Thousands came to the beach to see the magnificent spectacle provided by all branches of the US military, flying overhead with impressive speed and power as well as floating just beyond the shore, demonstrating the amazing breadth of powerful vessels, aircraft and equipment available for our national defense.

The National Salute to America’s Heroes is a 365-day initiative designed to pay tribute, honor and encourage our military and first responder heroes. The main component of this initiative is a world class Air & Sea Show on Miami Beach.

The Salute showcases our country’s state of the art military technology, dynamic sea events, the finest musical talent and more!

Catholic Health Services and the Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Miami support our military, first responders and their families, every day of the year. Representatives were present to share the story of our special and sacred contribution of honoring our fallen heroes by providing them eternal rest within the Catholic family.
Catholic Health Services announced that The Joint Commission’s Gold Seal of Approval® for Stroke Rehabilitation Certification has been awarded to St. Catherine’s Rehabilitation Hospitals. The Gold Seal of Approval® is a symbol of quality that reflects an organization’s commitment to providing safe and effective patient care.

St. Catherine’s Rehabilitation Hospitals have undergone rigorous on-site review where Joint Commission experts evaluated compliance with national disease-specific care standards as well as with Stroke Rehabilitation-specific requirements. Clinical practice guidelines and performance measures also were assessed.

Established in 2002 and awarded for a two-year period, The Joint Commission’s Disease-Specific Care Certification evaluates clinical programs across the continuum of care and addresses three core areas:

- Compliance with consensus-based national standards;
- Effective use of evidence-based clinical practice guidelines to manage and optimize care; and
- An organized approach to performance measurement and improvement activities.

“St. Catherine’s Rehabilitation Hospitals have thoroughly demonstrated a high level of care for patients with stroke,” said Patrick Phelan, executive director, Hospital Business Development, The Joint Commission. “We commend St. Catherine’s Rehabilitation Hospitals for becoming leaders in stroke care, and aiming to provide a higher standard of service for stroke patients in the community.”

“St. Catherine’s Rehabilitation Hospitals are proud to accept this special Certification from The Joint Commission, the premier health care quality improvement and accrediting body in the nation,” added Jaime Gonzalez, Executive Director. “The certification provides us with the framework to create a culture of excellence for those in our community. It is further useful in ensuring a consistently high level of quality, using effective data-driven performance improvement.”
St. Joseph and his Family still lead by example

Contributed by: Father Antony Vayalikarottu, Pastoral Care, Villa Maria Nursing Center

Down through the ages of history we have heard the words of great saints such as St. Augustine and other great teachers of the Church. The teachings of St. Thomas Aquinas are still predominant in the formation programs of those who are studying for the priesthood along with the great early Fathers of the Church.

In this article I want to give special attention to a man whose words we have never heard, in all of the Bible and in all of Christian literature there is not one recorded word uttered by St. Joseph, and yet he is recognized as the patron saint of the Church. Shouldn’t we give him our attention, reflect on his role, and recognize the importance of his role in the history of our salvation? Shouldn’t we, wordless as we seem to be in the great scheme of things, reflect on Joseph’s importance and on our in God’s plans for our human family?

I can’t help but note here that 80% of the inmate populations in our nation’s prisons are fatherless, fatherless in the sense that they grew up without any fathers in their childhood homes. If you read any of the literature about fatherless children you realize that they were raised and formed without a vital component in their psychological and spiritual formation, a necessary part in their lives the absence of which has contributed to a lot of misery in their lives, namely the guidance of their fathers.

In His infancy and throughout His formative years Jesus Christ was not fatherless. He grew up in what we now call a “traditional family,” one in which Joseph played a vital role. What about this wordless man? What can we say about his character traits and how should they influence us? In these few brief moments I can only bring up a few points but they are points on that should be considered.

The first thing that comes to mind is his protectiveness. It’s striking that when his fiancée, Mary, came upon pregnant his first impulse was to protect her, certainly an unexpected and extraordinary reaction on his part. Clearly he would have wanted an explanation. In response to his love for Mary he received an immediate explanation, one coming from one of God’s angels. St. Matthew reports: Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

To say the least this was a life changing event for him. It was, however, not the only one. Shortly after the birth of Jesus the angel spoke to him again. St. Matthew tells us: When they had departed, behold the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him.” Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled. “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

Subsequently, upon King Herod’s death, we have third words from God’s angel as reported by St. Matthew: When Herod had died, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said: “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” He rose, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel.

We need to realize something of great importance in Joseph and then realize its importance to us. He was open to the voice of God and was obedient to the will of God. Amidst all Joseph’s worries and concerns, amidst all that he had to do to protect and nourish his family, Joseph, The Wordless One, could hear the words the angel that came from God. That should speak to us. That should speak to us in our own family life. That should prompt us to reflect on how open we are to hear words of love and words that challenge us when our natural inclinations lead us otherwise.

Another important point to consider is the fact that Jesus was not only the Son of God who became incarnate of the Blessed Virgin Mary, he was not only fully God. He was at the same time fully man. He took on our human nature and therefore grew from infancy through His teenage years and then into adulthood as we do. Joseph was His earthly father. Joseph’s character, faith, and manhood shaped Christ’s development into manhood. When you stop and think about that truth its implications are quite profound. Jesus’ character was largely formed by Joseph, his earthly father.

Joseph was a carpenter. He measured things carefully before he cut. Carpenters are that way. Which leads me to ask: “How do I measure things before I speak and before I act?” Are the voices I hear within me voices that speak God’s words or are they urges and inspirations that come from voices not of God? And when I do in fact pay attention to my inner voices, how measured and careful are my actions that flow from them?

So as you gather around your family table this day you may want to share with each other what you as a family value. What are the values that shape and influence you? You may be a single parent but you and your children come from an extended family. If you are single you likewise come from an extended family. We all have families of one sort or another and those families shape and form your attitudes, your outlook on life, and your own values. What are they and how do they help you to be the person you are? Perhaps the role that Joseph played in the life of Jesus can help you in the role you play in the lives of those around you. Joseph’s words are not recorded in the Bible but your words can be written in the hearts of those who know you.

God made us to love and to care, to love and to care not only for our children, not only for the members of our family, but for all whom God has placed in our lives. A great part of caring is to protect what is valuable in life and to cherish those values that are essential for preserving and fostering the human family. This is one reason among others why priests are addressed as “Father.” They, like Joseph, care for, protect, and nourish all of the members of our family of faith. Even so, if you are male or female, married or single, Joseph’s role is also your role as well as mine.

May Joseph’s example inspire us all, members as we are of our great human family.

Reference: Matthew 2, 13-15, 19-23
CHS Day at Marlins Park

Honored Employees from throughout CHS met at home plate with Billy the Marlin as Joe Catania, CEO, congratulated them and expressed his appreciation of their commitment to the Mission, our patients and residents.

(left to right: Jacqueline Jackson, St. John’s Nursing Center; Luis Martinez, St. Anna’s; Rosa Lambert, St. Catherine’s West; Sheikh Ashed, CHS; David Goyochea, St. Boniface Gardens; Joe Catania, President/CEO, CHS; Leyda Miranda, Catholic Hospice; Sylvia Collins; CHS; Linda Johnson, St. Catherine’s East; Elanie Chambers, St. Joseph)
Congratulations to Esther Rodriguez who completed the Catholic Cemetery Conference School of Leadership and Management course in Land Management at the University of Notre Dame.

We are so proud of Ofelia Spardy and Maria Trujillo who completed the Catholic Cemetery Conference School of Leadership and Management course in Leadership at the University of Notre Dame.

These students are working toward a four year Cemetery Management certificate.

Laura Ryan, assumed the responsibilities of Director of Business Development on April 2nd, 2017. Mrs. Ryan has over 10 years of healthcare and provider relations experience, and started at Catholic Hospice as a marketing representative. Previous to joining Catholic Hospice, she was the administrator at Brookdale Senior Living.

“I am very pleased to have Laura Ryan join the leadership team of Catholic Hospice. Laura brings years of experience and passion to her position. She is dedicated to supporting our mission of care within the community”, said Ms. Bonnie Alkema, Executive Director.

“It is my honor to represent Catholic Hospice and Palliative Care, as well as our E’chain program. I am blessed to be part of this amazing group of individuals. Together we work to enhance the lives of our patients and families, leaving them with hope and comfort,” said Mrs. Ryan.

Paul Rozynes, M.D., FAAHPM, Medical Director comes to Catholic Hospice with over 40 years of medical experience, and was previously the Medical Director of Vitas Healthcare in Broward County. He assumed the responsibilities of Medical Director on June 19th, 2017.

“We welcome Dr. Rozynes to our leadership team. We feel his knowledge and experience will support the Catholic Hospice mission. He is a great addition to Catholic Hospice, and we look forward to working with him,” said Ms. Bonnie Alkema, Executive Director.

Dr. Rozynes received his Bachelor’s Degree of Science, with Honors in Chemistry from the University of Florida. He went on to receive his Doctorate in Medicine from the University of Miami where he proceeded to do his residency in the affiliated hospitals, Jackson Memorial and the VA. He is board certified in Internal Medicine and in Hospice and Palliative Care.

“I cherish the opportunity to work with a great organization and with devoted individuals,” said Dr. Rozynes.
50 years of gratitude and best wishes to Roslyn Williams

Property Manager for Archbishop McCarthy Residence, Roslyn Williams has decided to retire from her position effective August 31st. Roslyn has been at Archbishop McCarthy Residence for about 30 years and with the Archdiocese of Miami 20 years before joining us at Catholic Housing Management.

She has welcomed thousands of residents through the doors of Archbishop McCarthy Residence and made each one feels special as she helped them make a new home. She has been the smiling face every morning, the words of encouragement, the problem solving idea, all while keeping up with the ever increasing demands of managing a very busy HUD subsidized housing community, day after day. She will always be remembered for the love and respect she shared with each of her residents over her many dedicated years of service.

We will be sad to see her go but we wish her the best in her next chapter!

...from Senior Housing

Leading Age Florida honors Lisett Fernandez-Montero of St. Dominic Gardens in Miami

Nominated by her supervisor, Mario Yanes, property manager at St. Dominic Gardens, Lisett Fernandez-Montero was awarded Social Service Coordinator of the year by Leading Age Florida at the Leading Age Conference in Orlando in July. Juana Mejia, VP housing development & operations comments, “This is a well-deserved award. Lisett is greatly appreciated not only by her team mates, but most importantly by the seniors she serves with so much love and respect every day.”

Melissa Gilreath, Housing Chair for Leading Age Florida and Steve Bahmer, President and CEO of Leading Age Florida, alongside Lisett Fernandez-Montero as she accepts her award.
Summer is the time to be in the WATER... aquatic therapy-style!

Aquatic therapy is the time-honored treatment for relief of pain and the means of strengthening of all the muscles of the body. It dates back to the Roman baths, where the water was heated to 100 degrees to assist in relaxation and facilitate movement. The ancient Greeks and Romans went to certain natural hot springs resorts to "take the waters", because these waters had special healing properties.

The aquatic therapy program offered at St. Anthony’s and St. Catherine’s Rehabilitation Hospitals is a therapeutic procedure which improves function through specialized exercises. Basic aquatic principles such as buoyancy, resistance and hydrostatic pressure are applied to promote the overall rehabilitation and personal fitness and wellness of the person served.

Benefits and Goals of aquatic therapy
• Improvement in cardiopulmonary fitness
• Improvement in range of motion and muscle strength
• Improvement in gait
• Improvement in posture
• Improvement in balance
• Improvement in flexibility
• Improves circulation which promotes healing
• Improves limb movement against gravity
• Decrease in pain

Water Safety Tips from our friends at the International Swimming Hall of Fame

• Teach children water safety and swimming skills as early as possible.
• Appoint a "designated watcher" to monitor children during social gatherings at or near pools.
• Equip doors and windows that exit to a pool area with alarms.
• Post CPR instructions and learn the procedures.
• Keep rescue equipment poolside. Don't wait for the paramedics to arrive because you will lose valuable life-saving seconds. Four to six minutes without oxygen can cause permanent brain damage or death.
• Install four-sided isolation fencing, at least five feet high, equipped with self-closing and self-latching gates, that completely surrounds the pool and prevents direct access from the house and yard.
• Maintain constant visual contact with children in a pool or pool area. If a child is missing, check the pool first; seconds count in preventing death or disability.
• Don't leave objects such as toys that might attract a child in the pool and pool area.
• Don't think you'll hear a child who's in trouble in the water; child drowning is a silent death, with no splashing to alert anyone that the child is in trouble.

Catholic Health Services
4790 North State Road 7
Lauderdale Lakes, FL 33319 • 954-484-1515
www.catholichealthservices.org

A Ministry of the Archdiocese of Miami