Diocese to cut 22 positions, reduce services

By Jim Grant
Dialog Editor

The Diocese of Wilmington will eliminate 19 full-time and three part-time positions as it cuts operating expenses and prepares to pay more than $77.4 million to survivors of sexual abuse by priests.

The diocese announced the cuts in a letter from Bishop Malooly accompanied by a list of positions that will be eliminated. (See page 3.) Among the services that will be discontinued because of the layoffs are two run by Catholic Charities — parish social ministry and the adoption program. The diocese will also stop publishing The Dialog after 46 years and will let go the paper’s staff of seven full-time employees and one contract staff member.

Other staff reductions will come in the offices of the chancery (central administration), Hispanic ministry, human resources, religious education, and marriage tribunal. A vacant position in Catholic Youth Ministry will not be filled.

Most of the layoffs will be effective July 1. The Dialog “will be phased out sometime this fall,” the diocese said. “Alternative modes of communication between the diocese, parishes and the faithful are being studied.”

In his letter to parishioners, Bishop Malooly expressed “my sincerest regret to those whose positions will be eliminated” and said he was “pained by the loss of jobs by our dedicated, hard-working members of the diocesan family. They and all of our employees have been and are faithful friends and partners in ministry who loyally serve the mission of the church.”

The bishop said the diocese is extending health insurance benefits “for an additional time period” for employees whose jobs have been cut. He did not specify how long. (Employees whose jobs are being cut are not eligible for unemployment benefits since the diocese has traditionally opted not to pay unemployment compensation taxes, as allowed by Delaware law for church organizations.)

One of those whose jobs will be cut is Sister Sally Russell, who for 10 years has been the assistant director of religious education.

“The sadness that I carry is beyond human words at this time,” she told The Dialog. “There seems to be no limit to the painful reality of the abuse scandal. My deepest sorrow is for the mission of Jesus served by the ministry of catechesis.”

Noting that the church is observing the penitential season of Lent, Sister Sally said, “I am compelled to live more deeply rooted in the suffering Christ and in the power of the Spirit. I know, in time, gratitude for those whom I have met and all that I have experienced will replace the sadness of the present moment.”

On Feb. 2 the diocese reached an agreement to pay survivors of sexual abuse by priests more than $77.4 million to settle nearly 150 claims of abuse. The agreement will end pending lawsuits against the diocese and several parishes and commits the diocese to give to survivors its files on sexual abusers.

The agreement, pending approval of all creditors and the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, is expected to bring to an end sometime this summer the Chapter 11 process the diocese began in October 2009. The diocese declared bankruptcy to settle the cases filed by the survivors in a “fair and equitable way” while continuing the ministries of the church.

In this week’s letter Bishop Malooly reiterated what he said in an April 4 memo to employees that announced the cuts to come. The diocese had two major goals in filing bankruptcy, he said: “to fairly compensate all survivors of clergy sexual abuse and honor our obligations to other creditors and pensioners, and to the best of our ability continue the charitable, educational, pastoral, and spiritual work” of the church.

In meeting the second obligation, he said, “we have, through the settlement, protected our parishes and now we are taking those necessary steps to continue the mission and ministries of diocesan services, albeit in a reduced fashion.”

The diocese plans to continue to publish The Dialog on its normal publication schedule — weekly through May 26 then every other week in summer — while it prepares its new communications approach.

The first issue of The Dialog was published Sept. 3, 1965, when it was called the Delmarva Dialog to reflect the geography of the diocese then. From the beginning the paper has been sent to all registered households who request it; current circulation is about 55,000.
Help keep Christianity alive in Holy Land

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

During this season of Lent, every Christian thinks of the Holy Land. All of us have a favorite Bible story that brings that ancient land to life. But the reality of the Holy Land today often does not match the scenes in our imagination.

We are called to support Christianity in the Holy Land. Today, schools and parishes are signs of peace and hope. Shrines in Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jerusalem and many other locations welcome Christian pilgrims. The church in the Holy Land provides housing and food for the poor.

At the recent Synod of Bishops on the Middle East, a special commitment was made to help keep Christianity alive in the Holy Land. Because of the special challenges that Christians face in the Holy Land, many families emigrate in search of a better life.

All Christians are called to assist our brothers and sisters who now live in the land that was sanctified by the Lord’s life, death and resurrection.

Each year, all Catholics are invited to support Christianity in the Holy Land by making a donation to the Good Friday Collection. It is a pontifical collection, requested by Pope Benedict XVI. Please be as generous as your abundance allows. Holy Land Christians, along with all the clergy and religious working there, deeply appreciate your help.

“May God bless you during this holy season!”

— “Handbook of Catholic Sacramentals” by Ann Ball

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev. W. Francis Malooly
Bishop of Wilmington

Bishop Malooly to lead outdoor stations

Bishop Malooly will officiate at the annual outdoor Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, April 22, at noon at Cathedral Cemetery, 2400 Lancaster Avenue in Wilmington. The stations are held in the Garden of Eternal Life on the right side of the cemetery next to the office building.

Praying the Stations of the Cross (also called The Way of the Cross) began as a devotion in Jerusalem, with Christian pilgrims tracing the spots linked with the passion and death of Jesus. As Christianity spread and travel to the Holy Land became difficult, churches began including 14 stations on their walls where the faithful could make the stations of the cross spiritually.

Vatican announces Oct. 22 feast day for Blessed John Paul

From Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — The feast day of Blessed John Paul II will be marked Oct. 22 each year in Rome and the dioceses of Poland.

When the Vatican made the announcement April 11, it also said Catholics throughout the world will have a year to celebrate a Mass in thanksgiving for his beatification. While thanksgiving Masses for a beatification usually are limited to places where the person lived or worked, “the exceptional character of the beatification of the Venerable John Paul II, recognized by the entire Catholic Church spread throughout the world,” led to a general permission for the thanksgiving Mass, said a decree from the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments.

In the Diocese of Rome, where Pope John Paul served as bishop, and in dioceses of his native Poland, his feast day is to be inserted into the annual calendar, the decree said. Oct. 22 was chosen because it is the anniversary of the liturgical inauguration of his papacy in 1978.

Bishop Malooly’s schedule

THURSDAY, APRIL 14
• Mount St. Mary lecture, University and Whist Club, Wilmington, 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16
• Youth Ministry Pilgrimage of the Cross, Wilmington

SUNDAY, APRIL 17
• Palm Sunday Mass, Cathedral of St. Peter, Wilmington, 11 a.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 18
• Christus Mass, Holy Cross, Dover, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 19
• Priests’ Council executive meeting, 1 p.m.

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 21
• Holy Thursday Mass, Cathedral of St. Peter, 7 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 22
• Stations of the Cross, Cathedral Cemetery, Wilmington, noon
• Good Friday Liturgy, Cathedral of St. Peter, 3 p.m.

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 23
• Easter Vigil, Cathedral of St. Peter, 7:30 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 24
• Mass of Resurrection, Holy Spirit, New Castle, 10:30 a.m.
‘I am pained by the loss of jobs’

My Dear Friends in Christ,

Last week I sent a letter to all employees in our diocesan ministries and offices advising them that due to the diocese’s current fiscal obligations, our capacity to operate diocesan ministries at current levels is significantly reduced. Reductions must be made in the fiscal year 2012 budget which in turn require us to reduce staff. Based on certain priorities set by me and our ultimate goal to continue as best we can the work of the diocesan ministries, certain reductions have been recommended to me. I have accepted those recommendations. As I stated in my letter to the employees, the reductions in budget have been spread throughout the six diocesan departments and administrative offices. All diocesan ministry and office budgets were required to reduce expenses; most were required to reduce expenses by 25%. These reductions unfortunately have caused us to initiate a series of layoffs, a most unfortunate circumstance.

The ending of people’s jobs with the diocese is a difficult decision, and one made only with the greatest reluctance. I express my sincerest regret to those whose positions will be eliminated. Most reductions in staff will be effective July 1st of this year. I have asked our Human Resources Office to assist those having to leave us to help them in preparing resumes and offer advice and counsel in their search for new employment. We are extending health insurance benefits for an additional time period for employees whose positions have been eliminated.

Two goals in filing for bankruptcy

In October of 2009 when the diocese filed for Chapter 11 Reorganization Under the United States Bankruptcy Code, I stated the diocese had two very clear moral obligations and therefore two goals in filing for Chapter 11: to make reparations and otherwise seek healing of legitimate abuse survivors and to continue the pastoral, educational, charitable and spiritual missions and ministries of the diocese. We have committed ourselves by agreement with the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors to meet our first moral obligation by settling the bankruptcy. In meeting our second obligation, we have, through the settlement, protected our parishes and now we are taking those necessary steps to continue the mission and ministries of diocesan services, albeit in reduced fashion. We have done our best to preserve most of the services our offices and ministries provide. In addition to significant reductions in staffing and operating costs, unfortunately, some few services will have to be discontinued including Parish Social Ministry and our Adoption Program, two Catholic Charities services. Catholic Charities will, however, continue to retain its adoption license to attend to special cases. Also, we must phase out The Dialog as we know it today. Alternative forms of communication between the diocese, parishes and the Faithful are being studied. Attached to this letter is further information detailing the reduction in diocesan staff. (See box above right.)

I am pained by the loss of jobs by our dedicated, hard-working members of the diocesan family. They and all of our employees have been and are faithful friends and partners in ministry who lovely serve the Mission of the Church.

I thank all of our employees for their service to the church and our diocese, but especially in these very difficult days. We continue to live in challenging times, but with God’s grace, we will continue the work He has entrusted to us.

Sincerely in Our Lord,

Most. Rev. W. Francis Malooly
Bishop of Wilmington

From the bishop

Donations to the Annual Catholic Appeal help Catholic schools educate students in the light of Christ.
Consider making a pledge through your parish or at cdow.org by clicking “Annual Catholic Appeal.”
It’s never too late to help someone in need. Give generously to this year’s Appeal.

Details of staff reductions

The Diocese of Wilmington released the following list of positions to be eliminated:
In cutting the operating expenses of diocesan offices and ministries, there will be a reduction of 19 full-time positions and three part-time positions. Most of the reductions will be effective the beginning of the fiscal year, July 1:
• Chancery Office: Reduction of one part-time position.
• Office for Hispanic Ministry: Reduction of one full-time position.
• Human Resources Office: Reduction of one full-time position.
• Office for Religious Education: Reduction of one full-time position.
• Office for Catholic Youth Ministry: A vacant staff position will not be filled.
• Tribunal: Reduction of two part-time positions.
• The Dialog: The Diocese of Wilmington can no longer afford to publish the diocesan newspaper and it will be phased out sometime this fall, resulting in the reduction of seven full-time staff positions and one contract position. Alternative modes of communication between the diocese, parishes and the faithful are being studied.
• Catholic Charities: Catholic Charities has been undergoing reorganization for several months, and a number of service positions were consolidated. Further reductions in staff between now and July 1 will account for a total reduction of eight positions, including two positions vacated by retirement that will not be filled. Services in Catholic Charities to be phased out or substantially curtailed include Parish Social Ministry and the Adoption Program. Regarding adoption: Catholic Charities will retain the services of a staff person licensed for adoption to serve potential clients at Bayard House, the agency’s maternity home.
WASHINGTON THEOLOGICAL UNION
Summer Session – July 11 through 29

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WASHINGTON — Archbishop Charles J. Chaput said last week there is disunity among Catholics on the question of Catholics in political life standing with the church on major moral issues such as abortion, because “there is no unity among the bishops about it.” The Denver archbishop was questioned after his April 8 address to the University of Notre Dame Right to Life Club. “There is unity among the bishops about abortion always being wrong, and that you can’t be a Catholic and be in favor of abortion, the bishops all agree to that, but there’s just an inability among the bishops together to speak clearly on this matter and even to say that if you’re Catholic and you’re pro-choice, you can’t receive holy Communion,” Archbishop Chaput said. There is a fear, he said, that if they do so, the bishops might disenfranchise the Catholic community from political life, making it difficult to get elected if a Catholic politician has received holy Communion,” Arch-

U.S. bishops said to lack unity on sanctions against abortion backers

NOTRE DAME, Ind. — Archbishop Charles J. Chaput said last week there is disunity among Catholics on the question of Catholics in political life standing with the church on major moral issues such as abortion, because “there is no unity among the bishops about it.” The Denver archbishop was questioned after his April 8 address to the University of Notre Dame Right to Life Club. “There is unity among the bishops about abortion always being wrong, and that you can’t be a Catholic and be in favor of abortion, the bishops all agree to that, but there’s just an inability among the bishops together to speak clearly on this matter and even to say that if you’re Catholic and you’re pro-choice, you can’t receive holy Communion,” Archbishop Chaput said. There is a fear, he said, that if they do so, the bishops might disenfranchise the Catholic community from political life, making it difficult to get elected if a Catholic politician has to hold the church’s position on issues such as abortion.

Theological society questions bishops’ criticism of book

WASHINGTON — The board of directors of the Catholic Theological Society of America has raised concerns about the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Doctrine’s critical assessment of a Fordham University theology professor’s popular book. The 10-member board April 8 questioned the process used by the bishops to assess the 2007 book written by St. Joseph Sister Elizabeth Johnson, suggested that the bishops misread the book’s premise and expressed concern that the bishops’ criticism “seems to reflect a very narrow understanding of the theological task.”

The doctrinal commit-
tee, chaired by Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl of Washington, said March 30 the book, “Quest for the Living God: Mapping Fron-
tiers in the Theology of God,” contained “misrepresentations, ambiguities and errors” related to the Catholic faith. Despite its findings, the committee declined to take any disciplinary action against Sister Elizabeth as they have against other theologians who have been prohibited from publishing or teaching at Catholic institutions.

Priest won’t recant his support for ordaining women

WASHINGTON — Maryknoll Father Roy Bourgeois said he will not recant his belief that women should be ordained to the priesthood in a letter to his superi-
or. The priest, who had until April 13 to step back from his position, was questioned after his April 11 that he decided to follow his conscience in declining to step back from his beliefs that women as well as men are called to the ordained priest-

Nun gives voice to abused children

VATICAN CITY — The cloistered Augustine nun who has written the meditations for Pope Benedict XVI’s Way of the Cross service said she strived to give a voice to children who have been abused in the church and beyond. Mother Maria Rita Piccione, president of the Italian Federation of Augustinian Nuns, told Vatican Radio that she wanted “to give space in this prayer of the church to the voice of children and teens, who sometimes are offended, injured and exploited.” The meditations will be read Good Friday as the pope leads the Stations of the Cross at Rome’s Colosseum.
Abuse charges down in 2010

By Nancy Frazier O’Brien
Catholic News Service

U.S. dioceses and religious orders received 505 new credible allegations of child sex abuse by clergy in 2010, a slight decrease from the previous year and a significant drop from the 1,192 new allegations in 2004, according to a report released April 11 by the U.S. bishops’ conference.

The report was prepared by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University from responses submitted by all but one of the 195 U.S. dioceses and Eastern Catholic dioceses and 156 of the 218 religious orders of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men.

Seven of the allegations involved children under the age of 18 in 2010. Two-thirds of the allegations occurred or began between 1960 and 1984, the report said.

“Alleged offenders increased by one-fifth, from 286 alleged offenders reported in 2009 to 345 alleged offenders in 2010,” CARA said.

The costs associated with child sex abuse in 2010 were $123.7 million for U.S. dioceses and $25.9 million for religious orders in 2010, bringing to nearly $2.7 billion the amount spent by the U.S. Catholic Church to address clergy sex abuse since 2004.

The Dioceses of Lincoln, Neb., and Baker, Ore., did not participate in the 2010 compliance audit U.S. bishops’ Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

The report also evaluated how successful dioceses and eparchies have been in providing safe environment training and evaluating the backgrounds of clergy, employees and volunteers who work with children. It found that background evaluations were conducted for more than 99 percent of priests and deacons, 99.5 percent of educators, 99.5 percent of employees and 99.2 percent of volunteers.

“Boundary violations continue to be reported, and though initially this may be seen as a negative, it is also an indicator of the increased knowledge that comes from the tremendous amount of safe environment training conducted in the dioceses,” the report said. “With this increase in information comes an increase in reporting of inappropriate behavior.”

It cited examples such as inappropriate behavior “kissing girls on the top of the head, inappropriate hugging, and an adult patting a minor on the knee.”

In one case, “civil authorities were called and an investigation was conducted,” but no sexual misconduct was found.

The report said that 96.3 percent of children in Catholic schools and parish religious education programs received safe environment training. About 1.4 percent of children eligible for the training were opted out of the programs by their parents.

The dioceses of Lincoln, Neb., and Baker, Ore., and the eparchies of St. Peter the Apostle for Chaldeans, Newton for Melkites, Our Lady of Nareg in New York for Armenian Catholics, St. Joseph of Parma for Ukrainians and Our Lady of Deliverance of Newark for Syrians declined to participate in the 2010 audits.

“Based on that refusal, they are all found not to be in compliance with the charter,” said Diane M. Knight, who chairs the National Review Board, in a letter to Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York, president of the U.S. bishops’ conference.

“It is my hope and prayer that, with time and persistence, one day the bishops in the United States will have 100 percent compliance with the audit process,” Knight said.

There was no immediate response to requests for comment from the dioceses of Lincoln and Baker on why they did not participate. Under canon law, dioceses and eparchies cannot be required to participate in the audit, but it is strongly recommended.

The Diocese of Lincoln said in a 2008 statement that after participating in the initial USCCB audit the diocese “has exercised its option to refrain from participation in the audit, as its application, though perhaps helpful in some dioceses, has not proven to be so in the Diocese of Lincoln.”

The Diocese of Baker was listed as noncompliant in the 2009 audit because it did not provide the charter-mandated safe environment training for children and youths. It noted that Bishop Robert F. Vasa, then bishop of Baker, “feels it’s inappropriate to provide any type of sex education to any prepubescent child.” Bishop Vasa has been named coadjutor bishop of Santa Rosa, Calif.

Most dioceses meeting child protection guidelines

By Nancy Frazier O’Brien
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Most U.S. dioceses are in compliance with the U.S. bishops’ “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People,” but annual audits are uncovering problem areas and reporting cases of boundary violations short of abuse, such as inappropriate hugging.

An audit report released April 11 and covering the period from July 1, 2009, to June 30, 2010, showed that “management letters” had been issued to 55 of the 188 dioceses or eparchies participating in the annual compliance assessments by the Gavin Group.

Those letters “offered guidance for performance improvement or highlighted potential problem areas,” said William A. Gavin, president of the Gavin Group, in a letter to Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and Diane Knight, who chairs the National Review Board.

The issues cited, “though not at a level to categorize the diocese as noncompliant in a particular area, were identified as possibly doing so if not sufficiently addressed,” said an introduction to the audit summary, which was released in conjunction with a report by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate on abuse-related statistics and costs in 2010.

Two dioceses and five Eastern-rite eparchies declined to participate in the audits. Those were the only church jurisdictions judged not in compliance with the charter.

During the 2010 audit, 653 people who alleged that they had been abused in the past came forward for the first time and another 30 people who were currently minors made such allegations.

Of the 30 cases involving minors, “eight were considered credible by law enforcement, seven were determined to be false, 12 were determined to be boundary violations and three are still under investigation,” the report said.

The allegations during the audit period involved 574 priests and eight deacons, according to the report. Of these, 253 were deceased, 67 had already been laicized and 172 had already been removed from ministry. More than half had been named in previous audits.

The report also evaluated how successful dioceses and eparchies have been in providing safe environment training and evaluating the backgrounds of clergy, employees and volunteers who work with children.

It found that background evaluations were conducted for more than 99 percent of priests and deacons, 99.5 percent of educators, 99.5 percent of employees and 99.2 percent of volunteers.

“Boundary violations continue to be reported, and though initially this may be seen as a negative, it is also an indicator of the increased knowledge that comes from the tremendous amount of safe environment training conducted in the dioceses,” the report said. “With this increase in information comes an increase in reporting of inappropriate behavior.”

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Harm, hope and healing

U.S. conference on clergy sex abuse hears how Ireland handled its crisis ‘spectacularly wrong’

By Willy Thorn
Catholic News Service

MILWAUKEE — The Archdiocese of Dublin “got it spectacularly wrong” in not assuming responsibility for the harm done through the clergy abuse crisis, the head of the archdiocese told an international conference on the clergy sex abuse scandal April 4.

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, the opening speaker during a two-day conference at Marquette University Law School in Milwaukee, said he “cannot accept a situation where no one need assume responsibility in the face of terrible damage done to children in the church.”

Other conference speakers at the conference, “Harm, Hope and Healing: International Dialogue on the Clergy Sex Abuse Scandal,” included Bishop Blase J. Cupich of Spokane, Wash., chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People, as well as a Vatican diplomat to the United Nations before being reassigned to his homeland during Dublin’s clergy abuse scandal.

Dublin Archbishop Diarmuid Martin says the Irish church must repent for the “false understanding of mercy and human nature” that allow offenders to continue to abuse children.

The Irish archbishop, who served as a Vatican diplomat to the United Nations before being reassigned to his homeland during Dublin’s clergy abuse scandal, said a Feb. 20 “liturgy of lament and repentance” at the Dublin cathedral was a truly restorative moment for many abuse survivors, who “felt that they had encountered in it a church which was beginning to identify with their hurt and their journey.”

“The church does not have any experience of being surrounded by a church in lament, rather than all wanting to be in charge,” he added.

The Dublin leader said the church must analyze whether “the culture of clericalism” might have “somehow facilitated disastrous human nature” that allow abusive behavior to continue for so long and must repent for the “false understanding of mercy and human nature” that allow offenders to continue to abuse children.

“Serial sexual abusers manipulatively weaved their way in and out of the net of mercy for years, when what they really needed was that they be firmly blocked in their path,” he said.

The Irish archbishop told conference participants that when he was reassigned to Ireland his first decision was to make sure that all abuse files were re-examined by an independent outside expert. He also re-established use of canonical trials for abusers which he called a long process but far better than nothing.

“There was a culture where the church dealt with its own things in their own way,” he said. “We had this mixture — avoid scandal at all costs, but also, be merciful (saying): ‘Poor Father, he really was very good.’”

As part of his own investigation he discovered his requests for files went unanswered and occasionally he saw documents for the first time when they were shown to a government commission.

Archbishop Martin said that as he learned more and met with victims, parents, spouses and children, he became further convinced the investigation he was doing was right.

The archbishop urged greater attention to seminary formation.

He said he planned to require all future priests to “carry out some part of their formation together with laypeople so that they can establish mature relationships with men and women and do not develop any sense of their priesthood giving them a special social position.”

“We are signs of renewed clericalism, which may even at times be ably veiled behind appeals for deeper spirituality or for more orthodox theological positions,” he said.

Bishop Cupich called the Marquette conference a “much-needed effort to bring healing in what is a historically challenging but also decisive moment for our church.”

He did not directly mention the Philadelphia archdiocese, which has placed 26 priests on administrative leave pending an investigation into abuse allegations made against them.

Bishop Cupich referred to “recent developments” that “unfortunately demonstrate only too painfully” what happens when church leaders do not fully understand “the horror of what has been done to innocent children and forget that healing is the first imperative.”

He also spoke of the church at large needing more than ever “keep fresh and internalize the insights learned in 2002 when the U.S. bishops adopted the ‘Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People’ at their Dallas meeting.

For additional coverage of events and activities from parishes, schools and other church organizations go to our online feature, Dialog Extras, at cdow.org/dialog.html.

• To report abuse

The Diocese of Wilmington “encourages anyone who has been sexually abused by a priest, brother or sister, or any lay person employed by the church, or by a church volunteer, to service to a parish or school or other church organization, to seek help and to report the abuse to law enforcement authorities and to the diocese.”

For more information about the Diocese of Wilmington’s efforts to protect children from abuse is available at www.cdow.org.
**Tussling over words used in Mass is nothing new**

The sky is not falling this coming Advent, despite what you may be hearing. What will happen is the implementation of the new translation of the Roman Missal. This translation is intended to bring the English more in line with the original Latin text and with the translations of other languages, which themselves generally new closer to the Latin text.

Since there is nothing that a certain class of Catholic prefers more than a good row about the liturgy, this has become the occasion for a great deal of harrumphing. A rather creatively named organization — What If We Just Said Wait? — began gathering signatures from people who wanted to delay the translation. More recently, articles have appeared in certain Catholic periodicals asking the bishops to halt. Catholic periodicals asking the bishops to recently, articles have appeared in certain Catholic periodicals asking the bishops to...
Don’t let the Passion be a small distraction in your Easter

READEINGS FOR APRIL 17
Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion
Matthew 21:1-11 at Procession with Palms; Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66 or 27:11-54

“The whole city was shaken and asked, ‘Who is this?’ I never heard this statement from Matthew’s Gospel account of Palm Sunday until this week. I always thought the whole city was greeting Jesus with palm branches as he rode into Jerusalem. My first response is, “how could they not know who this is?”

As I reflect on this question I realize that this triumphant entry is just a small event occurring within a segment of the local community, at a time when the city is swelling with pilgrims who have no idea what is happening in their midst.

I am reminded of the many Holy Weeks when my main focus was getting my spring cleaning done, the house decorated, the food cooked and my seven daughters ready for Easter Sunday while attempting to squeeze in the obligatory church services. I know that I was not aware of what was happening. I was following the customs and culture of my family and faith tradition without comprehending “who this is.”

This first day of Holy Week is a time to set the scene and allow ourselves to be with Jesus as he walks again amongst us. This is the culmination of his earthly ministry and he invites us to make this journey to Calvary with him.

By using our imagination in prayer, we can experience with Jesus the events of the week ahead and we can be with him during this time of his passion. We can see and hear the voices of the people and observe their actions. Listen carefully to Jesus’ pain; betrayed by a trusted friend and deserted by his most committed followers; tormented about his mission; misunderstood by those he wanted to help; falsely accused and condemned by his religious and civil leaders.

A visitor from northern Africa, Simon of Cyrene, could not have anticipated being pulled out of the crowd to relieve the burden of this criminal’s heavy cross. We know little about Simon. We know even less about how his involvement in the passion affected his life but we do know he can be a model for us. The path of God’s Son may cross our path at the most unexpected moments. How will we react when we are forced to carry a symbol of shame and death?

In our day the cross has become domesticated; it has become a cultural tool or symbol, something we sometimes manipulate for our own purpose. Can we see the cross as something we receive rather than use, something we bear rather than hang on the wall or around our neck? Will God ask us then to bear the physical suffering and death of his son? Perhaps for a few.

For the majority, however, our suffering and dying for others will be the psychological pain and death we willingly endure for those we love. St. Paul reminds us we are called to imitate Jesus. Jesus chose the path that fulfilled God’s will, and obediently followed that path to the end. We as followers of Christ should have the desire for the same obedience to the divine will, whether that leads to suffering and humiliation for Jesus’ sake or to God-given boldness that challenges our comfort level. Imitating Jesus is only possible through the gift of God’s grace, and his grace is present for all. Remember, he never stops loving, never stops giving himself.

Kathleen Ebner is a member of St. Jude the Apostle Parish in Lewes, where she serves as spiritual director and catechist.
We are saved by the death of Jesus. All Christians believe this. This is a central tenet within the Christian faith. Jesus’ death on a cross changed history forever.

But how does this work? How can one person’s death ricochet through history, being somehow beyond time, so as to effect past, present, and future, as if that death was forever happening at the present moment?

Is this some mystery and metaphysics inside of the Godhead that isn’t meant to be understood?

Too often, I believe, the answer we were given was simply this: It’s a mystery. Believe it. You don’t have to understand.

There’s wisdom in that. How we are washed clean in the blood of Christ is something we understand more in the gut than in the head. Indeed, we know its truth so perfectly transparent to his design, entirely nonresistant to God, permanently and we are laid open to the manner of God. The obedience of Christ is something we understand as God was in it. The creative energy perpetually worked in this world of his. It meets upon the historical or human level. God was in it. The creative act is equivalent to splitting the atom that effect lasts forever. Jesus’ death split the moral atom.

Our moral actions all leave a trace, and sometimes if that moral act is equivalent to splitting the atom that effect lasts forever. Jesus’ death split the moral atom.

Oblate of Mary Immaculate Father Ron Rolheiser is president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas. He can be contacted at ronrolheiser.com.
Still at work in ‘growth’ industry

By Gary Morton
Staff reporter

A seemingly never-ending string of colder-than-normal wet weather delayed sowing of sweet corn this spring on the 160-acre Filasky’s Produce farm just outside Middletown. “We’re running about a week late,” John Filasky Sr. said last week. “You can’t make that up.”

He’s already planted strawberries, which should be ready by mid-May, but they require nocturnal attention. “We spend half our nights chasing deer out of the strawberry fields,” where they eat some of the year’s first green vegetation, said Filasky’s wife, Cindi.

Such is life when your business relies on nature. Farmers in Delaware and on the Eastern Shore realize that hard work and long hours need at least a little cooperation from Mother Nature to make a successful year. God’s help is always welcomed, too.

“You pray a lot,” Cindi Filasky said.

Some 40 miles southwest of the Filaskys, Mike Musachio finally planted potatoes on his 24-acre Musachio Farm outside Ridgely, Md., on March 28 — 11 days after the traditional target of St. Patrick’s Day. A frost the day before the potatoes were planted damaged some of his strawberry plants already in the ground, killing some blossoms — “hopelessly not too many” — that would have become fruit to sell at farmers’ markets in the Washington, D.C., area.

The Filaskys sell to grocery stores primarily in New Castle County, operate a pick-your-own market for strawberries and pumpkins, and have their own produce at their farm. Both their farms fit the range of most in each state, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In 2007, more than 90 percent of Delaware farms and 93 percent of Maryland’s were 499 acres or less; 70 percent in Delaware and 65 percent in Maryland were 99 acres or less.

**Family business**

John Filasky continues a family line of farmers. His grandfather operated a farm on Long Island, N.Y. His father moved to Delaware in the early 1950s and farmed near Middletown, where John Filasky was raised. His son, John Jr., helps work the family’s 67-acre farm, purchased in 1981, and almost 100 acres they rent.

As the crops ripen, the Filaskys hire 10 and 15 people to pick the produce, starting at 5:30 a.m. daily. About the same time Cindi Filasky lines up the day’s orders with calls to grocery produce managers.

“You’ve got to get it out early in the morning,” John Filasky Sr. said.

Maintaining an optimistic outlook helps, he said, recalling how one drought year he had a field that he kept irrigated while another withered away. “You look at the good field and say, ‘Thank you,’” Filasky said. As for a drought-ruined field, “You don’t look at it. You ignore it.”

When not dealing with their crops and weather, the Filaskys comply with government regulations for agriculture and food handling and cope with rising petroleum costs.

In the fall the Filaskys, who

See Farming, next page

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In 2007, more than 90 percent of Delaware farms and 93 percent of Maryland’s were 499 acres or less; 70 percent in Delaware and 65 percent in Maryland were 99 acres or less.

**Mike Musachio inspects his tomato plants in the greenhouse on his farm in Ridgely, Md.**

**John Filasky Jr. and his wife, Cindi, plant seedless watermelons at their farm in Middletown.**

**Pepper plants are sprouting in the Filasky’s greenhouse.**
Farm fresh
Filsaky's Produce market, on the farm at 1343 Bunker Hill Road in Middletown, is open from May through December. More information is available at www.facebook.com/pages/Filsaky's-Produce/107451671293?v=wall.
Musachio Farm sells produce at farmers markets from mid-May through November.
For a listing of Maryland Farmers Markets, go to www.mda.state.md.us/md_products/farmers_market_dir.php.

Above, Mike Musachio covers the potatoes he planted on his farm in Ridgely, Md. At right, tractors for children are ready for when Filasky’s Produce opens this May in Middletown.

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Marriage program gets new local leaders
Kathy and Barney Bellard of Hockessin and Father Joseph DiMauro of Salesianum School have assumed leadership of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter of Delaware/Maryland Eastern Shore.
The program provides couples the opportunity to examine their lives together at weekend retreat-like gatherings. Three weekends are scheduled this year: April 29-May 1 and Nov. 11-13 in Rehoboth Beach and July 22-24 in Wilmington.
The Bellards, members of St. John the Beloved Parish, made their first Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend in Louisiana in 1987. They have been married 32 years and have four sons and one granddaughter. They succeed Bill and Kathy Thurnau of Elkton, Md.
Father DiMauro, an Oblate of St. Francis de Sales, teaches religious studies at Salesianum.
For more information or to register for a weekend, go to www.wwme-delmar.org or call (302) 465-0935.

Address Changes:
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Farming...
Continued from previous page

attend St. Joseph Church in Middletown, host school visits and conduct hay rides.
“Just one more thing to help the bottom line,” Cindi Filasky said.

‘I was hooked’
Musachio and his wife, Anne, members of St. Benedict in Ridgely, purchased their farm in 1979. Anne and three of their four children moved to the farm that year, while Musachio joined them in 1980 after retiring from the U.S. Public Health Service. He planned for a “pick-your-own” farm to supplement his retirement income but broadened his scope after a surplus of cantaloupes one year led him to a farmers market in Washington.

People would ask, ‘Are you going to have tomatoes?’ ‘Are you going to have peppers?’” he recalled. “Before you have tomatoes? Are you going to have tomatoes? Are you going to have tomatoes? Are you going to have tomatoes?”

Musachio started farming chickens in New York, but took a job with the state government before joining the Public Health Service. But mentally he remained a farmer.

Anne Musachio, who grew up on a farm in Bath, N.Y., realized the depth of her husband’s farming interest while living outside Washington, where he kept growing radishes even though no one in the family ate them. “I asked him, ‘Why are you growing these year after year?’” And he said, ‘Oh, I like to see them grow.’”

“It gives me satisfaction to see something grow,” Mike Musachio admitted. “Of course, I also enjoy selling the produce and conversing with people.”

Now the Musachios and Filaskys are gearing up for another season of growing things they can sell at farmers markets, through grocers and at their own stands — if the rain stays away long enough for the fields to dry so they can be plowed and filled with seedlings; if the rain comes again at the right times during the growing season; and if the raccoons that feast on sweet corn and the deer that munch on strawberry plants, lettuce and other greenery don’t eat too much.
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Wilmington, DE 19899, or e-mail news@thedialog.org.

The Dialog/Don Blake

Matt Kempski, a fifth-grader at St. Mary Magdalen School, eats lunch last Friday with his grandfa-
ther Tony Kempski during Respect “Ability” Day at St. Mary Magdalen School.

Respecting life of the elderly
St. Mary Magdalen students learn the abilities of the aged

By Mike Lang
Staff reporter

WILMINGTON — Patricia Curtin surveyed the room. She had asked her audience how many of them knew someone in their 90s, and nearly everyone in front of her raised their hand.

Curtin, the director of the Geriatric Medicine Section at Christiana Care, was the keynote speaker last Friday at the eighth annual Respect “Ability” Conference at St. Mary Magdalen School. The event covers a different topic on a three-year rotating basis; this year’s subject was aging. (The other two are the disabled and different cultures.)

The doctor, who was introduced by her son, Joseph White, a St. Mary Magdalen student, recalled how she, as a young woman, was drawn to older people and geriatrics. When she had an operation to remove her appendix, she met an older man at the hospital whom she befriended. They corresponded until his death while she was a student at the University of Notre Dame, and Curtin found out to her surprise, that the man had left her a small amount of money in his will.

“I didn’t realize how much I meant to him. He meant so much to me,” she said.

At Notre Dame, she began a buddy program in which students were paired with seniors. They would get together for conversation, shopping or other activities.

Curtin said the conference is a way for the students to learn how people cope with normal aging and to see what seniors go through.

“The hope is that they’d be able to share that with family mem-
bers,” she said.

The children divided into groups for workshops dealing with various topics of interest to seniors. One of the workshops was called PAWS for People, run by Lynne Robinson of that organization. PAWS is an acronym for Pet-Assisted Visitation Volunteer Services. Robinson was joined by a few colleagues and four working dogs that are taken to nursing homes, hospitals and other settings with senior citizens.

See Abilities, page 15
Christopher Awards honor movies, books, TV shows

By Catholic News Service

NEW YORK — The feature films “The King’s Speech,” “Toy Story 3” and “Secretariat” were among the 17 winners of the 62nd annual Christopher Awards honoring book, film and television productions that affirm the highest values of the human spirit.

“The King’s Speech,” which won four Oscars in February — including best picture — was recently rereleased in a version rated PG-13 to allow more young people to see the movie. The original release of the film, about how the future King George VI overcame his stammer, is rated R.

The Lifetime Movie Network cable channel won a Christopher for “Amish Grace,” a dramatization of the 2006 school shootings in Nickel Mines, Pa., and the community’s struggle to forgive the murderer and support his wife.

In addition, Christopher Awards were bestowed on nine books, five for adults and four for young people. In the adult category, the winners were:

- “Thea’s Song: The Life of Thea Bowman” by John Feister and Charlene Smith, chronicles the life of the late Sister Thea Bowman, an African-American from Canton, Miss., who joined the Catholic Church as a child and later became a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration. She was known for her work to advance the life of her fellow black Catholics in the church and help establish a greater sense of inter-religious understanding and inclusion within the church.
- “Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy” by Eric Metaxas, a look at the life and faith of Lutheran pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer who called for German churches to speak out against Nazi policies, and was killed for his role in a plot to overthrow Hitler.
- “Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience and Redemption” by Laura Hillenbrand explores the life of Army hero Louis Zamperini, what he endured as a Japanese POW after his plane crashed in the Pacific.
- “Washington: A Life” by Ron Chernow, which revealed unexplored dimensions of George Washington’s life and personality, and his dedication to the cause of creating a new country.

Books for young people that won Christophers were:

- “Knuffle Bunny Free: An Unexpected Diversion” by Mo Willems, preschool.
- “Would You Still Love Me If...” by Wendy LaGuardia and illustrator Patricia Keeler.
- “Brother Jerome and the Angels in the Bakery” by Benedictine Father Dominic Garramon and illustrated by Richard Bernal, ages 8-10.

Movie Reviews

By Catholic News Service

More reviews at usccb.org/movies

Arthur (A-III, PG-13)

The frivolous, alcoholic heir (Russell Brand) to a fortune is threatened with disinheritance unless he marries a domineering executive (Jennifer Garner) who plans to curb his wayward lifestyle. An encounter with a working-class executive (Jennifer Garner) who plans to curb his wayward lifestyle.

Dad wins her to use violence as instinctively as a wild animal. Once she starts to put her deadly skills to use, she’s pursed by a CIA agent (Cate Blanchett), who knows her family’s dark secrets.

Mature themes, gun and martial-arts violence, a single profanity and crude language.

Insidious (A-III, PG-13)

This horror homage has a young boy trapped in a hellish netherworld known as The Further, with his feckless father (Patrick Wilson) and a medium out to rescue him. A nongraphic bedroom scene, crude language.

The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything (O, R)

Illustrator Patricia Keeler.

Father James Martin’s “The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything” is one of the books honored by The Christophers this year.

All the awards, sponsored by the Christophers, will be conferred May 19 in New York. A list of the winners was released April 6.

SIGHTS & SOUNDS

A-III: Limited adult audience, films whose problematic content may adults find troubling
A-II: Adults and adolescents
A-I: Adults
L: Limited adult audience, films whose problematic content may many adults would find troubling
O: Morally offensive

www.cdow.org/dialog.html
Dancin’ the decades away
Whether ballet, modern, jazz, hip hop or tap, her studio’s been busy for 60 years

By Mike Lang
Staff reporter

WILMINGTON — This Saturday, 17 students from the Anna Marie Dance Studio will head to Southern California for Dance Excellence, an international festival for young talent. Their leader will be a young-at-heart talent, Anna Marie Leo, who has been running her studio for 60 years. It’s the only job Leo has ever known and is one she still approaches with zeal.

“I never thought, I wish I had a different job,” she said recently at her Naamans Road location in north Wilmington. Each year, the studio puts on a recital involving the dancers in all of her classes. Her students range from 4 to some adults in their 60s. The older children and adults, along with some of her alumni, will participate in the 60th anniversary gala, which is scheduled for June 25 at Archmere Academy in Claymont. (Tickets are available by contacting the studio, 475-3949.)

The seeds of Leo’s vocation were planted as a little girl in Wilmington’s Little Italy. A member of St. Anthony of Padua Parish as a youngster, she performed in the original Via Crucis. She also danced at the parish carnival before it became the Italian Festival, as well as at Three Little Bakers dinner theater in Pike Creek.

She took dance class at the Queen Theater in Wilmington, and in her teens she began working at the Joyce Potter Dance Studio near the train station. At age 20 she was engaged to be married and ready to do her own thing.

“It got to the point where I did all the work, and I said, ‘It’s time. We’re getting married. I’ll just open my own studio,’” she said.

Her fiancé, Bill, had no job at the time, and Leo was unsure what to expect when she opened at 29th and Market streets in September 1951, a month after her wedding at St. Anthony’s. Seventy-five students enrolled that first year.

“Once I got into it, it was my thing. I’ve never done anything else,” she said. “Never had a job. I mean, this is a job, and a big one, but I’ve never worked in a store or anything like that.”

Famous Anna Marie students
Leo, 80, who lives in Bellefonte and is a member of St. Helena’s Parish, still teaches an adult class on Mondays and a group of 5-year-olds on Tuesdays. She believes staying active with the students has helped keep her young.

“People say, ‘You don’t look 80,’” and I truly attribute that to working with children. I really do,” she said.

Leo likes to keep in touch with her alumni, many of whom dance or choreograph professionally. One student is acting in “Billy Elliot” in Canada, another is in a ballet company in Germany, while a third is in a jazz company in Chicago. Perhaps her most famous former student is Susan Stroman, the Broadway choreographer and director who has won five Tony Awards.

“I always get a letter from a student who has won an award, saying, ‘Anna Marie, you were my first teacher. I don’t know if I ever told you how much you’ve inspired me,’” she said.

The studio is open year-round, a change from earlier years when it was closed from Memorial Day until Labor Day. That earlier schedule worked well for Anna Marie and Bill, as he worked as a plasterer and was much busier during the summer. Together they raised a daughter, Bonnie, and a son, Sonny. Both work at the studio.

Bonnie Mosser takes care of the operations end of things, while Sonny teaches in addition to his outside theater work. Bonnie’s daughter, Jessica, has become very involved at the studio, Leo said.

“When she’s not at the studio or preparing for a show, Leo likes to watch a little television at home. Most of the vacations she and Bill take are local. ‘We like to frequent Delaware Park once in a while. Everyone knows that.’ But the casino should not expect to see more of Leo anytime soon. She said she is in good health and has no plans to stop working. ‘I’m going to be around for a few more years.’”

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Oldest WW II vet survived Bataan Death March

In the spring of 1942, as the horror of war was beginning to sink in for those of us who were young students, we prayed so fervently for our service men and women. Most of whom were so young and dying in places with names that we had never heard of. One of these places was the Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines. Its name was burned into our memories because of an infamous, atrocious order that was forced on American and Filipino soldiers who were captured by the Japanese, earning the name Bataan Death March.

Fast-forward to early 2011. Kevin Moore, a friend whom I often greet at church with his wife and four lovely children, has co-authored with Don Morrow “Forsaken Heroes of the Pacific War: One Man’s True Story,” a biography of U.S. Army Maj. Albert Brown, an Illinois dentist, now 105. Brown is the oldest confirmed living World War II veteran of that infamous Bataan Death March. You read this book with a sense that miracles can happen.

Some 75,000 American and Filipino troops, after fighting valiantly on the Bataan Peninsula for months, surrendered to the Japanese in April 1942 after their ammunition and food were virtually gone. The prisoners were forced to march 70 miles to a prison camp. Many were shot on the spot or beheaded, just for trying to get water. The march was later accounted as a Japanese war crime.

“We were sickly, wounded skeletons,” Brown said. He survived beatings, tortures, a bayonet stabbing, a broken back and neck, and about 15 serious tropical diseases.

According to Brown, U.S. Army Gen. Douglas MacArthur ordered that there was to be no surrender. “He wanted us to fight to the last man,” Brown said in a taped interview that I was able to listen to. “We had to surrender to prevent an out-and-out killing of all Americans.”

Brown still speaks of his amazing life, and how he became friends with Notre Dame’s famed football coach, Knute Rockne, during college. He was captain of a semipro basketball team that beat the Harlem Globetrotters, and he became a dentist and a pilot in the late-1920s with his own air travel business.

As a 32-year-old dentist with a wife and three children, Brown was called up by the Army in 1937 as America prepared for war. Ten years elapsed before he saw his family again.

Morrow, a World War II veteran and a professional voice actor, met Brown in the interview that I was able to listen to. “We had to surrender to prevent an out-and-out killing of all Americans.”

“Doc Brown turned 105 on Oct. 26,” the authors told me, and shared another unexpected bit of information: “He is the godson of Buffalo Bill.”

Profits from the sale of “Forsaken Heroes of the Pacific War: One Man’s True Story” will benefit the Wounded Warriors Project, a nonprofit organization that assists military members who are struggling to meet medical, social and personal needs resulting from service-related injuries and illnesses. To buy the book, e-mail moorekkvn@aol.com.

Antoinette Bosco is a freelance writer. Her column is distributed by Catholic News Service.
Putting Mom in a nursing home

We put my mother in a nursing home in March. It may only be temporary, but it was painful. As our parents live into their 90s, it is a common experience. But that doesn’t make it any less painful.

Mom turns 91 in April. She has had a full life. She raised eight children. She was married for nearly 40 years. She has two master’s degrees, and served nearly 40 years. She has had a full life.

Mom started to scream. It was more than a scream. It was a cry of the heart, saying, “Help me,” and it brought to mind the Book of Lamentations (2:18), where it says, “Cry out to the Lord; moan, O daughter Zion!”

Eventually, Mom grew calm. I stroked her hair. I held her hand. I talked to her. I prayed with her. Over the next couple of days, she was weak and tired; she hardly spoke. She could not remember the operation or where she was.

When it came time for her to leave the hospital, I agreed with the social workers that she should be discharged to the rehabilitation and nursing facility that is close to Mom’s apartment. It is a beautiful place, bright and clean. But it is still a nursing home.

Mom once made me promise that I would never put her in a nursing home. “I had eight children, so I don’t have to go into a nursing home,” she told me.

I took consolation in the thought that this was temporary. “Just for two or three weeks, Mom, until you get your strength back,” I told her. I hoped I was speaking the truth.

No matter how nice a nursing home is, it is not your own place. You must depend on the kindness of strangers. I’m sure the staff is trained to speak loudly and clearly. Most of the residents are at least partially deaf. But it sounded like staff members were speaking to idiots or children.

“DO YOU WANT SOME ICE CREAM?” they shouted. Mom answered, “You don’t have to shout.”

The dayroom on her floor had half a dozen people sitting in the sun. Some were slumped over in their wheelchairs, sleeping. One was on a gurney. The TV was on.

I wondered, “What kind of lives have they led? Were they former ship captains, school teachers, army officers, housewives, mothers and fathers?” Probably they all had lives of accomplishment. But now they surrendered it all.

I stayed with Mom until visiting hours were over. At 9 p.m., I got up to leave and kissed her.

She said, “Don’t go. Don’t leave me.”

It was like a bullet to the heart. “I’ve got to go, Mom,” I said. “But I’ll be back.”

I held it together until I reached the car. But when I got behind the wheel, I just sat there in the parking lot and cried. Actually, I screamed.

Father Peter J. Daly, pastor of St. John Vianney Church in Prince Frederick, Md., writes for Catholic News Service.

Father Peter J. Daly

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The Dialog April 14, 2011
Lenten services
Sunday, 5 p.m.: Mass, St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Fourth St. and Bancroft Plwy., Wilmington. 658-5131.
Tuesday, 5:30 p.m.: Evening Mass, St. Patrick Church, 13th and King streets, Wilmington. Confession available starting at 5. 652-0743.
Wednesday, 5 p.m.: Evening Mass, St. Hedwig Church, Linden and South Harrison streets, Wilmington. Confession prior to Mass. 594-1400.
April 17 and 24, 6:30 p.m.: Lenten vespers, St. John the Bapt-ist Church, Main and Chapel streets, Newark. 731-2219.

Lenten programs
Sunday following 11:30 a.m. Polish Mass, “Gorzkie Zale” National- al Polish Lenten service, St. Hedwig Church, Linden and South Har-rison streets, Wilmington. 594-1400.

Lenten meals
Delaware Right to Life will sponsor Good Friday lunch chains next Friday in all three counties in Delaware. In New Castle County, it will be along Route 202 in front of AstraZeneca from 10-11 a.m. The Kent County location is in front of Planned Parenthood, 805 S. Gov-ernors Ave., Dover, from 10 a.m.-noon. There are both are from 10 a.m.-noon. 688-7524 or Jessie@deighttolife.org.

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Salesianum names its first lay president

Brendan Kennealey is 1994 graduate

By Mike Lang
Staff reporter

WILMINGTON — Brendan Kennealey, an area superintendent of schools for the Archdiocese of Boston, has been appointed president of Salesianum School. Kennealey, a 1994 graduate of the all-boys high school, is the fourth president of Salesianum and the first who is not a priest of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales. He will begin July 1.

The appointment was announced last week in an email to alumni by Oblate Father James J. Greenfield, provincial of the Wilmington-Philadelphia Province of the congregation, which owns and operates the school. He is also chairman of Salesianum’s board of trustees.

Kennealey, 34, will succeed Father James E. Dalton, who is in his seventh year as president.

“Brendan brings to his new ministry as president a passion for education and Catholic social teaching, skills for leadership, experience in fundraising, and a deep commitment to our shared Salesian spirituality,” Father Greenfield said in his statement.

Kennealey said an immediate task will be to assume leadership on Salesianum’s latest capital campaign, an $8 million drive to upgrade the school’s athletic facilities and increase financial aid. Approximately 60 percent of the $8 million has been raised, according to the school. “For me, Salesianum was a fantastic experience. I see it in my job to ensure that excellent education ... is able to continue,” he said.

Kennealey has lived in the Boston area since graduating from Salesianum, except for a year and a half in Wilmington to help open Nativity Prep, the Oblates’ tuition-free middle school for boys. He said he is excited to be returning to his hometown.

“It’s been great. My phone and email have lit up over the last few days as the word got out. Some of my closest friends are folks that I went to Immaculate Heart of Mary with. My parents still live in Wilmington, so they’re very excited.”

Kennealey served as principal at Nativity Prep in New Bedford, Mass., and is a member of its board of trustees. According to Salesianum, he created and led two foundations dedicated to providing educational opportunities in Rwanda following the genocide of the 1990s. The foundation raised funds, built networks and drafted learning models.

After graduating from Salesianum, Kennealey earned degrees from Boston College and Harvard University. He recently married Nicole Duffy, who is completing her doctorate in counseling psychology at Boston College. She is from St. Louis but her parents live in Fairfax, Va.

In addition to his work with the Archdiocese of Boston, Kennealey serves as an adjunct professor in the Graduate School of Management at Boston College, where he teaches social entrepreneurship.

Father Dalton has not yet finalized his future plans, according to the school.
Catholic schools place in Science Olympiad

Catholic schools enjoyed top-10 finishes in recent Science Olympiad competitions for elementary and high schools, led by Corpus Christi’s third-place showing in the elementary school division out of 53 teams. H.B. duPont finished first, while Newark Charter was second. The events were held March 26 at Delaware State University in Dover.

Corpus Christi’s team included Sarah Duroso, Taylor Horn, Dillon Kennedy, Kelly Martinez, Joseph Mazich, Caroline Morris, Melissa Strab, Caroline Subramoney, Dana Caracci, Andrew Constantine, David Heck, Lauren Kaminski, Rachel Pic, Owen Porth, Brendan Rybalovski and Madeline Smith.

A team from St. Mary Magdalen finished eighth. Team members were Sarah Birmingham, Connor Bollinger, Tim Bouchard, Austin Coughenour, Connor Daulet, Rachel Daulet, Liam Delucia, Mark Gallagher, Matthew Gallagher, Pedro Healy, Paul Henjes, MaryKate Higley, Tom Higley, Patrick Hoffman, Vicky Kingsley, Michael Minnick, Jake Mottola, Brian O’Toole, Maryam Pasdar, Tim Pickett, Meghan Ruoff, Dallas Russell, Brian Shannon, Will Steenkamer, Mitch Stuchlik, Laura Sturgill, D.J. Thommes, Ann White, Jack Williams and Laura Williams.

St. Ann’s finished 10th. Team members were: Matthew Santacelcia, Caroline Harrington, Lian Webb, Shannon Waynant, Katie Maurer, Maggie Maurer, Maggie Desmond, Julia Kelly, Laura Orth, Amanda Bailey, Alexandra Perna, Miranda Langrhe, Sean Dugan, Jennifer Cirillo and Gabriella Santacelcia.

Among high schools, Archmere had two teams that placed third and fifth. Ursuline finished ninth.


Ursuline team: Emily Berg, Hope Brinn, Meredith Bonnell, Mary Caitlin Samuels, Meredith Vieira, Sarah Berg, Mary Alexo, Imani Coles, Cecilia Cicone, Taylor Concannon, Carolyn Biysakal, Cecilia Porth, Allison Vieira and Victoria Urban. Taylor Hollingsworth was on the team but could not attend the competition.

Padua and St. Elizabeth battle under lights April 6 in a soccer match at Baynard Stadium. Padua, under new coach Joe Brown, is playing its home games at Baynard this season, the first time a girls’ team has called the venue home. The Pandas are in the middle of a five-game road trip and return to the Wilmington stadium May 4 vs. A.I. duPont.

For Padua soccer team, home is now not so far away from home

WILMINGTON — When Padua Academy’s soccer team took the field April 6 at Baynard Stadium for an eventual 3-0 win against St. Elizabeth High School, it marked the first time a girls’ team had called the noted Wilmington venue home.

After Joe Brown joined the program as coach last summer, he saw Baynard as a chance for the Pandas to play home games closer to the school. Baynard, on 18th Street near Broom Street, is about a mile and a half from Padua. For the last six or seven years, the Pandas have played at Hockessin Soccer Club, and before that they played even farther away from school.

Players are excited about the move, said Ann Slater Lewandowski, Padua’s director of communications. “It gives our soccer team a sense of pride and ownership in having a home field so close to school. Finally, ‘home’ really feels like home.”

The school turned its junior varsity and varsity games last Saturday against Middletown into a party that included a halftime performance by Salesianum School’s Drum Line, a postgame tailgate party, and a shoe drive for Shoes2Share.

— Mike Lang

Young runners compete at Knights of Columbus meet

At the Knights of Columbus’ 42nd annual track meet Saturday at Baynard Stadium in Wilmington, Corpus Christi won the girls’ division, while Christ the Teacher and St. Edmond’s tied for the boys’ crown.

Corpus Christi was followed by St. Peter’s Cathedral in second place girls’ division, and Immaculate Heart of Mary and St. Mary Magdalen tied for third. Among the boys, Corpus Christi finished second.

Christina Allen, a seventh-grader who runs for St. Matthew’s, and eighth-grader Evander Blue of St. Peter Cathedral won the Michael J. Thornton Awards for best overall performance.

Complete results are available at www.cdow.org/gallery/athletics/view/category/track-and-field.
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