

CHURCH

CLERGY CORNER

The Irish Rabbi



Rabbi Marc Mandel

Recently, on Nov. 4, The Museum of Newport Irish History, hosted a standing room only symposium at the Mainstay Hotel & Conference Center. The title was, "Ireland's Jewish Community and Newport's Irish Rabbi."



Rabbi Lewis

The excellent panel consisted of Shai Afsai, Sean O'Callahan, Ph.D., and John F. Quinn, Ph.D. As the current rabbi of Touro Synagogue, I have always been intrigued about Newport's Irish rabbi, Theodore Lewis.

Born in 1915, in Dublin, Ireland, Rabbi Lewis attended Dublin primary and secondary schools, graduated from Dublin University, and studied for the rabbinate in London, England, and Mir, Poland.

He barely escaped from Poland before the Nazis invaded it during WW II. He served as the rabbi of the Adelaide Road Synagogue, the largest congregation in Dublin, before immigrating to America.

He visited Touro Synagogue in 1949 and never left, serving the congregation for the next 36 years. Rabbi Lewis was well known for his thick Irish brogue and sparkling eyes, quick wit, regal bearing and erudite sermons, which have been compiled and published in two volumes that I have in my office at the Levi Gale House.

He officiated at the lifecycle events for two generations of Newporters as well as others who came from far and wide to the Touro Synagogue.

He played host to many distinguished visitors including President Dwight D. Eisenhower and the poet Robert Frost. In 1959, Rabbi Lewis appeared on the TV

show, "To Tell the Truth," as the "only Irish-born rabbi in the US."

He was one of Newport's most beloved citizens, a familiar fixture in Newport, as he and his dear colleague and friend of over 50 years, Rabbi Ely Katz, strolled around the streets of downtown Newport, a very tall Rabbi Lewis with a very short Rabbi Katz.

He received many awards including an honorary doctorate in Sacred Theology from Salve Regina University.

Rabbi Lewis retired in October 1985. He lived for a brief time in Israel, where he was able to visit his childhood friend, Chaim Herzog, President of Israel, who was also born in Ireland.

Rabbi Lewis led Touro Synagogue through a period in which it was restored, received worldwide attention and was named a national historic site. For 25 years he led a campaign to persuade the US Government to issue a postage stamp honoring the synagogue, which was built in 1763 and remains the oldest synagogue building in the country. In 1982, a stamp was indeed issued.

Touro Synagogue will soon host the former head of the Labor Party in Israel, Isaac Herzog. Herzog's grandfather, Rabbi Yitzchak Herzog, was the first chief rabbi of Ireland, and later a chief rabbi in Israel.

There are some who speculate that it was Rabbi Yitzchak Herzog who suggested that Rabbi Lewis become the rabbi at Touro Synagogue. Thus, the Touro Synagogue - Irish connection, indeed, runs very deep.

Rabbi Marc Mandel is the rabbi at the Touro Synagogue in Newport, the oldest synagogue building in the United States.

For more information please visit www.tourosynagogue.org. Clergy Corner appears each week in The Daily News and online at newportri.com.

LA Archbishop Gomez becomes first Latino to lead US bishops

By Sarah Parvini
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — On the eve of his election as the new leader of U.S. bishops, Archbishop Jose Gomez had a message for the faithful back home: It was well past time for immigration reform.

"In this great country, we should not have our young people living under the threat of deportation, their lives dependent on the outcome of a court case," the archbishop of Los Angeles said in an email to his flock Monday evening.

Alluding to Tuesday's U.S. Supreme Court arguments on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, Gomez continued: "We pray tonight that our president and Congress will come together, set aside their differences, and provide our young brothers and sisters with a path to legalization and citizenship."

Already the highest-ranking Latino in the U.S. Catholic Church, Gomez on Tuesday marked another milestone when he became the first Latino elected president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Born in Monterrey, Mexico, Gomez has in recent years evolved into a high-profile and authoritative voice in the American church, advocating for policy reforms that would include a path to citizenship for immigrants living in the country illegally. The soft-spoken 67-year-old will begin his three-year term as vice president just as his tenure as president comes to an end.

His election, which kicked off the second day of the bishops' fall meeting in Baltimore, was regarded by many observers of the Roman Catholic Church as a fait accompli, a historic moment set in motion in 2016 when he was elected vice president of the national conference. Some within the church hope that Gomez will utilize his experience fighting for immigrant rights in his new post, leading the conference to be more outspoken in advocating for immigration reform.

"I am overwhelmed. It is a big responsibility," Gomez said in a phone interview Tuesday. "I am grateful to the bishops for their support and confidence in me, and I think this is a great lesson for the archdiocese, for Los Angeles and Latinos in the country."

Gomez's rise comes amid Latinos' shifting relationship with the Catholic faith. U.S. Latinos are no longer majority-Catholic, according to a Pew Research Center survey released last month. Some



Archbishop Jose Gomez of Los Angeles, vice president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, left, sits with Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, USCCB president, before the conference's annual fall meeting in Baltimore. Gomez overwhelmingly won election Tuesday as the first Hispanic to head the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. [AP FILE PHOTO]

47% describe themselves as Catholic, the survey showed, down from 57% a decade ago. At the same time, 23% of Latinos say they are religiously unaffiliated, up from 15% in 2009.

Gomez's ascendance could help shore up or even replenish the number of Latino Catholics.

"This is huge," Father Thomas J. Reese, a senior analyst at Religion News Service, said of the election. "Having a Mexican American as the president of the bishops conference sends a real message to Hispanics across the country, showing that not only are they part of the church, they are also part of the leadership of the church at the highest level."

Gomez, a naturalized U.S. citizen, will take up his new position at a time of bitter division over the Trump administration's immigration policies, Reese added.

"This is a Mexican immigrant who is going to be the leader at a time when immigrants are demonized," Reese said. "This is a symbolic message from the bishops on the importance of the immigration issue to them, and the importance of immigrants to the Catholic Church and in American society."

L.A.'s archbishop is at once a conservative and a progressive: staunch in his opposition to abortion and same-sex marriage while tenacious in his advocacy for immigrants and the poor.

"He knows we have a very divided church today and one of my hopes with him as the head of the conference is he will find ways to bring us together," said Father Thomas P. Rausch, a professor of theological studies at Loyola Marymount University. "He's conservative, but his impulses are pastoral."

Worship services

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL
MT. ZION A.M.E. CHURCH, Van Zandt and Tilly Ave., Newport. 849-3569. Service 11 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Bible Study, Tue. 7 p.m.
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD
KING'S GRANT FELLOWSHIP, 1000 West Main Rd., Portsmouth. 683-0505. Sunday worship 10 a.m., Wed. Family Night 7-8 p.m., Bible Study and Awana program, ages 2-14. Nursery care available.
BAHA'I FAITH
BAHA'I FAITH. Devotional meetings every Monday evening at 8 p.m. Call 295-2246 for directions or information.
BAPTIST
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, 4 Ludlow Terr., Middletown. 846-4554, 619-2391. 10 a.m. Sunday school for all ages; 11 a.m. Worship service.
CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH, 29 Narragansett Ave., Jamestown, 423-1651. Sunday 9:30 a.m.
COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH, 50 Dr. Marcus F. Wheatland Blvd., Newport. 847-1707. Sunday Worship 10 a.m. Saturday Church School 9 a.m.
THE NEW HBC WORSHIP CENTER, 229 Maple Ave., Newport, 849-2658. Sunday Worship 11 a.m.
MIDDLETOWN BAPTIST CHURCH, 1818 West Main Road, Middletown 846-8382. Sunday School — all ages — 9:15 a.m. Sunday Youth Programs — 5:30 p.m. Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Wednesday Prayer Service, Youth Program — 6:30 p.m.
THE UNITED BAPTIST CHURCH (John Clarke Memorial), 30 Spring St., Newport. 847-3210. Sunday Worship Service 10 a.m. Pastor David Dewberry.
AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH, 1164. Check us out on line at www.stpaulsportsmouthri.org and on Facebook at St. Paul's Portsmouth, RI.
TRINITY CHURCH, Queen Anne Square, Newport, 846-0660. Sunday Services - 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Wed. noon Holy Eucharist Hughes Chapel.

EVANGELICAL
EVANGELICAL FRIENDS CHURCH OF NEWPORT, 70 Bliss Mine Rd., Middletown., 847-1490. Sunday Morning Worship Service 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF AQUIDNECK, 1678 East Main Rd., Suite 3, Portsmouth, 401-619-2221. email: fccaquidneck@yahoo.com Sunday night 6:30 - 8 p.m.
QUAKER
Conanicut Friends Meeting, Old Meetinghouse on Weeden Lane, Jamestown, May through October each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Worship is unprogrammed and all are welcome. There is no First Day School. For more information, call 787-2730 or 667-3712.
GREEK ORTHODOX
SAINT SPYRIDON, Thames & Brewer Sts., Newport, 846-0555. Sunday - Labor Day to Memorial Day - Orthros 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10 a.m. Memorial Day to Labor Day - Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.
JEWISH
NEWPORT HAVURAH, Reform Jewish Services held monthly, services Friday nights; discussions Sat. Afternoon; Havdalah (end of Sabbath Service) Sat. eves. Tel. 846-4784 days.

Tiverton, R.I., 624-4759. Saturday Eucharist at 5 p.m. Sunday service at 8 & 10 a.m.
ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST, (Traditional Anglican Service), Washington & Willow Streets. Newport. 848-2561. Sunday Services: Low (said) Mass — 8 a.m., Sung Mass — 10 a.m. Weekdays: Morning Prayer — 8:30 a.m., Evening Prayer — 5:30 p.m. For other services, please see calendar at www.saintjohns-newport.org
ST. COLUMBA'S CHAPEL, 55 Vaucluse Ave., Middletown, 847-5571. Sunday 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist - Rite One: 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist - Rite Two with Music: 9:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School and Adult Reflect and Connect: 10:00 a.m. Children's Chapel in the Parish Hall. Wednesday 5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist with prayers for healing. Mon-Thurs 8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer.
ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 324 East Main Rd., Portsmouth. www.smcportsmouth.org or 846-9700.
IN THE HISTORIC CHURCH Saturday evening at 5:00 p.m. On the first Saturday of every month, a Wine and Cheese Get-Together is held in the Gathering Space (in the Parish House). Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. The Sunday service is followed by an informal Coffee Hour in the Gathering Space (in the Parish House).
ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH, Narragansett Ave., Jamestown, 423-1762. Sunday 8 and 10 a.m. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2679 East Main Road, Portsmouth. Worship is at 9:00 am on Sundays. Clergy: Marilyn Mason, Priest-in-Charge; Becky Anderson, Assisting Priest. You can reach us at 401-683-1164. Check us out on line at www.stpaulsportsmouthri.org and on Facebook at St. Paul's Portsmouth, RI.
TRINITY CHURCH, Queen Anne Square, Newport, 846-0660. Sunday Services - 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Wed. noon Holy Eucharist Hughes Chapel.

TOURO SYNAGOGUE, 85 Touro St., Newport, 847-4794. Please call 847-4794 or visit www.tourosynagogue.org for a schedule of services.
TEMPLE SHALOM, 223 Valley Rd., Middletown. 846-9002. Friday eves. 7:30 p.m.
LUTHERAN
St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 525 Broadway, Newport, 846-9567; stpetersri@coxmail.com. Jazz Mass on Saturdays at 5 p.m. and Sung Holy Communion on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Children's Church on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Gluten-free hosts are available upon request. Wheelchair accessible. Rev. Barbara Reifschneider, pastor.

METHODIST
CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 200 Turner Rd., Middletown. 847-6181. Sunday School 9:15 a.m.; Worship 10:30 a.m. nursery care provided. We are fully handicapped accessible.
PORTSMOUTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 2732 East Main Road, Portsmouth. Saturday Contemporary Service at 5:00 p.m., and Sunday Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. with special music by the Church Choir followed by coffee hour and fellowship in the Parish Hall. Sunday School begins on Sept. 15 at 10:00 a.m. Nursery care is provided during Sunday service.
ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 12 Marlborough St., Newport. Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors. Sunday morning worship Service 10:00 a.m. with nursery care provided; Children's Sunday School 10:00 a.m.; Warm-up Wednesday 1-4:00pm, refreshments & fellowship; Thursdays Small Reading Group 7:00pm. Ample parking available. Rev. Jaegil Lee, Pastor. 401-846-0960
LATTER-DAY SAINTS
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, 177 Miantonomi Ave., Middletown. 849-9146. Sunday 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Missionaries telephone: 207-7240.
REORGANIZED CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS, corner Bulgmarsh & Brayton Rd., Tiverton. 624-6420 or 683-1803. Sunday 11 a.m.
NAVY
CHAPEL OF HOPE, Coddington Point, 841-2234. Sunday Protestant Service 7:45 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Roman Catholic Mass 9 a.m.

NON-DENOMINATIONAL COMMUNITY OF CHRIST
CORNER OF BULGAMARSH & BRAYTON ROADS, TIVERTON, 683-9584. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m.
Graceway Community Church, 215 Forest Ave., Middletown, 846-1552. Sunday Bible study for all ages 9:30 a.m. worship 10:30 a.m. Wednesday singing and study 7 p.m.
Newport Community Church, 100 Touro St., Newport. Sunday service 9:30 a.m. Children's church available. 847-6022.
S E L F - R E A L I Z A T I O N FELLOWSHIP. Meditation service based on the teachings of Self Realization Fellowship (founded by Paramahansa Yogananda) every Sunday morning in Portsmouth, 816-0161.
CROSS POINT CHURCH (formerly New Beginnings), 14 Rhode Island Ave., Newport, 846-3064. Sundays at 10 a.m. Worship Service with Cross Point Kidz for ages 1 year olds to 6th

As the archbishop of the San Antonio archdiocese before coming to L.A., Gomez emerged as a leading advocate for doctrinal conformity, determined to stave off what he saw as creeping secularism in the church.

But in 2013, Gomez published a book that voiced his support for a path to citizenship for the estimated 11 million immigrants living in the country without legal status. His advocacy aligns with efforts by Pope Francis to raise awareness about the challenges immigrants face.

When a gunman targeting Mexicans killed 22 people at a Walmart in El Paso, Texas, in August, Gomez took a public stand against white supremacy. "A line has been crossed in our nation," he wrote.

In September, Gomez led the Mass in Recognition of All Immigrants, during which he told his congregants that "this nation has been a beacon of hope, a refuge for peoples who have no place left to turn." And on Monday night, his archdiocese hosted a rosary and Mass in solidarity with so-called Dreamers, praying for them before the Supreme Court hearing.

American bishops oppose "enforcement only" policies and support comprehensive immigration reform, a stance that stems from their belief that migration is a humanitarian issue rather than a politically partisan one.

Gomez said he never expected that one day he would be the man to lead the conference, despite his decadeslong career in the church.

SALVATION ARMY
THE SALVATION ARMY, 51 Memorial Blvd., Newport, 846-3234. Sunday worship 11 a.m.
PORTUGUESE
PHILADELPHIA CHRISTIAN CHURCH meeting at 215 Forest Ave., Middletown. For information call 508-648-1193. Saturday Prayer Time 7:30 p.m. Sunday Family Worship 7:30 p.m. Monday and Tuesday 7:30 p.m. Prayer and Fellowship
PENTECOSTAL
KEYS MEMORIAL WORD-CENTER CHURCH now meeting at 36 Dr. Marcus Wheatland Blvd., Newport, 847-3860. Meetings held on Sundays, 11 a.m.
PRESBYTERIAN
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Broadway at Everett Street, Newport, 847-1749. www.fpcnewport.org, www.facebook.com/fpcnewport. Sunday school 9:15am. Worship service at 10:30, fellowship follows. Nursery and children's programs during worship, handicap accessible.
REFORMED
GRACE COVENANT CHURCH, Portsmouth, 683-6330. Worship Service on the Lord's Day 10:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study Thursdays 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
ROMAN CATHOLIC
JESUS SAVIOUR CHURCH, Broadway & Vernon Ave., Newport, 847-1267. Sat. 4 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m.
ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH, 2836 East Main Rd., Portsmouth, 683-0089. Sat. 4:30 p.m. Sun. 8:30, and 10:30 a.m.
ST. AUGUSTIN'S CHURCH, 2 Eastnor Rd., Newport., 847-0518. Thurs. 7:30 a.m. Sat. 4 p.m., Sun. 9:30 a.m., Tuesday 7:30 a.m.
ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, 1697 East Main Rd., Portsmouth, 683-1343. Mass - Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m., Saturday Mass 5:00 p.m., Sunday Masses 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH, Broadway and Mann Ave., Newport, 847-0065. Sat. 5:15 p.m., Sun. 7 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., and 6:30 p.m. (Spanish). Weekdays: 12:05 p.m.
ST. LUCY'S CHURCH, 909 West Main Road, Middletown, 847-6153. Winter Schedule: Sat. 5 p.m., Sun. 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.
ST. MADEIRAINE SOPHIE CHURCH, 35 Lake Rd., Tiverton. 624-4226. Sat., 4 p.m., Sun. 9:00
ST. MARY'S CHURCH, Spring St. & Memorial Blvd., Newport., 847-0475. Mon., Wed., Fri. 9:30 a.m., Sat. 5:15 p.m., Sun. 8:30 and 11 a.m.
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH, 135 Pelham St., Newport. 846-0643. Worship service 10 a.m. Sunday. Childcare provided beginning Sept. 10.

RELIGION BRIEFS

St. John's celebrates the 125th anniversary

Bishop Nicholas Knisely will preside at Choral Evensong & Benediction for the Feast of Dedication on Sunday, Nov. 17, at 4 p.m. as St. John's celebrates the 125th anniversary of the consecration of the Zabriskie Memorial Church building.

This special service will feature the Professional Choristers of The Choir School of Newport County, the St. John's Adult Choir, and singers from our sister parish of Saint Stephen's, Providence.

Music selections will include those by Edward Elgar, Gerre Hancock and Herbert Howells, featuring Elgar's "Behold, a great priest" for the entrance of a Bishop, and his extended festival anthem setting of Psalm 48. In "Great is the Lord," Elgar presents an enduring vision of God, and the thwarting of earthly kings, "that we may tell it to the generation following."

The current building of the Church of St. John the Evangelist was donated by Sarah Titus Zabriskie in memory of her mother Sarah Jane Zabriskie, and was consecrated by the Bishop of Rhode Island in November 1894.

This service celebrates the 125th anniversary of its dedication.

No admission fee; a free-will offering will be received. Reception follows in the Guild Hall.

The Zabriskie Memorial Church of Saint John the Evangelist is located at 61 Washington St., at the corner of Washington and Willow streets, with free parking in our lot opposite 25 Willow St.

Temple Shalom hosts Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Thanksgiving will bring together community members from a variety of religious traditions to celebrate the holiday.

The Temple Shalom will host the 45th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on Wednesday, Nov. 27 beginning at 7 p.m. at 223 Valley Road, Middletown. More than a dozen congregations across Aquidneck Island will participate in the service.

"It is really a joyful time when people from different beliefs, different faiths come together to share what we all have in common," said Fred Scheff, cantor of Temple Shalom. "This is an opportunity for all of us to give thanks for all that we have in common and all that we share as part of a large community of faith."

All are welcome to attend.