

The Catholic Register

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CNS Photo/Bob Roller

THE FOURTH STATION: Jesus meets his mother in this depiction of the fourth station of the Way of the Cross by American artist Virgil Cantini.

At the cross her station keeping,
Stood the mournful Mother weeping,
Close to Jesus to the last.

Through her heart, His sorrow sharing,
All His bitter anguish bearing,
Now at length the sword had pass'd.

Oh, how sad and sore distress'd
Was that Mother highly blest
Of the sole-begotten One!

Christ above in torment hangs;
She beneath beholds the pangs
Of her dying glorious Son.

Is there one who would not weep,
Whelm'd in miseries so deep
Christ's dear Mother to behold?

Can the human heart refrain
From partaking in her pain,
In that Mother's pain untold?

Bruis'd, derided, curs'd, defil'd,
She beheld her tender child
All with bloody scourges rent.

For the sins of His own nation,
Saw Him hang in desolation,
Till His spirit forth He sent.

O thou Mother! fount of love!
Touch my spirit from above;
Make my heart with thine accord.

Make me feel as thou hast felt;
Make my soul to glow and melt
With the love of Christ our Lord.

Christ, when Thou shalt call me hence,
Be Thy Mother my defence,
Be Thy cross my victory.

-- 13th Century Hymn

Higher Education

Luddy Scholarship

Altoona: The Monsignor Joseph M. Luddy Scholarship Foundation is accepting applications for its annual awards. The following criteria will be utilized in the selection process:

1. Applicants must be current or former residents of Blair County, Pennsylvania.
2. Financial need, established scholastic achievement and faculty recommendations will be considered.
3. Attendance or accep-

tance into a graduate education program in the fields of social work or the Roman Catholic priesthood. The social work program must be accredited by the Council on Social Work Education and the priesthood-training program must be sanctioned by the Roman Catholic Church.

Application forms are available at colleges and universities in Pennsylvania and surrounding states. Students may also obtain an application by contacting the Monsignor Joseph M. Luddy Scholarship Foundation c/o The Greater Altoona Jewish Federation directly. Please call

(814)515-1182 or email altoonafed@gmail.com to request an application. Completed applications and transcripts are to be submitted by May 2, 2016. Announcement of the award will be made in July.

The Foundation was established as a memorial to Monsignor Luddy's work in the fields of social services and the Roman Catholic priesthood. He was serving as the Director of Catholic Social Service for the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese as well as Chaplain at Garvey Manor at the time of his death in 1984.



LENTEN LUNCH: The second grade and fifth grade classes at Our Lady of Victory School, State College, ate a "Lenten Lunch" on Friday, March 4. The meal featured meatless dishes prepared from recipes provided by Catholic Relief Services as part of their Project Ricebowl. Pictured are fifth grade students enjoying their meal of Sopa de frijoles con chayote y arroz (Bean Soup with Chayote Squash and Rice). "We hope to have a schoolwide Lenten Luncheon using CRS Rice Bowl recipes next year," said Samantha Weakland, principal. "It is a wonderful way to connect with those who benefit from the vital work of Catholic Relief Services."

27th annual celebration

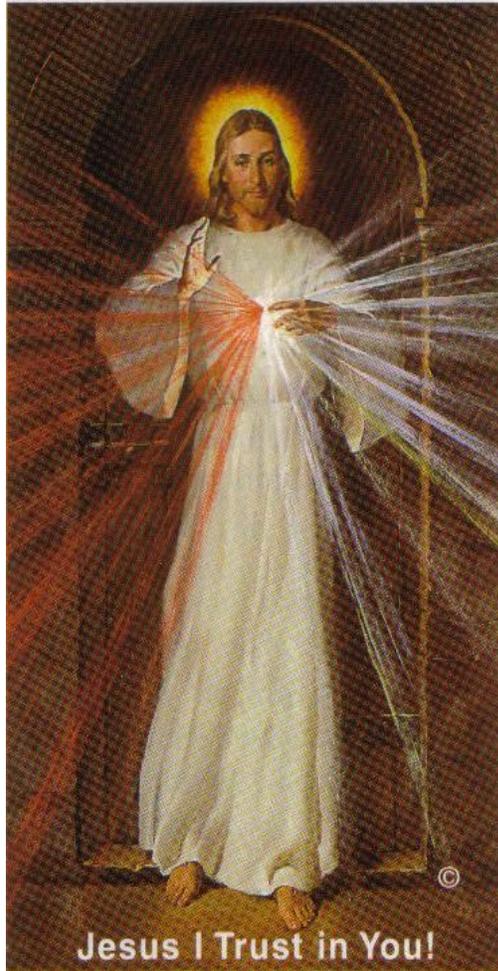
of the

Feast of Divine Mercy

at

Saint Catherine of Siena Parish in Duncansville

Sunday, April 3rd, from 12:30 to 3:30 PM



**A video on
The Basics of Divine Mercy
and the life of
Saint Maria Faustina
will be shown at 12:30 PM**

**Special prayer for the
Feast of Divine Mercy
beginning at 2 PM**

will include: the singing of
The Chaplet of Mercy,
a talk on **Divine Mercy**
by **Deacon Gene Neral,**
Benediction
of the Blessed Sacrament
and the opportunity to venerate
the Relic of Saint Maria Faustina

**Divine Mercy literature,
Saint Maria Faustina's Diary
and Novena booklets will be available!**

All are welcome!

The intent of the Foundation is to offer an annual scholarship award. Individuals, fraternal, and civic organizations who wish to donate to the Foundation can send their tax deductible contributions to the Monsignor Joseph M. Luddy Scholarship Foundation c/o The Greater Altoona Jewish Federation 1308 17th Street, Altoona PA 16601.

Ecumenical Luncheon

Cresson: Mount Aloysius College invites regional clerics to its spring 2016 Ecumenical Lecture entitled, "The 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation in 2017: Commemorate? Celebrate? Repent?" on Thursday, March 31 at noon in the College's Cosgrave Student Center. The speaker will be Father Thomas Ryan. Father Ryan, a Paulist priest, is a prolific author, presenter and theological scholar. Registration for the event is required.

Father Ryan serves as director of the office of interfaith and ecumenical relations for the North American Paulist Center in Washington, D.C. Prior to this position, he directed the Montreal - based Canadian Centre for Ecumenism for 14 years.

The Centre operates in all 10 Canadian provinces.

He founded Unitas, an ecumenical center for spirituality and Christian meditation in Montreal, co-sponsored by eight different denominations. Unitas is a place where Christians of different traditions could gather to share faith and life with each other as well as with members of other religions.

Father Ryan is a native of southern Minnesota. He did his graduate studies in Theology at the Washington Theological Union, Washington, DC, and the University of Geneva. He was ordained a Paulist in 1975. He has written 15 books on a wide variety of spiritual themes. His newest book is **Christian Unity: How You Can Make A Difference.** He has authored over 150 articles published in journals and periodicals, and writes a syndicated monthly column read in church newspapers in the United States and Canada.

(Continued On Page 3.)

In The Alleghenies

Pontifical Schedule For The Sacred Easter Triduum -- 2016 The Most Reverend Mark L. Bartchak Bishop of Altoona - Johnstown Celebrant and Presider

Holy Thursday
March 24 -- 6:00 p.m.
Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper
Saint John Gualbert Cathedral, Johnstown

Good Friday
March 25
Morning Prayer -- 9:00 a.m.
Celebration of the Lord's Passion -- 12:00 p.m.
Tenebrae Service -- 7:30 p.m.
Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona

Holy Saturday
March 26
Office of Readings -- 9:00 a.m.
The Easter Vigil -- 8:30 p.m.
Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona

Easter Sunday
March 27 -- 11:00 a.m.
Mass of Our Lord's Resurrection
Saint John Gualbert Cathedral, Johnstown

Easter Triduum



INFANT OF PRAGUE NOVENA: The 60th annual Novena to the Infant of Prague was held February 28 to March 7 at Saint Andrew Parish, Johnstown. Bishop Mark L. Bartchak (left) was the presider and homilist at the opening Mass, and Father Angelo Patti (right) filled those roles on the final evening. Hundreds of people attended the popular devotion for each of the nine days.

(Continued From Page 2.)

The Mount Aloysius College Ecumenical Luncheon Lectures are provided in cooperation with the judicatory heads of Christian denominations serving the Southern Allegheny region. The group sought to provide continuing education for Christian ministers of all denominations through the institution of the Ecumenical Luncheon and Lecture event. The genesis of that vision was an extraordinary gift of a 13,000 volume theological library to the College which has created an ecumenical resource unparalleled in the region. This Collection has been expanded to approximately 18,000 volumes and is housed in the College's Ecumenical Studies Library.

Clerics wishing to register for the Mount Aloysius College Ecumenical Luncheon can do so online at <http://www.mtaloy.edu/ecumenical/> or they can contact Christina Koren, director of mission integration and community engagement at Mount Aloysius College at (814) 886-6407 or missionintegration@mtaloy.edu.

Autism Conference

Loretto: The 2nd annual Autism Conference, Autism: Putting the Pieces Together, is being held April 1-2. A two-day

event, the first day of the event is full, but the second day has seats remaining.

The first day of the conference, a clinician and professional educator seminar day, is now closed due to the overwhelming community response. This day is designed to familiarize professionals with current trends and treatments of those with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

The second day of the conference (April 2) is a family-friendly day for the general public and still has seats remaining. Registrations for the Saturday event will be accepted until March 28. This day is designed to familiarize adult members of the general public (parents, caregivers, and individuals with ASD over the age of 17) with current trends and treatments of those with ASD.

(Continued On Page 15.)

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Point Of View

"It's a wound Amy! A wound that had to be sliced open to bleed but also to breath" Wise words from a friend, who while journeying on her own path of heartache and triumph, sought me out to provide a word of warm hope to comfort my frozen, almost shock-like soul. Words that were exchanged quickly, words that were whispered secretly. Words I am almost positive were from the Holy Spirit Himself. Thank you God!

As I drove home from this almost less than a two minute encounter, the sudden heavy lifting of the shroud on my soul almost took me by surprise. The numb feeling was gone. The paralyzed state of confusion was clear. In an instant. In a few short words. In God's perfect timing, my hope arose. Let me explain.

The words of this friend were not simply a gesture to try to placate a weary soul. They were words spoken directly to a heart that could understand deeply their meaning. Words that came to life from the pages of my own past life as a Registered Nurse, a story many would find repulsive, an image that was quite disturbing, a real life reminder of the importance of allowing one to bleed in order for them to breathe.

The Story: Her name was Grace, a beautiful sweet, elderly lady admitted to my nursing unit. A lovely and graceful woman who had piercing blue eyes, a tier of lovely gray locks, a smile that would light up the



Family Matters

By Amy Kanich

A Wound

room. A beautiful lady on the outside, a lovely woman who on the inside had a very much different story to tell. For when Grace was asked to don the infamous thin, hospital gown her pain was revealed. This beautiful woman who had a picture perfect appearance on the outside suffered from a very deep festering wound on her backside, a large gapping flesh crater that opened to reveal the bone of her pelvis deep inside. The medical staff ordered to treat Grace knew the treatment for this deep wound would not involve tightly covering up the area hoping it would heal on its own as was done in the past. This wound, a very deep and painful affliction, could only be healed properly if it was sliced open wide, removing all of the dark and dead tissue allowing it to bleed over and over until the good tissue was once again exposed to light. A treatment that was very painful, a process that took a long time to heal, an essential and necessary step to save Grace's precious life. Yes, the complete healing of this wound meant courageously going deep into this hellish space, tearing it wide open so it could have a chance to fully bleed from the inside out.

These past few weeks in our Diocese have been very difficult, with the exposure of a festering, painful, life-changing wound. A wound that should have never occurred in the first place, a wound that once infected should have been cleansed properly, a dark presence that should have been exposed to light, a wound that can only now be healed by going courageously into the pain, allowing it to properly bleed. Our hearts bleed for the children, their parents and families. Our hearts bleed for the faithful who love their church and are now confused. Our hearts bleed for those priests who are good and Godly men and our heart bleeds for our Diocese. Although painful, we realize the bleeding is necessary, for it is only through this rightful cleansing, in the courage to willingly expose the darkness to light, in the courage to enter the pain, in the courage to heal slowly, our beautiful diocese will begin to fully breathe again. Thank God! The words of the scriptures comfort me, "For the light will never be overcome by the darkness." I hope they comfort you too! Please pray for us, as we do the same for you! Blessings.



Another Perspective

By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein
**Thank God
For A Good People**

When the German Luftwaffe was raining death from the skies upon the beleaguered city of London during a strategic bombing campaign remembered as "The Blitz," King George VI and his consort, Queen Elizabeth, stayed in their capitol city, intent on sharing the danger with their subjects.

Hardly would the dust settle on some bombed-out site in London's East End, when the King and Queen would appear in the battered street, supporting, encouraging, comforting and consoling the men, women and children whose homes had been blown apart and whose friends, neighbors and family members had died in the blasts.

On one occasion, a member of the crowd called out "Thank God for a good King!," and King George turned around and shouted back "Thank God for a good people!"

The release of a grand jury's report on pedophilia in the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown on Tuesday, March 1 hit our Diocese as hard as those German bombs hit London. Or, thinking of more recent history and a tragedy closer to home, one of my parishioners said "This is our 9/11." Indeed. For many of us, reading the grand jury report, or hearing it reported in great detail on the television and reading about it in our daily newspapers felt as devastating as did the events on that terrible day in 2001 when the world as we knew it was blown apart. We knew then that there was no going back to the world as it had been before. We came together with the resolution to go forward and build a better future. We are still trying to make good on that promise.

Similar feelings fill our hearts now as we respond to what we have learned about the pedophilia crisis in our Diocese. Only by standing together can we go forward in faith. Much as we regret the mistakes of the past, we must resolve to learn from them and pledge that in the future our children will be safer than they have ever been. As Bishop Mark has reminded us, as we face this time of darkness in the life of our local Church, we need one another.

Piercing the darkness of these days has been the support so very many of you have shown to those you identify as "good priests." My brother priests and I can only repeat the words of His Majesty King George VI: "Thank God for a good people!" You are the ones who are showing us a way through this darkness. You are the ones whose faith is strengthening our own failing spirits. You continue to believe in us, and with your support, we are learning to believe in ourselves. You are making all the difference.

Yes, thank God for a good people! But, good people, please keep in mind that there is only one "good priest," and His name is Jesus. The rest of us are just men, drawn from among men, with the same sins, the same faults and weaknesses that afflict anyone else in our human family. We are all sinners, and all of us "good priests" will at some time hurt you, disappoint you, or let you down. Don't put any of us on a pedestal. We all have feet of clay, and each of us priests are aware of just how flawed we are. We fear failing God, and failing you.

You have a right, dear good people of God, to expect leadership from your priests. But at this time of pain and darkness in our lives together, we your priests look to you for leadership and guidance. Your good example of faithful Christian living is a wonderful gift to us all. You remind us of the sacred trust we assumed on the day we were ordained. Help us to remain faithful to that trust.

And thank you, again, for being the good people that you are. God bless you.

The Face Of God Is Mercy

Easter Message 2016

Bishop Mark L. Bartchak



The Book of Exodus contains a narrative of the departure of God's chosen people from captivity in Egypt, including the care with which God fed them with manna in the desert, and the miraculous event through which they overcame the obstacle which was the Red Sea. And, the Book of Exodus captures the special relationship with the Lord God that was established through a covenant at Mount Sinai.

In spite of that special relationship, it says in the Book of Exodus that God told Moses that no one can see the face of God and live (Ex. 33:20).

As we celebrate the Sacred Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday, we are reminded in the Gospels of the departure of God's people from the captivity of sin through the death of our Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross. We are reminded of the loving care of God who determined that we are to be fed with the very Body and Blood of Jesus Christ who established the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper.

And, the Gospels contain multiple stories where Jesus Christ appeared to persons after the Resurrection, including Mary Magdalene (who thought she was seeing a gardener), or to the disciples in the upper room (including a doubting Thomas), or the two discouraged men on the way to Emmaus.

In Jesus the Risen Christ, God gave us a face that we could look upon and live. The face of Christ is seen especially at the Easter liturgy in the faces of those who are receiving the Easter sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist. And those faces are full of smiles!

But God challenges us to pay attention to the faces of every person, including the poor, the rejected, neglected, abused, and forgotten. As Pope Francis reminds us in this Year of Mercy, the face of God is seen most especially in them.

During the 40 days of Lent, we have been challenged to consider that Jesus Christ suffered and died to save us from our sins. He came down from heaven to be lifted up on a cross, and then to be lifted up to the glory of heaven. Jesus calls us to continue to follow him in that direction.

We can do that if we keep looking at the face of God. And that face of God reveals that his only begotten Son suffered and died because God loves us. In return, God asks us to love him and to love especially those who are poor and suffering and need our care.

To love others as God loves is to be vulnerable; to dare to enter the pain and heartache of our world as Jesus Christ chose to do for all of us.

Entering into the world in that way is what mercy is all about. To become merciful we must continue to seek the face of God and ask for his mercy. As Pope Francis said in calling for this Year of Mercy, "Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's mercy."

Let us pray and work together during the Easter season and beyond, so that the face of the Father's mercy can be seen everywhere.

+ Mark L. Bartchak



VESTIBULE: Parishioners pause to admire the newly - constructed vestibule at Saint Peter Church in Somerset (right) while (above) Father Daniel O'Neill (pastor, right) discusses plans for the structure's Saturday, February 13 blessing with pastor - emeritus Monsignor Samuel Tomaselli. The vestibule project marks the most significant structural change to the church since it was built in 1954.



Somerset Parish Celebrates Blessing Of New Vestibule

**Photos And Text
By Bruce A. Tomaselli**

Father Daniel O'Neill is very happy with the completed addition of the new vestibule at Saint Peter Church in Somerset.

"I'm very pleased with it, and with the cooperation of our parishioners that brought this to completion," said the smiling pastor. "The people have been tremendous. They've been very supportive of the project personally and financially." Bishop Mark L. Bartchak blessed the new vestibule on February 13.

Included in the 2,500 square - foot addition is a staging area for brides, where they can dress and enter the church without being exposed to the outside elements.

The new vestibule also has two bathrooms, a priest's room, and a large gathering space, which are all handicap accessible. Stone masons were able to match the new stone work with the old stone on the outside and the slate roof.

The \$800,000.00 project is the first major expansion project since the church edifice was built in 1954. The continued growth of the parish family made the addition a much needed improvement. Work began in September of last year, "and because of such favorable weather, construction was ahead of schedule," Father O'Neill said. "Although the work wasn't complete, we were able to use the new vestibule for our Christmas services and celebrations."

Pastor - emeritus, Monsignor Samuel Tomaselli, has been ministering at the parish since 1968, and he's seen a few cosmetic changes over the years. Father O'Neill has a sincere appreciation for the former pastor. "He's been great," said Father O'Neill. "He's been a great help to me and an inspiration to the parish family." Monsignor Tomaselli continues to be very active in the parish community. He maintains a regular Mass schedule and fills in when and where he is needed.

Also assisting at the parish is Deacon Ronald Kolonich,

who has served the parish since 2009.

The parish has 750 families and averages about 15 marriages a year. Last year they celebrated 45 Baptisms.

The original church structure was near the center of town. Father Albert Gartland bought the land where the present church sits in 1950. Interestingly, the stone used to build the structure came from the construction of the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

"In the name of the parish I wish to recognize the steering committee that guided the project and dealt with the bewildering array of construction issues and regulations," said Father O'Neill, who has been pastor since 2008.

"Their expertise and insight were invaluable in bringing the vision of the project to completion. We gratefully recognize Sean Isgan, John Wahl, John Jacob, Art Gusbar and Mike Fapore for their great contributions." He said that the committee did all of the dirty work.

"The parish family has come together and stepped up to make this a reality," said the proud pastor.

The FIRE Rally!

*Four Exciting Talks and Prayer Experiences to Ignite the Flame
of the Holy Spirit
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"Intercession" Bob Sutton

"Repentance" Sr. Linda LaMagna, CCW

"Evangelism" Msgr. Robert Mazur

***Special Presentation by Bishop Mark Bartchak**

++++

**Jesus said: "I have come to set the earth on fire, how I wish it
were already blazing."**

Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday—April 16, 2016

8:00 AM to 3:30 PM

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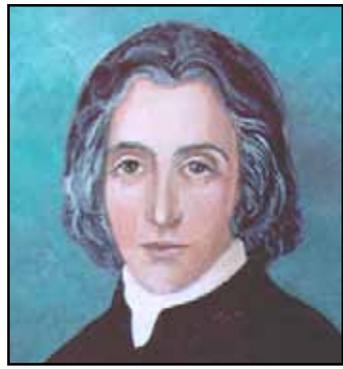
To register: Call 941-3832 or e-mail tonycond@aol.com.

**Suggested donation: Students free*, Adults \$18.00,
\$15.00 if pre-registered by March 16.**

(*Cost is paid by scholarship; pre-registration required.)

**Music Ministry will be led by the Cathedral Prayer Group and
the St. Joan of Arc Prayer Group.**





A Prince In The Service Of The Great King

**The Servant Of God
Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin
1770 - 1840**

Nominations Sought For Prince Gallitzin Cross Award

Nominations are now being sought for the 2016 Prince Gallitzin Cross Award.

The awards will be presented Saturday, June 4 at a dinner held at the Calvin House in Dun-cansville.

The Prince Gallitzin Cross Award was created in 1990, to mark the 150th anniversary of the death of the Prince - Priest.

The awards are presented to persons who have imitated the evangelizing spirit of the Apostle of the Alleghenies.

Those nominated may be ordained, religious or members of the laity.

The following criteria are followed in choosing recipients of the award:

- - Nominees are to be of



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.

+ + +

Kindly send information about favors granted to:

**The Cause for the Servant of God
Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin
Diocese Of Altoona - Johnstown
927 South Logan Boulevard
Hollidaysburg PA 16648**

the Roman Catholic tradition in living out the Christian life to which Jesus calls us;

- - They are to be fully initiated into the Church; that is to say they are to have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist;

- - They are to be members of a particularly parish faith community within the Diocesan Church of Altoona - Johnstown;

- - They are to be eligible to receive and avail themselves of the Sacraments of the Church;

- - They are to be presently (or have been previously) active through some form of ministry or service to God's people on either a parish or diocesan level;

- - Their ministry or service is to have contributed to the growth of this Diocesan Church as judged on the basis of the Gospel of Jesus, the evangelizing spirit of the Servant of God Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin, the teachings of the Church, and the guidance of the Holy See and this Particular Church as

given through various decrees and letters. In a special way, those who have kept alive the memory of Prince Gallitzin may be considered.

The insignia of the award is an enameled white cross bearing a yellow shield on which is displayed a black double-headed eagle, taken from the Gallitzin family coat of arms, and hanging from a white and yellow ribbon, allowing it to be worn around the neck at various parish or diocesan functions. It is accompanied by a certificate signed by the Bishop.

Clergy, religious and laity

are invited to submit nominations, which should be attested to by the nominee's pastor, and then submitted to the local Dean for submission to Teresa Stayer, chancellor of the Diocese.

The Bishop may also designate other recipients of the award.

The deadline for submitting nominations is Friday, April 15.

The awards ceremony will be preceded by a 5:00 p.m. social and dinner at 6:00 p.m. Dinner reservations must be made by Friday, May 20, by contacting the local parish, or the Diocese at (814) 695 - 5579.

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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

2ND ANNUAL HASTINGS WINE FESTIVAL
AT HASTINGS MEMORIAL BUILDING 280 BEAVER STREET
Saturday April 16 **2 Sessions: 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. or 5:00 to 8:00 P.M.**
Pre-Sale Tickets are \$18 \$20 at the door
Pre-Sale Tickets
Available at Top Shop (Hastings), Hastings Borough Office, Northern Cambria Giant Eagle or online www.localwineevents.com
Ticket price includes glass, tote, unlimited sampling & photo booth. Designated driver tickets will be available at the door for \$10. There will be vendors, food, basket auction & specialty raffles. Wineries include: Twisted Vine, Elk Mountain, Glendale Valley, Germantown, Shadow Vineyard & Winery, Greenhouse, My Garden Wines/Starr Hill & University Wine Company. Must be 21 years of age. No refunds. All proceeds benefit the Hastings Pool. Please contact Alison at 814-322-5611 with questions.

Word of Life



The Pope Teaches

By Pope Francis
Martyrs Of Charity

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The four Missionaries of Charity murdered March 4 in Yemen "are the martyrs of today," Pope Francis said. "They gave their blood for the church."

After reciting the Angelus with thousands of people gathered in St. Peter's Square March 6, Pope Francis publicly offered his condolences to the Missionaries of Charity and prayed that Blessed Teresa of Kolkata would "accompany to paradise these daughters of hers, martyrs of charity, and that she would intercede for peace and a sacred respect for human life."

The four Missionaries of Charity and 12 other people were killed by uniformed gunmen, who entered the home the sisters operate for the elderly and disabled in Aden.

The superior of the Missionaries of Charity at the home survived by hiding, according to the Vatican's Fides news agency. Father Tom Uzhunnalil, an Indian Salesian priest who had been living at the home since Holy Family Parish in Aden was sacked and burned in September, was missing after the attack.

Although the sisters would not make news headlines, Pope Francis said, the martyred sisters "gave their blood for the church."

The sisters and the 14 others killed "are victims of the attack by those who killed them, but also (victims) of indifference, this globalization of indifference that just doesn't care," the pope said.

Yemen has been experiencing a political crisis since 2011 and is often described as being in a state of civil war with members of the Shiite and Sunni Muslim communities vying for power; in the midst of the tensions, terrorist groups have been operating in the country, including groups believed to be associated with the so-called Islamic State and al-Qaida.

Although most Christians have fled the country, a handful of Salesian priests and about 20 Missionaries of Charity chose to stay and continue their ministry.

In a condolence message released March 5 by the Vatican, Pope Francis described the Aden murders as an "act of senseless and diabolical violence."

The pope "prays that this pointless slaughter will awaken consciences, lead to a change of heart, and inspire all parties to lay down their arms and take up the path of dialogue," the message said. "In the name of God, he calls upon all parties in the present conflict to renounce violence, and to renew their commitment to the people of Yemen, particularly those most in need, whom the sisters and their helpers sought to serve."

Bishop Paul Hinder, head of the vicariate of Southern Arabia, which includes Yemen, told AsiaNews, a Rome-based missionary news agency, that at 8:30 a.m. March 4, "persons in uniform" broke into the Aden compound, killing the guard and all employees who tried to stop them. "They then reached the sisters and opened fire."

Two of the sisters killed were Rwandan, one was from India and one was from Kenya, the bishop said. Father Uzhunnalil apparently was kidnapped, he added.

"The signal was clear: This has to do with religion," Bishop Hinder said.

In a statement released March 8, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Administrative Committee said that, through their sacrifice, the "martyrs of charity" were "transformed into signs of Christ's victory over sin, violence and death." They echoed the remarks of Pope Francis and invited people to join in solidarity with people "who see their lives threatened by evil, indifference, hatred, and terrorism."



ONE MORE TIME: A 1955 photo shows the altar at the Catholic mission at The Pennsylvania Institution For Defective Delinquents at Huntingdon. The mission evolved into Saint Dismas Parish at The State Correctional Institution, Huntingdon. The Feast of Saint Dismas is observed on March 25.

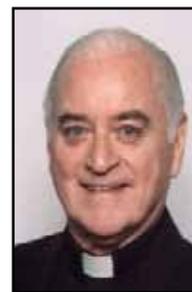
The March 6 passing of Nancy Reagan saddened many Americans. I know it affected me more than I expected. She had an endearing smile and a quiet dignity.

Everyone knew the role she played in the life of President Ronald Reagan, and how important she was to him. He claimed that his success was directly related to her presence in his life. He had faced a particularly bad year, including a long hospital stay. "And then along came Nancy Davis and saved my soul," he is said to have told his biographer.

The bond between them was very admirable. They fulfilled the highest values of the human spirit in their unconditional love for each other. She was revered and despised for her power in the White House. When she spoke, people knew that the president of the United States was solidly behind her.

I met her at a fundraiser in 1980 during the campaign against President Jimmy Carter. It was at the Alfred E. Smith Memorial Foundation dinner. She looked me straight in the eye, and she did that with everyone she met. At the time, all I could think of was her personal warmth.

I read that after President Reagan was shot, she turned to astrology to protect his every move. I'm not sure if the presi-



Spirituality For Today

By Father John Catoir
Fondness For
A Former First Lady

dent shared those beliefs, but it served to calm her down, and that was good enough for him. What I saw in both of them was a deep spirituality and a humble dependence on God. They saw the president's ascendancy to the White House as the work of divine providence.

Her death, and for that matter the death of anyone, can lead us to begin reflecting on the meaning of life. I'm thinking now about the meaning of Nancy Reagan's life. She had her share of fame and glory, but what I remember most about her was the love and devotion she and her husband had for each other.

She suffered mightily during the last two decades of her life. Think about it, she lived 12

Nancy Reagan's death, and for that matter the death of anyone, can lead us to begin reflecting on the meaning of life.

more years after her husband's death and was virtually alone. She cared for him for years before he died and when he was lost in the fog of Alzheimer's disease.

How bravely she carried her cross during those years, until death finally took her at the age of 94. In thinking of her, I'm reminded of a quote from Malcolm Muggeridge:

"For instance, success in all of its various guises; being known and being praised; ostensible pleasures, like acquiring money or seducing women, or traveling, going to and fro in the world and up and down in it like Satan, exploring and experiencing whatever Vanity Fair has to offer. ... They are diversions designed to distract our attention from the true purpose of our existence in this world, which is, quite simply, to look for God."

Some people are not distracted, and Nancy Reagan was one of those who was not distracted. May she rest in eternal peace.

Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle
Fasting

Q. On the two obligatory days of fasting -- Ash Wednesday and Good Friday -- I do fast, but I get very hungry during the latter part of the day. So I sometimes wait until just after midnight and then satisfy my hunger with an amount of food not in keeping with the notion of fasting.

While I believe that I am meeting the letter of my obligation, I am not sure that I am honoring its spirit. What sort of guidance would you offer? (Manalapan, New Jersey)

A. The Catholic Church, it seems to me, is rather modest in the dietary discipline it asks from believers. As you note, there are only two days of fasting on the church's calendar: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On those days, Catholics are to limit themselves to only one full (and meatless) meal.

Some food can be taken at the other regular meal times, but that food (combined) should not equal a full meal. Liquids are

permitted at any time, but no solid food should be taken between meals.

The discipline of fasting governs only those between the ages of 18 and 59, and it does not apply to anyone for whom it might create a health risk -- for example, the sick or the frail, pregnant or nursing women -- or even to guests at a meal who cannot fast without offending the host.

We fast, of course, to unite ourselves to Christ and to the burdens he endured on our behalf. Logically, then, this fasting should result in some sacrifice on our part.

In your case, I believe that you are being faithful to the letter and the spirit of the law (assuming that after midnight you are not being gluttonous). The fact that you do struggle later in the day means that it does cost you something -- not to mention the fact that you need to stay up so late to satisfy your hunger!

Q. I was raised Catholic -- received baptism, first Communion and confirmation -- and there was never a problem with my taking holy Communion. Now I am told that, because my husband was previously married, I can no longer take Communion.

What kind of nonsense is this -- that he would have to go through a whole process of annulment that could possibly cost umpteen thousands of dollars and would drum up for him headaches from 20 years ago?

My husband is livid because of this, and I am angry and humiliated. Why should I be shunned and not permitted to take Communion when I had nothing to do with his previous marriage problems? Sorry for venting, but why do they make some of us feel guilty when I don't think that I did anything wrong? (City of origin withheld)

A. Your letter reflects the deep disappointment felt by many who are currently considered ineligible to share fully in Catholic sacramental life. It has been the church's long-held teaching that reception of the Eucharist is a privilege reserved to those considered in good standing -- i.e., if married, in a marriage that is valid in the church's eyes.

Whether that standard should change (meaning, for example, full sacramental participation should be open to those doing their best in their present situation to live according to Gospel values) is a matter of considerable discussion at the present time.

As we await the outcome, let me reduce your worries by one, and that is your fear that an annulment of your husband's first marriage might cost "umpteen thousands of dollars." For years, in my diocese, the suggested offering was \$350 -- to help cover consultations with psychologists, etc., and that fee was regularly waived if it seemed to be a hardship.

Now, as of three weeks ago, that fee has been eliminated entirely in my diocese and in many others, and with strong encouragement from the Pope.



For The Journey

By Effie Caldarola
Learning To Listen
In The Year Of Mercy

I was sitting in a reconciliation room once, confessing my usual garden variety list of sins when I was suddenly aware that the priest was gazing out the window.

Being reflective, perhaps? No, I was fairly sure he was daydreaming. I left my confession with the feeling that I was forgiven by God but ignored by my confessor.

We've all been in situations where we know we've been talking and no one's been listening. Sometimes, we're sure, when asked a question by our spouse that we had just answered 20 minutes before, that our words have drifted off unheard into the often murky cloud of marriage communication. It happens to the best of spouses.

But in this Year of Mercy, perhaps one aspect of mercy we might focus on is our listening skills. I know mine can use some real attention. And I know that truly listening to someone is a great gift that we can give them, a way of showing love and mercy in the midst of a very busy world.

I recently had a conversation with a deacon whose ministry takes him to a homeless shelter. His work there involves listening, simply being present. Present to people who often are ignored by the world and have no one with whom to share their troubles, their history, their grief.

It's a huge gift to them to have someone (especially someone identified with the church) who will listen and provide what my friend the deacon called "nonjudgmental dialogue."

Our homes are the first place to practice listening. First, listen to God by closing your eyes and blocking out distractions. Center yourself and focus on listening and not talking. Tough to do, but good practice, even for five minutes, and the God of love is there even if we have a tough time shutting up.

Second, our kids need a listening ear. Like most moms, my standard question when my kids walked in the door from school was often, "How was your day?" Not a very creative way to elicit conversation, and depending on the age and the attitude of the kid, that question might result in lengthy banter or a muffled grunt.

Better to stop what you're doing, look your child in the eye and ask some meatier questions, maybe over a quick snack. Put everything else aside for a few minutes and listen.

Because of the constant noise of our world -- the Internet, social media, news -- we often find ourselves listening to two things at once. I used to think multitasking was a good thing, but I realize it really means you're just doing a couple of things very poorly instead of one thing well.

This is overwhelmingly true when it comes to listening to another. When my adult children or a friend phones, I'm often at the computer or maybe watching the news. It takes discipline to turn away from screens and give undivided attention for a few minutes to the person on the other end of the line. Focus on them. Say a prayer. Listen.

If you've had a good spiritual director, or "spiritual companion" as they're often called, you know what good listening is. A good companion doesn't tell you what you should be doing, shower you with advice or regale you with personal experiences. He listens and asks the right questions to lead you to clarity of thinking.

We should practice listening like that with our family and friends. In this Year of Mercy, we all need a trusted friend. Practice being that person.



Dismas
First Century
Feast - March 25

Two thieves were crucified with Christ; Dismas is the "good thief" who rebuked the other thief for reviling Jesus. In Luke's Gospel, he accepts his guilt and proclaims Christ's innocence. He asks Jesus to remember him, and Jesus promises, "Today you will be with me in paradise." This feast date was assigned because by tradition Jesus died on March 25. But how an unnamed thief came to be called Dismas is less clear. One explanation is that early Syrian representations of the Crucifixion showed a sun and moon over the thieves' heads; Syrian coins also showed a sun and moon with the words "east" and "west." And "dismas" is similar to the Greek word for east. Dismas is a patron of funeral directors, prisoners and repentant thieves.

Grand Jury Report Says Hundreds Of Children Abused By Priests In Altoona - Johnstown Diocese

To ensure objectivity in reporting on the March 1 grand jury report released by Attorney General Kathleen Kane, the following story by Catholic News Service, a source outside the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown, is being offered to readers of *The Catholic Register*.

By Catholic News Service

ALTOONA (CNS) -- Hundreds of children were sexually abused over at least 40 years by priests and other religious leaders in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, a statewide grand jury found.

At least 50 priests or religious leaders were involved in the abuse and diocesan leaders systematically concealed the abuse to protect the church's image, according to a grand jury report released March 1 by Attorney General Kathleen G.

Kane.

The report identifies priests and other leaders by name and details incidents going back to the 1970s. Kane said that much of the evidence revealed in the report came from secret archives maintained by the diocese that was only available to the bishops who led the diocese over the decades.

Victims also testified to the grand jury, which was approached by Kane in April 2014 after local law enforcement officials and district attorneys of several counties approached her office with information about the abuse.

Kane said during a news briefing at the Blair County Convention Center in Altoona that the investigation was continuing. She said that the actions of law enforcement also are part of the investigation.

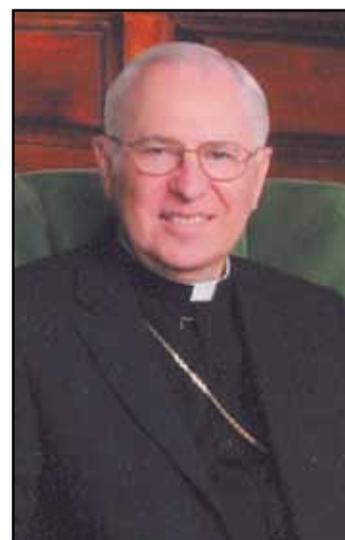
"We have had evidence of law enforcement perhaps looking the other way, law enforce-



**BISHOP
JAMES J. HOGAN**

ment working with the diocese to let the priests move on, retire or go to a psychiatric facility in lieu of charges," she said.

Kane did not rule out charges being filed against diocesan officials for their role in not reporting abuse and repeated sev-



**BISHOP
JOSEPH V. ADAMEC**

eral times that the investigation is unfinished.

The report said the diocese cooperated in the investigation.

Tony DeGol, diocesan secretary for communications, said in a statement that the diocese had received the report and was reviewing it. The diocese pledged to continue cooperating with authorities in their investigation "as part of our commitment to the safety of all children," the statement said.

"This is a painful and difficult time in our diocesan church," Bishop Mark L. Bartchak of Altoona-Johnstown said in the statement. "I deeply regret any harm that has come to children, and I urge the faithful to join me in praying for all victims of abuse."

The diocese continues to follow its youth protection policy, which calls for mandatory reporting of all abuse allegations to law enforcement authorities and requires criminal background checks and education for clergy, employees and volunteers who work with children, the statement said.

Kane echoed the grand jury report in crediting Bishop Bartchak, who was appointed to the diocese in 2011, for reporting abuse allegations to authorities and removing accused priests from ministry.

(Continued On Page 11.)

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

MARCH 25-APRIL 3

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Good Friday – March 25

7:00 PM Novena Prayers, Chaplet & Reflection

Holy Saturday – March 26

3:00 PM Novena Prayers, Chaplet & Reflection

Easter Sunday – March 27

7:00 PM Novena Prayers, Chaplet & Reflection

Monday-Friday – March 28-April 1

7:00 PM Novena Prayers, Chaplet & Daily Mass

Saturday – April 2

6:30 PM Novena Prayers, Chaplet & Vigil Mass

Divine Mercy Sunday – April 3

8:00 AM Mass at St. Francis Xavier Church

10:30 AM Mass at St. Aloysius Church

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Jesus told St. Faustina, "Encourage souls to place great trust in My fathomless mercy. Let the weak, sinful soul have no fear to approach Me, for even if it had more sins than there are grains of sand in the world, all will be drowned in the unmeasurable depths of My Mercy." (Diary 1059)

(Continued From Page 10.)

Kane's office began investigating abuse claims in 2012 and after two years asked the grand jury to hear evidence that had been gathered. By then the grand jury could not indict any of the suspected abusers because the state's statute of limitations had expired.

In Pennsylvania, injury victims have two years to file a civil suit while the time frame for filing criminal charges varies, depending on the age of the victim. An assistant to Kane said at the press briefing that the names of priests were included in the report in incidents in which the statute of limitations had expired.

Amy B. Hill, spokesperson for the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, said in an emailed statement that the state's statute of limitations on sexual abuse cases has been raised over the years from age 20 to age 50 for criminal prosecutions and age 20 to age 30 for civil actions.

The Catholic conference has maintained that the statute of limitations not be changed, a stance that is in line with the Task Force for Child Protection, which was established by the General Assembly in the wake of the Jerry Sandusky sexual abuse revelations at Penn State University, Hill said.

The task force, however, recommended an overhaul of state child protection statutes that resulted in more than 20 laws being passed, she said.

As part of its proceedings, the grand jury recommended abolishing the statute of limitations for sexual offenses against minors and urging the Pennsylvania General Assembly to suspend the civil statute of limitations on sexual abuse claims.

The report said the grand jury reviewed more than 200 exhibits and heard testimony from an unspecified number of witnesses.

The report provides details of abuse -- sometimes in graphic language -- by 34 priests against hundreds of victims, some of whom Kane said were as young as 8 years old. It said other complaints had been made against a

teacher who was studying to become a deacon, a choirmaster, a coach and members of religious orders.

The investigation uncovered how two bishops since the 1960s had taken steps to prevent scandal from overtaking the diocese by moving priests to new assignments after allegations were made against them and how diocesan officials used their influence with law enforcement and elected officials to prevent criminal charges from being filed against clergy, according to the report.

Grand jurors outlined actions by Bishop James J. Hogan, who led the diocese from 1966 until 1986 when he retired -- he died in 2005 -- and his successor, Bishop Joseph V. Adamec, who retired in 2011, for failing to report abuse allegations to police. Kane said both bishops covered up the abuse to protect the church's image.

A raid on diocesan offices in August in Hollidaysburg, near Altoona, led to the discovery of what Kane called a "secret archive." Officials with Kane's office uncovered dozens of handwritten notes by Bishop Hogan, letters and documents sent to Bishop Adamec, statements from abuse victims, correspondence with offending priests and internal correspondence on clergy abuse matters, the report said.

Bishop Adamec denied that he failed to take proper measures toward clergy accused of sexual abuse in a statement released late March 1 as well as a filing in response to the grand jury report with the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas in Pittsburgh.

In the statement, Bishop Adamec expressed his "deepest sympathies to all victims of abuse" and said he "deeply regrets any harm that has come to children who were victimized."

"The bishop's full record includes his having suspended a number of priests from public ministry and having requested laicization of others," the statement said.

The response filed with the court by Pittsburgh attorney David J. Berardinelli charged that the grand jury "was not provided with a full and balanced set of

facts based on all the materials and information that were available." It said the report "contains criticism that is unfounded."

The filing outlined several steps Bishop Adamec took to suspend priests from ministry and that his actions followed the procedures in effect in the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese prior to the U.S. bishops' "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People," first adopted in 2002, and afterward under protocols adopted by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to implement the charter. The charter was revised in 2005 and 2011.

Bishop Adamec received allegations against 14 living diocesan priests and one living religious order priest between the time he took office in May 1987 and the adoption of the charter in June 2002, the filing said. Of the 14 cases, the filing said, nine diocesan priests were either suspended from ministry or retired with prohibition against public ministry.

When any allegations were made, priests were sent for a

psychiatric evaluation and Bishop Adamec followed the recommendation of professionals in suspending or removing priests, the filing explained.

"It is unfortunate that the grand jury was apparently not provided a full and balanced set of facts based on all the materials and information that was available to it, including exculpatory information related to Bishop Adamec from the diocesan records that were obtained in August 2015," the filing concluded. "Those records contain clear information demonstrating that, contrary to the language of the report, Bishop Adamec's handling of sexual abuse allegations was anything but abysmal and that he most certainly placed a high priority on protecting the welfare of children."

The grand jury report said the investigation by Kane began after a referral by Kelly Callahan, district attorney in Cambria County, one of eight counties in the diocese, who was investigating child sexual abuse incidents from the 1990s at Bishop McCourt Catholic High School in

Johnstown. The investigation also involved the diocese and the Johnstown Police Department, according to the report.

As the investigation gained momentum, officials from the diocese and victims testified to the grand jury.

The report questioned the effectiveness of the diocese's Allegation Review Board, which was established under the USCCB's "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People." It said that Bishop Adamec appointed its members and that its recommendations went through the bishops' office for review.

Kane urged sexual abuse victims to turn to law enforcement first to report incidents of abuse rather than the diocese.

Kane's office also established a hotline for people to report abuse allegations. Victims and witnesses can call (888) 538-8541 to offer information they may have about suspected abuse.

The grand jury's report can be found online at <http://bit.ly/1QRMan3>.

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Bishop Says Diocese Will ‘Pass Through Darkness’ After Report Details Pedophilia In Diocese

(Continued From Page 16.)

Bishop Mark said that Bishop Joseph has agreed not to say Mass publicly for the time being, and that any other determination about his status would be made by the Holy See, which deals with disciplinary measures for Bishops.

The day after the press conference Bishop Mark ordered the removal from the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona banners commemorating each Bishop of the Diocese, including Bishop James J. Hogan and Bishop Adamec, both of whom were criticized for inaction in the grand jury report.

Regarding the “Secret Archives,” Bishop Mark explained that the somewhat sinister sounding title is a translation for

a Latin term and simply refers to “files kept secure and with limited access,” and said that “most organizations have such files for personnel matters.

A Faith Response

Bishop Mark concluded his statement at the press conference with the reflection “We are a people of faith. I will share a message with the people of our Diocese this weekend through their pastors, and plans are being made for special prayer services for mercy in the coming weeks.”

And, as promised the Bishop did provide the priests with a letter to be read on Sunday, March 6, the Fourth Sunday of Lent, placing the situation facing the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown within the context of the Sunday readings.

“In today’s reading from his Second Letter to the Corinthians, we hear a passionate plea from Saint Paul: ‘On behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.’

“Those are tough words for many of us to grasp in light of what has been reported about our Diocese during the past few days. I have heard people say

‘Where is God in all this?’”

Bishop Mark said that question has been posed by victims of abuse and their families, by “good and faithful people,” whether young or old, laity and clergy all over the Diocese and by all those “who have been responding to this mess.”

He said that a number of people are asking “Do I want to be part of the Church anymore?” and “What are we supposed to do?”

Bishop Mark framed his response to those questions within the gospel story of the Prodigal Son, which he characterizes as a story of the “pain and suffering” of the younger son who ran away from home, the “pain and suffering” of the older son who stayed faithful but still felt angry and resentful, and of a merciful father “who was concerned about the well - being of both of his sons. I became aware that more than anything else the father wanted his sons to be reconciled. He wanted them to be connected to each other and connected to him.”

Reconciliation with God, with the Church and with one another, Bishop Mark suggested, can be found in God’s mercy, which the Church is celebrating in this extraordinary Holy Year.

But mercy, Bishop Mark said does not simply mean “to forgive and forget. There is a

lot more hard work to be done in identifying and responding to the misery of our Diocese at this time, including the wounds of all our brothers and sisters.”

Pope Francis, Bishop Mark said, stated in his announcement of the Year of Mercy that when confronted with the wounds of others we should “reach out to them and support them so they can feel the warmth of our presence, our friendship, and our fraternity! May their cry become our own, and together may be break down the barriers of indifference that too often reign supreme and masks our hypocrisy and egoism!”

Simply put, Bishop Mark said, what the Holy Father is saying can be found in the words of Jesuit Father James Keenan of Boston College who reminded “Mercy is the willingness to enter the chaos of another person.”

What Are We To Do?

Answering the question “What are we to do?,” Bishop Mark said that we should remain faithful to the Church, and continue to seek God in the Scriptures and in the Sacraments, and to find God “in the person sitting beside you or behind you in church. We are all members of the Body of Christ. We all need one another.”

Bishop Mark asked too for respect for and support of those who might need to step away from the Church for a time as they process all that has happened. “Support them with your prayers and your words. Be a sign to them that the Lord is near to them, even if they want to keep some distance.”

Bishop Mark asked parents of children who are confused or who have questions about the grand jury report to continue to teach them about right and wrong, and for all who are trying to remain faithful to the Church while feeling angry and upset to remember the merciful father in the gospel story who reached out

to his elder son “in the way of mercy.”

Bishop Mark brought his letter to a close by invoking again the words of the Holy Father.

“I urge everyone to keep in mind the message of Pope Francis: ‘When faced with the gravity of sin, God responds with the fullness of mercy. Mercy will always be greater than any sin, and no one can place limits on the love of God.’

“There is no mistaking that what has been made public this past week is filled with the darkness of sin. We will pass through this darkness.

“We are a people of faith and more than ever we are called to be people of mercy. I pray that God will grant us the courage, strength and mercy that we all need at this time. I ask your prayers for one another. We need them.

“We need each other.”

Meetings

Bishop Mark continued to make a personal response to the grand jury report in a series of meetings.

On Friday, March 4, he met the employees of the Diocesan Administration Center, Catholic Charities and the Family Life Office at Carmel Hall at Garvey Manor in Hollidaysburg.

On Wednesday, March 9, he met the priests of the Diocese for a two - hour session in the undercroft of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona. At the meeting with the priests the Bishop made a brief statement, and then allowed the priests the opportunity to respond with their reflections and concerns.

As this issue of **The Catholic Register** was going to press, a meeting with the permanent deacons of the Diocese was expected to be scheduled.

The Bishop will celebrate the Chrism Mass with the priests this morning, at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament.



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Brother Stephen Baker Abuse Case

Three Former Franciscan Ministers Provincial Charged With Endangering Children, Conspiracy

To ensure objectivity in reporting on the Tuesday, March 15 press conference conducted by Attorney General Kathleen Kane, the following story by Catholic News Service, a source outside the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, is being offered to readers of *The Catholic Register*.

By Catholic News Service

JOHNSTOWN (CNS) --

Three Franciscan priests were charged with conspiracy for endangering the welfare of children and endangering the welfare of children in connection with a two-year investigation into sexual abuse in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown.

Franciscan Fathers Giles A. Schinelli, Robert J. D'Aversa and Anthony M. Criscitelli were expected to return to Pennsylvania to face the charges, said Pennsylvania Attorney General Kathleen G. Kane at a news conference March 15 at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown campus.

The men were indicted following a grand jury investigation into allegations of sexual abuse by dozens of priests and other religious leaders in the diocese.

Kane said the charges stem from the time each of the men served as provincial superior of the Franciscan Friars of the Third Order Regular, Province of the Immaculate Conception based in Hollidaysburg, and their continued appointment of Franciscan Brother Stephen Baker to ministry positions

where he worked with children.

Brother Baker is accused of abusing more than 80 children from Bishop McCort Catholic High School in Johnstown between 1992 and 2000, where he taught religion and worked as an athletic trainer, Kane said.

The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, the order and the high school have reached settlements with the victims. Brother Baker committed suicide in January 2013 at the St. Bernardine Monastery in Hollidaysburg.

The province issued a brief statement after the indictments were announced, saying it was "deeply saddened by the news.

"With compassion for the victims and their families as well as for the Catholic family and the community at large, the province and its leadership have worked to cooperate with the Office of Attorney General throughout this investigation in the hope that this information could shed light on events that the province, too, struggles to understand," the statement said.

"The province extends its most sincere apologies to the victims and to the communities who have been harmed. It invites the community to join in prayer for healing and understanding, and for all the priests and brothers who honor their vocations and the church," it added.

Father Patrick Quinn, current provincial superior, was away from his office and unavailable for comment, a person who answered the phone at the friary said.

Kane said the three priests in their capacity continued to assign Brother Baker to the school in Johnstown despite knowing of allegations of abuse against him.

"They engaged in efforts to protect the image of the Franciscan priory," she said.

After Brother Baker was removed from ministry at the high school, Kane said, he was as-

signed as vocations director for the province and continued to have contact with children.

Kane said none of the men reported the allegations to Johnstown police or any other law enforcement authority.

The attorney general added that the role of diocesan officials and local police was investigated and that evidence indicated neither organization was aware of the alleged abuse.

"We cannot stress enough the importance of holding those accountable" for not reporting incidents of sexual abuse, Kane said.

The charges were the second shock within two weeks in the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese.

A grand jury report released March 1 detailed hundreds of

cases of abuse of children by at least 50 priests or other religious leaders over several decades and said diocesan leaders systematically concealed the alleged abuse to protect the church's image.

Afterward, Bishop Mark L. Barchak of Altoona-Johnstown committed the Pennsylvania diocese to be transparent in its efforts related to the sexual abuse of minors by clergy and to make public the names of all priests found to have a credible allegation of abuse against them and the status of each man within the diocese.

Kane said that more than 200 calls had been received on a hotline established to gather tips on alleged abuse since the grand jury report was released.

Attorney General Kathleen G. Kane said the charges stem from the time each of the men served as provincial superior of the Franciscan Friars of the Third Order Regular, Province of the Immaculate Conception based in Hollidaysburg, and their continued appointment of Franciscan Brother Stephen Baker to ministry positions where he worked with children.



CNS Photo/Alessandro Bianchi, Reuters

Pope Marks Third Anniversary

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis celebrated the third anniversary of his election with a simple Tweet -- "Pray for me" -- and the usual Sunday recitation of the Angelus prayer with tens of thousands of people gathered in St. Peter's Square.

In his talk March 13, the pope did not mention the anniversary, but focused on God's forgiveness and mercy as he did in his first Angelus address in 2013.

"God does not nail us to our sins; he does not identify us with the evil we have committed," the pope told the crowd.

"God wants to free us," the pope said. He wants people to use their freedom to do good and not evil. "This is possible -- it's possible -- with his grace."

Second Sunday of Easter

Celebration of Feast of the Divine Mercy



Sunday, April 3, 2016

2:30 p.m. - Adoration

3:00 p.m. - Divine Mercy Chaplet will be said.

There will be a special prayer for the **Feast of the Divine Mercy**

at

the Basilica of Saint Michael

This service will include the recitation of the Chaplet of Mercy, the Litany of Mercy and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Literature of the Devotion to Divine Mercy will be available.

All are welcome.

Now Showing

‘The Young Messiah’ An Engaging Film

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) -- It's a seemingly glaring omission likely to strike even casual readers of the New Testament as disappointing: With the notable exception of the finding of Jesus in the Temple, the Gospel writers are entirely silent about their subject's childhood.

Apart from this single incident, our only canonical information about the years between the Holy Family's return from exile in Egypt and the beginning of Jesus' public ministry consists of Luke's general observation that, during this time, "Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man."

While frustrating for scholars -- and a happy hunting ground for those given to wild theories (Jesus in Tibet, anyone?) -- this period can, nonetheless, provide a fertile field

for speculation if handled in a careful way. A case in point: the engaging dramatization "The Young Messiah" (Focus).

Director and co-writer Cyrus Nowrasteh's screen version of Anne Rice's 2005 novel "Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt" sensitively explores the mystery of the Incarnation. By remaining faithful to the underlying message of scripture even as it tackles a topic on which the Bible itself is mute, Nowrasteh's script, written in collaboration with his wife Betsy, avoids the many theological pitfalls that surround the union of Christ's divine and human natures.

The result is an intriguing, devotion-friendly piece of entertainment suitable for viewers of most ages. Families will welcome it as especially appropriate fare for Lent as well as the Easter season.

As the film begins, a combination of both ordinary and supernatural circumstances indicate to Joseph (Vincent Walsh)



CNS Photo/Focus

THE YOUNG MESSIAH: Adam Greaves-Neal stars in a scene from the movie "The Young Messiah." The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

that the time has come for his family to leave their temporary residence in Alexandria -- the only home 7-year-old Jesus (Adam Greaves-Neal) has ever known -- and return to Nazareth. Not for the first time, Joseph and Mary (Sara Lazzaro) are being forced to grapple with the concrete implications of their son's unique identity.

Together with Jesus' other close relatives -- including his uncle, Cleopas (Christian McKay), and cousin, James (Finn McLeod Ireland) -- Joseph and Mary understand, at least partially, that the lad is the promised Messiah and the Son of God. The fact that he possesses miraculous powers is, moreover, becoming apparent even to people outside the family circle.

Joseph and Mary's dilemma is obvious: How can they properly guide a child who remains, in many ways, a mystery to them? And how are they to answer the many questions he himself keeps raising? As Joseph pointedly asks, "How do we explain God to his own Son?"

In the midst of their bafflement, Joseph and Mary are confronted with an even more urgent priority: keeping Jesus safe from the dangers that surround him.

The notoriety resulting from the boy's superhuman abilities has drawn the attention of corrupt King Herod (Jonathan Bailey) who dispatches a Roman centurion named Severus (Sean Bean) to track and kill him.

Jesus is also being dogged by the figure of Satan (Rory Keenan), though only he can sense the evil adversary's presence.

While "The Young Messiah" can be warmly endorsed for a wide range of audiences, the

mature elements listed below, although discreetly handled, bar recommendation for all.

The film contains combat violence with slight gore, scenes of crucifixion, an attempted rape and at least one crass term. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Coming Up On 'Proclaim!'

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

March 27 - - On this Easter Sunday, a teacher and students from Saint Peter School in Somerset join the Bishop to discuss the significance of Easter and to share the unique things they are doing to celebrate the Year of Mercy.

April 3 - - On this Divine Mercy Sunday, Father Leo Arnone, Pastor of Saint Aloysius and Saint Francis Xavier Parishes in Cresson, talks about the importance of celebrating and sharing the Divine Mercy of Christ.

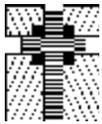
Sunday Mass
Broadcast Live from
the Cathedral of
the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona
10:00 a.m. WFBG Radio, 1290 AM

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

May They Rest In Peace



Sister Mildred Boeh C.S.J.

Sister Mildred Boeh, formerly known as Sister Ildephonse, 102, died Friday, March 4, in the 84th year of her religious life as a Sister of Saint Joseph of Baden. She was the longest lived member of the congregation.

The daughter of the late George and Patricia (Convoy) Boeh, Sister Mildred entered the Congregation from Saint Andrew Parish in Pittsburgh. Locally she ministered at Holy Name School in Ebensburg (1984-1992).

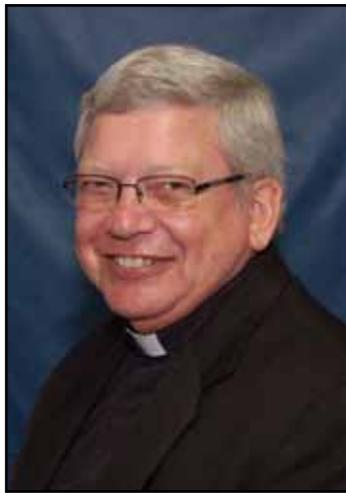
In 1992, Sister Mildred retired to the Motherhouse and volunteered in the Development Office, the Motherhouse kitchen, and Villa Saint Joseph. At age 90, she visited shut-ins in Saint Raphael Parish in Morningside while residing at Saint Raphael Convent for three years. In 2006, she returned to the Motherhouse.

Sister Mildred is survived by nieces and nephews and the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Baden.

The Funeral Mass for Sister Mildred Boeh C.S.J. was celebrated Monday, March 7 in the chapel of Saint Joseph Convent, Baden. Committal was in the Sisters' Cemetery on the Motherhouse grounds.

Donations in the name of Sister Mildred may be sent to the Sisters of Saint Joseph Memorial Fund, Saint Joseph Convent, 1020 State St., Baden, PA 15005.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.



Father Valentine J. Bradley

Father Valentine J. Bradley, 66, parochial vicar at Our Lady of Victory Parish, State College, died Friday, March 11, 2016, at Mount Nittany Medical Center, State College.

He was born November 11, 1949, in Hollidaysburg, the son of the late Albert and Rosalia (Plunket) Bradley. He was preceded in death by brothers, Pat and Mart; and sisters, Theresa Mullen and Connie Bradley. Survived by sisters and brothers, Jane Farnsworth, Ohio; Joan Mannion (Harold), Connecticut; Don (Dot), North Carolina; and Fred (Gerry), Cresson; brothers-in-law, Dick Mullen, Loretto; and Michael Bradley, Altoona and sister-in-law, Gerry Bradley, Tennessee. He is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

Father Bradley retired in 1991 from the U.S. Air Force after 20 years service. He then received a bachelor of arts degree from Cardinal Stritch University, Milwaukee WI in 2004, and a Master of Divinity degree from Sacred Heart School of Theology In Hales Corner WI in 2006.

Father Bradley was ordained a priest on June 3, 2006, at Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona. Father Bradley served as parochial vicar at Saint John the Evangelist, Bellefonte; Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, Spring Mills; Our Lady of the Mount, Rockview State Correction Facility, and served as pastor of Saint Francis Xavier Parish, Cresson.

He enjoyed baseball, football and college basketball.

A 3rd Degree member of the Knights of Columbus, Our Lady of Loretto Council and a 4th Degree member of the Prince Gallitzin Assembly, Northern Cambria, he was also a member of the Non - Commissioned Officers Association.

The Funeral Mass for Father Valentine J. Bradley was concelebrated by the priests of the Diocese on Tuesday, March 15 at his home parish, the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel in Loretto. Committal was in Saint Michael Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to Saint Michael School, Loretto, or to Bishop Carroll Catholic High School, Ebensburg.

In The Alleghenies

(Continued From Page 3.)

This event will feature presentations which will allow the participant to network and interact with others regarding issues relevant to their area of interest. A drumming circle session will be conducted with the children and adults. Door prizes will be awarded; attendees must be present to win. Note: Professional continuing education units will not be available for the second day of the conference.

In addition, two free children's sessions will be held on the second day.

A free Children's Workshop for children (age 8 and older) will be provided by the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art on the University campus during the conference (between 8:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 2). Pre-registration for the Children's Workshop is required.

A free Early Childhood Playtime Session for children (age 3 to 7) will also be provided onsite at the DiSepio Institute for Rural Health & Wellness during the conference (between 8:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 2). Pre-registration for the Early Childhood Playtime Session is required.



STUDENTS CONTRIBUTE: On Friday, February 26, Lock Haven Catholic School held their monthly "Change for Change" program where students were able to bring "change" in order to "change" their clothes (no uniform) to help "change" the world. For this particular "Change for Change" the school changed it up a little further by asking students to bring in items to help the Mechanicsburg location of Bountiful Blessings, serving need-based families in the area. The school collected \$340.05 as well as various household items which were donated to Bountiful Blessings. Pictured is Wendy Seyler, representative from the Mechanicsburg location of Bountiful Blessings with students.

Register today by visiting francis.edu/autism-family-day-16/.

Prayer

FIRE Rally

Altoona: There will be a FIRE Rally Saturday, April 16, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament.

There will be four exciting talks and prayer experiences to ignite the flame of the Holy Spirit in your life.

The acronym FIRE stands for Faith, Intercession, Repen-

tance, and Evangelism.

Major speakers include Third Order Regular Franciscan Father Jonathan St. Andre, Bob Sutton, Carmelite of the Word Sister Linda LaMagna, Monsignor Robert Mazur and a special presentation from Bishop Mark Bartchak. Music Ministry will be led by the Cathedral and the Saint Joan Charismatic Prayer Groups.

The cost is \$18.00 for adults; students are free. Pre-registration is required. Lunch is included. To register, please call (814) 941 - 3832; or e-mail tonycond@aol.com.

Pilgrimage Going Forward

The Catholic Register pilgrimage to Rome and other Italian cities, Monday, August 29 - Thursday, September 8, to celebrate the Holy Year Of Mercy, is continuing to book reservations.

The tour will include Pisa, Montecatini, Florence, Siena, Orvieto and Assisi before arriving in Rome September 3.

The total cost for the pilgrimage is \$4,299.00, including flights to and from Dulles, all taxes, hotels, the services of a professional tour guide, a luxury motor coach, breakfast each day, and most dinners. Transportation to and from Dulles will also be provided.

To book a place on **The Catholic Register** Holy Year Of Mercy pilgrimage call UNITOURS at 800 - 777 - 7432, and ask to speak to Marianna.

More details and booking information can also be found online at www.unitours.com/client/DioceseOfAltoonaItalyPilgrimage.html.

'A Defining Moment In The Life Of Our Diocesan Church'

Bishop Bartchak Responds To Grand Jury Report On Pedophilia In Diocese Of Altoona - Johnstown

By Msgr. Timothy P. Stein

Calling the Tuesday, March 1 release of a grand jury report on pedophilia in the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown by Pennsylvania Attorney General Kathleen Kane "a defining moment in the life of our Diocesan Church," Bishop Mark L. Bartchak has pledged that going forward the Diocese will do more to ensure the safety of children.

Bishop Mark was visiting a seminary in Baltimore when the Attorney General released the report, and returned to the Diocese as quickly as he could to address the situation. In an initial statement released by Secretary for Communications Tony DeGol on March 1, Bishop Mark stated "This is a painful and difficult time in our Diocesan Church. I deeply regret any harm that has come to children, and I urge the faithful to join me in praying for all victims of abuse."

Press Conference

Two days later, on Thursday, March 3, the Bishop made a fuller statement expressing regret for past errors and laying out a plan for the future, in a

press conference at the Diocesan Administration Center in Hollidaysburg.

A somber Bishop Mark began the press conference by saying "As Bishop of the Diocese, I extend my most heartfelt and sincere apology. I apologize to the victims, to their families, to the faithful people of our Diocese, to the good priests of our Diocese, and to the public."

Bishop Mark pledged to take seriously the recommendations on how the Diocese should respond to allegations of abuse, made in the almost - 150 page grand jury report and said "I appreciate the grand jury's recognition of the progress we have made.

"I have been Bishop for five years," he continued. "During this time, we have re - examined allegations, removed clergy from ministry, reported allegations to civil authorities, and strengthened our training program. I am committed to doing even more to protect children."

The Bishop explained how incidents of sexual abuse of minors have moved him personally, noting "I have met with victim - survivors. Their words and their pain have deeply affected me. I pledge to them and to all families to do all that I can to ensure children are safe."



Pledge Of Transparency

Bishop Mark again expressed his appreciation of the grand jury's work, noting "Someone recently shared the expression 'when you know more, you can do more.' With the grand jury report, we know more and we will do more. Let me start with a significant commitment to transparency, past and future."

The Bishop then went on to say "I will publish a list of all priests who have been the subject of credible allegations, along with each priest's current status. The list will be posted on our website."

Turning to steps to be taken going forward, Bishop Mark said the Diocese will continue to report to law enforcement, in writing, all allegations it receives of any sexual misconduct involving a minor by any

clergy or religious - - living or deceased - - regardless of when the conduct occurred, whether or not the victim is now a minor, and whether or not the victim or another person already has made the report.

Bishop Mark further pledged to "undertake a full review of our diocesan policies and procedures regarding child protection and will make all changes that should be made. The review will be comprehensive and will include our training and background check programs, the diocesan allegation review board, and communication on reporting requirements."

Bishop Mark urged persons with information about suspected abuse to call the Attorney General's hotline at 888 - 538 - 8541, and for additional support to contact Jean Johnstone, the Diocese's victim assistance coordinator at (814) 944 - 9388.

The Bishop concluded his prepared remarks asking "that we turn to the Lord for comfort and healing from these wounds as we pray for those who have been harmed, for all who have been affected, and for the many priests in our Diocese who have been faithful to their vocation and to the people they serve."

After sharing his statement, Bishop Mark took questions from the media, including

a question about why it seemed to take a long time for him to respond to allegations of abuse.

Bishop Mark pointed out that as a new Bishop his first task on coming here in 2011 was to learn about the Diocese and its people. "I devoted my attention to getting to know the Diocese," he said "but I responded as soon as I could when I was informed of allegations of abuse. I responded as cases were brought to my attention."

Moving Forward

The Bishop spoke of his "deep sadness and shame" as he read the grand jury report, but said that instead of focusing on personal regrets for mistakes made in the past, "I am pledging myself to do what I can to move us forward."

Bishop Mark also addressed two contentious issues at the press conference: the status of Bishop - Emeritus Joseph V. Adamec, and why the Diocese maintained a "Secret Archives."

(Continued On Page 12.)

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The Catholic Register

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