

THE GOOD NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF HOLY NAME OF CAMDEN MINISTRIES

509 State Street • Camden, NJ 08102 • 856.365.1001 • holynameofcamdenministries.org

Spring 2020



Greetings from Camden! These past two months have been an extraordinary experience for all of us. In the midst of this pandemic, I have felt extreme fear of catching the virus, profound sadness at the loss of life, overwhelming gratitude to all the healthcare workers and essential providers, and tremendous hope from the generous and caring response of ordinary people wanting to help those in need.

I know that this is a time of financial hardship on many people. Our ministries are being impacted as well. I want to thank Lauren La Pointe for her past two years of service as the Executive Director of HNCM. She showed great dedication to the Holy Name Scholars Program and to the annual "Reaching Out to Those in Need" Fundraiser. We hope she has success in all her endeavors.

We decided to publish our newsletter because we truly have "Good News" to share with you. I hope you enjoy reading about our Holy Name Graduates that are moving on to high school and to college. Guadalupe Family Services is beginning its year-long celebration of 25 years of serving the Camden community. The Camden Center for Law and Social Justice continued helping families through Covid-19.

You, our benefactors, help us to bring hope to our families here in Camden. You have sustained us thus far, and I pray you will continue. May you be safe and stay well.

Sincerely,

Sister Helen Colessy

Sister Helen Cole SSJ
Executive Director

We Welcome Three New Board Members



Arlette Leyba

Arlette Leyba is currently a student at Rutgers Law School. She is extremely excited and humbled to have an opportunity to be on the board of an organization that has been a part of her life since she was a child. Arlette attended Holy Name School and participated in the Holy

Name High School Scholars Program. She is now employed by the Camden Center for Law and Social Justice, so her involvement with Holy Name Ministries has come full circle! Arlette says, "I see this as the perfect chance to finally be able to give back to a community that has given me so much. I wouldn't be where I am today without them, so I am so grateful I can have an opportunity in creating that experience for others who become a part of our Holy Name family!" ■

Gene Principato is a native of South Jersey and longtime resident, having been born and raised in Haddonfield, NJ. He graduated from Bishop Eustace Prep School and the University of Pennsylvania. Gene lives in Collingswood, NJ, is married, and has two grown children and two beautiful grandchildren. He also earned graduate degrees from George-



Gene Principato

town University and The George Washington University and worked for a number of large multinational companies.

Gene is currently President of The Marketing Difference, a strategic

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The Class of 2020: Eight students will be attending Catholic High School, one will attend Wyoming Seminary on a scholarship, and the remaining fifteen will attend the Technical High Schools or Charter Schools in September. Scholarships awarded: Nelson Vidro from Langan Nadell; Luis Burgos, Irvin Arias and Jesus Perez received Domenica Foundation scholarships. We are so proud of their accomplishments!

Holy Name School Update

In February, Holy Name School received an outstanding report on our Middle States Re-Accreditation. The supervising team was amazed at the many accomplishments of the students and the teachers over the years. Our action plan moving forward is to continue to enhance our math and reading scores as well as improve our school safety plan. The certificate will be issued in December.

Schools closed on March 13th due to the Covid-19 virus. Initially, our teachers were able to send packets of work for the students to do at home. Then, thanks to all the many donations we have received, we provided chrome books so they could work virtually with their teachers. This was a huge adjustment, but the efforts of the teachers and parents rose to the occasion to help the children finish the school year. Everyone cannot wait to come back to Holy Name in September! ■

New Board Members *Continued from page 1*

marketing and business development company. His company helps mid-size and large businesses find new markets, develop new business, understand their customers' changing needs, and improve the effectiveness of their marketing and sales programs, resulting in substantial increases in revenues.

Gene's parents, Dr. Eugene and Letitia Principato, were raised in Camden, NJ, and were longtime supporters of the Holy Name of Camden Ministries before their deaths a few years ago. When Father Dan Joyce recently asked him to join the Holy Name of Camden Ministries' Board, he accepted as a way to continue his family's support of the Ministries in Camden. ■

Matt Davis was born and raised in Millville and currently lives in Collingswood with his wife and young son. His work background is mostly with immigrants: as an ESOL teacher, an Employment Manager for refugees seeking jobs, and as the Director of Pastoral Care for Migrants and Refugees in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Currently, he is the Director of Life & Justice Ministries and Vice Chancellor for the city of Camden for the Diocese of Camden. Matt is a graduate student in Church Management from Villanova University. "Each branch of HNCM is made up of dynamic leaders and organizations who are making a real impact on the lives of Camden residents. For many years, HNCM has been fostering



Matt Davis

renewal in Camden through education, youth outreach, counseling and legal advocacy. I am happy to support these efforts for renewal and look forward to meeting many of the beneficiaries and supporters of HNCM soon," Matt responded. ■

☆☆☆ Look What You Did! ☆☆☆

In 2008, these students began first grade.

Each of these students graduated from Holy Name Grade School in 2016.

Each of these students attended a Catholic High School.

Each of these students are in the graduating Class of 2020.

Your generosity to Holy Name of Camden Ministries contributed towards their Catholic education.

Their future is full of promise because of you!

We Need Your Help!

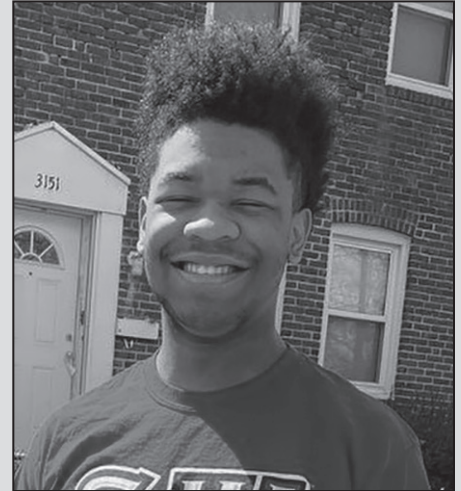
40 Holy Name High School Scholars will attend Camden Catholic, Christo Rey, Gloucester Catholic, Paul VI, St. Augustine Prep, and St. Joseph Prep in September 2020.

Please consider a special donation for tuition assistance to the Holy Name High School Scholars Program.

You are making a difference!



Raven: Camden Catholic to La Salle University



Andre: Camden Catholic to St. Joseph University



Trinity: Paul VI to Cedar Crest College



Aracelis: St. Joseph Hammonton to Cabrini, Mt. St. Mary or Holy Family



Vincent: Camden Catholic to Camden County College



William: Paul VI to Kean University



Camden Center for Law and Social Justice

Jeffrey S. DeCristofaro, Esq., CCLSJ Executive Director

In March, when Governor Murphy announced a medical state of emergency and the closure of all non-essential businesses, many people were surprised to see that law firms were considered essential businesses. I got more than a few jokes from friends and family members about how non-essential lawyers are.

Jokes aside, I can see how people would question why law firms are considered essential when most court cases have been postponed due to Covid-19. In light of courthouses across the state being closed to the public, I can understand why people would want to know what about lawyers makes them (us) essential during this time.

So, why are law firms like the Camden Center for Law and Social Justice (CCLSJ) considered essential?

The simple answer is because the services that we provide are still needed. While this is true with respect to the work that we do with our immigration clients, it is especially true regarding our work with victims of domestic violence who are seeking Final Restraining Order protection from their abusers.

Although state courts are essentially closed, some hearings are being held with the aid of video conferencing services such as Zoom. CCLSJ domestic violence unit coordinator, Lisa Incollingo, Esq. has represented domestic violence victims in several Zoom hearings since the courts were closed to public.

Although these hearings don't always go smoothly due to unexpected issues (like the time that someone

participating in a Zoom hearing had a TV turned up really high in the background, making it hard for everyone to hear. . . . the culprit was the judge), but with patience and little tech know how, we have been able to provide complete and comprehensive legal service to victims of domestic violence during this time. Thankfully our technology has also enabled us to provide assistance to our immigration clients as well.

Like everyone else, we don't know when this crisis will end. Nor do we know what the "new normal" will look like when New Jersey opens up again. What we do know is that we will continue to work (from home) during the pandemic and we look forward to the day when we can meet with our clients face to face once again.

Guadalupe Family Services Celebrates 25 Years in Community

“When I reflect on GFS here in North Camden for 25 years,” Sister Helen says, “I think of the word blessing, of the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and of the deep desire to be a compassionate and hopeful presence to our families.” Sister Helen was invited by Father Mark Aita, SJ to start a social service agency at 509 State Street that would complement the already existing St. Luke’s Medical Center and the Camden Center for Law and Social Justice.

Sister Helen continued to explain:

“Blessing: Day after day, year after year, we have been blessed to have the trust of those who come to our door seeking help. We have also been blessed with faithful and generous people who want to help us to help others.

Our Lady of Guadalupe: This image portrays Mary as interested in the poor and she is a source of comfort to Juan Diego. Her words spoken then are still meaningful now — “Am I not your mother? You have nothing to fear.”

Desire to be compassionate and hopeful presence: GFS has been blessed with committed staff members who communicate through who they are as much as with all they do. Our clients know how sincere we are in our efforts to bring hope, help and healing as we journey together through life with its joys and with its sorrows.”

Congratulations, Guadalupe Family Services! We look forward to this year of celebration!

