

Diocese learns about new school program

LINDA REEVES
of the Florida Catholic staff

PALMSPRINGS | Educators and members of school communities here, guests and diocesan leaders participated in a daylong meeting Nov. 12 led by representatives of the University of Notre Dame Alliance for Catholic Education. It was focused on an innovative education approach designed to excite youngsters about challenging science, technology, engineering and math studies.

Matt Kloser of the Center for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) at the University of Notre Dame led the meeting and discussed the fine points of STEM education. He answered questions and spoke about education models and approaches. The afternoon session focused on curriculum, assessment and professional development for faculty, which eventually led to talks about parent education and involvement.

Gary Gelo, diocesan superintendent of schools, said STEM education will start small here with the "development of an after-school program or an elective within the school day" at one or two schools to help students develop abilities. He added that programs will be held in "a hands-on educational setting that would allow for project-based learning and real-issue problem-solving."

The planning and discussion

FYI

Strategic Vision 2020

Since last year, professionals, experts and people from various schools and the community at large have been involved with helping develop "Strategic Vision 2020: Charting a Course for Excellence." It is designed to provide direction and purpose for work in Catholic education and schools in the diocese through 2020.

Initiatives are all in keeping with the diocese's commitment to continue to build on school initiatives, and provide the very best schools of excellence and ongoing opportunities for young people. Educators are dedicated to the mission of schools: helping young people develop God-given talents and gifts, and preparing them for schools of higher education, vocations and leadership roles in the community, careers and the Church.

Strategic Vision 2020 is on the Diocese of Palm Beach website. To review the vision, visit www.diocesepb.org, go to offices, scroll down and click onto schools.

meeting gathered an array of people including guests from Barry University, Palm Beach State College and the Palm Beach County School District. Also present were representatives from some of the Catholic school communities of the diocese including St. Luke School in Palm Springs and Cardinal Newman High School in West Palm Beach "to talk about developing a



Matt Kloser from the University of Notre Dame speaks to students in the science lab at St. Luke School in Palm Springs. (LINDA REEVES | FC)

STEM component," said Gelo. "Our emphasis primarily is on St. Luke School, but with some support from Cardinal Newman High School. This could be the start of something big especially for St. Luke."

Kloser is working with educators and leaders across the nation in implementing STEM education in accordance with the missions of individual school and school districts, educational philosophy and learning outcomes.

"I think there is a lot of curiosity and questions about what does it mean to have a STEM-focused school," he said. "I think the questions need to be even more nuanced when we think about what it means to have a STEM-focused school that maintains its Catholic identity and how is the Catholic mission of the school integrated with a focus on these subjects. It is an area where

the practice of organizing a school around STEM is far out of the research, so we are trying to bring together models of best practice, but also do some research on teaching and learning in these schools as well."

Gelo said he is excited about working with Notre Dame representatives on the "visioning process" and exploring new opportunities for students here as part of the diocese's ongoing initiatives to continue to have schools of excellence and environments with greater opportunities for children to prepare for the future. He is also working with Carol Anne Stiglmeier, a local consultant and education specialist, to explore STEM programs designed for kindergarten to 12th grade.

St. Luke School recently established a "STEM Club" as a first step

in kicking off STEM initiatives here. "The visioning session was to help them (St. Luke) determine to what extent it (STEM) could be further integrated into the curriculum and what grade levels, etc.," said Gelo. "Most of the details are still open for discussion. It's a process and a journey, and we are just starting to develop where we hope to end up and what course, road map we will use to get there."

Suzanne Sandelier, St. Luke principal, said, "We have always offered a variety of activities and programs for our students, but with STEM we are going to the next step up. It is a good program for us. We are very excited about the program and what it means for our students."

Paula Parker, president of St. Luke Home and School Board and mother of two St. Luke School students, was at the planning meeting. She likes the idea of having STEM at St. Luke School.

"I think that the STEM program is going to do amazing things for our kids," she said. "They are already getting a very high level of education. This will raise the bar even higher, getting them more prepared to go out to the high schools, into college and out into the world. I think that it will give the students more opportunities and foundations for successful positions out in the world. But they will also have their Catholic faith to use for the greater good of the world." ■

KNIGHTS

FROM 1

with Keep Christ in Christmas car magnets. Hollander began efforts with neighbor Kay Mansolilli.

"We began to talk about all the things we both had seen on TV or read in the paper — teachers not allowed to wear earrings that related to Christmas, no Christmas trees and such in public schools, school bus drivers not allowed to play their portable radios because maybe a Christmas hymn might come on and the kids would hear it," Hollander said. "Why don't we do something about it?" Mansolilli said to Hollander as the two were brainstorming.

Hollander and Mansolilli kicked off their campaign, receiving support from Knight brothers. The project grew with various items and the profits went back into efforts and initiatives to spread the Christmas message.

"I am still involved with the Keep Christ in Christmas program," said Hollander, who is currently visiting parishes with items for sale. In November, he visited Ascension Parish in Boca Raton, St. Clare in North Palm Beach and the Cathedral of St. Ignatius Loyola in Palm Beach Gar-

dens.

"Since we started, we have sold magnets, T-shirts, ball caps, mouse pads and other merchandise to Christian churches. I was invited and attended the convocation of the Lutheran Florida Georgia District with our Keep Christ in Christmas (items). We added school programs and faith formation fundraising drives," he said.

BILLBOARD CAMPAIGN

Mike Romeo, a parishioner of St. Rita in Wellington and a Knight of M. J. Benvenuti Council 8419, came up with his own Keep Christ in Christmas billboard campaign in 2007. Romeo commissioned a 14-by-48-foot sign on busy Military Trail in West Palm Beach and another billboard on the Florida Turnpike with support of brother Knights and people from around the diocese.

Other funds to pay for the \$4,200 signs came through sales of Hollander's car magnets, which the Knights purchased and resold for \$2 with profits going to the campaign, officially named "Knights of Columbus Palm Beach County Keep Christ in Christmas Billboard Project."

"The outpouring of support from everyone has been fantastic," Romeo told the *Florida Catholic*. "We are really excited to be able to get the

message out and promote the true meaning of Christmas. The reason for the season is the birth of Christ and the birth of Christianity."

Romeo continued to receive support over the years from the faithful and from various councils. This year, he continues to seek help for the 2013 billboard campaign project with hopes of illuminating the Christ in Christmas message in a big way along I-95, spreading the messages to tens of thousands of drivers and passengers on the busy roadway.

JOINING EFFORTS

Knights of Columbus Council 4999 in North Palm Beach has supported the billboard campaign over the years and is active with their own initiatives to "Keep Christ in Christmas" under the direction this year of chairman Ted Ring, deputy grand Knight, and co-chairman Jim Ring, grand Knight, a father-and-son team.

"The council will be a major donor to the Knights of Columbus Palm Beach County Keep Christ in Christmas Billboard Project," said Knight Ed Souza, who explained that the council will also place six double-sided, 8-by-4-foot "Keep Christ in Christmas" billboard signs at St. Clare in North Palm Beach, St.

Patrick in Palm Beach Gardens, St. Francis of Assisi in Riviera Beach and St. John Fisher in West Palm Beach. A bright red Keep Christ in Christmas 10-by-6-foot banner will be placed on the front outside wall of the council hall, he added. "People will know that we are Catholic." The council will also distribute Keep Christ in Christmas car magnets to members, families and friends.

Reports from around the Diocese of Palm Beach indicate that faithful Knights are busy working on all sorts of projects to promote the Christmas message in the true spirit of the season. St. Paul of the Cross Council No. 12322 in North Palm Beach is conducting a poster contest themed "Keep Christ in Christmas, and encouraging children to participate in an attempt to reach the youngsters of the diocese to instill the message of the season. The council is also distributing free Keep Christ in Christmas auto decals to parishioners.

In Tequesta, Knights Council 6569 at St. Jude is distributing Keep Christ in Christmas decals, and Holy Name of Jesus Council 15619 in West Palm Beach is featuring a Christmas card with a Keep Christ in Christmas message as part of efforts. ■

BISHOP

FROM 4

their cultural richness is another manifestation of the peaceable kingdom in the Diocese of Palm Beach. We have several priests from the Philippines within our diocese.

Finally, I will have the privilege of celebrating the vigil Mass of Christmas Eve for the Hispanic community of the Cathedral of St. Ignatius Loyola.

We truly are blessed with a peaceable kingdom within the Diocese of Palm Beach. We have many cultural backgrounds and expressions of our faith. We have truly outstanding priests from many nations and faith-filled people who make up many diverse communities. However, there is only one faith and one Lord Jesus Christ. It is wonderful to celebrate this diversity and unity within the season of Advent as we all celebrate the presence of Christ among us.

Christ is truly present in all nations and their coming to his light is what our faith is all about. ■

DIOCESAN EVENTS

Workshops for extraordinary ministers of holy Communion:

Dec. 7, Holy Family Parish, Port St. Lucie. Sponsored by diocesan Office of Liturgy. All workshops 9:15-11:45 a.m.; doors open at 8:45 a.m. for registration. Training for beginners and experienced with discussions on various topics including sacramental theology, history of Eucharist and origin and development of the Mass. New ministers will get "hands-on" practice with unconsecrated altar breads and wine. Sessions offered simultaneously in English and Spanish. Call a parish office for information and registration.

Requiem Mass: Dec. 14, 10 a.m., Our Lady Queen of Peace Cemetery, outdoor chapel, 10941 Southern Blvd., Royal Palm Beach. Prayers offered for those who died in November, all buried at the cemetery, and the souls in purgatory. 561-793-0711.

Lumen Christi Gala: Dec. 14, 6:30 p.m., The Breakers Hotel, 1 S. County Road, Palm Beach. 25th anniversary of the diocesan event to benefit Catholic education and 17 diocesan schools. Dinner and dancing. Special program guest: Felicia Rodriguez, WPBF-TV Channel 25 "News Mornings" anchor. Tickets: \$350 per person or \$3,500 per table of 10. 561-775-9520 or kwildes@diocesepb.org.

Catholic Women of Faith, Women of Action conference: March 1, 2014, 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Cathedral of St. Ignatius Loyola, 9999 N. Military Trail, Palm Beach Gardens. Hosted by the Diocese of Palm Beach Council of Catholic Women. Featured speaker: Carmelite Father Richard Champigny. Mass with main celebrant Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito. Sacrament of reconciliation available. Tickets: \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door.

Catholic Charities:

- Christmas tea: Dec. 10, 3-5 p.m., Norton Museum of Art, 1451 S. Olive Ave., West Palm Beach. Benefits counseling program that served more than 1,300 clients at eight different sites in

four counties last year. Tea and Chinese auction. Victoria Pollingue is honorary chairwoman, and Nannette Cassidy, Countess Entrude de Suiza and Irma Maria Murphy are chairwomen. Joanne Hamel is event co-chairwoman. Tickets: \$75 per person. Sponsorship opportunities available. 561-630-2695 or jhoffman@diocesepb.org.

- Caritas Dei Bishop's Gala: Jan. 30, 2014, 6:30 p.m., The Breakers Hotel, 1 S. County Road, Palm Beach. Black-tie gala to benefit the 14 programs and ministries of Catholic Charities that provide services to the poor and vulnerable. Dinner, silent and live auctions, and music by the Doug Verga Orchestra. Pre-event cocktail reception hosted by sponsor Wally Findlay Galleries. For tickets and sponsorship opportunities, 561-630-2695 or jhoffman@diocesepb.org.

- Rosary gathering: First Saturdays, 9 a.m., near the Presidential Women's Center in West Palm Beach, 100 Northpoint Parkway, West Palm Beach. Led by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Palm Beach Respect Life Office. 561-345-2000, ext. 287.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Harvest festival: Nov. 22, 5-11 p.m.; Nov. 23, noon-11 p.m.; and Nov. 24, noon-6 p.m., St. Helen Parish, 3901 26th St., Vero Beach. Games, raffle, food, carnival rides. Free parking. 772-532-1171.

Arts and crafts fair: Nov. 23, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Nov. 24, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Cathedral of St. Ignatius Loyola hall, 9999 N. Military Trail, Palm Beach Gardens. Crafts, Christmas trees and wreaths. Vendors welcome. 561-622-2565 or daitken@cathedralpb.com.

Christ the King/Viva Cristo Rey celebration: Nov. 24, 9 a.m. procession from St. Anastasia Parish, 407 S. 33rd St., Fort Pierce, to 10 a.m. Mass, John Carroll High School football stadium, 3402 Delaware Ave., Fort Pierce. Mass for area faith communities, with three different choirs. 772-461-2233 or communications@stanastasiachurch.org.

Christmas bazaar: Nov. 30, 2-6 p.m.; Dec. 1, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Emmanuel Parish, 15700 Military Trail, Delray Beach. Crafts, baked goods, Christmas items, nearly new items and books. 561-496-2480.

Bazaar and 40th anniversary celebration: Dec. 6-7, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., St. Martin de Porres Parish, 2555 N.E. Savanna Road, Jensen Beach. Vendors and crafters welcomed. For booth reservation: 772-221-1865 or nolio91@gmail.com.

Matthew Kelly presentation: March 1, 2014, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., St. Lucie Parish, 280 S.W. Prima Vista Blvd., Port Saint Lucie. Theme: "Living every day with passion and purpose." Tickets: \$39. Limited seating. 772-878-1215.

Men's Scripture study and discussion: Tuesdays 7-9 p.m., Holy Name of Jesus, Holy Family Room, 345 S. Military Trail, West Palm Beach. Led by Deacon Jack Hamilton. 561-722-6793.

Prayer gathering: Fridays, 9:45 a.m., and Tuesdays, 3 p.m., 8177 Glades Road, Boca Raton. Pray with others for the end of abortion. 561-347-1636.

Prayer gathering: Fridays, 5 p.m., on the sidewalks near A Woman's World Medical Center that offers abortion services, 503 S. 12th St., Fort Pierce. Treasure Coast rosary group leads rosary recitation for the end of abortion. 772-465-8298.

Pray the rosary for life: Saturdays, 9-10 a.m., sidewalks just north of the Wellington Regional Medical Center, 10101 Forest Hill Blvd., Wellington. All invited to pray for the end of abortions. 561-784-0689.

CONCERTS

Concert: Nov. 23, 7:30 p.m., Ascension Parish, 7250 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton. Local pianist and composer Paul Zambrano showcases an all-original program of piano music with influences of classical and contemporary pieces. 561-859-3391

Free concert season: St. Patrick Parish, 13591 Prosperity Farms Road, Palm Beach Gardens, 561-626-8626. Free-will offering

appreciated.

- Dec. 15, 7 p.m., Christmas concert, "And the Angels Sang."

- Jan. 19, 2014, 3 p.m., Lopez Tabor and Alfonso Lopez on violin and Michelle Tabor on piano.

- Feb. 16, 2014, 3 p.m., Aaron Kula and the Klezmer Company Jazz Sextet, "New Bridges Beyond the Tribes."

- March 16, 2014, 3 p.m., Howard Greenblatt, classical and flamenco guitar favorites.

- April 13, 2014, 3 p.m., Con Brio String Quartet, Haydn's "The Seven Last Words of Christ on the Cross."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parish nurse meetings:

Open to all registered nurses interested in health ministry. For dates, time and locations, call Catholic Charities, Interfaith Health and Wellness, 561-345-2000, ext. 256; or email wellness@catholiccharitiesdps.org.

Young adult group: Young adults ages 21 to 36 are invited to join "LIGHT: Living in God's Holy Truth." Father Brian Campbell, parochial vicar of St. Vincent Ferrer in Delray Beach, is director. Contact 561-276-6892, fatherbc@gmail.com.

Permanent diaconate applications:

Men interested in applying for the next diocesan permanent diaconate formation program are encouraged to speak to pastors for permission and support. Visit www.diocesepb.org/diaconate for program application and information. 561-775-9540.

Birthline/Lifeline: Catholic Charities ministry serving women and promoting life, located at 100 W. 20th St., Riviera Beach; 1200 E. Main St., Pahokee; 3452 Boynton Beach Blvd., Boynton Beach; and 155 S.E. Third Avenue, Delray Beach. For volunteer information and training, or information on contributing to the nonprofit, call 561-278-0880.

Protecting God's children:

The Catholic Diocese of Palm Beach is committed to the safety and protection of all children and vulnerable adults in its care.

TV MASS

Weekly Televised Mass: The televised Catholic Mass airs each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. on Ion Television Networks (check your local listing), featuring priests of the five-county diocese and Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito. Weekly homilies are available online at www.diocesepb.org/videos. To support the Catholic Mass, please contact the Diocese of Palm Beach Office of Communications at 561-775-9529.

Victims of abuse are encouraged to contact the diocesan victim assistance coordinator Theresa Fretter, 561-801-0999, to begin necessary emotional, psychological and spiritual healing. For more information on diocesan policies and procedures for reporting abuse as well as to view the USCCB "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People," visit www.diocesepb.org and click on Offices/Safe Environments.

Prayer vigil: Wednesdays, 3-5 p.m.; and Fridays, 8-10 a.m., Planned Parenthood, 1322 N.W. Federal Highway, Stuart. Prayer warriors and sidewalk counselors needed. 772-221-1865.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Jorge Pettit Catholic Worker Hospitality House: Opportunities for volunteers and donors to help the homeless. The ministry is in need of clothes, detergent, toiletries, towels, food, household items, furniture and bicycles. Financial donations are used to assist with electric bills and rental expenses. 772-579-9775 or Notre Dame Mission, 772-466-9617.

Holy Cross thrift store and service center: Opportunities for volunteers to serve the thrift store and help with the service center. Both are outreach ministries to the poor of Indiantown and are made possible with the help of volunteers and generous donors. 772-597-2798.

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WEST PALM BEACH | Carmelite Sister for the Aged and Infirm Eulaliae George is truly living in the spirit of her community's foundress, Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa, a woman who pioneered new concepts in caring for the aging with focus on respect and dignity and giving seniors a sense of purpose and value.

Sister George, who serves Lourdes-Noreen McKeen Residence, an independent and assisted-living residence, has developed her own program for elderly that is not only helping make people healthier, but helps them discover God-given talents to create art pieces and crafts and feel good about work they made using their own two hands.

As part of Sister George's program, on Oct. 15, the feast day of St. Teresa of Jesus, Teresa's gift shop opened. It featured an array of items made by the residence's seniors with love and a touch of Carmelite spirit. The shop is open to the public just in time for the holidays. Proceeds from the sale of handwork by the Lourdes-Noreen McKeen crafters go back into Sister George's arts and crafts program, which in turn

FYI

Lourdes-Noreen McKeen Residence is located at 315 S. Flagler Drive in West Palm Beach. Teresa's gift shop is located on the first floor. Guests are encouraged to use the entrance at Flagler and Fern. The store is open weekdays 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m.-2 p.m., and Sundays 11 a.m.-2 p.m. For information, call Sister George at 561-655-8544, ext. 2047.

helps the seniors.

"I think it is a valuable program that stimulates the mind and body," said Sister George, a licensed nurse, who came to West Palm Beach in the late 1970s, where she continued to serve Lourdes-Noreen McKeen as pastoral care mentor to seminarians, volunteer program coordinator and supervisor of activities.

"It makes them feel good to see that they are able to do things," she added. "It helps their self-esteem. It gives them a little bit of exercise and pride."

When the Florida Catholic visited Nov. 7, crafters were sitting around a table with white Styrofoam balls, crystal beads, sequins in different colors, and glue. The artists were creating Christmas ornaments and involved in a little friendly conver-



Sister Eulaliae George, a member of the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm, instructs resident Mildred Peifer, center, and aide Tricia Thiery in the fine art of making Christmas ornaments. (LINDA REEVES | FC)

sation.

"I enjoy the crafting," said Christina Zwennes, as she slowly and carefully added red sequins to the white ball she held in her hands. Sister George walked over to inspect Zwennes' work, commenting that she was doing an excellent job. Women around the table chatted about art and craft projects and hobbies pursued when they were young. "I like the camaraderie," said Zwennes about the social aspect of the sessions held at various times of the month.

Mildred Peifer was among the

crafters. She is a former piano player and organist for St. Ann Parish in West Palm Beach. She painstakingly placed an array of colored sequins on her ornament and a tiny bit of glue here and there to hold them in place. Her hands were a little shaky and unsteady, but she managed to complete the project, and appeared quite pleased. "I hope it looks beautiful," she said. When people at the table admired her work, Peifer smiled in delight appearing to have a bit of new self-confidence and pride.

The gift shop is named after St.

Teresa of Avila also known as St. Teresa of Jesus, who founded the Discalced Carmelites. It features an array of jewelry, beaded glass holders, unusual napkin clips, caps, kitchen towels, toys and other items made by the residents. One item in the store that is not for sale is a quilt with embroidered flowers, designed and stitched by Sister George, who is quite a crafter herself, having learned to craft from her grandmother back home in Indiana.

"It looks very Floridian," said Sister George about her quilt in bright colors that took two years to make. It will be raffled off Dec. 15 and tickets can be purchased at Teresa's. Proceeds from the raffle will go to help purchase supplies for the arts and crafts program.

Sister George, who became a postulant of the Carmelite order nearly 55 years ago, told the Florida Catholic that as a little girl she helped take care of her grandmother, the woman who is credited for helping her develop a love for arts and crafts, but also a love for caring for the aging.

"I like to help the aged," Sister George said. "They are easy to get along with, and I like to help them at the end of life because it is like ushering them into heaven." ■

Like thousands of senior religious, Sister of Divine Providence John Margaret Walsh, 76, has spent her life serving others. Today, she and some 34,000 elder Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests benefit from the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your gift provides funding for prescription medications, nursing care, and more.



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FATHER JOHN MORRISSEY, PASTOR OF ST. SEBASTIAN

Who's who in the local Church

LINDA REEVES
of the Florida Catholic staff

SEBASTIAN | Father John Morrissey, 75, celebrates his golden jubilee as a priest Dec. 20, but people who know and love him have been celebrating him and his ministry for months.

The priest has touched lives in a very special way as he has walked his priestly path, which has taken him from Ireland, where he was born, to distant corners of the world in the Far East to the Fiji Islands in the South Pacific. Now, in the Diocese of Palm Beach, he is the pastor of St. Sebastian Parish in Sebastian since being incardinated in the diocese in 1997, and assigned administrator pro-tem and then pastor in September 2000.

He was born in northeast Ireland, southeast of Knock, home of the famous Our Lady of Knock Shrine, Ireland's national Marian shrine. Catholics believe that Mary, together with St. Joseph and St. John the Evangelist, appeared at the pilgrimage site Aug. 21, 1879. A million and a half people visit the site annually.

Father Morrissey comes from a large family of three boys and nine girls. He was born the 10th child. His brothers, Michael and Martin, also became priests, and his sisters, Maureen and Bernadette, are nuns. Father Michael Morrissey died five years ago after serving in South Korea for 41 years. Father Martin Morrissey has been in South Africa since 1967.

Father Morrissey's father was a dairy farmer and raised livestock. He describes his parents as "faith-filled" people. "We had family rosary every evening," he said. He attended St. Flannan's College in Ennis and at age 19, he felt God's call to the priesthood and entered the seminary of the Missionary So-

Editor's note: Many Catholics here love the priests of the diocese. Priests have busy jobs and play major roles in the lives of people. In the upcoming issues of the Florida Catholic, the "Who's who" section will highlight clergy of the Diocese of Palm Beach, giving a glimpse into the hearts of these men who have dedicated their lives to Christ and the people of God. In this issue, we feature Father John Morrissey.



Father John Morrissey, pastor of St. Sebastian Parish in Sebastian. (LINDA REEVES | FC)

ciety of St. Columban.

He was ordained a Columban missionary priest Dec. 20, 1963, in the Diocese of Meath and celebrated his first Mass at St. Senan's, Cooraclare, on Dec. 23, 1963.

Father Morrissey took on the challenges of Asian culture and language during his first assignment as a missionary to Mokpo in South Korea. He ministered as a pastor of a small parish there from 1964 to 1974. From Korea, he went to Rome for a year of studies and then to Boston for more studies, preparing him for ministry work

in education.

From 1976 to 1980, he was assigned to his order's seminary in Dalgan, Ireland, to teach theology to young seminarians. "I love teaching," he said. "I feel relaxed in the classroom."

After that, he taught three years at St. Kevin Parish in Dublin and six years at the Fiji Pacific Regional Seminary in Suva, Fiji.

In 1989, he left Fiji to visit a friend in Ireland. During a short stop in Miami, he learned of an opening at St. Thomas More Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach. He applied and landed a position as professor of moral theology, thus beginning his priestly path here in the Diocese of Palm Beach.

He taught at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary for three years until he was assigned parochial vicar of St. Thomas More in Boynton Beach September 1993. He served there for two years and then was parochial vicar at St. Joseph Parish in Stuart until July 1999. During his time at St. Joseph, he was officially incardinated into the diocese, becoming a diocesan priest Dec. 17, 1997.

Q: What was it like to live in Korea?

A: In 1964, South Korea was not

ily and friends to consider a life devoted to God.

Q: What are some of the things you do to bring Catholics back to the Church?

A: I try to get as many people as I can involved in some aspect of our parish life. It may be one of our ministries, joining organizations, or working on fundraising events. The more a person is involved in some aspect of our community, the more the likelihood that their commitment to their religion will grow.

Q: How would you describe your time as pastor at St. Sebastian?

A: I have really enjoyed my 14 years here because we have a loving, caring parish. The number of volunteers for our numerous ministries and organizations is a testament to the spirit within the parish.

Q: What brings you the most joy as a pastor?

A: That's a hard question to answer. I enjoy baptizing infants, first Communion and confirmation, because we're bringing new lives into the Church. I also enjoy seeing parishioners involved in parish life. Seeing people live their faith gives me the greatest joy, however.

Q: What can the Catholic Church do to attract more young families to participate in their parish on a regular basis?

A: I wish I had the answer to that question. Times have changed. We had stay-at-home moms 50 to 60 years ago, because the husband could earn enough to support his family. Now both have to work full time and they are tired at the end of the day. There seems to be more after-school activities that the kids are involved in as well, and this includes activities on Sunday morning. Technology is also a problem. Going to the Internet and texting has taken the place of people talking face-to-face. We need to find ways to get young families together in activities that both the parents and children enjoy together, but we also need to have interesting youth group activities for teen-to-teen social contact that includes making their faith a part of their Catholic life.

Q: What do you like to do during any free time?

A: I like to play golf, go to the gym and read novels. ■

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Ireland/Scotland: Apr. 26-May 8, May 3-15, May 10-22 ...
France: Apr. 26-May 8, May 3-15, May 10-22, May 17-29 ...

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