

Men called to holiness at first annual Men's Conference

By NEIL W. McCABE
PILOT CORRESPONDENT

More than 2,000 men gathered March 19 at Boston College High School to celebrate the Solemnity of St. Joseph with Archbishop Seán P. O'Malley, "The Passion of the Christ" star James Caviezel and other speakers at the first Boston Catholic Men's Conference.

The idea for the conference sprung from two members of a men's bible study group at Harvard Square's St. Paul's Parish, Scot Landry and Jo Tango.

Members of the group had attended men conferences in Worcester and Cincinnati over the last four years, and each time they returned telling the other members that Boston should have its own conference, Landry said.

Finally, last October, Landry and Tango, inspired by winning spirit of the 2004 Boston Red Sox team, took up the team's theme "Why not us?" and decided they would put together a men's conference for the Church in Boston, he said.

The two men became seven after they convinced their study group to pitch in. The seven then grew into an organizing committee of 35 men, said Tango.

"Scot roped us in," said Robert Alexander, who was in charge of parish outreach for the conference.

Seven parishes sent more than 30 men, including the top

parish, Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Seekonk, which sent 69 participants, he said.

The farthest distance traveled by any of the attendees he knew of was a carload of men from Enosburg, Vt., who left home at 2 a.m., he said.

The headline speaker, Caviezel, spoke shortly after 2 p.m., before the Mass celebrated by Archbishop O'Malley.

Landry said it took three weeks to get a response from Caviezel's office, and when the call came the conversation took some unexpected turns.

Landry said Caviezel's assistant told him that she was surprised that he had accepted the invitation to speak because he only accepts 50 engagements per year.

When she told him Caviezel commanded a large fee, which he donates to a teen pregnancy program, Landry said he told her it was no problem.

When she told him Caviezel charged at least \$25,000, Landry said he took a breath, then again told her it was no problem.

His next call was to his boss, Sean McLaughlin, the founder and CEO of Eze Castle Software. When McLaughlin at once committed to cover the Caviezel's fee, the conference had locked down its featured speaker, Landry said.

The total budget for the conference was around \$85,000, he said. In addition to McLaughlin's support, the Knights of Columbus donated \$50,000 and the balance was made up by members organizing com-



Over 2,000 attended the first annual Boston Catholic Men's Conference.

Pilot photo by Gregory L. Tracy

mittee, he said.

Caviezel's talk was closed to the media in order to allow the actor to speak frankly about his faith and his personal experiences.

After he spoke, he mingled casually with a crowd outside in the parking lot that gathered around his car, posing for pictures, shaking hands and signing autographs with a succinct "J.C."

Standing outside and watch-

ing as Caviezel drove away, Andrew C. Johnson from St. Brendan Church in Bellingham said the conference was awesome.

"It was like a teen rally, much better than I expected," he said.

Johnson's friend, Jared M. Marino, said 10 members of the parish's youth group had come in two cars.

"I came because I want to have a closer relationship with

Jesus and a deeper prayer life," Marino said.

In his homily during the Mass at the conference, the archbishop said he was impressed how the event grew from two men, to seven, to 35 and then to 2,000.

Reminded of the John Wayne movie "The Quiet Man," the archbishop said St. Joseph was the Bible's true quiet man, since he is never
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Co-founder Scot Landry speaks before the closing Mass.

Pilot photo by Gregory L. Tracy

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 quoted uttering a word, he said.

Yet, faced with the dilemma of his fiancée's pregnancy, St. Joseph was the first man to confront the truth of Jesus, he said.

A prominent fixture at the conference was the Brotherhood of Hope, a community of priests and brothers, whose house is the former convent of the St. Catherine of Siena School in Somerville. In the Archdiocese of Boston, the community focuses on college campus ministries, with permanent staff at the Newman Center at Boston University and the Catholic Center at the University of Massachusetts at Lowell. Members of BOH pro-

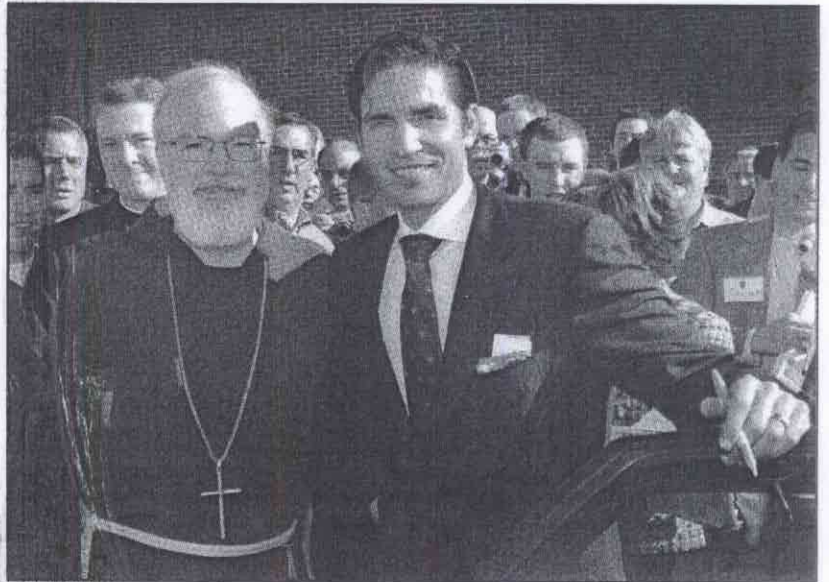
vided the music program for the conference and three of the speakers.

In his keynote remarks, Father Phillip Merdinger, BH, the community's founder, said he shared the frustration felt by the men in the audience.

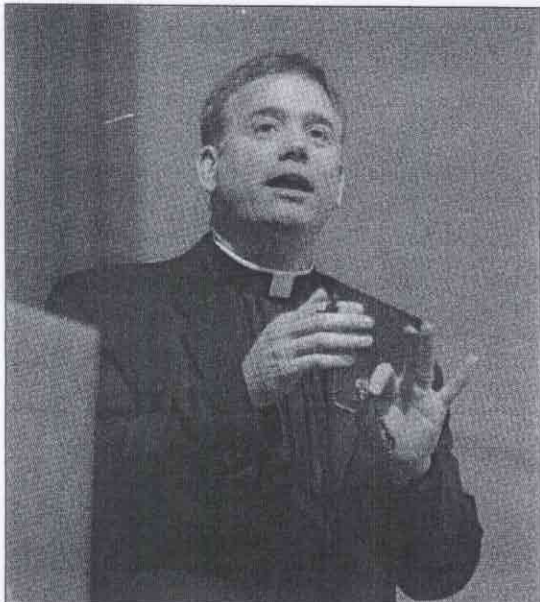
After many years of compromises with the secular world, the Church is in serious need of reform and renewal, he said.

Confronting the damage caused by clergy abuse scandal, Father Phillip said he acknowledges the failure of he and his brother priests to prevent the tragedy. "I can only beg your forgiveness. We failed."

But, that was not the end of the story, he said. "When the



Archbishop O'Malley accompanies "The Passion of the Christ" star James Caviezel to his car following Caviezel's talk.
 Photo by George Martell



Father Larry Richards uses his rosary to emphasize the importance of prayer.
 Pilot photo by Gregory L. Tracy

Church is in trouble, a man of God does not run away."

The key to being a strong man of God is having a deep, spiritual hope, he said.

Men have experience pains as sons and fathers that force them to retreat from the world, but with hope in God men can face their challenges and succeed, he said.

Brothers Patrick Reilly and Samuel Gunn, also of the Brotherhood of Hope, led one of the day's three breakout sessions. Clearly comfortable with the more than 100 college-aged men gathered with them in the high school's cafeteria, the two brothers began by calling for the participants to pull out their notebooks and make three columns for Natural

Man, Spiritual Man and Holy Man.

The Natural Man can be a force for good but has no focus, said Brother Patrick. The Spiritual Man has focus, but accomplishes nothing. It is important for Catholic men to embrace both modes. The Holy Man has a strong, informed masculinity.

It has been a problem for men that they have felt they had to leave their masculinity at the door when they enter a church, said Brother Samuel.

Instead of behaving true to their nature, men are told to

dance in the forest and play in the fields, he said.

When the Natural Man combines with the Spiritual Man, he becomes Holy Man, he said.

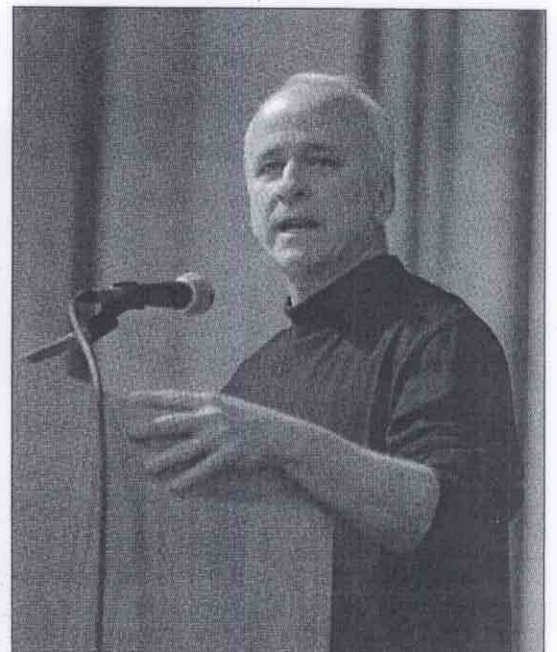
The other breakout sessions were led by Karl Wirth, a protestant minister who will enter the Catholic Church this Easter Sunday and Pilot editor Antonio Enrique who led the workshop for Spanish-speaking men.

The conference's opening speaker, James Towey, was for 12 years the legal counsel for
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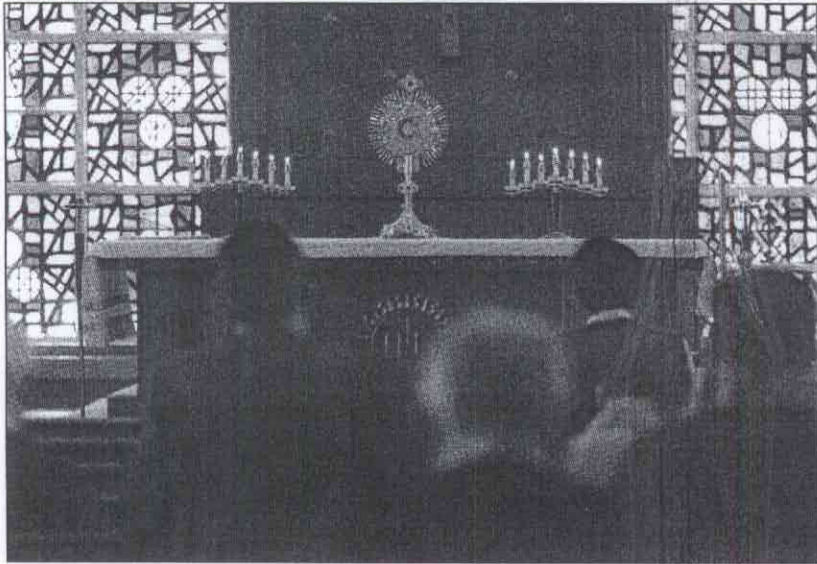


Members of the Brotherhood of Hope provided music throughout the day.

Pilot photo by Gregory L. Tracy

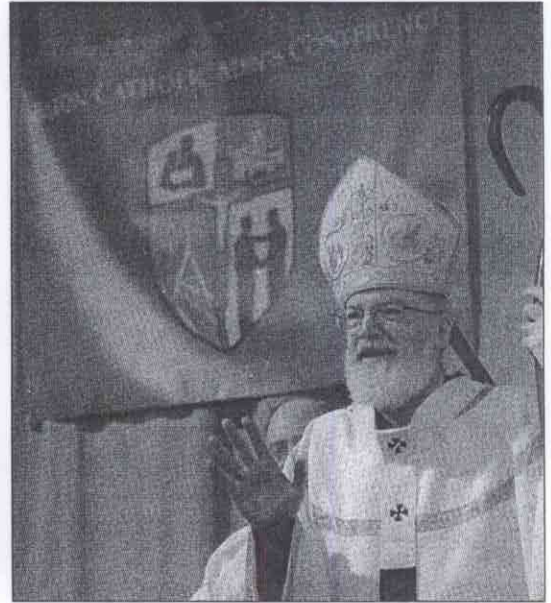


James Towey, director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, addresses the conference.
 Pilot photo by Gregory L. Tracy



Men visited the BC High chapel throughout the day for eucharistic adoration.

Pilot photo by Gregory L. Tracy



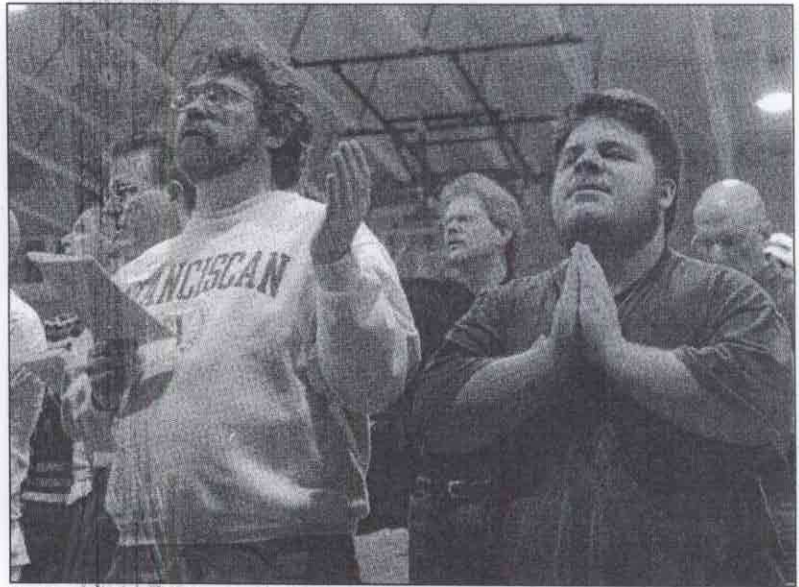
Archbishop O'Malley prepares to deliver the final blessing.

Pilot photo by Gregory L. Tracy



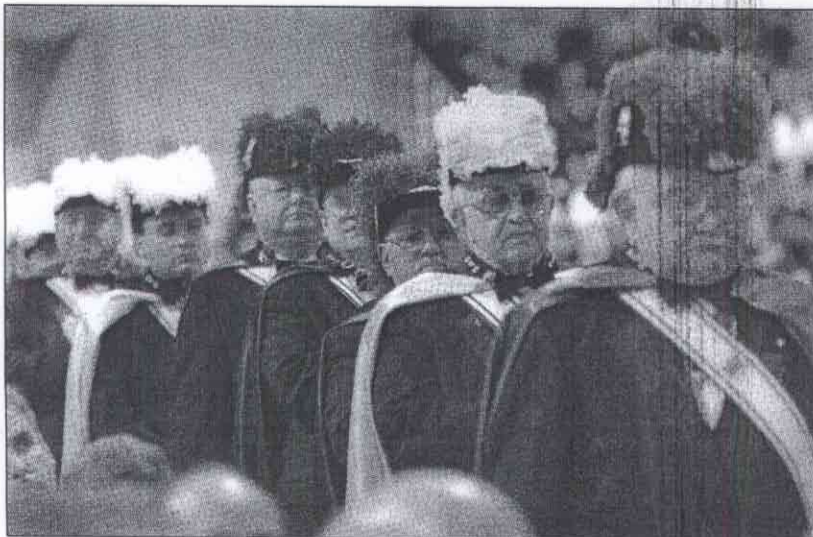
Ave Maria University founder Thomas Monaghan speaks on his vision for the university.

Pilot photo by Gregory L. Tracy



Jim Duran, left, and Andrew Smith of Bellingham join in the opening prayer.

Pilot photo by Gregory L. Tracy



Knight of Columbus serve as honor guards during the conference's closing Mass.

Pilot photo by Gregory L. Tracy



Father Philip Merdinger, BH, founder of the Brotherhood of Hope told participants the key to being a strong man of God is having a deep, spiritual hope.

Pilot photo by Gregory L. Tracy

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Blessed Mother Teresa. He is now a deputy assistant to President Bush and the director faith-based initiatives office at the White House.

Following Towe was Father Larry Richards, the pastor of St. Joseph Church in Erie, Pa., and the one of the most popular Catholic speakers in the country, Landry said. More than 300,000 copies of his recordings "Confession" and "The Mass Explained" are in distribution.

Following Father Richards was founder of Domino's Pizza and Ave Maria University, Thomas Monaghan. Monaghan said he sold his pizza empire for roughly \$1 billion, and is now spending the rest of his life "trying to die penniless."

A major part of Monaghan's plan is to build Ave Maria University in Naples, Fla., and the adjacent town of 11,000 homes, also called Ave Maria.

In addition to the speakers in the high school's athletic field house, 29 exhibitors staffed information and merchandise tables in the hallways.

Throughout the day, dozens of priests heard confessions in a large dimly lit room for the hundreds of men, who formed a long line outside the door.

Joseph L. Attaido said he thought the conference was a success. "The speakers helped put things in perspective, especially concerning confronting and relieving a lot of burdens."

When they contacted the secretary to the archbishop, Father Brian Bouchand, with the idea, they were not sure what the response would be, he said.

Landry said Father Bouchand called back to say not only would the archbishop participate, but that he had already locked the Feast of St. Joseph in his calendar for the event.

St. Joseph is the patron saint

of husbands and fathers.

The group's goal was to have 500 attend, but they passed that number by Janu-

ary. When the Web site registration was cut off March 16, the number was 1,600 with another 450 walk-in attendees the

day of the conference, he said.

The planning for next year's conference will start right away, Landry said.

USCCB publishes U.S. edition of Vatican social doctrine compendium

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The "Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church" issued last October by the Vatican is now available to U.S. readers in an exclusive American edition published by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The 480-page paperback publication sells for \$24.95.

The compendium, published at the request of Pope John Paul II, tackles such issues as human rights, terrorism, the family and marriage, workers' rights, economic sys-

tems, peace and war, and politics.

Patrick Markey, director of marketing for USCCB Publishing, said that since the U.S. edition was announced in late 2004 people from all spectrums of society have been contacting the USCCB for information about its publication.

"Besides large numbers of bookstores and Catholic institutions that have contacted us to order or get information about the compendium, we have been approached by government officials and think

tanks and by many members of the nation's academic community," Markey said.

In a letter published with the compendium, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state, said, "Followers of other religions and all people of good will can find herein fruitful occasions for reflection and a common motivation for the internal development of every person."

The book (publication No. 5-692) can be ordered by calling USCCB Publishing at: (800) 235-8722.

Sister Veronica Ann (Veronica) Brown, DC (March 11) in Evansville, Ind. Funeral Mass celebrated on March 14 at Seton Chapel, Evansville, Ind. for the Somerville native and daughter of the late Charles and Veronica (Meehan) Brown and sister of Charles, Lynnfield. During 44 years of religious life, Sister served in various congregational assignments. She was buried in St. Joseph Cemetery, Evansville, Ind.

22 at Convent Chapel, Marlborough for the daughter of the late Alfred and Corona (Larosee) Cardin and sister of Lucille and Leo, North Providence, R.I.; and Raymond, Lymansville, R.I. During 65 years of religious life, Sister served in various congregational assignments and locally at Marlborough. Sister was buried in St. Mary Cemetery, Marlborough.

Sister Mary Irene (Eleanor) Krohn, SP (March 12) in St. Mary of the Woods, Indiana. Funeral Mass celebrated March 15 at Immaculate Conception

Church for the daughter of the late John and Mae (Copp) Krohn. During 70 years of religious life, Sister served in various congregational assignments and locally at St. Rose of Lime, Chelsea. Sister was buried in the Sisters' Cemetery, St. Mary of the Woods, Indiana.

Sister Theodora (Gabrielle) Martel, SUSC (March 13) in North Attleborough. Funeral Mass celebrated March 21 at Sacred Heart Church, North Attleborough for the daughter of the late Edouard and Lea (Rousseau) Martel and sister of Wilfred, Mendon. During 70 years of religious life, Sister served in various congregational assignments and at Holy Union Special School, Lowell and Holy Union Multicultural Center, both in Lowell. Sister was buried in St. Mary Cemetery, Attleborough.

Barbara (Giordano) Beatrice (March 10) in North Attleborough. Funeral Mass celebrated March 14 at St. John the Evan-

gelist Church, East Bridgewater for the wife of Deacon Lee Beatrice and mother of Cheryl Dawd, North Attleborough and Kimberley Beauchamp, Puyallup, Wash.; and sister of Robert Giordano, Allentown, N.J. Mrs. Beatrice was buried in St. Mary Cemetery.

Mary C. Donelin (March 20) in Quincy. Funeral Mass celebrated March 23 at St. Ann Church, Quincy for the daughter of the late Michael and Catherine (Manning) Donelin and sister of the late Father John M. Donelin and Msgr. Paul F. Donelin. Miss Donelin was buried in St. Joseph Cemetery, West Roxbury.

Rita (O'Neil) McGonnigal (March 16) in Weymouth. Funeral Mass celebrated March 21 at Sacred Heart, Weymouth for the wife of the late Thomas and mother of Michael, Silver Springs, Md.; Kevin, Weymouth;

Eileen Whalen, Brewster; Maureen Rinehart, Taunton; and sister of Father James O'Neil, SJ, Boston College High School and Margaret Norton, Punta Gorda, Fla.

Regina (Doucet) Viselli (March 17) in Malden. Funeral Mass celebrated March 21 at St. Columbkille church, Brighton for the wife of the late Caesar and mother of Kimberly Goodman and Michael Viselli of Malden; Scott, Melrose and the sister of Father David Doucet, St. Benedict, Somerville. Mrs. Viselli was buried in Calvary Cemetery, Woburn.

NECROLOGY

March 27

Rev. Patrick H. Lawlor, 1961
Rev. Bertrand McDowell, CP, 1962
Rev. Francis L. Dennis, OSA, 1962
Rev. Anthony I. Ecker, SJ, 1987

March 28

Rev. James F. McNamara, 1968
Rev. John J. Hynes, OMI, 1973
Rev. Jordan Black, CP, 1975
Rev. Raymond L. Danahy, OMI, 1981
Rev. John H. Quintan, 1987
Rev. William D. Sullivan, SJ, 1996
Rev. Thomas J. Grey, SJ, 1997
Rev. Joseph P. Trainor, MM, 1997
Rev. Michael J. Pierce, SJ, 1998
Rev. Msgr. John B. Missa, 2001

March 29

Rev. John L. Crowley, 1964
Rev. E. Prendergast, 1965
Msgr. Edward W. Desmond, 1968
Msgr. Francis C. Egan, 1975
Rev. Juniper Lewandowski, OFM, 1990
Rev. Frederick W. Blatchford, SJ, 1995
Rev. Patrick Brady, OMI, 2002

March 30

Rev. Peter T. Bergen, CSP, 1966

Rev. Martin E. Norton, OMI, 1967
Rev. Norman Moynihan, OFM, 1960
Rev. George F. Hogan, MM, 1981
Msgr. Thomas M. Lane, 1984

March 31

Rev. Robert Gallagher, 1974
Rev. Patrick H. Collins, SJ, 1987
Rev. John H. Kelly, SJ, 1987
Rev. Edward J. Carney, OSA, 1988
Rev. Alan E. Caparella, OFM, 1991
Rev. Yvon Dubois, AA, 2002

April 1

Rev. Charles X. Leahy, 1970
Msgr. Joseph A. Beatty, 1974
Rev. William West, CSP, 1975
Rev. Martin J. Dolphin, 1983
Rev. Francis C. Jackmauh, SJ, 1983
Rev. Harold C. Kirley, SJ, 1985
Rev. John A. O'Callaghan, SJ, 1993
Rev. Richard M. Brackett, SJ, 1996

April 2

Msgr. Francis L. Shea, 1956
Rev. Timothy J. McCarthy, SJ, 1961
Rev. Leo B. Flynn, 1963
Rev. Charles M. Saudade, 1975
Rev. Daniel F. Kennedy, OMI, 1988

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