

# The Citizen

ADVENT 2020

A P U B L I C A T I O N O F T H E J O H N C A R R O L L S O C I E T Y

JANUARY BRUNCH

## Georgetown University President to Deliver January Keynote

The 48th president of Georgetown University is scheduled to address the Society at the January lecture. John J. DeGioia, Ph.D. will speak to the Society on the effects of Covid-19 on higher education via Zoom on Jan. 10.



Named president of the Jesuit-led university on July 1, 2001 DeGioia earned both his Bachelor's Degree in English and later his Doctorate in Philosophy from Georgetown

where he has also served as a senior administrator and faculty member. The administrator continues to teach an Ignatius Seminar each fall for first year students focusing on the Jesuit educational theme *Cura Personalis* – care for the whole person.

In nearly 20 years of leadership DeGioia strengthened Georgetown's academic excellence, commitment to its Catholic and Jesuit identity, and ties to Washington D.C. and beyond. The university recently completed a \$1.5 billion campaign to enhance the lifelong value of a Georgetown education.

A recipient of the John Carroll Society Medal, DeGioia received the Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Academia by the Sons of Italy, and the

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68TH ANNUAL RED MASS

## Civil Servants Called to Be Authentic Witnesses of Hope Says Bishop

Following strict guidelines issued during the coronavirus pandemic, the John Carroll Society celebrated the 68th Annual Red Mass with a livestream broadcast of the traditional Solemn Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit on Sunday, October 4. Fewer than 100 members of the Society and special guests including the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court attended the Mass at St. Matthew's Cathedral in Northwest Washington while over 3,800 people later viewed the liturgy on YouTube. Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory, Archbishop of Washington was the principal celebrant and was joined by other concelebrants including Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the apostolic nuncio to the United States and Arlington Bishop Michael Burbidge, who delivered the homily. Monsignor Ronald Jameson and Monsignor Peter Vaghi also concelebrated the Mass.

The Mass – which is held before the Supreme Court opens its term on the



Suvia Yuan, assistant secretary of the John Carroll Society served as a lector at the 68th Annual Red Mass.

first Monday in October – blesses those involved in the administration of justice as well as all public officials from all levels of government and calls on the gifts of the Holy Spirit for all civil servants and members of the law profession.

In his homily, Bishop Burbidge called on the specific gifts of wisdom, understanding, counsel, and strength. "We need these gifts to defend every human life, from the moment of conception to natural death; to eradicate the evils of racism,

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## Archbishop Gregory Elevated to Cardinal

On Oct. 24 Pope Francis named 13 new cardinals – including Washington Archbishop Wilton Gregory. Scheduled to be elevated at a Nov. 28 consistory at the Vatican, the prelate became the first African-American to be elevated to the College of Cardinals.

In a statement following the announcement, the new cardinal said, "With a very grateful and humble heart, I thank Pope Francis for this appointment which will allow me to work more closely with him in caring for Christ's Church."

A native of Chicago, Cardinal Gregory was installed as the Archbishop of Washington in May 2019 and at the time said he was committed to transparency and telling the truth. Since then Cardinal Gregory has helped shepherd area faithful during a worldwide pandemic and racial unrest in the country – praising peaceful protests for racial justice.

On Oct. 4 Cardinal Gregory served as the principal celebrant of the 68th Annual Red Mass. The John Carroll Society joins the archdiocese in praying for the newly named cardinal.



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## John Carroll Society

Established 1951 Archdiocese of Washington

### Officers

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Editor, Lynnea Mumola  
Designer, Andy Eng

## UPCOMING EVENTS 2020-21

January 10, 2021

### JANUARY LECTURE ON THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Lecture to be broadcast via Zoom at noon. Followed by a Q&A session.

Speaker: Jack DeGioia, President, Georgetown University, will be presenting a keynote address on the effects of COVID-19 on higher education.

February 20, 2021

### LENTEN DAY OF RECOLLECTION

Washington Retreat Center, 8:30 a.m.

March 14, 2021

### 30TH ANNUAL ROSE MASS

Church of the Little Flower, Bethesda, 10:30 a.m. Mass.

Principal Celebrant and Homilist:  
Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory,  
Archbishop of Washington

APRIL 23, 2021

### 35TH ANNUAL DINNER

The Four Seasons Hotel,  
Washington, DC, 6:30 p.m.

October 2020 through May 2021

### FIRST THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP

Speaker: Rev. Msgr. Peter J. Vaghi  
Series Title: The Eternal Word in a  
COVID-19 World

Every *First Thursday* at the Church  
of the Little Flower in Bethesda.

Theological Reflection at 7:00 a.m.  
in the Church.

### NEW JCS MEMBERS

As of October 30, 2020

Stephen Holowesko  
Laura Sheehan Kallen  
Darryl Kelley  
Sofia Markovich  
Sponsor: Msgr. Peter Vaghi

Rev. Anthony Lickteig  
Rev. George Stuart  
Sponsor: Elizabeth Meers

Erica Armstrong  
Sponsor: Adam Higgins

Charmi Blan  
Sponsor: Chris Mitchell

Michael Cozzi  
Sponsor: George Braun

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Dan Wilson  
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### MEMBER PROFILE

## New Co-Chairs Proud of Society's Traditions

This past August John Carroll Society members Jennifer Abbey and Michelle Lally were named co-chairs of the Younger Fellowship Committee.

Active in the Society since joining in 2016, Lally credited the members of the group for sharing their faith, providing fellowship and helping her adjust to life in a new city. Although never a member herself, Lally's aunt – a lawyer working in the District when Lally relocated to the area – recommended that her niece look into joining the professionals in the John Carroll Society. Additionally, Lally soon found herself working at the same hospital as Dr. Thomas Loughney, president of the society at the time.

"The richness of the society is passing the tradition down," said Lally, a physician assistant during a recent interview. "We have a lot to learn from the older generation."



At left Michelle Lally, and Jennifer Abbey were recently named co-chairs of the Young Adult Fellowship committee.

She noted that all of the professionals in the Society also show their faith – in their professional life – something that is important to Lally as she continues to work on strengthening her faith and prayer life. Her goals for the committee are to bring more membership "so we can grow into the tradition and grow in our faith."

Lally said she has been most concerned about younger members who are single and are experiencing increased loneliness during the pandemic. Some of that can be countered by the events of the John Carroll Society – "it gives us hope and a place to

come to," adding that she was pleasantly surprised at how successful the all-virtual Top of the Town event was this year. The Zoom meeting provided a quality speaker and an opportunity for intimate small group discussions. Lally added that she was

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*My dear John Carroll Society members,*

The moving image of Rembrandt's "Return of the Prodigal Son" has for a long time been impressed on my mind and is very much a part of my heart especially as we approach Advent in this pandemic year. It reflects so well not only the alienated son who finally returned to his loving father, but importantly it speaks of our Father, God the Father, who in the words of Ephesians "is rich in mercy," (Eph 2:4).

Pope Francis, who often speaks of mercy when he speaks of Jesus, writes, that "the signs he works, especially in the face of sinners, the poor, the marginalized, the sick, and the suffering are all meant to teach mercy. Everything in him speaks of mercy, nothing in him is devoid of compassion," (Misericordiae Vultus 8).

This well-known parable of St. Luke could as well be called the "Parable of the Merciful Father," (Lk 15:11-32). Meditate, if you will, as we begin this joyful season of Advent, these 26 days of preparation for Christmas, on that very precise and loving action of the Father in this parable. St. Luke so beautifully describes it: "While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him," (Lk 15: 20).

During this Advent season 2020, and especially during this season of this world-wide pandemic, each one of us, John Carroll members, is challenged to put on the love and mercy of God the Father as continually revealed by His Son. Mercy was, after all, born at Christmas.

Our present challenge, I suggest, includes actively reaching out to at least one specific person in our lives who is alienated from God, from the Church, from our family or from ourselves, a person discouraged and marginalized in this time of pandemic. Do not wait for that person to pick up the telephone or drop by your home or send you an email. Like the loving Father, I invite you to take the initiative. It is an initiative of our God living within us. Our Catholic faith, moreover, is always about taking initiatives in life, taking risks for others. That is at the heart of mercy – God's restorative power within us.

Or in the words of Pope Francis, in his latest and most beautiful encyclical letter *Fratelli Tutti*: "No one can face life in isolation... We need a community that supports and helps us, in which we can help one another to keep looking ahead. How important it is to dream together... By ourselves, we risk seeing mirages, things that are not there. Dreams, on the other hand, are built together," (8).

We thus pray for each other and reach out to each other, during these challenging times, Advent 2020. We pray that no prodigal son or daughter be left alone or suffering for lack of our concrete and intentional and loving care in this Advent season.

A blessed Advent and a most holy Christmas and New Year! Know that I will remember you at my Christmas Masses and throughout this holy season. In the mercy of God the Father, a mercy continually revealed by His Son, I remain

*Prayerfully yours,*

**Monsignor Peter J. Vaghi**  
Chaplain, the John Carroll Society

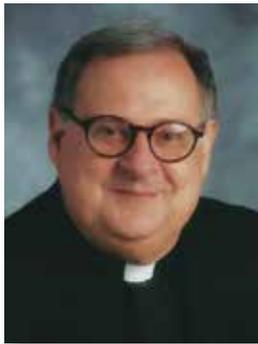


Photo by Eddie Amrossi

## PRE-ADVENT RETREAT

### Advent Retreat Highlights the Ultimate Season of Hope

Registration for the Pre-Advent Retreat was limited to 40 people, required participants to wear masks, and moved to Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center in order to abide by restrictions of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Members of the John Carroll Society and their friends experienced a half-day retreat held on November 21. "Advent – A Season of Hope" was presented by the retreat director, Father Anthony Lickteig, vicar for clergy and assistant secretary for ministerial leadership at the Archdiocese of Washington.

Although this year's fall retreat was smaller, participants still were invited to take a break from their regular routines and reflect on the meaning of Advent. Dr. Ricardo Perez served as the Chair for this annual event that also offers time for fellowship, prayer and the celebration of Mass.



Father Anthony Lickteig, served as the spiritual director of the Pre-Advent Retreat held on Nov. 21

# Annual Awards Honor Volunteer Service of ‘Legal Heroes’

Following the liturgy, Cardinal Wilton Gregory, Archbishop of Washington and the principal celebrant of the 68th Annual Red Mass announced the recipients of the 2020 John Carroll Society *Pro Bono* Legal Awards. Describing the honorees as “legal heroes,” the following four individuals and one law firm were recognized for their dedication over the past year volunteering with the Catholic Charities Legal Network.

The awardees for 2020 included: Sanjay Jose Mullick, Esq.; Kathleen “Kitty” T. Wach, Esq.; Steven B. Mudd, Esq.; Lindsey Erdmann, Esq.; and the law firm of Wiley Rein LLP. All “role models for serving those in need,” Cardinal Gregory said. “Pope Francis issued his encyclical inviting people of good will to care for one another as brothers and sisters,” the cardinal said, “these honorees have done just that with fervor and compassion.”

Attorney Sanjay Mullick has been conducting thorough intake assessments in Spanish for Catholic Charities Legal Network for over two years. As a bilingual attorney, he has been invaluable to the program as one of only a handful of volunteer attorneys qualified to do so. Since the pandemic began, Mullick has been in regular telephone contact with Spanish-speaking clients who seek the services of the Legal Network. His desire to always say “yes” when program staff ask him to assist is commendable.

Mullick is a partner in the International Trade & National Security practice at Kirkland & Ellis LLP. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service, International Politics, from Georgetown University, and a law degree from Georgetown University Law Center.

Attorney Kitty Wach served two terms on Catholic Charities Legal Network’s Advisory Council from 2011-2017. She was an active member of the council, bringing her experience as the Pro Bono Counsel at Miller & Chevalier Chartered to guide and instruct CCLN. Wach has overseen the representation of numerous pro bono cases, many of them complicated family cases, referred by Catholic Charities Legal Network to attorneys at Miller & Chevalier, and she is also the point of contact for Miller & Chevalier’s biweekly telephone intake shift, staffed by attorneys and legal professionals at the firm.

Wach is a graduate of the College of the Holy Cross, earning a Bachelor of Arts, and of Georgetown University Law Center, where she earned her juris doctorate.

Attorney Lindsey Erdmann accepted a pro bono case from Catholic Charities Legal Network in July 2019, and she was able to successfully complete the complicated Prince George’s County family law matter involving domestic violence by February 2020. Erdmann’s legal practice focuses on family law at the firm of McNamee Hosea in Maryland. Erdmann is a graduate of the University of Delaware, earning a Bachelor of Arts, and a graduate of the University of Maryland School of Law.



The principal celebrant of the 68th Annual Red Mass, Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory, Archbishop of Washington, also announced the recipients of the 2020 John Carroll Society *Pro Bono* Legal Awards at the conclusion of the liturgy.

The law firm of Wiley Rein LLP has conducted telephone intake since January 2016. Attorneys and legal professionals at the firm have been thorough and discerning while performing this service on a continuous basis for over four years. In addition to staffing biweekly telephone intake through the coordination of Julianna Chuslo, attorneys from the firm have also represented clients, including in one notable public benefits case. Attorneys Martha Vázquez and Louisa Brooks, under the direction of Stephen Obermeier, were able to protect a DC resident’s 12 hour per day home health care assistance. Given the man’s substantial needs as a paraplegic suffering from colon cancer as well as his past evaluations, the 2019 evaluation decision to reduce assistance to 4 hours per day made little sense and threatened to substantially degrade the client’s quality of life. The attorneys worked throughout 2019 to gather and present evidence from his doctors, social worker and current home health aide. All the while, the client continued to receive 12 hours of care per day during the pendency of the reconsideration. Finally, on December 19, 2019, the man learned that 12 hours per day were to continue through 2020, elating him and protecting the quality of life he deserves.

Stephen Obermeier, partner at Wiley Rein and the mentor attorney mentioned above, is currently serving on Catholic Charities Legal Network’s Advisory Council. He has been a member since October 2018, and he is the contact for the firm.

Established over 30 years ago, the Legal Network annually serves over 3,000 people who are below the poverty line, providing free legal service and referrals. Since March 16, 2020 services continued virtually due to the restrictions and health concerns of Covid-19.

*Honoree profiles provided by James Bishop, Esq., director of Catholic Charities’ Legal Network*

## Bishop Burbidge Calls Civil Servants to be Authentic Witnesses

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discrimination, and bigotry that plague our communities; to bring justice to the poor, the weak, the immigrant and the marginalized; to promote religious liberty and freedom of conscience; and to care for God's Creation, our common home," he added.

The prelate also prayed for civil servants and guardians of the law who served the country especially remembering Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg who died on September 18 at the age of 87 after serving on the Supreme Court for 27 years.

Addressing those in government service including Chief Justice John Roberts, members of the Supreme Court and federal and local judges, Bishop Burbidge asked God for strength and clarity. "In this Red Mass, we ask that these gifts be yours as you confront the complex issues facing our nation, bear the public scrutiny brought upon you, and discern the many voices and demands that clamor for your attention," he said. "Sadly today, the justice and peace for which we long are seriously threatened. How do we respond?" he asked. "As Christ reveals, we begin by listening to God's word and allowing it to reign in our hearts."

The prelate called on all public servants to become witnesses to Gospel values and bring Christ to the "public arena. Be authentic witnesses of His saving work, who alone is the Way, the Truth, and the Life." Additionally, Bishop Burbidge offered the example of St. Thomas More, a statesman and lawyer in England who despite threats to his own life remained faithful to God without compromise. After refusing to take the Oath of Supremacy to King Henry VIII, St. Thomas was convicted of treason and executed. "Authentic witnesses are those who seek no political gain or worldly honors," reminded Bishop Burbidge whose cathedral in Arlington is named for St. Thomas More.

The bishop said today more than ever public servants must turn to God and ask for the courage to live in a manner worthy of upholding the sacredness of law. "This is your sacred duty and we need you today, more than ever before," Bishop Burbidge said. "Authentic witnesses never despair. They are filled with joyful hope because Jesus Christ, through his suffering, death and resurrection, turned suffering to glory."



Photo by Christopher Newkumet

Arlington Bishop Michael F. Burbidge delivers the homily at the 68th annual Red Mass on Oct. 4 held at St. Matthew's Cathedral and broadcast to a virtual audience.

Later Cardinal Gregory announced this year's *Pro Bono* honorees calling the individual lawyers and firms "Legal Heroes." (See related article on Page 4.) Cardinal Gregory said those honored are already living out the themes of Pope Francis' latest encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*. "Pope Francis issued his encyclical inviting people of good will to care for one another as brothers and sisters," the cardinal said, "these honorees have done just that with fervor and compassion."

Msgr. Peter Vaghi, chaplain of the Society said although the circumstances and Covid-19 safety protocols resulted in a different way of celebrating the Red Mass, Society members and leaders did "not want to interrupt the tradition. We needed to pray for our nation."

The small in-person gathering and virtual presentation enabled people from the entire world to learn about the ancient liturgy for public servants and to provide a way to pray as well, noted the chaplain. "We prayed for healing in every level of our life and for all of the human family," Msgr. Vaghi said.

During the Mass additional prayers of intention were offered for healing of all people diagnosed with Covid-19 including United States President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump; those who died including Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and members of the John Carroll Society; and immigrants and the poor.

Prior to the Mass, Anita McBride, a member of the Society's Board of Governors, explained the history of St. Matthew's Cathedral and some of the history of the Red Mass. Named for the red vestments worn by the clergy at the liturgy, the color represents the tongues of fire symbolizing the presence of the Holy Spirit. This year, Edward A. O'Connell served as the chair for the society's Red Mass Committee which included the following members: James Bowe, Andrew Cook, Gregory Grant, David Matuszewski, Chris Mitchell, Raj Noronha, Jeff Paravano, Neil Schumacher, Hon. Margaret Sweeney, Msgr. Peter Vaghi, Phil Ward and Elizabeth Young.

*By Lynnea Mumola*

## Georgetown University President to Deliver Keynote at January Brunch

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"Catholic in the Public Square Award" by *Commonweal*. He was also honored as a "Brave Thinker" by *The Atlantic*, and in 2008 DeGioia was named "Washingtonian of the Year" by *Washingtonian* magazine.

This year the lecture will be broadcast on Zoom on Jan. 10 with a question and answer session. The presentation is part of an annual event focusing on Catholic higher education, and marks the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. All registrants will receive a link to join the talk.

## Speaker Advises Praying the Beatitudes In Times of Unrest

Explaining how the well-known Beatitudes found in the Gospel might be used for insight during challenging times, the keynote speaker at this year's annual Top of the Town event urged Society members to slow down in order to bring peace to troubled times. "All of the effort, purpose, and hope (of the Beatitudes) leaves room for the Holy Spirit to be the healing balm," said Professor Amy Uelmen, a lecturer at Georgetown Law Center and senior research fellow at Georgetown's Berkley Center.

"Pope Francis writes that we are called to be contemplatives in the midst of action," Uelmen said.

Although speaking virtually to over 30 participants on Sep. 23, Uelmen led the members in an intimate discussion on how praying the Beatitudes can increase prayer and assist in bringing calm to those around us.

During the event participants listened to Uelmen's reflection, "Integrating Faith and Professional Life: Praying with the Beatitudes" and later divided into smaller groups to share their reactions and own ideas how the Beatitudes can open up possibilities



Photo courtesy of the John Carroll Society

Members of the John Carroll Society enjoyed an evening of virtual fellowship on September 23 at the annual Top of the Town event. Each year the Top of the Town kicks off the programs for the Society. This year members met over Zoom for a presentation by Professor Amy Uelmen and small group discussions.

for forgiveness and listening to one another in a fractured society.

"Blessed are the Peacemakers," said Uelmen, noting that "slowing the pace helps me... appreciate what's going on with other people – especially when they are suffering." She added that by also remembering God blesses those who mourn it helps her to train "my gaze – to not look away, to not duck when there is suffering in my life."

The professor guided members to think about the tensions seen in the Beatitudes in order to find meaning in a year that has included Covid-19, reckoning of race in society and an election dividing the nation. She urged participants to consider the implication of the Beatitudes and how they might be applied to life and "to choose a beatitude that leads to prayer, reflection and action."

The annual event, sponsored by the Younger Member Fellowship, moved online due to coronavirus restrictions limiting large gatherings but allowed for smaller conversations about the loss and difficulties faced by all of the participants.

After a welcome from Society President Jeffrey Paravano, Washington Auxiliary Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville delivered the opening prayer at the all-virtual event noting the need to remember to pray for immigrants, refugees and people displaced around the world. "There is no better way than when we stop thinking of ourselves and give time, thoughts, and room in our hearts for those in need," Bishop Dorsonville said.

*By Lynnea Mumola*

### New Co-Chairs Proud of Society's Traditions

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able to meet some new people and have deeper conversations during the evening online event.

Although going online to protect people from Covid-19 is not ideal, Lally has come to embrace using the Internet to gather for fellowship. She and the committee are working on a possible trivia game over Zoom and perhaps an online book club in the future. Lally said she hopes and looks forward to when members can gather together without restrictions from the pandemic but overall feels, "blessed to be a part of it all."

A lawyer, Jennifer Abbey has been a member of the John Carroll Society since 2014 - while still a student at Catholic University Law School. As a faith leader on campus, Abbey recalled she was asked to serve on the Red Mass committee. She joined the Society and remembered "instantly" feeling welcomed by the community of professionals. Members "provide mentorship and an opportunity to be part of a community that accommodates the busy lives of professionals," Abbey said. And with a younger members committee, the

legacy of the John Carroll Society can be passed down to the next generation.

At this year's virtual Top of the Town event, Abbey told participants the Society "has really been a consistent community for me as I transitioned from being a student to a professional." And like Lally, her co-chair agreed that adjusting the format to an online event gave members "an opportunity to be together. The break-out rooms really helped" Abbey said, adding they will be "thinking of creative ways to get people engaged."

During the event, Lally also noted that the pandemic resulted in many losses including some of the usual Society gatherings – "there are many things we are all mourning during this time, big or small," but the John Carroll Society can provide healing and connectedness. For both chairs, faith is an important part of life and the society helps to foster faith.

"The John Carroll Society is a wonderful, diverse group of people," said Abbey, noting she has "formed friendships and mentorships" throughout her entire time with the organization. "My experience has been a great way to meet new people of different professions – all of whom are devoted to their faith."

*By Lynnea Mumola*

## MEMBER NEWS



■ On June 29 **Msgr. Peter J. Vaghi**, Society Chaplain, celebrated 35 years as a priest for the Archdiocese of Washington. The pastor of the Church of the Little Flower in Bethesda is a graduate of Gonzaga Catholic High School, College

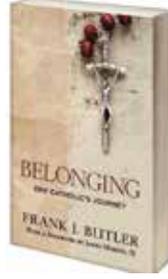


of the Holy Cross, University of Salzburg, University of Virginia Law School and the Gregorian University in Rome. In Oct. 2019 the Society recognized Msgr. Vaghi for his three decades of support to the Catholic Charities' Legal Network by surprising him with the 2019 Pro Bono Legal Service Award. Last summer, Society members marked his priestly anniversary with notes and cards of congratulations and a slide show highlighting Msgr. Vaghi's life and ministry. In an interview published in America magazine five years ago, the priest said, "By far, I believe a consistent highlight in my ministry over the last 30 years has been my commitment to teaching the faith...Teaching the Catholic faith, in every aspect, is what has brought me great satisfaction as a parish priest." Congratulations to our Society Chaplain on 35 years in the priesthood.

■ **Karen Naumann APR**, has joined the U.S. Department of Defense's Defense Information School in Fort Meade, Md. In her senior instructor role for the advanced instruction team, she will train U.S. military, DoD civilian, international military and international students in public affairs.



■ JCS Member **Frank J. Butler's** new memoir, "Belonging: One Catholic's Journey", is now available. The book contains reflections of Frank's life, faith and service for over thirty years as president of FADICA, an association of Catholic grant makers, and responsibilities for one of the largest grassroots consultations on Catholicism ever undertaken by US bishops - Call to Action. A founding board member of Support Our Aging Religious (SOAR!), he currently serves on the board of the National Catholic Reporter. Frank also writes of the hopes for renewal of the Church.



■ **Margaret Sweeney** completed her 15-year term as a judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims on October 24.

■ **Elizabeth B. Meers** recently began a three-year term on the Board of Directors of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington.

■ **Armando Varricchio**, Ambassador of Italy to the United States recently presented **Anita McBride**, with the title "Cavaliere" of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic – the highest-ranking honor last October. McBride, executive-in-residence at the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies at American University also serves as Vice Chair of Cultural Affairs for The National Italian American Foundation. "I am humbled to receive this honor from the President of the Italian Republic," Anita said. "My thoughts go immediately to my parents and grandparents, and extended members of my Bevacqua and DePiano families, all who immigrated from Calabria and Campania seeking opportunities in America."



■ JCS members **Adam Higgins** and **Erica Armstrong** became engaged on May 15 near the Southeast waterfront. They are planning a 2021 wedding at St. Joseph's Parish on Capitol Hill.



■ **Laura Miranda Flefil** and U.S. Army Colonel (R) Timothy Andrew McKernan were married by Father Carlo Magno Nuñez - custodian of Our Lady of Suyapa - at Christ's Mercy Parish in Saint Lucia on the 20th of February of this year.



■ Hope Blake Belford arrived on June 24 to proud father and Society member **Patrick Belford** and grandparents **Jane Belford** and **Kevin Belford**.



### DECEASED MEMBERS

Please pray for the repose of the soul of the following members and friends of the John Carroll Society:

**Nancy Fronterio**  
**Janis Cook**  
**Donald Rhinehart**  
**Ken Psillas**  
**Donald Anderson**  
**Arthur Hamm**  
**Patsy Van Dyke**  
**Joanne West**  
**William Baier**  
**Bill Whitty**  
**Lucy Ronan**  
**David Ahern**

### Book Review: G.K. Chesterton – An Eloquent Convert and Apologist for the Faith

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responsible to" and "will know what he is responsible for." This challenge, once accepted, yields to the exciting discovery of the Church's many truths and traditions.

Then, the "truest and the most terrible challenge" can occur – the individual

balks at actual conversion, having "come too near to the truth and has forgotten that truth is a magnet with the power of attraction and repulsion." Chesterton recounts that he "was never less troubled by doubts than in the last phase, when I was troubled by fears." But, in a mysterious way, "the iron leaps to the magnet," and "a spirit of wonder and the glow of an unexpected good" emerges.

The convert now has a "starting-point for straight and strenuous thinking."

Because ultimately, "we do not really want a religion that is right where we are right. What we want is a religion that is right where we are wrong." After conversion, deeper education in the Faith aids that inquiry.

Although Chesterton wrote almost a century ago, his message still resonates in today's society. As he predicted, future generations can discover that conversion provides "the actual alternative in the awful actualities of our time."



**John Carroll Society**  
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The Carroll Citizen is published by the John Carroll Society, PO Box 454, Glen Echo, MD 20812 Visit our web site [www.johncarrollsociety.org](http://www.johncarrollsociety.org)

Lynnea Mumola, Editor | Raj Noronha, Chair, The Carroll Citizen | Chris Newkumet, Photographer | Andy Eng, Designer

For more information on the programs and services sponsored by the Society, contact: Colleen Mudlaff, Executive Director, by phone at (301) 654-4399.



**BOOK REVIEW** by Ted Hirt

## G.K. Chesterton – An Eloquent Convert and Apologist for the Faith

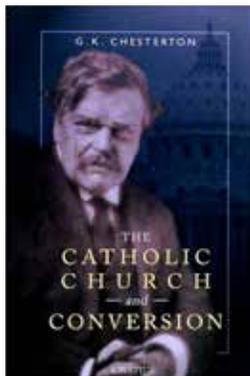
G.K. Chesterton. *The Catholic Church and Conversion* (Ignatius Press, 2006, \$9.95).

I recently reviewed Saint John Henry Newman's 1865 account of his conversion to the Faith – *Apologia Pro Vita Sua* ("Apology for His Life"). *The Catholic Church and Conversion* also addresses that experience, combining intellectual insight, wit, and personal reflections.

Gilbert Keith Chesterton (1874-1936), was a renowned English author and prolific writer – over 80 books, and, perhaps more startling, "over 4,000 newspaper essays, including 30 years-worth of weekly columns for the *Illustrated London News*, and 13 years of weekly columns for the *Daily News*." See [www.chesterton.org](http://www.chesterton.org) (a great website!). He became a Roman Catholic in 1922.

Published in 1926, *The Catholic Church and Conversion* is a profound and provocative examination of the conversion experience. Chesterton addresses an

audience that, in his view, often treated Roman Catholicism as a novelty or even as a "New Religion," out of place in a world increasingly attracted to socialism (as he was for a time), or to spiritualism or various social movements. The paradox was that the Church itself was "the only old religion that is so new." At a personal level, a convert's experience did not differ from that of a first century citizen of Greece who had listened to Saint Paul's teachings. And, Chesterton asks, who will explain why the Faith "is still as new to the last converts as it was to the first of the shepherds?" Roman Catholicism would be particularly attractive to individuals who decided that they had no reason to remain in their churches



or that "contemporary ideas" lacked staying power.

For Chesterton, the Church is a "house with a hundred gates; and no two men enter at exactly the same angle." He modestly describes his conversion experience as "a very trivial one." Raised in a household that was "at least as much Agnostic as Anglican," he witnessed many attacks on the Church, its doctrines, priesthood, and rituals. But he was not affected by "old-fashioned charges against Rome," which, after study, he decided were erroneous. Such charges were weak obstacles to conversion.

After concluding that attacks on the Church are unwarranted, the prospective convert next must try to grasp the Church's truths. This can be difficult, because, in the modernist world, religion often does not propose adherence to doctrine, or even to personal responsibility. The individual experiences doubt after discovering that Catholicism expects responsibility, *i.e.*, the convert "will have somebody to be

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