During the past year you have read a number of emails and letters in previous issues of the CYO newsletter on the Play Like A Champion Today, Character Education Through Sports Program. This June I had the great pleasure of attending my second Sports as Ministry Conference at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. I take this opportunity to share with you some of the highlights of this year’s conference.

The conference participants are influencing youth and high school sports in many different ways by providing opportunities for kids of all ages to play sports, a concept core to the Play Like A Champion Philosophy. These opportunities are because of the hard work, time and dedicated service each of you offer here in the Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens and I thank you for that. The theme for this year’s conference was “Champions for Life: Winning Together” consisting of over 150 Play Like A Champion partners across the country coming together to educate, connect and inspire.

This was a faith filled conference with excellent speakers inspiring us to go forth with ideas we can implement in our CYO programs here in Brooklyn and Queens. Some of the speakers included:

• Jack Swarbrick; current Vice president and Director of Athletics at the University of Notre Dame. During his tenure, Swarbrick has led the athletic department to impressive heights, claiming five national championships.

• Kathleen Hessert; A former award-winning television anchor, reporter and talk show host. Kathleen founded Sports Media Challenge, a reputation management, social media and GenZ consulting firm to major corporations, government and sports.

• Dr. Joe Congeni; current Director of Sports medicine at Akron’s Children Hospital in Ohio. For the past 25 years, Dr. Congeni has been the “go to” source for information about pediatric sports medicine.

• Anne Stricherz; current theology teacher and girls’ golf coach at St. Ignatius College Prep in San Francisco, CA. Anne is a national speaker, blogger and author of the book Pray and Practice with Purpose and teaches an elective course called Sports & Spirituality.

• Nick Créme; the founder and operator of the officials Academy in Cleveland, OH.

• Eric McElvenny; a Marine veteran and now endurance athlete. During his third deployment as a marine, Eric was wounded after stepping on an IED. After suffering an amputation of his right leg below the knee, he became an Ironman Triathlete.

• Ron Sandison; current advisory board member of Autism Society Faith Initiative of Autism Society of America.

• Mike Brey; Head Men’s Basketball Coach at the University of Notre Dame since 2000. Mike Brey has become one of the most respected basketball coaches in America.

• Bishop Donald Hying; Bishop of Gary, Indiana. Bishop Hying discussed What Sports Can Teach us about Religious Practice.

The speakers mentioned above along with many other speakers gave excellent, exciting and very interesting presentations on the following topics:

• Real Stories from the Field: Trauma Sensitive and Responsive Coaching
• Autism, Athletics and Activities
• Flow for Athletes; grace-filied experience that builds upon the spirituality present in the nature of sport
• Parent Like a Champion
• Crossing Boundaries: How Youth Sports Can Bring Us together
• What Sports Can Teach us about Religious Practice
• Creating a Safe Sports Environment
• Generation Z: Why They Zig When You Think They’ll Zag
• Sports Skill Development and Sport Readiness
• Developing Mental Skills in Athletes
• Sports and Spirituality: What if?
• Know Your Audience and How to Maximize Social Media
• CYO Referee Academy: You CAN Do This for Your Kids
• Winning Together: A New Collaborative Model with kinship at the Heart (continued on pg. 2)
The spirit of faith and community was the ideal backdrop for this leadership conference and I look forward to sharing with the Parish Athletic Representatives and Athletic Directors in detail my experience and gained knowledge from the conference. As you are aware, the CYO of the Diocese of Brooklyn has formed a partnership with the Play Like A Champion Today Educational Program and Staff. I am once again happy to announce that the Play Like A Champion Staff will be here in our diocese on September 15th, 2018 to conduct a Sports As ministry Educational Program workshop for our PARs at the annual PAR meeting. Our goal is that the Parish Athletic Representatives will train their coaches and parents on what they will learn from this mini-conference in September. For more details on the Play Like A Champion Today program visit the CYO website (www.cyodob.org) and click on the Play Like A Champion Today on the right side of the home page. Details and the Press Release of the partnership between the Diocese of Brooklyn CYO and Play Like A Champion Today Program is also available on the CYO website by clicking on the Winter 2018 Newsletter on the home page.

Included are some pictures from my visit to the University of Notre Dame and the conference. I had the wonderful experience of visiting Notre Dame Stadium and touching the famous Play Like A Champion Sign. On campus there is the beautiful Basilica of the Sacred Heart where we attended Mass on Saturday evening celebrated by Bishop Donald Hying.

God Bless,

Robert Caldera
Executive Director, Catholic Youth Organization

New CYO Hall of Famers Practiced Values of Sport
By Jim Mancari—The Tablet

The fifth annual Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) Hall of Fame ceremony recognized 10 deserving individuals who dedicated their lives to youth sports in the Diocese of Brooklyn.

The event was held at the Immaculate Conception Center, Douglaston, June 1, and honored individuals who have made significant contributions to CYO as a player, coach, clergy member, coordinator, official, parish representative, athletic director or other member of the community.

St. Columba, Marine Park, and Our Lady of Lourdes, Queens Village, each won the Kevin Mahoney Sportsmanship Award; Karsheem Robinson received the Bobby Cunningham Memorial Award; and eighth graders Chase Robinson from Our Lady of Lourdes and Alexa Boller from St. Adalbert, Elmhurst, won the Carol O'Connell Aim High Award through the CYO Essay Contest. Robinson and Boller each received a $1,000 scholarship for high school – Robinson to Archbishop Molloy H.S., Briarwood, and Boller to Msgr. McClancy H.S., East Elmhurst.

The following inductees make up this year’s CYO Hall of Fame class:

Msgr. John Brown, inducted posthumously, was ordained a priest in 1983. In all of his stops as pastor, his parishes had an organized CYO program. He notably served as pastor of St. Francis de Sales, Belle Harbor, and played an instrumental role in the parish’s relief efforts following Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

When he arrived at St. Thomas Aquinas, Flattlands, Msgr. Brown helped bring back the boys’ version of the Msgr. King Basketball Tournament. The girls’ version is now named in his honor.

He died on March 3, 2017. His legacy with CYO will continue in the form of the Msgr. John Brown Memorial CYO Role Model Award, won this year by basketball coach Dave Ostrowski from St. Columba.

Tony Colletti got his start in CYO as a baseball player at Our Lady of Hope, Middle Village, in the 1960s. He later served on the parish’s athletic board as baseball director for 15 years, parish athletic representative, vice president and president for the past five years.

He has coached boys’ and girls’ basketball for 33 seasons and girls’ softball for 29 seasons. In total, he has coached more than 400 children in over 1,600 CYO games – each one starting with a Hail Mary.

Gary Evans was a standout baseball and basketball player at St. Mary’s Winfield, Woodside, in the mid-1960s. Several years later, he began coaching both sports at the parish, and to this day, he is still coaching hoops.

Evans continued playing CYO baseball and basketball all the way through 1993, back when CYO had a Major division for adults. He also spent time as a professional paddleball player in New York City.

In addition to coaching, Evans served as a CYO basketball referee and baseball umpire for over 10 years. In the early 1980s, he received the Bishop Mugavero Award for his dedicated service.

Gerard Linci went from concerned parent to true pillar in the CYO sports history of St. Margaret, Middle Village. He first implemented an instructional basketball program at the parish and soon began a coaching career including nine years of softball and nearly 20 years of boys’ basketball.

Linci also took on the role of boys’ basketball athletic director. Through his work on the St. Margaret’s athletic board, the parish was able to raise funds for a new gym floor, scoreboards, backboards, portable baskets and new bleachers – making the gym a top destination for CYO playoffs games.

UPCOMING EVENTS

7/30 & 8/1—SUMMER LEAGUE BASKETBALL DIOCESAN CHAMPIONSHIPS @ MCCLAN- CY HIGH SCHOOL

8/1—PASTOR APPROVAL FORM FOR 2018-19 CYO SEA- SON DUE

8/1—2018 FALL SOCCER ENTRIES DUE

9/8—2018 FALL SOCCER SEASON BEGINS

9/12—PRESEASON BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT ENTRIES DUE

9/15—PAR MEETING/PLAY LIKE A CHAMPION CONFERENCE @ ICC CENTER

9/21—PRESEASON BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT BEGINS

9/23—SWIMMING COACHES MEETING

10/12—BOYS SWIMMING ENTRIES DUE

10/13-2018 GIRLS BASKETBALL REGULAR SEASON BEGINS

10/27—2018 BOYS BASKETBALL REGULAR SEASON BEGINS
New CYO Hall of Famers Practiced Values of Sport
By Jim Mancari—The Tablet (continued from p. 2)

Mary and Alex Leong have dedicated 20 years of service to CYO. Mary became an assistant coach for the TRI-M girls’ swim team at Our Lady of Mercy, Forest Hills, in 1998. She soon became head coach in 2000, with Alex serving as an assistant coach and team manager.

In 2005, the duo decided to start a boys’ swim team at the parish. Their teams have achieved 12 diocesan swimming championships. The program trains over 200 swimmers of all skill levels each year.

Brother Edward Shields, F.S.C., served at St. Gabriel Elementary School, East Elmhurst, for more than 38 years, with more than 25 of those as principal. In his early days there, he assisted the CYO track program, and in 1980, he became CYO moderator.

Brother Edward also served in vocation ministry at La Salle Academy in Manhattan, and currently serves as campus minister at St. Raymond’s H.S., the Bronx.

Warren Ring, inducted posthumously, began his service to CYO at Holy Innocents, Flatbush. He coached at many levels in track, swimming, basketball and baseball from 1965 to 1979. He also served as CYO swimming director during his tenure with the organization.

He was also a highly regarded track and field official. His specialty was working to ensure the athletes were organized and prepared to get to the starting line on time. He notably served as chief clerk at the 1996 Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta.

Ring was inducted into the USATF Officials Hall of Fame in 2009. He died in December 2014.

Sam Romanzo, volunteered as a coach and instructor at St. Robert Bellarmine, Bayside, instructional basketball clinic for 11 years. He eventually became the clinic’s director and helped lead the growth of the parish’s basketball program.

He later coached girls’ basketball and was named the parish’s basketball athletic director in 1998. In 2001, he became parish athletic representative and oversaw the renovation of the parish gym.

Romano then coached boys’ basketball while still continuing as parish athletic representative to this day. He has also served on the diocesan basketball rules committee and has helped organize a CYO Mass at St. Robert Bellarmine for Queens Deanery No. 5.

Fred Sporrer played CYO sports at St. Matthias, Ridgewood, starting in 1966. He then coached at the parish from 1974 to 1989, served as basketball athletic director from 1980 to 1989 and then as parish athletic representative from 1985 to 1989. Under his direction, the parish sports program grew from three teams to nearly 20.

Sporrer was also a CYO basketball referee for over 30 years from 1976 to 2008. Together with his wife Jean, they founded FJ Assigning, which assigns sports officials to numerous leagues throughout the City.

From 2008 to 2016, Sporrer served as a CYO sports coordinator. He retired in 2016 and lives with his wife in Port St. Lucie, Fla.

Tom Usischon started his CYO career as a batboy and basketball scorekeeper for his father’s teams at St. Vincent de Paul, Williamsburg. He then played basketball and baseball for the parish from 1969 to 1975. When he graduated college, he took over intermediate boys’ coaching duties.

Hoops is Therapeutic for St. Columba CYO Coach
By Jim Mancari—The Tablet

“That which does not kill us makes us stronger.” These famous words of the German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche are often applied to different situations.

For Dave Ostrowski, this phrase has been the guiding principle of his adult life, as he continues to serve as a role model for the youth of his community through the game of basketball.

Ostrowski has lived the past 13 years with IGA nephropathy, an autoimmune kidney disease that occurs when the antibody immunoglobulin lodges in the kidneys. The disease, more commonly known as Berger’s disease, hampers the body’s ability to filter wastes from the blood. It currently has no cure.

He was born with the condition, though it does not begin affecting someone until the ages of 18 to 22. Despite his diagnosis when he was 19, Ostrowski has passionately coached Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) boys’ basketball at St. Columba, Marine Park. Coaching has been exactly what he’s needed to take his mind off the disease.

The Marine Park native and St. Columba parishioner played CYO hoops at the parish before moving onto James Madison H.S., Homecrest, as a power forward on the basketball team. He began coaching CYO as a freshman at Kingsborough Community College in Manhattan Beach.

Over the years, he has coached third through 10th grade at St. Columba, often coaching two teams simultaneously. He typically moves up each year with the same group of players until they graduate out of the program. For his older CYO team, he coaches the same kids in the Amateur Athletic Union during the summer.

In 2011, Ostrowski joined the Gerritsen Beach Fire Department, where he worked his way up to an active lieutenant. As for his kidney disease, he monitored his status every six months and was able to live a relatively normal life.

“I try not to let it affect me,” the 31-year-old said. “To be honest, no one really knew since I kept this to myself. I’m a very optimistic person, and I try not to let it hinder me.”

However, last year the disease began progressing aggressively, so much so that Ostrowski had to go on medical leave from the fire department. Doctors told him he would need to undergo surgery for the insertion of a dialysis port in his abdomen.

Ostrowski had his surgery several weeks ago and began the process of peritoneal dialysis, a treatment for kidney failure that uses the lining of his abdomen to filter blood inside his body. Thanks to advances in technology, he’s been able to do dialysis treatments at home during his sleep.

Through this entire process, staying positive has been the key for Ostrowski, and coaching CYO has been a huge help. He’s able to enjoy something that he loves while placing the focus on basketball, rather than his plight.

(continued on p. 4)
Hoops is Therapeutic for St. Columba CYO Coach
By Jim Mancari—The Tablet

(continued from p.3)

and coaching CYO has been a huge help. He’s able to enjoy something that he loves while placing the focus on basketball, rather than his plight.

“It keeps me active; I love teaching the kids,” he said. “If there is something that I’m extremely passionate about, I love to watch them grow and to watch them excel. It’s something that I really love.”

In fact, he loves coaching so much that just four days after his surgery, he was back in the gymnasium cheering on his team.

“I love to be there for them,” he said. “I never want to miss anything with them. I love it.”

The coaching also had its physical benefits for Ostrowski. His doctors were amazed that despite his kidneys operating at less than 10 percent each, he was able to function somewhat normally.

Ostrowski has left a lasting impact on the hundreds of kids he’s coached. He will always be grateful to this year’s fourth grade St. Columba team, which had the idea of helping their coach with his surgery costs. His mother Patricia started a GoFundMe page online, and within a week, the family received more than $10,000 in donations from over 100 donors – many of whom are parishioners at the church.

He has devoted so much time into making a difference in the community, so donating to his cause served as a means for his former players and their parents to show their appreciation. It’s the least they could do for someone who has led by example on and off the basketball court.

“I’ve been through a lot at this point to where it’s made me a stronger person and I can relate to people who are going through similar issues,” Ostrowski said.

“I always have been a positive person, and that’s gone a long way for me as well.”

The next step for Ostrowski would be getting a kidney transplant. He will continue dialysis treatments until a donor comes forward. In New York, the wait list to receive a kidney from a cadaver is upwards of seven years.

“Getting the word out there is really more important than anything, because a live donor is the way to go,” Ostrowski said.

CYO & Futures in Education Golf Outing
June 7, 2018

On Thursday, June 7, Futures in Education and the Diocese of Brooklyn’s CYO program combined their efforts and hosted the first “A Round for Kids” Golf Outing at North Hills Country Club. This special outing took the place of the separate events previously held by both organizations. The event featured two very special guests, New York Sports legends David Cone and John Starks.

Proceeds from “A Round for Kids” will be split between the two organizations. Funding will go to Futures in Education’s Be an Angel to a Student Program and CYO’s sports programs.

SPORTS

CYO BASKETBALL—DIOCESAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The CYO Girls Diocesan Basketball championships took place from January 27th through February 25th with the finals taking place at St. John’s Prep High School in Astoria. Congratulations to all the teams that participated in the 2018 Girls Basketball Diocesan Championships. A special congratulations to the tournament champions and runner-up’s:

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<tr>
<th>DIVISION</th>
<th>CHAMPIONS</th>
<th>RUNNER-UP'S</th>
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<td>INTERMEDIATE GIRLS DIV I</td>
<td>HOLY TRINITY</td>
<td>BL. TRINITY</td>
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The CYO Boys Diocesan Basketball championships took place from February 24th through March 18th with the finals taking place at Msgr. McClancy Memorial High School in East Elmhurst. Congratulations to all the teams that participated in the 2018 Boys Basketball Diocesan Championships. A special congratulations to the tournament champions and runner-up’s:

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<td>JUNIOR</td>
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CYO VOLLEYBALL—DIOCESAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Congratulations to all the teams that participated in the 2018 Volleyball Diocesan Championships. A Special congratulations to the tournament champion’s and runner-up’s.

DIVISION | CHAMPIONS | RUNNER-UP’S
--- | --- | ---
PEE-WEE | ST. PANCRAS | GOH
NOVICE | ST. JOSEPH | SFDS
BANTAM | OL SNOWS | ST. GREGORY
ROOKIE | BL TRINITY | GOH
INTERMEDIATE | OL SNOWS | ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
JUNIOR | HOLY CHILD | OL SNOWS
TYRO | HOLY CHILD | ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

CYO SPRING SOCCER—DIOCESAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Congratulations to all the teams that participated in the 2018 Spring Soccer Diocesan Championships. A Special congratulations to the tournament champion’s and runner-up’s.

DIVISION | CHAMPIONS | RUNNER UP
--- | --- | ---
MIDGET BOYS | ST. ANDREW | OUR LADY OF GRACE
PEE WEE BOYS | ST. ANASTASIA | SACRED HEART
NOVICE BOYS | ST. ANASTASIA | ST. CAMILLUS VIRGILIANI
BANTAM BOYS | ST. LUKE | ST. JOSEPH
ROOKIE BOYS | ST. JOSEPH | ST. ANDREW
INTERMEDIATE BOYS | ST. LUKE | SACRED HEART
PEE WEE GIRLS | ST. CAMILLUS VIRGILIANI | OLPH
BANTAM GIRLS | OUR LADY OF HOPE | ST. PATRICK
INTERMEDIATE | ST. GREGORY | OUR LADY OF HOPE

CYO FLAG FOOTBALL—DIOCESAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Congratulations to all the teams that participated in the first CYO Boys Volleyball Diocesan Championships. A Special congratulations to the tournament champion.

DIVISION | CHAMPIONS | RUNNER’S
--- | --- | ---
PEE-WEE | CAMILLUS | SH GLENDALE
BANTAM | CAMILLUS | SFDS
INTERMEDIATE | ST. ANASTASIA | ST. ANDREW

CYO SOFTBALL—DIOCESAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Congratulations to all the teams that participated in the 2018 Softball Diocesan Championships. A Special congratulations to the tournament champion’s and runner-up’s.

DIVISION | CHAMPIONS | RUNNER UP
--- | --- | ---
PEE-WEE | OLBS | OL HOPE
BANTAM | ST. PANCRAS | OL HOPE
INTERMEDIATE | ST. CAMILLUS | OL HOPE

CYO BASEBALL—DIOCESAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Congratulations to all the teams that participated in the 2018 Baseball Diocesan Championships. A Special congratulations to the tournament champion’s and runner-up’s.

DIVISION | CHAMPIONS | RUNNER UP
--- | --- | ---
PEE-WEE | ST. CAMILLUS | ST. GREGORY
NOVICE | ST. CAMILLUS | QUEEN OF PEACE
BANTAM | ST. GREGORY | BELEANCED TRINITY
INTERMEDIATE | OLBS | ST. GREGORY
The Catholic Youth Organization crowned its boys’ diocesan swimming champions Jan. 6 at the Eisenhower Park Aquatics Center, East Meadow, L.I. This year’s champs are:

‘A’ Division
1st Place: St. Sebastian, Woodside, 389 pts.
2nd Place: AOK (St. Kevin, Flushing/St. Anastasia, Douglaston/Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, Bayside/Sacred Heart, Bayside), 361 pts.
3rd Place: OLAN (Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Sunset Park/St. Andrew the Apostle, Bay Ridge), 281 pts.

‘B’ Division
1st Place: LIAM (Our Lady of Lourdes, Queens Village/Incarnation, Queens Village/American Martyrs, Bayside/Holy Family, Flushing/Our Lady of the Snows, North Floral Park/St. Gregory the Great, Bellerose), 299 pts.
2nd Place: VICAM (St. Virgilius/St. Camillus, Rockaway Park), 291 pts.
3rd Place: St. Francis de Sales, Belle Harbor, 248 pts.

The Catholic Youth Organization crowned its girls’ swimming champions March 24 at the Eisenhower Park Aquatics Center, East Meadow, L.I. The following teams won their respective diocesan titles:

‘A’ Division: St. Sebastian, Woodside, 339 pts.
‘B’ Division: Holy Name, Park Slope, 292.5 pts.
‘C’ Division: LIAM (Our Lady of Lourdes, Queens Village/Incarnation, Queens Village/American Martyrs, Bayside), 306 pts.
Here Are the Winners of The Diocesan Religion Bee
The Tablet—May 16, 2018

Regional winners from Brooklyn and Queens competed in the Diocesan Religion Bee at the Immaculate Conception Center, Douglaston, May 8. Auxiliary Bishop Paul Sanchez, presented awards to the winners.

Here are the winners according to grade level:

Academies and Catholic Schools

Grade Levels 3-5
First – Nickolas Talusan, Immaculate Conception Catholic Academy, Jamaica
Second – Ariana Ayala, St. Ephrem School, Dyker Heights
Third – Ryan Murano, Good Shepherd Catholic Academy, Marine Park
Honorable Mention – Raniel Pasaoa, Immaculate Conception Catholic Academy

Grade Levels 6-8
First – Ann Torres, Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Academy, Forest Hills
Second – Daelyn Pena, St. Brigid Catholic Academy, Bushwick
Third – Scarlett Cordero, St. Brigid Catholic Academy
Honorable Mention – Ana Mauro, St. Luke, Whitestone

Parish Religious Education Programs

Grades Three to Five
First – Mateusz Saczo, St. Adalbert, Elmhurst
Second – Joseph Torre, St. Adalbert, Elmhurst
Third – Christopher Perez, St. Michael, Flushing
Honorable Mention – Shane Aird, Christ the King, Springfield Gardens

Grades Six to Eight
Allen Nieva, St. Adalbert, Elmhurst
Second – Sara Flores, Our Lady of the Angelus, Rego Park
Third – Shanyla Desamours, Christ the King, Springfield Gardens
Honorable Mention – Christopher Sanon, Christ the King, Springfield Gardens

Nelsa Elias of the diocesan Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis coordinated the event. The judges were Father Joseph Gibino, coordinator of the diocesan secretariat; Robert Caldera, diocesan director of CYO; Annmarie Creighton of the CYO Office; and Barbara Mc Ardle, assistant superintendent for Catholic Identity, Catholic Schools Office.

On the way to events. . .
1. Ask your child to set goals for the game: a physical goal, a mental goal & a sportsmanship goal.
2. Remind your child (and yourself) to have fun
3. Say a prayer of thanksgiving with your child for the chance to play.
At the event . . .
4. Be positive with players, fans, opponents, coaches & officials.
5. Remain calm and in control of your worlds and actions.
6. Take a deep breath or step away from the game if you grow angry.
7. Applaud good play on both teams.
On the way home . . .
8. Ask your child, “How do you think the game went?”
9. Point out signs of sportsmanship shown in the game.
10. Express your love for your child regardless of the outcome.