Welcome

Dear CYO Community,

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel". As we begin the season of Advent and prepare for Christmas, on behalf of the CYO Staff, I wish each of you a season of peace and joy. The Catholic Youth Organization is having a very active Fall Season. This issue of the CYO newsletter will review the events and happenings throughout the diocesan organization.

This issue also introduces two new sections of the newsletter, CYO Scrapbook and Play Like A Champion Coaches’ Corner. The Catholic Youth Organization in the Brooklyn and Queens has a long history dating back to 1940. The section “CYO Scrapbook” each issue will provide some historical photos, newspaper articles and stories from our CYO past throughout the diocese. The Coaches’ Corner will provide insight and educational information from the Play Like A Champion Today program.

Enjoy the newsletter and be sure to share the Family Advent Calendar in this issue with your family this season.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

Robert Caldera
Executive Director, CYO

CYO Annual Mass With Queens Deanery #5

On Saturday October 20th, 2018 the CYO parish programs in Queens Deanery # 5 came together for its’ annual CYO Mass. This year the mass was held at St. Kevin’s Church in Flushing. Bishop Raymond Chappetto was the main celebrant with pastors and priests from each parish concelebrating. Rev. Kevin McBrien, pastor of Our Lady of the Snows and Dean of the deanery works each year with the CYO in organizing the mass. All children at the mass received a special medal of St. Sebastian, patron saint of athletes. The medals were blessed by Bishop Chappetto. The athletes also received a special blessing by the Bishop as they begin their new sports season. Rev. Ralph Edel, chaplain of St. Francis Prep preached the homily stressing the importance of having fun and being a team player on and off the courts and fields always following the words of our number one coach, Jesus Christ.
Coach’s Grandsons Carry on His Basketball Legacy
By—Jim Mancari—The Tablet

This past February, the CHSAA lost a basketball coaching legend when Tim Leary—who coached varsity boys’ hoops at St. Francis Prep, Fresh Meadows, for 43 seasons—died at the age of 73 after a nearly year-long battle with gallbladder cancer.

Though he’s no longer physically with us, Leary’s basketball legacy is being carried on in the Diocese of Brooklyn through his two grandsons: Aidan and Jack Leary.

Aidan, 12, and Jack, 10, play Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) basketball at St. Rose of Lima, Rockaway Beach. Aidan is a seventh grader at Scholars’ Academy, Rockaway Park, and plays for St. Rose’s Rookie boys’ CYO team, while Jack is a fifth grader at P.S. 47, Broad Channel, and plays for St. Rose’s Bantam CYO boys’ team.

Basketball has been in these boys’ blood since they were born. Their grandfather’s teams won a total of 646 games— the most for any St. Francis Prep coach, the seventh most among New York State basketball coaches and the second most in the CHSAA to the late Jack Curran of Archbishop Molloy H.S., Briarwood.

Building Character

But for Leary, it was never about winning. It was more about building character among his players through the sport of basketball—something he was very successful in doing during his tenure as a coach. That same message has trickled down to his grandsons.

“He (Leary) taught me that it’s not about winning or losing,” said Aidan, a shooting guard who also participates in football, baseball and swimming. “It’s about being able to play for a team and being able to work hard and see what happens and what comes out of it.”

Aidan and Jack remember their grandfather taking them to his L’il Terriers high school practices the past few seasons. Aidan interacted with the high schoolers, who helped him with his shooting and passing. Jack meanwhile watched intently from the sidelines to see how he could improve his game.

“He (Leary) taught me that it’s not just a one-person game,” said Jack, a combo guard who also plays football and baseball. “You can’t win a game on your own; you have to work as a team, pass the ball around, only take good shots—easy shots not hard ones that you can’t make.”

Leary’s son and the boys’ father, Timothy is proud of his sons for following in their grandfather’s footsteps. He currently coaches Aidan’s CYO team and played himself for Our Lady Help of Christians, Midwood, and Bishop Ford H.S., Park Slope.

Ironically enough, his Falcons varsity team defeated his father’s Prep team twice during his junior season at Bishop Ford. Again though, for Coach Leary, basketball was more than just winning.

“My father coaching basketball was such a large part of our lives growing up that it’s in our fabric as a family,” Timothy said. “We spent so much of our lives around it.

“Just being able to make the time in a busy schedule to be involved with my kids in the CYO programs is important to me now more than ever to try and pass on some things I learned from him.”

The boys just finished up a preseason hoops tournament. Aidan said he felt his grandfather out there with him, and Jack agreed, saying he especially thought about his grandpa each time he made a 3-pointer.

These boys knew how much their grandfather loved basketball, so they’re taking it upon themselves to make sure Leary’s passion for the game continues to be celebrated.

“Because he (Leary) was able to coach for so long, a lot of people know his name,” Aidan said. “So I just want to carry on his legacy that he brought to so many people and how many people he helped have a career in basketball.”

“This season is going to be all about him (Leary) because he passed on his career knowledge to us,” Jack said. “Now maybe I could pass that on to my teammates.”

There’s no doubt that Leary taught his grandsons well—both on the court and as budding young men.

And as the late coach now smiles upon Aidan and Jack, he knows the family name is in good hands when it comes to the tradition of basketball.
The 6th Annual CYO Pre-Season Basketball Tournament was held in late September and early October for boys and girls teams in the Bantam, Rookie and Intermediate divisions. This year the tournament was called the “Medal Games”. Each participant in the tournament received a medal of St. Sebastian, the patron saint of athletes. St. Sebastian is the patron saint of athletes because of his physical endurance and his energetic way of spreading and defending the Faith.

Keeping with the tradition of the tournament, the games were played at Catholic High Schools in our diocese, Msgr. McClancy, St. John’s Prep and Archbishop Molloy. This was the perfect opportunity for the teams to prepare for the upcoming season and to visit the high school campuses.

Congratulations to the 45 teams that participated in the Medal Games and special congratulations to the teams that advanced to the Championship “Medal Game” in each division:

**Bantam Boys:** St. Rose and St. Francis DeSales

**Bantam Girls:** St. Joan and St. Mary Winfield

**Rookie Boys:** St. Bernard and St. Margaret

**Rookie Girls:** St. Stan Maspeth and St. Agnes Rockville Centre

**Intermediate Boys:** St. Rose and St. Joan of Arc

**Intermediate Girls:** Corpus Christi and St. Mary Winfield

**BAKETBALL ALL-STAR GAMES**

We are pleased to announce the return of CYO Basketball All-Star Games for the 2018-19 Season. There will be over 60 games played over five days for the Peewee, Novice, Bantam, Rookie and Intermediate divisions. We would like to thank the host sites of these events for their hospitality, generosity and cooperation in organizing these events.

**ALL-STAR GAME SCHEDULE**

**SUNDAY – DECEMBER 16, 2018 – PEEWEE DIVISION**

**GATE OF HEAVEN** – 6 GAMES (1-6pm)

**ST. THOMAS AQUINAS** – 5 GAMES (1-5pm)

**SUNDAY – DECEMBER 23, 2018 – ROOKIE DIVISION**

**MARTIN LUTHER HIGH SCHOOL** – 6 GAMES (1-6pm)

**MONSIGNOR MCCLANCY HIGH SCHOOL** – 7 GAMES (1-7pm)

**SATURDAY – JANUARY 5, 2019 – BANTAM DIVISION**

**ST. BERNARD** – 5 GAMES (3-7pm)

**ST. FRANCIS DESALES** – 9 GAMES (12-8pm)

**SATURDAY – JANUARY 12, 2019 – NOVICE DIVISION**

**CORPUS CHRISTI** – 5 GAMES (10am-2pm)

**EPIC HIGH SCHOOL** – 6 GAMES (10am-3pm)

**SUNDAY – JANUARY 20, 2019 – INTERMEDIATE DIVISION**

**GATE OF HEAVEN** – 7 GAMES (1-7pm)

**ST. GREGORY** – 6 GAMES (1-6pm)
Congratulations to all the teams that participated in the 2018 Fall CYO Soccer Diocesan Championships. A special congratulations to the tournament champions and runner-up's:

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CYO VOLLEYBALL

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**CYO VOLLEYBALL**

**PRE-SEASON CHRISTMAS TOURNAMENT**

PARs, Volleyball ADs, Coaches:

You are invited to participate in the 6th Annual CYO Pre-Season Christmas Girls Volleyball Tournament. The tournament is open to CYO Parish teams in the following divisions:

- **NOVICE** (born in 2008)
- **BANTAM** (born in 2007)
- **ROOKIE** (born in 2006)
- **INTERMEDIATE** (born in 2005)
- **TYRO** (born in 2003 & 2004)
- **JUNIOR** (born in 2001 & 2002)

- Games will be played at St. Gregory, St. Andrew, Our Lady of the Snows, St. John’s Prep. The format of the tournament will be DOUBLE ELIMINATION. Games will begin the weekend of December 8/9 and run through the Christmas Holiday Break. This will be a great way to prepare your teams for the upcoming season.

- The fee for the tournament is $125.00 per team, plus teams are responsible for the referee fee for each game. ($20.00 per team/per game). To reserve a spot please complete the bottom portion of this form and send it with payment to:

  **CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION**
  7200 DOUGLASTON PARKWAY
  DOUGLASTON, NY 11362
  **ATTN: ROB CALDERA**

  **CYO PRE-SEASON VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT ENTRY FORM**:

  **PARISH:**
  **PAR/AD:**

  **DIVISION (Check if entering tournament):**
  - NOVICE
  - BANTAM
  - ROOKIE
  - INTER
  - TYRO
  - JUNIOR

  **COACH’S NAME/PHONE/EMAIL:**

  **PAR/AD:**

  **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT ROB CALDERA AT 718-359-5540.**
On Saturday September 15th, 2018 the Parish Athletic Representatives attended the Play Like A Champion Today Conference at the Immaculate Conception Center in Douglaston. The day began with a prayer service led by Rev. Dwayne Davis, Pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas and member of the CYO Board of Directors. The prayer service was followed by breakfast where over fifty parish athletic representatives and athletic directors socialized as they prepared for the day. Kristin Sheehan, program director of the Play Like A Champion Today Educational Program conducted an energetic and very educational program, training our leaders the Sports as Ministry, A Catholic Mission for Coaches and Parents. The program’s theme was Developing Virtue Through Sports including topics such as Understanding the role as coach minister and Promoting the spiritual nature of sport.

The Play Like A Champion Today staff sent us a report and summary of the conference. They stated, “It is a true pleasure to partner with Brooklyn CYO today and for many years to come in creating a positive, growth filled, Catholic sport environment.”

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**Prayers for Coaches**

God,  
Grant me the insight to see the potential in every player;  
Patience to encourage improvement;  
And character to always set a winning example.  
May those I coach always see You in my life and be brought closer to you through me.  
Amen.

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**COACH’S CORNER**

Play Like a Champion Today prepares coaches to understand their coaching vocation as one of ministry. So what does it mean to be a Coach Minister to your team? Let’s explore! The word minister comes from the Latin ministerium which means service. Coaches provide a service to athletes, their families and the school community. They do this in the name of the Church. When you coach, you stand in the shoes of Jesus Christ, our greatest teacher and guide. Sports can be a ministerial endeavor when coaches embrace this concept in daily coaching habits. We urge coaches to make a commitment to living out Coaching as Ministry by implementing several of the following ideas on your team this season:

- Prayer before and after practices and games. Have athletes take turns leading prayers using either traditional prayer or free form.
- Team participation at Mass. Go as a team in uniform or church clothes before a game, or plan to sit together as a team if many attend the same Sunday Mass. Ask your priest to provide a special blessing for all the athletes present. You could also do this at the end of the season as a Mass of thanksgiving.
- Dedicate your practice/game to something specific and mention this in the opening prayer. Examples include learning something new, staying safe and healthy, improving a specific skill, or becoming a better teammate.
- Ask for the intercession of St. Sebastian, the patron saints of athletes. You could even distribute St. Sebastian medals to your team.
- Participate in a team service project. Have discussions with your team on the following topics: How can we use our Godgiven individual gifts and talents to become the best team?

Coaches should also reflect on how the idea of Coaching as Ministry impacts how you...

Develop each of your players’ skills and sense of confidence. Treat members of your team, your opponents, and officials. . . Exercise authority as a coach. Create lineups and distribute playing time.

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT WWW.CYODOB.ORG
This issue we take a look back at the 1977 CYO Diocesan Basketball Championships featuring CYO Hall of Famers Kevin Mahoney and Gary Evans.

The Tablet—March 31, 1977
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MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!