

# THE Catholic Spirit

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Following the diocese's multicultural Mass, a reception was held in the community room of the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi. During a multicultural presentation, three groups performed, including the Edison Chinese School which is doing the lion dance. — Ed Koskey Jr. photo

## Tapestry of cultures in diocese united in worship at special liturgy

By Karen Corpora  
Correspondent

METUCHEN — The diocese celebrated the feast of Pentecost with a multicultural Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Francis of Assisi. Reminiscent of the first Pentecost, the Mass was celebrated and spoken in many tongues but all present heard and understood in their own language.

Msgr. Joseph J. Kerrigan, who served as principal celebrant and homilist, welcomed in six languages the worshipers who filled the pews.

“We can never ever have a generic Pentecost,” he said. “The nature of the feast today is about newness and freshness of life. There is nothing stale about Pentecost and the presence of God in our lives. The Holy Spirit is new, fresh and

alive or nothing at all.”

In his homily Msgr. Kerrigan noted, “This great feast of Pentecost is a day to be fearless with our faith, to welcome the God of surprises, to welcome the Spirit of newness, to give thanks for these great gifts of diversity that we can see here today. That what I lack someone else completes and what I have may help someone else.”

Priests, deacons, lectors and altar

servers were of a variety of ethnic backgrounds and the faithful included people of many nations. Many were dressed in clothes from their native homeland. The plethora of cultures and color created a beautiful tapestry, with readings and the prayers of the faithful spoken in languages such as Korean, Indonesian, Swahili, Tamil, Konkani, Gujarati,

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This issue was mailed on May 24

Your next issue will be June 16

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### Celebrating Life

Winners of diocese's poster/video contest honored at liturgy, lunch. Special Feature. . . 3, 10

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# Reception features food from many countries, cultures; dance presentations

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Kannada, Telegu, Sinhalese, Polish and Spanish.

The choir consisted of Chinese, Kenyan, Filipino, Portuguese/Brazilian, Vietnamese and Hispanic singers. All blended their voices in English and each nationality sang in its native tongue. The Kenyan Youth Group danced in the aisles during some of the song selections. The offertory procession featured representatives from the many cultures dressed in native clothes bringing baskets of food to the altar, some carrying those baskets on their heads.

At the end of Mass, Msgr. Kerrigan

praised Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Ruth Bolarte, director, diocesan Office for Multi-Cultural Ministry, for all of her hard work.

"In this place of encounter the beauty and complexity of God is mirrored in the culture of diversity."

—*Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Ruth Bolarte*

Sister Ruth, also serves as executive director, of the diocesan Department of Pastoral Life, said, "Pope Francis talked to us about a culture of encounter. This is made possible by the one on one relationship which in the past four years I have had the privilege to share with you. In this place of encounter the beauty and complex-

ity of God is mirrored in the culture of diversity. We are a beautiful mosaic for the glory of God."

Claretian Father Alberto M. Ruiz,



During the offertory procession, representatives from many cultures, dressed in native clothes brought baskets of food to the altar. Above Anne Kagwe from Immaculate Conception Parish, Spotswood, carries a basket of food on her head — **Ed Koskey Jr. photo**

pastor, Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Perth Amboy, said, "We are such a multicultural universal church. My parish is a La-

tino parish. The people are from Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic and Ecuador. On the weekend, we have five Masses in Spanish and one Mass in English."

Msgr. Joseph Chiang, who is the retired head of the Chinese Apostolate, was ordained in Manila and speaks 10 languages. While talking about the significance of a Mass like this, he commented, "When people are able to hear the Mass in their own native language they feel at home. They are also able to go to confession in a way that makes them feel comfortable."

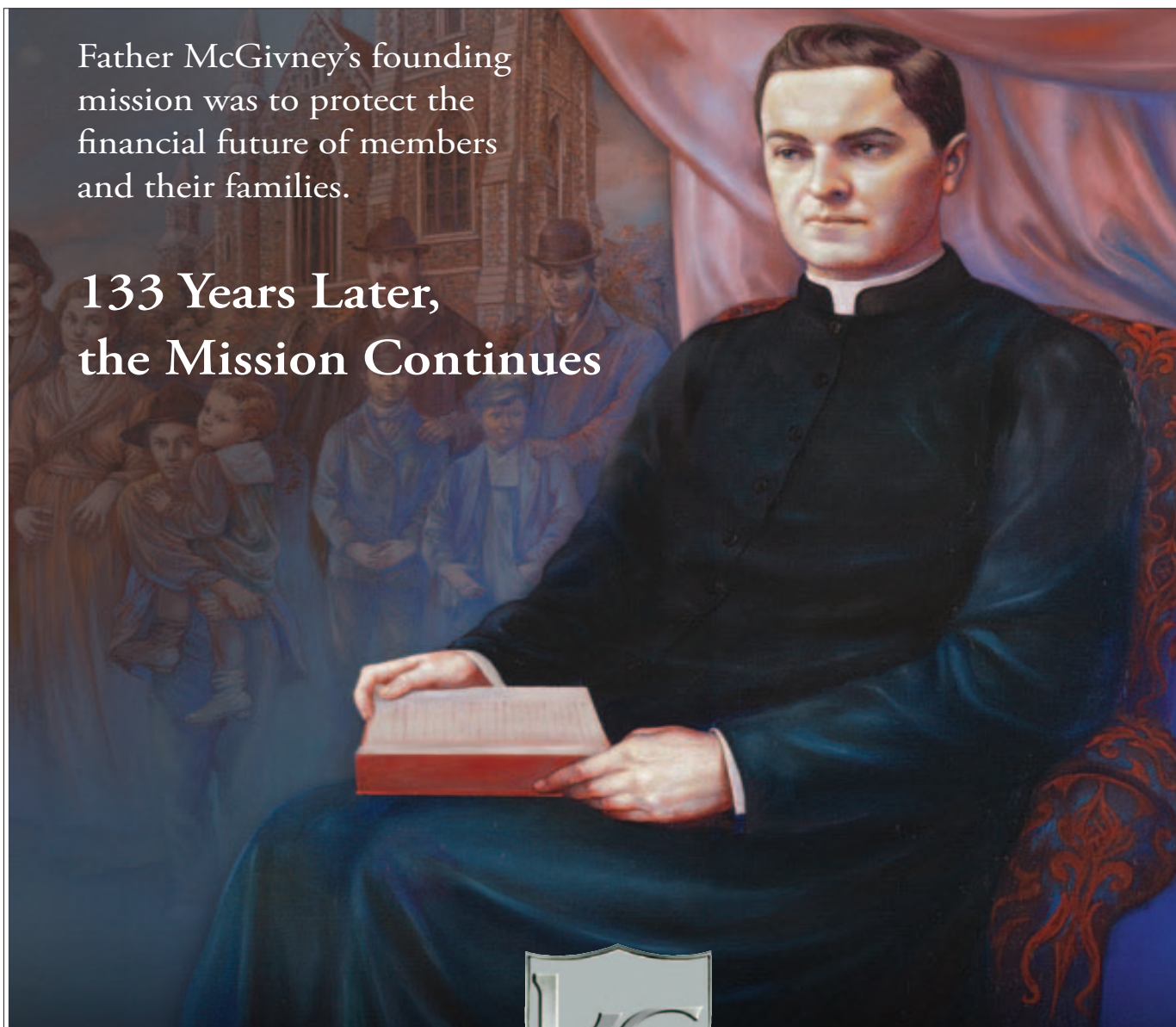
A reception featured an array of food representing many countries and cultures was provided by the apostolate groups present at Mass.

During a multicultural presentation, the Edison Chinese School performed a lion dance. The students who performed ranged in ages from 6 to 13 years old. Aidan Lin, age 6, and Ethan Chang, age 7, who were in their third year at the school danced in their own lion costume. The Roots of Portugal Group and the Kenyan Dance Youth Group presented traditional dances as well.

Msgr. Kerrigan commented, "In today's Gospel, Jesus said, 'Peace be with you,' a peace and harmony that takes place precisely in diversity. When that happens it's magical. It's beyond magical. It's inspired of the Holy Spirit."

Father McGivney's founding mission was to protect the financial future of members and their families.

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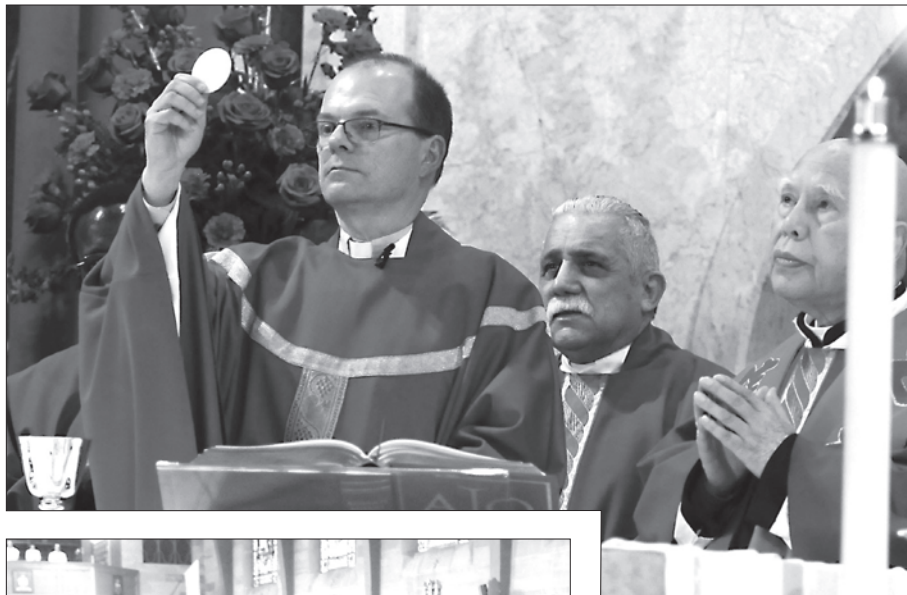
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## Schedule Adjustment

In order to provide our readership with immediate coverage of the installation of Bishop James F. Checchio, the May 12 issue of The Catholic Spirit was printed one week earlier than usual. To compensate, there will be a two-week gap before our next issue, June 16, when the normal schedule will resume.

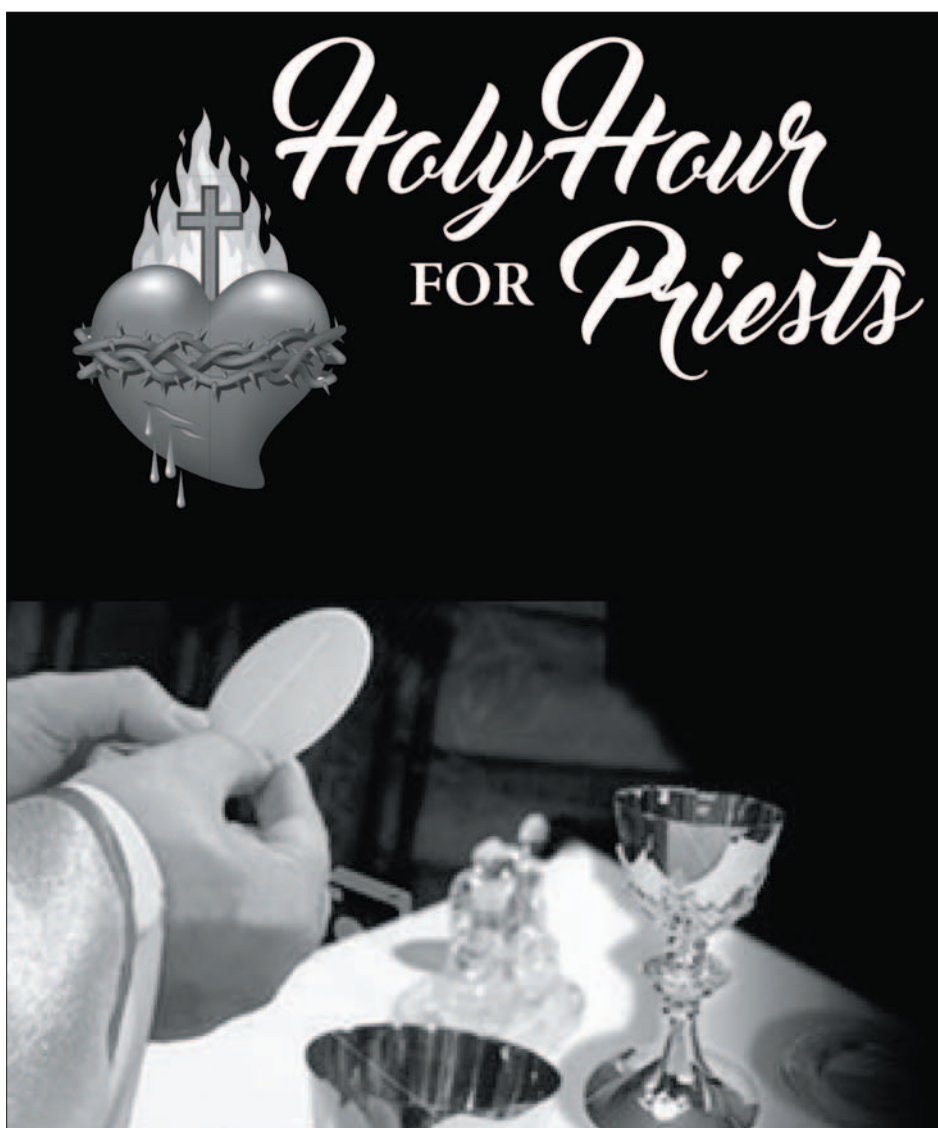




## Unity in diversity

Clockwise, from left, the Kenyan Youth Group danced in the aisles during some of the songs played at the diocese's multicultural Mass, May 15. Msgr. Joseph J. Kerrigan, pastor of Holy Family Parish, New Brunswick, elevates the Eucharist as he celebrates the Mass at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi. Con-celebrating are Father Alberto Ruiz, administrator of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Perth Amboy (center) and Msgr. Joseph Chiang, retired. Women dance as they lead children up the aisle during the processional of the multicultural Mass. Choirs from the Chinese, Kenyan, Filipino, and Portuguese/Brazilian Apostolates, sing during the Mass.

— Ed Koskey Jr photos



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