brothers and sisters rejoice. All are alive in Christ! During the month of November, what is proclaimed in so many Gospel stories is the sentiment of a life renewed. This renewal, indeed, has a special meaning for so many faithful who call upon the saints for strength, healing, and guidance as they pray for their loved ones who have been called home to the Lord. Our journey in faith has taught us to find solace in the knowledge that our loved ones have entered into their new Baptism with Christ. Know, too, that the light of the Resurrected Christ overcomes all darkness and despair, shining brightest when we choose to give all of ourselves in the service of others.

“Amen I say to you, whatever you did for the least brothers of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:40). The celebration of the Solemnity of Christ the King at the end of this month reminds us to do all that we can for our brothers and sisters in Christ. As we share the many gifts and talents received through God’s grace with those around us this Thanksgiving, we become beacons of hope for a stronger and more unified Church. In a concrete way, we become the light that illuminates the world for God’s greater glory.

In the spirit of Christ’s activity in our lives, and as we recognize the talents of young adults within our Archdiocesan high schools, we have decided to feature these amazing students within our Cathedra magazine. Christ is at work through these faithful young people, persons who are committed to sharing the ministry of this magnificent Cathedral. From a detailed history of the Sisters of Charity and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton’s dedication to social ministry, to a closer look into Our Lady of Guadalupe and her impact on the global Catholic community, you’ll come to know that the future of our Church has never been brighter!

St. Patrick’s Cathedral continues to work for the future of the Church in all that we do. Through the vibrancy of our sacramental ministry, our commitment to charitable and social outreach, and in the beauty of our music programming, we try our best to embody the charism and values of Christ himself: unconditional love for all God’s people, selfless service in defense of life and equality, and devotion to sharing our faith with others. All of us are invited to be equal partners in this shared ministry. Remember, the heart of St. Patrick’s Cathedral is the faith, work, and generosity of good people like you who bring God’s presence into the world.

There is much to be grateful for, and I hope that after reading this issue of Cathedra, you, too, can share in the joy and beauty of our ministry as “America’s Parish Church,” a ministry that is alive and well!
What a blessed (and busy!) fall it has been here at St. Patrick’s Cathedral! The Sistine Chapel Choir, commonly known to many faithful as the Pope’s Choir, returned to New York City after more than thirty years, and performed in front of a packed house at the Main Sanctuary of the Cathedral this past September. That same weekend, the holy relics of Padre Pio were on display for public veneration and prayer in the Lady Chapel. Once again, as we welcomed over 20,000 faithful inside our famous bronze doors during those two events alone, we were able to feel firsthand that the depth of faith among so many Catholics in our community has never been stronger than it is right now!

As some of you may know, we were able to bless and dedicate two new spaces in the Cathedral this fall – an altar for St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, a hallmark of charity and service through her ministry founding the Sisters of Charity, and a shrine for St. Sharbel Makhlouf, a Maronite monk whose healing ministry affected so many Middle Eastern Catholics throughout the world. These beautiful spaces, gifts from generous benefactors and friends of the Cathedral, are now reminders to all of us of the global presence and impact of Christ’s mission and ministry in our lives.

Together as Catholic Christians, our mission is one of service, solidarity with the outsider, compassion for those suffering, and love for all. Truly, this is an endeavor we are all called to embark upon, and for me to see so many faithful, near and far, work on behalf of this ministry has been one of the great joys of my life as Rector of this magnificent Cathedral. The phrase “everyone needs a place to pray” rings true now more than ever! If you have not yet had a chance to be among those who have been here in person, either for Mass or Confession, at one of our special events, I hope that someday soon you will come to St. Patrick’s Cathedral and join us in prayer. Until then, please keep us in your prayers throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons, and we’ll do the same.

Finally, with the Advent and Christmas seasons around the corner, I hope you and your loved ones can join us here at the Cathedral in the coming weeks for the following Masses and special event:

**Friday, December 8:**
The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

**Thursday, December 21:**
The 38th annual Christmas concert, A City Singing at Christmas, our most vibrant and popular concert within the Friends of Music Concert Series.

**Sunday, December 24:**
The Most Holy Children’s Mass @ 5:30pm, where the Baby Jesus is carried throughout the Cathedral by a procession of children to the Christmas crèche.

I look forward to the joy of the Advent and Christmas seasons every year. It is a reminder of why our work here at St. Patrick’s Cathedral is so important. Our mission of providing meaningful sacramental, social, and music ministry is only possible through the support and generosity of friends and benefactors like you. On behalf of all of us here at St. Patrick’s Cathedral, be assured of our prayers and best wishes always.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Robert T. Ritchie, Rector
On October 28, 2017, our community at St. Patrick’s grew a little bit larger as we welcomed over 3000 faithful into our magnificent Cathedral for the unveiling of a new shrine commemorating the life and ministry of St. Sharbel Makhlouf, the 19th-century Lebanese Maronite monk who was canonized by Blessed Paul VI in 1977. In his reflection on the importance of St. Sharbel, Rev. Msgr. Robert T. Ritchie, rector of St. Patrick’s Cathedral, stated, “Every time I mention his name to anyone Lebanese their eyes glow, because he is a symbol to all as a beacon of hope and peace for the future. As America’s Parish Church, to have a shrine for a Lebanese saint would be good for America, and most certainly good for all our visitors.”

Alongside His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan and Bishop Gregory J. Mansour of the Maronite Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn, Cardinal Bechara Rai, patriarch of all Maronite Catholics around the world, dedicated the shrine to the first Middle Eastern Saint, the first of its kind outside Lebanon, on October 28th. “People don’t realize how active he is within Christian-Muslim dialogue,” Bishop Mansour remarked. “He is really engaged in the life of the Middle East and the wider Christian world.”

St. Sharbel Makhlouf was universally known to be more angelic than human, embodying the many characteristics of Jesus Himself: devotion to prayer and selfless service, a commitment to those suffering, and a heartfelt connection to all those needing spiritual direction and guidance. The beauty of Middle Eastern Christianity is now shared with thousands more because of the presence of St. Sharbel at St. Patrick’s Cathedral.

The shrine depicts St. Sharbel wrapped in a glowing halo – beautifully crafted in bright, mosaic tile – in the mountains of Lebanon, near the St. Maron monastery in Annaya, Lebanon, where his tomb is located, and where over 25,000 documented miracles have taken place. The image of St. Sharbel is surrounded by cedar trees and the waters of the Mediterranean, the symbol of Christ’s life-giving nature all around us. The shrine was made possible by the generosity of Antoun Sehnaoui, SGBL Bank Chairman, in honor of his parents May and Nabil Sehnaoui.

What brings our Catholic community together is the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, acting as the driving force that moves all faithful to orient themselves closer to Christ. The ministry of Christ Jesus, most fittingly, is now continued here in the heart of New York City, shining brightly through each individual piece of colorful mosaic tile, drawing all those who enter our bronze doors on 5th Avenue closer to the splendor of Christ Jesus, out of the darkness of suffering and into the light of the world. As His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan stated so eloquently at the dedication and blessing ceremony, “The very name of Lebanon, and all of your challenges, and all of your sufferings, and all your bold witness, are literally tattooed on the walls of this great Cathedral.”

Ad majorem Dei gloriam. More than ever before, St. Patrick’s Cathedral stands tall as a place for all persons of faith to feel at home. Cardinal Rai said it best within his remarks at the unveiling. “St. Sharbel is a sign of hope for Christianity, and for all the people of the Middle East who suffer in difficult circumstances.” And now, with St. Sharbel watching over all who enter our bronze doors on 5th Avenue, we are reminded how best to live for God’s greater glory.

James Cappabianca is the Associate Director of Development at St. Patrick’s Cathedral.

By Mr. James Cappabianca
The Holy Relics of Padre Pio visited St. Patrick’s Cathedral on September 17th and 18th. During those two days, over twenty thousand visitors came to worship and venerate, looking to Saint Pio for guidance and healing for their family and loved ones.

Padre Pio is not only an influential person for Italian Americans here in New York, but has been, and continues to be, a central figure in the lives of all faithful around the world. Padre Pio is considered one of the most notable saints and is adored by many. He proves to be a living example of Catholicism for so many.

Under the name Francesco Forgione, Padre Pio was born on May 25, 1887 in the small farm town of Pietrelcina in the southern region of Italy. His parents, Giuseppa and Grazio Forgione, noticed from an early age that their son had a deep love and devotion for God and the Catholic Church. At age five, they had begun to see his affection and passion for the Church, as he would incorporate his faith into his everyday life. He displayed a deep recollection and knowledge of theology and sacred scripture, and was the kind of child who loved to attend Mass, spending much of his free time in prayer.

Padre Pio had devoted his entire childhood to Christ, and at the age of fifteen Francesco went on to enter the novitiate of the Capuchin Friars in Morcone, Italy. It was here that he was greatly respected by his fellow brothers for his exemplary behavior and deep piety. Francesco remained with the Capuchin Friars until the age of 23. On August 10, 1910 (age 23) Padre Pio became officially ordained into the priesthood. Eight years after his ordination, he received his first direct sign from God: on September 20, 1918 the wounds of our Lord’s Passion appeared on his body, most notably his hands, made famous by the fingerless gloves he wore to cover the wounds.

St. Pio was known for his long masses that sometimes lasted hours. These masses usually contained periods of contemplative silence and sermons that displayed the intensity of how he lived with the Passion of Christ. When asked about the length of his masses, St. Pio responded, “God knows that I want to say Mass like any other priest but I cannot do it.” Even with his lengthy masses, many parishioners looked to him for guidance, prayer, and spiritual direction. They held his piety in high regard, wishing to follow his example in all things.

St. Pio was a figure of spiritual richness. Every aspect of his life and ministry portrayed his spirituality. Anyone in his presence felt his inner faith shine outward, for all the world to see and feel. He always put the well-being and spiritual improvement of others over his own. St. Pio’s faith in Christ – and his belief that Jesus put him on this Earth to serve deliberately and compassionately – was the tool many people used to strengthen their own personal relationships with God. When asked what legacy he would wish to pass onto his “spiritual children,” Padre Pio replied, “My child, the Rosary.” Ultimately, his mission was to pray for all souls everywhere, and encourage people to do the same for one another.

In many ways, Padre Pio fulfilled the mission and ministry Jesus calls each one of us to live in our daily lives. One example of this occurred shortly after his ordination. He wrote a letter to his spiritual director asking if he might offer his life as a sacrifice for sinners. In this letter, St. Pio wrote, “For a long time I have felt in myself a need to offer myself to the Lord as a victim for poor sinners and the souls in purgatory. This desire has been growing continuously in my heart so that now it has become what I would call a strong passion.” In this short statement, one can clearly see that St. Pio embodied the central aspect of Christ’s vision for the world – putting the needs of others before ourselves. Even after his death, Padre Pio continues to be a living example of grace, kindness, and love for all people. It was no surprise, then, that so many faithful came out in droves to pray with him at St. Patrick’s Cathedral.

Nicole Michelotti is a senior at St. Joseph by the Sea High School. As well as being a writer for the school’s newspaper, The Viking Press, Nicole is the vice-president of the religious/charity organization ‘Ladies of Charity’ within the school. Nicole is also the captain of the Varsity Blue Cheerleading team.
200 YEARS OF SERVICE: RECOGNIZING
ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON AND THE SISTERS OF CHARITY

By Mr. Andrew Weaver

This year marked the anniversary of a central event in the life of the Catholic Church here in the United States – the creation of the New York chapter of the Sisters of Charity by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. She, according to the Cathedral’s Associate Director of Development, James Cappabianca, “fits the Catholic image of selfless service,” and is a “perfect example of God’s activity and presence in the world.”

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was the founder of the Sisters of Charity when it opened its first chapter in Emmitsburg, Maryland in 1809. She intended to model the Sisters of Charity after the Daughters of Charity, which was founded in France in 1633 by St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac. In 1814, Mother Seton sent three sisters to Philadelphia in order to help establish Catholic orphanages for the abandoned and neglected children there. This marked the first time three sisters were sent to a different city for the purpose of establishing missionary organizations.

Three years later, in 1817, more sisters were sent to New York City to begin some of the first Catholic orphanages ever established here in Manhattan. As time went on – and as Mother Seton lived her call in the service of Christ – their mission continued to create some of the first health-care facilities and social service institutions in New York. These facilities were critically important, due to a lack of adequate health-care in many of the most deprived parts of the city. Under Mother Seton’s direction, they began to staff and set up the foundation for the city’s first parochial school system, often working in the most desolate and impoverished neighborhoods.

In 1846, the Superior of the Sisters, Mary Angela Hughes, helped the Sisters of Charity here in New York become formally incorporated as a separate entity from the original Sisters of Charity, which was still based in Emmitsburg. Sister Mary Angela Hughes, sister of New York’s Archbishop John Hughes – the founder of St. Patrick’s Cathedral – was influential in laying the groundwork for future collaboration between the Sisters of Charity in New York and the parish of St. Patrick’s Cathedral. In that same year, the well-known St. Vincent’s Hospital was founded as the first Catholic hospital established in New York, and would aid the city during her darkest hours, serving many thousands of people affected by the cholera epidemic of 1849, the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in 1911, the sinking of the Titanic in 1912, and the attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11th, 2001.
At the height of immigration from Europe to America, the Sisters were at the forefront of so many relief efforts, including the establishment of the New York Foundling in 1869, which was established in the service of foster children, and also to provide health-care to pregnant, single mothers. The Foundling, to this day, is a crucially important aspect of New York's social services network, working with immigrant children, persons with disabilities, and those who have been affected by HIV and AIDS.

Today, the Sisters of Charity remain the saviors of our City, and have broadened their horizons in the service of the wider world: fighting world hunger, caring for the oppressed in marginalized nations, and working to put an end to human trafficking around the globe. On top of all this, they have established peace building missions in places like Guatemala, focusing on social justice and equal rights advocacy for the people there.

Sister Carol Barnes typifies the selfless service of Mother Seton, working at the Foundling to help those who have been marginalized. When asked about the dedication of the new St. Elizabeth Ann Seton altar at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Sister Barnes said, “It is a natural place for her [altar] to be.” Sister Barnes also called the dedication “timely,” especially when so many faithful were commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Sisters of Charity.

Sister Barnes also mentioned how important this dedication was to strengthening the relationship between St. Patrick's Cathedral and the Sisters of Charity. She stated that this altar would “give new energy and life” to the work of the Sisterhood, in what she said was a “special bond” between the mission and ministry of the Cathedral and the work and vision of the Sisters of Charity.

After the Sisters' 200 years of inspirational service to New York and beyond, St. Patrick's Cathedral has been truly blessed to dedicate a new altar to Mother Seton. The altar at St. Patrick's Cathedral stands as a testament to the role of religious women in our wider Catholic community for all to see, and how far behind the city, and the world, would be without their ministry of service and compassion. This dedication commemorates the connection Mother Seton has to all those who commit themselves to the service of the poor and sick here and abroad.

Andrew Weaver is a junior at Xavier High School where he participates in the Regiment, is on the wrestling team, and involved in Model UN, among other clubs and activities. Outside of school, Andrew plays rugby for Play Rugby USA.
A CITY UNITED
Pastoral and Community Outreach Ministries

By Mr. Peter J. Fitton

In her unique role as “America’s Parish Church,” St. Patrick’s Cathedral endeavors to engage our faithful visitors and community from near and far with joy and a commitment to service. Through the personal expression of God’s love, our amazing and dedicated volunteers, persons who augment the pastoral mission of the Cathedral, in so many ways, large and small, touch the lives of millions who come to this beacon of peace, prayer, and hopeful faith on 5th Avenue.

Pastoral Ministries

Lectors

Our Lectors, as diverse as the community of faith we serve, proclaim the Word of the Lord at our forty-six weekly Masses with reverence and solemnity. This vital ministry, heard by so many, inspires and personalizes the message of hope, dignity, and the everlasting love of Christ.

Ministers of Holy Communion

For the hundreds of thousands of faithful who receive the Lord every year, these specially trained servants of the Church fulfill an important role in ensuring that all who want to receive the Blessed Sacrament of Communion can do so.

Ministers of Hospitality/Tour Guides

Thousands of people from around the world, representing all faiths, visit St. Patrick’s Cathedral every year and have had the opportunity to experience the history, architecture, and story of the Catholic experience in America and New York. Our tour guides share their knowledge and love of this magnificent Cathedral and its heritage with the young and old, the faithful and curious, representing their faith and passion for the Cathedral in a welcoming and joyful way.
Community Outreach Ministries

Fifth Ave. Ecumenical Outreach Partnership

St. Patrick’s Cathedral has entered into collaboration with St. Thomas Church Fifth Avenue and Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church to address the needs of those vulnerable children of God caught in cycles of poverty, homelessness, dependencies, and hopelessness. In joining together for this unique ecumenical partnership, we, three distinct churches, with the shared value of aiding “the least of our brothers and sisters,” have hired a full-time parochial social worker. He has begun to engage those in our local community to provide the opportunity for life transformation to those whom we see in need every day, at our church’s doorsteps and beyond. Please keep him in your prayers as he performs these acts of mercy, kindness, and compassion.

Our Neighbors Program

The Our Neighbors Program provides outreach to older adults in our community with weekly healthy luncheons (donated by local restaurants), light exercise programs, and financial planning and “living well” workshops. Most importantly, this program provides community to those who may be alone, as well as the chance to socialize and feel God’s love through the volunteers who serve them.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

St. Patrick’s Cathedral is especially excited by the formation of a new Cathedral conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. This parish conference is part of an international society dedicated to encountering Christ through service to those in need while its members are nourished and strengthened through prayer and fellowship. In a short time, they have purchased and built “blessing bags” full of toiletries for the homeless and marginalized in our community. Additionally, they offer conversation, necessities, and the manifestation of God’s love through their acts of kindness to those less fortunate.

St. Patrick’s Cathedral’s awareness of her unique place in the lives of so many is always paramount in our daily ministries. These activities, and the people and volunteers that affirm their faith by helping make these ministries vibrant, are the key to fulfilling the responsibility of having the chance to touch so many lives. We truly are blessed.

If you would like to participate, volunteer, or donate to help us to continue our mission as “America’s Parish Church” through any of our social ministry programs, please email Peter J. Fitton at pjfitton@saintpatricks cathedral.org.

Peter J. Fitton is the Director of Volunteer Services at St. Patrick’s Cathedral.

Fifth Avenue Ecumenical Outreach Partnership

A collaboration of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue, and St. Patrick’s Cathedral.

Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday, 2-6 pm
Contact:
outreach@fapc.org
212.247.0490
Never before have there been so many opportunities in the Archdiocese of New York for young Catholics in their 20s and 30s to encounter Christ and engage in community!

The Office of Young Adult Outreach is made up of a dynamic group of seven young people who are working hard to create opportunities, as well as promote existing programs, that bring young adults closer to a more intimate encounter with Jesus Christ through the sacraments, community, and service programming in Manhattan and within the entire Archdiocese of New York. In addition to reaching out to young adults, the office also works to assist the numerous young adult groups that already exist by facilitating growth and unity through personal relationships (networking opportunities) with leaders from parish groups, ecclesial movements, non-profits, and other organizations within other dioceses.

One of the most popular events organized by our office is the monthly Young Adult Mass at the beautiful and historic St. Patrick’s Cathedral, followed by a social, with an average attendance of 400 young adults each month. His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan will be celebrating the next Young Adult Mass on Wednesday, December 13, 2017. For this special Mass, two thousand young adults are expected to attend! The evening will begin with a holy hour at 6:30pm at the Cathedral, along with confession opportunities, followed by Mass at 7:30pm. A guest musician will be brought in to lead our sacred music for this event. After the Mass, all will be invited to one of our largest get-togethers of the year at a location to be announced as the date moves closer.

Young Catholics from all over the city and surrounding areas, and from various parishes and young adult groups, attend, so this Mass and event is a great chance for newcomers to connect with all opportunities available to them as young and engaged Catholics in the City.

For more information about this event, and other events happening for young adult Catholics through the Office of Young Adult Outreach, I encourage you to visit our website, www.Catholicnyc.com.

In the spirit of St. Ignatius, will you join us as we go out and set the world on fire for God’s greater glory?

Colin Nykaza is the Director of Young Adult Outreach for the Archdiocese of New York.
For the past 10 years, St. Patrick’s Cathedral has offered a special Laser Cut Christmas Ornament each year. This special 10-year anniversary ornament is perfect for your collection.

The ornament boasts a beautiful rendition of the front facade of the Cathedral in the center of a snowflake.

To order your 2017 Christmas Ornament, please:

Visit our Website: www.spcgift.org

[or]

Call our Gift Shop: (212) 355-2749

[or]

Visit our Gift Shop: 15 East 51st Street, NY, NY 10022
Our Lady of Guadalupe: Symbol of Love and Faith
By Mr. Jhon De La Cruz Paulino

La Guadalupana. Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Our Lady of Guadalupe is known by many names, but Catholics around the world revere her in a similar, and very holy, way. According to tradition, Our Lady of Guadalupe first appeared in Mexico on December 9th, 1531 to an indigenous man named Juan Diego. Our Lady of Guadalupe holds a special place in the heart of the Mexican people, as well as in the hearts of so many Catholics throughout the world.

When Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to Juan Diego in 1531, it was to help him build her a church on Tepeyac Hill. Juan Diego accepted the petition by Our Lady to deliver her message to the local Bishop, Juan de Zumárraga. Once Juan Diego explained the message, the Bishop demanded a sign from heaven as proof. On December 12th, after Juan Diego told Our Lady what had occurred with the Bishop, she asked him to gather some very rare, out-of-season flowers from the top of Tepeyac Hill, and to deliver them to the Bishop. She ordered Juan Diego not to open his cloak for anyone other than the Bishop. But once he unfolded his cloak, the Bishop saw the beautiful image of Our Lady of Guadalupe surrounded by roses. This was her heavenly sign to the Bishop – a holy image of herself, and the image that so many faithful devote themselves to today.

Our Lady of Guadalupe is universally known as a symbol of love, security, and compassion. For many Mexicans in particular, Our Lady’s appearance to Juan Diego is considered one of the main factors which informed their experience of God’s activity in the world. It is believed that when she appeared to Juan Diego, she was of brown skin, resembling the mix of Spanish and Native American blood that make up much of Mexican ethnicity. While these factors of Our Lady’s influence in Mexican history are still debated, there are some events where her image was used to convey an important and holy message. Father Miguel Hidalgo used her image in the hope of securing Mexican independence when he began his revolt against the Spanish in 1810. Mexican political figure Emiliano Zapata also carried a banner of the “Virgen de Guadalupe” when he entered Mexico City in 1914 during the Mexican Revolution.

Mexicans hold “La Guadalupana” in high regard because she represents their livelihood throughout the wider Catholic world. In 2002 during his fifth visit to Mexico, Pope John...
Paul II canonized Juan Diego and declared Our Lady of Guadalupe the patroness of the Americas. Her patronage is seen every year when her feast day is celebrated on December 12th, a national holiday in Mexico since 1859. Thousands of people from around the world gather at her Basilica in Mexico near the hill where she first appeared to Juan Diego in 1531. Many “Guadalupanos” say so often that “if it weren’t for Our Lady of Guadalupe, we wouldn’t go to Mexico.” This is a symbol of her impact on the wider Catholic Church.

The Cardinal Hayes High School community shares in this tradition of celebrating the holy day honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe. They hold a special mass every year where: “Las Mañanitas” is sung, the Rosary is prayed in Spanish, and stories are shared by parents, students, and guests from Mexico about their lives and their devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe. Former Mexican President Felipe Calderon once said, “We’re all Guadalupanos.” This statement applies to everyone in the Catholic Church, including those here in the United States.

I grew up in the town of West New York, New Jersey where the presence and devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe is strong. Coincidentally, my hometown happens to be the location of a miracle attributed to Our Lady of Guadalupe. There is a carving in a tree of the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Bergenline Avenue, between 60th and 61st Streets in West New York. Many faithful Catholics in my community consider this carving to be Our Lady of Guadalupe’s second appearance to humanity. I have visited this spot many times, and can, without a doubt, call this a miracle. In my opinion, it would be impossible to carve such a detailed image so deep into the tree in one night, on the town’s busiest street, without anyone noticing. The image itself is impressive, but more importantly, the miracle proves to all of us who live in this neighborhood that God is present and alive right here among us. As Mr. Roque, a resident of my hometown, said so perfectly, “This symbol – a simple image on a tree – has united all of us, all Hispanic communities.” Petitions and prayer intentions are often placed next to the tree, and I can honestly say that this represents the unity in faith we all are called to have in devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Our Lady of Guadalupe plays a vital role within the wider Catholic Church because she unifies all people in communion with one another. She is embedded in the Church’s Advent liturgical season, Hispanic Heritage month, and of course within so many Mexican traditions. Her presence in our lives is so strong that she even has a telenovela, “La Rosa de Guadalupe,” which brings to light the miracles that Our Lady has done for so many faithful. From Mexico to Rome, and everywhere in between, her love and presence can be seen, and felt, in the lives of everyday people.

Jhon De La Cruz is a senior at Cardinal Hayes High School. Jhon is the president of the Latino Society, a senior officer of the Student Activities Committee, and a cabinet member within Student Government. Jhon has worked as an intern at the Student Conservation Association, as a volunteer English teacher in the Dominican Republic, and for the Fast Track Program at Goldman Sachs. During the summer of 2017, he attended the Brown University Pre-College Program in Italy.
Mass Times:
Monday through Friday: 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 am, 12 Noon, 1:00, 5:30 pm.
Saturday: 8:00 am (in the Lady Chapel).
12 Noon, Vigil Mass: 5:30 pm (Fulfills Sunday obligation).
Sunday: 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:15 am (Full Choir)*, 12 Noon, 1:00, 4:00 (Spanish), and 5:30 pm.
*Watch Mass via Live Stream: www.saintpatricks cathedral.org/live

Confession Times:
Weekdays: After morning Masses and from Noon to 1:20 pm.
Saturdays: Noon to 12:45 pm and from 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

Location:
St. Patrick’s Cathedral
5th Avenue between 50th/51st Streets
New York, NY, 10022

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

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

Virtual Tour: www.saintpatricks cathedral.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?
• The patron saint of the United States is Mary, Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception.
• The first Cardinal ever appointed for the United States was Cardinal John McCloskey. Born in Brooklyn, and later Archbishop of New York, he led the completion of St. Patrick’s Cathedral.
• For the first time since Old St. Patrick’s was established in 1809, there were two years from 1866-1868, in which there was no St. Patrick’s in New York City due to a fire at the old cathedral before the new cathedral was finished.
• There has only been one Bishop of New York who headed the diocese who was not of Irish descent: Bishop John Dubois, a Frenchman.
• The Mamas and the Papas’ 1965 song California Dreamin’s second verse mentions a church - that church is St. Patrick’s Cathedral.
• From October 1888 until October 1890, St. Patrick’s Cathedral at 330 feet high was the tallest building in New York City and the second tallest in America, surpassed only by Philadelphia’s City Hall.
• President Abraham Lincoln wrote a series of letters to Archbishop John Hughes, founder of St. Patrick’s Cathedral, to request for more chaplains during the Civil War, and for other services such as going to Europe to help stop outside influences on the Civil War.

YOU’RE INVITED TO BECOME A PARISHIONER!
Visit us online and sign up today at www.saintpatricks cathedral.org/parishioner

This is a photo of some of our parishioners at our Summer BBQ, one of the many gatherings we have every year. All parishioners are invited to meet-and-greet events each month after Mass, as well as special liturgical events and Masses.
Charitable Bequests

There are several ways to name the Cathedral as a beneficiary of your will or living trust. You can make a cash bequest, leave a specific asset such as appreciated securities, or designate that the Cathedral will receive all or a percentage of the remainder of your estate, after your other beneficiaries are provided for.

Gifts of Retirement Plan Assets

Retirement plan assets could be the most heavily taxed of all your assets if left to heirs. With the income and estate taxes, more than half could be whittled away. You can preserve more of your estate for your heirs and meet your philanthropic goals by leaving your retirement plan assets to a tax-exempt charitable organization such as the Cathedral.

Gifts of Appreciated Securities

Giving appreciated securities is now more advantageous with the rise in the value of securities and higher tax rates. For securities held longer than one year, you can deduct their full market value (top federal rate 39.6%) regardless of what you originally paid for them. You also avoid paying capital gains tax (top federal rate 23.8%).

Gift Annuities

A charitable gift annuity is a simple contract that offers a tax-advantaged way to provide fixed guaranteed income to you and/or another individual. At the death of the last income beneficiary, the remaining principal is transferred to the Cathedral. You can begin to receive income when you need it most, either right away, or at a pre-determined future date such as retirement.

Charitable Remainder Trusts

You can donate a wide variety of assets to a charitable remainder trust, including cash, appreciated securities and real estate, and receive a percentage of the trust’s value as income. In years when the trust assets appreciate; the distribution will increase; if asset values decline, distributions are lower. At the death of the last income beneficiary, the remaining principal is transferred to the Cathedral.

Contact Us

We would be most grateful for the opportunity to discuss these gift arrangements and other giving ideas with you, your family, and your professional advisers.

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