

The Tablet

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Since 1908

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 schools 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

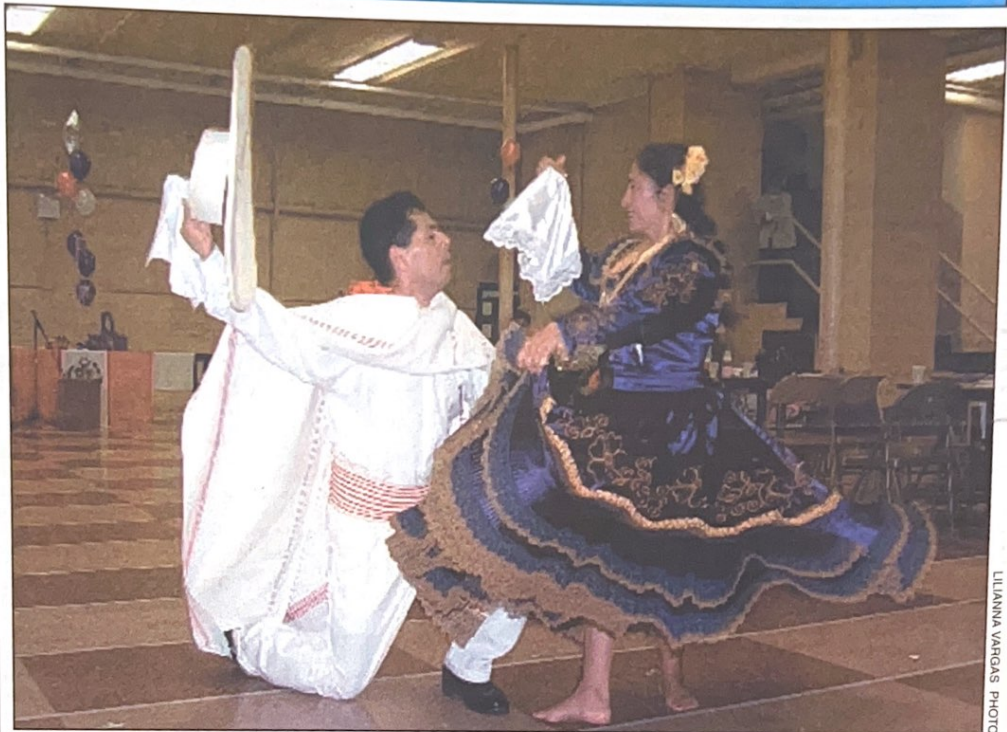
Deacon Jorge Gonzalez urged judges and lawyers to use compassion as they administer the law in their everyday work. The director of the diocesan diacnate program was the homilist at the annual Red Mass for members of the legal profession held at St. Charles Borromeo Church, Brooklyn Heights. Bishop DiMarzio 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 positive contributions of "16 people who represent the best characteristics of immigrants today," said Msgr. Ronald Marino, Vicar for Migration Affairs. P.6.

Also

Keeping your kids away from drugs, P.2... Terrorism is the No. 1 foreign policy issue of the presidential campaign, P. 10... Final tribute to Father Ted Kazanecki and other obituaries, P. 11... Bill Reel gets hung up over words, P. 18... Father Lauder marvels at life commitments, P. 20... Athletes from St. Augustine's H.S. are remembered, P. 22... Bishop Kearney H.S. installs extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, P. 23... Two more seminarians share their views of life and the Church in the Dominican Republic, P. 24.



LILIANA VARGAS PHOTO

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. Rollin J. Darbouze, pastor, joined the march which was led by Father Carlos Pisfil, 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 GIOSSI

Isaiah, Ruth and Jeremiah are the "Bible names" 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 triplets are among the most exhilarating and exhausting aspects of their mom's life.

Silva is one of nearly 26,000 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 Trabulsi, executive director of the center since August, 2003. He works closely with site manager, Laura Sica, and a staff of full and part-time volunteers who are trained to deal with women in difficult situations.

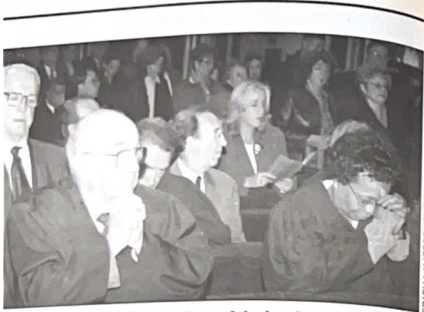
Pioneer Program

The Life Center of New York was one of the first pro-life cri-

sis 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 68th St. and Fifth Ave. in Bay Ridge/Sunset Park an ideal site. Although the name changed in 1995, the location and mission of saving unborn babies has stayed the same.

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October 9s
Respect Life
Month



NG FOR GUIDANCE: Members of the legal profession pray Holy Spirit at the annual diocesan Red Mass celebrated by Bishop DiMarzio at St. Charles Borromeo Church, Brooklyn, on Oct. 14. The Red Mass, which traditionally opens the court session, has its origins in 13th century Europe.

Judges, Lawyers Asked Show Compassion

BY LINDA BUSETTI

Investments, Bishop Nicholas exhorted judges and lawyers a new court session "to seek do justice," as he celebrated at Red Mass at St. Charles Church, Brooklyn Heights, on Oct. 14.

Mass was co-sponsored by Catholic Lawyers Guild and a Lawyers Association of judges in black robes, judges from out counties processed into followed by Father Charles pastor, Msgr. Edward erger, moderator of the awyers Guild, Deacon Jorge director of the diocesan Ministry Office, several other Bishop DiMarzio. The St. rish choir, directed by Don d the congregation through rant verses of the entrance ae Holy Ghost."

Recorded Red Mass was cele in 1245 and traditionally rt sessions in 13th-century r many years the Red Mass a the chapel of the Order of La Sainte Chapelle, in Paris. t officials, lawyers and judges as into church dressed in red signifying the guidance of the in the pursuit of justice. New linal Patrick Hayes revived n of the Red Mass in the as in 1928.

Deacon Gonzalez shared ce of having a family member hen they were new to the case was dismissed, he relat- were very blessed to have a did not see us as a case num- treated with compassion," Gonzalez said that the judges should see their role xtension of the New on, the subject of the bish- astoral letter. He told them great responsibility, but also rtunity."

ities, especially of immi- aid, feel a lack of respect or d when faced by the legal compassionate. Be under- said. Compassion will go a ard making people who are I do not have a voice" feel "worthwhile." clusion of Mass, Bishop ke briefly to the congrega-

tion. He said he had celebrated Mass that morning at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn, where he had the opportunity to see those who "have done wrong" and found them very anxious and looking for help. That morning the men had listened to a Gospel reading about a woman seeking justice from an unjust judge.

"Justice is something that must be done," Bishop DiMarzio said, acknowledging that, "It is complicated." The bishop also reminded the congregation that their work is part of the New Evangelization. "Each one of us, wherever we find ourselves must proclaim the Good News," he told them, "by your daily lives."

"The world needs you," Bishop DiMarzio encouraged them. "Do it well. Justice will prevail." The Mass ended with several choruses of "America the Beautiful" resounding through the church as the congregation processed out.

Four New York City Courts police officers stood as honor guard on the steps of St. Charles as Bishop DiMarzio and members of the legal profession exited. As the bishop greeted the congregation, several shared why they had come for the Red Mass.

Kings County Supreme Court Justice Anthony Cutrona said that the Red Mass is a tradition that he looks forward to each year at the start of the judicial session. "The Red Mass is a great way to kick off the legal session and to invoke the Holy Spirit to guide us," said Concetta Mennella, president of the Columbian Lawyers Association of Brooklyn.



DEACON GONZALEZ reads the Gospel at the Red Mass.

Sister Pat Hudson Leads Diocesan Office

Creating a Safe Environment for Children

BY LINDA BUSETTI

"Wouldn't it be a wonderful thing if all of us start to pay attention to children in a new way and to keep them safe," said Sister Pat Hudson, C.S.J., coordinator of the diocesan Safe Environment Program. In every diocese in the United States did their job it would go beyond the Catholic Church and children in the United States would be safer."

In response to the sexual abuse crisis of the U.S. Catholic Church, the U.S. bishops at their June 2002 meeting in Dallas committed themselves to the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. "Every diocese in the country has a Safe Environment program now as a result of the Dallas Charter of 2002," said Sister Pat. "It takes on a different form depending on where you are."

In the Brooklyn Diocese, teachers, volunteers, and anyone who works with children in parish religious education programs or schools attends a mandatory Protecting God's Children workshop, part of the VIRTUS program, to learn how to create a safe environment for children.

VIRTUS is an educational program designed to protect children from sexual abuse within religious organizations used by over 75% of dioceses in the United States, Sister Pat said. VIRTUS was created by the National Catholic Risk Retention Group.

Workshops have been held through the fall and another is planned for December. The VIRTUS program presenters are all volunteers, Sister Pat emphasized. "Some of them have done seven or eight presentations." The workshop facilitators - Ph.D.s, moms who volunteer, parish workers - attend a two-day training session. Some are trained to present the workshop in Spanish.

Teachers, priests and DREs (directors of religious education) have already gone through the program. "DREs do a great job getting every person in the parish who has anything to do with children and adolescents - maintenance men, lunch-room monitors, the lady in the library -

anyone who has any access to children" to the workshops, Sister Pat said. Currently the diocese is playing catch-up to get all the people who already work with parish children to a workshop. In the future, the focus will be on having people attend a workshop before they begin teaching or volunteering with children.

Anywhere from 25 to 150 people attended each workshop to learn how to create an environment where there is no opportunity for abuse of children nor for false accusations against adults.

Participants receive a workbook for use during the three-hour presentation. Two videotapes are shown. The first, A Time to Protect God's Children, includes the stories of several victims and two abusers, and the second, A Plan to Protect God's Children, discusses creating a safe environment.

Sometimes people don't realize they are putting themselves in a situation where they could be accused of abuse. "Driving a bunch of kids home and having one left in the car," Sister Pat offered as an example. "It's not only providing a safe environment for children, it's providing a safe environment for the adults working with children, so they don't put themselves in a position where they can be accused."

At the workshop, participants are told that it is important to remove opportunities for abuse - such as secluded unlocked rooms - in parish meeting spaces. "Adults have to be watchful. No adult should ever be alone with a child in a closed room with the door shut. It's risky for the adult as well as the child."

"I know this is shocking to some people, but some of the abuse, about 20% of the abuse, happens child to child," Sister Pat added. Participants follow up the workshop at home through 24 lessons online via www.virtus.org. A DRE who attended the workshop told Sister Pat that the VIRTUS program made him aware that when a child comes to classes and they are acting out, that may be a sign something is wrong. It may not necessarily be child abuse, but maybe



Sister Pat Hudson, C.S.J.

the child doesn't feel well or something is wrong at home.

In the early 1980s, Sister Pat had worked in the Brooklyn Diocese for Catholic Charities for about five years. "Children were coming in for counseling because they had been sexually abused and I knew nothing about it," she recalled. She went for training, learning about both the abused and the sex offender. "When you are working with a little four-year-old child, who has been sexually abused, it is very hard to not be angry at the offender. I felt it was important to understand a little bit about the offender, so I would approach this professionally."

Sister Pat has a doctorate in counseling and taught primarily school counseling students at the college level for 16 years at C.W. Post, George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and St. John's University. She was invited to teach at George Washington because "they had an interest in having somebody on faculty who was interested in

spirituality, even though they are a secular university."

While she was there, she developed a school counseling program and did extensive research on child abuse and violence in schools. Along with a GW colleague, she developed "some programs where we would speak at conferences about pre-sex offenders and the aftermath of adult women, who had been abused as children... It was a great experience because we had a lot of opportunities to be creative."

In taking on the role of coordinator of the diocesan Safe Environment Program, Sister Pat has had another opportunity to be creative. "The exciting part for me is that we are working to establish a program for children," she said. "That program will teach children, the kind of lures people use to bring them into an unsafe environment."

In almost every case of sexual abuse, she said, "Kids are afraid to tell. Small children don't have the language to tell." This yet unnamed program will begin in all parish schools and religious education programs in the spring.

"The program that we will use for elementary school children has a parallel program for parents, so that parents will also be invited to come in and see what the children are learning," Sister Pat said. "We will be distributing materials that will help them to understand how they can best work with the children to complement the work in the classroom or religious ed programs."

"Representatives from high school religion departments, guidance departments and also youth ministers are going to look at programs for high school students and develop one appropriate to the Diocese of Brooklyn," Sister Pat added.

"Right now, I'm here because I really believe in what we are doing," Sister Pat said with conviction. "I'm also in the process of writing a chapter for a counseling book on forgiveness. I don't really think that anyone really heals until they manage to forgive... It's got to be part of the counseling process... Healing is a process."

Peacemaking Will Be the Theme Of Pastoral Care Week, Oct. 24-30

The 21st annual national Pastoral Care Week (Oct. 24-30) will be noted by more than 70 clergy, religious and laity who minister at 40 hospitals, nursing homes, hospices and mental health facilities in the Diocese of Brooklyn.

Michael Guglielmo, 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 needy."

The week's theme, "Pastoral Care: Imagining Peace," will be addressed by Father Anthony M. Stanganelli, pastor of Holy Spirit Church, New Hyde Park, L.I., and a pastoral care chaplain at

Long Island Jewish Hospital, at a luncheon to be held at the Immaculate Conception Center, Douglaston, Thursday, Nov. 4.

Chaplains and pastoral ministers will attend the luncheon, which Catholic Charities has sponsored for eight years. Also attending will be 13 interns from the Clinical Pastoral Education program directed by Josephine Sister Julie Houser.

Guglielmo said the services provided "by these competent caregivers speak to the deep spiritual concerns of every person." He added that "nothing distinguishes institutions as much as the quality of their pastoral care."

Pope Encourages Eucharistic Adoration

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Pope John Paul II asked Catholics to spend time during the coming year in adoration before Christ present in the Blessed Sacrament and offer praise to God for the gift of salvation.

At the end of a general audience, held in a St. Peter's Square dampened by rain,

the pope reminded visitors that the Year of the Eucharist officially began Oct. 17.

He encouraged people to commit themselves, like the Blessed Virgin Mary, "to following Jesus, the way, the truth and the life."

"Be frequent adorers of the most holy Eucharist," he said.



Shining Stars

These three happy dancers from the Chinese apostolate joined 450 other revelers at the first-ever Shining Stars dinner sponsored by the Catholic Migration Office, honoring sixteen immigrants who have made substantial contributions to the Church and to their communities. See full story of this unique show of unity on p. 6.