



DIOCESE OF FALL RIVER

The Anchor

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2009

Diocesan priest-professor gets prestigious grant to study Buddhism

"The purpose of all the major religious traditions is not to construct big temples on the outside, but to create temples of goodness and compassion inside, in our hearts" — a Buddhist saying.

By DEACON JAMES N. DUNBAR

WESTPORT — Catholics can learn much about the practical techniques of meditation from Buddhism, especially in how to be in constant prayer as

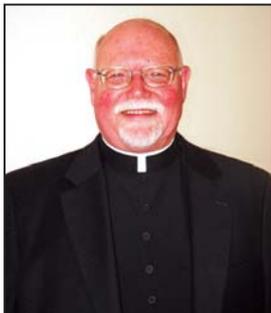
Christ taught, said Father Leonard P. Hindsley, pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Westport and professor of humanities at Providence College.

"Buddhism is one of the world's major religions and while it is particularly appealing to many people because of its monastic prayer techniques, so is our Catholic faith which has its own mantra, with our "Jesus prayer" filled with compassion and non-violence," said the 59-year-old Dominican priest who was incardinated into the Fall River Diocese a few years ago.

Father Hindsley's chat with *The Anchor* followed his notification earlier this month that he had been given a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to participate in a three-week summer institute beginning June 1 at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester.

"I am one of 25 who will be

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FATHER LEONARD P. HINDSLEY

Grassroots action urgently needed to defend parents rights

By GAIL BESSE
ANCHOR CORRESPONDENT

BOSTON — Parents opposed to public school programs that push same-sex indoctrination were relieved to hear their state taxes may not have to subsidize them again next year.

But pro-family activists warn that grassroots action is needed now more than ever to defend parents' rights to personally explain sexuality to their children. These rights, so integral to religious freedom, face hostile challenges on both the state and national level.

In fact, an Obama Administration Homeland Security Report is-

sued April 7 actually refers to opposition to abortion and redefining marriage as potential sources of "right-wing violence."

"The president's rhetoric should sound an alarm with our community leaders," said Victor Pap, executive director of the grassroots group Catholic Citizenship, which promotes lay involvement in civic life. "If calling those who promote and protect life 'extremists' doesn't spur the complacent to action, then nothing short of government regulation of Canon Law will," he said.

Meanwhile, the state budget shortfall evidently played a part in

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CALVARY ON THE CANAL — Forty-four members of ECHO of Cape Cod walked the 6.3 miles of the Cape Cod Canal on Good Friday saying the Stations of the Cross. Thanks to their efforts ECHO mailed a check for \$500 to Matthew 25 House in Haiti to help rebuild houses destroyed by the hurricanes of last summer. This was the 33rd year of the Canal Walk sponsored by Diakonos, Inc., an IRS approved non-profit, non-denominational social justice organization. (Photo courtesy of Katy Fuller)

Catholic Conferences inspire thousands

Men hear stirring messages

By KENNETH J. SOUZA
ANCHOR STAFF

CHESTNUT HILL — For many of the estimated 2,000 attendees at the fifth annual Boston Catholic Men's Conference held April 18, it was the second coming of Christ that drew them to Boston College's Conte Forum.

Actually it was the return appearance of actor Jim Caviezel, best known for portraying Jesus Christ in Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ," who once again served as one of the conference's keynote

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Women celebrate their faith

SARAH BARRETT
SPECIAL TO THE ANCHOR

CHESTNUT HILL — Thousands of women from across the archdiocese assembled April 19 for a day of faith and inspiration at the 2009 Boston Catholic Women's Conference.

The day-long conference, "Trust in the Lord with All Your Heart," drew 2,500 women to Boston College's Conte Forum for a program that included four keynote addresses as well as liturgical celebrations for Divine Mercy Sunday.

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Annual Catholic Charities Appeal kicks off on May 1

By MICHAEL J. DONLY
DIOCESAN DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

FALL RIVER — "A shower and a meal seem like, you know, trivial to most people but when you don't have it, it's everything," says Tim.

"I was laid off because they got slow in the winter and I couldn't pay my rent. I had to live in my truck for three months. You're basically on the verge of giving up; you don't want to live anymore. A place like this gives people hope," he added.

"I was living in a battered women's shelter before I came here," said Jodi. "If it wasn't for a place like this where would I have gone? After the battered women's shelter I wouldn't have been able to afford anything and would have been left in the streets

on my own."

These quotes from Tim and Jodi, residents of two of the housing facilities run by the Diocese of Fall River, were offered as they held back tears of relief and thanks.

They are two of literally hundreds of men, women, and children who are housed in transitional and long-term housing facilities and programs by the Office of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Fall River.

The funds for such programs are the result of the annual Catholic Charities Appeal that gets underway May 1.

The springtime Appeal is an endeavor totally dependent upon the spirit, generosity, and efforts of parishioners in the 91 parish communities all across the

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Men hear stirring messages at conference

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speakers, reprising his role from the inaugural 2005 gathering.

In fact, Caviezel joked about his repeat performance as he was greeted with a standing ovation during the packed afternoon session.

"Don't get too excited. It's pretty much the same speech," he said.

But any similarities to his earlier presentation certainly didn't lessen the impact of Caviezel's stirring message: an impassioned call for all men present proudly to proclaim and defend their faith in Christ.

Citing examples throughout his career where praying the rosary and a devotion to Christ and his Blessed Mother Mary had served him well, Caviezel stressed how important it is today to stand apart from those who choose to shut God out of their lives.

"His talk was a highlight for me because it wasn't anecdotal," said Mike Waxman, an attendee from St. Martha's Parish in Plainville. "It was extremely compassionate and heartfelt. Sometimes you look forward to something and it's a letdown, but this was completely the opposite."

A Jewish man who converted to Catholicism 12 years ago, Waxman decided to attend the conference for the first time this year after going through a "difficult time" recently with the death of his father.

"Actually, it's been awesome," he said. "I reached a crossroads in my life and this is exactly what the doctor ordered. It's been compelling, compassionate, philanthropic — whatever you want to call it. It was totally unexpected."

"Jim Caviezel gave a very fiery and inspirational speech," agreed Jeff Estano, parishioner from St. Mary's Church in Plymouth. "I heard him back in 2005 and he actually gave a bit of a longer talk this time."

The theme for this year's conference was "In the Footsteps of Christ," a message that was echoed in presentations from other key speakers such as Jerry York, hockey coach for Boston College which hosted the event for the second time this year; Curtis Martin, founder of the Fellowship of Catholic University Students; and Jim Stenson, author and one of the Church's foremost experts on Catholic men's issues.

Catholic men of all ages traveled from throughout New England to attend this fifth annual convention to share not only Communion, but also their communal belief in Jesus Christ and his Church.

Younger participants like high school student Wyeth Dion, a member of St. Catherine's Parish in Manchester, N.H., returned for his second conference this year and

this time brought along his friend, Tom Ciccarello from St. Marie's Parish, also in Manchester.

"I came last year and I thought some of my other friends would want to come to learn more about their Catholic faith," Dion said, adding that Jim Caviezel's speech was a highlight for him.

"Wyeth came last year and I had wanted to go with him, so this year we came together," Ciccarello added. "I love it. I work a lot with the youth ministry in my parish and I love the team involvement and the inspiration that you get from being here is just great."

While Ciccarello agreed Caviezel's talk was a high point, he also cited Curtis Martin's speech as being "terrific."

Robert Durette of Holy Name Parish in Fall River — likely one of the few in attendance who didn't immediately make the connection between Jim Caviezel and his role in Mel Gibson's film — also said his passionate speech was a "highlight" of this year's conference.

"I attended last year's conference and returned again this year," Durette said. "Both years were inspirational."

"I also attended last year and I think both years have been equal ... maybe this year was a little better," said Kevin Ward from St. Patrick's Parish in Wareham. "All the speakers were good and it's always a well-run and organized convention."

Although he noted that recent attendance numbers suggest they've "hit a plateau," conference co-founder Bob Allard said he's been consistently pleased with the turnout over the conference's five-year history.

"Overall, I'd say this year's conference met all our expectations," Allard said. "We still get a core group of about 2,000 who come every year and bring others along with them. Even this year people have come up to me and told me they heard something at a past conference that changed their life for the better. You don't hear that often — that something you've been involved with has changed someone's life for the better."

In keeping with past tradition, three men this year were honored with Catholic of the Year awards as selected by the conference committee. Father Rodney Copp of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Waltham was presented with the priest award; Deacon Leo Donoghue, former director of the permanent diaconate office for the Archdiocese of Boston, was given the deacon award; and Steve Guillette, a Knight of Columbus from St. Anthony of Padua Parish in New Bedford, received the lay-

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The media expressed shock when Pope Benedict XVI on his trip to Africa said that the promotion of condoms as the solution for the AIDS epidemic may only increase the problem. How, the shocked journalists asked, could the pope ignore science?

The fact is that science is on the side of the pope, as Edward Green, author of "Rethinking AIDS Prevention" admitted. Green had gone to Africa accepting the conventional wisdom that condoms were the solution for the AIDS epidemic, but discovered that massive condom education and distribution programs were not working. On the other hand, a program promoting abstinence before marriage and fidelity in marriage in Uganda was successful.

His conclusions have been confirmed by numerous other studies. In 2003, Norman Hearst and Sanny Chen conducted a condom effectiveness study for the U.N.'s AIDS program. They concluded that "In many sub-Saharan African countries, high condom use has yet to produce demonstrable benefit ... sad experience shows that high HIV transmission can coexist with high condom use."

An article in the prestigious British medical journal *The Lancet* concluded: "Massive increases in condom use worldwide have not translated into demonstrably improved HIV control in the great majority of countries where they have occurred."

Those promoting condoms as the solution insist that "correct and consistent" condom use reduces infections. The problem is that no intervention or education program no matter how intense has been able to achieve anything close to consistent condom use over time. No matter how good the intentions of those in the program, after a few months use drops significantly, this is true in Africa and true among men who have sex with men in the U.S. As a result that where condoms are promoted as the answer, the epidemic continues. In the U.S. in 2006 the number of new infections among young men who have sex with men increased 18 percent over the previous year.

Why have massive condom education and distribution campaigns failed to slow the AIDS epidemic in Africa, while a

campaign stressing abstinence before marriage and fidelity in marriage has had positive results?

Both require substantial changes in behavior. The difference is that while the decision to practice abstinence and fidelity is made with your clothes on, the decision to use a condom is made with your clothes off, in the heat of passion and often under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The decision not to engage in sex requires will power, but it

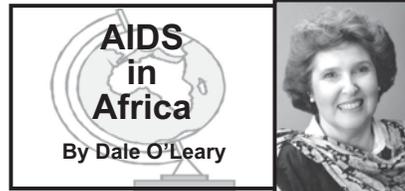
The pope is right in worrying that condom promotion may actually increase the problem, because condom promotion campaigns necessarily spread a false sense of security. The campaigns don't say that condoms, even used every time and correctly will only reduce your risk of infection, and you may still contract HPV, which causes cancer and warts. Instead they paint a picture of fun and freedom. According to the *Lancet* article: "A vigorous condom-promotion policy could increase rather than decrease unprotected sexual exposure, if it has the unintended effect of encouraging greater sexual activity." And since those who are encouraged to engage in multipartner activity even if supplied with condoms

and educated on how to use them inevitably slack on condom use off after a few months, but continue multipartnering.

The problem gets worse not better. According to study published in the *Journal of AIDS* in 2005, when compared to a control group, men supplied with condoms and education "reported a significantly higher number of partners during the six month follow-up period when compared with the six months prior to joining the study" thus increasing their risk of infection.

Condoms may sound like the solution, but governments and funders need to look at the results and back programs with a proven record of success.

Dale O'Leary is an internationally recognized lecturer and author. She regularly lectures in support of the Church's teachings on the gift of human sexuality.



is supported by religion and tradition. While condom promoters encourage people to use a condom every time, the fact is that if both partners are HIV free and monogamous, the risk of infection is zero.

The epidemic isn't driven by monogamous couples not using condoms, but by concurrent multipartner sexual activity. Those pushing condoms as the only solution for the AIDS epidemic, ignore the psychology of multipartner sexual activity. Those who engage in sexual relations with a number of partners, almost by definition, tend to value their personal pleasure over the well-being of their partners. Those most at risk engage in sex with people they don't know very well. Insisting on condom use in such situations implies a lack of trust, it breaks the mood, it interferes with the seduction that is part of such encounters.

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Men hear stirring messages at conference

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man award.

"The Catholic of the Year award, to me, is the most definitive Catholic moment we have during the conference," Allard said. "It's when you honor guys who never in a million years expect to get an award for anything. They don't do it for an award and it's never something they aspire to. Everything they do is about humility — it's really the humility award — which is ironic when

you think about it."

The Boston Catholic Men's Conference — which also included a Catholic Women's Conference counterpart on April 19 — was borne out of a meeting of a Catholic Men's Group at St. Paul Parish in Cambridge in the fall of 2004 and was established to help then-Archbishop Sean O'Malley rebuild the Church in Boston.

Following the format of a day-long retreat, the agenda included

Women celebrate their faith

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The women's conference began in 2006, following the success of the men's conference the year prior, as a way to strengthen the Catholic women's community by providing an arena for them to gather together and discuss how to live their faith in today's world.

The first keynote address came from Sister Nancy Keller, a Sister of Charity and a founding member of the Saint Elizabeth Seton House of Prayer in New York. "Embracing the cross and finding our place in the Passion is an integral part of finding peace and faith and trusting our hearts to God," said Sister Keller.

In a second address, Kerri Caviezel, wife of actor Jim Caviezel who portrayed Jesus in "The Passion of the Christ," spoke to the women on "Defending the Faith in Tough Environments." Caviezel centered her discussion on how the pillars of the Catholic Church shape family and married life and are essential to protecting the faith in today's "hostile environment."

"God did not call us to be successful, as the world wants us," said Caviezel. "He called us to be faith-

ful women of Christ."

Johnette Benkovic, the founder of Living His Life Abundantly — a Catholic evangelization communications apostolate — gave the final address of the afternoon, entitled "God's Mercy is for All."

Benkovic gave a personal testimony on her return to Catholicism in 1981 after having been "enticed, totally entranced and bewitched by the voices of the (1970s)."

On "emerging from the darkness" and her return to the Church, Benkovic said it was Scripture and faith in God that brought her hope, healing, solace and direction in life.

"Nothing you can do can eradicate his blessings from you. No sin can take it away from you. He is incapable of loving one of us more than the other; he loves us totally," she said.

At 3 p.m., conference participants celebrated a Divine Mercy Holy Hour with exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

To conclude the conference, Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley celebrated Mass in honor of Divine Mercy Sunday.

the aforementioned keynote speakers along with music and video presentations, exhibitions and group discussions, prayer and worship with confession, the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament,

and a closing Mass celebrated by Cardinal Sean O'Malley.

"This is my third conference and I think this is the best one yet," Estano said. "As far as the venue goes, this is a very comfortable

place and the speakers have been great. I would absolutely come next year and encourage others to attend. It's a great opportunity to grow in your faith and learn something new."

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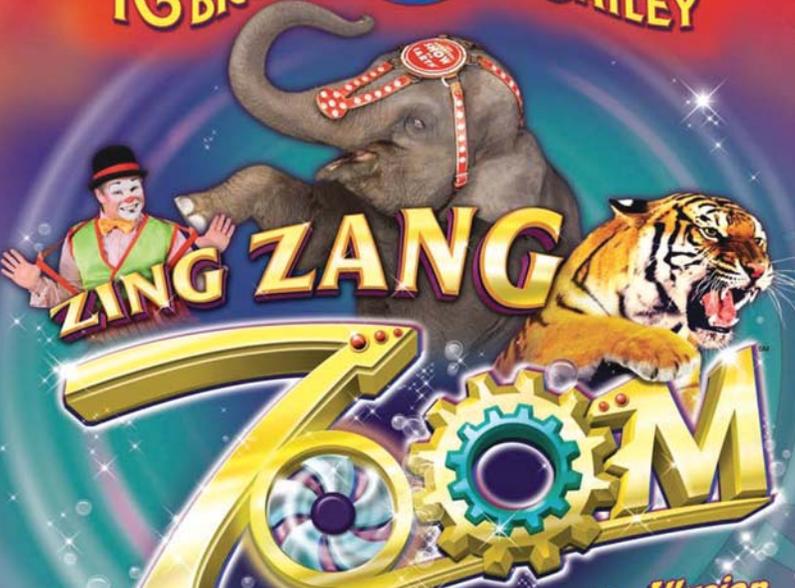
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Catholic Layman of the Year practices what he preaches

By **KENNETH J. SOUZA**
ANCHOR STAFF

NEW BEDFORD — Having attended three previous Boston Catholic Men's Conferences, Steve Guilloffe never imagined he would be getting up on stage before thousands of fellow Catholics inside Boston College's Conte Forum to accept the 2009 Catholic Layman of the Year award.

It's readily apparent that the soft-spoken and humble 44-year-old doesn't do what he does for accolades or awards.

In fact, the active parishioner at St. Anthony of Padua Church and founding Grand Knight of the Father Michael J. McGivney Council No. 14557 Knights of Columbus seemed highly embarrassed to be singled out.

"I was completely surprised," Guilloffe said. "This is my fourth conference. I never conceived that I'd be standing at a podium here accepting an award. I was very gratified to receive this award on behalf of everyone ... and I'm sure there were a few Knights who were instrumental in getting me nominated."

Indeed, many of the 42 fellow members of the Knights of Columbus Council that Guilloffe founded in May 2008 had nothing but praise for their Grand Knight.

"There's no doubt he deserves this award," said Joe Amaral. "As St. Francis said, 'You live the Gospel not just by words, but by deeds,' and Steve does that. He's been active in everything, but Steve doesn't do this for recognition — he's very humble."

"He's absolutely well-deserving and a great man," added Victor Alves. "He's truly a leader who believes in his faith and he's proud to show it."

"He has helped many people in the parish tremendously to improve their faith and I can say that our council is not just a group to socialize," said Nelson Abreu. "We are brothers in faith who practice our

Catholic religion, pray and support each other."

For Guilloffe, adhering to the tenets of the Knights of Columbus was just a natural extension of his own ongoing charitable efforts within his parish and beyond. Noting that the Knights were founded on four basic principles — charity, fraternity, unity, and patriotism — Guilloffe was already on the right path before forming the fraternal organization.

"We're supposed to serve the Church, youth, families, our own council, and the community at large," he said. "The formula is pretty simple for what we've done with the Knights of Columbus: that is, we're just men seeking truth and we found a pastor who is seeking men who are seeking truth."

Guilloffe said his pastor, Father Roger J. Landry — a Knight himself — suggested starting a Knights of Columbus Council in response to requests he had to form a parish men's group. After hosting a presentation from K of C state leaders, "it just took off from there," he said.

The newly-formed Council based at St. Anthony of Padua Parish was named after K of C founder Father Michael J. McGivney, a name that hadn't been taken by any existing council within Massachusetts, much to Guilloffe's amazement.

Guilloffe also works for Coastline Elderly Services, where he is a compassionate but fierce advocate for seniors with no one to look after them. He volunteers each year to spend a frigid night outdoors counting the homeless and for the past several years he has dedicated his incredible talents and time to pass on the love of Christ toward others, helping to form new Catholics, serving those who are homeless, elderly, or otherwise in need, caring for young people, and so much more.

All that he does flows from his deep relationship with the Lord Jesus. His influence on the men of the Knights of Columbus has helped many of them become real men of God and men of the Church.

It's an impressive list of accomplishments that most might find daunting for a man in his 40s.

"I was making my way to adoration and confession here at the conference when someone just stopped me out of the blue — a man probably in his 60s — who told me when he heard a list of all the things I had accomplished, he expected someone much older to run up to the podium and he was taken aback by the fact that I was a younger person," Guilloffe said.

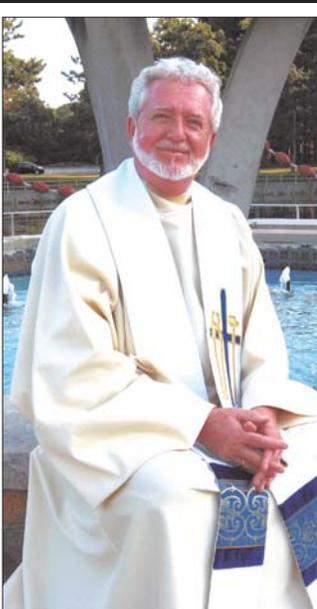
"If anything, I hope I can serve as an example to younger folks and let them know that we are the strength of the Church and if we don't continually bring younger folks to God then we won't have a chance of really bringing more salvation to people."

To nominate a Person of the Week, send an email message to FatherRogerLandry@AnchorNews.org.



ANCHOR PERSON OF THE WEEK — Steven Guilloffe speaks at the Boston Catholic Men's Conference last week. (Photo by George Martell)

his many parish activities, Guilloffe has spearheaded active participation in the "40 Days for Life Campaign" for which he has recruited Knights, youth group members, friends and more. He has also served as a teacher for the parish's RCIA and adult



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HEAR NO EVIL — Another religious painting mysteriously appeared in New Bedford last week — this time a depiction of the Blessed Virgin Mary holding her hands over her ears. The icon is located on a concrete pillar under the Route 195 overpass adjacent to a skateboard park just off Cedar Grove Street near the Hayden McFadden Elementary School. Although unconfirmed, it is believed to be the work of local artist Mark Carvalho, who last month claimed responsibility for a similar icon of Jesus Christ holding his hands over his eyes on the wall of a video store in the city's north end. (Photo by Kenneth J. Souza)