



The Chronicle

News from the Baltimore Province | May 2017

Father Gargani receives top award from Pax Christi Metro New York

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Redemptorist Father Francis Gargani was honored last May 15 by Pax Christi Metro New York during an awards ceremony at St. Joseph Church in Greenwich Village. Receiving the organization's top 2016 award, Father Gargani was honored for his "compassion . . . [and] perpetual help to countless people in myriad ways."

Presenting the award was Rosemarie Pace, director of Pax Christi Metro New York. "There seems to be no one you neglect," she said, reading from the plaque given to Father Gargani.

"And your service to all comes through prayer and spiritual guidance, teaching and ministering, song and dance, food and drink, and so much more. You share in our pain and celebrate our joy. With immeasurable generosity, you help Pax Christi Metro New York thrive."

Father Gargani was professed in 1965 and ordained a priest in 1971. He is rector of the Redemptorist community in Brooklyn.

Also recognized during the Peacemaker Awards Reception were Sister Evelyn Lamoureux, DW; Phyllis



Father Francis Gargani, C.Ss.R.

and Orlando Rodriguez; and high-school students Caroline Bandigan, Jillian Eberlein, and Paul Thomas.

Father Matthew Allman, C.Ss.R.—vocation director for the Province—played classical guitar as part of the evening's entertainment.

In Father Gargani's remarks after receiving the award, he thanked many people, saying it has been an honor to serve among the members

of Pax Christi and adding, "I can only receive this acknowledgment in their name."

He spoke of his parents, Frank and Fanny, who respectively "championed the underdog" and "taught me all justice and inclusivity begins around the table of love and hospitality."

Clearly, Father Gargani took those early lessons to heart. As Ms. Pace put it, "One of the things I've learned about Francis is that if you want somebody who is going to roll out the red carpet and provide you with food and drink to feast forever, he's the man you want. He himself says one of his charisms is hospitality. He just loves to do that."

Father Gargani went on to acknowledge his brother Redemptorists, saying, "Where do I start naming the many sons of Alphonsus who have kept me grounded these many years, sharing a passion to proclaim the justifying justice of Christ, the Redeemer?"

His long career in social justice ministry has given him the chance to work with remarkable people, including the late Father Daniel Berri-

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Midshipmen dedicate their service to OLPH

By Father Eric Hoog, C.Ss.R.
LCDR, CHC, USN (Ret.)

Bancroft Hall at the United States Naval Academy is the largest single dormitory in the world. It has 1,700 rooms and houses more than 4,000 Midshipmen. It also has shops, a cafeteria, and administrative offices.

As you walk up the steps and go into the main entrance, you are in the rotunda area of Bancroft Hall. A narrow corridor on the right leads to the Eucharistic Adoration Chapel. Walking into the alcove to enter the chapel, you will first see an icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help looking at you. On either side of the OLPH icon, you see arched wooden panels with small nameplate tags affixed to them. They are the collar devices of the graduating Midshipmen who have chosen to put their names there. They have dedicated their military service to God through the Blessed Mother.

The first graduating class to put their name tags there seems to have been the graduating class of 1974. There does not seem to be a formal record of who may have placed the icon of OLPH in that spot. But if the first graduating class to put their names there was the class of '74, there's a good chance the OLPH icon was installed by John Cardinal O'Connor, then the Navy Command Chaplain at the U.S. Naval Academy.

Since 1974 some members of each graduating Midshipmen class have chosen to place their collar devices in that alcove. This is not a mandatory practice. They freely choose to do this. Above the OLPH icon are the words O Mother of Perpetual Help, inspire my Service to God and Country.



Below the icon is a small plaque. There is also a small table. On the table is an open book inscribed with the names of those graduates who have chosen to formally pledge their military service to God through Our Blessed Mother. The words on the plaque above the book read as follows:

Commissioned as a Navy or Marine Corps officer, I hereby inscribe my name and place my collar device on Our Lady of Perpetual Help Shrine in Bancroft Hall Rotunda Chapel at the United States Naval Academy. In doing so, I dedicate my years of military ser-

vice to the honor and glory of God. I pledge to serve with Christian loyalty, integrity, and nobility, consistent with the highest ideals of my Catholic faith. To this end I ask God's blessings and strength through the intercession of Christ's Blessed Mother.

As we close out our jubilee year honoring Our Lady of Perpetual Help, it is good to know that her name has touched and is still touching the lives and careers of some of our nation's past and present military leaders. May Our Lady of Perpetual Help continue to be an inspiration for us all. ■

San Antonio, here we come!

By *Father Denis Sweeney, C.Ss.R.*

Each Patriot's Day (third Monday of April and the running of the Boston Marathon), a rider on horseback makes his yearly gallop and stops before the Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. His is the yearly reminder of the Revolutionary War and our independence from England. He re-enacts the ride of Paul Revere and the infamous call, "The British are coming! The British are coming!"

As I was celebrating the 9 o'clock parish Mass that Monday morning, April 17, 2017, I felt his call might more appropriately be, "The students are leaving! The students are leaving!"

Yes, after eight wonderful and blessed years here at Mission Church (2009-2017), the mission of Jesus Christ calls our students of theology to the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas. As you can imagine, it is a bittersweet undertaking. Especially through the eyes of the Redemptorist community here, through the eyes of the parishioners and staff, the song "I've Grown Accustomed to Your Face" comes to mind.

They have grown accustomed to the Redemptorist seminarians being

here. They have grown accustomed to seeing them in their Redemptorist habits for the 7 a.m. daily Mass. They have grown accustomed to their presence and service at the Wednesday evening OLPH novena. I guess you could say they have grown accustomed to the belief that

ment is the same: "Lord, it is good for us to be here." Peter wanted to stay on the mountaintop and we here on the hilltop, but Jesus called them and now calls us to new towns and new villages.

Jesus calls us and our students especially in this particular moment of our history to live the theme



Men in formation, photographed before a September 5, 2015, first-profession Mass at St. Peter the Apostle Church in Philadelphia: from left, Augustus Riviere, Bronx Community; Michael Cunningham, Boston Community; Bautista Eumir, Chicago Community.

Redemptorist seminarians would always be here, praying and studying and ministering in the life of the parish.

As formator through all these years and dealing with my own feelings of "moving on," I better understand and appreciate the words of St. Peter there on a very high mountain with Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. Peter was viewing from a mountain and we here from a hill, but the senti-

chosen for the 2016-2022 sexennium: Witnesses of the Redeemer: In Solidarity for Mission to a Wounded World. So, living this our North American Conference on the theology level will band together. Our students, together through philosophy, through novitiate, will now remain together through theology. We hope that in years to come we will see this accomplished among all our North American forma-

tion houses.

So here in Boston and Mission Hill and Mission Church, our students have begun the process of preparing for the Oblate School of Theology. All our students have been accepted, along with Brother A.J. Riviere in the Bronx and our novices in Toronto. There is packing that needs to be done, but at the moment our students are busy enough with readings, papers, and all that the end of a semester brings.

On Thursday, May 4, at the "Sending Forth" Mass for the 2017 graduating class held at St. Ignatius Church on the Boston College campus, the School of Theology and Ministry acknowledged the presence of the Redemptorists over these eight years and the charism as sons of Alphonsus that we leave there.

Back here at home, on Sunday, May 28, at our 12:30 p.m. Mass, the parish will celebrate "Sending Forth" before the students leave for summer ministry. There is no better way for all of us to say "thank you" for yesterday, today, and tomorrow than to gather around the table of the Lord. Yes, the mission continues. Please keep us in your prayers as we remember all of you. ■

Immaculate Conception hosts meeting to make NYC safer

By Michael Stanley

On Sunday, April 30, almost 700 area leaders packed Immaculate Conception Church in the Bronx to build a relationship with New York Police Commissioner James O’Neill and push him to take action to make New York safer for everyone, regardless of immigration status. A good mixed team of veterans and new leaders gave compelling presentations on work we have already done to help push the police to do a better job, the “Do Not Stand Idly By” gun-safety campaign, and the need for the NYPD to take more active steps to help undocumented immigrants in particular feel safe in New York City. We also presented on the New York City Housing Authority campaign and an opportunity for new housing development in the Bronx.

Commissioner O’Neill committed to taking action if any local police are not willing to work with us. He also agreed to meet again

within 30 days to be fully briefed on the Do Not Stand Idly By campaign as well as to reach out to Comptroller Scott Stringer (a supporter) in hopes that he can sign on and help the NYPD lead the effort to use public purchasing power to push gun companies to be more responsible.

We did not get everything we wanted. Father Frank Skelly, C.Ss.R., asked Commissioner O’Neill whether immigrants who are being deported by federal officials could call 911 and be guaranteed that officers would arrive to ensure their civil rights were not being violated. He did not agree to announce that, however, he said he wanted to work with us to come up with an alternative measure that would help immigrants feel safer in New York.

Although we were not happy the commissioner wouldn’t make that commitment, it’s clear he respects and wants to work with us. He also promised to come to an assembly

the East Brooklyn Congregations will host in June. He will meet with us before that so we can discuss further steps on all these issues, including immigration. This means we now have an opportunity to make a larger impact on this city.

You can see pictures from the Assembly here: https://twitter.com/SBC_MetroIAF/status/858854405168398336

Press coverage may be found here:

- <http://abc7ny.com/religion/more-than-600-bronx-church-leaders-meet-with-nypd/1938075/>
- <http://pix11.com/2017/04/30/nypd-commissioner-tries-to-ease-fears-of-pro-immigrant-crowd-at-packed-bronx-church/>
- <http://newyork.cbslocal.com/2017/04/30/oneill-bronx-church-leaders/> ■

Email Michael Stanley at southbronxchurches@gmail.com or call 718-715-8205 for more information.

News briefs

Father Bradley honored

On June 3, Bishop Herbert Bevard of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, will rededicate the Donders’ Residence, Holy Cross Parish, St. Croix, as the Father Bradley Mission Center. Congratulations to Father Albert Bradley, C.Ss.R., for the recognition of his work in St. Croix.

Catholic Review article sheds light on Redemptorists’ work

Check out the *Catholic Review* (published by the Archdiocese of

Baltimore) article highlighting the work of Redemptorists. It’s a beautiful story about how their pastoral care helped a Baltimore man find faith after a life-changing tragedy. <http://baltreds.us/2pHOkGg>

New books by Father Don Roth, C.Ss.R.

Father Roth has written two books in Portuguese—the first focusing on God’s love and mercy and the second on the Eucharist.

“My first book is called *Misericór-*

dia e pecado: o amor redentor de Deus, which means ‘Mercy and sin: The redemptive love of God,’” he said.

“I wrote it because of my experience in confessions here in Brazil. People are loaded with guilt about their sins and are afraid of God. They see God as angry with them. . . . [And] I show Alphonsus’ theology of redemption and love on the part of God. Most of my sources are Redemptorist.”

The second half of the 60-page book is about the mercy of God, he

said. "I kept it very short and simple, otherwise it would never sell here."

The second and somewhat shorter book is *Eucaristia: Alimento para a vida*, or *Eucharist: Food for Life*. "The first part covers the great themes of the Eucharist . . . also Paul's idea that the people of God participate in Jesus' priesthood."

The second half goes through the Mass moment by moment, he said, and helps readers put themselves in the Eucharistic celebration and understand its meaning more deeply. Father Roth is in the process of translating both books into English, after being "asked (ordered) by my sister."

OLPH in Brooklyn prepares for 125th jubilee

This September, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Brooklyn will begin a yearlong celebration of its 125th anniversary. Festivities will include special Masses, a Jubilee Memorial Book of memories and photos, Homecoming Saturday, and a few good parties, said Father John McKenna, C.Ss.R.

The parish has created a Facebook page to help keep the community informed. "We hope people will share photos, memories, and be informed about the events," he said.

Please visit and like the new page: <https://www.facebook.com/olph125thjubilee/>.

Scheduled events include Mass on Sunday, September 24, with Bishop James Massa as celebrant. Afterward the parish will host a meal with ethnic foods from many nationalities, along with music and folk dancing.

On Saturday, October 28, "we will be welcoming home all those who love OLPH," said Father McKenna. "We will [also] have an open house of the school that ed-



Above: These children from OMPH School in Ephrata, Pa., recently put on a Passion Play depicting the last week of Jesus' life. Below: Students took part in science experiments when the Farm Bureau's mobile lab visited in late April.

ucated tens of thousands of young people from our neighborhood."

The upper church will be available for tours and prayers, and at 5 p.m. in the lower church, a Mass for deceased loved ones will be held. A sit-down dinner will follow in Notre Dame Hall.

News from OMPH School in Ephrata, Pa.

THE SECOND-GRADE CLASS OF OUR Mother of Perpetual Help School in Ephrata, Pa., put on a touching and reverent Passion Play under the direction of teacher Beth Eberly. "It gives the students an opportunity to really think about what Jesus endured in order to bring us the Easter message of everlasting life," said Mrs. Eberly.

THE PENNSYLVANIA FARM BUREAU'S Mobile Agriculture Education Science Lab visited Our Mother of Perpetual Help School in Ephrata, Pa., from April 18 through 20. At the lab, students performed science experiments focused on farming, food, and the environment. Experiments included germinating seeds under different conditions, creating crayons from soybeans, and testing the water capacity of various soils.

OMPH students especially enjoyed churning butter and making lip gloss.

THE SCHOOL RECENTLY HONORED grandparents and school friends with a day of activities and entertainment. The day began with Mass and continued with a luncheon, classroom tours, keepsake crafts, Bingo, and Family Feud using the SmartBoard. The day concluded with a preview of the students' spring concert, with choral and instrumental music. ■



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gan, SJ, with whom he gave retreats for the homeless. He also praised the late Sister Elizabeth Proefriedt, CSJ, “another saint of the Brentwood Sisters of St. Joseph” and “Pax Christi banner-bearer par excellence.”

The list of friends and colleagues he thanked and praised encompassed sisters, priests, and lay Catholics as well as poets, dancers, and lovers of the earth.

“So now you know,” said Father Gargani. “This recognition has very little to do with me and really belongs to a cast of thousands! I can only receive it in their name and in their name . . . thank you.”

Visit <http://baltreds.us/2oY3DMI> to read an interview with him conducted by Sister Camille D’Arienzo, RSM, and published by *National Catholic Reporter* ■

View more photos of the event online at <http://baltreds.smugmug.com/Pax-christi>.



Father Gargani receives Pax Christi Metro New York’s 2016 Peacemaker award from Rosemarie Pace, the organization’s director.



Left photo: In April, Boston Mayor Marty Walsh visited Mission Grammar School of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish. At right is teacher Kristina Favaloro. Right photo: Adults in the background are, from left: Principal Aliece Dutson, the mayor, teacher Natacha Altenor, and investor and philanthropist Peter Lynch.