

Sister M. Casimir, Educator

Sister M. Casimir Bougher, I.H.M., who served as an educator in Manhattan and Poughkeepsie, died March 5 at Our Lady of Peace Residence in Scranton, Pa.

She taught at St. Stephen Elementary School, Manhattan, 1974-1978, and Holy Trinity Elementary School, Poughkeepsie, 1978-1980.

She taught at elementary schools in Brooklyn and Queens, and on Long Island. She also taught in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Oregon and New Jersey.

She served as receptionist at the Marian Convent in Scranton, from 1995 until her retirement in 2006.

Born in Carrollton, Ohio, she entered the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in 1946 and professed final vows in 1952. She held bachelor's and master's degrees in education from Marywood College in Scranton.

A Funeral Mass was offered March 10 at Our Lady of Peace Residence. Burial was at St. Catherine's Cemetery, Moscow, Pa.

Mario Rapaglia, Father of Pastor

Mario Nunzio Rapaglia Sr., father of Father Eric Rapaglia, pastor of Sacred Heart parish on Staten Island, died Feb. 25 in Deerfield Beach, Fla. He was 78.

Mr. Rapaglia was a business owner before becoming a golf instructor at LaTourette and South Shore golf courses on Staten Island.

Born in Sicily, he came to the United States and settled in Brooklyn, where he met his wife, Constance, who predeceased him. They moved their family to Staten Island in 1980.

Along with Father Rapaglia, Mr. Rapaglia is survived by three other children, Raymond Rapaglia, Mario Rapaglia and Nicole Fulciniti, and 10 grandchildren. He is also survived by a brother, Salvatore, and two sisters, Maria and Rosalie.

A Funeral Mass was offered March 3 at Sacred Heart.

Congress...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The bishops said they have devoted their efforts to addressing the "morally problematic features of health care reform while insuring that people have access to health care coverage."

They noted that the Catholic Church—in its work across the country caring for the poor, homeless, the sick and refugees—often partners with the government. "Our combined resources allow us to reach further and help more," they said.

The bishops urged federal lawmakers to recognize that the "moral measure of the federal budget is not which party wins or which powerful interests prevail, but rather how those who are jobless, hungry, homeless, exploited,

poor, unborn or undocumented are treated."

"Their voices are too often missing in these debates, but they have the most compelling moral claim on our consciences and our common resources," they said.

The letter was signed by Cardinal Dolan, chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities; Bishop Christopher J. Coyne of Burlington, Vt., chairman of the Committee on Communications; Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Fla., chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development; Bishop Oscar Cantu of Las Cruces, N.M., chairman of the Committee on International Justice and Peace; Bishop George V. Murry of Youngstown, Ohio, chairman of the Committee on Catholic Education; and Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas, chairman of the Committee on Migration. —CNS

Atonement Cause...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

"At the end, we had a chance to speak with him," Father Terry said. "So I gave him a prayer card knowing we'd be coming to this point and he really seemed sincerely interested. He said a saint of unity, a saint of healing, a saint of charity, that is something that is important."

Father Wattson died in 1940 at age 77. His cause for canonization was approved by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops at their fall meeting in Baltimore in November 2014. The formal opening of the cause occurred at the New York Catholic Center in September 2015.

Father Wattson's writings, and writings about him, were collected throughout the next

18 months, then boxed and wrapped in brown paper with a red ribbon sealed by wax from a red candle stamped by Cardinal Dolan.

Father Wattson's collected materials were dispatched to Rome for a thorough review by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. It's a first step before Father Wattson is considered for beatification and canonization.

"Realistically, it's the work of God; what God wants is going to happen," said Msgr. Douglas Mathers, pastor of St. John the Evangelist-Our Lady of Peace parish in Manhattan and episcopal delegate for the archdiocese.

"We've done what we can do on the diocesan level and then it goes to Rome—however long it takes, that's what it takes. There is no time limit in the process."

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