

The Catholic Register



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iPad Technology Helps Ailing Student Continue Education And Maintain Ties With His Saint Peter School Family

By Tony DeGol
The Catholic Register

Warning: If you are among those who do not get excited about the benefits of technology, this story will likely change your mind.

Ian Rosenbaum is a first grade student at Saint Peter School in Somerset.

A few months ago, he was diagnosed with a form of leukemia. Because of his treatments, he cannot physically be in the classroom each day because of the risk germs pose.

The school family is focused on Ian's treatment, praying for his recovery, and supporting the entire Rosenbaum family.

"We also wanted to continue Ian's participation in school and keep him progressing throughout the school year," said Lori Holloway, Ian's teacher.

Thanks to technology, that goal is being realized.

On mornings when he is not receiving a treatment, Ian dials into the school through FaceTime with an iPad.

So while he is not physically in the building, it is really the next best thing.

"He'll participate in group work where we'll place the iPad on the tables with students," Holloway noted. "Also, when we're working, I'll carry the iPad around the classroom and keep him engaged with students so he can see what the other students are reading. It's like he would be sitting next to them in the classroom."

Although they wish he



WONDERS OF TECHNOLOGY: With his grandmother Louann Bowersox at his side, Ian Rosenbaum, a first grade student at Saint Peter School in Somerset, participates in class from home through an iPad while he continues treatment for leukemia.

could be there in person, Ian's fellow first graders are embracing this opportunity to support him and interact with him.

"He can't be here with us, but it's like he is here with us because he's on the iPad, and we can see his face," observed classmate Laney Halverson.

Two other key players in all of this are Ian's older brother, Ethan, and Ian's grandmother, Louann Bowersox.

Bowersox sits with him at home and assists him and Holloway throughout the day.

Ethan, a sixth grade student at Saint Peter School, carries assignments and materials home to Ian from Holloway and returns things the following day. He considers it an honor.

"At this school, everybody knows Ian and they love him," Ethan observed. "Every day they see him. He has a smile on his face, and they say 'hi.' We just help out as much as we can on the iPad and keep him educated."

This is not the first time Saint Peter School has reached out to someone in need.

Principal Jill Harris recalled another student a few years ago who was unable to be in the classroom for health reasons. At that time, the school used Skype and a laptop computer to bring the student into the school. This time, the process is even more convenient.

"The technology has just advanced so much," Harris explained. "It was such a natural

thing to be able to do. As soon as Ian got home and was healthy enough, he had an iPad and we turned it on and the rest of it was magical because the kids are children and their hearts are beautiful and they're open and they just see him as one of them."

It is clear that the school and parish communities are invested in Ian's recovery.

"It's a tragedy beyond belief for a family, but you truly do get to see the merits of God's grace in situations like this and what it is maybe He's trying to teach us," Harris continued. "To me it's just a constant reminder every day of what we're capable of doing here, what Catholic schools, in general, are capable of doing, what we are blessed to be a part of and

to carry that out into the world. Witnessing the amount of generosity and love for each other in a Catholic school is something you just can't describe to other people."

The road ahead for Ian is a long one.

"This phase of treatment that he's entering into is pretty tough," Bowersox mentioned during an April interview.

It includes chemotherapy and blood transfusions. His total treatment, she said, is expected to continue until early 2022.

Bowersox considers herself fortunate to be able to join Ian each day and joked that she is even learning some new Math. She also expressed great gratitude to the Lord.

"I don't know how other people get through something like this without faith in God," she commented. "I have that assurance that I know God is going to take care of everything. He's in charge."

She also acknowledged the outpouring of support from Saint Peter Parish and School, many families and friends, and the community as a whole.

The school family cannot wait until Ian is able to physically return to the classroom. Until then, the prayers and support will continue.

"It touches my heart to see him," Holloway emphasized. "He's just an adorable guy, a beautiful young man, a beautiful young student. It's nothing I'm doing. It's him. He's touching me in more ways than he realizes through his strength. He does more for me than I do for him."

Smith Will Lead McCort And Divine Mercy Catholic Academy Partnership

By Tony DeGol
The Catholic Register

Life has come full circle for Tom Smith.

As an alum of the former Saint Benedict School in Johnstown and Bishop McCort Catholic High School, Smith now has a leadership role in fostering an already-thriving collaboration in Catholic education in Johnstown.

Smith has been named principal of McCort, succeeding Tom Fleming who will retire from the post in June.

Currently the principal of Divine Mercy Catholic Academy in Johnstown, Smith will also oversee a growing partnership between DMCA and Bishop McCort in the new position of Chief Administrative Officer for PreK-12. In this role, he will continue to provide weekly strategic counsel to DMCA.

"These changes have been adopted with the support of both the Bishop McCort and DMCA boards, and Diocesan representatives," stressed Tim Clark, chair of the Bishop McCort Board of Trustees. "Without question, this collaboration signals a renewed era of cooperation and partnership between our Catholic schools. We're all working together toward common goals, which is great news for our schools, our students and their families, and the community."

It is an opportunity for growth, Smith said, at two schools where expectations have been high for years.

"But now it's an expectation that the whole way through – PreK to 12 – is going to be seamless in terms of academics, the faith, the arts, and athletics," he continued. "We like to believe that for many years we've set the bar in those areas in Johnstown and now we have an opportunity to improve on that."

Smith earned a Bachelor's degree in secondary education and a Masters of Education from Saint Francis University. He received his principal certifica-



TOM SMITH

tion from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

In announcing Smith's new role, the boards noted his nearly 25 year of educational experience, including leadership roles in team efforts that enabled his former schools and school districts to earn numerous honors. They include the Governor's Award for Excellence in Student Growth, NAACP Award for Promoting Tolerance and Relationship Building, several U.S. News and World Report Best High Schools – Bronze Level recognitions, and multiple Pennsylvania Department of Education Keystone Academic Achievement Awards.

As principal at DMCA, Smith launched the school's STREAM initiative, introduced new levels of professional development to faculty, and endorsed an array of classroom and extracurricular activities that challenge students to think critically, creatively and collaboratively, the board stated.

"Tom is a tremendous asset to Divine Mercy and Bishop McCort," assured Kathleen Martella-Zucco, chair of the DMCA Board of Directors. "He understands the importance of supporting each other and creating synergies. Under his leadership, our teachers have had more opportunities for professional development and

he has enhanced our curriculum across all subject areas. By bringing this same energy and commitment to Bishop McCort, he'll help strengthen Catholic education in our community for years to come."

Stephen Cotchen will continue to serve as Assistant Principal at Bishop McCort, where he will be involved in faculty oversight, faculty professional development, Dean of Student activities, enrollment/admissions, and facilities management. He will also work closely with DMCA Middle School operations.

Mary Jo Podratsky and Rose Batzel will continue to serve as Associate Principals of the DMCA East and West campuses, respectively.

DMCA teacher Matt Ribblett will also assume responsibility as DMCA's Dean of Students for all Pre-K-8 students.

PROCLAIM!

THE GOOD NEWS OF ALTOONA-JOHNSTOWN

Parish group photos of Confirmation and First Holy Communion classes are posted on the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown's e-news site Proclaim!: The Good News of Altoona-Johnstown. Visit the site at proclaim.dioceseaj.org and sign up for regular e-mail updates. Congratulations to all young people receiving the sacraments.

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Around The Diocese

CCW Plans Annual Golf Tournament

The Carmelite Community of the Word sisters will hold their 15th Annual Golf Tournament on June 7 at Scotch Valley Country Club. This event has proven to be a fun day for all and includes a shotgun start at Noon, golf, lunch, course refreshments, casual dinner, prizes, and a live auction. Casual dinner is served at 4:30 p.m. Live auction begins at 5:00 p.m. Take advantage of the Early "Birdie" Special! If you register before May 22, the cost is \$115 per golfer; \$425 per foursome. After May 22, the cost is \$125 per golfer; \$475 per foursome. Cost to attend dinner only is \$20 per person. Final deadline for Registration is May 31. To register, or for more information, contact Kelli Murphy at 814-886-4098 or email at communityofficeccw@gmail.com.

Outdoor Summer Masses to Resume on Memorial Day Weekend

Father John D. Byrnes, Rector, and the Parish Family of Saint Michael the Archangel Basilica, Loretto, invite the faithful to join us each Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m. for the outdoor Sunday Mass at the beautiful garden Shrine of Our Lady of the Alleghenies in Loretto. The first Mass of the season will be celebrated on Sunday, May 26, 2019, and will continue through Labor Day Weekend, September 1, 2019. Please bring a lawn chair. In the event of inclement weather, the Mass will be celebrated in the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel.

Carmelite Community of the Word *15th Annual Golf Tournament*

Friday, June 7, 2019
Scotch Valley Country Club



EARLY "BIRDIE" SPECIAL

Register **Before** May 22- \$115 per Golfer \$425 per foursome
Register **After** May 22 - \$125 per Golfer \$475 per foursome



Individual Golfers always welcome!

Registration deadline: May 31, 2019
Shotgun start at 12:00 Noon

Fee includes Golf, Lunch, Course refreshments, Prizes,
Casual Dinner served at 4:30 p.m. Live Auction at 5:00 p.m

To Register, or for more information,
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Hundreds Attend Teaching and Exhibition of Sacred Relics



BEAUTIFUL TREASURES: Donna Stoy (above), a member of Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish in Asheville, studies one of the more than 150 relics during Treasures of the Church at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Altoona. Roy Holtz (right), a member of Saint Augustine Parish in Dysart, holds Rosary beads to one of the relics.



By **Tony DeGol**
The Catholic Register

Picture a man born paralyzed who spent all of his 55 years in a wheel chair.

He attended an exhibition of the relics of saints in Houston, and, according to Father Carlos Martins, placed his hands on one of the relics and walked home.

Not long after that, a nine year old girl battling cancer attended a similar gathering. With a large tumor poking out of her abdomen, she, too, placed her hands on a relic.

Although she did not notice any immediate change, when she got into her parents' car to go home, there was no tumor on her lap, Father Martins assured. Her cancer was healed.

"This is what God chooses to do through the relics of his saints," explained Father Martins, a member of the religious community Companions of the Cross.

Father Martins visited Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Altoona on April 16 – Tuesday of Holy Week – with Treasures of the Church, a teaching and exhibition of sacred relics of saints.

He visits churches, schools, and prisons around the country to, in his words, help people experience God through the relics of His saints.

"Every saint lived his or her life as a giant billboard pointing to God," he noted. "But God in His mystery also points to His saints as His masterpieces of creation."

Before the roughly 500 attendees had the opportunity to experience the relics in the parish hall, they first listened to a message from Father Martins in the church.

A convert from atheism, he outlined what he considers to be four roadblocks that prevent God from fully entering into our hearts. --A refusal to attend Sunday Mass --A refusal to confess our sins through the Sacrament of Reconciliation --A refusal to fully disclose our sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation --A refusal to extend forgiveness to those who have hurt us

"If you give God your heart fully and completely today, holding nothing back, then you will experience the presence and power of the living God today in a way unlike you've ever exper-

rienced before," promised Father Martins.

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the veneration of relics is a common expression of piety.

From the Latin *relinquo*, a relic is a piece of a saint's body or an item used by him or her.

Among the roughly 150 relics present at the Our Lady Lourdes exhibition were a piece of the wood of the True Cross of the Lord, a fragment of the veil belonging to the Blessed Mother, and a fragment of a thorn from the Crown of Thorns.

Also present were a piece of the cloak of Saint Joseph, part of a stone from the cave at Monte Sant'Angelo, Italy, where Saint Michael the Archangel appeared, and a particle of bone from Saint Jude.

"Just to be here in the presence of these relics is very moving," said Roy Holtz, a member of Saint Augustine Parish in Dysart. "I feel so much power here tonight."

Holtz was particularly struck by the relic of Saint Peter.

"I walked by a lot of relics, but when I walked by Saint Peter, something hit me and I felt something there, so I touched my cross

to the relic of Saint Peter," Holtz said, referencing the jewelry around his neck.

A convert to the faith, Deborah Santella felt honored to learn more about the saints.

"So coming here this evening is moving, spiritual, very holy, and a privilege that they came here to Central Pennsylvania to show this to our faith community," said the parishioner of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Altoona.

"There are so many saints that I can think of that have a lot of meaning in my own life, so to see actual relics in person is pretty amazing," admitted Ryan Beiswenger, a member of Saint Joan of Arc Parish in Frugality.

Our Lady of Lourdes parishioner Allison Gressler was especially gratified by the exhibition.

"I feel a sense of a joy that our church is the church where this is happening," she said. "It's such a blessed time."

Home for his Easter break, diocesan seminarian Mark Groeger jumped at the opportunity to attend. He compared it to the experience of the incorrupt heart of Saint John Vianney being present for veneration at the

Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament earlier this year.

"When you walk into the room, the feeling and spirit of holiness, and when you're actually holding the relics in your hand, it makes me feel so much closer to our Lord, and his Church, and the saints," he noted.

Not long ago, Treasures of the Church made a stop in Houtzdale in the Diocese of Erie. Rita Kibler, an Altoona resident and member of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament made the trek and hoped it would soon come to Altoona.

She obviously got her wish.

"There are just no words to thank God for the wonderful experience," Kibler stated. "I'm so thankful to be here tonight."

Also present was the priest that hosted Treasures of the Church in Houtzdale, Father Marc Solomon.

"I couldn't believe we had 250 people in little Houtzdale, but they came from all over, and tonight, I think there's probably double here," he observed.

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Johnstown Parish Honored For Community Spirit, Service

By **Tony DeGol**
The Catholic Register

Carol Samo can sum up her volunteer spirit in one sentence: "It makes them happy, and it makes me happy."

A member of the Ladies Auxiliary at Resurrection Parish in Johnstown, Samo and her cohorts focus on supporting area nursing facilities. Among other things, they distribute greeting cards to residents so they can send them to others and stay in touch.

"I think it's important because we are saying that we care about people who are no longer able to come out into the community so we need to go in and show that we support them, we love them, and we think about them," she emphasized.

For Samo, it is all about making the residents know they are not forgotten.

"Some of them do not have family, so we are their family," she added. "We, as a church, are their family."

It is that compassion and



SPRIT OF SERVICE: A group from Resurrection Parish in Johnstown poses during a mission trip to West Virginia in 2017. The parish recently received the Spirit of Community award for its outreach in the Johnstown area and elsewhere.

positive energy among Samo and other Resurrection members that resulted in the parish receiving the 2019 Spirit of Community Award.

Presented by the Arbutus Park Retirement Community, the award recognizes seniors who support and improve the lives of people in the area.

At Resurrection Parish, however, it is not only the 65 and older crowd that is making an impact.

The pastor, Father George Gulash, would be quick to assure that volunteerism is alive and well among all ages in the vibrant faith community.

"There are so many good people in the parish who are utilizing their gifts not so much in an organization way in the name of Resurrection, but just taking their faith into their own lives and sharing that with their coworkers, neighbors, school, and other organizations not even affiliated with the parish," Father Gulash reminded. "There is something beyond us as individuals and beyond this community that reaches out into the wider community."

Jane Kmetz is a member of the sewing ministry – a branch of the Ladies Auxiliary.

It all started when they were asked to make altar cloths and banners for the church.

"Since then, we have gone out into the community and made things for the community because we thought there was a need out there," she said.

Everything the sewers make

for others is given without charge.

"For me personally, I've been very blessed in my life and I've always wanted to give toward charity," Kmetz shared. "I work for my church as much as I can."

Parishioner Diane Ashbridge is involved in three areas of outreach: an annual blood screening in the church hall sponsored by Windber Hospital, the Angel Tree program at Christmas in which folks are asked to buy presents for children, and a Lenten collection of personal care products to donate to a free clinic.

"It's nice to help everybody, not just make money for your church, but that's our mission as Christians to help people in need," Ashbridge stated.

The good deeds are not limited to the Johnstown area.

For some time, the parish has sponsored a yearly mission trip to West Virginia. Parishioners of all ages are invited to help with household construction projects for those who physically or fi-

nancially cannot do it themselves.

Certainly, being part of a parish faith community is about more than just attending Mass on Sunday. It is about putting one's faith into action the other days of the week.

The Resurrection family obviously recognizes this and selflessly shares their time and talent with others.

"I've grown up in the Church, and they've always provided us opportunities to help," commented parishioner Steffan Dean, who volunteers with the local soup kitchen and the Humane Society.

"I want to make Johnstown a stronger community," added Tanner Kobal, parishioner and Humane Society volunteer.

It seems that Kobal and the others are doing just that.

In the words of the award presenters: "What a blessing for our community to have the wonderful volunteers of Resurrection Roman Catholic Parish doing God's Work."

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Around The Diocese

Men's and Women's Cursillo Weekends

The Men's Cursillo Weekend #123 and Women's Cursillo Weekend #124 were recently held at Mount Saint Ann's Retreat Center in Ebensburg. The participants spent the days listening to talks and meditations given by the spiritual advisors and members of the team, followed by discussions.

Mass was celebrated each day with Confession available. There were morning and evening devotions, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Stations of the Cross, and the Rosary.

Cursillo weekends are open to any adult Catholic in good standing with the Church. The next men's and women's weekends are scheduled for the fall with dates to be announced soon.

For more information on the Cursillo Movement, email Barb Bundy at bf Bundy@gmail.com.



MEN'S RETREAT: Front row: Ralph DeMarco, Doug Puchko, Monsignor Michael Becker (Spiritual Advisor), Sister Celeste Ciesielka, CCW (Spiritual Advisor), John Wargo, Joe Russell, and Matt Hoffman. Middle row: Denny Previte, Sean O'Dowd, Nelson Lowes, Jerry Clark, Denne Brown, Deacon Mike Anna, Mark Hogan, Greg Karcher, and Ken St. Clair. Back row (left to right) Ron Stellabotte, Jack Stanek, Marion "Moe" Dolney, Bill Ingram, Tom Simmons, Deron Lintz, and Ken Halverson.



WOMEN'S RETREAT: Front row (left to right): Monsignor Michael Becker (Spiritual Advisor), Loane Maier, Barb Bimeal, Bonnie Pfeffer, Peggy Beck, Shelley Lowes, Karen Blaisdell, and Sister Celeste Ciesielka, CCW (Spiritual Advisor). Back row: Linda Fleming, Betty Dennis, Kim Kline, Mary Molnar, Janine Anna, Dawn Svirsko, Kathie Spargo, Sandy Langerholc, Mary Ann Zanghi, and Roseann Bennett.

Marks 40th Anniversary

Father Robert C. Hall, pastor of Transfiguration Parish in Conemaugh, marked his 40th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood on May 5 by celebrating a special Mass. The parish also honored Father Hall and his family with a party recognizing the milestone. Father Hall is pictured with his mother, Mary Jo Hall.

Also celebrating his 40 anniversary of ordination is Monsignor Stanley B. Carson, pastor of Saint Michael the Archangel Parish in Hollidaysburg.



JEROME NEVLING



ALLAN DUMAN

Bishop Mark Will Ordain Two To Permanent Diaconate

Bishop Mark L. Barchak will ordain two men to the Permanent Diaconate on June 1 at 10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona.

Allan Duman is a member of Saint Mary Parish in Hollidaysburg where he is an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, a Lector, and a Catechist. He is employed as a state corrections officer.

Jerome Nevling belongs to Saints Peter and Paul Parish in Philipsburg. His service in that faith community includes Lector, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, Religious Education instructor, and parish council. He is a Magisterial District Judge.

Catholic Charities Announces 2019 Honorees

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown has announced the recipients of its 2019 Monsignor William M. Griffin Award and Matthew 25 Youth Humanitarian Award.

The Griffin Award recognizes adults with a significant, long-term commitment (professional or volunteer) to serving the poor, marginalized and most vulnerable within our diocesan community. The 2019 winners are:

- Roxann Newcomer - Saint Anthony of Padua, Windber
- Lynne & Larry Crone - Saint Thomas the Apostle, Bedford
- Leona George - Our Lady of the Alleghenies, Lilly
- Janet Haner - Our Lady of Victory, State College

The Matthew 25 Award is given to elementary and high school students for demonstrating exceptional service to their communities, especially service to the poor and needy. This service must be "above and beyond" required school community service hours and service as a parish altar server. The 2019 winners are:

- Ben Wechtenhiser - Forest Hills Senior High School; 12th Grade
- Sarah Farabaugh - Bishop Carroll Catholic High School; 12th Grade
- Seth Richardson - Forest Hills Senior High School; 11th Grade
- Emma York - Windber Area High School; 12th Grade
- Brendan Veney - Greater Johnstown High School; 12th Grade

All award recipients will be honored at the Catholic Charities annual Recognition Dinner on June 6 at the Casino at Lakemont Park in Altoona. The reception begins at 5:00 p.m. followed by dinner and the awards ceremony. Contact the Altoona office of Catholic Charities at (814) 944-9388 for reservations.

OLV School Sends Boxes of Love In Memory of Former Student

By **Tony DeGol**
The Catholic Register

Acts of love can come in forms such as a prayer, a hug, or a kind word.

Once again this year, the Our Lady of Victory Catholic School family proved acts of love can also come in a box.

The Jared Box Project at the State College school was another rousing success – all in memory of a remarkable and inspiring boy, Jared McMullen.

He was an OLV kindergarten student who was diagnosed with an incurable brainstem tumor in 1999.

True to his fun-loving nature, the five year old carried a

backpack filled with games and toys to his medical appointments to help ease the experience. Noticing that other kids did not do the same, he generously shared his goodies with them and played the card game UNO with them.

“As you would imagine, a five year old might be nervous or scared, which I’m sure he was, but he was also wise beyond his years and able to look around and see other kids being bored, sad, or upset and offered to cheer them up,” commented Cindy Kolarik, director of the Jared Box Project.

Jared passed in 2000.

As way of honoring their beloved classmate and carrying on the compassion he showed others, OLV students and fami-



THEY SUPPORT JARED BOXES: Our Lady of Victory Catholic School students Christopher Laszkowski (left) and Elliot Lingle show their support for the Jared Box Project, an OLV initiative in memory of a former student.

lies started the Jared Box Project in 2001.

“It was just a real easy choice to continue what he started,” added Kolarik.

Every year, each OLV family makes a Jared Box filled with games, toys and fun activities. Each box is age and gender specific and includes a personal note. The boxes are then sent to hospitals to lift the spirits of children.

Over the years, more than 500,000 Jared Boxes have been delivered throughout the United States.

“It’s really good to be part of this because you’re really helping the community and everyone that’s part of it,” said OLV sixth grader Christopher Warner. “It helps kids in the hospital not be so stressed about everything going on.”

To celebrate this year’s campaign, a special school-wide ceremony was held on April 17.

Father Jonathan Dickson, Parochial Vicar at Our Lady of Victory Parish blessed the hundreds of boxes collected, and representatives from Geisinger Janet Weis Children’s Hospital in Danville and Geisinger Holy

Spirit Hospital in Camp Hill were on hand to receive the items and thank the school community.

“Coming into a hospital is terrifying for a child, so any way that we can help to divert their attention and have them play with simple toys is really good,” remarked Sister Martin Haubrich, a nurse at Geisinger Holy Spirit Hospital.

Even adult patients want to hold something when they are afraid, Sister Martin continued. Items in the Jared Boxes are sometimes given to older patients, as well.

“I just think this school and what they’ve done in memory of this little boy is so important,” stressed Sister Martin. “Everywhere I go, I tell them about Jared, and I tell them about his school and how this school has transformed people.”

Sister recalled the words of Jesus: “Do this in remembrance of me,” which, according to her, is exactly what the OLV family is doing.

“They share their love in remembrance of Him and in remembrance of a little boy, and I just can’t imagine how wonderful

it is for little Jared’s parents to know that he is memorialized,” she said.

Indeed, the program has been a source of healing for Jared’s family, according to his mother.

“Losing Jared broke our hearts,” Ruth McMullen admitted. “But hearing people say Jared’s name through Jared Boxes was a joy for us knowing it was helping others.”

And what would Jared think of this program that celebrates his legacy?

“Oh, he’d be excited,” she surmised. “They’re boxes packed with love, well-wishes, and hope for all families, and we can share that.”



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No Pizza? No Problem. Students Savor Lunch And Lesson

By **Tony DeGol**
The Catholic Register

Imagine not being able to indulge in pizza and hamburgers.

"I couldn't do that," one very honest student was overheard saying. "That's not how I live. I couldn't do that."

That realization is exactly the point of a Lenten tradition for fifth graders at Our Lady of Victory Catholic School in State College.

On April 17 – Wednesday of Holy Week, the students enjoyed their annual luncheon in celebration of Catholic Relief Service's Operation Rice Bowl.

The menu included empanadas, rice, black bean soup, corn muffins, and other tasty, but modest nibbles.

The meal, however, was really about food for the journey.

"The reason we're doing this is to show you how lucky we are to live where we are," stressed Father Neil Dadey, Pastor of Our Lady of Victory Parish. He visited the children before they dug into their lunch.

"Not everybody has hamburgers, French fries, pizza, steak, and salad and all that we take for granted, Father Dadey continued. "Children sometimes just have rice with brown sauce. Don't ever take for granted all the blessings that you have, and how lucky we are, and the food we have, and the amount of food we have. When you eat your lunch this afternoon, just understand that what you're doing now is what other children are doing also because that's all they have to eat."

The luncheon, according to teacher Jill Shunk, is also an opportunity to focus on the good work of Catholic Relief Services.

"All the kids know about Operation Rice Bowl, and we see the Rice Bowl every year, and they know it buys rice, but Catholic Relief Services does so many more things than just food such as education, small businesses, helping communities find clean sources of water – all those things we try to open



LUNCH WITH A LESSON: Our Lady of Victory Catholic School student Thomas Rokita serves himself black bean soup during a fifth grade luncheon to raise awareness for Operation Rice Bowl.

the fifth graders' eyes to so they understand that idea of solidarity with the poor," Shunk mentioned.

Parents and students prepared the goodies, including fifth grader Aubrey Yartz.

"I made bean soup," she revealed proudly. "I think I'm pretty fortunate. I don't have to eat just one thing every day for lunch or dinner or breakfast."

Her classmate, Haden Lingle, loved the rice, but, more importantly, savored the overall lesson.

"Every time I eat, I take it for granted, and I don't think about people that don't have enough food as we do," he stated. "Now, every time I'm going to eat I can remember what they have to eat, and they don't really have a choice, but we have options."

The spice of the empanadas pleased student Kevin Stolberg, but he, too, walked away with a more powerful message.

"It kind of helps me to realize that every time we take a bite of a French fry or hot dog, they don't really have that kind of stuff

in those countries, so it makes me not want to waste any of that

food, and if I would, I would feel bad about it."

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Novena

The fifth novena of 2019 to Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Saint Theres (the Little Flower) offered by the Discalced Carmelite Nuns of Loretto will open on May 22 and end on May 30.

All intentions submitted to the nuns will be remembered with the special novena prayers following the daily Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in the nuns' chapel.

Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament is held every Sunday at 4:00 p.m. and every First Friday of the month. Everyone is welcome to attend the Benediction followed by veneration of the relic of Saint Theres of the Child Jesus of the Holy Face.

Those who desire to share in the graces and blessings of the nine days of prayer, and in the private prayers of the Carmelite Nuns during the novena, are requested to send their petitions to Mother Prioress, Discalced Carmelite Monastery, P.O. Box 57, Loretto, PA 15940.

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Six Diocesan Priests Celebrate 60th Anniversary of Ordination

By Tony DeGol
The Catholic Register

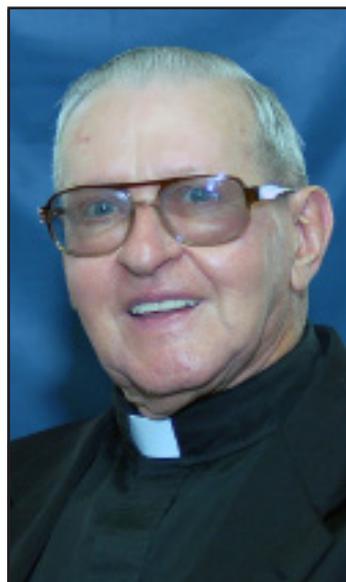
Six priests of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown are marking the 60th anniversary of their ordination this month.



Rev. Sylvester J. Bendzella

Reverend Sylvester J. Bendzella, 86, is the son of the late Joseph and Mary (Tomczko) Bendzella. His home parish was Saint John the Baptist Parish in Barnesboro. He studied for the priesthood at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary in Catonsville, Maryland, and Saint Mary Seminary in Baltimore, and was ordained to the priesthood on May 23, 1959, at the Immaculate Conception Chapel at Saint Francis University in Loretto. He served as Associate Pastor at Saint Michael Parish in Clarence and Saint Stephen Parish in Johnstown. Father Bendzella was Pastor of Saint John the Baptist in Central City, Saints Cyril and Methodius Parish in Windber, and Saint Michael Parish in Clarence. He retired in 2003 and served as a chaplain at hospitals/nursing facilities while in residence at parishes. He currently resides at Dmitri Manor in Hollidaysburg.

A native of Saint Patrick Parish in Spangler, **Reverend Donald E. Boslett**, 85, is the son of the late Russell and Viola (Dunlap) Boslett. He was ordained to the priesthood on May



Rev. Donald E. Boslett

30, 1959, at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Ohio, where he attended seminary. Father Boslett served as Associate Pastor at Saint Leo Parish in Altoona, Saint Mary Parish in Nanty Glo, and Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Parish in Altoona. He was Pastor of Saint Joseph Parish in Williamsburg, Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish in Ashville, Saint Mary Parish in Altoona, Saint Joseph Parish in Portage, and Saint Joseph Parish in Renovo. He retired in 2008 and resided at Saint Monica Parish in Chest Springs, assisting at the parish and others for several years. He currently resides at John Paul II



Msgr. Arnold L. Gaus

Manor in Cresson.

Monsignor Arnold L. Gaus, 86, was ordained to the Priesthood on May 23, 1959, at Immaculate Conception Chapel at Saint Francis University. Son of the late Carl and Margaret (Beyer) Gaus, Monsignor attended Saint Vincent Seminary in Latrobe and was an instructor at Bishop Carroll Catholic High School in Ebensburg. He was Associate Pastor at Holy Name Parish in Ebensburg. He served as Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Bakerton, Saint Patrick Parish in Gallitzin, and Holy Name Parish in Ebensburg. He was named Chaplain to His Holiness in 1987. Monsignor Gaus retired in 2013 and resides at John Paul II Manor in Cresson.

Also ordained on May 23, 1959, at Immaculate Conception Chapel at Saint Francis University, **Reverend Paul M. Robine**, 85, is a native of Saint Leo Parish in Altoona. He is the son of the late Martin and Mary (Weidmann) Robine and attended Saint Vincent Seminary in Latrobe and Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia.



Rev. Paul M. Robine

Father Robine was Associate Pastor at Saint Benedict Parish in Johnstown and Saint Joseph Parish in Portage, and he was a Chaplain at Mercy Hospital in Altoona. During his early years

as a priest, he was an instructor at Bishop Carroll, Bishop Guilfoyle, and Bishop McCort Catholic High Schools, and he taught at the Altoona School of Nursing. He was Pastor at Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Everett, Saint Aloysius Parish in Cresson and Saint John Vianney Parish in Mundy's Corner. He retired in 2009 and currently resides at Garvey Manor in Hollidaysburg.

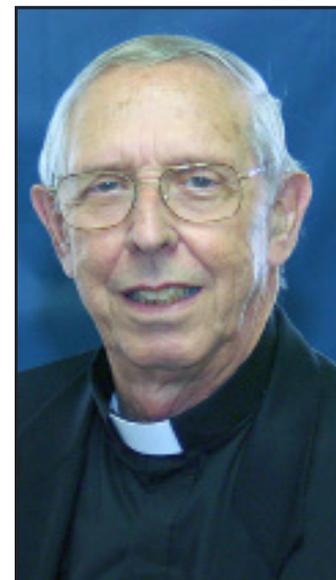


Rev. Carl A. Spishak

Reverend Carl A. Spishak, 86, is the son of the late John and Mary (Kollar) Spishak and a native of Saint Stephen Parish in Johnstown. Father Spishak attended Saint Francis Seminary in Loretto. He was ordained on May 23, 1959, at Immaculate Conception Chapel at Saint Francis University. He served as Associate Pastor at Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Bellefonte, Saint Francis Xavier Parish in Cresson, and Saint Mary Parish in Nanty Glo. He was Pastor of Holy Family Parish in Colver, Saint Francis Xavier Parish in Cresson, Saint Matthew Parish in Tyrone, Saint Joseph Parish in Renovo, and Holy Rosary Parish in Altoona. Father Spishak also served as a Chaplain in the United States Navy. Prior to retirement, he served as Parochial Vicar at Saint Rose of Lima Parish in Altoona. Since his retirement in 2009, he continues to reside at Saint Rose of Lima and remains

active in the life of the parish.

A native of Saint Joseph Parish in Portage, **Monsignor Samuel J. Tomaselli**, 86, is the son of the late Samuel and Agnes (Galioto) Tomaselli. He also attended Saint Francis Seminary in Loretto and was ordained



Msgr. Samuel J. Tomaselli

on May 23, 1959. He served as Associate Pastor at Saint Agnes Parish in Lock Haven, Saint Joseph Parish in Renovo, and Saint Patrick Parish in Johnstown. He was Pastor at Saint Joseph Parish in Boswell, Saint Michael Parish in Listie, Saint Gregory Parish in MacDonalton, and Saint Peter Parish in Somerset. He was named Chaplain to His Holiness in 1987. Monsignor Tomaselli retired in 2009 and continues to assist at Saint Peter. He resides in Somerset.

On Proclaim! TV

May 19 - As they prepare for graduation, Bishop Carroll Catholic High School seniors Anna Haigh and Sam Krumenacker recall their years of Catholic education and look to the future.

May 26 - Neophyte Mandy Aungst of Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Altoona discusses her initiation journey along with her sponsor, Jane Krepich.

Watch Proclaim! Sundays at 10:30 a.m. on WATM ABC 23 followed by the live Mass broadcast at 11:00 a.m.