

# THE Catholic Spirit

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Main celebrants of the Mass are from left, Bishop James F. Checchio, Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, Grand Master of the Pontifical Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre, Bishop Emeritus Paul G. Bootkoski, Msgr. Edward C. Puleo, pastor, St. Brigid Parish.

—Ed Koskey Jr. photo

This issue was mailed on Aug. 22  
Your next issue will be September 7

## Cardinal O'Brien leads prayer for persecuted Christians

By Christina Leslie  
Correspondent

PEAPACK — “This will be an historic day for the Diocese,” noted Bishop James F. Checchio to those filling St. Brigid Church Aug. 8 for a Mass and symposium on the persecution of Christians worldwide. The bishop welcomed Cardinal Edwin F. O'Brien on his first visit to the diocese and informed the audience of faith-filled Catholics that “a Christian is killed every hour, 365 days a

year, because of his or her faith.”

The occasion marked what was believed to be the first visit by a Grand Master of the Pontifical Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre to our diocese. Knights and Ladies of the Order, resplendent in capes and berets, led a procession, including the Cardinal and Lt. Vicki Downey, head of the Eastern Lieutenancy, headquartered in N.Y.; Bishop Emeritus Paul G. Bootkoski; St. Brigid pastor Msgr. Edward C. Puleo, and more than a dozen priests from around the diocese.

In his homily, Cardinal O'Brien quoted from “The Road to Character,” a book by *New York Times* columnist David Brooks, to explain why people persisted in faith despite persecution and suffering.

“Brooks reminded us, ‘People are beginning to feel a call; they are not masters of the situation, but neither are they helpless. They feel they must participate together in responding to the challenge,’” Cardinal O'Brien said. “Isn't that precisely what brings us here

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*Prelate thanks Indian and Sri Lankan Apostolate for generous response to natural disaster  
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# Image OF THE Week

Where in the diocese can it be found?



Last issue's image...



The image, which was featured on page 3 of the August 10 issue of *The Catholic Spirit*, can be found at Queenship of Mary parish, Plainsboro.



## The winner is...

Brenda Fernandes, parishioner at Queenship of Mary, Plainsboro.

To be a winner, you must call (732) 562-2424 after **9 a.m. Monday**. The first caller to correctly identify the image and its location will receive a one year subscription, renewal or gift subscription to *The Catholic Spirit*. **Those who correctly identify an image are not eligible to take another guess for 90 days.**

## India and Sri Lanka Apostolate hosts first diocesan multicultural Mass

By Stacey Daly  
Correspondent

NORTH BRUNSWICK — A bridge between cultures and continents was built during a special multicultural Mass held at Our Lady of Peace Parish Aug. 13. Archbishop George Antonysamy of Madras and Mylapore presided at the Mass. The Mass and reception afterwards was organized through the India and Sri Lanka Apostolate of New Jersey and the Goan, Gujarati, Mangalorean, Srilankan and Tamil Associations of the Diocese of Metuchen.

"Today I am very happy that we

meet together as one family in the Christian faith," said Archbishop Antonysamy. "I am coming from a far away country from a different culture, from a different mentality, from a different language. What makes me celebrate this Eucharistic sacrifice? What makes you come for this Mass? We come in Christian faith." He explained how much India has changed and how different each region is from the next, stressing the importance of unity in diversity. While people may be different, our faith brings us together and allows us to celebrate our differences.

The Archdiocese of Madras and

Above, Archbishop Antonysamy prays at the altar with concelebrants. The Mass was celebrated at Our Lady of Peace Church, North Brunswick, home to the diocesan Indian and Sri Lankan Apostolate coordinated by Father Antony Arockiadoss.

—Mike Ehrmann photos

Mylapore has its home in Chennai in the State of Tamil Nadu, India. Archbishop Antonysamy was appointed Shepherd of the archdiocese in November 2012 by Pope Benedict XVI. A native of Trichy, he was ordained in 1952 and a year later sent to Rome for higher studies. He received a Bachelor of Philosophy and Master of Theology from Urban University, Rome. He went on to earn a doctorate in Pastoral Theology at Lateran University, Rome. Additionally, he holds a Licentiate in Canon Law from Pontifical Urban University, Rome, with a specialization in Canon Law in Jurisprudence from Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome.

In 1987, the archbishop was released for service to the Secretariat of State of the Holy See in Vatican City. From 1998 through 2002, he served as Vicar General, Apostolic Administration Estonia, Baltic Country. He was then appointed by then-Pope, now St. John Paul II as the Charge d'Affaires of the Vatican Embassy in Jordan. In 2005, Msgr. Antonysamy was elected as Titular Archbishop of Sulci in Sardinia, Italy, by Pope Benedict XVI. He was appointed as the Apostolic Nuncio to Gambia, Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone, just prior to his current appointment as Archbishop of the Madras and Mylapore Diocese. He is also currently serving as Chariman of St. John's Medical College in Bengaluru, India, and as

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Above, children of the India and Sri Lanka Apostolate provide entertainment at the reception following the Mass. Left, Archbishop George Antonysamy of Madras and Mylapore, preaches to those in attendance at the liturgy. His archdiocese was greatly aided after a natural disaster by the generosity of diverse congregants.





# Packed church in North Brunswick greets visiting archbishop from India

Continued from page 3

the vice president of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India.

During a meeting with the Holy Father two months ago, the archbishop told Pope Francis that he no longer knew what it meant to be Indian. "I used to long for myself to go back to India to serve the people, but now it is very difficult to identify ourselves with our own brothers and sisters." He said Pope Francis laughed and explained how very much he understood having experienced cultural diversity through his own life. The pope told him to go back to his diocese and tell the people, "The Holy Father loves all of you. The Holy Father prays for all of you. The Holy Father blesses all of you." The archbishop bestowed this blessing from Pope Francis on all of those in attendance at the Mass.

The coordinator for the diocesan India and Sri Lanka Apostolate, Father Antony Arockiadoss, explained that the idea for the Mass sprung up in response to aid for a natural disaster. "Last year, there was terrible flooding in Chennai which killed 500 people. I came from that city," He said. Afterwards, a collection was taken up and a donation wired from the Diocese of Metuchen to the diocese in Chennai. "The archbishop thanked us for the donation,

and when I went home I requested that he come to have a Mass," said Father Arockiadoss. He noted that the archbishop had come to the diocese to meet the people who donated the money.

"Being here for the archbishop's Mass is a special blessing," stated Ruphus Xavier, a member of St. Cecilia Parish, Monmouth Junction. "This is a wonderful way to unite us," he added, then said it was the first time he had attended a Mass like this and hopes to do so again in the future.

Christine Jackson, a member of the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Metuchen, was invited to the Mass by her aunt. "I have not been part of a union Mass since I was back in India, so this was really a truly a wonderful experience — it was awesome." She said it was exciting to see the archbishop and to be part of something new in the diocese. She looks forward to it becoming an annual event.

People from beyond the diocese also came to worship at the Mass, including Arun Kulandairhn of Jersey City. "I wanted to come out today because I wanted to hear my language represented," he said. "Plus, the archbishop is from my hometown and I really wanted to see him." He added that events such as this will help to build a community.



Above, men carrying liturgical canopies process into church. Right, Archbishop George Antonysamy receives the gifts of bread and wine from members of the diocesan India and Sri Lanka Apostolate.

— Mike Ehrmann photos



The Diocese of Metuchen in collaboration with the Archdiocese of Newark present



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Director of Development  
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Author, Disabilities Advocate

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