

The Good News



St. Thomas the Apostle Roman Catholic Church

Bloomfield, NJ

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Miami Bound

*Saint Thomas
University*

Synod Part 2

Lenten Journey

Dear Parishioners,

Lent is a very special time of year and for me, this year will be extraordinary. That's because I will be sharing this Lenten season and the joy of Easter with my family here at Saint Thomas. Following the Easter celebration, I will be leaving this parish to begin a new journey in service to the Lord.

Easter renews us every year. We experience the spring, hope, vitality and resurrection. Easter and Holy Week celebrations at Saint Thomas parish are especially glorious. Our celebrations are the result of the spirit filled and faithful efforts of so many in ministry here. It will be my joy to celebrate with you this last time.

There are many ways to make this Lenten season and Easter special and each year, the community of Saint Thomas has made a beautiful celebration.

I want every parishioner to know the joys associated with this very holy season. That's why it's important to do something very special for Lent.

Make sure you come to celebrate Mass. You also can join in our local Synod Assemblies. Or you can choose to join in a Small Christian Community. There is no long-term commitment, but you must understand that many who have joined a Small Christian Community for Lent end up hooked.

I will miss the people of Saint Thomas the Apostle and the glorious ways we have worshiped together. Please join me for this very holy Lenten season and together let's make it the most meaningful time for all of us.

Franklyn M. Casale

Rev. Monsignor Franklyn M. Casale
Pastor

Saint Thomas University

Saint Thomas University was founded as Biscayne College in 1961 by the Augustinian Order of Villanova, Pennsylvania. It is a private, Catholic, liberal arts university with a School of Business, School of Arts and Sciences and the only Catholic Law School in the southeastern United States. University status was attained in 1984, and the sponsorship was assumed by the Archdiocese of Miami in 1988.

Of the more than 230 Catholic colleges and universities in America, Saint Thomas is one of only 13 Archdiocesan-sponsored institutions. This enhances the University's commitment to emphasizing the values and ethics of the Catholic educational tradition in every course of study. The University also has been recognized nationally and internationally for its leadership role in ecological preservation and education. The University offers 26 undergraduate fields of study, four pre-professional programs and nine graduate programs. The University's main campus consists of 140 acres near the county line between Dade and Broward. The University also offers two additional satellite campuses in Dade County as well as international centers in Madrid, Spain and Assisi, Italy. It is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Monsignor to Take on New Challenge

Monsignor Franklyn M. Casale has been chosen as the new president of Saint Thomas University of Miami, Florida. Monsignor Casale has served as pastor of Saint Thomas the Apostle Church in Bloomfield since 1985 and has been Vicar General for Public Affairs of the Archdiocese of Newark since 1986.

Monsignor Casale will take over as chief executive officer of the 2,700 student university in April of this year.

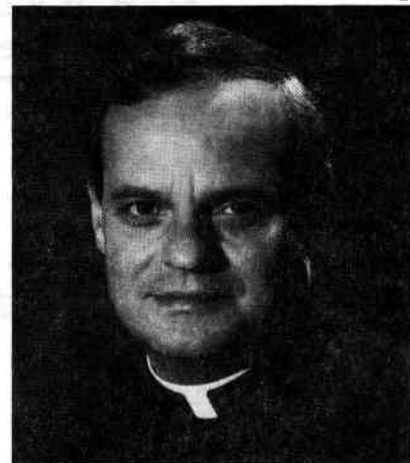
Most Reverend Theodore E. McCarrick, Archbishop of Newark, said of the appointment, "This local Church of Newark historically had the great grace of producing extraordinary priests. Franklyn Casale is one of those remarkable priests for whom our Archdiocese is justly famous. An extraordinary pastor, a strong and talented diocesan administrator and a man of vision, his ability to challenge and to lead, has been a constant mark of his ministry among us.

"He has been a very special collaborator and a good friend to me in my years as Archbishop here. When he told me he had been asked to submit his name by the University's national search committee for this new and exciting assignment, I agreed because I knew what a great contribution he could make, but I will miss him and I look forward to his return to future ministry in his native diocese which he has always served so well."

Monsignor Casale stated, "I approach my new task as President of Saint Thomas University in Miami, Florida with a tremendous amount of enthusiasm and commitment. Saint Thomas University is under the sponsorship of the Archdiocese there.

"I am happy to bring the experiences I gained in the Archdiocese of Newark, whose priests, deacons, religious and laity I have served and loved for the past 26 years. I am grateful to Archbishop McCarrick for his encouragement and support through the years. I am sure I will continue to have the support and prayers of all my many friends and parishioners."

A Newark native, 52-year-old Monsignor Casale is the son of Rose Ferrigno Casale and the late Michael Casale. Archbishop Thomas Boland ordained him a priest of the Archdiocese of Newark on May 27, 1967 at Sacred



MONSIGNOR FRANKLYN M. CASALE

Heart Cathedral. He was a member of Saint Francis Xavier Parish, Newark. He attended First Avenue Grammar School, Seton Hall Prep and Immaculate Conception Seminary and received a bachelor's degree from Seton Hall University. Monsignor Casale holds a degree in Sacred Theology from the Catholic University of America and a Master of Divinity from Immaculate Conception Seminary. Upon ordination, he served as Associate Pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Church, North Bergen. In 1975, he was named Secretary to Archbishop Peter L. Gerety. He was named a Chaplain to His Holiness Pope John Paul II in 1979 with the title of Monsignor, the same year he was appointed Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Newark. In 1983, he was named Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia by Archbishop Gerety. He was appointed Pastor of Saint Thomas the Apostle in 1985 and named a Prelate of Honor by Pope John Paul II in 1986. Monsignor Casale also has served as Corporate Secretary and Trustee of Seton Hall University, corporate member of Immaculate Conception Seminary, Oratory Preparatory School, Catholic Community Services and member of the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee of Bloomfield College, Board of Governors of Cathedral Healthcare System, Inc., and the Executive Committee of the Newark Collaboration Group. In addition, he has served as a member of the Board of Consultors of the Archdiocese and the Presbyteral Council. He is a Trustee of the Archdiocese of Newark. †

Synod Continues at Saint Thomas

Members of the Saint Thomas community are asked to come out and make a difference in three local Synod Assemblies scheduled for the next few weeks. The Synod, which began with three sessions late last year, provides our Parish with an opportunity to present to the Archbishop our feelings and thoughts on topics of vital concern.

The topics for the second series of Synod Assemblies are: Lifelong Christian education and faith development; Reaching out to the unchurched, the alienated and inactive members; and Proclaiming and implementing the social teachings of the Gospel.

During the initial Synod Assemblies, topics addressed the needs and concerns of youth; strengthening Christian marriage and family life; and assisting those faced with medical/moral decisions and those experiencing addiction, disability, loss and bereavement.

The recommendations of Saint Thomas developed at the initial series of meetings were heard clearly in the Diocesan Synod Office. We as a Parish are considered one of the most active participants in the program.

The first set of meetings was only the beginning. The Synod Office sorted through the recommendations that came from Saint Tho-

mas and about 21,000 participants across the Archdiocese. With many similar and overlapping recommendations, the mountain of thoughts was narrowed to 47 recommendations, which were submitted to the Regional Synod Assemblies.

Those 47 recommendations were discussed and prioritized by 900 delegates at the Regional Synod Assemblies held in each of the Archdiocese's four counties. The delegates were asked to discern the most important recommendations for carrying on the mission of the Church of Newark at this time.

By weighted voting, the delegates chose the five most important recommendations in each of the first three categories. These prioritized recommendations were submitted to the Archdiocesan Synod, which has prepared a final recommendation for the Archbishop.

Saint Thomas parishioners showed that our voice makes a difference.

Parishioners of all ages are welcome, so plan to come and provide strength to our counsel to the Archbishop. All Saint Thomas Synod Assemblies will be held in Herron Hall, beginning at 7:30 pm. Assembly dates are Thursday February 24, Wednesday March 2 and Thursday March 10. †

Saint Thomas Synod Assemblies

Thursday February 24

How can we improve our efforts to provide lifelong Christian education and to support faith development?

Wednesday March 2

How can we reach out to the unchurched and encourage the alienated and inactive to come home?

Thursday March 10

How can we as Church more effectively proclaim and implement the social teachings of the Gospel?

All meetings will begin at 7:30 pm in Herron Hall

A Journey Through Lent

Fast and Abstinence Those 14 and older are required to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays during Lent. Those 18 - 59 are required to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. A fast entails not eating between meals, which consist of one main meal and two smaller ones.

Easter Duty extends from the First Sunday of Lent (February 20) through the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity (May 29).

Stations of the Cross Special Stations of the Cross will be sponsored by Pastoral Council and Liturgy Committee on March 25 at 7:30 pm.

Catechumenate/RCIA

Rite of Sending and Election - Feb 20 10:30 am

Three Scrutinies - March 6, 13, 20 10:30 am

Operation Rice Bowl To do your part to eliminate hunger, please sacrifice part of one meal a week during Lent, donating the cost of the item. Offerings will be collected during Holy Week.

Holy Week

Palm Sunday The holiest week of the Church year begins with the procession and blessing of palms. We honor Christ the King as we reflect on his Passion and death.

Chrism Mass Archbishop McCarrick will bless and consecrate the oils used throughout the year.

Sacred Triduum The season of Lent ends and we enter the most sacred Holy Days of the year: the Easter Triduum. Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil and Easter.

The Celebration of Easter joy continues over the next 50 days. All this will lead up to the Feast of Pentecost.

Pentecost - May 22 This is a great day! Far more than a commemoration of a historic event in First Century Jerusalem; Far more than the birthday of the Church, it is a day for being Church, for letting our human affection be shaped by the experience of completing Easter with a full voice and heart. Saturday 5:30 pm, Sunday 7:30am, 9am 10am, noon

Small Christian Communities

Small Christian Communities are groups of men and women who come together to learn the Scriptures better and hear what God is saying to us in our lives through those Scriptures.

Call Father Vic

338-9190

or Anna

338-1044

Lenten Calendar

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 16

Ashes will be distributed at Eucharist at 7 am, 8 am, 11:30 am, 7 pm and at Liturgy of the Word at 3:30 pm

TUESDAY MARCH 29

Sacrament of Reconciliation/Communal Celebration, 7:30 pm

This communal penance service is not general absolution.

Several priests will be available for private confession at this time.

SATURDAY MARCH 26/SUNDAY MARCH 27

PALM SUNDAY - Solemn Blessing of Palms

Saturday 5:30 pm/Sunday 7:30 am, 9 am, 10:30 am, noon

THURSDAY MARCH 31

HOLY THURSDAY - Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:30 pm

FRIDAY APRIL 1

GOOD FRIDAY - Passion and Death of the Lord 7:30 pm

SATURDAY APRIL 2

EASTER VIGIL 7:30 pm (No Masses scheduled during the day)

SUNDAY APRIL 3

EASTER 7:30 am, 9 am, 10:30 am, noon

10:35 am, 12:05 pm in Parish Center

DAILY EUCHARIST

Monday - Friday 7 am, 8 am, 11:30 am, 7 pm

(There will not be a 7 pm Mass on March 28 due to the Chrism Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Newark at 8 pm. All are invited to attend.)

On Monday February 21, only one Mass will be celebrated at 8:30 am, due to Presidents' Day

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Mondays after the 7 pm Mass (February 28, March 7, 14, 21)

Saturdays from 3 - 4 pm and after the 5:30 pm Mass

(February 19, 26 and March 5, 12, 19, 26)

Contributors

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