



## Pro-Life plates available for Massachusetts drivers

BY CHRISTINE M. WILLIAMS  
ANCHOR CORRESPONDENT

BOSTON — Most people do not look forward to a trip to the registry, but Cori Connor-Morse was so excited about picking up her new plates last month that she emailed a picture of them to her friends and family.

After seven years, the Choose Life license plates are finally available at the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles. Anyone can sign up at a local branch or on the registry's website. So far more than

1,700 people have signed up. A total of 3,000 needs to be reached within the next two years to ensure the return of the \$100,000 bond, put up by an anonymous donor.

The plate features a mother cradling her infant and the words "Choose Life." The cost of the plates is \$90 every two years with an initial fee of \$20. Proceeds, which amount to \$40 per plate every two years, will fund abortion alternatives.

Connor-Morse, a parishioner at  
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**FOR GOD AND COUNTRY** — Navy cadet John Michael Falzetta of Troy, Mich., poses with Bishop George W. Coleman after receiving the sacrament of confirmation at St. Mary's Cathedral in Fall River recently. Falzetta was stationed at Naval Station Newport in Newport, R.I. and asked Father George F. Almeida, who has been the Navy base's officiating priest for the past year, to help him receive the sacrament before leaving for pilot training in Pensacola, Fla. Story on page 11. (Photo by Father George F. Almeida)

## Charities Appeal again passes the remarkable \$4 million mark

SPECIAL TO THE ANCHOR

FALL RIVER — "It was a madhouse," said one of the secretaries in the Catholic Charities Appeal Office, referring to the final day of the 2010 Appeal. "But it was worth it," she later exclaimed. It was worth it because the 2010 Catholic Charities Appeal exceeded last year's total, was the second highest total in the 69 year history of the Appeal, and fell less than \$7,000 shy of setting an all-time high. The \$4,299,375.14 figure represents a phenomenal accomplishment by the 90 parishes in the Diocese of Fall River, and unsurpassed generosity by the thousands of contributing parishioners.



"These are such difficult times for so many of our parishioners," said Mike Donly of the Appeal Office, "but that's what makes it so meaningful and at the same time so necessary. If you could have been here on the last day and felt the enthusiasm as the phones literally rang off the hook, faxes were being sent in, and online donations were flowing in like never before. And the number of parish chairmen, secretaries, and pastors bringing in their last-

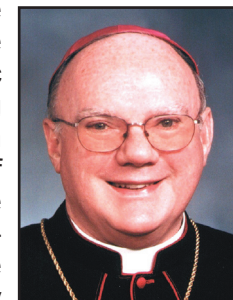
minute reports personally was like the old days, when every report was hand-carried. So many parishes called in two and three times on that day just to report something new they had gotten from a parishioner after morning Mass or in the mail. And so many of these were already over their previous year's total and were simply doing their best to increase the total of the overall Appeal. It was really obvious that 'we were all in this thing together to the very end,'" concluded Donly.

The Appeal was highlighted by the fact that an amazing 63 percent of the parishes exceeded their previous year's total with many of them realizing double digit increases. The number of parishes in the urban areas of the diocese, specifically the two largest, Fall River and New Bedford, had an inordinate number of parishes top their previous high totals. Considering that these areas are the worst hit by the present state of the economy, are some of the highest unemployment rates in the state, are destined to be the slowest to recover, and tradition-

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Dear Friends in Christ,

As Bishop of Fall River, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the priests, deacons, religious, and lay faithful of this diocese who have contributed to or in any way supported the 2010 Catholic Charities Appeal. I am very pleased and find it exceptional that during these difficult economic times we have surpassed last year's collection total. Because of your prayers, interest, and help, and also because of your generous response, we will be able to provide for and assist those in our area who are most in need. The people in the Diocese of Fall River have once again demonstrated a spirit of sacrifice and a true desire to share with their neighbors. I am especially grateful for the generosity of the many benefactors who made an extra effort to give this year. In light of the high unemployment rate in our cities, your donations truly make a difference. On behalf of all those who will be assisted by this Appeal and to those who worked so hard to make this year's collection an outstanding success, I extend my heartfelt thanks.



With deep appreciation and gratitude, I am

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

*George W. Coleman*

Bishop of Fall River

## Father Cabral earns degree in canon law

Will assume duties at Diocesan Tribunal

BY DEACON JAMES N. DUNBAR

FALL RIVER — Having spent three years studying at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and with his recently awarded JCL — licentiate in canon law — tucked into his portfolio, Father Jeffrey Cabral will soon be practicing Church law at the Diocesan Tribunal.

"While I still consider myself

green and a newcomer to this field, I look forward to full-time work and all the responsibilities it entails," he said humbly during a recent interview at *The Anchor*.

The assignment is effective July 14.

Until then he will temporarily guide Holy Name Parish in Fall River — two blocks from the Tribunal offices — even as former

pastor Father George Harrison leaves to become pastor at Corpus Christi Parish in East Sandwich; and Father Jay T. Maddock settles in as Holy Name's new pastor following his pastorate at Holy Family in East Taunton.

Those assignments are also effective July 14.

Ironically, Father Cabral will be

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## Pro-Life plates ready in Massachusetts

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St. Maria Goretti Parish in Lynnfield, told *The Anchor* that the experience of picking up her Choose Life plate on June 21 moved her to tears. She hopes the plates will spread the Pro-Life message, which is not politically correct in Massachusetts.

"The message is so hidden. People don't hear the message of life in this state that's so liberal. Our kids aren't hearing the other side," she said.

For Connor-Morse, the decision to get the Choose Life plates was personal. Connor-Morse had an abortion. Afterward, she was "miserable." She had no faith, no life and no hope. When she heard about the plates, she thought she could never put them on her car. "My reaction was one of terror," she said.

After accepting the healing God offered her on a Project Rachel retreat in 2009, she realized that putting the plates on her car was the least she could do to promote the dignity of life.

Connor-Morse said the plates were worth the wait and the trip to the registry. If even one baby and one woman are saved from a "lifetime of anguish," the effort to bring the plates to Massachusetts will be justified. "We all have faith that it will do oh-so-much more than that," she added.

Merry Nordeen, president of the non-profit responsible for the Choose Life plates, said there were times during the last seven years that she doubted Massachusetts would have Choose Life plates.

"So many people told me that it couldn't happen — that Massachusetts is such a liberal state and that means we don't have enough of a Pro-Life force to bring something like this to fruition," she said. "It's such a positive sign in the state of Massachusetts to have a plate like that on our cars."

Just 18 months ago she considered quitting the campaign. She had spent years sending out mailings, attending conferences and building a list of supporters, but the numbers were not there.

"My husband and I talked about it, we prayed about it, and I said that we were going to try this one more

time," she said.

"If we do it one more time, we're going to give it all we can, but we're going to put in God's hands," she told her husband. "If we put it in God's hands, we'll know whether or not it's meant to be."

From then on Nordeen had many positive responses and new people came together to make the Choose Life plates possible. She stressed, "It wasn't just me who did this." Many people helped with the legwork and offered prayers, rosaries and hours in adoration.

"It's been a wonderful spiritual experience," she said.

Nordeen hopes the plates will inspire women facing crisis pregnancies to have their children. Many women in that situation feel abortion is their only option. "We're just about helping preserve life and helping those young women," she said.

Marian Desrosiers, director of the Fall River Diocese's Pro-Life Apostolate, said she is excited to see the plates on the road and plans to sign up when she renews her registration. The plates are another way members of the Commonwealth can affirm the dignity of human life.

"We're excited to know that we'll begin to see a wonderful message on the license plates in Massachusetts," she said.

The first Choose Life license plates were introduced in Florida 10 years ago. When Nordeen heard about them, she thought, "That's a great idea. I want that for my car." But no one in Massachusetts was working to bring the plates to the Commonwealth. So Nordeen decided to give it a try. She started a corporation, secured non-profit status and began collecting registrations.

Massachusetts is the 25th state to offer the plates, which have raised more than \$10 million nationally. It becomes one of 18 specialty tags offered by the Commonwealth.

Nordeen said, "I'm just hoping that we'll give the Red Sox plate a run for its money."

For more information about the Choose Life plates, visit [www.machoose-life.org](http://www.machoose-life.org).

## Father Cabral receives degree in canon law

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living in residence at the East Taunton parish even as Father Kevin A. Cook assumes his first pastorate there also effective July 14.

"I also look forward to resuming pastoral duties in the diocese, even if temporary, at Holy Name, which will be a nice break after three years concentrating on academics," he said.

Father Cabral 37, who hails from New Bedford, was ordained a priest on June 8, 2002 by then-Bishop Sean P. O'Malley.

"I was the last priest ordained in this diocese by Bishop Sean — now Cardinal O'Malley — before he left the diocese," Father Cabral, who studied for the priesthood and received degrees in philosophy and theology at St. John's Seminary in Brighton, recalled.

A graduate of Dartmouth Middle School and Dartmouth High School, he had received a degree in mathematics from U-Mass Dartmouth in 1995.

His first priestly assignment following ordination was as a parochial vicar at St. Anthony's in Taunton. Other assignments included serving as chaplain at Taunton Catholic Middle School and at Coyle-Cassidy High School.

In August 2007, Bishop George W. Coleman assigned Father Cabral to begin the canon law studies.

"It is a three-year program, a six-semester program," he explained. "I could have done it in two years had I continued studies during the summers. But I wisely decided to take a break from classes in the summers, and that refreshment worked out as the best schedule for me. Some make it a five-year program, but for me that would have taken too long."

He enjoyed sandwiching in ministering at the Church of the Little Flower in Bethesda, Md., where he lived while studying.

"I assisted by hearing confes-

sions and celebrating Masses, but other pastoral duties like baptisms, weddings and funerals were handled by the five other priests also serving there," he explained.

He said his studies "encompassed all of canon law, and in reality it means not just what pertains to marriage issues, but all the sacraments," he reported.

"It was very extensive and involved the entire Code of Canon Law. But it also included much wider studies of religious law and the laws of the Eastern Church and its comparison with law of the Western Church," he explained.

He said that the Code, which had been most recently revised in 1983 "in essence never really changes."

However, he said, there have been *motu proprio(s)* (Latin for "on his own initiative") signed by popes which officially made changes to law and procedures.

The *motu proprio* of Pope John Paul II added "some" revisions that centered on the issue of those who have defected from the Catholic Church.

More recently, the *motu proprio* of Pope Benedict XIV also added some adjustments, which dealt with the issue of clergy abuse and its affiliated scandals, Father Cabral pointed out.

"Other amendments that have come are in regard to how the *Roman Rota*, (Tribunal Apostolicum Rotae Romanae) the highest appellate Tribunal of the Roman Catholic Church, interprets the canons as well as administrates the law," he added.

His study curriculum placed

much emphasis on "*Casti Conubii*" Pope Pius XI's 1930 encyclical on the sacramental dignity, perpetual stability of Christian marriage as a sacrament instituted by Christ, Father Cabral reported, adding, "the encyclical — from beginning to end — clarified many issues and had brought about several changes in canon law."

As he walks into the Tribunal, he said, "despite all the great study, and a certain confidence, I know I have much to learn, and there is a certain nervousness," he admitted.

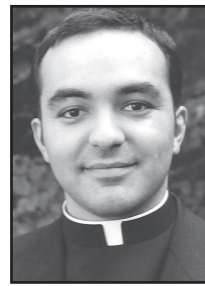
Asked how he was feeling, he quipped: "You might ask me a year from now."

Fielding questions, he said the most common issue that confronts those ministering in Tribunals is not, as many think, Catholics seeking to have their marriages blessed — convalidated — after a civil union. "That is usually and easily handled by pastors at the parish level," Father Cabral explained.

And while there are many important and various issues the Tribunal is asked to resolve, the most dominant involves those who, for various reasons, seek an annulment, a declaration that their marriage itself was never valid, also based on several reasons," he said.

Asked whether he enjoyed his personal time living in the nation's capital, he said it was "a great and wonderful experience. When I had the opportunity I did all the things tourists do. I enjoyed the great history of the region and the sites and the magnificent churches and museums and memorials. There is always much to do and see," he said. "And there is still much I didn't get to see."

Among the most notable, he said, "Was the visit by Pope Benedict in 2008 as well as the ongoing conferences of people and religious organizations from across the world to forward their ideas of how to live in today's world."



FATHER JEFFREY CABRAL

## 2010 Catholic Charities Appeal tops \$4 million mark

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ally are among the cities with the lowest median incomes in the Commonwealth, these results are seen as being quite amazing. To quote one inner-city pastor "They say things are beginning to show a small improvement in the economy but we're not seeing it, and still my parishioners showed extraordinary generosity." Another pastor from a small inner-city parish said "I'm amazed my small parish was able to give to this extent."

In general, all areas of the diocese did exceptionally well with 18 parishes having double digit increases, led by St. Joseph's in Fairhaven, St. Joan of Arc in Orleans, St. Anthony's of Mat-

tapoisett, Good Shepherd in Fall River, St. Peter the Apostle in Provincetown, and St. Nicholas of Myra in North Dighton, all with increases in excess of 20 percent. These six parishes were followed closely by St. Mary's in Fairhaven, and Sacred Heart and St. Mary's parishes in North Attleboro with 19 percent increases.

When all of the figures were tabulated it was obvious that it was a total effort on behalf of the pastors, parish chairmen and committee volunteers, and the wonderful parishioners, all of whom showed tremendous generosity and thoughtfulness. "It's obvious," said Donly, "that everyone cares very deeply for

those in need around us. The thousands who donate, and the hundreds who volunteer to solicit and publicize the Catholic Charities Appeal, year in and year out, wouldn't try this hard, work with such enthusiasm, and feel such a sense of satisfaction in the end, if they weren't so concerned about those who need our help. The one thing we do take for granted in this yearly Appeal is this spirit of caring and compassionate concern. We would never undertake an endeavor of this size and scope if we couldn't feel confident that our parishioners saw this as their mission as Catholics and members of faith-filled parish communities."

CHRISTIAN  
APOSTOLIC  
TRUE  
HOLY  
ONE  
LOVING  
INFALLIBLE  
CHARITABLE

PRO-LIFER  
HELPER  
ADVISOR  
RESTORER  
MEDICATOR  
ANTI-ABORTIONIST  
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INSTRUCTOR  
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THERAPEUTIST

The National Catholic Pharmacists Guild of the United States



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THOMAS PASTERNAK  
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