

continued. "None of us is worthy of the love of God, but because of his compassion, we should open the door and say to him, 'Come in.'"

He urged everyone to make the most of each day and all the seconds in it – 86,400 to be precise. "Use them well. Walk toward Jesus. Know that he will help you."

### **Reaching Out**

Father Farleo's words echoed those of Tracy M., who shared her own experience with alcoholism and the role prayer and parish community support played in her battle to overcome the addiction. A conversion experience during a trip to Rome called her to the Church, she said. "I was on fire" for the Church, she shared, but she remained an alcoholic. A growing sense of misery coupled with her involvement in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults made her realize that "God had other plans [for me.]"

"God said it's time to give up your addiction," she said. "I went to rehab every day, prayed the Rosary on my knees and struggled to change everything. I threw Addictions Mass offers hope myself into faith."

The Church family she found at the parish and her own family helped her overcome her addiction. "I prayed every day, became active in AA ... I reach my hand out [now] and do as much as I can" to help others, she said.

Dorothy O'Reilly, fraternity minister/ president, explained that the service, a first for the parish, was scheduled to memorialize St. Maximillian Kolbe, for whom the parish hall is named, and to address the realization that all addictions – drugs, alcohol, sex, eating disorders and others – call for support from the Church community.

"We just want to see people get healed and freed from bondage, and it can happen through the power of prayer," said O'Reilly, who noted that the fraternity's involvement in reaching out to those with addictions is ongoing.

Those looking for more information on the Secular Franciscans or where to seek help for addictions can call Dorothy O'Reilly at 732-575-7913. Help is also available through the NJ Chapter of Drug Free America, [http:// drugfreenj.org](http://drugfreenj.org)