

# November 2024



## SAINT CATHERINE CENTER FOR *Special Needs*

### *Eight Individuals Receive Sacraments at Annual Special Needs Mass*

On Sunday, November 3, the Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano celebrated the Mass for Individuals with Special Needs and conferred the Sacraments of Initiation on eight members of the Diocese. This annual Mass is sponsored by Saint Catherine Center and is held at Holy Cross Church in Fairfield.

The eight individuals receiving sacraments came from four different parishes within the Diocese. Two individuals were baptized, five were confirmed, and seven received Holy Eucharist. For each person, the day marked an important spiritual milestone.

The Mass brought together a vibrant assembly, including the Knights of Columbus Honor Guard, the CT Order of Malta, Center board members, staff, students, and many friends and families. Executive Director Laura Grozier, and Sr. Maureen Ultowski, SSND, a member of the Academy staff, delivered the readings. Fabricio Almeida Jr., a student at the Academy, participated in the offertory procession accompanied by his sister.

In his homily, Bishop Caggiano recognized those receiving the sacraments saying, "They are blessed in a way we are not blessed because Jesus said, 'Blessed are the pure of heart, for they will see God.' Today they are being blessed with the sacraments, and they are blessing us with their witness and example." His words highlighted the special grace each person carries in their heart.

"Every year, this Mass is a reminder of the joy and strength that shines through each of these individuals. It's a privilege to walk with them on this journey and help them experience their faith more deeply," said Laura Grozier, Executive Director. The celebration was a testament to the profound community Saint Catherine Center has built, ensuring all may fully experience and share



their faith. After the Mass, everyone gathered in the gym for a reception organized by the CT Order of Malta. Thank you to everyone who helped make this celebration possible.

*Each year, Saint Catherine Center offers the opportunity for young people with special needs to receive one or more Sacraments of Initiation outside of the typical faith formation program. For more information, contact the Center at 203-540-5381.*

[View Photos of the Event.](#)



## *Andy Toner Receives Saint Augustine Medal of Service*

On October 19<sup>th</sup>, Andy Toner, a dedicated volunteer at Saint Catherine Center, was awarded the Saint Augustine Medal of Service by Bishop Frank Caggiano during a ceremony held at St. Augustine Cathedral in Bridgeport. This award instituted in 2005 by Bishop William Lori, honors men and women across the Diocese whose lives reflect exemplary service to Christ and His Church.



Andy Toner's contributions to our Center have been significant. As a long-time volunteer, Andy accompanies students at job sites, assisting with vocational training. He also faithfully assists with maintaining the Center's vans, ensuring the safe transportation of our students and young adults. His quiet yet steadfast dedication behind the scenes exemplifies the spirit of service the Saint Augustine Medal seeks to recognize.



"Andy is one of those individuals who is reliable and faith-filled," said Lisa Lanni, Director of Education. "He works without expecting recognition, his contributions make a meaningful impact on the daily lives of those we serve. We are thrilled to see him honored with this well-deserved award."

The Saint Augustine Medal is not only a reflection of individual commitment but also a recognition of how personal acts of service contribute to the larger mission of the Diocese. Through his ongoing support, Andy embodies the spirit of the Gospel and the values of Saint Catherine Center.

This honor serves as a reminder of the importance of volunteers in sustaining the mission of Saint Catherine Center. Andy's recognition with the Saint Augustine Medal is a proud moment for the Center and all who know him. It highlights the profound difference that individuals make through simple, consistent acts of care.

**GI**  **INGTUESDAY** *is December 3rd*

Giving Tuesday, on December 3, is a worldwide initiative to celebrate generosity in all its forms. We

experience this generosity every day in the most ordinary of activities at Saint Catherine Center.

The day is also an important fundraiser for Saint Catherine Center. Tuition and program fees cover only about 75% of our costs. The rest is raised through events like our annual “Joy & Gratitude” Dinner, private grants, and individual donations. #GivingTuesday reminds us how important your support is to the “every day” at Saint Catherine Center.

[Click HERE to give](#)



## *Welcome Sherrie Fahey, Operations Manager*

We are delighted to welcome Sherrie Fahey as the new Operations Manager at Saint Catherine Center. In this role, she will oversee the Center’s operations, helping to ensure everything is running smoothly, safely, and efficiently.

Sherrie brings a wealth of experience from 17 years working at a consulting company and a background in early childhood education. “I am absolutely thrilled to join such a wonderful organization and am excited to contribute to the important work done at Saint Catherine Center,” Sherrie said. “This opportunity means a great deal to me, and I am eager to support the Center’s mission and growth.”

She is a Connecticut native residing in Fairfield with her husband and two daughters. In her free time, she loves spending time outdoors and exploring creative passions through photography and crafting.



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