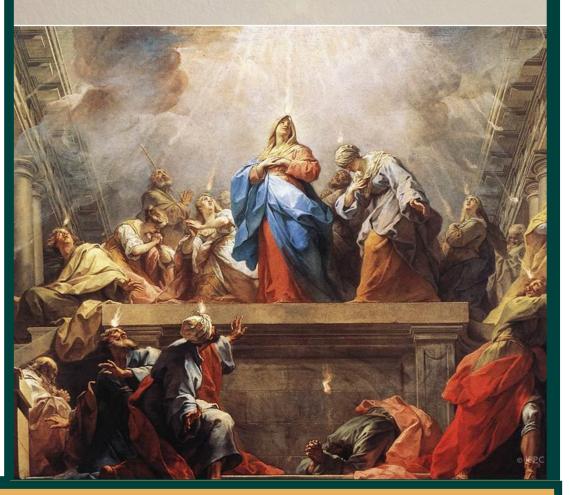
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTE

Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him.

John 14:23



26 Dodgingtown Road, Bethel, CT 06801

Phone: (203)744-5777

Website: www.stmarybethel.org Email: stmaryoffice@comcast.net

Visit us on Facebook: StMaryChurchBethel

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

9am -2:00 pm, Mon. - Thurs.; 9am-Noon on Fridays

(Closed Weekends and Holidays)

FATHER COREY'S EPISTLE

† Quote from Pope Leo X1V

Brothers, sisters...

I speak to you, especially to those who no longer believe, no longer hope, no longer pray, because they think God has left.

To those who are fed up with scandals, with misused power, with the silence of a Church that sometimes seems more like a palace than a home.

I, too, was angry with God.

I, too, saw good people die, children suffer, grandparents cry without medicine.

And yes... there were days when I prayed and only felt an echo.

But then I discovered something:

God doesn't shout. God whispers.

And sometimes He whispers from the mud, from pain, from a grandmother who feeds you without having anything.

I don't come to offer you perfect faith.

I come to tell you that faith is a walk with stones, puddles, and unexpected hugs.

I'm not asking you to believe in everything.

I'm asking you not to close the door. Give a chance to the God who waits for you without judgment.

I'm just a priest who saw God in the smile of a woman who lost her son... and yet she cooked for others.

That changed me.

So if you're broken, if you don't believe, if you're

tired of the lies...

come anyway. With your anger, your doubt, your dirty backpack.

No one here will ask you for a VIP card.

Because this Church, as long as I breathe, will be a home for the homeless, and a rest for the weary.

God doesn't need soldiers.

He needs brothers.

And you, yes, you...

are one of them."

Robert Prevost (Leo XIV)



Sene PP. XIV 8 maggio 2025

Sunday, 5/25	Monday, 5/26	Tuesday, 5/27	Wednesday, 5/28
7:00am, 8:30am & 11:00am Masses	8:20am Rosary 9:00am Mass 7:00pm May Devotions In Honor of Our Heroes	8:20am Rosary 9:00am Mass 9:30am Walking with Purpose 7:00pm Walking with Purpose	8:20am Rosary 9:00am Mass 5:00pm Children's Choir 5:30pm Mass 7:00pm Adult Choir

FATHER COREY'S EPISTLE

† Biography of Pope Leo XIV, born Robert Francis Prevost

Prior to his election as Pope Leo XIV, Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost was Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops. Here is the biography of the 267th Bishop of Rome.

The first Augustinian Pope, Leo XIV is the second Roman Pontiff - after Pope Francis - from the Americas. Unlike Jorge Mario Bergoglio, however, the 69-year-old Robert Francis Prevost is from the northern part of the continent, though he spent many years as a missionary in Peru before being elected head of the Augustinians for two consecutive terms.

First Augustinian Pope The new Bishop of Rome was born on September 14, 1955, in Chicago, Illinois, to Louis Marius Prevost, of French and Italian descent, and Mildred Martínez, of Spanish descent. He has two brothers, Louis Martín and John Joseph.

He spent his childhood and adolescence with his family and studied first at the Minor Seminary of the Augustinian Fathers and then at Villanova University in Pennsylvania, where in 1977 he earned a Degree in Mathematics and also studied Philosophy.

On September 1 of the same year, Prevost entered the novitiate of the Order of Saint Augustine (O.S.A.) in Saint Louis, in the Province of Our Lady of Good Counsel of Chicago, and made his first profession on September 2, 1978. On August 29, 1981, he made his solemn vows.

The future Pontiff received his theological education at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. At the age of 27, he was sent by his superiors to Rome to study Canon Law at the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum).

In Rome, he was ordained a priest on June 19, 1982, at the Augustinian College of Saint Monica by Archbishop Jean Jadot, then pro-president of the Secretariat for Non-Christians, which later became the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue and then the Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue.

Prevost obtained his licentiate in 1984 and the following year, while preparing his doctoral thesis, was sent to the

Augustinian mission in Chulucanas, Piura, Peru (1985–1986). In 1987, he defended his doctoral thesis on "The Role of the Local Prior in the Order of Saint Augustine" and was appointed vocation director and missions director of the Augustinian Province of "Mother of Good Counsel" in Olympia Fields, Illinois (USA).

Mission in Peru The following year, he joined the mission in Trujillo, also in Peru, as director of the joint formation project for Augustinian candidates from the vicariates of Chulucanas, Iquitos, and Apurímac.

Over the course of eleven years, he served as prior of the community (1988–1992), formation director (1988–1998), and instructor for professed members (1992–1998), and in the Archdiocese of Trujillo as judicial vicar (1989–1998) and professor of Canon Law, Patristics, and Moral Theology at the Major Seminary "San Carlos y San Marcelo." At the same time, he was also entrusted with the pastoral care of Our Lady Mother of the Church, later established as the parish of Saint Rita (1988–1999), in a poor suburb of the city, and was parish administrator of Our Lady of Monserrat from 1992 to 1999.

In 1999, he was elected Provincial Prior of the Augustinian Province of "Mother of Good Counsel" in Chicago, and two and a half years later, the ordinary General Chapter of the Order of Saint Augustine, elected him as Prior General, confirming him in 2007 for a second term.

In October 2013, he returned to his Augustinian Province in Chicago, serving as director of formation at the Saint Augustine Convent, first councilor, and provincial vicar—roles he held until Pope Francis appointed him on November 3, 2014, as Apostolic Administrator of the Peruvian Diocese of Chiclayo, elevating him to the episcopal dignity as Titular Bishop of Sufar.

He entered the Diocese on November 7, in the presence of Apostolic Nuncio James Patrick Green, who ordained him Bishop just over a month later, on December 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, in the Cathedral of Saint Mary.

Thursday, 5/29	Friday, 5/30	Saturday, 5/31	Sunday, 6/1
7:00am Mass 8:20am Rosary 9:00am Mass 6:30pm Scripture Study	8:20am Rosary 9:00am Mass	7:00am Men's Ministry 8:20am Rosary 9:00am Mass 3:00pm Adoration 3:00pm Confessions 4:30pm Mass	7:00am, 8:30am & 11:00am Masses 12:15pm Pre Baptism Class

FATHER COREY'S EPISTLE

His episcopal motto is "In Illo uno unum"—words pronounced by Saint Augustine in a sermon on Psalm 127 to explain that "although we Christians are many, in the one Christ we are one."

Bishop of Chiclayo, Peru, from 2015 to 2023

On September 26, 2015, he was appointed Bishop of Chiclayo by Pope Francis. In March 2018, he was elected second vice-president of the Peruvian Episcopal Conference, where he also served as a member of the Economic Council and president of the Commission for Culture and Education.

In 2019, Pope Francis appointed him a member of the Congregation for the Clergy (July 13, 2019), and in 2020, a member of the Congregation for Bishops (November 21). Meanwhile, on April 15, 2020, he was also appointed Apostolic Administrator of the Peruvian Diocese of Callao.

Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops On January 30, 2023, the Pope called him to Rome as Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops and President of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, promoting him to the rank of Archbishop.

Created Cardinal in 2023 Pope Francis created him Cardinal in the Consistory of September 30, 2023, and assigned him the Diaconate of Saint Monica. He officially took possession of his titular church on January 28, 2024.

As head of the Dicastery, he participated in the Pope's most recent Apostolic Journeys and in both the first and second sessions of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on synodality, held in Rome from October 4 to 29, 2023, and from October 2 to 27, 2024, respectively.

Meanwhile, on October 4, 2023, Pope Francis appointed him as a member of the Dicasteries for Evangelization (Section for First Evangelization and New Particular Churches), for the Doctrine of the Faith, for the Eastern Churches, for the Clergy, for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, for Culture and Education, for Legislative Texts, and of the Pontifical Commission for the Vatican City State.

Finally, on February 6 of this year, the Argentine Pope promoted him to the Order of Bishops, granting him the title of the Suburbicarian Church of Albano.

Three days later, on February 9, he celebrated the Mass presided over by Pope Francis in St. Peter's Square for the Jubilee of the Armed Forces, the second major event of the Holy Year of Hope.

During the most recent hospitalization of his predecessor at the "Gemelli" hospital, Prevost presided over the Rosary for Pope Francis's health in Saint Peter's Square on March 3.

Vatican News

MAY DEVOTIONS to the Blessed Mother will take place on Mondays in May at 7pm in the Chapel at the Notre Dame Center.

The <u>ST. MARY MEN'S MINISTRY</u> group meets on Saturdays from 7:00 AM to 8:30 AM in Father McGivney Hall, followed by the 9:00 AM Saturday Mass. For more information, Deacon Eric Keener at dnkeener@diobpt.org.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP provides a prayerful experience of mutual support and comfort for those who are confronting the loss of a loved one. Our upcoming zoom meeting is on *June 14.* If you wish to attend, please call the parish office at 744-5777 and ask that a group facilitator call you with more information.

The **YOUNG ADULT** group (ages 21-35) meets every 3rd Thursday of the month. Look them up on Instagram at avemarie1882.

The **ST. MARY ADULT CHOIR** practices in Father McGivney Hall on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-9pm. If you are interested in being part of our Parish Choir, please call the Parish Office. The **ST. MARY YOUTH CHOIR** sings once a month and rehearse every Wednesday from 5-6pm in Father McGivney Hall. For more info contact Leanna Hinger at Youth-Choir.StMary@gmail.com.

If you would like to dedicate **ALTAR FLOWERS** in memory of a loved one at weekend Masses, call the Parish Office at (203)744-5777. Donation would be \$150 and your loved one's name will appear in the bulletin.

If you would like the **SANCTUARY CANDLE** to be lit for your departed loved one, we shall publish your loved one's name in the bulletin and the priest, while in the sacristy, will pray for the repose of their soul for 7 days. The stipend is \$10. Call the office to make arrangements.

Because of the lack of attendance, **FIRST SUNDAY ADORATION** will be discontinued for the summer and will be revisited in the Fall. Saturday Adoration at 3pm will continue.

ST. MARY BOOK GROUP welcomes all adults! "Spiritual reading has made many saints" (St. Josemaria Escriva). Our next book is A Song for Nagasaki: The Story of Takashi Nagai by Paul Glynn, S.M. Read about the inspiring life of this Japanese scientist, Catholic convert, and survivor of the atomic bomb, who was named a Servant of God in 2021. We will meet on June 4 at 7 pm in the Quiet Room. You can listen to the audiobook on the Hallow app and on Formed. You can borrow a copy with your Library card through a special interlibrary loan request using FindItCT.org. Or you can purchase a copy online from Ignatius Press or Amazon.



Thursday, May 29 is Ascension Thursday, a Holy Day of Obligation.

Masses are at 5:30pm on Wed., May 28; and at 7:00 & 9:00am on Thurs. May 29.

St. Mary School

A Catholic School of Academic Excellence for Pre-K to 8th Grade

REGISTRATION FOR 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR IS NOW OPEN We are now accepting applications for PreK-- Grade 8. Please visit our website at www.stmarybethelct.org and click on "Apply Now". We do anticipate waitlists in many grades so please apply as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact Geraldine Henn, Enrollment Director, at admissions@stmarybethelct.org or call 203-744-2922.

Please visit us on FACEBOOK ("St. Mary School, Bethel"), INSTAGRAM ("stmaryschoolbethel"), and TWITTER (@SaintMaryBethel) to see photos and news of the latest happenings at SMS!



Offertory for the Weekend of May 10/11, 2025

Collection: \$7,279.00 On-Line Giving: \$4,292.00

Offertory for the Weekend of May 11/12, 2024

Collection: \$8,001.00 On-Line Giving: \$4,255.00

Thank you for your generosity!



The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, May 26 for Memorial Day.





St. Mary Religious Education 24 Dodgingtown Road Bethel, CT 06801 203-743-4557

stmarybethelreliged@gmail.com stmarybethel.org





Sun.: Acts 15:1-2, 22-29 Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 Rv 21:10-14, 22-

23 Jn 14:23-29

Mon.: Acts 16:11-15 Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a, 9b Jn 15:26 -

16:4a

Tues.: Acts 16:22-34 Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 Jn 16:5-11

Wed.: Acts 17:15, 22 — 18:1 Ps 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14 Jn

16:12-15

Thu: Acts 1:1-11 Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 Eph 1:17-23 or Heb

9:24-28; 10:19-23 Lk 24:46-53

Fri.: Acts 18:9-18 Ps 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 Jn 16:20-23

Sat.: Zep 3:14-18a or Rom 12:9-16 Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 Lk

1:39-56

Sun.: Acts 15:1-2, 22-29 Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 Rv 21:10-14, 22-

23 Jn 14:23-29



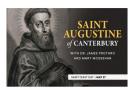
This Week on Formed

Week of May 25, 2025



Saint Philip Neri: I Prefer Heaven

This captivating film highlights St. Phillip Neri's great love for youth, his warm sense of humor, contagious joy, deep mystical spirituality, and his amazing gift for miracles. Watch this film to learn more about the famous Apostle of Rome.



St. Augustine of Canterbury | Catholic Saints

St. Augustine of Canterbury is often called the "Apostle to the English". A great missionary, St. Augustine was pivotal in converting the Anglo-Saxons to the Catholic faith. Join Dr. James Prothro and Mary McGeehan as they discuss this great saint and his witness to Jesus Christ.



St. Bede the Venerable | Catholic Saints

 $\label{eq:decomposition} \mbox{Dr. Elizabeth Klein and Taylor Kemp sit down to discuss the holy life and witness of St. Bede the Venerable.}$

Our parish has a Formed subscription. Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.





The Knights of Columbus are looking for

Catholic men of faith to help in our mission of charitable works to support St. Mary Parish and the greater Bethel community. If you're at least 18 years of age, we invite you to join us!

To watch a video about what we do, see the link or QR code below.

https://youtu.be/D4NLkjqr541

To contact us, call our Grand Knight Lang Reese at 410-693-6795

Grand Knight Lang Reese at 410-693-6795 or email us at gkofpavia@gmail.com





THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

For working conditions Let us pray that through work, each person might find fulfilment, families might be sustained in dignity, and that society might be humanized.

Diocese of Bridgeport Project Rachel Ministry – Jesus Keeps on Loving You, No Matter What

"As we approach Lent, please allow me to speak to all who carry the unbearable sadness and guilt of an abortion experience. Be assured that Jesus keeps on loving you, no matter what. I pray that God plants a seed of hope in every heart that is overwhelmed by sadness and despair from participation in abortion. This Lent, the Lord's mercy awaits you. Allow Him to heal you and lift your sadness into joy." — Bishop Daniel E. Thomas, Chairman, USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

The Diocese of Bridgeport's Project Rachel Ministry is here to help you. For confidential assistance or information on upcoming events, please contact Maureen at 203-416-1619 or projectrachel@diobpt.org. There is hope after abortion.



Use our online option to contribute to our Parish offertory

Convenient!

Secure and Confidential!

Simple!

Efficient!

Create your account TODAY

Go to: www.osvonlinegiving.com/994

or

www.stmarybethel.org and click on the online giving link



Monthly Regular Meetings

Community Service Opportunities

Retreats and Other Events

Email StMaryCrossroads@gmail.com to get on the email list for upcoming event schedule

Middle School Ages

FAITH | COMMUNITY | FUN

OFF THE STREETS is an all volunteer organization that assists those in need of housing. For those individuals that demonstrate a willingness to get off the streets, we provide security deposits, furniture and household items. We ask you to consider a donation to Off The Streets of furniture or household goods so that we can continue to move people Off The Streets!

On the first Saturday of every month we collect donations between ten and noon at South Street Self Storage located at 39-A South St in Danbury. You can con-

tact Mike at otsdanburymr@gmail.com with any questions you may have or scan the code for a list of items we can accept.

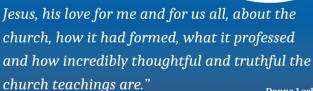


BROTHERHOOD IN ACTION Thank you for your generous support of the Brotherhood in Action. The generous donations of the people of St. Mary's makes it possible for our organization to exist and be able to give those in our community a sense of hope for happy holidays and yearround. If you wish to continue to help our mission throughout the year, monetary donations may be sent to: Brotherhood in Action, P.O. Box 582, Bethel, CT. 06801. Thank you again for your generosity!!



Donna was unsure about the Catholic Faith. In an effort to learn more about the Faith to raise her children as Catholics, she found a faith that she wanted to be a part of. After she entered the Church, she continues to serve on the O.C.I.A (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) Team at her parish, St. Rose.

"The more I learned, the more eager I was. It was a revelation in so many ways to learn about



-Donna Locke O.C.I.A. Team-St. Rose of Lima Parish

www.2025BishopsAppeal.org

To support this important ministry and work in our Diocese, please consider making your gift to the Bishop's Appeal today! Visit: www.2025BishopsAppeal.org

PRAYER FOR MEMORIAL DAY

God of power and mercy, you destroy war and put down earthly pride.

Banish violence from our midst and wipe away our tears, that we may all deserve to be called your sons and daughters.

Keep in your mercy those men and women who have died in the cause of freedom

and bring them safely into your kingdom of justice and peace.

We ask this though Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

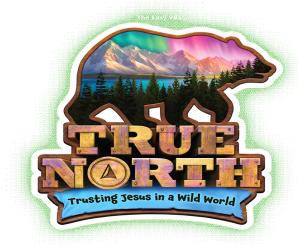


Mother Cabrini Shrine Met Cloisters Dinner

PILGRIMAGE

JUNE 28TH DEPARTING 11:00AM PRICING TO FOLLOW

Join us for St. Mary Vacation Bible School



June 23-27, 2025 9:00-11:45 St. Mary Parish Hall \$55.00 Ages 3-10

Child	
Age	Gender
Parent N	ame
Phone Nu	ımber
Parent er	nail
Allergies	, medical condition or special need
In case o	f Emergency, contact
Phone nui	mber
For m	ore info contact Mary Ferri 203 743 4557 or
	faithformation@stmarybethel.org
I understand	d that neither St. Mary Church,
nor any of it	s employees or volunteers is responsible for any injury sustained
by my child.	I accept full responsibility for any medical expenses as a result
of any such	injury sustained.
Parent/Guar	rdians
	(Signature)



Mass Schedule

Monday-Friday 9:00am

Saturday

9:00am & 4:30pm (Vigil Mass)

Sunday

7:00am, 8:30am, 11:00am

Reconciliation

Saturdays 3:00-4:00pm



SAT.. MAY 24

4:30 + Joan Dolan — Family

SUN., May 25

7:00 For the People of St. Mary

8:30 + Rosemary Mele — Family

11:00 + Salvatore Alongi — The Alongi Family

MON., MAY 26

9:00 + Sister Mary Jullian Collins — The Parish

TUES., MAY 27

9:00 + Carl Mallonee — The Mallonee Family

WED., MAY 28

9:00 + Father Austin B. Dignam — The Parish

5:30 + Kevin Fitzgerald — Family

THU., MAY 29

7:00 + Steve Oldham — Bob & Debbie Nelson

9:00 For the People of St. Mary

FRI., MAY 30

9:00 + Maureen Dean — Bob & Carol DiMatteo

SAT., MAY 31

9:00 + Carl DiNicholas — Nan & Paul Rinaldi

4:30 + Paul Livornese — Wife Lucille

SUN., June 1

7:00 + Jeanne Clarke — Family

8:30 + Mary Legnard — The DeRoin Family

- + Patricia Miles Peter & Veronica Barra
- + Louis Anthony Rosalie & Paul DeMarco
- + Richard Schlemmer The Nelson Family
- + Caleb & Danea Youket The Folan Family
- + Joseph Fontana The Folan Family
- + Eugene Kelly The Folan Family
- + Gene McCrory The Folan Family
- + Charlie Grant The DiMatteo Family
- + Waldemar Miniewicz Family
- + Steve Oldham Bob & Deb Nelson
- + John Hill The DeRoin Family

11:00 + Salvatore Alongi — The Alongi Family

STAFF Father Corey V. Piccinino, Pastor

Father Andrew LaFleur, Parochial Vicar

Deacon John DeRoin

Deacon Eric Keener

Kate Fitzgerald, Bulletin Editor

Sue Dolan, Parish Secretary

Maggie Kent, Office Manager

Debbie Burke, Business Manager

Alex LaFleur, Property Manager

ST. MARY SCHOOL (744-2922)

Scott Smith, Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (743-4557) Mary Ferri, Director

Mary Ferri, *Director*Maggie Kent, *Secretary*

RCIA (203)744-5777 Call if you are interested in becoming a Catholic or completing your initiation as a Catholic with Confirmation and/or Eucharist.

<u>UNITED YOUTH MINISTRY</u> Renzo Ortega (203) 240-8059

<u>MUSIC MINISTRY</u> Michael Ferrari, *Music & Choir Director*<u>FINANCE COMMITTEE (733-7335)</u> Bob Kozlowski, Chair

CEMETERY DIRECTOR: Bob DiMatteo (203)744-5777

BAPTISMS: Sundays at 12:15pm (excluding the 1st Sunday of each month). Please call the Rectory at least six weeks in advance to schedule your Baptism and to sign up for the Baptism Class that is required for both parents and Godparents. These classes are offered on the first Sunday of each month. Anyone requesting a Sponsorship form must be a currently registered and practicing Catholic, and they must attend one of the Baptism Classes to receive it. There is a 3-month waiting period for a sponsorship form for the newly registered. The Catholic requirements for a Godparent/Sponsor are: you must be at least 16 years old; received the Sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation in the Catholic Church; attend Mass regularly on Sundays and on Holy Days of Obligation; receive the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion regularly; sincerely try to follow the moral teaching of the Catholic Church: and if married, were married in the Catholic Church.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR MARRIAGE: All couples must meet with a parish clergyman at least six (6) months before the marriage is to be celebrated.

<u>PASTORAL CARE AT DANBURY HOSPITAL</u>: Prior to your hospitalization, you or a family member should notify the Catholic chaplain at the Hospital.

HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE SICK: To any of those who are homebound or hospitalized and interested in having a visit by a priest, or are interested in serving in this ministry, please call the Parish Office at 744-5777.

PRAYER LINE: If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, please call our Prayer Line. Our team leader is Maggie Kent (203-731-4738).

SEXUAL ABUSE HOTLINE: ONLINE: www.lighthouse-services.com/diobpt. TOLL FREE TELEPHONE: English speaking USA and Canada: 833-990-0004; Spanish speaking USA and Canada: 800-216-1288 E-MAIL: reports@lighthouse-services.com (must include company name with report). When contacting the hotline, an individual may or may not choose to identify him or herself.