Silva picked for three babies she chose to bring into the world this summer. Now just over two and a half months old, these tripletts are among the most exhilarating and exhausting aspects of their mom’s life. Silva is one of nearly 29,000 women who have walked into the Brooklyn-based Life Center of New York over the past two decades. This year, the Life Center is celebrating its 20th anniversary serving the five boroughs as a non-profit, non-sectarian crisis center for pregnant women considering abortion.

Alternative to Abortion
The Life Center of New York was started 20 years ago by independent men and women with the idea of helping young ladies who are pregnant and thinking about having an abortion. We try to steer them to see an alternative to abortion,” said Fred Trubusti, executive director of the center since August, 2003. He works closely with site manager, Laura Sien, and a staff of full and part-time volunteers who are trained to deal with women in difficult situations.

Pioneer Program
The Life Center of New York was one of the first pro-life crisis centers in New York City when it opened in 1984 under the name Mother and Unborn Baby Love. Visibility and accessibility to public transportation made the brick building on the corner of 60th St. and 5th Ave. in Bay Ridge/Sunset Park an ideal site. Although the name changed in 1993, the location and mission of saving unborn babies has stayed the same.

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October Is Respect Life Month
**Creating a Safe Environment for Children**

**By Linda Busetti**

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Creating a Safe Environment for Children

Wouldn’t it be a wonderful thing if all children could grow up safe and free of harm? Isn’t that what parents and the church are working for? Sure, we can break the silence and start the conversation... It’s time to begin to build a global village where children can be safe.

The recent news about the sexual abuse crisis at the U.S. Catholic Church has been chilling. It’s important to remember that every Catholic child deserves to grow up in a safe environment.

The Vatican has been involved in a series of reforms and initiatives aimed at creating a safe environment for children. These efforts include the development of guidelines and protocols, the establishment of reporting systems, and the provision of resources and support to victims of abuse.

In the United States, the Church has appointed a National Catholic Safeguarding Supplemental Committee, and the National Catholic Safeguarding Council has been established. These groups are working to ensure that the Church is doing everything possible to create a safe environment for children.

This is a time of reckoning, where we must be honest about the past and work towards healing and prevention. We must support those who have been harmed and work to create a culture where children are safe.
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**Bagues, Lawyers Asked Show Compassion**

**By Linda Busetti**

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It’s important for everyone to show compassion, especially for those who have been hurt. As a Catholic, I believe that compassion is a key part of our faith.

As a lawyer, I believe that it’s important to work towards justice and fairness for all people. This means being empathetic and understanding of the struggles that others face.

As a community, we need to come together and support each other. We need to work towards creating a world where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.
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**Shining Stars**

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Shining Stars

These three happy dancers from the Chinese apostolate joined 450 other revelers at the first-ever Shining Stars Festival sponsored by Catholic Charities of Brooklyn, honoring sixteen immigrants who have made substantial contributions to the Church and to the community. See full story of this unique show of unity on p. 6.
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**Pope Encourages Eucharistic Adoration**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II asked Catholics to spend time during the coming year in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament and offer prayers to God for the Church.

At the end of a general audience, held in St. Peter’s Square dampened by rain, the pope reminded visitors that the Year of Faith is an opportunity to renew our commitment to the Church.

He encouraged people to commit their actions to the Church, saying, “Yes, let us rise like a Church.”
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**Peacemaking Will Be the Theme of Pastoral Care Week, Oct. 24-30**

The 11th annual national Pastoral Care Week (Oct. 24-30) will be noted by more than 20,000 clergy, religious and lay people who assist at 40 hospitals, nursing homes, laity and mental health facilities in the Diocese of Brooklyn.

Michael Guglielmone, director of the Pastoral Care of the Sick Office of Catholic Charities, said the primary focus of the week is “to pray for peace and to be peacemakers in our healing ministry to the sick.”
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**Pope Responds to Questions About Theology and Church**

**By Linda Busetti**

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He emphasized the importance of theologians in shaping the Church’s teaching and said that theologians should be guided by the Church’s own tradition and the teaching of the saints.
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