

# WORLD & NATION

## Lesser-known victims of Sept. 11 attacks recalled

By Victor Reklaitis  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Although the heroism of Franciscan Father Mychal Judge was widely reported in the aftermath of Sept. 11, Catholic newspapers also told the stories of lesser-known individuals from across the country.

Thomas Burnett Jr. of San Ramon, Calif., went to Mass regularly on Sundays and often on weekdays at St. Isidore Church in nearby Danville. By repairing bicycles and helping with fund-raising drives, he participated in his parish's efforts to help street children in Guatemala and Nicaragua.

Married with three young daughters, Burnett was chief operating officer and senior vice president of Thoratec Corporation, which develops and markets medical devices.

On Sept. 11, he called his wife on his cell phone to tell her that the plane taking him home from Newark, N.J., had been hijacked. After the call, she called 911 to report the hijacking, and then their parish priest, looking for spiritual support.

Father Frank Colacicco was someone her husband had admired for his forthright stance on right and wrong. Father Colacicco described Thomas Burnett similarly in an interview with *The Catholic Voice*, newspaper for the Diocese of Oakland, Calif.

The 38-year-old Burnett "firmly believed that God gives us free will and by doing good you could overcome evil," said Father Colacicco.

It's been reported that the business executive and at least three other passengers acted to disrupt the hijackers' plans.

United Flight 93 crashed near Shanksville, Pa., and all 44 people aboard died. The hijackers intended to crash the plane into the White House, according to some reports.

Deborah Welsh of New York City was also on the flight as the purser, the head flight attendant who makes announcements.

She was a parishioner and longtime member of the main choir at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Manhattan. Together

with her husband, she often helped with the parish's youth ministry.

Taking teens to theme parks, volunteering at the parish street fair and jumping into costume for Mardi Gras celebrations, the 49-year-old Welsh was known for her fun-loving personality.

"She was very much a joyful person," Paul Canestro, St. Paul's director of youth and senior ministry, told *Catholic New York*, newspaper for the Archdiocese of New York.

St. Joseph Church of Bronxville, N.Y., also lost a devoted parishioner on Sept. 11.

Dwight D. Darcy was active in the parish's men's club, which runs sports programs for children, and had been a member of the parish finance committee, the parish council president, a lector and a eucharistic minister.

A senior attorney heading the Labor Relations Division of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, Darcy lived in Bronxville with his wife and two sons.

"Dwight was one of the kindest, most gentle men I've ever known," Nora Murphy, a fellow parishioner at St. Joseph Church, told *Catholic New York*.

In addition to his responsibilities to his family, parish and employer, Darcy had served as president of Catholic Big Brothers of New York and as president of the board of trustees of Mount St. Michael Academy in the Bronx. In gratitude for Darcy's service to the school, the Marist brothers who run the school made him an affiliate of their congregation.

"He started out by leading us through some difficult years, legally, and he ended up being a friend to many of the brothers," said Marist Brother Michael Flanigan, the order's vice provincial. "People saw the spirituality in him."

Darcy, 55, worked at the Port Authority offices in the World Trade Center. He was in his office on the 66th floor of the north tower on Sept. 11 when the first plane, American Airlines Flight 11 from Boston, struck the tower.

Darcy was one of 2,819 people who died in the terrorist attacks in New York.

In Washington, 189 people died when terrorists crashed American Airlines Flight 77 into the Pentagon. One of the vic-



Karen Callaway/CNS

## Black Catholics assemble

Above, Bishop Wilton D. Gregory (right), president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, blesses Atlanta Deacon Ricardo Bailey before the deacon reads the Gospel at the opening Mass of the ninth National Black Catholic Congress in Chicago Aug. 29. More than 3,000 delegates attended the congress, which ended Sept. 1. At right, Leodia Gooch of St. Louis, Mo., smiles with excitement during the entrance procession at the congress's opening Eucharistic Liturgy.



tims, the highest-ranking Army officer killed in the attacks, was a devout Catholic.

An Indianapolis native, Lt. Gen. Timothy J. Maude reportedly participated in a monthly Bible study there for 15 years, with his friends often scheduling meetings around him and his military commitments.

"Family, faith and service to his country were all very, very important to him," his mother, Dolores Maude, told *The Criterion*, newspaper for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. He was married with two daughters and had been living in Fort Myer, Va., near the Pentagon.

Promoted to his last rank and position in May 2000, Maude was the Army's

deputy chief of staff for personnel. He served in the Army for 35 years, including time in Vietnam, Germany and Korea.

The 53-year-old officer had just moved into a redecorated office located in the area of the Pentagon destroyed by the terrorist attack.

At a memorial service for Maude in Indianapolis, Father Joe Brown of St. Lawrence Church, where Maude's mother is a parishioner, said the victims of Sept. 11 did not die in vain.

"Many eyes have been opened to the value and dignity of human life," Father Brown said. "Freedom is no longer taken for granted."

## Franciscan brother plans bell-ringing service to honor Sept. 11 victims

NEW YORK (CNS) — For Franciscan Brother David Schlatter, Father Mychal Judge was not only a friend and a mentor, but a source of inspiration.

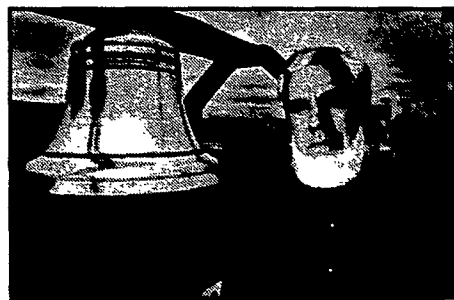
The inspiration led Brother David to work as a chaplain with firefighters in Wilmington, Del., and to initiate "The Remembrance Project," a bell-tolling service honoring Father Judge and the other New York firefighters who died in the World Trade Center attacks.

Father Judge, chaplain of the New York Fire Department since 1992, perished on Sept. 11 near the lobby of One World Trade Center, while administering last rites to a fallen firefighter. He was 68.

Brother David first met the late Franciscan 34 years ago when Father Judge, then an assistant at Sacred Heart Church in Rochelle Park, N.J., came to Siena College in Loudonville, N.Y., to lead a retreat. Father Judge's attitude and love for the Franciscan life and ministry immediately impressed Brother David, who was a freshman at the time.

After that, the two Franciscans spoke regularly and saw one another at ordinations, weddings and funerals. In 1993 when Wilmington firefighters approached Brother David to become their chaplain, he sought the advice of Father Judge.

"He told me, 'You'll love it and they'll love you,'" Brother David recalled. "He al-



Don Blaka/CNS

Franciscan Brother David Schlatter will haul this bell to New York, where it will toll every 10 seconds Sept. 11 for each of the 2,819 victims of the World Trade Center attack last year.

so told me that it would take a year to break in and it did."

Brother David, director of Wilmington's Franciscan Center, decided to initiate the bell-ringing project when he was returning from Father Judge's wake at St. Francis of Assisi Church in New York.

"In the past, we've used bells for memorial services and for bereavement groups so, why not do something with bells to honor Mychal and the firefighters," he said. "This was the next logical step."

That simple idea eventually developed into a massive bell-ringing ceremony to remember those who perished in New York, Shanksville, Pa., and Washington.

The memorial includes the placement of a "Bell of Remembrance" at each of the sites or in the general area where the terrorists struck. The bells, with a combined weight of 13,000 pounds, will be individually mounted on a 14-by-8 foot trailer and hauled to each site by a Ford F-350 diesel pickup truck driven by Brother David.

The bells will then be tolled every 10 seconds for every victim at the three locations, beginning at the time of each plane crash. An additional bell will be placed at Tubman-Garrett Park in Wilmington and will ring for 8.46 hours to honor all those who died during the Sept. 11 attacks.

"I had to offer some consolation to those who live with the overwhelmingly sad aftermath of this tragedy," Brother David said. "We want to honor those who died and console those who remain."

Those gathering outside New York's St. Francis of Assisi Church on the one-year anniversary of the attacks will be invited to manually toll the 5,000-pound bell. The ceremony will go on for 7.8 hours, representing the estimated 2,819 World Trade Center casualties.

"We want to keep this memorial simple and hands on," Brother David said. "It's important for the people to ring these bells, because they want to express their support for those who died."

The 3,500-pound bell in Arlington, Va., will toll for 30.6 minutes, representing 189

who were killed at the Pentagon.

In Shanksville, the 2,800-pound bell will ring for almost seven minutes, representing the 44 victims who died aboard United Airlines Flight 93.

The tolling sequence will simultaneously begin at 8:45 a.m. in Wilmington and New York, followed by those in Virginia and Shanksville. At 10:37 a.m., all four bells will toll simultaneously for three minutes.

The remembrance bells, with an estimated value of \$170,000, were cast in the 1800s and purchased in 1997 by MBNA America Bank. Charles Cawley, president of MBNA, gave the bells to Brother David for his project.

The 107-year-old bell that will be brought to New York was once housed in a Chicago church. It stands 50 inches high and measures 63 inches in diameter at the mouth.

The McShane Bell Foundry of Glen Burnie, Md., has donated more than 40 hours of labor to refurbish and polish the bell, and Bayshore Ford of New Castle, Del., contributed a \$38,155 pickup truck to transport it.

Once the Sept. 11 memorials are completed, the bells will be transported to the annual National Fallen Firefighter Memorial ceremony in Washington, honoring those firefighters, including Father Judge, who lost their lives in the line of duty.