

The Catholic Register



Diocese Of Altoona-Johnstown

Official Publication

July 2019

Volume 93 No. 10

103 Year Old Credits Faith, Lack Of Stress For Longevity

By Tony DeGol

The Catholic Register

“Don’t Worry. Be Happy.”

You have undoubtedly heard that catchy tune by Bobby McFerrin, right?

For Frances Adams, it is more than a song. It is a way a life.

“I’m a happy person,” she assured. “I don’t dwell on grudges or getting back at someone. That isn’t my forte. I’m mostly happy.”

So, why is this noteworthy?

Frances just celebrated her 103rd birthday, and she attributes her longevity to avoiding stress and counting her many blessings.

Those guiding principles were instilled in her years ago during her career in vocational rehabilitation.

She met a man with two prosthetic legs. Until then, Frances had little or no interaction with anyone with physical limitations. It intrigued her to see the gentleman seemingly carefree.

“It just floored me,” she recalled.

When she asked him what makes him so happy, he told her that one should always look up and see the sky, sun, and stars. Do not look down.

“It stayed with me,” she confessed.

Frances is by no means the oldest person living in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, but she is the oldest member of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Altoona.

Originally from Saint Mark Parish in Altoona, the stylish and charming lady also credits her Catholic faith for much of



PROUD GREAT-GRANDMOTHER: Frances Adams, who just turned 103 years old, shows off a photo of her great-grandchildren – all members of her “Shining Stars Club.” Adams is the oldest parishioner of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Altoona.

the fulfillment in her life.

“It was so calming,” she explained. “I had a feeling I wasn’t alone – that I could communicate with somebody – with God, and get rid of any stresses. It was good to go to Confession, too. I always felt relieved when I went to Mass and received Communion and prayed with other people. I can’t imagine not having a church to go to.”

Her and her family’s strong faith life was facilitated by living only blocks away from Our Lady of Lourdes Parish.

“My children could go to school and church here very easily because we’re so close, and

that was a comfort,” she added.

Born on June 30, 1916, Frances attended Saint Mark School and fondly remembers the Sisters of Mercy who staffed the school. A 1934 graduate of Altoona Catholic High School (now Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School), two Sisters of Saint Agnes who taught her there inspired her greatly.

She and her husband married in 1941, not long after the Great Depression. They had four children. Her two sons, both deceased, lived across the street from the family home. Her daughters-in-law, Donna Adams and Natalie Adams, still reside

there. Both are also members of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Her daughter, Patricia Shingler, lives not far from her mother and also belongs to the parish. Her other daughter, Regina Piecknick, lives in Erie and was in Altoona for her mother’s birthday celebration.

“She’s really the glue that’s been keeping the family together,” Piecknick stated. “She’s the matriarch and everyone circles around her. People come to her for advice, and they talk to her. She’s very involved in the family.”

Not only is it a blessing for Frances to mark her 103rd

birthday, but also for her to be healthy and engaged.

“It’s very wonderful for me to come home and visit her and have her here and spend time with her and have long talks with her about lots of issues going on in our society,” Piecknick admitted.

Frances follows politics and remains an avid reader.

“There are a lot of good conversations,” added her daughter.

Besides raising a family and various jobs in the secular world, Frances’ service to the Church throughout the years is immeasurable.

She was the parish secretary at Our Lady of Lourdes for several years, and has held various volunteer positions, including serving as Grand Regent of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas. She also formed the Altoona Catholic Sorority for young women.

Frances’ husband passed in 1995. Despite the loss, her zest for life clearly remains.

Among her passions are music – she plays the piano and violin – and playing cards. She has also traveled extensively to places such as Italy, France, Ireland, England, Spain, Hawaii, and Alaska.

Perhaps her greatest joy is family. Frances beams with pride when it comes to her nine grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

Those great-grandkids are proud members of her Shining Star Club, which she created for the gang.

“I’m very proud of them,” she said. “They’re just a great group of young people.”

Catholic Charities Celebrates Mission, Recognizes Those Who Live It

By **Tony DeGol**
The Catholic Register

The familiar Bible message about the importance of building a house on rock versus sand is a guiding principle in Sarah Farabaugh's life.

"My faith is the rock," admitted the poised young woman. "That's how I want to build my house. That's how I want to be. With a solid foundation, you can go far and do great things."

Meanwhile, when a task is perceived as too daunting to accomplish, Janet Haner has a reputation for being the person who can get it done.

"Yes, I am an instigator," she conceded. "I have been known to do a lot of things that I can see the vision and a lot of other people had to be brought on board."

Haner and Farabaugh represent two different generations, however they share a passion for their Catholic faith and a dedication to serving the Church and others.

It is no mystery, therefore, why they were among an inspiring group of adults and young people honored at the 2019 Catholic Charities Recognition Dinner.

Held on June 6 at the Casino at Lakemont Park in Altoona, the gathering highlighted the stellar mission of Catholic Charities, which includes serving the poor, marginalized, and vulnerable in our community.

"The truth is every single person is made in the image and likeness of God," reminded Bishop Mark L. Bartchak in his remarks to the crowd. "That truth is restated in so many meaningful ways when the works of mercy are put into action by young and old alike. So many people in our world today are neglected or mistreated simply because there is a neglect to acknowledge and appreciate our God-given human dignity. From my perspective, the mission and practical efforts of Catholic Charities reminds us to never neglect that truth."

Those recognized at the

dinner represent a long-term commitment to carrying out that mission.

"Everybody can go out and do something one day, but the people you'll meet tonight are people who have done it for weeks, months, and years," said Catholic Charities Executive Director Jean Johnstone.

"These are your unsung heroes," she continued. "These are the people who quietly go out and serve others without recognition, without being on the front page of a paper. They are people who truly live out the words of Matthew 25 (*Amen I say to you whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me – Matthew 25:40*)."

In addition to Haner, four other adults received the 2019 Monsignor William M. Griffin Humanitarian Award (named in honor of the first executive director of Catholic Charities): Larry and Lynne Crone, Leona George, and Roxann Newcomer.

The Crones, members of Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish in Bedford, were founding members of the only Saint Vincent de Paul conference in Bedford. Lynne also supports the religious, charitable, and educational activities of the Saint Thomas Ladies Guild. Larry is the community director of the Saint Thomas Council of the Knights of Columbus.

George has been part of the SVDP Society's chapter at Our Lady of the Alleghenies Parish in Lilly since its inception in 2006, serving as both president and vice president.

An active member of the Our Lady of Victory Parish Conference of SVDP since 2014, Haner has also served as manager of the SVDP Thrift Store in State College since 2015. She was the primary advocate in search of a new thrift store facility to increase retail space.

Newcomer is the high school Director of Religious Education at Saint Anthony of Padua, Saints Cyril and Methodius, and Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parishes in Windber. She leads retreats and coordinates annual trips to the diocese's Senior High Youth

Conference (SHYCON).

Farabaugh was among five young people honored with the 2019 Matthew 25 Youth Humanitarian Award, which is presented to elementary and high school students for demonstrating exceptional service to their communities. The other winners were Seth Richardson, Brendan Veney, Ben Wechtenhiser, and Emma York.

Farabaugh, a member of Saint Nicholas Parish in Nicktown and a 2019 graduate of Bishop Carroll Catholic High School, is president of the Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality at Saint Nicholas. She spearheads putting together fruit baskets for older church members and shut-ins, and she recently launched an initiative to send cards to parishioners who are ill, in mourning, or welcomed a new baby. She is also a lector and cantor. Her service to BCCHS included the Student Ambassador Program, Student Evangelizer, and Liturgical Choir.

Described as someone who is always willing to help for the good of the community, Richardson, a student at Forest Hills High School, serves as a volunteer firefighter in St. Michael. He helps with cemetery clean-up and with youth at his church.

Veney is a familiar face at Resurrection Parish in Johnstown, where he is an altar server, lector, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, and catechist. At school, he is the president of the Interact Club, a youth branch of Rotary.

A member of Most Holy Trinity Parish in South Fork, Wechtenhiser is an altar server, helps with Vacation Bible School, and a Religious Education helper. At Christmas, he shops and distributes gifts for the parish's shut-ins, and helps with the Catholic Charities Christmas Angel Tree. At school, he is a member of the Jaycee/Jaycettes (raising money for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation).

York is recognized as a teen who lives the Corporal Works of Mercy in her daily life. She has been involved with the Girl Scouts, mentoring younger girls



YOUTH HONOREES: Matthew 25 Youth Humanitarian Award honoree Ben Wechtenhiser and his parents, Sean and Annette Wechtenhiser, enjoy the Catholic Charities Recognition Dinner. Sarah Farabaugh (bottom photo), also a Matthew 25 honoree, poses with Jonathan Nagy, one of two individuals who nominated her for the award.



in various skills and activities. She has led groups to clean up litter. Her other community projects include decorating Christmas trees at the Windber Museum, creating scarecrows to adorn Miners' Park in the fall, and hiding Easter eggs for children.

All of the youth honorees are shining examples of young people putting their faith into action.

"It's just a nice feeling to know that I'm helping everybody out when not very many other people are willing to do it," commented Wechtenhiser. "I'd really like to stay engaged in our parish. It's a smaller parish, so I'd like to stick around and help out especially since I still have younger siblings. As

I get older, I'd like to continue serving our community as best I can."

As he and the other teen winners look to the future, certainly the Griffin Award recipients can be considered amazing role models.

Newcomer has been working in Church ministry since she was 12 years old. It was something, she insisted, her generation learned at a young age.

"You gave to the Church, you gave to your family, so I just did it," Newcomer emphasized. "If you need something that needs to be done, something that needs your attention, you are the one that has to do it and bring a friend with you."

Historic Statue Continues To Inspire Johnstown Faith Community

By **Tony DeGol**
The Catholic Register

The Blessed Mother is a shining example of faith and perseverance even in the darkest hours.

As the community recalled the catastrophic 1889 Johnstown flood, Mary once again played a prominent role.

The statue of Mary (Immaculate Conception) that belongs to Resurrection Parish in Johnstown was present at the Johnstown Flood National Memorial in South Fork on May 31. Observances were held there throughout the day marking the 130th anniversary of the tragedy.

Since the history of the statue is so integral to the story surrounding the flood and its aftermath, the pastor of Resurrection, Father George Gulash, thought it would be appropriate for this field trip, of sorts.

The 1889 flood devastated the city of Johnstown and surrounding communities. It claimed more than 2,200 lives and wiped out homes, businesses, and infrastructure.

Churches, of course, were also destroyed, including Im-



CHERISHED STATUE: Resurrection parishioners (left to right) Rick Pavic, Diana Veney and Barbara Dryzal join Father George Gulash, Pastor of Resurrection, at the Blessed Mother statue at the Johnstown Flood National Memorial in observance of the 130th anniversary of 1889 Johnstown Flood.

maculate Conception Parish in the Cambria City section of Johnstown.

“The water level rose 15 feet inside the original church,” Father Gulash relayed.

The miracle that is claimed, he continued, is that the statue remained in its place, and when the building was eventually accessed, it was determined that the water level along the walls was much higher than the statue, but the water level around the statue

was only as high as about the lower quarter of the statue.

“I often use her as an example of survival,” insisted Father Gulash. “In spite of difficulty, in times of trouble as Mary had faith and trust in the Spirit that she received, the same can be true for us.”

Resurrection Parish received the statue following the merging of Immaculate Conception and four other Cambria City parishes into Resurrection in 2009.

It is always housed at a side altar at Resurrection, explained Father Gulash, and the parish uses it for May Crowning.

“We look to her as an example that even through the time of great difficulty in the merger of the parish 10 years ago, as the statue survived the flood waters, so the people of God survive this and much worse throughout our history,” he continued.

“It’s a token of resilience,”

maintained Resurrection parishioner Rick Pavic. “If you come to a Mass at Resurrection, at the end of Mass, there’s always a stream of people around her. It really is a huge symbol.”

Parishioner Barbara Dryzal pointed out that many current members of Resurrection had relatives impacted by the 1889 flood. The statue was part of their lives at that time and continues to be part of the parish family today.

“It is a wonderful representation that God takes care of us in all ways,” she commented.

Candlesticks on the high altar of the original Immaculate Conception church also survived the flood. They, too, were present with the statue at the anniversary observance.

“The statue didn’t just survive the 1889 flood, it also survived the 1936 flood, the 1977 flood, and a fire that destroyed one of the churches of Immaculate Conception Parish, so her story of survival is also the story of Johnstown,” reminded Father Gulash. “The people pulled together. They rebuilt. There’s a loyalty and a dedication, and the people of Johnstown have always shown that.”

Parish Family Pounds The Pavement In Fight Against Cancer

By **Tony DeGol**
The Catholic Register

Like so many others, Linda Schellhammer is a survivor!

She was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2017.

Thanks to surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation, she beat it.

Wally Zapotoczny has also been touched by cancer through loved ones in his life.

His parents passed after battles with the disease, and his aunt is fighting it currently. Both parishioners at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Altoona, Zapotoczny and Schellhammer were proud to participate in the parish’s team at the recent American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life.

Relay is a community

based fundraising event for the ACS. The 24-hour event also serves as an inspirational celebration life for cancer survivors.

Our Lady of Lourdes has sponsored a team for the past several years, and recently, young adults from the parish have stepped up to lead the effort.

“I remember getting very involved because our maintenance guy was diagnosed with cancer, and I wanted to help him, and I remember it was important to a lot of our parishioners with him,” said Allison Gressler, one of the chairs of the OLOL team. “And Charlotte, our church secretary, was diagnosed with cancer a few years ago, so that really affected me, so I wanted to be there for her.”

Held at Mansion Park Stadium in Altoona, Relay invites

supporters to walk around the track. Many Lourdes parishioners, indeed, laced up their sneakers, but also helped in other ways.

“We have gotten a lot of donations – everyone was so kind and wanted to donate everything,” remarked Kayley Burke, another OLOL team chair.

“The generosity was above and beyond – whether it was a monetary donation, helping us with the tent, bringing us food, giving us money for pizza,” added Gressler.

“It really is very comforting and it’s humbling to see all the people who get involved in this event,” said Schellhammer of the Relay experience. “It’s a very emotional, very personal experience, but it gives you a sense of gratitude and closure. You just thank God every day for what you



TEAM SPIRIT: Members of the Our Lady of Lourdes Relay for Life team walk around the track at Mansion Park during the annual fundraising event for the American Cancer Society. The parish raised about \$1,300 for the cause.

have, and you’re thankful for all the little things.”

The Our Lady of Lourdes team raised about \$1,300 for the American Cancer Society.

For Zapotoczny, who participates in memory of his parents and in honor of those struggling with the disease, there is a greater

message.

“I think it is the unity of Christ here. We’re a Body of Christ here all together, and I think having the presence of the Catholic faith here is really incredible. It lets people know that the Catholic faith is about hope. Jesus Christ is about hope.”

THE CATHOLIC REGISTER
SERVING THE DIOCESE OF
ALTOONA - JOHNSTOWN

Published Monthly at
2713 W. Chestnut Avenue
Altoona, PA 16601
Phone (814) 695 - 5579
www.dioceseaj.org

Publisher
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BISHOP'S APPOINTMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

REVEREND BRIAN L. WARCHOLA, Administrator of Saint Michael Parish in St. Michael, appointed Pastor of Holy Name Parish in Ebensburg, continuing as Sacramental Minister at SCI Somerset, effective July 24, 2019.

REVEREND MONSIGNOR DAVID A. LOCKARD, Pastor of Holy Name Parish in Ebensburg, appointed Administrator of Saint Michael Parish in St. Michael, effective July 24, 2019.

REVEREND MATTHEW B. BAUM, Administrator of Immaculate Conception Parish in Dudley and Saint Stephen Parish in McConnellsburg, appointed Administrator of Prince of Peace Parish in Northern Cambria, continuing as Sacramental Minister at SCI Huntingdon, effective July 24, 2019.

REVEREND DEREK FAIRMAN, Pastor of Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Everett and Seven Dolours of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Beans Cove, appointed Pastor of Saint Stephen Parish in McConnellsburg, continuing as Pastor of Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Everett, effective July 24, 2019.

REVEREND RICHARD B. TOMKOSKY, Pastor of Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish in Bedford, appointed Pastor of Seven Dolours of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Beans Cove, continuing as Pastor of Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish in Bedford, effective July 24, 2019.

REVEREND MARINO MSIGALO, OFM Cap., appointed Sacramental Minister of Immaculate Conception Parish in Dudley, residing at Saint John the Baptist Parish in New Baltimore, effective July 24, 2019.

DEACON JOHN D. ROTH, M.D., appointed Administrator of Immaculate Conception Parish in Dudley, continuing in diaconal service at Saint Catherine of Siena Parish in Mount Union and Saint Mary Parish in Shade Gap, effective July 24, 2019.

DEACON SCOTT Q. LITTLE, in diaconal service at Our Mother of Sorrows Parish in Johnstown, appointed to diaconal service at Transfiguration Parish in Conemaugh, under the pastorate of Reverend Robert C. Hall, effective June 12, 2019.

Cook Recognized For Dedication to Family Life Ministry

By Tony DeGol
The Catholic Register

If the family is the heart of the Church, Donna Cook has helped keep that ticker beating in Altoona-Johnstown for more than four decades.

Cook retired from the Family Life Office in June after a distinguished 43 year tenure with the ministry.

As Office Manager, Cook helped carry out the various programs that nurture and support families at various stages of life's journey.

"Two of the biggest blessings I had was meeting program participants who truly were seeking resources from our office to enrich their faith and families," reflected Cook, a member of Holy Name Parish in Ebensburg. "The other blessing was working with many volunteers who helped give of their time and talents so graciously to make these programs possible."

Among the many highlights of Cook's career was planning the popular Wedding Anniversary Liturgies. Each year, married couples celebrating milestone wedding anniversaries are invited to a Mass at either Cathedral with the Bishop.

Cook was also instrumental in a more recent tradition – an annual day of prayer and remembrance for widows and



DONNA COOK

widowers.

"Donna was the heart of the Family Life Office," stated Andre McCarville, Director of Missions and Family Life. "She knew the office better than anyone, and was the greatest asset in planning events, working with parishes, and even training new directors."

Saint Ann Sisters Novena And Ladies Retreat

The Sisters of Saint Ann announced that their annual Novena in honor of their Patroness July 18-July 26 at Mount Saint Ann, 1120 North Center Street, Ebensburg. The Eucharistic Celebration and devotions will be held every evening at 7:00 p.m. at the outside shrine. Bishop Mark L. Bartchak will be the celebrant for the closing of the Novena.

The Sisters of Saint Ann will also sponsor a ladies retreat August 9-11 at Mount Saint Ann. Reverend Andrew Mazich, OSB, from Saint Vincent Archabbey in Latrobe, will be the spiritual director. The retreat is open to commuters. For reservations, please contact the Sisters of Saint Ann at (814) 472-9354 or sistersann35@gmail.com.



YOUTH WEEK: Saint Augustine Parish in Dysart and Saint Monica Parish in Chest Springs celebrated Youth Week during the week of June 17. Forty seven children participated. Twenty teens and 13 adults volunteered. Father David Rizzo, JCL, is the Administrator of the parishes; Jane Stoltz is the Director of Religious Education.

McCarville said Cook's passion for the ministry was evident.

"There were few questions I had that she couldn't answer, but more than that, she loved what she did," he mentioned. "She loves God and she loves families. She loved helping make strong and faith-filled families, and anyone who worked with her, or even knew her, could see how evident that was in her life. I truly wish her all the best in her retirement, but she will be sorely missed."

After high school, Cook spent her entire career in the position – an achievement that is rare in today's culture.

"It became a ministry instead of a job for me," Cook noted. "I have definitely been a recipient of the benefits of the enrichment programs and resources through this office. Thanks to the many people I have met over my years with Family Life for making my personal family life enriched in so many ways."

Historic Basilica And Shrine Provide Stellar Backdrop For 40 Hours Eucharistic Devotion



EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION: The Knights of Columbus and students from Saint Michael School in Loretto lead a solemn Eucharistic Procession around the grounds of the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel and Our Lady of the Alleghenies Shrine during the parish's 40 Hours Eucharistic Devotion.

By **Tony DeGol**
The Catholic Register

When someone gives you the ultimate gift, you must give something in return.

“Jesus Christ has given us absolutely everything – He has given us His very self, and if He has done that, then it is our vocation in life to turn to Him, to spend more and more time in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ because He wants us to adore Him, and most importantly because He wants also to adore us as well.”

That message from Father Brian Warchola echoed throughout the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel in Loretto during the parish's annual 40 Hours Eucharistic Devotion June 23 and 24.

The Catholic tradition, celebrated regularly at various parishes throughout the diocese, offers an extended prayerful period during which the faithful are invited for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

The Basilica devotion began at the parish's weekly outdoor Mass on June 23 at the Our Lady of the Alleghenies Shrine. The Eucharist was carried in procession to the Basilica for overnight Adoration, which continued throughout the following day.

The Very Reverend John Byrnes, JCL, JV, is the Rector of the Basilica. Father Warchola served as guest homilist for both the outdoor Liturgy and solemn vespers concluding the observance on June 24.

“We know that the Eucharist is the true Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ,” assured Father Warchola during the outdoor Liturgy, which appropriately coincided with the Solemnity of Corpus Christi. “Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and He has told us ‘This is my Flesh for the life of the world; this is my Blood you are to take and drink and those who eat my Body, those who drink my Blood remain in me as I remain

in them.’ That is the truth of our Catholic faith. Never let anybody tell you anything different.”

The 40 Hours observance concluded with a beautiful and reverent Eucharistic procession around the grounds of the Shrine. Clergy from throughout the diocese, the faithful, and students from Saint Michael School in Loretto participated. Benediction followed.

“Let us continue to celebrate His real presence,” invited Father Warchola. “Let us worship the Most Holy Eucharist. Let us approach this sacred altar and truly be fed with that Bread from Heaven that truly does give us eternal life.”

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Around The Diocese

Annual Outdoor Mass For College Students

The annual outdoor Mass for students entering or returning to college will be celebrated on August 4 at 7:00 p.m. at the Our Lady of the Alleghenies Shrine in Loretto. Bishop Mark L. Bartchak will be the celebrant and homilist. All college students, as well as 2019 high school graduates who are entering the military or workforce, are invited with their family. The Bishop will offer a special blessing to the students, words of wisdom, and a small gift. Bring your own lawn chair. If it rains, the Liturgy will be inside the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel next to the Shrine.

Family Fest at Saint John the Baptist New Baltimore

The Capuchin Franciscan Friars will sponsor a Padre Pio Family Festival at Saint John the Baptist Parish and Retreat Center, 101 Findley Street, New Baltimore on September 8. Festivities begin with an outdoor Mass at Noon. During the afternoon there will be outdoor games/activities, live music, and food vendors. At 5:00 p.m. there will be a healing prayer service in honor of Padre Pio. Relics of Padre Pio, including a glove he wore and blood from his stigmata, will be available for veneration. Admission is free. All are welcome. For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/445014566059845/>.

Foundation Distributes More Than \$1 Million

The Board of Trustees of the Independent Catholic Foundation recently approved a 4.5% distribution rate for each of its 268 permanent endowments. This action will result in a record \$1.37 million being made available to endowment beneficiaries this month.

The Independent Catholic Foundation was established 29 years ago as a self-governing, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to manage permanent endowments for the long-term financial benefit of parishes, schools, diocesan ministries and other Catholic causes in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown.

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Season 3 Of ARISE Will Begin With Two Major Events

By Tony DeGol
The Catholic Register

Two major events will serve as precursors to the upcoming third season of the diocesan renewal initiative ARISE Together in Christ.

A Mass of Commissioning is planned for everyone affiliated with the effort including parish coordinators, small group leaders, and participants.

The outdoor Liturgy is scheduled for August 18 at 7:00 p.m. at the Our Lady of the Alleghenies Shrine in Loretto. Bishop Mark L. Bartchak will be the celebrant and homilist.

“We know we were commissioned for season one and two, but it’s a renewal again – be commissioned again to engage in this third season and fourth season,” urged Sister



DR. DONALD ASCI

Linda LaMagna, CCW, ARISE Diocesan Coordinator.

The title of season three, scheduled to launch this fall, is “In the Footsteps of Christ.” The sessions will invite the faithful to reflect on their mission as disciples of Jesus and to act on the

call through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching.

Every small faith sharing group ends with a call to action, such as kindness to the homebound, or recognizing those who just received the Sacraments of First Holy Communion or Confirmation.

“In season three, we are going to be called to Beatitude living, and that will be the action statement of every group,” Sister Linda explained.

To prepare for this focus on Catholic Social Teaching, a morning-long convocation is planned on September 21 at Bishop Carroll Catholic High School in Ebensburg.

Doctor Donald Asci will present “Following Jesus and Transforming the World: The Social Dimension of Christian

Discipleship.”

Doctor Asci is a Professor of Theology at Franciscan University of Steubenville, where he has been a member of the Theology Department since 1998. He also currently serves as the Vice President of the Faculty Council of Franciscan University.

“You do not have to be part of an ARISE group to engage in the convocation,” stressed Sister Linda. “We just want people to come to hear the Catholic Social Teachings of the Church and see what we can do as individuals and as a Church to be living the Beatitudes – that social dimension of the Church.”

Season one of ARISE happened last fall; season two occurred during Lent. Most parishes have embraced the opportunity.

“Most of our people have

really said it has deepened their faith and has allowed them to relate more to how Jesus is working in their life, to realize that He is right there with them,” stated Barb Dryzal, ARISE Coordinator at Resurrection Parish in Johnstown.

“Personally, I hope ARISE inspires us all to be more interested in learning more about our faith everyday – not just for the five seasons,” offered Kim Kline, ARISE Coordinator at Saint Augustine Parish in Dysart and Saint Monica Parish in Chest Springs. “I think a lot of our people will maintain their small groups or gather other groups together and do more faith sharing outside of ARISE. I see that happening.”

Around The Diocese

Diocesan Seminarians To Be Admitted To Candidacy



MARK GROEGER



MICHAEL PLEVA

Diocesan seminarians Mark Groeger and Michael Pleva will be admitted to Candidacy for the Sacrament of Holy Orders during a Mass on July 28 at 11:00 a.m. at Saint John Gualbert Cathedral in Johnstown. Bishop Mark L. Bartchak will be the celebrant of the Liturgy, which will be televised live on WATM ABC 23.

Candidacy is the third formal step toward ordination to the priesthood.

Groeger is a member of Saint Peter Parish in Somerset; Pleva belongs to Holy Rosary Parish in Altoona. Both men are in formation at Saint Vincent Seminary in Latrobe. Their projected year of ordination is 2021.



KNIGHTS: The Knights of Columbus Father Byron O'Hanlon Council (#4678) at Our Lady of Victory Parish in State College raised and donated more than \$15,000 for the restoration of the bell tower at Saints Peter and Paul Parish in the city of Mylapuram in India. Saints Peter and Paul is the home parish of Father Antony Sudherson, HGN, Parochial Vicar at Our Lady of Victory. Father Sudherson serves as the council's chaplain and informed the group of the need to restore the bell tower. He is pictured in the center of the first row. Below, the 2019 Knights of Columbus State Scholarship Winner for the Altoona Johnstown Diocese was from Knights of Columbus Council #4678. Elizabeth Bagley is the recipient of a \$3,000 scholarship over four years of college. It was presented in late May. Pictured (left to right) are: District Deputy Anthony Zumpetta, Bagley, and Grand Knight for Council #4678 Dennis Marince.



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**DEACON
JOHN J. CONCANNON**

Deacon John J. Concannon, 91, of Johnstown, passed away on June 21, 2019, at home. He was born on November 6, 1927, in Johnstown. Preceded in death by his loving wife of 65 years, Rosemary H. (Heinrich) Concannon; parents, John W. and Mary Concannon; Survived by children John Concannon Jr. and wife Carol (Mock); Monica Kendera wife of the late John Kendera; Brigid Starchok; Joseph Concannon and wife Jennifer (Stubbs); Michael Concannon and wife Brenda (Hahn); Mary Ann Ozbold and husband James; Carolyn Concannon; Thomas Concannon and wife Karen (Sida).

John ministered faithfully and actively to the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown as a Deacon for 34 years (from his ordination on June 1, 1985, until his death) serving at the former Saint Joseph Parish, Johnstown; Assumption Parish, Conemaugh; Saint John Cantius and Saint Mary Church, Windber; Saint Andrew Parish, Johnstown; and Saint John Gualbert Cathedral, Johnstown. Recipient of the Prince Gallitzin Cross. John was also an Army veteran who attended Virginia Military Institute, and a retired General Foreman employed for 36 years by the former Bethlehem Steel Corporation.

A funeral Mass was celebrated on June 25 at Saint John Gualbert Cathedral. Committal was at Saint John Gualbert Cemetery.



**DEACON
JOHN J. SZWARC**

Deacon John J. Szwarc, of Altoona, passed away after an extended illness on July 2, 2019.

He was born in 1942 son of the late John A. and (Liptak) Szwarc. He married Grace Y. Shaffer in 1964.

He was ordained by Adam Cardinal Maida at The Most Blessed Sacrament, Detroit, MI. Since 2010 he has served at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona. Prior assignments in Michigan include Christ the Good Shepard in Lincoln Park, Saint Hugh in Southgate, and Saint Cyril of Jerusalem in Taylor.

Deacon John received a Graduate Diploma in Diaconate Studies and a Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry, both at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Detroit, MI.

Deacon John is survived by his wife 3 children John S. Szwarc, of West Decatur, Pa; Conrad Szwarc, of Altoona, Pa; and Monica C. (John) Gray, of Sicklerville, NJ; 3 grandchildren John P. Szwarc; Elizabeth Gray; and Jess Gray; 2 sisters Connie Schartner, of N. Braddock, Pa; and Mary Jane Zablocki, of Baltimore, MD. John is also survived by several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by a son Christopher and an infant brother Joseph.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated on July 6 at Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona.

Committal Rites were at Calvary Cemetery Altoona.

Serra Club Installs 2019-2020 Officers



SERRA CELEBRATION: Among those who gathered for a dinner with the Serra Club of Cambria County are (left to right): Bernie Smith, Bishop Mark L. Bartchak, Barbara Bartkovich, president; Father Matthew Reese, Diocesan Director of Vocations; Jeff Hornick, and Louise Fisher, secretary.

The Serra Club of Cambria County celebrated the 53rd anniversary of Charter Night on June 4 with a Mass at Saint Anne Parish in Johnstown. Reverend Bernard Karmanocky, OFM, was celebrant. Concelebrants included Reverend Robert F. Oravetz and Reverend Matthew Reese, Diocesan Director of Vocations.

Father Reese conducted the Installation of officers for 2019-2020 at a dinner at the Boulevard Grill in Johnstown.

Officers are: President – Barbara Bartkovich; VP Program – Frances Yetko; VP Membership – Sue Brett; VP Vocations – Marjorie Lechene; VP Communications – Louise Fisher; Secretary – Patricia Falcone; and Treasurer – Georgene Dubovecky. Trustees John Correll, Patricia Balagusz and Eugene Gorman were also installed.

Bishop Mark L. Bartchak was the guest speaker for the event.

The Serra Club, an international organization which promotes vocations to the priesthood and consecrated religious life, meets the first and third Tuesday of every month at the Boulevard Grill.

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Creating Catholic Legacies Since 1990

Camp Timothy Enables Campers To Strengthen Bonds With Their Faith

By Tony DeGol
The Catholic Register

Grace and Hope Callahan are twins who, one could argue, made double the effort to be part of Camp Timothy 2019.

As students at Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School, the siblings enjoyed an educational opportunity in Italy earlier this summer and rushed back in the nick of time for Camp T.

“We woke up in Italy at 4:00 a.m. yesterday, then flew to London, then Philadelphia, then State College,” chronicled an understandably tired Grace on day one of the camp. “So we flew all day yesterday, woke up this morning at 6:00 a.m. and came here.”

Despite the frantic pace and almost missing two flights, the sisters agree it was all worth it to be part of the camp experience.

“You bond with the faith, and you go deeper into your faith,” explained Grace.

“With the LGEs (Large Group Evangelization) every day, they get a speaker and bring in topics that relate to us personally in the real world,” added Hope.

The twins, members of Saint Rose of Lima Parish in Altoona, were among the record number of high school age students who participated in Camp Timothy during the week of June 16 at Camp Sequanota in Jennerstown.

“I thought, let’s go back to the basics, so we decided to break the week down into the main parts of the Creed – I believe in God, I believe in Jesus Christ, I believe in the Holy Spirit, and I believe in the Holy Catholic Church,” said Francine Swope, diocesan coordinator of Youth Ministry and director of Camp Timothy. “And what we’ve done with that is make it relatable to these young people – to let them have the ability to say ‘I believe.’ That’s our theme: I believe.”

A different virtue was spotlighted each day, Swope continued, such as faith, hope, love, and joy.

“We put a large emphasis



ADVENTURE: A camper climbs a pole to go zip-lining, one of the many recreational activities offered at Camp Timothy. Below, Eva Spangler (front) and Marian Stephens ride inflatable horses before going horseback riding, another fun activity at the camp. Teens also enjoyed daily spiritual activities including Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and Large Group Evangelization.



on this being our faith community right now and how a community supports each other in the same belief,” she stressed. “So it’s just coming to them from where they are in their lives and what they’re living and making them understand ‘I believe’ and what is it that you believe.”

Priests celebrated daily Mass for the campers. Eucharistic Adoration and prayer by the campfire were among the other spiritual highlights.

Bishop Mark L. Bartchak visited one day during the week. He led an LGE, celebrated Liturgy, and ate lunch with the kids.

Re-enforcing the faith is paramount.

“I want us to walk out of here with a firm ‘I believe,’” summed up Swope. “That’s our goal. When we go back to our parishes, our schools, our families, our friends, we’re able to say ‘I believe in God. I believe in Jesus Christ. I believe in the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Catholic Church, and let me tell you about my belief,’ and that’s what we want to walk away with.”

Camp is Eva Spangler’s favorite week of summer.

“I feel my faith gets a lot deeper and a lot stronger,” assured the parishioner of Saint Michael in St. Michael. “Being around a group of people that believe the same thing you do really helps you learn about why you believe and how it can help you in your everyday life.”

Nathan Farabaugh, a member of Saint Nicholas Parish in Nicktown, experienced Camp Timothy for the first time thanks

to a little nudging from his older sister and some of her friends. He is glad he gave it a shot.

“It’s a lot of people in my age group that have the same thoughts, and they want to get deeper in their faith, and that’s a really good environment to be in,” he said. “I can get motivated from these people. I used to think I’m the only one going through something, but hearing everyone’s stories, they have the same problems or same obstacles in their faith, and they can help you overcome those obstacles and move on and grow deeper in the faith.”

Besides the emphasis on spirituality, Camp Timothy also offers plenty of recreational opportunities including hiking, horseback riding, swimming, and more.

“We go zip-lining, that’s a lot of fun,” noted Ashley Kubat, a parishioner at the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel in Loretto. “It’s fun going with your friends and doing that kind of stuff – just hanging out and being around them. It’s a wonderful experience.”

Making friends is sometimes challenging, but not at camp, Kubat emphasized.

“Here, everybody is accepting and you all share the same values and same ideas,” she added.

Commented Grace Callahan: “You bond as a people, and you bond with your faith.”

For her and her twin sister, that really was a double benefit. And after a trip to Italy, it was truly amore!



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