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The name, *Cathedra*, selected for this publication, refers to the Latinized Greek for “archbishop’s chair.” Cathedral is a short form of the Latin, *ecclesia cathedralis* “church of a bishop’s seat.”
The angel said, ‘Do not be afraid. Look, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people.’

-Luke (2:10)

A Blessed Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, and New Year’s to you and your loved ones.

As we say good-bye to 2014, we are grateful for all the many blessings of this past year. Here at the Cathedral we have passed the half-way mark of the Restoration - Glory be to God!

This December we hope you will stop by the Cathedral to make a visit to our Lord where He is in repose in the Lady Chapel, celebrate the arrival of Baby Jesus in our Creche, and attend Mass and Confession to prepare yourself during Advent.

Wishing you Peace and Joy in the coming year!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Msgr. Robert T. Ritchie, Rector
As we prepare to celebrate with joy the birth of Christ, let us take a moment to pray for the vast numbers of peoples in the world who are still waiting to hear the “tidings of great joy” announced to them. Let us pray for our missionaries! As we do, we remember one great New Yorker, Bishop Francis Xavier Ford, who gave his life in service of the Gospel. This modern martyr died in 1952 in a Chinese prison.

Young Francis was born in Brooklyn in 1892. His father Austin had read a book on St. Francis Xavier which impressed him much, and he decided to name his sixth child after the great missionary saint. What a good omen that was! Both Austin Ford and his wife Elizabeth were writers, he publishing the renowned Irish Times, and she, contributing both to this and to the New York Times on a regular basis. Frank Ford grew up in a happy and intellectually stimulating home.

A missionary came to speak at the parish when Frank was twelve. This was none other than the Belgian priest Fr. Louis Conrardy, companion to Fr. Damien of Molokai, who later went to establish another “Molokai” type leprosarium in China. His fiery sermon for prayer and sacrifice for the China mission made a permanent impression upon Ford. A young Frank determined to become a priest.

At age twenty, in 1912, seminarian Frank Ford was studying at Cathedral College, at that time located in Manhattan. He heard that a “Father Walsh and a Father Price” were trying to establish a seminary for the foreign missions. He visited with them and was soon accepted as Maryknoll’s first seminarian. He and the other early Maryknoll seminarians studied at Dunwoodie, where Frank completed his course work with distinction. He was ordained in 1917. The following year, on September 8, he joined with four others to be the first Maryknollers sent on mission.

After only eleven years of missionary work in South China, the gifted young priest was named as Prefect of Meixian (also called “Kaying”), about 250 miles inland and northeast of Hong Kong. Its people, the “Hakka”, spoke a different dialect of Chinese, and the missionary had to learn a new language all over again. Yet, he soon wrote that: “Taking up work among a strange people, meeting new conditions, learning a new language should be a strain. It actually is a relaxation, accompanied by a freshness and delight.” The “Prefect Apostolic” Ford sought from the beginning to make the Church as Chinese as possible. He wrote home to the seminarians at Maryknoll: “The [missionary] priest has a view of the Chinese that is…not that of the Europeans of the port cities. Perhaps love is the bridge…”

Six years later Father Ford was consecrated the first Bishop of Meixian, working in a land of great poverty. It would be hard to describe how poor the Chinese were in those days. Centuries of European exploitation had humbled a proud people. For this reason, Bishop Ford made sure to incorporate as much of Chinese culture into his missionary efforts. He encouraged missionaries to never stop studying the language, and to always have intellectual curiosity and openness to the “strange” customs they encountered. He often wrote against those who considered Western culture superior to that of the Chinese. He wrote: “Our Lord never condescended. He emptied Himself and took the form of a man; Christ never betrayed superiority in His dealing with others.”

Although Bishop Ford did what he could to alleviate physical suffering, he wished his missionaries to always remember they were first and foremost in service of the Gospel, and being led by the Holy Spirit. He writes, “Spiritually, the missionary should be grounded in humility…in the obligation of prayer…and in the spirit of persevering self-sacrifice… In crowded alleys, on mountain
Welcoming the Baby who Changed the World

Cardinal’s Message

Shortly before Midnight on Christmas Eve, the lights in St. Patrick’s Cathedral are darkened. The whole of the Cathedral is hushed. There is a quiet, serene attentiveness: we are waiting.

On the stroke of Midnight—the liturgy begins! And we start the celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord.

Like Isaiah, Elizabeth, Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and John the Baptist, who waited for the coming of the Savior, so do we commemorate that waiting with quiet, humble, patient, trusting prayer throughout Advent.

This prayerful attentiveness can be hard to maintain amid the glitz and glamour of Fifth Avenue, shopping for our loved ones, and the hustle and bustle of the season.

But like the people of Israel, we wait with patient longing, yearning, and preparation during these four weeks.

To prepare ourselves for Christmas we can:

- Go to confession (we have the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the Cathedral every day except Sunday!)
- Go to Mass (7 times a day during the week at the Cathedral!)
- Visit Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament (reposed in the Lady Chapel at the Cathedral.)
- And of course pray, read God’s word, and witness to his Love throughout the season.

“We the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.” (Isaiah 9:1).

As we ready ourselves to enter into this light and leave the darkness, I hope you will join me here at St. Patrick’s as we prayerfully prepare to welcome the little baby who changed the world.

Fr. Hanlon is the Vocation Director for the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, to find out more about the mission of Maryknoll, please go to www.maryknoll.org. For vocations inquiries go to www.maryknollvocations.org or contact Father via email here: khanlon@maryknoll.org.
Views from the Restoration
For young adults in their 20s and 30s, there are many more opportunities to encounter Christ and engage in community than ever before.

At the Young Adult Outreach Office (YAO Office) we, a dynamic group of young people, work hard to create these opportunities by supporting young adult ministries such as Saint Patrick’s Cathedral Young Adult Group - so that we may bring young adults to encounter Jesus Christ through the sacraments, community, and service in both Manhattan and throughout the entire Archdiocese.

We’d like to share with you a few of these opportunities:

One of the most popular events run by this office is the monthly Young Adult mass at St. Patrick’s Cathedral followed by a social. (Cardinal Dolan will preside at the upcoming Young Adult Mass on December 10th at 7:30 pm.)

This mass is a particularly great opportunity for young adults new to the area or looking to get involved and meet other young Catholics. Young Catholics from all over the city and surrounding areas and from various parishes and young adult groups attend, so it’s a great chance for newcomers to learn about all the opportunities available for them.

To address the needs in all areas of the Archdiocese, there is a coordinator who works specifically with Manhattan and Staten Island, another coordinator working with the Bronx, Yonkers, Southern and Central Westchester, and Rockland Counties, a coordinator focused specifically on Northern Westchester, Putnam, Sullivan, Orange, Duchess, and Ulster Counties, a coordinator focused specifically on Hispanic Outreach throughout the entire Archdiocese, and a coordinator who works on Special Projects and Apostolic Works.

This year has been one of growth for the YAO Office. The coordinators have put a lot of emphasis on engaging young adults with Apostolic Works. In order to do this, they introduced the You Did It To Me program. This program was designed to bring young adults to encounter Christ by caring for the poor and vulnerable in our communities.

They have also established the new CatholicNYC website which launched on October 1st. This website has three unique aspects: Connect with God, Connect with Community, Connect with Resources. The website has information for young adults to find Mass, Confession, and Adoration times, as well as daily Mass readings, novenas, litanies, and historical sites and information on the arts.

It also has information on opportunities for fellowship, such as Young Adult Masses, volunteer opportunities, Bible studies, Catholic Underground, and The Catholic List, essentially a Craigslist for young Catholics to find roommates, sell furniture, and find job openings or volunteer opportunities.

The website also has a variety of educational information available about the Catholic faith, Sacraments, Vocations, information to find Catholic physicians, and links to help young Catholics who may need to combat substance abuse issues, help for an unplanned pregnancy, or healing after an abortion.

“The Young Adult Mass has allowed me to meet other like-minded young adults who share in similar values,” said 28-year-old Natalie Koch. “We’re all striving towards Christ, so to be able to all come together, united in Him, is something so very beautiful. I’m grateful for this opportunity and look forward to Mass at the Cathedral with other young adults each month.”

By Mary Elise Zellmer
The YAO Office was busy this year with several other new initiatives including their Love and Responsibility Summer Program, which had an average of 200 young adults attending each week. They invited speakers from various fields to discuss messages from Theology of the Body and Love and Responsibility and catechize young adults on issues such as chastity, cohabitation, marriage, and other concerns young adults routinely encounter.

In addition to reaching out to young adults, the office also works to assist the numerous young adult groups that already exist by networking, facilitating growth and unity through personal relationships with leaders from within the Archdiocese, ecclesial movements, religious communities, parish groups, discussion groups, non-profits, professional guilds, and numerous other formal organizations for young adults.

By regularly attending events and organizing regular meetings, the director and coordinators are highly visible leaders in the Catholic community of New York. They regularly support and encourage young adult groups in their endeavors and assist where needed. When desired, they also help clergy and Church leaders who wish to tailor their ministries to the needs of young adults and thus build the future of the Church in New York.

For more information, check out www.CatholicNYC.com or find CatholicNYC on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!

Mary Elise Zellmer is the Assistant to the Director/ Office Manager for the Archdiocesan Young Adult Outreach Office.

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ST. PATRICK’S CATHEDRAL

YOUNG ADULT GROUP’S

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 10, 2014
6:30pm - Confessions and Matt Maher Concert
7:30pm - Young Adult Mass with Cardinal Dolan

DECEMBER 20, 2014
7:00pm - Festival of Lessons and Carols

DECEMBER 21, 2014
5:30pm - Monthly Cathedral Young Adult Mass
6:15pm - Cathedral Parish House Social for young adult fellowship and a reflection by Fr. Robert Bubel.

St. Patrick’s Cathedral Young Adults

Mary Elise Zellmer is the Assistant to the Director/ Office Manager for the Archdiocesan Young Adult Outreach Office.
CATHEDRA
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Reverend Monsignor Robert T. Ritchie, Rector
Reverend Andrew King, Master of Ceremonies
Patrick Danczewski, Director of Cathedral Gift Shop
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Kate Monaghan, Director of Communications
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Loul Puliafito, Director of Development
Roberta Shea, Director of Volunteers and Cathedral Tours

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Mass Times:
Monday through Friday: 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 am,
12 Noon, 12:30, 1:00, 5:30 pm
Saturday: 8:00 am (in Lady Chapel)
12 Noon, Vigil Mass: 5:30 pm (Fulfills Sunday obligation)
Sunday: 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:15 am (Choir)*,
12 Noon, 1:00, 4:00 (Spanish), and 5:30 pm
*Watch Mass live: saintpatrickscathedral.org/live/

Confession Times:
Weekdays: After morning Mass and from Noon to 1:20 PM
Saturdays: Noon to 12:45 PM and 3:30 to 5:30 PM
Reconciliation is available in languages other than English.
For more information, please contact the priest on duty at:
St. Patrick’s Cathedral Parish House
14 East 51st Street
New York, NY 10022
212.753.2261

For any additional questions please call the Parish House: 212.753.2261

DIRECTIONS:
St. Patrick’s Cathedral
5th Avenue between 50th/51st Streets
New York, NY

Subway:
E or 6 trains to 5th Avenue/53rd Street
4 5 6 or NQR to 5th Avenue/59th Street
BDMF to Rockefeller Center

Gift Shop:
Visit Our Shop Online – www.stpatscathedralgiftshop.com
15 East 51st Street, between 5th Avenue and Madison Avenue
Main Shop Hours: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, Monday through Friday
Annex Hours: 8:30 am to 8:00 pm, Saturday and Sunday

Virtual Visit – saintpatrickscathedral.org/visit
St. Patrick’s Cathedral is the Mother Church of the
Archdiocese of New York and the seat of its Archbishop.
Built by contributions large and small, it remains emblematic
of the ascendancy of religious freedom in the New World.

ST. PATRICK’S CATHEDRAL
DID YOU KNOW?
• Including the Sacristy Chapel below the Lady Chapel, there are 20 altars in the Cathedral.
• There is a mouse with a broom depicted in the stained glass window dedicated to St. Martin de Porres, a Peruvian Dominican pharmacist who was known for gently tending animals.
• The first president of the United States to attend the installation of an Archbishop of New York was Lyndon B. Johnson on April 4, 1968 when he attended Terence Cardinal Cooke’s.
• There are two hidden stained glass windows in the Cathedral: one in the North Tower and one in the South Tower.

“RESTORE YOUR HEART. RESTORE THE CHURCH. RESTORE THE CATHEDRAL.”
REDISCOVER ST. PATRICK’S CATHEDRAL WITH OUR AUDIO TOUR NARRATED BY CARDINAL DOLAN.
DOWNLOAD THE APP ON YOUR PHONE OR TRY OUR ON SITE AUDIO GUIDE.
For the past 7 years, St. Patrick’s Cathedral has offered a special Laser Cut Christmas Ornament each year. This year’s ornament is a 5th Avenue view of our beloved Cathedral.

To order your 2014 Christmas Ornament please:

- Visit our website: www.spcgift.org
- Call our Gift Shop: (212) 355-2749
- Visit Our Gift Shop: 15 East 51st Street, NY

Merry Christmas
You can receive this digitally! Help us go green by sending your email address to restore@SaintPatricksCathedral.org