

# Passionist News Notes

## St Paul of the Cross Province



### Fr. Jim O'Shea—NYC Man of the Week!

By NY1 News Saturday, April 30, 2016

Date	Birthdays
4	BONEY, Vincent
6	GREENE, Michael
10	WARD, Mark
14	FRECHETTE, Richard
14	DOUGHERTY, Charles
16	REGO, Joachim
20	CHENOT, Paul
21	JOERGER, Robert
22	VEREB, Jerome
22	SKORKA, Terence
26	PAPA, Dominic
28	KRAWCHYK, Matthew

A cafe in Brooklyn serves up more than just coffee.

It's part of the nonprofit Reconnect. It hires, trains and employs young men from low-income neighborhoods, giving them an opportunity to earn money and gain a support system.

"The one thing I hope all these guys take away is that my life matters," says the Rev. Jim O'Shea, the latest New Yorker of the Week. "Am I perfect? No. Am I a saint? No, none of us are. But my life matters. And there actually are people in the world that will stick with me and stay with me long enough to discover that. One of those people is O'Shea, founder of Reconnect and a Catholic priest. He employs dozens of men ages 17 to 24 at three businesses Bedford-Stuyvesant: a café, a bakery and a graphics company.



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### Jubilarians this Year

Professed		Years
Enzo	DelBrocco	25
Patrick	Geinzer	
Thomas	Bonacci	50
Jerome	Vereb	
Earl	Keating	60
Edward	Buchheit	
Theophane	Cooney	70
Neil	Davin	
Bonaventure	Moccia	

"A lot of us coming from this area took education for granted, so a lot of us didn't take it seriously enough to go into the work world," says Lamont Hill, manager of Reconnect Graphics. "A lot of us needed a second chance and needed some guidance and some help." Reconnect is O'Shea's attempt to deter men from violence and help them envision a better future. "Nobody wants to live in a life that's not productive, but a lot of times, if we don't see or feel that there's other options, we tend to kind of do what we see or what's around, or do nothing," he says.

"I wanted to do something positive. I wanted to have money in my pocket, do stuff. I didn't just want to be walking up and down the street doing nothing," says Deon Burns, assistant manager at Reconnect Café. "I wanted to be like sort of a role model to other kids in the community."

Here, employees gain communication skills, an entrepreneurial spirit and confidence. "This guy is like a dad," says Efrain Hernandez, manager at Reconnect Café. "If I never met Father Jim, I probably would have been dead or in jail."

"One big life lesson I learned is not to give up, just keep pushing," Burns says. "Father Jim made a difference in my life by giving me a job and, like, giving me the opportunity to show that I'm worth his time."

So, for reconnecting disconnected New Yorkers to their community, Father Jim O'Shea is our New Yorker of the Week

Ordained		Years
Gaston	Nsongolo	25
Thomas	McCann	50
Timothy	Fitzgerald	60
Kevin	Casey	
John	McMillan	
Damian	Towey	

### Deceased

May 14<sup>th</sup> Henry Free

# Reconnect

<http://reconnectbrooklyn.org>

## THE PROBLEM

Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn is a place of historic **struggle** and good. A place where **33%** of residents live in poverty and **48%** of children live **under** the poverty line. A place that is home to **thousands** of **disconnected youth**, representing a quiet crisis that promises continued, significant **social consequences**.

## THE PLAN

A dash of **entrepreneurship**., a sprinkle of **hope**.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

We're changing this. **one block, one person at a time**.  
By turning the **youth** of the neighborhood into the neighborhood's next generation of **entrepreneurs**

- 3 Businesses Launched**      **Next 5 Years - 5 New Businesses**  
Our Café, Bakery, Graphics Shop and Reconnect Apparel (see below)
- 90 Young Partners Engaged**      **Next 5 Years - 500 Young Partners**  
The foundation of Bed-Stuy's next generation of entrepreneurs.
- Partnerships In-Development**      **Next 5 Years - 50 Existing Business Partnerships**  
Our Local Partnership Program with neighborhood employers is launching



To learn more about Reconnect	
<b>Reconnect</b>	Facebook <a href="https://www.facebook.com/reconnectcafe/">https://www.facebook.com/reconnectcafe/</a> Video <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EtXPLT7Qfxw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EtXPLT7Qfxw</a>
<b>Cafe</b>	Yelp <a href="http://www.yelp.com/biz/reconnect-cafe-brooklyn-2">http://www.yelp.com/biz/reconnect-cafe-brooklyn-2</a> Facebook <a href="https://www.facebook.com/reconnectcafe/">https://www.facebook.com/reconnectcafe/</a> Website <a href="http://www.reconnectshop.com/#our-cafe">http://www.reconnectshop.com/#our-cafe</a> Images <a href="https://www.instagram.com/p/km2NBNrdPO/?taken-by=reconnect_cafe">https://www.instagram.com/p/km2NBNrdPO/?taken-by=reconnect_cafe</a>
<b>Graphics Shop</b>	Website <a href="http://www.reconnectgraphics.com/">http://www.reconnectgraphics.com/</a> Facebook <a href="https://www.facebook.com/reconnectgraphics">https://www.facebook.com/reconnectgraphics</a>
<b>Apparel</b>	Images <a href="https://www.instagram.com/p/BC3OjXOLdGW/">https://www.instagram.com/p/BC3OjXOLdGW/</a>

## New Partnership

Reconnect has entered into a partnership with an internationally renowned organization - *Jesuit Commons: Higher Education at the Margins* (JC:HEM) in order to provide a life changing process for our young partners. Through this partnership with JC:HEM, *Reconnect's Young Partners* will be able to study through our own distance learning center with on-site instruction and guidance and be able to earn up to **50 credits** from Regis University, CO **at little to no cost**, while having on-line access to Georgetown University's library. We began with a small pilot group in 2016 and, from that small group of pioneers, two young men have been accepted to Regis University and will begin their undergraduate studies in September.