



Companion ON THE JOURNEY

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I spend many hours driving to appointments throughout New Hampshire, and the radio is a very helpful “companion on the journey.” I often listen to EWTN on affiliate stations in Boston or on WICX 102.7 in Concord. I appreciate the interviews with people from so many backgrounds who are grounded in our Catholic Faith. I also appreciate the teachings that these stations broadcast throughout the day and evening hours.

The radio is one of the communications media that is a portable, free and easily accessible means of learning our Faith, whether driving in the car or being occupied wherever we happen to be. The voice of faith over the airwaves brings the Gospel of Jesus Christ right into our hearing.

Catholic radio provides a great service for all its listeners; it provides the why as well as the who, when and how, along with the lonely *what* of what we believe. I call the what “lonely” because so often the secular media just gives us “the bottom line” without any context. Catholic radio surely helps fill in “the rest of the story” as the late long-time radio commentator Paul Harvey used to say!

The apostle St. Paul once said that faith comes

in the hearing. He wondered how people would be able to believe in the Good News of Jesus if there were no one to tell them. We could wonder, after all these centuries, how anyone could go through life without ever hearing once about Jesus. But, honestly, we have to ask ourselves, “What have I said about Jesus and faith lately? Am I comfortable in mentioning a word, a teaching, a little personal story about what Jesus means to me? Am I uncomfortable and don’t want to intrude, as it were?”

I find that some of the programs on Catholic radio stir up something inside. Listening to stories that were so good, that they just needed to be repeated. Before you know it, we can be



Bishop Peter A. Libasci is the Tenth Bishop of the Diocese of Manchester.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, BISHOP LIBASCI!

On Wednesday, Dec. 7, the fifth anniversary of Bishop Libasci's installation as the 10th Bishop of Manchester was celebrated after

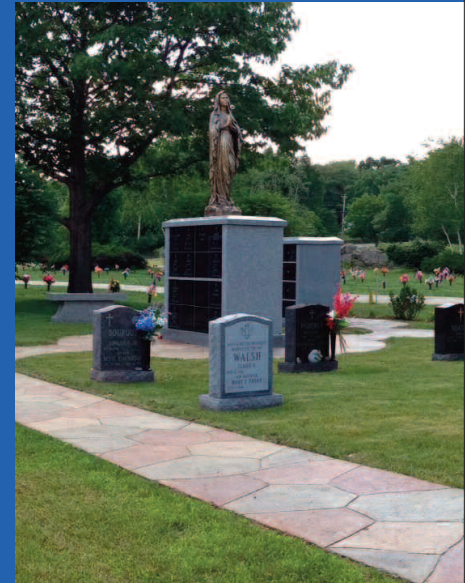
Morning Prayer at the Diocesan Office Building. Employees from the diocesan administration and Catholic Charities of New Hampshire marked the anniversary of Bishop Libasci's installation with a surprise celebration that included an array of breakfast treats – including bagels, bialys and babka – from his favorite New York deli, and presented the bishop with a memory book of pictures from events during the last five years. Bishop Libasci was installed on Dec. 8, 2011.



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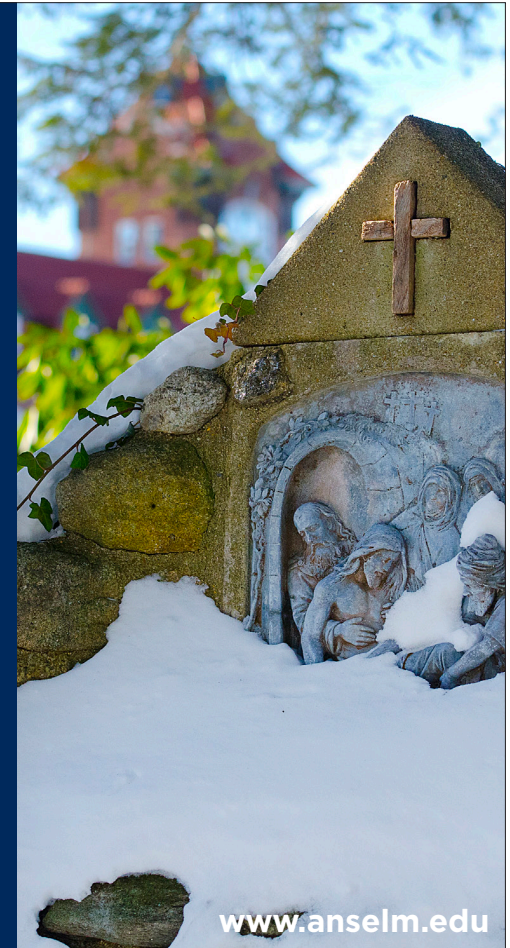
bringing Jesus into someone else's hearing because we had just heard the Christian witness of another.

This magazine that you're reading does the same thing. Do you realize that *Parable* is a collection of people's experiences of faith? They are helpful personal examples of the reasons and the ways people live out what they have come to know and cherish about Jesus, the Son of God, who is still keeping company with us every day. It's true. Stories of faith are, in some ways, windows into the soul and windows into heaven. They remind us of what we hope for and what we were created to become in God's plan for us. As the old formula, memorized for generations, says: "God made me to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him forever in the next."

Catholic radio when we are on the move, and Catholic reading, such as *Parable*, when we are at rest – and Catholic television, too! – are great companions on this journey of life. They can help us remember and reflect on the Year of Mercy, and the hopeful teachings of Advent, and the Holy Presence of Christ not only at Christmas but always – even to the end of the world. They can encourage us to go forward because there are many of us, many more than we realize, who are believers with us sharing our Catholic Faith. ■

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