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Regional Catholic Schools

Altoona School To Be Named Holy Trinity; Kuckenbrod Will Be Johnstown Principal

Significant announcements were made earlier this month regarding the new Regional Catholic Schools in Altoona and Johnstown.

The name for the Altoona Regional School was announced, and a principal named for the Johnstown Regional School.

The Altoona Quadrant Regional School Board is pleased to announce that the new regional school scheduled to open in the Altoona and Hollidaysburg areas will be called "Holy Trinity Catholic School." Families from the Catholic schools that will be regionalized chose the name among three options. A parent subcommittee was tasked with choosing possible names for the school, and then presenting the options to all families through an electronic survey. The respondents of the survey overwhelmingly were in favor of "Holy Trinity Catholic School," and Bishop Mark L. Bartchak approved the name. Families also were in favor of "The Guardians" as the school mascot, and purple and gold as the school colors.

Holy Trinity Catholic School, scheduled to open at



the start of the 2016 - 2017 academic year, will include three campus locations. The Holy Trinity Altoona Campus will be located at the current Altoona Central Catholic School building; the Holy Trinity Hollidaysburg Campus will be located at the current Hollidaysburg Catholic School building. Both campuses will serve students in grades pre-k through four. The Holy Trinity Middle School Campus, open to students in grades five through eight, will be at the site of the current Saint Rose of Lima School building in Altoona.

Pre - registration for Holy Trinity Catholic School continues to yield positive numbers, with formal registration scheduled for Catholic Schools Week, January 31 - February 6. The Altoona Quadrant Regional School Board and its subcommittees continue to meet on a regular basis. Parent subcommittees, including School Spirit, Athletics, and Development/Fundraising, are also meeting regularly.

During a meeting with parents on Monday, January 11, the Johnstown Quadrant Regional School Board an-



KEITH KUCKENBROD

nounced the administration for the regional school scheduled to open in Johnstown in the 2016 - 2017 academic year. Keith Kuckenbrod, principal of Our Mother of Sorrows School in Johnstown since 2013, will serve as principal of the new school. He is a former teacher at Bishop McCort Catholic High School. Kuckenbrod will be based at the middle school campus, with oversight of all three campuses. Three vice-principals - - Patricia Gable, Rosemary Batzel, and Mary Jo Podratsky - - will be responsible for the day - to - day

operations of their respective campus. Gable, a teacher at OMOS since 2001, will serve at the middle school, the current Saint Andrew building. Batzel, an educator at Johnstown Catholic schools since 1980 and principal of Cathedral Catholic Academy since 2003, will serve at the elementary campus to be located at the current OMOS building. Podratsky, who will serve at the elementary campus to be housed at the current Saint Benedict building, has been a teacher at Saint Benedict for many years and the principal since last spring.

For more information about the new regional Catholic school in Johnstown, please visit www.johnstowncatholicregional.org.

According to the website, "Johnstown Catholic Regional School is a major step forward, intended to strengthen and re-invigorate Catholic Education for Preschoolers, Kindergarteners, Primary and Middle School Students in the Johnstown - Somerset region. Enrollment is open to all ... Catholics and non-Catholics alike. We are all God's children."

High Schools

Students Donate

Altoona: For the third straight year, Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School students have responded to the Pope Francis Challenge of helping the less fortunate in our community. BG students collected more than 20,000 items, which was donated to Catholic Charities.

At the 2013 World Youth Day, Pope Francis challenged the youth to use their creativity, enthusiasm and joy to go and serve the world with love and a desire to witness the Gospel.

The Bishop Guilfoyle campus ministry organizes the donation drive and asked each student to donate 50 items. The donated items were blessed by Bishop Mark L. Bartchak at the school's Thanksgiving Mass and then delivered to Catholic Charities.

"I was deeply moved by the generosity of the students, fami-

lies and parishes who participated," said Robert Sutton, Bishop Guilfoyle director of campus ministry and religion teacher. "As with last year, seeing all of those boxes stacked and sorted and being delivered to centers for the poor and needy was awesome."

Jean Johnstone, director of Catholic Charities, said the donation was a blessing for the less fortunate in our community as the need increases every year.

"Catholic Charities is very blessed to have been one of the recipients of Bishop Guilfoyle's huge donation of non-perishable food and personal care items," Johnstone said. "Our cupboards and shelves were pretty bare. Preserving the dignity of each person is at the heart of the services provided by Catholic Charities. No one should have worry about having access to life's basic needs. The donated items are always given freely to those in need."

Sutton said he has seen the impact of the Pope Francis Challenge in the BG students as many students went beyond the goal of 50 items.

"It is deeply inspiring for me to see such generosity on behalf of our school community," Sutton said. "So many went

above and beyond - anywhere from 5 - 10 items more than what was required to, in some cases, hundreds and hundreds of items. I feel that this is a real doorway to grace and a way to open yet another path to encountering Christ."

Higher Education

New Nursing Dean

Cresson: Mount Aloysius College President Tom Foley has announced that after an extensive national search, Cynthia R. King, PhD, NP, MSN, RN, CNL, FAAN has been chosen to lead the College's Nursing Division starting January 4.

"Dr. Cyndy King has excelled as a caregiver, a manager, a researcher, author, and as an educator," said Mount Aloysius President Foley. "Her contributions to the healthcare field include research and writing that encompass a diverse field of endeavor including nursing quality, palliative care, oncology, education, ethics and much more. She is an educator and leader with an impressive array of experiences and accomplishments. We are very excited to have her lead the Mount Aloysius College Nursing Division




STUDENTS SING CAROLS: More than 50 students from Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School, Altoona, sang Christmas carols for Bishop Guilfoyle alumni residing at Garvey Manor Nursing Home and Our Lady of the Alleghenies Residence in Hollidaysburg. The BG chorus and the 13-member band, under the direction of BG music teacher Brett Keith, performed holiday pieces such as two stylistically different arrangements of "Silent Night," an arrangement of "I Heard the Bells On Christmas Day" and other selections from the advent season and traditional carols.

as we continue to serve the needs of our students and of our regional medical community."


Dr. King earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology and psychology from Trinity College in Hartford, Conn. She graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree from Creighton University and has since earned the Creighton School of Nursing's Alumni Merit Award.

Dr. King graduated with a master of science in nursing from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She completed an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner program in 1994 from the University of Rochester School of Nursing. She earned her doctoral degree from the University of Rochester in 1999.


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In The Alleghenies



Dear Friends in Christ,

Welcome to Catholic Schools Week 2016! The theme of our celebration this year is Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service.

The children in our Catholic schools are asking questions, very good questions, about our Catholic Faith. They are asking so they can grow in their Knowledge of the Faith. And they are asking so that they can discover how to put their Faith at the Service of others. I can attest to that from my direct interaction with students in Catholic schools throughout the Diocese.

Two second graders, Kaitlyn and Jack, recently told me how their class decided to write and illustrate a book about Heaven. One member of the class had experienced the loss of an older relative. That led to questions about life and death and eternal life and Heaven. They readily explained to me that it is very important to have Faith in God; that it is very important for them to have Knowledge of what that Faith teaches us. And these second graders have a remarkable sense of Service because they want to share that Faith and Knowledge with others.

What a marvelous expression of what goes on in our Catholic schools! I can share plenty of other examples from Catholic schools all over our Diocese.

This week, we recognize Catholic schools as Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service. It is a good time to celebrate the present and look to the future. Changes are happening in some of our schools, and I realize that those changes are a challenge for some people to embrace. However, the steps we are taking are necessary to ensure that future generations have the opportunity to receive their education in Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service.

During this Catholic Schools Week in this Year of Mercy, I would like to salute our students, administrators, teachers, and staff. Together, they make up not only Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service, but communities in which God's love and mercy are present each day. I also want to extend my sincere gratitude to parents for their tireless support of Catholic education. The sacrifices they are making today are a great investment.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev. Mark L. Bartchak
Bishop of Altoona-Johnstown

BISHOP AND AUTHORS: Bishop Mark L. Bartchak enjoyed meeting Jack Compton and Kaitlyn Link, second grade students at Altoona Central Catholic School, on Thursday, January 14. The students and their classmates wrote and illustrated a book about Heaven, which is being published. Their teacher is Jennifer Crawford.



NATIVITY PLAY: The 2015 Nativity play at Saint Andrew Parish, Johnstown, featured (left to right) First row: Lauren Miller, Alyssa Lee, Donald Hillegass, Olivia Carino, Vayda Korenoski, Edye Spangler, Jesse Miller. Second row: Eden Rapp, Kaitlyn Hillegas, Sarah Kibler, Amanda Kasisky, Father Angelo Patti (pastor), Kaitlyn Kasisky, Katie Kibler and Hunter Smith.

(Continued From Page 2.)

King has conducted a series of research projects focusing on issues surrounding quality of life and bone marrow transplantation. She has published numerous articles and abstracts in the area of oncology nursing, and delivered a variety of presentations nationally and internationally.

Sports Management

Cresson: The Mount Aloysius College athletic infrastructure includes modern outdoors fields for baseball, softball, soccer, tennis and cross-country. Indoors, Mountie athletes benefit from one of the finest sports venues in the southern Allegheny region. The college's success in 14 NCAA Division III sports, added to the attraction of its facilities, has business students showing increased interest in the College's newest academic offering - a Sports Management specialty to its Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

Kimberly Azonevich, chair

of Business and Information Technology, noted that the college's growing Business Department, coupled with the school's major investments in facilities in the last five years, made the development of a strong Sports Management specialty a logical academic offering.

"Students are motivated by the expanding career opportunities in sports management," said Azonevich, "and they see the fruits of well-planned sports programs and athletic facilities management all around them. Business students and many athletes now clearly see the career potential of a focus in sports management for their future," added Azonevich. "The field is developing rapidly in many sectors."

The Sports Management specialization is one of five areas of focus for student pursuing bachelor's degrees in business administration at Mount Aloysius. Other areas include Health Care Administration, Human Resources Management, Marketing and Entrepreneurship, and Marketing Communications.

Prayer

Carmelite Novena

Loretto: The Discalced Carmelite Nuns announce that their first Novena of the year to Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Saint Therese, the Little Flower, will continue at the monastery until Saturday, January 30.

All intentions will be remembered in the special Novena prayer recited following daily Mass in the newly - renovated chapel at Carmel.

Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament is given every Sunday at 4:00 p.m. and every First Friday of the month in the Carmelite chapel, followed by veneration of the relic of Saint Therese.

Those desiring to share in the graces and blessings of the Novena and in the private prayers of the Carmelite Nuns, are requested to send their petitions to Mother Prioress, Discalced Carmelite Monastery, P.O. Box 57, Loretto PA 15940.



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Point Of View

"Mom! You could go to jail for that!" my nature loving middle son reprimands me.

"What are you talking about? I am simply enjoying God's gift of nature to us! Have you ever seen something so intricately beautiful in your life?" I question back to him.

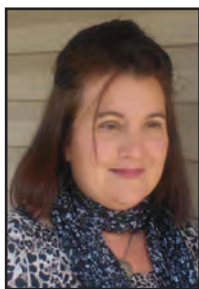
"Yes, I know mom it really is nice but you better but it back because you are committing a crime!" Really? As he quickly pulls up a statute of 1918 on his cell phone, I am quickly convicted of the first act of crime in my life! I gasped. The truth is I have been participating in this illegal activity for some time now never realizing my love for this hobby could perhaps put me on a Most Wanted list.

So what did I do to cause such great concern? What type of criminal activity am I unknowingly participating in thus bringing shame to my son?

So what is the crime? The so-called infamous criminal activity I participate in involves collecting and keeping snow covered, mud-filled, twig bird nests, abandoned by last year's birds of spring. Apparently an age old crime in North America!

There is no forethought to the act and no elaborate schemes devised. I simply go for a winter walk down our little country road, marveling at nature, scouring for the little nests that showcase themselves among the dark, barren branches of the dormant trees.

So what intrigues me about bird nests? Everything! I love the thought of a mother bird intricately weaving her nest of



Family Matters

By Amy Kanich
God's Wisdom Is For The Birds (Literally!)

the right size and shape to fit her growing family. I love the thoughts of little birds snuggled deep inside, growing together in the safety of their little homes. I love to marvel at the material used by the bird to make the perfect nest delighting in both the simpleness of materials and also the complexity of the design. However, the very thing I love most about collecting these nests is they are a visual reminder to me how much God has placed in the simpleness of creatures everything they need to care for themselves and live their lives to the fullest. No fancy tools needed, no elaborate sketches to choose from and no need of latest and greatest synthetic materials. Simply an innate knowledge placed inside the very being of this creature, an ordained designed, God has given them to live their lives, a complete set of instructions on how to be everything God created them to be. Sometimes I think we humans really complicate our lives by looking for answers to our lives and our situations outside of ourselves often times ignoring the wisdom of God that He Himself has placed deep inside each of us.

If God gives a bird the wisdom and ability to accomplish

everything its needs to live and survive in this world created by God, how much more do you think God has given to us?

God's ways are not complicated, they are simple. It is us who complicates our lives.

So perhaps this year we can challenge ourselves to look deep inside and ask God to help us rediscover the greatness He has placed within. The very answers to the questions we seek, the very design of His dreams hidden within. Perhaps this can be the year we forgo the complexity of the world's answers and still ourselves enough to seek the simple ways of wisdom built deep inside our very being. Perhaps this can be the year we finally trust the very one who created us, knowing deep inside our very being that HE already has everything figured out and we possess everything we need to not only survive but to thrive in this life He has blessed us with! So, the next time you see beautiful nest in a tree take the time to get up close and look at the marvelous design of creation and remember the same God who made the wisdom of the bird, dwells powerfully inside of you! Blessings.



Another Perspective

By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein
A Martyr Of Mercy

In the normal course of events, Father Stanley Rother, a priest of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City would be looking forward to celebrating his 81st birthday on March 27, and would be reflecting back on the celebration of his golden jubilee of priestly ordination, observed on May 25, 2013.

But the time and the place where Father Stanley Rother lived and ministered was far from normal, just as it was far from his home in Okarche OK. Father Rother served for 13 years as a missionary priest in the parish of Santiago Atitlan in Guatemala, and it was there that he was murdered on July 28, 1981, a victim of the violence then engulfing that Central American nation. And yet, as far from normal as the circumstances surrounding his death might seem, I suspect that Father Stanley Rother found it all quite normal, just as things should be. After all, he was a man who had printed on his ordination holy card the words of Saint Augustine: "For myself I am a Christian. For the sake of others I am a priest." After all, he was a man who wrote in a letter home, at a time when everyone was advising him to flee Guatemala, "The shepherd cannot run at the first sign of danger." He was a man in the mold of Saint Maximilian Kolbe, who volunteered to take another man's place in a Nazi death chamber with the words "What else is a priest for?"

Father Rother powerfully illustrates the meaning of mercy, when we think of mercy as "hesed" - standing in solidarity with others. This shepherd who didn't run was a man who had difficulty learning Latin in his seminary years; yet he learned to speak the language of the Tz'utujil Indians of Santiago Atitlan, celebrating the liturgy and preaching in that difficult tongue. Raised as a farmer's son in Oklahoma, Father Rother joined the farming people of Santiago Atitlan in their chores, tilling the fields with them and helping them reap the harvest. When he arrived in Guatemala he was part of a 12 person mission team; at the time of his death, Father Rother was the only Oklahoman still serving at the mission. He identified so completely with the people, and they identified so completely with him, that he became known by a Tz'utujil name, and was called "Padre Apa's." He was the kind of priest Pope Francis has urged all priests to be: a shepherd who has not lost the smell of the sheep.

Father Rother met his death in his rectory at the hands of three members of the Guatemalan military, at a time when anyone who stood on the side of the indigenous people was thought to be a threat to the government. Father Rother knew what his fate would be: a number of his catechists and parish members had already been assassinated by the same forces who murdered him. He left Guatemala only briefly, chiefly to assuage the fears of his elderly parents, but he begged his Bishop to allow him to return. And return he did, noting "If it is my destiny that I should give my life here, so be it."

This martyr of mercy lived and died as Jesus did: so closely identified with his people that his story could not have ended in any other way. Like Jesus, "He was humble and walked the path of obedience all the way to death - his death on the cross" (Philippians 2:8).

My good friend Maria Ruiz Scaperlanda has written the first biography of Father Rother, **The Shepherd Who Didn't Run** (Our Sunday Visitor Publishing Division, 2015). It's a book well worth reading - a marvelous meditation for this Year of Mercy. Last year, a theological commission at the Congregation of the Causes of Saints at the Vatican formally recognized Father Rother as a martyr. His cause for Beatification and Canonization is moving forward; more information is available at www.rotherguild.org. May God's mercy become better known through the life of this good shepherd!

In Celebration Of The Year Of Mercy, Confessions Will Be Offered Throughout The Diocese

Observing the Jubilee of Mercy and welcoming the beginning of the Lenten Season, the Local Church will make the Sacrament of Reconciliation, an encounter with the compassionate mercy of God, available throughout the eight counties of our Diocese the day following Ash Wednesday on Thursday, February 11.

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, states that God's mercy knows no limits. The Lord's mercy gives hope and renews one's love for God and for our sisters and brothers. In a new book, **The Name Of God Is Mercy**, published this month, Pope Francis explains, "The church condemns sin, because it has to tell the truth: this is a sin. But at the same time, it embraces the sinner who acknowledges what he is." He also explains how sin is "more than a stain" that can be removed by a trip to "the dry cleaner" – but a wound that "needs to be treated, and healed."

The place for the treatment and healing of sin is the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In his new book Pope Francis expresses his own need for the Sacrament. He says very plainly, "I am a sinner; a man who is in need of God's mercy." Pope Francis urges us to pray, "Lord, I am a sinner. Come with your mercy."

God's mercy is everlasting. We receive the mercy and love of God in a very special way in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Sinners that we are, we find forgiveness and mercy in this great Sacrament when truly sorry and wanting to do better. With the gift of mercy within us, we then are able to go forth and share God's mercy, understanding, and compassion with others. We become instruments of divine mercy to our sisters and brothers.

On Thursday, February 11, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., the faithful are invited to receive the Sacrament of Penance at their local faith community. If your pastor is responsible for more than one community, please check the parish bulletin for your particular schedule.



Prayer For The Jubilee Year Of Mercy

*Lord Jesus Christ, You have taught us to be merciful
like the heavenly Father.*

*You are the invisible face of the invisible Father, of the God
who manifests His power above all by
forgiveness and mercy.*

*Send your spirit
and consecrate every one of us with its anointing,
so the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace
from the Lord.*

*And may your Church, with renewed enthusiasm,
bring good news to the poor,
proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed,
and restore sight to the blind.*

*We ask this through the intercession of Mary,
Mother of Mercy,
You who live and reign
with the Father and the Holy Spirit
for ever and ever.*

Amen.



Faithful Urged To Practice Corporal Works Of Mercy During Lent

During the six weeks of Lent, parishes, schools and campuses should focus on the message of Jesus in Matthew 25. With prior contact to local agencies, community organizations, schools and nursing homes, etc., specific needs can be met on many different levels, by individuals, families and groups of all ages. The following descriptions contain suggestions, but are not limited to these opportunities.



Week 1 - - Feed The Hungry

Collect non - perishable food items; raise funds to donate to a local community food bank, such as those sponsored by the Saint Vincent DePaul Society.

Week 4 - - Clothe The Naked

Collect and donate clothing and personal care items for local community Teen Shelters or Homeless Shelters through Catholic Charities.



Week 2 - - Give Drink To The Thirsty

Collect and donate fruit juices, sports drinks, bottled water, powdered tea and drink packets, etc., for after - care school programs and community centers.

Week 5 - - Visit The Sick

Send mail to people on parish sick lists; collect games, special toys or stuffed animals for local pediatric units, daycare or elder care centers.



Week 3 - - Shelter The Homeless

Shelter the homeless and welcome the stranger by collecting and donating items for infants and toddlers for families with single and separated parents; raise funds for Catholic Relief Services which will be used for orphans, refugees and families of victims of natural disasters and war.

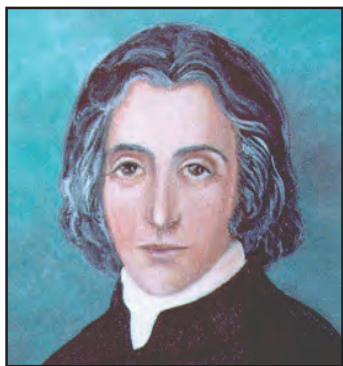
Week 6 - - Visit The Imprisoned

Contact prison chaplains to ask for lists of appropriate items that can be donated for the use of men and women in prison. Contact local nursing homes for needed items for residents. Contact your parish for the names of homebound members you can visit and bring a gift to.



Bury The Dead

The Seventh Corporal Work Of Mercy is a duty incumbent upon the faithful at all times. We carry out this work by attending the funeral Masses of deceased parishioners, by praying daily for the faithful departed, and by visiting cemeteries.



A Prince In The Service Of The Great King

The Servant Of God
Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin
1770 - 1840

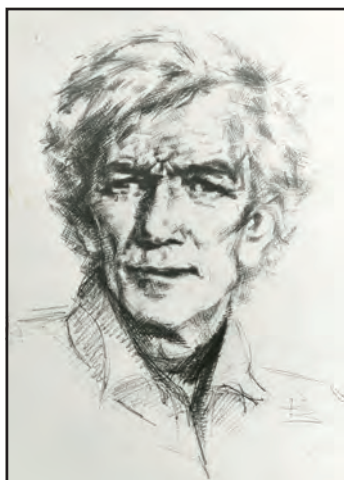
Park Service Honors Pioneer Arizona Missionary Priest

By Nancy Wiechec
Catholic News Service

TUMACACORI, Ariz. (CNS) -- Jesuit Father Eusebio Francisco Kino, an Italian missionary to the American Southwest known as the "Padre on Horseback," was honored Jan.

10 at the Tumacacori National Historical Park with Kino Legacy Day.

The celebration of the priest -- who founded 24 missions and was also known as an astronomer, builder, mapmaker, linguist, agriculturalist and stockman -- kicked off the yearlong celebration of the National Park Service's 100th anniversary.



CNS Photo/Kino Heritage Society

FATHER EUSEBIO KINO

Bob Love, superintendent of Tumacacori National Historical Park, said Father Kino played a key role in the park's story.

But that morning, park rangers left much of the storytelling to Tucson Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas, whose diocese covers the land that Father Kino crisscrossed, building his missions when he traveled more than 15,000 miles by horseback.

During Mass, held outside the ruins of Mission San Jose de Tumacacori church, the bishop told the crowd what it is to be a great missionary. He compared missionaries such as Father Kino to archers, ardent with a singular, fixed target.

"They teach Christ, they preach Christ, they lead to Christ," he said. "That was the purpose of Kino's whole life, to lead the native peoples to Christ. To teach them about a God who loved them dearly and who was

there among them, always at their side."

The Tumacacori mission church dates to the early 1800s. It had a short-lived tenure as an active church. Apache attacks, upheaval following war with Mexico and one particularly hard winter led to its abandonment by the mid-1800s. The site was named a national monument by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1908, and in 1990 Congress created Tumacacori National Historical Park, which includes the old monument land and the remains of two smaller missions.

Father Kino was born in 1645 in the northern Italian town of Segno and was educated by Jesuits. As a young man, he fell seriously ill and prayed for God's grace and healing, calling on the Jesuit missionary St. Francis Xavier as intercessor. When he got well, he joined the Jesuits.

He yearned to do missionary work in China, but was sent to Mexico instead. He worked in Baja California for three years and spent the rest of his life in Pimeria Alta, what is now the northern part of Mexico's Sonora state and southern Arizona.

He first arrived in Tumacacori (pronounced Too muh ka' koh ree) in January 1691, responding to an invitation of its O'odham people. Shortly after, there were four Kino missions in O'odham communities. Today, San Xavier del Bac remains the only active Kino mission in Arizona. Located just south of Tucson, the northernmost point of the Sonoran mission trail, it is a popular destination for pilgrims and tourists.

Tumacacori, about 20 miles from the border city of Nogales, Arizona, covers 360 acres and is among the smallest of the 23 national parks within Arizona.

During the Kino Legacy Day, the park service set up displays of heritage horses, livestock and other items associated with the missionary priest who brought cattle, other livestock, European farming tools and seeds to the area so the missions would be self-sufficient.

Mark O'Hare of the Kino Heritage Society a Tucson native and admirer of Father Kino

since boyhood, runs the society's website, padrekino.com. He said the group was formed in 2010 to make Father Kino's life and legacy more known to the public and to assist the Diocese of Tucson in promoting his cause for canonization.

"Spiritually, he was this man of great faith," O'Hare told Catholic News Service. "He was what we'd call a white martyr, not someone who died for the faith, but someone who dedicated his life for the salvation of souls."

The Mexican Archdiocese of Hermosillo in Sonora, the Diocese of Tucson and the Italian Archdiocese of Trent, where Father Kino was born, have all been advocating for his canonization.

The Vatican received the diocesan petition and documentation on Father Kino's life and work in 2006, but has yet to act to name him venerable, the next step in the sainthood process.

Tucson resident Rosie Garcia, president of the Kino Heritage Society, said moving his cause along would be a blessing for area. She marks her admiration for the missionary with the vanity Arizona license plate that reads KINOLND.

"He was a man of peace and that is what we need right now -- peace in these border areas where there is so much turmoil," she said.

Prayer For Father Gallitzin's Intercession

O God, light of the faithful and shepherd of souls, who sent Servant of God Demetrius Gallitzin to serve God's people in the Allegheny Mountains, feeding your sheep by his words and forming them by his example, pour out your Spirit to sow seeds of truth in people's hearts and to awaken in them obedience to the faith.

May the Gospel continue to be preached and the Sacraments bring power and grace to the faithful. By the example of this man of faith, Demetrius Gallitzin, may your people advance in the path of salvation and love.

Confident of your faithfulness to us, we humbly ask you, our God, to grant us the favor of (name your intention).

May Christ's saving work continue to the end of the ages, and may we feel a more urgent call to work for the salvation of every creature. We pray this, as did your priest Demetrius Gallitzin, through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

+ + +

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Word of Life



The Pope Teaches

By Pope Francis

Faith Is The Best Legacy Parents Can Give Children

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The best thing parents can pass on to their children is their religious faith, Pope Francis said as he baptized 26 babies.

Ensure this faith "not be lost, help make it grow and pass it on as a legacy," he told the infants' parents and godparents.

The pope presided over the annual morning liturgy in the Sistine Chapel Jan. 10, the feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

He told the parents that when he asked them, "What do you ask of God's church" for their child and they responded, "Faith," the ritual was part of "a chain" of handing on the faith throughout history.

"These children, as the years go by, will be taking your place with another child -- your grandchildren -- and they will ask the same thing: faith," he said in his brief, unscripted homily.

"Don't forget that the greatest legacy that you can leave your children is faith," he said, adding he hoped they would always be capable of helping their children grow in the faith.

The infants, wearing their Sunday best -- chiffon or lacy dresses, cotton cardigans or plush overalls -- were baptized over a font supported by an ornately detailed bronze olive tree. One by one, the pope poured water from a gilded shell and gently caressed the head of each of the 13 girls and 13 boys.

As he has done in the past, he told the mothers not to hesitate in breast-feeding their babies during the ceremony.

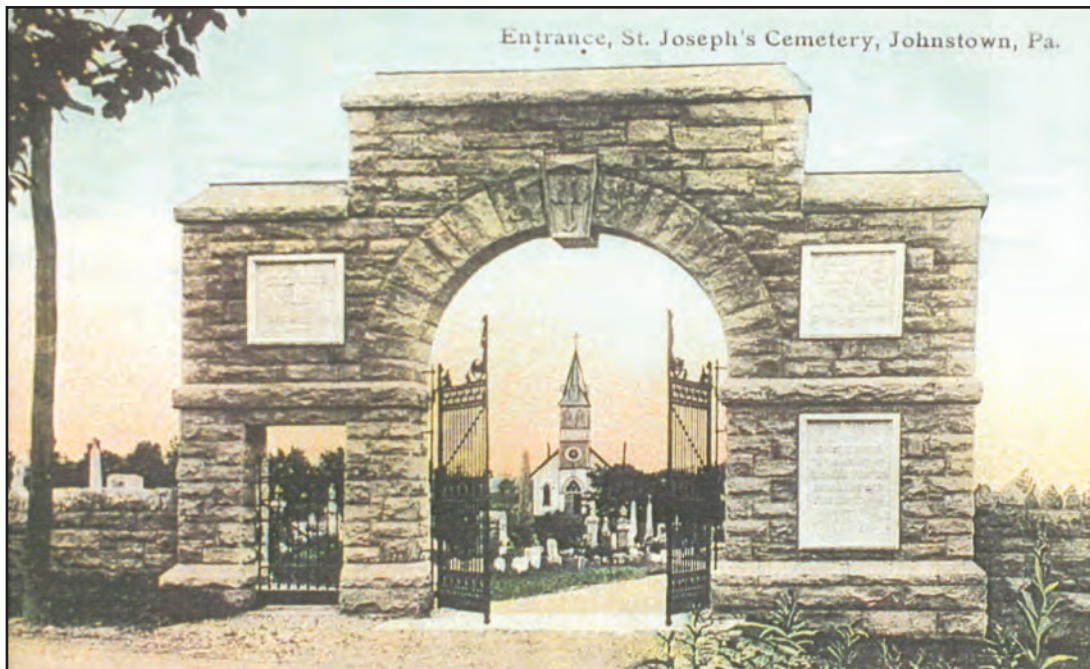
Later in the day, before praying the Angelus with visitors gathered in St. Peter's Square, Pope Francis said being baptized carries with it "the responsibility of following Jesus -- the obedient servant -- and reproducing in us his same likeness, that is, gentleness, humility, tenderness."

Even though "this is not easy, especially if we are surrounded by so much intolerance, pride, rigidity," he said, "it is possible with the power that comes from the Holy Spirit."

"The Holy Spirit, received for the first time on the day of our baptism, opens our heart to the truth, to the whole truth. The Spirit drives our lives along the challenging, but joyous path of charity and solidarity toward our brothers and sisters," he said.

He reminded people to find out the date of their baptism if they didn't know because it was an important day that merits celebrating every year.

"It is the date of our rebirth as children of God," he said, and "celebrating that day signifies and reaffirms our belonging to Jesus with the commitment to live like Christians, members of the church and a new humanity in which all are brothers and sisters."



ONE MORE TIME: A vintage postcard depicts Saint Joseph Cemetery in Johnstown. In 1911, the cemetery chapel, seen at the center of the postcard, became the first church for the 16 Geistown families comprising the new Saint Benedict Parish.

"When it comes to making gravy, there are two kinds of people," I said to my 10-year-old grandson this past Christmas. "Flour people and cornstarch people. We're cornstarch people."

He nodded.

At some point last year, I decided he was old enough to learn how to make gravy. Now at family dinners and holiday gatherings, he's called to the kitchen to go to work. A roast beef is removed from the Dutch oven handed down to us from my late wife Monica's aunt and all that goodness in the bottom of the pan is transformed into something even better.

Then it's poured into a ceramic pitcher, a family-proclaimed "gravy pitcher" that belonged to Monica's grandmother.

During the recent cold, dark, wet days of early winter in the Seattle area, I've been thinking about gravy and other recipes, dishes and dinner favorites that have been handed down from one generation to the next.

And I've come to realize there's more to a family's comfort food than just the food. There are memories, too. There are stories. Histories. Legends. It seems a family tree can have recipes flapping from nearly every branch.



Your Family

By Bill Dodds

Young And Old In The Family Kitchen

Sharing them, or at least talking about them, is a custom, a tradition, an obligation, that I want to continue so that my grandchildren know something about my parents and grandparents, about my childhood, about my life more than half a century ago. And about their grandma's parents and grandparents, her childhood and her life.

My grandkids seem amazed and amused that as a child, I never tasted sweet and sour pork or a quesadilla. On the other hand, I know they'll never taste a "true" Cool Whip chocolate cake because at some point (my family thinks), the company altered Cool Whip's ingredients.

And my grandchildren will never know the hot, greasy, sweet goodness of my grandmother's homemade doughnuts, fried in lard (yes, lard) with bacon fat added for extra flavor.

I explain to them that I was born and spent my early formative years in Iowa (proud origin of the Snickers salad, which in-

cludes cubed Granny Smith apples, Cool Whip and chunks of Snickers bars), while in Seattle they have grown up eating Japanese dumplings.

With all this in mind -- and before I have to stop and go get a snack -- there are a few points to keep in mind when cooking and baking with your children and grandchildren, your nieces and nephews. First, a battered recipe box or nearly falling apart cookbook is a wonderful conversation starter and a source for an old favorite dish or dessert you haven't thought of in years.

Kids soon learn that knowing how to cook (and bake) is a practical skill with delicious rewards. Children in a kitchen mean more of a mess, but it's a happy mess, a memorable mess, a mess your children or grandchildren may one day be describing to their children or grandchildren as they try to duplicate your famous family recipe.



Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle
Grieving A Miscarriage

Q. Thank you for a recent answer in your column regarding a miscarried child. Until my own personal experience in losing a child, I had no realization as to how deeply a miscarried baby can touch one's heart.

I had no idea where to turn for help, so, beyond my mother and my husband, I grieved in silence. A few years later, still grieving, I did contact a caring priest. Through our discussion and prayer, I was helped to find closure.

But I am still puzzled that the Catholic Church does not have something more formal for grieving parents after a miscarriage occurs. Are there any resources, prayers or rituals available for the numerous parents who sit with empty arms? (Burlington, Iowa)

A. Your search for solace after a miscarriage is understandable and, sad to say, all too common. The American Pregnancy Association states that 10 to 25 percent of all clinically

recognized pregnancies end in miscarriage. It stands to reason, then, that the Catholic Church would provide resources for such grief-stricken parents, and in fact the church does offer a variety of options that can bring spiritual solace and hope.

The church's official "Book of Blessings" contains a ritual, commonly offered by a priest or deacon, called "Blessing of Parents after a Miscarriage." In it, a series of scriptural readings is provided, each of which highlights the continued presence and support of the Lord through times of sadness.

One of the prayers reads: "Compassionate God, soothe the hearts of these parents, and grant that through the prayers of Mary, who grieved by the cross of her Son, you may enlighten their faith, give hope to their hearts and peace to their lives."

Another option that the church offers to parents is a funeral Mass for the miscarried child. And since the church believes in the sanctity of life

from the moment of conception, parents are always encouraged to give the miscarried child a name, acknowledging the child's unique identity and presence now before the Lord as an intercessor on behalf of the family.

Many dioceses also offer individual counseling and/or support groups for parents after a miscarriage. Your parish would have that information.

Q. With the church having just celebrated the feast of the Holy Family, I am prompted to ask a question that has been on my mind for some time. I regularly hear Joseph referred to as the "foster father" of Jesus.

But if Joseph was indeed married to Mary, would it not be more accurate to call him the "stepfather" of Christ? A foster father is sometimes compensated for his role and serves in that capacity for only a short time, whereas a stepfather raises his stepchildren with love. I think that Joseph should be spotlighted as a wonderful example of what a stepfather should be. (Lilly, Pennsylvania)

A. A foster father is commonly understood to be a surrogate, a man who looks after and brings up a child in place of the natural or adoptive father.

A stepfather is generally taken to indicate the husband of one's mother after the death or divorce of his or her birth father.

Which of these definitions comes closer to describing Joseph? In one sense, neither is precise. Both titles seem to suggest that Joseph arrived on the scene later on, after the birth of the Christ child. But in fact, Joseph was there from the start, betrothed to Mary (engaged, but with legal responsibilities) at the time of the annunciation.

Between the two titles, I think foster father is more accurate, and that is what the church historically has called Joseph. He filled the role of teacher, protector and loving guardian of Jesus, though he was not his biological parent.



For The Journey

By Effie Caldarola
Resolutions That Will Last

By now, many people have given up their resolutions.

A couple of articles I saw in this month confirmed this. In one, a local writer who exercises regularly and writes for a fitness blog reports that she dreads the gym in January. Finding a parking spot is frustrating, and the gym is so packed that you must wait in line for a machine.

But not to worry, she reports. In a few short weeks, all of those folks with good intentions slack off and the treadmills free up.

A **Washington Post** article explains this phenomenon in economic terms. January is money-making time for gyms, many of whom lower their rates for longer-term contracts. And here's the kicker: They count on us not showing up. The **Post** visited a gym that had signed up 6,000 members but had a capacity to hold 300 people at any one time.

This would be a recipe for chaos, except most of those paying customers stay home. I found those articles depressing, because I sense the feelings of failure many people must experience when January ends along with their commitment. I can identify. I've sometimes been on the losing end of good intentions. That's the human condition.

Pope Francis has announced an extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy extending from Dec. 8, 2015, to Nov. 20, 2016. Ash Wednesday is right around the corner on Feb. 10. The timing of these momentous events offers great opportunities to explore what we really want to "resolve" and how we want to get there.

Did all of those folks avoiding the gym really want those great abs, or did it merely sound like a good idea at the time?

We have to know what we really desire. Pope Francis recently quoted St. John of the Cross: "In the evening of life, we will be judged on love alone."

Maybe that's what I really want: to love better. How to get there? I'd recommend buying a journal, a nice one on which you'll never be tempted to write a grocery list.

Pray first and ask what God wants of you. Then write down some goals. Don't get too specific because as you pray your way through the year, God may help you define or refine your goals.

I found myself writing down just three things. One was simply "mercy." I want to grow in mercy. I'm starting by rereading Kerry Weber's great little book, **Mercy In The City -- How To Feed The Hungry, Give Drink To The Thirsty, Visit The Imprisoned, And Keep Your Day Job**. I hope that at the end of 2016, my journal will reflect my own acts of mercy.

The second thing I wrote down was "prayer." Sometimes in January, after the mayhem of the holidays, I slide in my prayer routine. I'm recommitting. Margaret Silf, in her book **Inner Compass**, says this about prayer: "Prayer is time taken out of the linear journey of our days, and it is also our most profound reality."

Prayer has to come first, even though it came second on my list.

The third thing I noted was "healthy lifestyle." This is a constant challenge for me, and I didn't put down any specifics. I hope daily journaling will help me with specifics.

Pope Francis' new book is entitled **The Name Of God Is Mercy**. It's important to understand that God's mercy extends to us lavishly and returns to us over and over again. Don't judge yourself harshly in 2016. Just keep going back to the source of mercy, again and again, and write down what you've learned.

Francis DeSales
1567 - 1622
Feast - January 24



Born in the Duchy of Savoy (now France), Francis studied at Annecy, Paris and Padua, and was ordained in 1593. He spent four years reconverting Catholics who had become Calvinists, writing many tracts to explain basic tenets of the faith. In 1602 he became bishop of Geneva, which he reorganized and reformed. He also famously preached in Paris and wrote two devotional books that are still widely read. A 20-year friendship with St. Jane Frances de Chantal led to their founding the Order of the Visitation. Canonized in 1665 and declared a doctor of the church in 1877, Francis is the patron saint of journalists, authors, the Catholic press, and the deaf.



STATE CHAMPIONS: The 2016 State Champions Football team from Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School, Altoona, consists of (left to right) First row: Kolton McGhee, Daniel Carrieri, Dominic Pulcinello, Brennan DeLeo, Matt Neymeyer, A.J Abraham, Nate Rudolph, Paul Leibal, Caleb Crawford, Matt Kenner, Michael McCall, Luke Yanoshak. Second row: Assistant Coach D.J Kitt, Chancellor Little, Luke Wills, Patrick Donoughe, Dominic Georgiana, Mark Conrad, Noah Trexler, David Pleva, Mike Berish, Josh Yasulitis, David Luther, Josh Trybus, Daniel Potopa, Assistant Coach Brad Kanuch. Third row: Assistant Coach Bret Geishauer, Assistant Coach Joe Thomas, Evan Chadbourn, Nathan Callahan, Kenny Brumbaugh, Andrew Irwin, Patryk Donnelly, A.J. Ferrell, Kyle Green, Josh DeGol, Sam Keating, Aaron Yasulitis, Nathan Hagg, Damian Runk, trainer Mary Kowalski, Assistant Coach James Poldiak. Fourth row: Assistant Coach Jordan Plunkett, Assistant Coach Pat Irwin, Mark Fanelli, Zach Coyler, Nick Leamer, Christopher Wray, Matt Yahner, Bryan Kozak, Daniel Ramsey, Luke Frederick, Justin Charlton, Sean Donoughe, Dakota Leamer, Logan McGeary, Head Coach Justin Wheeler and Assistant Coach Pat Leamer. Not pictured is Assistant Coach Gene Adams.

Second Consecutive State Championship Title Is Dream Come True For Hardworking Marauders

By Bruce A. Tomaselli

High School football coaches don't dream about State Championships. For them it's enough of a win to get through an entire season with their first units intact.

After 2014's State Championship run, Altoona's Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School's Marauders aspired for a little more, and dared to dream in 2015.

"It is a dream," said Marauder head football coach, Justin Wheeler, about his team winning its second consecutive State Championship. "To win one is amazing. Doing it two years in - a - row is surreal."

The Marauders shutout a formidable opponent, Farrell, 35 - 0, on Friday, December 18, 2015 at Hersheypark Stadium in front a large contingent of their fans.

"As a coaching staff we put our heart and soul into the season," Wheeler said, "and the kids do the same. "They work

hard in the weight room, on the field, and in the classroom. They are good kids and a pleasure to be around."

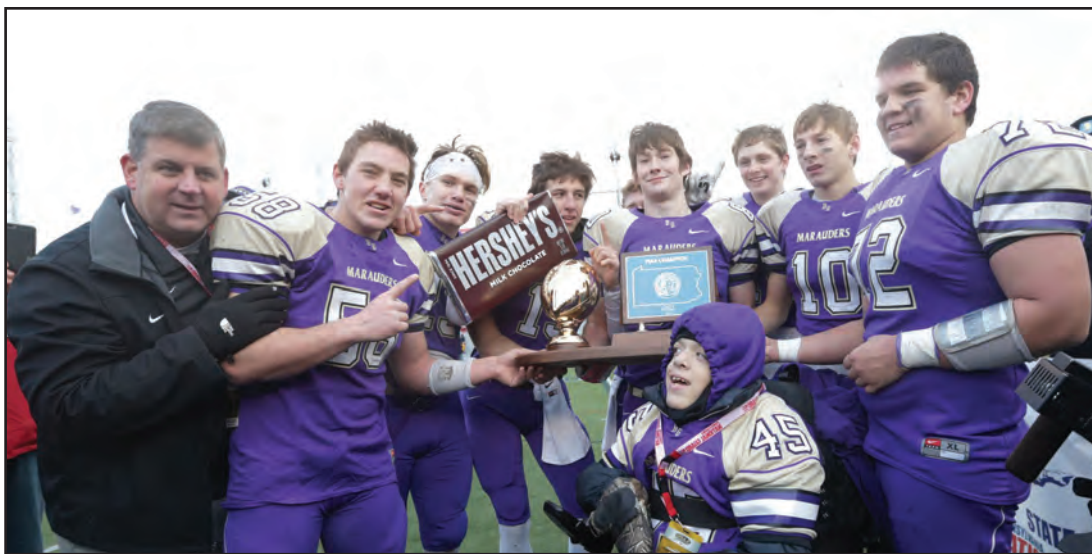
Their effort isn't lost on Michael Cacciotti, vice principal and athletic director. "I'm very proud of them. These are great kids, and they put in a lot of hard work.

"Winning two State Championships is very exciting, very historic for our school, and our community in general. Justin Wheeler does a great job. The athletes are so very prepared for each game."

He said a good trust has developed between the coaching staff and the players. "That means the world to a program," he said. "I stand down on the sidelines for the games and I can hear the chatter on the field. Our linebackers seem to know where the ball is going on every play."

Cacciotti said they put a lot of hours in, but those are spent in a positive manner. "Coach Wheeler is hard on them in a positive way."

Wheeler, who just finished his fifth year as head coach said,



CELEBRATION: Head Coach Justin Wheeler (left) and the Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School Marauders celebrate their second consecutive State Football Championship.

"It's been a fun run. The entire week leading up to championship weekend is so exciting for the players, their classmates, and the coaching staff."

He said the kids are very dedicated to the program and that dedication produces results. "Success breeds success," Wheeler said. "They work hard, they sacrifice, they volunteer

some of their free hours to do things around the community."

The team's dedication and momentum mounted during the 2015 season as they piled up convincing wins in the always difficult Laurel Highlands Conference.

During the state playoff run they beat Camp Hill, 34 - 3; piled up points in a 43 - 14 win

over Old Forge; and finished off Farrell, 35 - 0, to win their historic second consecutive State Championship.

(Continued On Page 11.)

Adams Named President Of Guilfoyle Catholic High

The Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School Board of Trustees has selected Joseph Adams as the new president of the Altoona school. Adams, a 1980 Bishop Guilfoyle graduate, took over the president's role on Monday, January 11.

Adams, who also served on the BG Board of Trustees for the past three years, has enjoyed a successful 30 year career in business. He served as an executive at leading companies in several industries, including Campbell Soup Company and AOL.

The University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown graduate, who earned an MBA from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, gained experience in education as an executive at Sylvan Learning, a leader in tutoring to K - 12 students. Most recently, he served as the Senior Vice President of a leading online higher educational institution, within University of Maryland system, that operates globally and serves over

90,000 students per year. While there, he led a turnaround which achieved over 10 percent per year growth in new students.

"This is the perfect time for Joe to become Bishop Guilfoyle's next president," Board of Trustees chairman Michael Fiore said. "We've selected a very strong leader at a time when BG is in a great position to develop our next plan for further growth and development. BG has added the new 7th and 8th grade Pre - AP program, introduced technology such as iPads, expanded the number of AP courses and made the school stronger in virtually every respect. Students are happy, and they are succeeding. We are well positioned to develop a plan that will take BG to the next level and make sure everybody recognizes that BG is affordable, accessible, and ready to equip their child to succeed in all respects."

Past president Franciscan Father Jack McDowell is relocating to Greenville SC where he



JOSEPH ADAMS

has accepted a campus ministry position at Furman University. "We truly value and appreciate all that Father Jack McDowell has given to the school these past several years," Fiore said. "He has provided a wonderful spiritual influence at the school which we are thankful for. We appreciate all that he has given. We wish him all the best as he

begins his new assignment and continued success."

Adams, who started his career with Price Waterhouse in Pittsburgh where he earned a CPA, brings a track record of helping organizations succeed. "We consider this a transformational hire for the BGCHS community," Fiore said. "Joe will bring strong executive leadership to the school, and offers extensive experience leading growth in fast moving, rapidly changing industries. His track record for helping organizations succeed is very impressive. BG is committed to offering a world class education in a caring, supportive community, and he will be fantastic working with people both inside the school, within the parochial system, and in the community to make sure BG is a great partner and offers an unmatched experience for students."

Adams, who calls BG a "rare gem" is excited to be part of the school's future growth. "I

am very excited to return to my roots and help BG continue to move ahead and meet the challenges of a fast changing world," said Adams, who grew up in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament Parish. "There is a real need for a school that is academically outstanding and which also instills a strong set of values and morals. Both are important to equip our children to succeed in their lives. Academic success without morals and values is empty. Morality and values without a strong ability to learn and think are insufficient. A school that effectively offers both is a rare gem that deserves to thrive and grow. I am happy to be part of the future of BG."

Adams and his wife of 24 years, Liz, have three children: David, 23, is a graduate of Indiana University, Bloomington and works in the Washington, D.C. area; Gregory, 21, is a student at the University of Chicago; and Katherine, 19, is a student at Radford University.



Photo By Brad Young

RUNNING BACK: Bishop Guilfoyle running back Evan Chadbourn (center), carries the ball down field blocked by two BG linemen, Dakota Leamer (left) and Logan McGeary



Photo By Brad Young

QUARTERBACK: Bishop Guilfoyle quaterback Josh Trybus carries the ball past a Ferrel defender.

(Continued From Page 10.)

Cacciotti said last year's team took the State Championship carried the trophy with them on visits to area grade schools and they plan to do the same this year. The kids get such a thrill from meeting the players,

and they have fun with the kids. "I have two young kids myself and they were beyond excited to be around the players. The kids treated them like rock stars.

"It was so nice to see how the players interacted with the young students. They are very patient with them, and even car-

ry them around on their backs. That's something they'll never forget."

Bishop Guilfoyle will be dangerous again this year with seven starters returning on offense and seven more on defense.

Celebration events for their

recent State Championship are in the planning stages, Wheeler said. "The kids are such a pleasure to be around," Wheeler reiterated. "We stress to them that they must be good role models and good students.

"It's neat to see these young athletes experience posing for

photos and signing autographs."

Wheeler is happy right where he is at in his career. "I'm in a good place and I love what I do. Bishop Guilfoyle has many first class people. They're very supportive and working with them is a lot of fun."

'The Name Of God Is Mercy'

Church's Credibility Is Found In Showing Mercy, Says Pope Francis In New Book

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Being ministers of God's mercy, church members overcome "prejudice and rigidity," taking risks like Jesus did in order to heal and to save, Pope Francis said.

In Jesus' day, lepers were cast out of the community "to avoid contamination: the healthy needed to be protected," but Jesus, at his own risk, "goes up to the leper and he restores him, he heals him," Pope Francis said in a new book-length interview on mercy.

"By welcoming a marginalized person whose body is wounded and by welcoming the sinner whose soul is wounded, we put our credibility as Christians on the line," the pope told the Italian journalist Andrea Tornielli in **The Name Of God Is Mercy**.

The book was scheduled for a worldwide release Jan. 12.

In the interview, the pope



CNS Photo/Gruppo Mondadori

POPE ACCEPTS BOOK: Pope Francis accepts a copy of the book, **The Name of God Is Mercy**, from Marina Berlusconi, president of the Mondadori publishing group, at his residence at the Domus Sanctae Marthae at the Vatican, Monday, January 11. The book is compiled from an interview Pope Francis did with Italian journalist Andrea Tornielli (center).

spoke about experiencing an overwhelming sense of mercy

during confession when he was 17 years old, provided more details about stories he has recounted in homilies, explained his comment, "Who am I to judge" about a homosexual person seeking God and discussed the need he saw to invoke a jubilee Year of Mercy.

He also talked about the relationship of mercy and justice and addressed criticism that his focus on mercy amounts to watering down church doctrine and tolerating sin.

Tornielli asked Pope Francis why he so frequently and negatively mentions the "scholars of the law" in his morning homilies. The pope responded that in the Gospels "they represent the principal opposition to Jesus: they challenge him in the name of doctrine" and such an attitude "is repeated throughout the long history of the church."

Using the example of Jesus' close contact with lepers despite the Old Testament law that lepers be excluded from the community, Pope Francis said it is obvious that the exclusion of lepers was meant to contain disease, but it led to social and emotional suffering and, what is worse, to a sense that lepers had committed some sin which

caused their disease. They were excluded from the community, but also from a relationship with God.

In literally reaching out to lepers, the pope said, Jesus "shows us a new horizon, the logic of a God who is love, a God who desires the salvation of all men."

Jesus touched and healed the lepers, he continued. "He didn't sit down at a desk and study the situation, he didn't consult the experts for pros and cons. What really mattered to him was reaching stranded people and saving them."

Pope Francis said a similar attitude by the church today "provokes angry mutterings from those who are only ever used to having things fit into their preconceived notions and ritual purity."

"Caring for outcasts and sinners does not mean letting the wolves attack the flock" or jumping into the darkness with sinners, he said; it means being aware of the reality of sin and sharing the reality that God always is ready to forgive the sinner.

When the grace of God begins to help a person recognize his or her sin and need for forgiveness, the pope said, that person "needs to find an open door, not a closed one. He needs to find acceptance, not judgment, prejudice or condemnation. He needs to be helped, not pushed away or cast out."

"Jesus sends forth his disciples not as holders of power or masters of a law," the pope said. "The Christian message is transmitted by embracing those in difficulty, by embracing the outcast, the marginalized and the sinner."

Obviously, he said, the church cannot and does not pretend sin is unimportant.

(Continued On Page 13.)

**In the heart of "Dutch Hill,"
a Lenten tradition continues . . .**



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Comedian, Cardinal, Inmate Present Pope's Book On Mercy

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Arms flailing, the exuberant and perhaps hyperactive Italian actor and comedian Roberto Benigni described Pope Francis as a masterful minister of God's mercy, which is always active and always on the move.

Benigni brought the house down Jan. 12 during the presentation of the new book-length interview with Pope Francis, **The Name of God Is Mercy**. The actor read excerpts of the book, but also offered his own reflections on mercy and bubbled over with praise for Pope Francis.

When he received the call asking him to participate in the book launch, Benigni said, he was told, "His Holiness would like" and I said, "Yes!" without letting them finish. I'd do anything -- be a Swiss Guard, drive the popemobile -- absolutely anything for this pope."

"Mercy," Benigni said, "is not a virtue that's seated in an easy chair. It's an active virtue, one that moves. Just look at the pope, he's never still. It moves not just the heart, but the arms, legs, heels, knees. It moves heart and soul. It's never still."

"I would have loved to be a priest," he said. When he was small and people would ask what he wanted to be when he grew up, Benigni said, "I'd respond, 'the pope.' Because this response made everyone laugh, I understood I had to be a come-



CNS Photo/Paul Haring

PRESENTS BOOK: Actor Roberto Benigni holds a copy of the book, **The Name of God Is Mercy**, during its presentation to journalists in Rome Jan. 12.

dian. If they'd all knelt, I would (have tried to) be pope."

Hundreds of people packed the auditorium of the Augustinian Patristic Institute across the street from the Vatican for the presentation.

Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, said that in the published conversation with journalist Andrea Tornielli, it is as if Pope Francis wants "to take us by the hand and lead us into the great and comforting mystery of God's mercy, a mystery far from our human logic and yet so desired by us pilgrims lost in this age of challenges and trials."

Benigni told the people at the book presentation that Pope Francis clearly demonstrates how mercy is not a soft, saccharine virtue, but one that challenges people and has both social and political implications

for the way it offers people a second chance and a helping hand.

Zhang Jianqing, an immigrant from China incarcerated in Padua, Italy, who took the name Agostino when he was baptized in 2015, was given leave to meet Pope Francis and share his conversion story at the book presentation.

Meeting and becoming friends with Christians who visited the prison, Zhang came to love him. He hesitated converting, though, he said, because he already had decided that he should do nothing more in his life to hurt his family and especially his mother, a practicing Buddhist.

But his mother told him he must follow his heart, Zhang said. "God's mercy changed my life."



CNS Photo/L'Osservatore Romano

POPE GREETS JOURNALIST: Pope Francis greets Italian journalist Andrea Tornielli during a meeting with people involved in the publication of **The Name of God Is Mercy**, featuring an interview the pope did with Tornielli.

(Continued From Page 12.)

But "God forgives everyone, he offers new possibilities to everyone, he showers his mercy on everyone who asks for it," Pope Francis said. "We are the ones who do not know how to forgive."

The pope told Tornielli he is convinced that God's mercy is Jesus' most important message and that it is a message people today urgently need to hear.

"Humanity is wounded, deeply wounded," he said. "Either it does not know how to cure its wounds or it believes that it's not possible to cure them."

To preach the Gospel, the church must counter an attitude that says there are sins that cannot be healed or forgiven, the pope said.

"The church does not exist to condemn people but to bring about an encounter with the visceral love of God's mercy," he said.

Priests, especially in the confessional, must do all they can to communicate God's love and mercy. If they cannot offer absolution to someone, the pope said, they should at least offer a blessing. The fact that the per-

son entered the confessional is a clear sign of God's grace already at work.

"As a confessor, even when I have found myself before a locked door," he said, "I have always tried to find a crack, just a tiny opening, so that I can pry open that door and grant forgiveness and mercy."

As for his "Who am I to judge" remark to reporters in July 2013 when asked about the church's attitude toward homosexual persons, Pope Francis said, "I was paraphrasing by heart the Catechism of the Catholic Church where it says that these people should be treated with delicacy and not be marginalized."

Speaking to Tornielli, Pope Francis made no comment on homosexuality as such, other than to insist that "people should not be defined only by their sexual tendencies."

"I prefer that homosexuals come to confession, that they stay close to the Lord, and that we all pray together," he said. "You can advise them to pray, show goodwill, show them the way and accompany them along it."

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Menu includes: Wedding Soup, Salad, Bread, Lasagna, Meatballs, Dessert & Beverage.

Wedding Soup \$4 per quart.

Takeouts available

LENTEN FISH DINNER

Queen Of Peace Parish Center in Patton (Upper Level) Fridays of Lent (including **Good Friday**), starting

Friday, February 12.

MENU Includes:



Choice of baked or fried fish or Salmon cake; choice of baked potato or french fries. The dinner also includes: fresh baked rolls, cole slaw, stewed tomatoes, macaroni & cheese, haluski, dessert and beverage. Pierogies a la carte.

4-7 PM

ADULTS, \$10/CHILDREN (5-12), \$5/CHILDREN (UNDER 5), FREE.

Takeout's available in the lower level of Parish Center

Now Showing

‘The Revenant’ A Powerful Film, But Not For The Squeamish

By Joseph McAleer
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) -- If your idea of entertainment is watching Leonardo DiCaprio gorge on the raw liver of a freshly killed buffalo, then “The Revenant” (Fox) is for you.

This wilderness survival drama, directed and co-written by Alejandro Inarritu (“Birdman”), is chock full of squeamish moments. But for adults with stomachs strong enough to last the duration, rewards await: a powerful film with first-rate performances, stunning cinematography, and timely messages about good versus evil, and of redemption versus revenge.

DiCaprio stars as Hugh Glass, a real-life explorer and fur trader. In 1823, Glass joined an expedition up the Missouri

River, led by Capt. Andrew Henry (Domhnall Gleeson).

In what is present-day South Dakota (but filmed in Canada and Argentina), the company of men traps beavers for their prized pelts while enduring the ravages of winter and frequent raids by Native Americans.

Glass sympathizes with the latter, as he married a Pawnee woman (Grace Dove), who was killed by a U.S. soldier. Their mixed-race son, Hawk (Forrest Goodluck), is a member of the expedition.

Disaster strikes when Glass is attacked by a grizzly bear, an especially grisly scene. Barely alive and unable to move or speak, he must remain behind while the others go for help. Three agree to stay with him: John Fitzgerald (Tom Hardy), a trigger-happy hunter; Jim Bridger (Will Poulter), a wide-eyed innocent guide; and Hawk.



CNS Photo/Fox

THE REVENANT: Leonardo DiCaprio stars in a scene from the movie “The Revenant.” The Catholic News Service classification is L -- limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R -- restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

Capt. Henry’s instructions are clear: care for Glass, but should he succumb, provide a decent burial.

Fitzgerald seethes with impatience, as Glass’ accident has set back his lucrative hunting plans. So he decides to smother Glass to put an end to his misery, and allow the others to move on.

Hawk intervenes to stop the murder, but is killed by Fitzgerald, who proceeds to toss the still-alive Glass into a shallow grave, to Bridger’s horror. The two men then depart, leaving Glass for dead.

Or so they think.

Glass refuses to succumb, crawls out of the grave, and embarks on a 200-mile odyssey through vast uncharted lands to avenge his son’s murder and bring Fitzgerald to justice.

As such, he becomes a “revenant,” or one returned from the dead.

Glass’ reappearance made newspaper headlines at the time, but the details of his story were sketchy, to say the least. Inarritu based his screenplay on the 2002 book **The Revenant: A Novel Of Revenge** by Michael Punke, but admitted embellishing the story for dramatic purposes.

Along the way, Glass is assisted and befriended by a lone Pawnee, Hikuc (Arthur Redcloud). His family was also killed by the “white man,” but he offers measured advice.

“Revenge is in the Creator’s hands, not man’s,” he tells Glass.

Indeed, since seeking revenge is contrary to Christian teaching, we correctly leave the final judgment to God. Whether Glass takes this advice remains to be seen.

The film contains bloody violence and gore, several disturbing images, a sexual assault, brief nudity, and frequent rough, crude, and profane language. The Catholic News Service classification is L -- limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R -- restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

Coming Up On ‘Proclaim!’

Upcoming guests on “Keeping The Faith,” Bishop Mark L. Bartchak’s segment of “Proclaim!” will include:

January 31 -- As we begin the celebration of Catholic Schools Week, Altoona Central Catholic School teacher Jennifer Crawford and some of her students talk about a book they just published and the value of Catholic education.

February 7 -- Father Richard Tomkosky, pastor of Saint John the Baptist Parish and Retreat Center in New Baltimore, talks about how the Saints can help us prepare for the season of Lent.

Sunday Mass
Broadcast Live from
the Cathedral of
the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona
10:00 a.m. WFBG Radio, 1290 AM

Sunday Mass Telecast
Live from Saint John Gualbert Cathedral
Downtown Johnstown
11 a.m. - Noon WATM - TV ABC Channel 23

Proclaim!
10:30 a.m.

A half - hour of local Church news and features

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correctional institutions at Huntingdon and Smithfield. After her retirement she had worked in the Pastoral Care Department of UPMC Altoona. She also served as Director of Religious Education at Saint Joseph Parish in Portage.

Sister Maryann began her ministry as a teacher and guidance counselor at Bishop Carrol Catholic High School, Ebensburg. She had a Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry and a Bachelor of Arts from Saint Francis University, Loretto.

She faithfully participated in the Haiti Ministry of the Carmelite Community of the Word until her health failed, and was a friend of the Little Sisters of the Incarnation of Port au Prince, Haiti.

She is survived by a brother Joseph A. Jr., and his wife Charlotte, North Carolina; a sister, Veronica and her husband Albert Kish, Pittsburgh, and sister - in - law Anna Palko, Pittsburgh; 11 nieces and nephews and 6 great nieces and nephews. She is also survived by her Sisters in the Carmelite Community of the Word.

Preceding her in death were two brothers, Paul J. Sr. and Father John J. Palko, and her Sister in religion, Sister Mary Gainino.

The Funeral Mass for Sister Maryann Palko C.C.W. was celebrated Thursday, January 7 at the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel, Loretto. Committal was at Holy Name Cemetery, Ebensburg.

Donations in Sister Maryann's memory may be made to the Carmelite Community of the Word, Hands and Heart Haiti Mission, c/o Incarnation Center, 394 Bem Road, Gallitzin PA 16641.

Introducing The Academy For Leadership In Health Ministry

By Carrie Nickerson

For the past three years, collaboration between spiritual and health care providers meeting at the DiSepio Institute at Saint Francis University, Loretto, raised understanding of health ministry. The need to build regional capacity for health ministry was recognized and the Academy for Leadership in Community Based Health Ministry was borne of that desire. Plans are underway to launch the program in Fall 2016.

The Academy for Leadership in Community Based Health Ministry is a post - secondary certificate program focused on areas of actual community need. Academy courses are designed to nurture the formation of participants who will value community based health ministry and desire to create feasible, sustainable collaboration between health care providers and members of faith communities to meet community need. Seven face - to - face class sessions will be held over ten months and project development will occur concurrently. Course faculty will guide students in the exploration of concepts of wholeness, holiness, and health; a survey of contemporary frameworks for understanding health, health promotion, and illness prevention; and appreciation of the history, philosophy, and models of health ministry as well as the ethical and legal standards that apply. Ideal candidates for the program are persons of faith from any faith tradition who are community - minded and free to exercise leadership. Graduates of the Academy will be prepared to step out to form and lead health ministry teams and locate resources to insure their sustainability within their own faith communities and in the community at large.

The Christian tradition professes the essential goodness of the entire person and encourages us to find and experience God in every aspect of our selves - - body, soul and spirit (Short, 1999). Saint Francis's emphasis on the Incarnation is a hallmark of the Franciscan intellectual tradition. For Francis, "the relationship between God and the human person concerned not just the soul but the totality of one's vital forces" (Vauchez, 2012, **Francis Of Assisi**). This ancient wisdom that our spiritual lives have something to say about our physical, mental, and emotional well-being inspired the faith/health movement born in the 1960's when Rev. Dr. Granger Westberg, Lutheran minister, hospital chaplain, and medical school professor, established wholistic care clinics in churches in the Chicago region. According to the International Parish Resource Center in Saint Louis, Missouri, the faith/health movement evolved to become a worldwide phenomenon, claiming significant numbers of lay health ministers as well as 10,000 nurses in the United States and 2,000 nurses worldwide. Research about the impact of religious involvement on the well - being of individuals and communities is burgeoning.

In his theology of human nature, Saint Irenaeus, second century Bishop of Lyon and one of the greatest Early Church Fathers is famed for saying, "Gloria Dei est vivens homo! - - The glory of God is man fully alive, and the life of man is the vision of God." Being fully alive reflects the World Health Organization's definition of health, now acknowledged as not just the absence of disease, but as an evolving state of being in which our minds, bodies, and spirits are purposefully integrated. In his first encyclical, **Lumen Fidei**, Pope Francis teaches us the significance of this integration: "In the Bible, the heart is the core

of the human person, where all his or her different dimensions intersect: body and spirit, interiority and openness to the world and to others, intellect, will and affectivity. If the heart is capable of holding all these dimensions together, it is because this is where we become open to truth and love, where we let them touch us and deeply transform us. Faith transforms the whole person precisely to the extent that he or she becomes open to love" (2013, p. 33). Faith communities inspired by a faith/health orientation can support us in our journey toward greater openness and integration. There we can grow in freedom to consciously choose options for living that make it possible for us to be fully alive and enjoy a better quality of life, regardless of our life circumstances.

Farmer - philosopher Wendell Berry highlights the importance of community to healing and holiness: "I don't think mortal healers should be credited with the power to make holy... but I have no doubt that such healers are properly obliged to acknowledge and respect the holiness embodied in all creatures... our healing involves the preservation in us of the spirit and the breath of God. Healing is impossible in loneliness; it is the opposite of loneliness. Conviviality is healing. To be healed we must come with all the other creatures to the feast of Creation..." (Berry, [2003], "The Body and the Earth" in **The Art of the Commonplace: The Agrarian Essays**, p. 99).

You are invited to prayerfully discern whether you are being called to be a member of the first cohort of Academy students. In its first year, the \$350.00 tuition and cost of materials may be covered with grant funds. For more information, contact Cindy Drenning at Saint Francis University at (814) 472 - 3027.



Sister Maryann Palko
C.C.W.

Sister Maryann Palko, a member of the Carmelite Community of the Word, died Monday, January 4, at Garvey Manor, Hollidaysburg. She was 68.

She was born January 15, 1947 in Altoona, the daughter of the late Joseph A. Sr., and Genevieve (Melnick) Palko.

Sister Maryann entered the Sisters of Saint Ann of Providence, in Ebensburg, on September 8, 1964 and made temporary profession of vows on August 15, 1967. In July 1971 she was one of the founding members of the Carmelite Community of the Word, making final profession of vows on July 20, 1974.

Sister Maryann retired as supervisory chaplain at the Federal Correctional Institution at Loretto with 20 years of service in September 2009. Prior to Loretto, she served at the state

**Go now in peace
faithful friend of God,
As you take our love
into paradise,
God's holy angels
will lead you home
To the wide waiting arms of the Lord.**

- - Dan Schutte

Year Of Mercy Pilgrimage Will Visit Assisi



Photo By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein

ASSISI: Even the flowers clinging to the walls of an ancient house evoke the spirit of Saint Francis in the city of Assisi, one of the shrines that pilgrims will visit on **The Catholic Register** Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy Pilgrimage to Italy.

You are invited to join **The Catholic Register** and Monsignor Timothy P. Stein, editor, on an Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy Pilgrimage to Italy, Monday, August 29 - Thursday, September 8.

The highlight of the pilgrimage will be attendance at the anticipated canonization of Mother Teresa on Sunday, September 4. Pilgrims will also attend Pope Francis' general audience in Saint Peter's Square at the Vatican on Wednesday, September 7.

Pilgrims will be able to gain the Holy Year indulgence by walking through the Holy Doors at the four major Basilicas - - Saint Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, Saint Paul Outside the Walls, Saint Mary Major, and Saint John Lateran, the Pope's own cathedral.

The pilgrimage will begin upon arrival in Pisa on Tuesday, August 30. After viewing the famous Leaning Tower, the itinerary continues on to the spa town of Montecatini, for two nights at the Croce di Malta Hotel, ideally situated for a visit to the artistic wonders of Florence.

En - route to Assisi, the pilgrimage will visit Siena, home of Saint Catherine, and the village of Orvieto, site of a famed Eucharistic miracle. Two nights, Thursday, September 1 and Friday, September 2 will be spent at the Giotto Hotel in Assisi, the hillside city that was the home of Saint Francis and Saint Clare.

The pilgrimage will arrive in Rome on Saturday, September 3. Five nights will be spent at the Cardinal Saint Peter Hotel in Rome. In Rome pilgrims will be attending the canonization and the general audience, visiting the Basilicas and the catacombs, and touring the sites of ancient Imperial Rome.

"Please join us on a pilgrimage of a lifetime," said Monsignor Stein. The total cost is \$4299.00 including flights to and from Dulles, all taxes, hotels, professional tour guide, luxury motor coach, etc. Bus transportation to and from Dulles will also be provided.

An informational session is scheduled for Saturday, February 24 at Saint Mary Memorial Hall, 4th Avenue and 15th Street in Altoona (cafeteria on lower level) at 1:00 p.m. Belinda Held from UNITOURS will attend, to go over the details of the pilgrimage and answer all questions.

There is a 30 day early booking period; if you book before Wednesday, February 24, you will receive a \$50.00 discount.

To book this pilgrimage call UNITOURS at 800 - 777 - 7432, and ask for Marianna.

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