

The Catholic Register



Diocese Of Altoona-Johnstown

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Nanty Glo Parish Puts Gospel In Action Through Prayer Shawl Ministry

By Tony DeGol
The Catholic Register

Listening to the Gospel at Mass is one thing. Living the Gospel every day is another.

Some charming women at Saint Mary Parish in Nanty Glo are putting the Word of God in action by providing physical symbols of prayer, support, and warmth to those battling cancer or other serious illnesses.

In the words of one of the ladies, it is like giving them a hug.

For more than three years, the women have engaged in a prayer shawl ministry at the parish.

It all started when the friend of some of the ladies was diagnosed with cancer. The women did a skein of yarn on a shawl and presented it to her.

"It just meant so much to her," recalled Diane Kline, one

of the ring leaders of the Saint Mary prayer shawl ministry.

Then Renie Bracken entered the scene and taught the ladies how to crochet. Before too long, they started making shawls galore and giving them to very deserving individuals.

"The more we did it, it just kept growing and growing and growing, and we've given about 65 shawls out within about three years," Kline said.

The feedback from the recipients is quite a reward.

"They've just said it gives them a warm feeling," added Kline. "We like to say they're getting a hug from all of us whenever they put this shawl on."

Joyce Wolfe surely agrees with that statement. She is among the delightful women who crochet the shawls, but she was also the first recipient of one.

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PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: The Very Reverend Leonard Voytek, VF, Pastor of Saint Mary Parish in Nanty Glo, poses with members of the parish's popular prayer shawl ministry. The women make shawls to present to the sick and homebound in the parish and community.

Pastors At The Head Of The Class For Holy Name School



SHOW OF APPRECIATION: Father Brian Warchola (left), Pastor of Holy Name Parish in Ebensburg; Monsignor David Lockard, former Pastor of Holy Name; and Robin McMullen, Principal of Holy Name School, join students representing each class at Holy Name in a show of appreciation for Father Warchola's and Monsignor Lockard's spiritual leadership.

By Tony DeGol
The Catholic Register

Robin McMullen remembers the time years ago when Seminararian Brian Warchola visited her first grade classroom.

"You have come full circle now," McMullen, principal of Holy Name School in Ebensburg, told Father Warchola, new Pastor of Holy Name Parish. "Now I'm not guiding you in a first grade classroom. You're my boss! We are blessed to have you here, to have you lead us with your strong faith for Jesus."

McMullen's comments came at the conclusion of an August 30

school Mass during which the Very Reverend Leonard Voytek, VF, Dean of the Prince Gallitzin Deanery, installed Father Warchola as Pastor.

The installation is a traditional ceremony in the Catholic Church formally recognizing the priest as pastor of his new parish and presenting him to the faithful. The Dean leads the ceremony on behalf of the Bishop.

Various priests from throughout the diocese were also in attendance as a show of support and fraternity.

In his homily, Father War-

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Safety Workshop To Educate Parishioners, Prepare For Potential Risks

By Tony DeGol
The Catholic Register

Robert Kunsman believes it is a mistake to think the mass casualty situations we see on the news would never happen here.

“If you look across the United States, it does happen,” the Ebensburg State Police patrol trooper reminded. “Getting a little knowledge of what you might be able to do could save someone’s life.”

Kunsman and others are teaming up with the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown for a Parish Safety Preparedness Awareness Workshop.

It will be held on September 29 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at Bishop Carroll Catholic High School in Ebensburg.

Appropriately, that day is the Feast of Saint Michael the



READY FOR WORKSHOP: Ebensburg State Police Troopers Robert Kunsman (left) and Frank Lasinsky pose with Father Brian Warchola, Pastor of Holy Name Parish in Ebensburg, in front of an image of Saint Michael the Archangel. The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown is sponsoring a Parish Safety Preparedness Awareness Workshop on September 29 – the Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel.

Archangel. In the Book of Revelation, Michael led God’s army of angels to defeat Satan. His intercession is often sought for

protection, especially for police and other first responders.

“God gave this archangel the vocation, the duty, to protect

his children on this earth, and to celebrate that protection on his feast day is so vital,” stressed Father Brian Warchola, Pastor of Holy Name Parish in Ebensburg, who is working with the diocese in organizing the event.

The diocese invites everyone to attend the workshop – especially parish ushers and hospitality ministers.

A panel of law enforcement, security, and emergency personnel will explain how to assess possible risks and create a plan to protect parishioners in the event the church is threatened or targeted for an attack.

Admittedly, the idea of a mass casualty situation at one of our parishes is a horrific thought, but one we cannot ignore.

“This is reality now,” Kunsman emphasized. “This is the world we live in. It’s not a good

thing. It’s very bad, but it’s happening, and I want people to come and see what active shooter drills are like and what kind of guidance we can give them if it does occur whether they’re in a store, a church, a mall, a school. It will give them some kind of idea of what they need to do if this should ever occur.”

Father Warchola will celebrate Mass at the conclusion of the workshop at 3:00 p.m. The Liturgy will fulfill the Sunday obligation.

“This gathering is an opportunity for everyone to join in a conversation about safety practices on the parish level and learn how to deter threats and address hazards and risks,” noted Cindy O’Connor, Director of Children and Youth Protection for the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown.

Pre-registration is not required, but anyone planning to attend is invited to notify O’Connor at occonnor@dioceseaj.org or (814) 317-2621.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

(Continued From Page 1.)

Imagine her surprise when the group was deciding who would receive the inaugural shawl, and they voted for her.

“I was so excited – we all cried,” Wolfe shared. “I wore that prayer shawl and I still do to all my chemo treatments, and everyone at the cancer center just thinks it’s such a wonderful idea. Everybody comes over to look at it all the time.”

The shawl offers a feeling that cannot be measured.

“Just knowing that all of the prayers and the love are wrapped around you during the treatment means so much,” Wolfe added. “I don’t wear it just at chemo. There are times I’m feeling down and I wear it at home because I feel all of the love and prayers in that shawl, and that means an awful lot.”

Judy Toth is another member of the ministry, and the prayer shawls have certainly touched her family.

Her sister-in-law passed not long ago, but the shawl provided great comfort to her while she struggled with COPD.

Presently, Toth’s daughter, who resides in Connecticut, is battling bladder cancer. The

women selected a shawl to give to her.

“She was so excited,” stated Toth as she fought back tears. “She’s just such a sweet person.”

Each shawl includes a tag that says “Handmade with Love,” and is presented in a gift bag with tissue.

The pastor of Saint Mary, the Very Reverend Leonard Voytek, VF, blesses each shawl.

His appreciation for the ministry is off the charts.

“I think this prayer shawl ministry is really an expression of faith – faith in God, and it’s really an expression of love for others,” Father Voytek observed. “So what these ladies do is really a great witness to the sick in our community, to those suffering, to those in need. So many lives have been touched by these shawls, but also touched by the faith, the prayers, and love of these ladies.”

The women give shawls to Nanty Glo residents regardless of their faith tradition.

And notably, they said some folks have actually returned to the Catholic Church after being exposed to the ministry and realizing how much the faith community cares.

“I think this is really an expression of what Church is all about and how Church can make a difference in the lives of others,”



MINISTRY IN ACTION: Saint Mary, Nanty Glo, parishioners (left to right): Diane Kline, Rene Bracken, and Jeanie Berdomas make shawls. At right, Gina, daughter of Judy Toth, proudly wears the prayer shawl the group gave to her as she battles bladder cancer.

Father Voytek added.

Without question, the ministry has also impacted the women who are engaged.

“It touches mostly the people who work on these shawls because we get to pray together and we socialize too,” Bracken commented. “It’s just a wonderful ministry. It touches you. It just has to.”

Added Toth: “We are like one big family.”

And no one should feel intimidated about joining the minis-

try -- even if one has never held a crochet needle.

“The hardest one I had to teach was a left-hander,” Bracken mentioned. “Her mother had tried to teach her and couldn’t do it so we got together and we figured a way out, and she learned how to crochet. So if she can learn to crochet, anyone can.”

Father Voytek hopes the ministry will continue to thrive at Saint Mary. He cannot hold back his pride for the women and their inspiring service.



“In a world where there’s so much negativity and so much bad news, they literally live out the Gospel,” he stressed. “They bring good news, they bring hope, they bring joy to people by their love and their faith. It is the Gospel at work.”

Hiergeist Retires As Foundation President/CEO, Ringkamp Appointed to Succeed Him

Holy Name Pastors

(Continued From Page 1.)

chola introduced the priests to the students, along with his customary tongue-in-cheek humor about each.

“I had times in my life when I said I don’t want to be a priest, but it was guys like Father Voytek and some of the priests here and others in my life who encouraged me to stick with it and think about going to seminary to discern my call,” he stated. “So someone like Father Voytek, who I met 27 years ago, and here we are in 2019, and he installed me as Pastor of Holy Name Parish.”

Among those present was Monsignor David Lockard, the former Pastor of Holy Name. He is now Administrator of Saint Michael Parish in St. Michael.

Following the student-led hymn “10,000 Reasons,” McMullen invited both Father Warchola and Monsignor Lockard forward for a moment of appreciation.

“I can think of 10,000 reasons of how Monsignor Lockard and Father Brian have been positive role models of the faith here at Holy Name School for the students, teachers, myself, my staff, and Holy Name Parish,” she noted.

“Goodness,” she continued, is the first word that comes to mind when she thinks of both.

“Monsignor Lockard, you have demonstrated the strongest kind of love that any person can. You have passed on the love of this large parish and our school to someone with the energy and faithfulness to strongly guide them into the future,” McMullen said.

Students representing each class came forward to present Monsignor Lockard and Father Warchola with homemade cards, and Monsignor Lockard took a moment to acknowledge the occasion.

Holy Name will always hold a special place in his heart, he assured them, and he is confident Father Warchola will bring the youth and vigor necessary to lead them in the days to come.

“I wish you all a very great school year,” Monsignor Lockard said. “Do the best you can this year. Learn something, but above all, grow closer to Jesus. That’s a successful year.”



PASSING THE TORCH: Bill Hiergeist (left) and Chris Ringkamp exchange a handshake outside the Independent Catholic Foundation Office in Altoona. Hiergeist retired as President/CEO, and the Board of Trustees appointed Ringkamp to succeed him in the post.

There has been a “passing of the torch” at the Independent Catholic Foundation, which supports parishes, schools, and other Church ministries.

Bill Hiergeist, who served as President/CEO for a decade, retired effective August 31. The Board of Trustees appointed Christopher Ringkamp to succeed Hiergeist effective September 1.

Ringkamp has 10 years of for-profit experience and 20 years of Catholic nonprofit leadership experience. Since April 2017, he has served as the Foundation’s first Director of Mission Advancement. Prior to this, he served in a variety of leadership roles during 18 years at the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, including the first Director of the Parish Life Office followed by eight years as the Director of Development.

Ringkamp is a member of the Blair Chamber’s Leadership Blair County Class of 2016. He currently volunteers on Parish Council at Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Altoona; on the Board of Directors of the Academy of Sacred Music, Hollidaysburg; and as Treasurer of the Association of Fundraising Professionals Allegheny Mountains Chapter.

Ringkamp and his wife, Melissa, reside in Hollidaysburg while their son, Nathan, is a freshman at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Hiergeist was hired as executive director of the Independent Catholic Foundation in November 2009 when the financial markets were quite unsettled. He likes to reminisce about applying to a \$16 million foundation, interviewing with a \$13 million foundation before being hired by an \$11 million foundation.

His leadership during the last 10 years has helped triple the foundation’s portfolio value. This is quite an accomplishment as he reaches the point in his life where he has decided to retire and celebrate life fully with Judy and their daughters and their families.

In his “spare time,” he will enjoy his woodworking shop, vineyard and the art of sampling craft beers from near and far. Prior to joining the Independent Catholic Foundation, Bill was employed by Xerox for 13 years and Penn State Public Broadcasting for 12 years.



HAPPY DAY: New Holy Name Pastor Father Brian Warchola (left) and former Pastor Monsignor David Lockard pose after Holy Name School students recognized both for their spiritual leadership. The acknowledgement came at the conclusion of a Mass during which Father Warchola was installed as Pastor (below).



Annual Marian Celebration Family Mass and Rosary Principal Celebrant, Bishop Mark Bartchak



Sunday
Oct. 6, 2019
3:00 p.m.

Theme: Mary, Advocate for
Miracles

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Bishop Mark L. Bartchak

Editor
Tony DeGol

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Bruce A. Tomaselli

Around The Diocese

Special Collection To Benefit Hurricane Victims

Bishop Mark L. Bartchak has requested that a special collection be taken at all Masses in parishes throughout the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown on the weekend of September 21-22 to benefit Hurricane Dorian relief efforts.

All contributions will be forwarded to Catholic Relief Services and Catholic Charities USA, which will see to it that financial assistance will go to those in need following the deadly storm.

"In the past, the people of our diocese have been generous in response to those who have suffered from these natural disasters," said Bishop Mark. "Thank you for being people of mercy. Pray for the hurricane victims and their families and those who are working hard to relieve their distress."

Marian Celebration Planned at Saint Benedict, Johnstown

The Family Marian Celebration Mass and Rosary will be held on October 6 at 3:00 p.m. at Saint Benedict Parish, 2310 Bedford Street, Johnstown. The theme for this year's celebration is "Mary as Advocate of Miracles."

Bishop Mark L. Bartchak will be the principal celebrant and homilist. Please join the Bishop, along with clergy, children, and religious organizations in honoring our Blessed Mother. This Mass fulfills the Sunday obligation.

Queen of Archangels Parish to Pray Novena to Saint Michael the Archangel

Queen of Archangels Parish in Clarence will once again sponsor the Novena to Saint Michael the Archangel September 21 until September 29 – the Feast of the Archangels. Devotions are at 7:00 p.m. each evening.

Religious goods will be available in the church basement, along with light refreshments. Weather permitting, there will be an outdoor Eucharistic procession outside on September 29.



Visit the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown's e-news site, *Proclaim! The Good News of Altoona-Johnstown*. Access the site at proclaim.dioceseaj.org and sign up for regular e-mail updates of diocesan news and information.

Carmelite Sisters For The Aged And Infirm Celebrate 90 Years Of Catholic Healthcare



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: Bishop Mark L. Bartchak joins the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm during the community's 90th anniversary celebration at Garvey Manor Nursing Home in Hollidaysburg. Pictured (left to right): Sister Philamena, O Carm., Sister Angelina, O Carm., Sister Joachim Anne, O Carm., Sister Jacinta, O Carm., Sister Robert, O Carm., Bishop Mark, and Sister Ann, O Carm.

By Tony DeGol
The Catholic Register

Garvey Manor Nursing Home in Hollidaysburg is renowned for its excellence in caring for the sick and elderly.

For Sister Joachim Anne Ferrenchak, O Carm., one guiding principle helps to maintain that standard.

"The primary identity of Garvey Manor should be that we're a Catholic facility because here in this house, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, we are bringing Christ," explained Sister Joachim. "We're bringing Christ to them morning, Noon, and night – not treating each person as a patient, but treating them as Christ – the Christ that we meet in our neighbors, the Christ that we meet in those that we associate with. If we don't bring Christ to them and recognize Christ in them, then we fail in our Catholic identity."

Sister Joachim, who serves as administrator of Garvey, and her fellow Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm who minister there, celebrated the 90th anniversary of their community's founding during a Mass at Saint Joseph Chapel at Garvey Manor on September 3.

The occasion was a stellar opportunity to recall the Carmelite sisters' rich history of serving those who need healing and support.

"The tradition that was started back in 1929 when Mother Angeline and her six companions started our congregation was certainly forward-looking," reminded Sister Joachim. "It was a visionary endeavor that they undertook – doing things in a different way that was more personalized, that really spoke to the individual residents that were being cared for."

Over the years, Sister continued, the community has strived to keep up with the times and improve long-term care.

"We have been advocates on behalf of the elderly, we have worked with legislators to try to put into place things that would really support the marginalized, the poor, the aged, the infirm, and we continue to do that even now as we move beyond the 90 years," she added.

Originally a member of the Little Sisters of the Poor, Mother Angeline Teresa met resistance by her congregation as she strived to better care for the elderly in America.

After advice from Cardinal Hayes of New York, she and her companions from the Little Sisters of the Poor officially founded the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm on September 3, 1929. Their ministry began in a donated building, but has blossomed over the past nine decades.

Bishop Mark celebrated the Mass and acknowledged in

his homily what he called the sisters' "Godly vision" – a vision that promotes love and honors the dignity of life from birth to natural death.

"You Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm are constantly reminding all of us that in caring for the elderly there is a vision that comes to you from your foundress," he said. "It is a vision in which love of God and love of others comes first. All of us here for this 90th anniversary celebration are so grateful that your Godly vision promotes faith rather than fear."

The sisters' vision glorifies God, not themselves, Bishop Mark noted.

"Spiritually, you are so deeply rooted in the best of the contemplative life that is part of the Carmelite tradition," he continued. "On this 90th anniversary, we recognize that you are risk takers – especially when it comes to the bottom line concerns about the care and quality of life of the residents you serve."

Garvey Manor employs more than 300 people. It is imperative, according to Sister Joachim, to impart the future to them "so they are deeply embedded in the vision, that they are deeply embedded in the core values, and that they are really the ones that carry forth the work of Christ for the elderly that Mother Angeline envisioned."

Around The Diocese

Saint Thomas the Apostle Parishioners Receive Scholarships

John Patterson, Hannan Regester, Luke Yanoshak, Benjamin Zimmerman, and Michael Zubak will each receive a \$959.77 scholarship for their service as Altar Servers at Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish in Bedford.

Patterson, a graduate of Commonwealth Charter Academy, is the son of Martin and Mary Patterson. He will attend IUP Academy of Culinary Arts and major in Culinary Arts.

Regester, a graduate of Bedford Area High School, is the daughter of Thomas and Amelie Regester. She will attend Allegany College of Maryland and major in Culinary Arts/Baking and Pastry Arts.

Yanoshak, a graduate of Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School, is the son of Claire and Stephen Yanoshak. He will attend Penn State University and major in Biomedical Engineering.

Zimmerman, a graduate of Bedford Area High School, is the son of Steve and Jody Zimmerman. He will attend the Global Powerline Academy and will major in Powerline-Lineman.

Zubak, a graduate of Bedford Area High School, is the son of Donna and George Zubak. He will attend Millersville University of Pennsylvania and major in Meteorology.

The scholarships are made possible by the Kayla Ann Nicodemus Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund, which was initiated by Kayla's grandparents, Joe and Ann Kaminski, and supported by generous gifts in memory of Kayla, who died tragically in 2007 due to injuries suffered in an automobile accident. She was a freshman at Saint Francis University.

To date, Kayla's endowment has awarded 36 scholarships for a total value of \$38,045.45.

Kayla's goal in life was to help people "in need." These annual scholarship awards make her dream of helping people come true.

Novena Honoring Saint Theresse of the Child Jesus

The Discalced Carmelite Nuns of Loretto cordially invite everyone to come and share in the graces and blessings of the annual Solemn Novena honoring Saint Theresse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face, which will be preached in their chapel from September 23 to October 1, 2019.

Father Jude Peters, OCD, Provincial of the Discalced Carmelite Friars, stationed at Holy Hill, Wisconsin, will be preaching nine exciting days of Benedictions, Holy Masses, prayers, and homilies. By popular demand, he comes to Loretto once again, in this his 30th year of holy priesthood. He will preach and pray with great enthusiasm about our precious and dear Saint, whom we all love and admire.

During the Novena, recitation of the novena prayers will take place in conjunction with two daily Liturgies: a Benediction Service at 4:00 p.m. and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at 7:00 p.m. On October 1, the day of the Solemnity, roses will be blessed and distributed at both services.



COMMISSIONED: Sister Linda LaMagna, CCW (left), and others affiliated with ARISE Together in Christ, are commissioned for season three of the diocesan renewal initiative during an outdoor Mass celebrated by Bishop Mark Bartchak at the Our Lady of the Alleghenies Shrine in Loretto. Season three begins in early October with a series of small group faith sharing sessions focusing on Catholic Social Teaching.

Diocese Poised For New ARISE Season

By Tony DeGol
The Catholic Register

Is it time for the Church to rediscover its role in engaging the faithful on Catholic Social Teaching?

Sister Linda LaMagna, CCW, thinks so, and her enthusiasm was evident at the conclusion of a special Liturgy commissioning those involved in ARISE Together in Christ. The outdoor Mass, celebrated on August 18 at the Our Lady of the Alleghenies Shrine in Loretto, came just weeks before the launch of a new season of the diocesan renewal initiative.

"I'm really excited about season three because it focuses on walking in the footsteps of Christ to engage in the Catholic Social Teachings of the Church," expressed Sister Linda, diocesan ARISE coordinator. "So I think everybody leaves here with a little bit of expectation with the power of the Holy Spirit coming alive in all of us, and I think the Bishop reiterated that in his homily this evening."

Bishop Mark, indeed, emphasized that the time is right for this renewal opportunity.

"Our world, our Church, and our families, in our hearts and souls, need purification now more than ever," he stated. "We need a new day and a new way. We need to be people who are not afraid to share our faith with others who are seeking the same purification and the same

transformation that leads us to the truth."

For those who feel distracted and disheartened about circumstances of our time, Bishop urged the faithful to revisit the second reading for that Sunday from Hebrews. He specifically quoted the following from that reading:

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith.

"For all of you who have already been participating in the journey of faith called ARISE Together in Christ, that's what Hebrews is talking about," Bishop Mark explained. "We know who our leader is. We know the one who is the perfecter of our faith. He is the Lord Jesus who endured the cross for our sins and comes

to us with his Body and Blood to strengthen us at this altar."

Parish registration for small faith-sharing groups is scheduled for the last two weekends in September. Season three will begin in early to mid-October.



Sister Linda LaMagna, CCW, Diocesan ARISE Coordinator, will offer weekly reflections for season three of ARISE Together in Christ on *Proclaim!* TV beginning on October 6. *Proclaim!* airs every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. on WATM ABC 23. Sister Linda's reflections will also be posted on the diocesan website and Facebook page throughout the season.



GREEN THUMBS: Students from Our Lady of Victory Catholic School in State College learned first-hand about gardening, donated vegetables to the State College Area Food Bank, and enjoyed the 'fruits of their labor.' The OLVCS garden included over 14 different types of vegetables, and over 60 pounds of lettuce, tomatoes, peppers, zucchini, and cucumbers were donated to the Food Bank. The garden produced enough vegetables so that our students could enjoy fresh greens with their lunch. As part of Mrs. Lisa Groves Science class, OLVCS Middle School students start plants from seeds and tend the garden throughout the summer.





SUPPORTING SEMINARIANS: The Knights of Columbus hosted an annual dinner in celebration of their prayerful and financial support of Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown seminarians. The gathering was held on August 24 at the Allegro restaurant in Altoona. Through their Seminary Endowment Fund, the Knights generously assist seminarians with their yearly expenses. Checks were presented to seminarians (left to right) Justin Treon, Mark Groeger, and Michael Pleva. Diocesan seminarians Brian Norris and Jacob Gindhart also received checks.



STUDENT COUNCIL: The 2019-2020 student council is in place at Saint Benedict School in Carrolltown. Pictured (left to right): First row: Chloe Warner, Marshall Farabaugh, Lukas Conner, and Brayden Douglas. Middle Row: Gabe Barret, Sophie Hoover, and Seth Cunningham. Back row: Mrs. Kimberly Lallamand, eighth grade teacher, and Mr. Jeff Maucieri, principal.



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**BISHOP'S
APPOINTMENTS &
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Diocese of
Altoona-Johnstown**

Effective: September 25, 2019

REVEREND MONSIGNOR STANLEY B. CARSON, Pastor of Saint Michael the Archangel Parish in Hollidaysburg, appointed Administrator of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona and Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Altoona.

VERY REVEREND ALAN E. THOMAS, VG, Pastor of Saint Joseph Parish in Bellwood, appointed Pastor of Saint Michael the Archangel Parish in Hollidaysburg, continuing as Vicar General of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown.

REVEREND JOZEF KOVACIK, appointed Administrator of Saint Joseph Parish in Bellwood, continuing as Pastor of Saint Matthew Parish in Tyrone.

REVEREND MATTHEW A. REESE, Pastor of Saint Andrew Parish in Johnstown, appointed Pastor of Our Lady of the Alleghenies Parish in Lilly, continuing as Diocesan Director of Vocations.

REVEREND PETER D. CROWE, Administrator of Saint Anne Parish in Davidsville and Parochial Vicar at Saint Benedict Parish in Johnstown, appointed Administrator of Saint Andrew Parish in Johnstown, continuing as Administrator of Saint Anne Parish in Davidsville.

REVEREND ANTONY SUDHERSON, HGN, Parochial Vicar at Our Lady of Victory Parish in State College, appointed Parochial Vicar at Saint Benedict Parish in Johnstown and Chaplain at Conemaugh Health System in Johnstown.

REVEREND JONATHAN J. DICKSON, appointed Diocesan Director of Ongoing Formation, continuing as Parochial Vicar at Our Lady of Victory in State College, Chaplain at Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy in Boalsburg, and Chaplain of Mount Nittany Medical Center in State College.



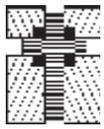
BIRTH OF MARY CELEBRATION: Faithful from throughout the diocese joined in the Rosary procession around the grounds of Saint Catherine of Siena Parish in Duncansville during the 38th annual Birth of Mary Celebration on September 8. Bishop Mark L. Bartchak celebrated an outdoor Mass prior to the procession. The celebration also included a continuous Rosary throughout the day in the church and displays highlighting the theme "Life of Mary, Our Mother."

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May They Rest In Peace



**SISTER DOROTHY
JACKO, SC**

Sister Dorothy Jacko-ko, SC, age 83, died at Caritas Christi, the motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill in Greensburg, on August 9, 2019.

Born in Johnstown, Sister Dorothy entered the congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill on September 8, 1959, from Saint Francis Assisi Parish in Johnstown. Preceded in death by her parents, Michael and Anna (Baran) Jacko and a brother, Lawrence, she is survived by two sisters: Mrs. Janet Ford and Mrs. Carol Roberts, nieces and nephews.

She earned a bachelor's degree in History, Spanish from Seton Hill University, a master's degree in history from Temple University, a master's degree in liturgy from Notre Dame University, and a doctorate in theology from Regis College, Toronto.

Sister Dorothy began teaching in high schools in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. From 1971-1973, she was an instructor in history at Seton Hill University. From 1973-1981, she served as the director of development and concurrently as director of institutional planning from 1974-1976.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Sisters of Charity, De Paul Center, 144 DePaul Center Road, Greensburg, PA 15601.



**SISTER THERESA MARIE
KUKLA, SSCJ**

Sister Theresa Marie Kukla, SSCJ, a perpetually professed Sister of the Congregation of Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, entered into eternal life on August 22, 2019, the feast of the Queenship of Mary, at UPMC Presbyterian, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, following a brief illness.

Born Patricia Kukla in Lilly on July 17, 1944, Sister Theresa Marie was the daughter of the late Stanley and Mary (Slebodnick) Kukla.

She leaves behind her siblings, Helen (Raymond) Campbell; Stanley (Barbara) Kukla Jr; Virginia "Jeannie" (Michael) Manness; and Priscilla Caron; as well as her nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by a brother, Joseph.

Sister Theresa Marie entered the Congregation on September 15, 1970, professing her first vows on June 29, 1973, and professing her perpetual vows on June 29, 1978. She was among the first Americans to enter the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, where she later served as the second provincial superior of the American Province and as a longtime Mistress of Novices and local superior.

A funeral Mass was celebrated on August 28 at Saint Francis Xavier Parish in Cresson.

Contributions may be made in Sister Theresa Marie's memory to the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, 866 Cambria Street, Cresson, PA 16630.



STANDING GUARD: Members of the Knights of Columbus stand outside the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel in Loretto during a past celebration. This year's celebration gathering is planned for October 13 at the Basilica.

*By Tony DeGol
The Catholic Register*

A remarkable day in the life of the diocese has inspired the theme for the upcoming celebration of the Knights of Columbus.

Every year, Bishop Mark joins his brother Knights from all councils within Altoona-Johnstown for a Mass and dinner. The 2019 gathering is scheduled for October 13 with a Liturgy at 2:00 p.m. at the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel in Loretto. The Mass will satisfy the Sunday obligation. The banquet will follow at the Our Lady of Loretto Community Hall, next to the Basilica.

The theme for this year's celebration is "The Impact of the Relic Pilgrimage of Saint John Vianney on the Spiritual Life of the Knights of Columbus and the Life of the Church."

It stems from the marvelous day earlier this year when the Knights of Columbus graciously brought the Uncorrputed Heart Relic of Saint John Vianney – patron saint of priests – to the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in

Altoona.

Despite arctic weather on that January day, an estimated 2,000-3,000 individuals packed the Cathedral throughout the day for veneration of the relic, Masses, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The special guest and keynote speaker for the October 13 event will be Peter Sonski, Education Manager for the Knights of Columbus Museum in New Haven, Connecticut. Sonski was also the Custodian for the Heart Relic when it came to Altoona for veneration.

Other guests have been invited to the celebration, including the State Deputy and the State Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus.

"I am especially grateful to all the members of the Knights of Columbus for the many activities that you undertake and initiate in our diocese," assured Bishop Mark in his invitation to his brother Knights. "It is a pleasure to celebrate this special Mass and share this dinner with you on a day that has become an annual event. I look forward to the opportunity to be with you."

The cost of the dinner is \$15 for adults and \$7.50 for children 12 and younger. Reservations are required by September 28 through William Stasko, CPA, 8 Entrance Drive, Johnstown, PA 15905.

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Capuchins Seize Majestic Setting For Family Festival

By Tony DeGol
The Catholic Register

Standing on a picturesque Somerset County mountain on a sun-drenched afternoon, Brother Mike Herlihey reflected on an equally beautiful reality.

“The diocese is not meant to be just some pockets of parishes, but one large community that’s really meant to come together as Catholics as part of the universal Church,” the Capuchin Franciscan stressed. “So it’s this idea that you have the importance of a small parish community, but then you’re part of a larger community – the diocese, and also part of the Catholic Church in the entire world.”

In that spirit, Brother Herlihey and his fellow Capuchins collaborated with the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown for the Padre Pio Family Festival at Saint John the Baptist Parish and Retreat Center in New Baltimore.

The Capuchin community is a welcome and growing presence in the diocese. Several friars serve Altoona-Johnstown parishes – including Father Mark Pattock, OFM Cap., Pastor of the New Baltimore parish.

Recognizing the jewel that is Saint John the Baptist Parish and Retreat Center, the Capuchins wanted to utilize the prime location to host the festival and ultimately unite the various faith communities of the diocese.

“I just looked at these grounds and saw they were just magnificent, and the Turnpike being there is so iconic,” commented Father Tom Betz, OFM Cap., Provincial Minister. “I just thought it would be nice to do something that would be youth-focused, family-focused, high energy, and spiritual.”

When he relayed his vision to some of the younger friars in formation, Father Betz says the idea caught fire among them.

“What a beautiful place here at Saint John the Baptist,” observed Brother Herlihey, who currently resides in Washington, D.C. “It is a gorgeous

atmosphere. The people of New Baltimore have really been very welcoming.”

The festivities began with an outdoor Mass celebrated by Father Betz. Uplifting music from many of the young Capuchins enhanced the worship, along with the sunshine and a light breeze – all examples of God’s glory.

Various musicians – including a Capuchin band – graced the stage throughout the afternoon. There were various games for young people, and guests lined up for irresistible eats from various food vendors. The wood fired pizza and smokehouse barbeque were particular hits.

Later in the day, the pews inside the Church were packed for a holy hour in celebration of Padre Pio. Relics of Padre Pio and Saint Francis were present.

Michael and Alison Amato, members of Saint Joseph Parish in Bellwood, were among the many faithful from throughout Altoona-Johnstown who visited the festival.

“It’s absolutely beautiful,” said Alison “It’s peaceful. You can feel the Holy Spirit present here.”

The Very Reverend Alan Thomas, Vicar General of the diocese, was thrilled to see the impressive turnout. He expressed his enthusiasm for the Capuchin presence in Altoona-Johnstown.

“They are a welcome addition,” he noted. “They’re young, they’re full of life, they bring diversity of culture. We’re really glad to have them.”

The feeling was clearly mutual.

“We’re happy to be here,” assured Father Betz. “This is a lovely community, New Baltimore. A lot of Catholic people, a lot of history, a lot of tradition.”

Added Brother Herlihey: “Thank you so much, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, for collaborating with us!”



SPIRITUALITY AND SONG: Relics of Padre Pio (bottom photo) were displayed in Saint John the Baptist Church throughout the day and during a holy hour. Singer-songwriter Marie Miller (top photo) performs on stage at the festival. Miller is perhaps best recognized for her song “6’2.”



MINGLING: Brother David Domanski, OFM Cap., chats with festival-goers Tony and Angie Ferguson and their sons Augustine and Felix (standing). The Fergusons, who are from Pittsburgh, were among the many who turned out for the Padre Pio Family Festival.