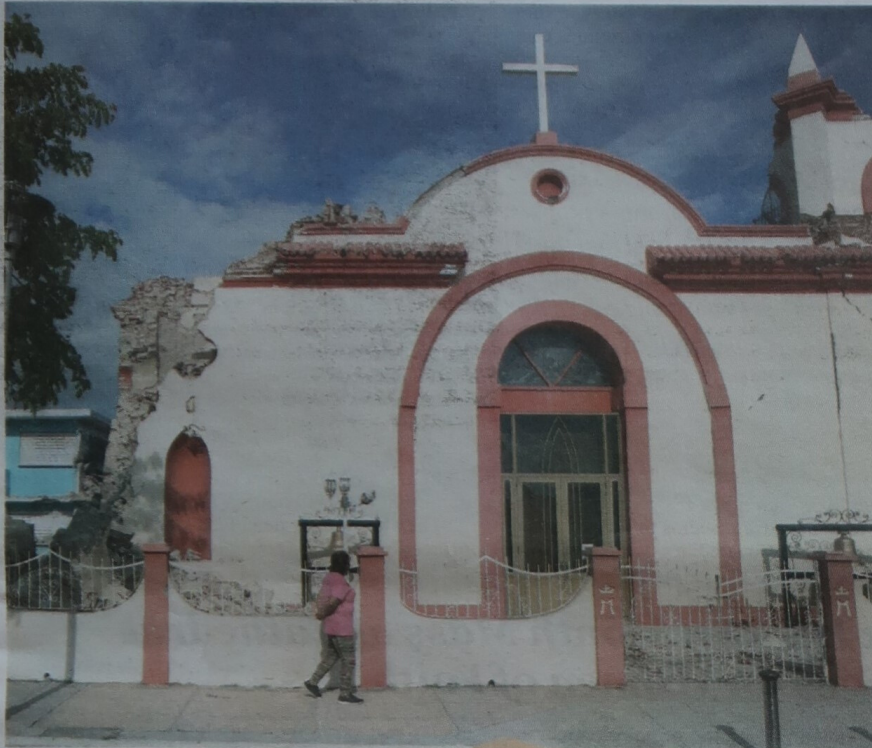


# CATHOLIC NEW YORK

AMERICA'S LARGEST CATHOLIC NEWSPAPER | JANUARY 16, 2020 VOL. XXXIX, NO. 10 \$1.00 | WWW.CNY.ORG



CNS/MARCO BELLO, REUTERS

**DEVASTATION**—A woman in Guayanilla, Puerto Rico, walks in front of the damaged Immaculate Conception Church Jan. 9 after an earthquake struck the area two days earlier.

## Archdiocese Reaches Out to Puerto Rico With Prayers, Assistance After Quakes

The Archdiocese of New York is reaching out to the Church and people of Puerto Rico in the aftermath of a series of earthquakes, including the latest that struck the island over the weekend.

Cardinal Dolan, who spoke with Archbishop Roberto Gonzalez last week, said he assured the archbishop of “our prayers and closeness to him.”

“Although we try to respond with solicitude for people suffering anywhere in the world, the Archdiocese of New York feels a special closeness to the people of Puerto Rico, who have such strong ties to New York,” Cardinal Dolan said in a Jan. 10 letter to priests of the archdiocese.

In the letter, the cardinal asked the priests to consider taking up a second collection in their parishes or express support for Puerto

Rico through another means.

“Given the unique relationship we share with Puerto Rico, I believe our people will respond generously if asked to show their support, as they have always done.”

The Archdiocese of New York has already arranged for a \$50,000 contribution to be sent to assist in the relief efforts, and a \$30,000 donation is being sent from archdiocesan Catholic Charities.

Caritas Puerto Rico is the lead relief agency in Puerto Rico, and any funds raised in the archdiocese will be forwarded to it. Cardinal Dolan asked the priests that any donations from parishes be sent by Feb. 5 to the archdiocesan Finance Office at the New York Catholic Center, 1011 First Ave., New York, NY 10022.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

## Baptism Is First Step on Path of Humility, Pope Says

In asking to be baptized, Jesus exemplifies the Christian calling to follow along the path of humility and meekness rather than strutting about and being a showoff, Pope Francis said.

Addressing pilgrims in St. Peter's Square Jan. 12, the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, the pope said that Christ's humble act shows “the attitude of simplicity, respect, moderation and concealment required of the Lord's disciples today.”

“A person who shows off isn't a good disciple. A good disciple is humble, meek, one who does good without letting himself or herself be seen,” Pope Francis said during his midday Angelus address.

The pope began the day celebrating Mass and baptizing 32 babies—17 boys and 15 girls—in the Sistine Chapel. In his brief homily before baptizing the infants, the pope told parents that the sacrament is a treasure that gives children “the strength of the Spirit.”

“That is why it's so important to baptize children, so that they grow with the strength of the Holy Spirit,” he said.

“You have brought your children here today so that they may have the Holy Spirit within them. Take care that they grow with the light, with the strength of the Holy Spirit, through catechesis, through helping them, through teaching them, through the examples that you will give them at home,” he said.

Later, before praying the Angelus with pilgrims, Pope Francis said that the feast of the Lord's baptism “reminds us of our own baptism,” and he asked the pilgrims to find out the date they were baptized.

“Celebrate the date of your baptism every year in your heart.”—CNS

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## Astor Services for Children and Families Names CEO

**Y**vette Bairan has been appointed chief executive officer of Astor Services for Children and Families by the agency's board of directors, effective Jan. 6.

Ms. Bairan succeeds James McGuirk, who became president of The Children's Foundation of Astor in July.

"While serving as interim CEO over the past six months, it became increasingly evident that Astor's work with children and families is more critical than ever," Ms. Bairan said. "Partnering with our dedicated staff and supporters to continue and expand Astor's meaningful work is a great opportunity that I am humbled to accept."

Ms. Bairan, who has worked at Astor for 11 years, previously served as chief quality and compliance officer. As CEO, she will strategically deal with government funding and seek to



Yvette Bairan

increase philanthropic support.

"I am pleased to welcome Yvette Bairan as the newest member of the talented and dedicated group of CEOs who lead Catholic Charities agencies," said Msgr. Kevin Sullivan, executive director of archdiocesan Catholic Charities.

"Astor is a premier Catholic Charities agency and I am grateful for the work of the board in selecting Ms. Bairan to lead it."

Astor promotes the well being of children, adolescents and families by offering programs that prevent and treat emotional problems and facilitate healthy development. It serves more than 10,000 children and families annually in the mid-Hudson Valley and the Bronx through residential treatment, therapeutic foster family care, early childhood programs and community-based behavioral health and prevention services.

## Cardinal's Presence...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

"It was very sad. (The stone church is) a tradition here in Yorktown, and it's a very close-knit parish so we're very thankful to have the Cardinal Dolan here to celebrate Mass and help us heal," said the parishioner, who is the father of three St. Patrick School students.

"I thought (his homily) was wonderful as all his homilies are. He's very animated and he brings joy to all the services he's involved in."

Jennifer Borella, a 41-year-old parishioner who is

the mother of two students at St. Patrick School, said she believes the parish will come together to overcome the act of vandalism.

"I think it's important for (Cardinal Dolan) to show support and for the parishioners to see that," she said as she held her nine-month-old son Michael.

"We need to have faith and know when things are bad, we come together. I think it's important to know that there is evil but that good will overcome that."

## Sister Katherine Seibert Wins Creighton Honor

**S**ister Katherine Seibert, S.C., will be presented the Alumni Merit Award from the Creighton University School of Medicine in Omaha, NE, Friday, Feb. 7.

Sister Katherine, a Sister of Charity of New York for 66 years, will be recognized for touching and enriching the lives of others and serving selflessly to make a difference in her communities and leave the world a better place.

The Alumni Merit Award honors men and women who live with high moral standards, guided by the Jesuit ideal of "women and men for and with others." Creighton is a Jesuit-run school.

Sister Katherine joined the physician team at Hudson River Health Care in Tarrytown in 2005 after previously serving in Sullivan County where she developed an oncology program as the only oncologist in the county. She was chief of oncology at several hospitals in New York City.

She earned a master's degree in biology and doctorate in microbiology from the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Ind., and her M.D. from Creighton University School of Medicine before completing a fellowship at the National Cancer Institute in Maryland.

She has been honored as Person of the Year by the Notre Dame Club of New York and received the American Cancer Society's Lane Adams Award. She received the Thomas A. Dooley Award at the 2019 Notre Dame Alumni Association board of directors meeting last spring.



Sister Katherine Seibert, S.C.

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