The annual Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) Mass, sponsored by the 10 parishes in Queens Deanery No. 5 was celebrated at American Martyrs Church, Bayside, on Saturday, Oct. 21. Father Frank Schwarz, pastor and main celebrant, offered a special blessing to the boys and girls as they began a new CYO season. Father Robert Mema, parochial vicar at St. Kevin Church, Flushing, gave the homily.

Other concelebrants included Father Mark Bristol, parochial vicar at St. Anastasia, Douglaston; Father Szymon Galazyn, parochial vicar at St. Gregory the Great, Bellerose; and Father Kevin McBrien, pastor of Our Lady of the Snows, North Floral Park. Each young boy and girl received a special blessing for the new CYO season.

Welcome
Dear CYO Community,

This year the CYO, Diocese of Brooklyn will partner with the Play Like a Champion Today Educational Series. Play Like a Champion Today is a national coach and parent education program designed specifically to elevate the culture of Catholic school-sponsored sports. Crafted by leaders in the fields of sport psychology, coaching education, Catholic theology and moral development, Play Like a Champion works in partnership with our schools to enable the athletic experience to be a missionary tool to develop our youth physically, socially, morally and spiritually.

The benefits of the clinic include:

- The Play Like a Champion workshop is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation for Coaching Education (NCACE)
- Support for coaches to understand their role as ministers of our Church
- An emphasis on the spiritual nature of sport, including faith formation through athletics
- A Comprehensive Coaching for Character Development Manual
- Research-based motivational and team-building strategies
- A comprehensive approach to building character and morality through sport
- Best practices in developing positive relationships with parents

Community building opportunities with your fellow CYO coaches

We will conduct a clinic on Saturday, September 15, 2018 from 9AM until 3PM at the Immaculate Conception Center in Douglaston. The registration process will be announced at a later date.

Thank you for your willingness to serve the CYO in the Diocese of Brooklyn community through your coaching and leadership. We are confident that you will have the opportunity to develop your coaching philosophy and have a transformational impact upon the athletes you coach through the Play Like a Champion Today approach.

Sincerely,
Robert Caldera
Executive Director
Catholic Youth Organization

UPCOMING EVENTS
1/27/18—GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYOFFS BEGIN
2/24/18—BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYOFFS BEGIN
2/25/18—GIRLS BASKETBALL DIOCESAN FINALS—1PM ST. JOHN’S PREP
3/1/18—FLAG FOOTBALL ENTRIES DUE
3/4/18—GIRLS SWIMMING OLYMPICS—EISENHOWER PARK
3/5/18—BASEBALL & SOFTBALL MEETING—6:45 @ IC CENTER
3/9/18—BASEBALL & SOFTBALL ENTRIES DUE
3/18/18—BOYS BASKETBALL FINALS—1PM @ MCCLANCY
3/24/18—CYO FLAG FOOTBALL BEGINS
4/7/18—BASEBALL, SOFTBALL & SPRING SOCCER BEGINS
4/15/18—CYO CHEERLEADING SHOWCASE—3PM CHRIST THE KING HS
4/19/18—VOLLEYBALL DIOCESAN PLAYOFFS BEGIN
4/21/18—DIOCESAN YOUTH AT @ ST. JOHN’S UNIVERSITY
The Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) of Brooklyn and Queens has always preached the importance of sportsmanship among the youth who participate in its activities.

When young athletes place sportsmanship above winning, the CYO knows its mission is being put into practice.

At the annual boys’ swimming Olympics held Dec. 16 at the Eisenhower Park Aquatics Center, East Meadow, L.I., three swimmers displayed the values of what CYO sports are truly all about.

In the Senior Division 100-yd. Individual Medley (IM), Youssef Elkhouly from OLAN (a combined team of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Andrew the Apostle, Bay Ridge) set a new record with a time of 57.05.

Also setting a record with a time of 57.91 was second-place finisher Brian Baldwin of Good Shepherd, Marine Park. Rounding out the top three was St. Francis de Sales (SFDS), Belle Harbor, swimmer Danny Cornish at 1:01.55.

But what makes this situation unique is that these 14-year-old swimming sensations are all good friends outside the pool.

The trio has swum either with or against each other for a number of years. Brian and Danny have been friends since the fourth grade, and they met Youssef through competing with U.S.A. Swim.

At the CYO Olympics, each swimmer may only compete in one event. Brian and Danny spoke beforehand about which event they would be swimming, and both had a feeling they would be swimming against Youssef.

 Rather than choose another event with a better chance of winning, Brian and Danny decided to test themselves and put their best effort forward in the 100- yd. IM. All three also wanted to race the Senior IM together, since this would be their last CYO Olympics.

“Not every time the same person is going to win,” said Brian, a freshman at Xavier H.S., Manhattan. “With Danny and Youssef, we really didn’t know who was going to win. We went into the race knowing that it was going to be close with all three of us.”

A Thrilling Finish

Youssef, Brian and Danny were the only three participants in the 100- yd. IM, which is made up of the butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke and freestyle. All eyes in the Eisenhower Park Aquatics Center were fixated on their every stroke.

When Youssef completed his swim and looked up at the board, he saw he had shattered the previous record by a second and a half – a significant time in swimming. Brian’s time also set a new CYO record.

It turns out last year’s first and second place finishers in the 100- yd. IM also both set records. Even more coincidentally, the previous record holder was Danny’s brother Kyle Cornish from SFDS who edged Brian’s brother Sean from Good Shepherd.

After the race, all three swimmers came off the deck smiling and patting each other on the back in a commendable show of sportsmanship.

“Coming into it, all three of us knew it would be close,” said Danny, a freshman at Chaminade H.S., Mineola, L.I. “We were talking to each other before the race at the meet, so we were prepared for whatever happened. We’re always proud of each other for our accomplishments.”

Brian and Danny likely would have finished first in any other event they chose to swim. However, they tested themselves against a talented competitor in Youssef, and all three were ecstatic with the final results – knowing that they each gave their best effort.

“Competing against them throughout all these years has been great because every time if they beat me in a race or I beat them in a race, they give me a handshake and say ‘good job’ no matter what,” said Youssef, a freshman at Telecommunications H.S., Bay Ridge. “Although we’re competitive in the water, we’re still friendly outside at all times.”
McGoldrick-Raico, a member of the CYO board of directors.

McGoldrick-Raico is the girls’ JV coach at Xaverian H.S., Bay Ridge. She also coached varsity volleyball for 16 years at St. Edmund’s Prep H.S., Sheepshead Bay, and served as an assistant coach at St. Francis College, Brooklyn Heights.

She proposed the idea of a sand volleyball tournament to CYO director Rob Caldera at the end-of-year meeting, and Caldera thought it was a great idea.

“It’s been my vision and my theory that sand is the next big movement in the sport like this, sand, that wouldn’t necessarily be and represent their parish.”

The turnout for the first-ever tournament was impressive. Eight teams competed in the Bantam/Rookie division; while the Intermediate and Junior divisions contained 12 teams each. A total of 110 girls participated across the three divisions.

The sand tournament allowed CYO to reach youngsters who may not already be involved with the organization as well as kids who play CYO sports throughout the year but maybe not in the summer.

CYO instituted a summer basketball league four years ago, so the volleyball tournament has continued the movement of keeping local children involved in CYO sports all year-round.

“If we have a kid, we’re trying to offer more so that we keep them involved in our program for a longer period of the year,” Goldberg said. “Not only are we offering new programs, hopefully we’re picking up new kids who weren’t previously involved.”

As for volleyball, working on their sand game can be an integral factor for these girls as they prepare for their upcoming indoor season.

“One sport feeds the other,” McGoldrick-Raico said. “The sand game is so different than the indoor game in that it allows any kid to develop the skills in all the areas of the game, and that translates into tremendous improvement. ‘Having tournaments like this allows them to use their training in a competitive way, which is also important, and it gives them an opportunity to take a sport like this, sand, that wouldn’t necessarily be and represent their parish.’

Based on the initial success, expect to see the CYO take over the Rockaway beaches for this sand volleyball tournament each summer moving forward.

REFLECTIONS FOR CYO COACHES

The following words are excerpts from the MESSAGE of HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS on the occasion of the International Sport Seminar:

“All of us, in life, need educators, mature, wise and balanced people who help us to grow in the family, in our studies, in work and in faith…. The athletic coach, especially in the Catholic environment of sports, can become for so many kids and young people, very important for the development of a mature, harmonious and complete person.”

“The presence of a good educator-coach is providentially revealed especially in the years of adolescence and early youth when the personality is actively developing and seeking models to refer to and identify with….”

“...how important it is for a coach to be an example of integrity, coherence, of right judgement and impartiality, patience and the capacity for respect... How important it is for a coach to be an example of faith!!”

CYO SWIMMING—BOYS OLYMPICS

December 16, 2017

Although it has been a challenging year, all in attendance performed their very best. Five records were broken:

- Timi Faba of LIAM broke the Junior 25 yard Butterfly record that was set last year with a time of 12.48. (I neglected to announce this broken record at the meet as I confused the official time with a different one.)
- Matthew Beehler of STORM broke his own Junior 50 yard Backstroke record by more than a second. The new record is 27.77. Matthew still owns two CYO records. I don’t think we have seen the last of Matthew’s accomplishments.
- Joe Brennan of VICAM broke the six year old Senior 50 yard Breast-stroke record by almost two seconds with a time of 28.86. I would like to note that Yousef Hafez, of OLAN, who owned the Junior Butterfly record before Timi Faba broke it, came in a close second to Joe. Yousef also had a record breaking time.
- Yousef Ekhoury of OLAN broke the 100 yard IM record by a second and half with a winning time of 57.05. Once again, the second place winner, Brian Baldwin from Good Shepherd also had a record breaking time.
- The Senior Relay team of AOK in the 200 Yard Freestyle Relay shattered the record by over two and a half seconds with a time of 1:37.73. Jonathan Bonadio, William Chu, Joseph Espinal and Justin Schafer all swam a fantastic race.

The best part of our CYO league is the sportsmanship displayed at our events. The parents and swimmers cheer everyone on and although each swimmer would love to go home with the first place medal, the cheers are as loud or louder for the swimmer last to the wall. Everyone recognizes the effort that the smallest swimmer puts into a race.

CYO VOLLEYBALL—PRESEASON CHRISTMAS TOURNAMENT

Congratulations to all the teams that participated in the 2017 Volleyball Preseason Christmas Tournament. A Special congratulations to the tournament champion’s and runner-up’s.

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**CYO FALL SOCCER—DIOCESAN CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Congratulations to all the teams that participated in the 2017 Fall Soccer Diocesan Championships. A Special congratulations to the tournament champions and runner-up’s.

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**CYO BASKETBALL**

**CYO TEAMS PLAY AT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN -11/30/17**

Elizabeth Meade has been living with Epilepsy since the age of 5 1/2. Since her diagnosis, her life has changed: ER visits, brain MRIs, EEG testing 2-3 times annually, blood work several times per year. She needs to take antiseizure medication every day. She meets with her Neurologist every 6 months to discuss side effect, prognosis, and treatment options.

She is very fortunate that the medication she has been taking works well to control her seizures, however they do come with side effects.

They may alter her mood, interfere with her concentration, and affect her schoolwork. Despite all of that, she has a very normal and fulfilling life: plays basketball, softball, and Irish dancing.

She is actually one of the lucky ones because her medication does its job and controls her seizures. Some people are not so fortunate.

After receiving an e-mail from the Epilepsy foundation about a program called “Athletes vs Epilepsy”, her mom Cathy asked St. As’ basketball director, Lou Pagnotta if St. Adalbert would consider sponsoring a “Nothin’ but Net” Epilepsy Awareness tournament that would help raise awareness and much needed funding for people living with Epilepsy. Without hesitation, he said yes and then offered to raise it up to CYO to ask for their help. They graciously agreed to sponsor it, and donated 200 purple and white t-shirts for the cause.

On Monday January 15th, the first annual Athletes Vs Epilepsy tournament took place. The event was hosted by St Adalbert Catholic Academy, and sponsored by Catholic Youth Organization of Brooklyn & Queens. With the support of parents, young athletes, and CYO, the event was a huge success! A total of 6 games were played @ St. Adalbert vs. neighboring parish, Our Lady of Hope.

Parents from both schools baked treats for a bake sale, t-shirts donated by CYO, and Epilepsy awareness bracelets were sold. The event along with Facebook fundraising raised over $1900.00 for the cause!

For more information or to make a safe & secure donation please go to: https://epilepsyfoundation.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=donordrive.participantDonations&participantID=11872
Media Release

Playing Like Champions in the
Diocese of Brooklyn Catholic Youth Organization
Education Program Aims to Elevate the Culture of Catholic Sports

The Diocese of Brooklyn Catholic Youth Organization will join in partnership with the Play Like a Champion Today Character Education Through Sports program in September 2018. Rob Caldera, Executive Director of the CYO, welcomes the opportunity to work with Play Like a Champion, saying: “Play Like a Champion sees coaching as a form of ministry, and challenges coaches to develop the whole athlete: physically, mentally, socially and spiritually. Our parishes look forward to gaining tools to enhance our total Catholic athletic experience.”

Winning-at-all-costs coaching, sports specialization, and parent “sports rage” are just a few of the problems eroding the culture of sports today. The Play Like a Champion Today program is designed to provide children and adolescents with the highest quality faith-based sports experience possible.

The program’s resources are developed in collaboration with faculty at the University of Notre Dame’s Shaw Center for Children and Families and with social scientists, philosophers, theologians, sport scientists, and physicians in universities nationally and internationally. Play Like a Champion helps sports organizations by educating coaches and parents to make sports more safe, fun, and developmentally enriching.

By partnering with Play Like a Champion, the CYO will bring their “Coaching as Ministry” clinic to the local catholic parishes to participate in the training. Saturday, September 15, 2018 will be the partnership launch date in which the first coach trainings will take place for the Parish Athletic Representatives (PAR’s), who will become trained “Local Certified Trainers” of the curriculum. Once the PAR’s are trained, they will in turn train the coaches in their parishes.

The Pontifical Council for the Laity, convened a May 2015 conference for coaches. In his address to the gathering, Pope Francis insisted that coaches receive a solid formal education: “Educators must be educated.” It is up to sports organizations “to pay due attention to and invest the necessary resources in the professional preparation, both human and spiritual, of coaches.” Through the partnership with Play Like a Champion Today, the Brooklyn CYO joins with more than 2,000 schools and sports organizations across more than 50 dioceses committed to answering Pope Francis call to educate their coaches.

Play Like a Champion Today workshops are nationally accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Coaching Education (NCACE.) Play Like a Champion has partners in forty-two states across the United States and Canada, and has educated over 100,000 coaches and parents who in turn have impacted the lives of over a million athletes.
Workshop evaluation data confirm the effectiveness of the Play Like a Champion Today program. For example, over 90% of coaches attending the clinics were satisfied with the experience, and agreed to fully implement the Champion approach to coaching for character development. When asked about the impact of the parent workshop, most respondents (86%) strongly agreed that they would commit to being a more positive presence on the sidelines by avoiding coaching their child from the sidelines.

Pope Francis spoke in his Vatican Radio address about “the importance of sport in moral education, since the sporting spirit is one that teaches the need for discipline, effort, and sacrifice to succeed and achieve excellence – becoming a constant reminder of the sacrifices necessary to grow in the virtues that build the character of a person.” Play Like a Champion works to instill these virtues in young athletes, their parents, and coaches across the country. “If Catholic-sponsored sports programs are going to achieve their full-potential as envisioned by Pope Francis, Catholic parishes and dioceses must invest in preparing coaches and sport parents to understand sports as a vehicle to teach gospel values. When sport programs partner with Play Like a Champion, they run a program in sync with our Christian community and effectively develop young people to become disciples of our Church. We are thrilled to partner with the Diocese of Brooklyn CYO in this effort,” says Sheehan, Play Like a Champion Program Director.

For more information on Play Like a Champion Today’s Character Education Through Sports Initiative, visit the website at www.playlikeachampion.org or you may contact 574.250.6424

For more information on The Diocese of Brooklyn CYO, visit their website at http://www.cyodob.org/ or you may contact 718.281.9548

UPCOMING EVENTS

St. Rose of Lima—Rockaway Visits the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

The St. Rose of Lima 7th Grade boys team with Coach/PAR Robert Steiner will be participating the 15th annual Jimmy V Cancer Education and Basketball Classic on February 23, 2018 at the St. John the Evangelist Parish Center in Morrisville, PA.

The Jimmy V Cancer Education and Basketball Classic is a high energy, fun and emotional event for the 50 teams; 500 players and over 4,000 people who attend what has become known as ‘4 special days’……players are introduced before the games; music is played throughout the games; high quality food; raffles and silent auction items up on the stage with the Jimmy V’s famous ‘Don’t Give up…..Don’t Ever Give Up’ speech playing in the entrance throughout the event; Spirit of Jimmy V Awards given to deserving players on each team as well as speeches from people who have been affected by cancer.

During the past 15 years the Philadelphia Friends of V is proud to have donated over $300,000.00 to cancer research……..we have also impacted thousands of players, coaches, sponsors and spectators on the need for an positive impacts of cancer research.
SECRETARIAT FOR EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHESIS
Hall of Fame
Nomination Form

We are currently seeking nominations for individuals to be elected into the CYO Hall of Fame. Nominations must be submitted directly to the CYO office, at the above address. Deadline for nomination is February 28, 2018. We are also asking you to help us publicize the opportunity to nominate by including the news in your parish bulletin, newspapers, website or other locations. If you have any questions please contact the CYO office at 718.281.9548.

NOMINATION GUIDELINES, GENERAL RULES & QUALIFICATIONS
Nominee must have made significant contributions to the CYO athletic programs as a player, coach, parish athletic representative, athletic director, official, clergy, league coordinator, supervisor or other member of our community whose accomplishments have been of the highest caliber over an extended period of time that brought to life the Mission, Philosophy, and values of the Diocese of Brooklyn CYO.

CANDIDATE

I NOMINATE __________________________ for induction into the CYO HALL OF FAME.

____ LIVING  ____ DECEASED (PLEASE CHECK ONE)

PARISH ________________________________

SPOUSE ___________________ CHILDREN ________________

CANDIDATE’S INFORMATION

ADDRESS __________________________________________

CITY ___________________ STATE _______ ZIP ____________

HOME PHONE __________ WORK PHONE ______________

CELL PHONE ___________ E-MAIL _______________________

*IF DECEASED PLEASE INCLUDE FAMILY CONTACT INFORMATION

RELATIONSHIP ____________________________

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Please provide a summary of the Nominee’s CYO Involvement. Please Include length of service, parish and the activity/position. (Please submit additional material or use additional sheets if necessary)

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Please provide a summary, outlining the community involvement of the Nominee. Please include length of service, organization and the activity/position.

NOMINATOR’S INFORMATION

NAME ________________________________

ADDRESS ___________________________ CITY ___________ STATE _______ ZIP ____________

HOME PHONE __________ WORK PHONE ______________ CELL PHONE ___________

E-MAIL ________________________

2018 CYO HALL OF FAME MASS, DINNER & INDUCTION CEREMONY— JUNE 1st, 2018— ICC CENTER—DOUGLASTON, NY