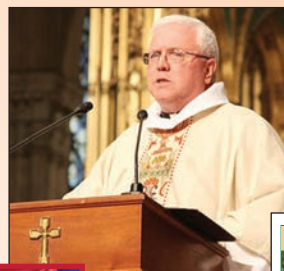
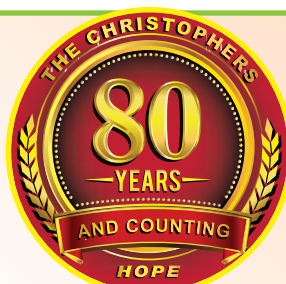


Christopher Highlights

The year 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of The Christophers' founding! It was all the way back in 1945 that Father James Keller, M.M., started our organization to remind people that each of us has a God-given purpose in life and that we can each change the world for the better by loving God and our neighbors. We believe this message is as vital today as it has ever been, so we continue that mission, thanks to the support of our donors. We move forward together into the future with hope that all good things are possible in Christ. As Father Keller wrote, "The leavening of the multitude with Christian ideals can be done in the same simple way it was by the early Christians. The one power that accounted for their tremendous success was their consuming love for all men, even their worst enemies, in each of whom they saw the image of Christ Himself. It is a power which the least of us can have. It is the cure for which mankind longs."



**Fr. Edward M. Dougherty, M.M.,
Board of Directors**



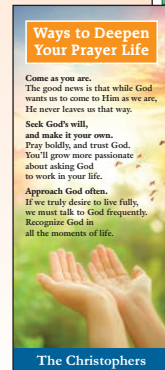
**Facing Mistakes,
Finding New Hope**

NONE OF US LIKE ADMITTING THAT WE'VE MADE MISTAKES OR BAD DECISIONS. We may see it as a sign of weakness or an acknowledgment that we are not perfect. But the truth is: we aren't perfect, and we're just fooling ourselves if we go through life with the mindset that we can do wrong. With humility and God's love, however, we can recognize and admit when we've gone down the wrong path so we can move toward the brighter future that God has in store for us.



**Bear One Another's
Burdens**

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."



**Ways to Deepen
Your Prayer Life**

Come as you are. The good news is that while God wants us to come to Him as we are, He never leaves us that way. Seek God's will, and make it your own. Pray boldly, and trust God. You'll grow more passionate about asking God to work in your life. Approach God often. If we truly desire to live fully, we must talk to God frequently. Recognize God in all the moments of life.



**Prayer for
Sports and Life**

Guide us to victory, O Lord, in competition and life. May our opponents be worthy and compete with skill. May we meet that skill with our own and prepare each other for the challenges that await us in the world. Guide us to safe competition, without injury to either side. Guide us to grow in wisdom, so we discover our strengths and weaknesses. Guide us to grow in mercy, so we can encourage our teammates, trust our opponents fairly, respect coaches and officials, and maintain an even disposition in victory and defeat, knowing that true victory consists of playing the game with effort and class, so that we might glorify You in all things. Amen.



37th Annual Video Contest for College Students

First prize in **The Christophers' 37th Annual Video Contest for College Students** went to **Jake Gist**, a Media Production major at Belmont University. His winning video, titled "SNAP News," highlights the life of retired educator Linda Lyon, whose "37 years of teaching excellence" garnered



her the honor of having Rockwall, Texas ISD's 14th elementary school named after her. "I honestly love being there because I get to be a part of the things going on at the school," Mrs. Lyon exclaimed, as scenes from her frequent visits to Linda Lyon Elementary are shown throughout her interview. "It makes me happy every time...Every moment is a special moment."



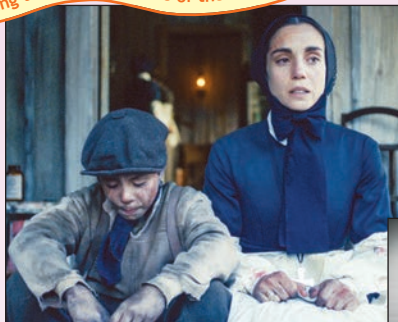
35th Annual Poster Contest for High School Students

First prize in our **35th Annual Poster Contest for High School Students** was awarded to **Alyssa Pontz**, a senior at Capstone Academy in Atlanta, Georgia.

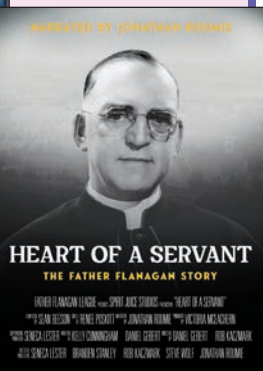
Pontz's poster consists of a photograph of herself and a friend [author Sophia Rose] reading a book to a group of children. The book that Alyssa and Sophia are presenting is actually a story they illustrated and wrote themselves, respectively. "We created a children's book that focuses on different ways kids can handle their anxieties," Pontz explained. "It was special to work on the book and share it online, but reading it in front of kids was especially enlightening...I really felt like what we...created made a difference."



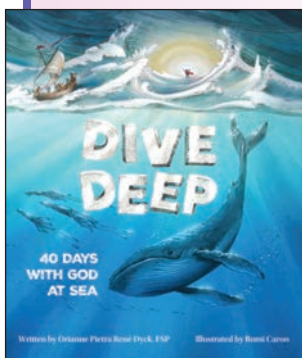
"Affirming the Highest Values of the Human Spirit"



Among our 21 Christopher Award winners this year were: 1) the feature film **"Cabrin',"** about Mother Frances Cabrini, who faced down fierce prejudice to serve New York's orphans and Italian immigrants living in poverty; 2) the documentary **"Heart of a Servant,"** which profiles Boys Town founder Father Edward Flanagan, who defied racist laws to protect abandoned and orphaned youth of all colors and creeds;



and 3) the children's book **"Dive Deep: 40 Days with God at Sea"** by Sister Orianne Pietra René Dyck, FSP, and illustrator Romi Caron, which engagingly and humorously illuminates Scripture and helps kids encounter God through nature.



The Christopher Leadership Workshop

Saint Mary of the Lake, Mundelein, Illinois

In March, dedicated Christopher instructors presented the annual Christopher Leadership Weekend Course at the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary near Chicago. Eighteen seminarians and lay students explored their leadership qualities through the Gospel message, mastering techniques to boost their confidence and empower their leadership roles.



"I Can't Lose. (Why?) I'll tell you why... because I have Faith, Courage & Enthusiasm!"

—Leadership Course Motto



Christopher Closeup

Guests featured on our **Christopher Closeup** radio show and podcast this past year include Christopher Award-winning author and actor **Steve Guttenberg** discussing his journey as a caregiver for his father as he was dying of kidney failure; former baseball player and manager **Clint Hurdle** revealing how his faith helped him get into recovery from alcoholism; and actor **Jonathan Jackson** sharing his insights on why mercy and humility are the way to heaven.



Light One Candle

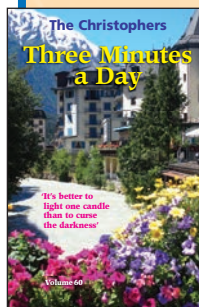
Check your diocesan newspaper for the wisdom of Fr. Edward Dougherty, M.M., Tony Rossi, and Garan Santicola in *The Christophers' Light One Candle* columns, a free syndication, featuring insightful commentary on how to face everyday challenges with hope and fortitude.



NEW

Inspiration for You!

To Order: www.christophers.org or 212.759.4050, ext. 241



Three Minutes a Day (2026)

Volume 60 of our **Three Minutes a Day** series will soon be available for purchase. Featuring positive news stories and reflections for every day, this annual book is an uplifting Christmas gift that keeps on giving all year round. May the light of Christ illuminate your hearts and minds this blessed holiday season and always.



2026 Appointment Calendar

With inspirational quotes, prayers, or Scripture verses for each day of the year, this attractive calendar is ideal for home or office.

FROM THE MAILBAG

Christopher representative Jim Collins recently visited Jamaica to volunteer with the Missionaries of the Poor, bringing Christopher prayer cards and News Notes with him to distribute.

