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Altoona - Johnstown Pilgrims Celebrate Canonization Of Saint Teresa Of Kolkata

Monsignor Timothy P. Stein, editor of *The Catholic Register*, led a group of 15 pilgrims from the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown on an August 29 - September 8 pilgrimage to Italy, during which the local group participated in the Sunday, September 4 Canonization of Saint Teresa of Kolkata.

The pilgrims left the Diocesan Administration Center on Monday, August 29 and flew to Italy from Dulles International Airport in Virginia, joining ten pilgrims from the Archdiocese of Washington DC and nine from EL Paso TX, arriving in Florence, Italy, on Tuesday, August 30. They visited the city of Pisa that afternoon, before spending two nights in the mountain city of Montecatini. On Wednesday, August 31, Monsignor Stein was principal celebrant of Mass in the Cathedral in Florence. Thursday, September 1 was spent touring Siena, city of Saint Catherine, and Orvieto, before arriving in Assisi, home of Saint Francis and Saint Clare.

Arriving in Rome on Saturday, September 3, the pilgrims began their tour of the Eternal City at the Basilica of Saint Mary Major. They spent five nights in Rome, visiting the Holy Door at each of the four major Papal Basilicas, and celebrating the Eucharist in the Catacombs of San Callisto, where Monsignor Stein was again principal celebrant.

The highlight of the Jubilee Year of Mercy pilgrimage was their attendance at the Canonization of Mother Teresa by Pope Francis in Saint Peter's Square, and seeing the Holy Father again on Wednesday, September 7 during his weekly general audience.

The photo at right, by Monsignor Stein, shows the crowds of faithful gathered in the Square for the Canonization Mass.

This edition of **The Catholic Register** was going to press as the pilgrims returned to Pennsylvania. Look for full coverage of the **Register's** first ever pilgrimage in the October 3 issue of **The Catholic Register**.



Community

CDA Benefit

Altoona: Altoona Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Prince Gallitzin #2625, is holding a benefit Sunday, October 2.

By going to Hoss's in Altoona for dinner 11:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m., that day, the Court will be given credit for your meal purchase. Their Hoss's Group number is #36479. You must clip this article and give it to your server when you pay your bill.

This offer is valid only at the Hoss's at 621 Valley View

Boulevard. Questions may be directed to Mary Stoy at (814) 946 - 3449.

Knights Will Gather

Loretto: Knights of Columbus from every council in the Diocese, along with their family and friends, are invited to a celebration honoring the organization's valuable service in Altoona - Johnstown on Sunday, October 9.

The Rosary will be prayed at 2:00 p.m. at the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel. Following the Rosary, Bishop Mark L. Bartchak will celebrate Mass. A dinner will be held after the Liturgy at Our Lady of Loretto Community Hall, next to the Basilica.

The theme for this year's gathering will be "Diocesan Holy Family Observance."

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FRIARS GATHER, CELEBRATE: (Pictured above) The Franciscan Friars of the Third Order Regular, Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus held a gathering from July 11 to 15 at Saint Francis University in Loretto. (Pictured below) are Friars that celebrated Jubilee years. The celebration took place in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception on campus. Jubilarians pictured (left to right) are: First row: Fathers Jordan Hite, Joseph Yelenc, Father Richard Davis (Minister Provincial) Robert Hilz. Second row: Fathers Roderick Soha, Immaculate Conception Province; John Mark Klaus, Brother John Patrick Calvey. Third row: Fathers David Pivonka, and Joseph Lehman. Fourth row--Fathers Peter Lyons, Cletus Watson, Daniel Sinisi, and Joseph Markalonis.



PROFESS SOLEMN VOWS: Three Third Order Regular Franciscan Friars of the Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus made their solemn vows at a ceremony held Friday, July 15, at the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception on the campus of Saint Francis University, Loretto. Pictured are (left to right) Brother Nathan Mecker, Brother James Puglis, Father Richard Davis (Minister Provincial) and Brother Jason Wooleyhan.

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In The Alleghenies

(Continued From Page 2.)

As Bishop Mark explained in a letter to his brother Knights, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson recently announced a new initia-

tive that includes a call for a diocesan Holy Family observance during the month of October. The Knights' annual gathering is a great time for that observance, the Bishop noted.

"I look forward to the opportunity to be with you for this Diocesan-wide Knights of Columbus event," wrote Bishop Mark. "As Pope Francis has said, 'the Catholic Church is a

family of families.' The Knights of Columbus are a special part of that family of families."

The State Deputy of the Knights of Columbus will be in attendance.

The cost of the dinner is \$15.00 for adults and \$7.50 for children seven years old and

younger. Reservations are required by Friday, September 30. Knights are asked to send their reservation form to William Stasko, CPA, 8 Entrance Drive, Johnstown, PA 15905.

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Photo By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein

CHRIST IN MAJESTY: The mosaic of "Christ In Majesty" dominates the apse of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington DC. The Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown will be making a Year of Mercy Pilgrimage to the Basilica on Saturday, November 12.

Diocese Plans Pilgrimage To National Shrine Basilica

In celebration of the Year of Mercy, plans are underway for a Diocesan pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC, on Saturday, November 12.

The faithful of Altoona-Johnstown are invited to join Bishop Mark L. Bartchak on this spiritual journey. The highlight of the day will be Mass at the Basilica with the Bishop as celebrant and homilist. This pilgrimage also offers the opportunity for a Plenary Indulgence during this Year of Mercy. The program for the day will contain the appropriate prayers for this Indulgence.

The tentative schedule is as follows:

11:00 a.m. – Arrival
 Noon – Midday Prayer
 12:45 p.m. – Lunch
 1:30 p.m. – Reconciliation Opportunity
 3:00 p.m. – Mass
 4:30 p.m. – Departure

Each parish faith community is encouraged to charter its own bus for the trip and register parishioners. Parishes that already collaborate with other parishes may wish to partner for this endeavor.

Dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, under her title of

the Immaculate Conception, the Basilica is considered to be the preeminent Marian shrine in the United States. The magnificent structure houses more than 70 chapels and oratories that celebrate individuals and cultures that are part of the Catholic tradition.

Over the years, the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown has sponsored numerous pilgrimages to the Basilica. The last journey was in September, 2013, in celebration of the Year of Faith. The upcoming pilgrimage is one of many Diocesan - sponsored observances during this Jubilee of Mercy, which concludes on Sunday, November 20.

Portage Parish Celebrates



ASSIST AT HISTORIC MASS: Young members of Holy Family Parish, Portage, assisted Bishop Mark L. Bartchak at the parish's Dedication Mass. Pictured are (left to right) First row: Brayden Young, Stephanie Lee, Britton Myher. Second row: Nicholas Lee, Makenna Young, Jonathan Lee. Third row: Ian Koenig, Bishop Mark L. Bartchak, and Jacob Lee.

Bishop Mark L. Bartchak consecrated a new Altar, and rededicated the church building, at Holy Family Parish in Portage. The Bishop celebrated the Votive Dedication Mass with Third Order Regular Franciscan Fathers Andrew Draper, pastor; and Joseph Janiszski, former parochial vicar.

Fathers Walter Moll, Ronald Osinski, Paul Robine, Franciscan Father Cletus Watson, Monsignor John Sasway celebrated, and Deacon James Janosik assisted. The Knights of Columbus and the Ushers Club also participated in the celebration. As a special gift for the day, The Holy Family etching by Giovanni Balestra was displayed as part of the Knights of Columbus tour.

Holy Family Parish was formally clustered in August of 2015. It is comprised of the former Saint Joseph and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parishes.

Renovations to the former Saint Joseph Church building began in 2015 and continued through March of this year. Great care was taken to incorporate religious items from all of the parish buildings.

Parishioners voted overwhelmingly to adopt the name of Holy Family Church.

The selection of the name coincided with the release of *Amoris Laetitia*, The Joy of Loving, an Apostolic Exhortation. Pope Francis has called the Church to live and love as a family.

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Point Of View

Papal Commission Steps Up Work To Educate Church About Abuse

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Members of the pope's commission for child protection, including an abuse survivor, have been speaking with new bishops and major Vatican offices as part of a mandate to develop and educate the church about best practices.

Pope Francis also approved the establishment of a day of prayer for survivors of abuse, but decided it will be up to each nation's bishops' conference to decide when the memorial should be held, according to a press release Sept. 12 from the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors.

Members of the pontifical commission have spoken recently with officials at the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, as well as at the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy, which trains priests for service in the Vatican's diplomatic corps.

Pontifical commission members, who were in Rome in early September, were also set to address the Congregation for Clergy and to speak at seminars for recently appointed bishops; the training seminars are organized

by the Congregation for Bishops and the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

Marie Collins, a commission member and survivor of clerical abuse, was scheduled to be one of a number of commission members to address the Sept. 11-18 session of what is commonly referred to as "new bishops school."

Jesuit Father Hans Zollner, a psychologist and commission member, and Archbishop Charles J. Scicluna of Malta, a longtime abuse investigator, already delivered their talks on abuse by clergy and the importance of protecting minors and vulnerable adults during the early September seminar for bishops newly elected to dioceses in mission lands.

The commission has completed a template meant to help all church entities -- from bishops' conferences to Catholic associations -- in formulating guidelines in preventing and responding appropriately to abuse.

Pope Francis was set to receive the template "shortly," according to the commission press release.

At the request of a clerical abuse survivor from Canada, the commission developed a proposal for a universal Day of

Prayer because "prayer is one part of the healing process for survivors and the community of believers" and public gatherings for prayer also help raise awareness about the issue, it said.

Pope Francis received the proposal and has asked "that national bishops' conferences choose an appropriate day on which to pray for the survivors and victims of sexual abuse as part of a Universal Day of Prayer initiative," it said.

The reason a universal date was not set is because a number of bishops' conference around the world already have specific days set aside for penance and prayer for victims and their healing, Father Zollner told Catholic News Service.

For example, the church in Australia adopted the nation's own Day for Child Protection -- Sept. 11 -- to mark its Day of Prayer.

The Southern African Bishops' Conferences will dedicate Dec. 2-4 -- days which fall during Advent this year -- to penance, fasting and prayer, the press release said.

The commission said it has resources like prayers for Mass, liturgical texts and other materials available on request as part of the Day of Prayer initiative.



Another Perspective

By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein
Finding Mercy In Rome

I am eagerly looking forward to sharing with you all of the details of our **Catholic Register** pilgrimage to Italy for the canonization of Saint Teresa of Kolkata. Yet, in this case, the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. Deadline is fast approaching, but my jets are lagging! Hence, I will wait to our October 3 issue to report in detail about all that we saw and experienced; that delay will give me the chance, too, to share some photos and comments from my fellow pilgrims.

In the meantime, let me share some thoughts with you about what it was like to be in Rome for this wonderful event, in this Jubilee Year of Mercy.

This was my eighth trip to Rome. I first visited there in 1985. Never before have I witnessed the level of security that I saw on this trip. We live in an age when not everyone has heard or accepted the message of mercy, so stringent security is a necessity. Italian soldiers and Roman policemen were everywhere in the Eternal City, manning security posts at each of the four Major Papal Basilicas, controlling access to Saint Peter's Square, and escorting pilgrims up and down the broad avenue leading to the Vatican. While such security was reassuring, it was saddening, too; saddening to know that our world is so unstable and our faith so under attack.

But even in the midst of all of that, there were signs of hope. Shoulder to shoulder with the soldiers and the police officers were legions of volunteers, clad in bright yellow vests with the Year of Mercy logo. They were invariably helpful, good natured and friendly. Soldiers and policemen don't smile when on duty; volunteers do, and those smiles were appreciated!

And never have I seen as many people in Rome as I saw on this trip! The combination of a Jubilee Year, the canonization of a beloved Saint and a charismatic, down-to-earth Pope, brought people by the hundreds of thousands to the streets and squares of Rome. At the canonization Mass, in particular, I was reminded of a definition of the Church -- a simple definition -- I learned in seminary: "The Church -- Here comes everybody!"

It sure felt that way in Saint Peter's Square on that cloudless Sunday morning. I found a seat at the base of one of the columns lining the Piazza, a rather cramped seat, but a seat nonetheless, when seats were at a premium. I was surrounded by a group of ladies from India, who "adopted" me and looked out for my welfare and well-being. When I tried to stretch my legs, much to the chagrin of the elderly couple seated next to me who were afraid I was going to kick them, my ladies began to call out "That's our Padre. He's with us. He needs to stretch his legs. He's very tall. Let him be." Blessed are the merciful! Thank you ladies!

Our local group of 16 was joined with two smaller groups; ten pilgrims from Washington DC and eight from El Paso TX. I have been on pilgrimages before where groups were joined and found they mixed about as well as oil and water. Not so as these three groups came together. Everyone was looking out for everybody else. Friendships were quickly formed, and there was always a helping hand extended to those who were least able to keep up or keep moving. I am so grateful for the kindnesses I experienced and witnessed during those days. Mercy was in abundant evidence as the 34 of us, people so very diverse, from so many different backgrounds, came together to celebrate our common faith. We are urged in this Year of Mercy to be as merciful as the Father is merciful. I only hope I can be as merciful as my fellow pilgrims were merciful! That would be accomplishing quite a lot!



Advice For Significant Others Of Sexual Abuse And Rape Survivors

By Meghan Mausteller of Clinton County Women's Center

You likely know someone that is a survivor of sexual assault or rape—a family member, a relative, a friend or a co-worker. Nearly 20 percent will experience sexual assault before their 18th birthday and many will also experience sexual victimization as adult.

Significant others are key in supporting survivors of all ages.

While this may be a difficult role to take on, survivors often will benefit from a strong support system in order to cope with their past trauma. Significant others include family members, friends, and partners. There are several steps significant others can take to ensure that they are helping their loved one.

Listen to and trust their story: For many survivors, sharing their story is an important part of the healing process. While this seems like a simple task, it is often the most emotionally draining and challenging part of providing support. Many secondary survivors (or loved ones of sexual assault and rape survivors) seek counseling or support groups to help them cope with their loved one's story. However, in the moment, it is important to focus on the survivor.

When listening to their story, it is also important to believe what the survivor

is saying and withhold judgment. Any questions or statements about the survivor's choices that imply victim blaming can stop the survivor from further sharing their story. Survivors likely already feel guilt about the situation; significant others need to make sure that they do not add any unnecessary guilt.

Avoid trying to solve their problems: When significant others first hear about what happened to their loved one, they often try to fix the situation. Not only do significant others not have all of the answers, but the decisions they might make themselves may not be the same ones their loved one would choose. Survivors should not be coerced into seeking counseling or involving law enforcement unless they are prepared to take those steps.

By forcing their loved one to make decisions they feel uncomfortable with, significant others are taking control of the situation away from the survivor. After experiencing rape or sexual assault, which are acts of power and control, survivors often feel a loss of control over their lives. Significant others need to reinforce the fact that their loved one does have control of their life and are capable of making their own decisions.

Become informed: It is helpful for significant others to learn about sexual assault and rape. By attempting to grasp what happened to their loved one, friends and family can begin to understand the role they play in the healing process. However, they need to remember that all of the research in the world does not make them more knowledgeable of the situation than the survivor. Survivors are experts on their own situations.

It is also important to remember that there is no timeline for healing. Whether the event occurred 20 years ago or 20 minutes ago, each survivor is affected in a unique way; however, by listening with an open mind, placing control in the hands of the survivor, and educating themselves on rape and sexual assault, significant others can be effective support systems and help their loved one move beyond their past.

Support For Survivors

Support for survivors of sexual abuse is available throughout the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. Survivors are encouraged to seek help through any of the following agencies.

Bedford County

Your Safe Haven Inc.

<http://www.yoursafehaven.org/>
(800) 555-5671

We are a comprehensive crime victims center and respond to victims of all crime whether it be through our office, the court system, the hospital, or police agency.

Blair County

Family Services Inc.

<https://www.familyservicesinc.net/>
(814) 944-3585

Crisis intervention and counseling, therapeutic counseling, legal and medical advocacy and accompaniment, information and referrals, safety planning, transportation, other supportive services.

Cambria/Somerset Counties

Victim Services Inc.

<http://victimservicesinc.org/>
(814)288-4961 and (800) 755-1983

24-Hour Hotline (1-800-755-1983) and Crisis Intervention; Counseling (Bachelors level, highly trained and experienced staff); Therapy (Master's level/licensed, highly trained and experienced staff, EMDR); Support Groups for Survivors of Sexual Abuse, Families of Homicide Victims, and others as requested/needed in the community; "Safe and Unsafe Touches" Individual Education Program for Children; Accompaniment to Medical, Police, and Justice System Proceedings; Court Preparation / Orientation to the Criminal Justice System; Assistance with Victims Compensation Claims; Victim Notification; Referrals to Other Resources; Prevention Education

Programs for schools/colleges; Professional Trainings on trauma, sexual abuse, victim-centered response, etc. (can be developed to meet your needs); Certified Mandated Reporter training (2 certified trainers on staff).

Centre County

Centre County Women's Resource Center, Inc.

<http://ccwrc.org/>
(814) 234-5050

Crisis counseling, 24 hour hotline, legal & medical advocacy, information and referral, civil legal representation, emergency shelter, transitional housing, primary prevention programs, safe custody exchange/supervised visitation, support groups.

Clinton County

Clinton County Women's Center

<http://www.ccwcsafe.org/>
(570) 748-9509

24 hour hotline service; Sexual Assault Protection Orders; advocacy and options counseling, support groups; medical advocacy; Prevention and outreach education; Safe shelter for victims of domestic violence, legal advocacy; PFA assistance; screening for TBI; referrals for community services; and children's advocacy.

Franklin/Fulton Counties

Women In Need/Victim Services

<http://www.winservices.org/home.aspx>
(717) 264-4444

Direct services for dv/sa victims-ind. counseling, group counseling, legal advocacy including accompaniment, medical advocacy, hotline, prevention education, shelter, VCAP assistance, Sexual assault response team.

Huntingdon/Mifflin/Juniata Counties

The Abuse Network

<http://www.abusenetwork.org/>
(717) 242-2444

Trauma-informed Empowerment Counseling, Support Groups, 24-Hour Hotline Counseling, Legal Advocacy and Accompaniment, Medical Advocacy and Accompaniment, Prevention and Awareness Educational Programs, Services are Free and Confidential.

Reporting Child Abuse

Bishop Mark L. Barchak and the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown are firmly committed to protecting children and young people. If you have any information concerning suspected sexual or other abuse of minors, you are urged to report it immediately to:

- PA Child Line 1 - 800- 932 - 0313 (intake is available 24/7)
- Pennsylvania Attorney General Hotline (888) 538 - 8541
- Pennsylvania State Police Headquarters (717) 783 - 5599 or your local Pennsylvania State Police Station
- Your local police department

If there is an indication of imminent danger, you should call 911 immediately.

The Diocese reports all information regarding sexual abuse of minors to law enforcement. You are urged to do the same. Anyone may and should report suspected child sexual abuse.

To report to the Diocese any suspected abuse of a minor, please call Jean Johnstone at (814) 944 - 9388.

In The Alleghenies



AWARDED \$500 GRANT: Saint Benedict School in Carrolltown received a grant from the Independent Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. The school put the money to good use by purchasing a Media Audience Response System. The system is generally known as a clicker system. Teachers use the clickers to administer quizzes and tests that are automatically graded. Students may receive instant feedback to their answers. The clicker also records class participation as students electronically answer teachers' oral questions. Teacher Mary Solnosky is pictured during a Science lesson.

High Schools

(Continued From Page 3.)

Golf Outing

Ebensburg: Bishop Carroll Catholic High School will

host its 25th Annual Golf Outing on Saturday, September 24 at the Ebensburg Country Club (408 Manor Drive). Registration and refreshments begin at 12:30 p.m., followed by a shotgun start

at 1:30 p.m. Proceeds from the event support resources for students and school improvements.

As usual, the golf outing will follow a scramble format. Refreshments and snacks will be available during play, and the dinner will be served following play.

"The Husky Open is a wonderful opportunity to spend an afternoon with members of the Bishop Carroll Family and longtime financial supporters of the school," said Sam Piccioni, Bishop alumnus and co-chairperson of the Husky Open for the past five years, along with Gary Bradley.

"Over the last few years, the golf outing has become a well-attended event where fellow classmates can reunite with their high school friends," he added.

Piccioni said the funds raised through the event are made possible by the efforts of many longtime supporters and that they provide necessary resources for the many financial needs of operating the school.

"We're excited to celebrate this milestone 25th year for the Husky Open," said Jerry Stephens, CEO of Bishop Carroll. "It's a great opportunity for alumni and friends of the school to reconnect and stay informed about the school. The event is also a vital part of our fundraising efforts. We've been blessed to receive long-standing support from our participants and are hopeful more golfers and sponsors can join us this year."

Bishop Carroll friends and family, as well as community members and local businesses, are invited to participate, either by golfing (\$100), sponsoring the event (various levels), or attending the dinner (\$50).

The golfer registration fee includes 18 - holes of golf, re-

freshments and dinner, and the opportunity to win prizes.

Sponsorship opportunities range from \$100 to \$2,500 and include benefits such as packages for players, banners, and ads.

More information and registration forms can be found at www.bishopcarroll.com.

Higher Education

Fundraiser

Loretto: The Saint Francis University School of Business and Enactus will host a "Giving For Guinea" from 3 p.m. - 9 p.m. on September 21 in the John F. Kennedy Student Center on campus.

This event is part of Saint Francis University's Multicultural Week and will feature basket raffles, 50/50's, musical and cultural performances, and a keynote address from World Bank Economist Michael O'Sullivan. All proceeds will be donated to support a sewing school for girls in Guinea, Africa. A free rock concert by Jim Donovan and the Sun King Warriors will take place immediately after the event.

This event is free and open to the public, though donations are strongly encouraged.

"Giving for Guinea" is Saint Francis University's first step in assisting the people of Guinea in economic empowerment. By providing dollars to expand an existing sewing school, Saint Francis is helping young girls learn a trade as well as master basic academic skills.

(Continued On Page 15.)

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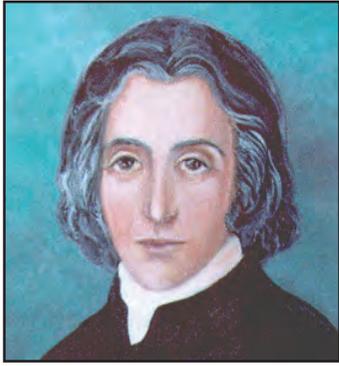
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Cooking Traditions is a 130-page cookbook featuring Christmas and Easter recipes according to the Rusyn-Slavonic traditions in our Byzantine Rite. This book also showcases many great recipes for Eastern European foods and contemporary American favorites: halushki, potato dumpling halushki, stuffed cabbage, soups, casseroles, baked goods and meat dishes. **Cooking Traditions** is available from St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church, McKeesport, PA for \$12 at the church or \$15 per mail order. Please remit check or money order to: **St. Nicholas Church, 408 6th St., McKeesport, PA 15132.**

For more information call 412-664-9131, 9:00-4:00 M-F.



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Pope Says Saint Teresa Will Always Be 'Mother'

By Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- With a large tapestry bearing the portrait of the woman known as the "Saint of the Gutters" suspended above him, Pope Francis proclaimed the sainthood of Mother Teresa of Kolkata, hail-

ing her courage and love for the poor.

Despite the formality of the occasion though, "her sanctity is so close to us, so tender and fruitful, that spontaneously we will continue to call her 'Mother Teresa,'" Pope Francis said to applause at the canonization Mass Sept. 4.

"Mother Teresa, in all aspects of her life, was a gener-

ous dispenser of divine mercy, making herself available for everyone through her welcome and defense of human life, those unborn and those abandoned and discarded," the pope said in his homily during the Mass in St. Peter's Square.

An estimated 120,000 people packed the square, many holding umbrellas or waving fans to keep cool under the sweltering heat of the Roman sun. However, upon hearing Pope Francis "declare and define Blessed Teresa of Kolkata to be a saint," the crowds could not contain their joy, breaking out in cheers and thunderous applause before he finished speaking.

The moment was especially sweet for more than 300 Albanians who live in Switzerland, but came to Rome for the canonization. "We are very proud," said Violet Barisha, a member of the Albanian Catholic Mission in St. Gallen.

Daughter of Divine Charity Sister Valdete, a Kosovar and one of the Albanian group's chaplains, said, "We are so happy and honored. We are a small people, but have had so many martyrs."

Born in 1910 to an ethnic Albanian family in Skopje, in what is now part of Macedonia, Mother Teresa went to India in 1929 as a Sister of Loreto and became an Indian citizen in 1947. She founded the Missionaries of Charity in 1950.

Mother Teresa, Sister Valdete said, is a shining example of how "Albanian women are strong and our people are hard-working."

In his homily, Pope Francis said God's will is explained in the words of the prophets: "I want mercy, not sacrifice."

"God is pleased by every act of mercy because in the brother

or sister that we assist, we recognize the face of God which no one can see," he said. "Each time we bend down to the needs of our brothers and sisters, we give Jesus something to eat and drink; we clothe, we help and we visit the Son of God."

Like Mother Teresa, he said, Christians are called not simply to perform acts of charity, but to live charity as a vocation and "to grow each day in love."

"Wherever someone is reaching out, asking for a helping hand in order to get up, this is where our presence -- and the presence of the church which sustains and offers hope -- must be," the pope said.

Mother Teresa, he said, lived out this vocation to charity through her commitment to defending the unborn and bowing down "before those who were spent, left to die on the side of the road."

She also "made her voice heard before the powers of this world so that they might recognize their guilt for the crime of poverty they created," Pope Francis said. "For Mother Teresa, mercy was the 'salt' which gave flavor to her work, it was the 'light' which shone in the darkness of the many who no longer had tears to shed for their poverty and suffering."

For all Christians, especially volunteers engaged in works of mercy, the life of the saintly nun remains an example and witness to God's closeness to the poorest of the poor, he said.

"Today, I pass on this emblematic figure of holiness!" Pope Francis said. "May this tireless worker of mercy help us to increasingly understand that our only criterion for action is gratuitous love, free from every ideology and all obligations, offered freely to everyone without distinction of language, culture, race or religion."

Mother Teresa's simplicity did not keep the powerful away from the Mass, though. Some 20 nations sent official delegations to the Vatican for the canonization. Queen Sofia of Spain led a delegation. The president and prime minister of Albania attended, as did the presidents of Macedonia and Kosovo and the foreign minister of India.

President Barack Obama sent a delegation led by Lisa Monaco, his assistant for homeland security and counterterrorism. The U.S. delegation also included Ken Hackett, ambassador to the Holy See; Carolyn Woo, president and CEO of Catholic Relief Services; and Dominican Sister Donna Markham, president and CEO of Catholic Charities USA.

The first reading at the Mass was read by Jim Towey, who served as Mother Teresa's legal counsel in the United States and Canada from 1985 to 1997, and as director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, 2002-2006.

After the Mass, 250 Missionaries of Charity Sisters and 50 Missionaries of Charity brothers served pizza to about 1,500 poor people who had come to the Mass from shelters, dormitories and soup kitchens the order runs throughout Italy.

Pope Francis funded the lunch.

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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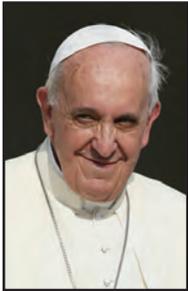


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Word of Life



The Pope Teaches

By Pope Francis

God Sent His Son To Show Mercy To Sinners

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- God did not send his son into the world to cast off the wicked but to offer them a path to conversion through mercy and love, Pope Francis said.

Those who object to Jesus' mercy toward sinners often create an "image of God that impedes them from enjoying his real presence," the pope said Sept. 7 at his weekly general audience.

"Some carve out a 'do-it-yourself' faith that reduces God to the limited space of their own desires and their own convictions," the pope said. "Others reduce God to a false idol; using his holy name to justify their own interests or even to incite hatred and violence."

An estimated 25,000 people attended the audience in St. Peter's Square; many visitors were in Rome for the Sept. 4 canonization of St. Teresa of Kolkata.

Before delivering his final blessing, the pope called on young people to follow her example and be "artisans of mercy." He asked those who are ill "to feel her compassionate closeness, especially in the hour of the cross."

In his main talk, the pope reflected on the Gospel story in which John the Baptist, while imprisoned, sends his disciples to ask Jesus if he is "the one who is to come, or should we look for another?"

Jesus answered, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them; and blessed is the one who takes no offense at me."

John the Baptist, who often preached the coming of the Messiah as a judge who would come to "reward the good and punish the bad," now suffers doubt in the darkness of his cell because he does "not understand this style," the pope said.

However, he said, Jesus' response is a clear message to his followers and to the church.

"God did not send his son into the world to punish sinners nor to annihilate the wicked. They are instead called to conversion so that, by seeing the signs of divine goodness, they may find their way back," Pope Francis said.

Jesus' gesture of showing mercy to sinners is an act that often provokes doubt and even scandal to those who believe in a God that comes to rain down justice on the wicked, he said.

Nevertheless, "if the obstacle to believing is above all his acts of mercy, this means that you have a false image of the Messiah. Blessed are those who, in front of Jesus' gestures and words, give praise to God who is in heaven," the pope said.

Jesus' warning to those who are scandalized by God's mercy serve as a warning for men and women today who create a false image of God, often perceiving him as a "psychological refuge" that offers them reassurance during difficult moments or reducing Jesus to just one of many teachers of ethics throughout history, he explained.

Nevertheless, these erroneous perceptions "stifle faith into a purely personal relationship with Jesus, canceling out his missionary impulse that is capable of transforming the world and history."

Christians, he said, believe in the "God of Jesus Christ" who wants us "to grow in the living experience of his mystery of love."

"Let us commit ourselves to not put any obstacles to the Father's merciful acts," Pope Francis said. "Instead, let us ask for the gift of great faith to become signs and instruments of mercy."



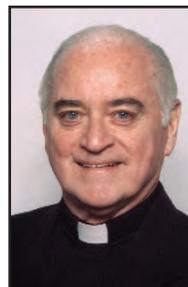
ONE MORE TIME: Pilgrims from Saint Francis of Assisi Parish in Johnstown were delighted to be greeted by Bishop Mark L. Bartchak when they arrived at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington DC on Saturday, September 14, 2013. The Diocese was taking part in a Year of Faith pilgrimage to the National Shrine. Bishop Mark will lead local pilgrims there, again, on Saturday, November 12, in celebration of the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

God loves you and gives you spiritual gifts. The Letter of James states, "Every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father" (Jas 1:17).

God gives you the Holy Spirit. Jesus tells his disciples that the Father "will give you another Advocate to be with you always" (Jn 14:16). His presence includes the gifts of the Spirit: wisdom, knowledge, faith, all of which inspire humility and fear of the Lord. This "fear" is actually not fear, but a respectful awe for God's majesty. Other gifts include: mighty deeds, healing, prophecy, discerning of spirits and speaking in tongues.

What exactly are the gifts of the Holy Spirit that were given to you? We can all learn a great deal from St. Cyril of Jerusalem, who compares the gifts of the Holy Spirit to rain, which "comes down in the same form, yet its effects are manifold -- thus it takes one form in the palm tree and another in the vine."

Rain, St. Cyril continues, "adapts itself to the nature of the things that receive it and it becomes what is appropriate to each." So it is with the Holy Spirit, who is "of one nature and indivisible, but he apportions his



Spirituality For Today

By Father John Catoir

What Does God Do For You?

grace as he wills to each one."

For instance, if you pray for more self-control, the very fact that you have such a desire opens your soul wider to receive an increase in willpower. Expand your spiritual desires and trust God's love -- this is the formula for achieving sainthood.

St. Cyril adds that the Holy Spirit "uses the tongue of one man for wisdom, he illumines the soul of another by prophecy, to another he imparts the power of driving out devils, to another the gifts of interpreting the sa-

God loves you and gives you spiritual gifts. The Letter of James states, "Every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father" (Jas 1:17).

cred Scriptures ... he prepares another man for martyrdom."

In each person, the Holy Spirit reveals his presence in a particular way to help both the individual and the whole church at the same time. The Holy Spirit awakens your natural gifts, enabling you to serve the common good more effectively.

Your good example helps everyone around you. Self-control and the spirit of mortification may be stronger in others than in you at this time, but this disparity does not mean that the Spirit is absent.

We grow slowly in wisdom, age and grace, just as Jesus did. We are saints-in-training; though not quite there yet, we are preparing ourselves day by day.

Trust that God will strengthen you. Expect the best.



Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle Dress Code For Lay Ministers At Mass

Q. Too often I have seen various ministers at the Mass wearing shorts. I find this to be the utmost irreverence. Would these same people wear shorts to dine with the president of the United States? Yet they wear shorts not only to dine with Our Lord, but to serve him as well.

I know that God probably doesn't care, but shouldn't we care how we present ourselves before him and act as his representatives? Shouldn't we dress our best for Mass -- which, after all, is the most important event we attend each week? (Upstate New York)

A. There is nothing in the church's universal Code of Canon Law as to how ministers of the Eucharist should be dressed -- which is logical, when one considers that the Catholic Church embraces the entire world and that what is considered appropriate apparel varies widely around the globe. (I have been present at papal Masses in the interior of Africa that includ-

ed liturgical dance by women in grass skirts -- all done reverently and enhancing the sense of worship.)

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, however, does speak to the issue when it observes that for all who are present at Mass, "bodily demeanor (gestures, clothing) ought to convey the respect, solemnity and joy of this moment when Christ becomes our guest" (No. 1387).

Because taste in dress does differ (even within our own nation), it might seem wise for dioceses or parishes to draft their own guidelines -- and many, in fact, have done so. Some are rather general, noting that ministers should dress in a way that is respectful, modest and presentable -- often adding that clothing that is too casual or flamboyant can distract worshippers from the Eucharist.

Others are quite specific; one parish in the U.S. Midwest directs that liturgical ministers should wear "no jeans, sweat-pants or yoga pants; no shirts ex-

posing the navel; no tight-fitting clothes; no shorts; no flip-flops." For men, this means "no T-shirts (collared shirts only); no sleeveless shirts." For women, "no dress or skirt with a hem any higher than at or just above the knee; no spaghetti strap tops or tank tops or tube tops; no style of dress exposing bare shoulders or bare back; no style of dress exposing cleavage."

Q. My wife passed away three years ago, and I miss her very much. We were married for 63 years. What are the church's thoughts on the hereafter? Will we still be man and wife? (Milford, Iowa)

A. Your question is one frequently asked by those who are mourning deeply the death of a spouse. The response should bring you some comfort.

In one Gospel story (Mark 12:18-27), a question is posed to Jesus by the Sadducees, who did not believe in an afterlife; they wanted to know about a woman who had had seven spouses successively, and which man would be her husband in heaven. Jesus explained that "when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but they are like the angels in heaven" (Mk 12:25).

Some have interpreted these words -- erroneously -- to mean that there will be no continuing and special relationship in heaven between earthly spouses. Instead, what Christ simply meant was that the institution of marriage, as we have known it on earth, will be unnecessary in heaven.

Still, though, the church does believe that the relationships we have enjoyed on earth will be transformed and enhanced as they continue in heaven. A prayer frequently used at the end of funeral Masses has the priest saying, "Before we go our separate ways, let us take leave of our brother/sister. May our farewell express our affection for him/her; may it ease our sadness and strengthen our hope. One day we shall joyfully greet him/her again when the love of Christ, which conquers all things, destroys even death itself."



For The Journey

By Effie Caldarola What Does God Want Me To Do?

Should I or shouldn't I? What does God want me to do? How many times have you wished you had a direct line to God?

Lately, we've learned so much about the life of St. Teresa of Kolkata. The founder of the Missionaries of Charity was destined to be both a Nobel Peace Prize winner and a canonized saint.

But she didn't know that when she boarded a train from Kolkata to Darjeeling many years ago. As a Sister of Loreto, she taught in a girls' school. But on the train, she experienced her famous "call within a call," an interior vision and movement so profound that it changed her entire life.

She felt Christ asking her to work exclusively with the poorest of the poor. She was sure of that call. A whole world would watch the result.

Now, most of us are not destined to be saints on the caliber of Mother Teresa. But all of us want to do God's will. We pray for that all the time.

But how often do we feel certainty? So often, I muddle along feeling like a giant question mark.

But sometimes, I think we do experience certainty, without the voices or the visions, of course. Occasionally, we have a strong interior sense of rightness.

I made a list the other day of things in my life that seemed so absolutely right that I "had" to do them. It surprised me that I could think of several.

It's a good exercise and I encourage you to do it. It may surprise you how many times you heard and answered a call. And it's good to ask yourself, What sense of desire or openness prompted that strong consent?

When I was a young teacher, I sent for a pamphlet called "Invest Yourself." This was long before the internet with its ready access to information. My pamphlet was promoted by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, founder of the Special Olympics, and in it was listed, in very fine print, just about every volunteer opportunity in the U.S.

Halfway through the book, I arrived at something called the Jesuit Volunteer Corps. It hit me. Bingo. I felt compelled to apply and really never looked back, even when JVC asked me to go to a remote village in Alaska to teach.

It was a life-changing decision, but one that involved so little "should I or shouldn't I."

Much later, I wanted to take a writing course from a woman who was the first female bureau chief of The Associated Press. I just knew it was for me. But after I applied, word came back -- sorry, class is full.

I am not usually a pushy person, but I wrote a letter to the instructor telling her all of the reasons she needed to make an exception and let me into her class. I got in -- to that one and several more.

There were a few other "have to" moments on my list, some personal and some professional, like deciding to pursue a master's degree in pastoral ministry. What I realize is that these moments in my life drew on an openness, a need for something new and challenging. I was ready and willing to take a risk. I was ready for a call.

When having trouble wondering what God wants next, I'm going to think about my list and ask what qualities or conditions or needs prompted my eagerness. Then I'll ask God to help me be open to the next "have to" call. Surprise me, Lord, with another decision that feels right.



Saint Januarius
Died Circa 303
Feast - September 19

This Italian saint is famous for his relic, a phial of dark, solid blood that liquefies annually on three different feasts: the date commemorating his martyrdom, the date when the relic was transferred back to Naples, and the date marking a liquefaction that allegedly averted an eruption of nearby Mount Vesuvius. Januarius reportedly was killed during the persecution of Diocletian in 303. As bishop of Benevento, he was visiting some imprisoned deacons and laymen when he was arrested. These Christians were all condemned to death in an arena containing wild beasts, but when the animals wouldn't touch them, they were beheaded. Januarius, the patron saint of Naples, is also invoked against volcanic eruptions.

Couples Invited To 'Savor The Moment' At Anniversary Liturgy

**Photo And Text
By Msgr. Timothy P. Stein**

John Strittmatter was fairly bursting with excitement as he and his wife of 67 years, Mary, took their seats in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona for the Annual Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Liturgy Sunday, September 11.

"It just makes you proud to be a Catholic, to be here," said John, who also expressed pride in the couple's eight children ("Well, 16 children really, when you count their spouses), 30 grandchildren and over 30 great-grandchildren. The Strittmatters are members of Saint Augustine Parish in Dysart.

Asked the secret of their long marriage, John said it was simple: "Just remember, your spouse is the most important person in your life." Mary chimed in "I would second that!"

The ability to finish one another's thoughts was a characteristic of the couples gathered under the Cathedral dome for the celebration. James and Elizabeth Hodgson, of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Parish in Spring Mills were also of one mind as they spoke about the special day.

"We need to be here," said Elizabeth, "To give thanks,"

added John. The couple have been wed for 55 years. Elizabeth attributed the longevity of their union to "God's grace," and James noted the importance of "self sacrifice," to sustaining their relationship.

Also celebrating 55 years of married life were Ronald and Gail Schrift of Immaculate Conception Parish in New Germany. "This is a very special day," Gail offered, as Ronald reflected that "working together" has kept him and his bride of over 50 years happily together. Gail added that "Living in a good community - - which we do - - and having eight great kids, is special, too."

The celebration was presided over by Bishop Mark L. Bartchak, who led a similar Liturgy at Saint John Gualbert Cathedral in Johnstown on Sunday, September 18. This year the Diocese honored 132 couples. Two of those couples were celebrating 70 or more years of marriage; 29 couples have been wed 60 to 70 years, and 50 have been married for 50 to 60 years.

Another 25 couples were honored on their 40th wedding anniversary. Thirteen couples were marking their silver, 25th anniversary, and 13 more were marking one to ten years of married life."

For all of them, whether they were marking a marriage tested by time, or a marriage that has only just begun, Bishop Mark had a message of encouragement.

"There is a wise saying: Savor the moment. Life is lived one day and one moment at a time. We need to make every day and every moment count.

"Jesus tells us in the Gospel reading, from the Sermon on the Mount, that when we live our lives that way, when we 'savor the moment,' we do it not just for our own good, but we do it because it gives glory to our heavenly Father."

Bishop Mark explained that the word "savor" means to taste



DELIGHT: Mary Strittmatter of Saint Augustine Parish, Dysart, beams with delight as John, her husband of 67 years, is greeted by Bishop Mark L. Bartchak at the Annual Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Liturgy, held Sunday, September 11 at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, in Altoona.

or smell something with pleasure; to enjoy it completely. He suggested that beyond savoring the satisfaction of celebrating a milestone anniversary, each couple present had something else to savor.

"And that something is found in a word Saint John used 14 times in today's second reading. That word is love - - l - o - v - e; love.

"The ultimate reason we should savor that word is because, as John tells us, love is of God, and God is love."

The Bishop said that Pope Francis in his apostolic exhortation, issued in March, "The Joy Of Love (Amoris Laetitia)" devoted an entire chapter to "Love In Marriage." Said the Bishop "The Holy Father plainly reminds us that 'Love In Marriage' is to be understood according to the idea of God's love."

More than that, he went on, "Pope Francis also reminds us that 'Love In Marriage' should be authentic human love, which is something real and tangible;

something that should be savored, enjoyed, and shared.

"He says 'Love is experienced and nurtured in the daily life of married couples and their children.' And he reminds us that the grace of the sacrament of marriage is intended above all to perfect the love between husband and wife."

Echoing the Holy Father, Bishop Mark said that "This love is revealed especially by the person of Jesus." Bishop Mark's next remarks sounded a similar note to what Mr. and Mrs. Hodgson and Mr. and Mrs. Schrift had said when interviewed before the Mass.

Explaining the love Jesus shows us, Bishop Mark said "It's the self-giving kind of love that is seen in the lives of so many couples, and all of you gathered here."

Bishop Mark cautioned that "In order to keep God's love at the center of attention, a husband and wife should assume an active and creative role in work-

ing together and for the good of each other in building the life-long relationship to which they committed themselves at their wedding."

The Bishop's closing words were full of his admiration for those who are living out their sacramental marriage covenant.

"Your sharing in God's love is what has made your marriages signs of God's goodness and mercy and love. You really are the light of the world and the salt of the earth, as Jesus says in the Gospel today.

"Thank you for savoring the moment for all of these years of married life that we celebrate today. Continue to savor the moment in the years to come."

The Annual Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Liturgy is sponsored by the Family Life Office of the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown. Each Mass was followed by a reception at which the couples were gifted with a certificate acknowledging their anniversaries.



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SHYCON 2016 Will Give Teens The Opportunity To Know, Show And Share Mercy

By Bruce A. Tomaselli

Each year the Senior High Youth Conference (SHYCON), presents three components to the young students enjoying the day. "It's important that we provide evangelization/education which happens through our keynotes; a hands - on experience that brings our theme to them in a way that makes it real for them, and of course a fun component;" explained Francine Swope, coordinator for the annual event. The day concludes with Mass with Bishop Mark L. Bartchak.

The annual event will be held Saturday, October 23 in the Stokes Center on the campus of Saint Francis University, Loretto, for all students in grades nine through 12.

The theme for this year's SHYCON is: #Got Mercy! #Know Mercy! #Show Mercy! Come and Find Out What It's All About!

This year, the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese will welcome back keynote speaker Mike Patin from the Diocese of Baton Rouge LA. Swope says he spoke at SHYCON before and is an excellent speaker and faith sharer.

The youth conference will focus on the Year of Mercy. "The theme of mercy has grown and blossomed through the young people who've shared the many diocesan events and our summer camps," Swope said. "By nature young people are merciful. I think they easily see that in themselves if it is presented appropriately to their age group."

She said the theme will remind those present that mercy is a free gift from God. They will learn what mercy is (know it) and be given ways to share it with others in their daily lives (show it)

Swope is really excited about the hands - on project this year. Those participating in SHYCON will be given the



THE LOGO FOR SHYCON 2016

Pope Confirms Sick Teen

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- In a brief outdoor ceremony, Pope Francis administered the sacrament of confirmation to 16-year-old Giuseppe Chiolo, who had come to the Vatican by ambulance from Florence.

Chiolo, who is being treated in the oncology ward of a Florence hospital, had written to Pope Francis with a request to meet him.

The teenager was given his wish, and the sacrament, Sept. 10 before the pope joined about 30,000 people for a special Year of Mercy general audience in Saint Peter's Square.

The young man's parents, Carmelo and Maria Giuseppina, and his sister, Dafne, also were present, as was the chaplain of Meyer Children's Hospital, where he is receiving treatment.



CNS Photo/L'Osservatore Romano

CONFIRMATION: Pope Francis administers the sacrament of confirmation to Giuseppe Chiolo, 16, in Saint Peter's Square during a Year of Mercy general audience at the Vatican September 10. The young man is being treated in the oncology ward of a Florence hospital.

In his audience talk, Pope Francis said that in God's mercy he sent Jesus into the world "so that we could receive a new life marked by pardon, love and joy."

"The love of God is boundless," he said. "Our whole life, although marked by the fragility of sin, is placed under the gaze of God who loves us."

opportunity to pack meals, part of the Catholic Relief Service (CRS) Helping Hands partnership with Stop Hunger Now (SHN). She said the diocesan kids who participated in the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis in Fall of 2015 packed meal kits for the hungry and really enjoyed the experience. "They liked it so much we thought it would be as great project for SHYCON," she said.

"Our goal is to process and package over 30,000 meals during a break - out session at SHYCON. Those meals will be sent to vulnerable people in Burkina Faso, West Africa," Swope said excitedly. "The West African Country suffers from chronic food shortages as a result of cyclical drought and flooding. The meals meet their short - term needs. It is a tangible way for them to live our their Eucharistic call to feed the hungry a corporal work of mercy."

Individuals, groups and businesses can live out the Corporal Works of Mercy, by helping donate funds to provide these high school students with the kits to pack the meals that will feed these hungry people.

If you would like to donate toward this wonderful experience for our high school youth, please contact Francine Swope in the Youth Ministry Office (814) 317 - 2646 or by email at fswope@dioceseaj.org

"Gathering our young people from across the Diocese not only is an opportunity for them to grow in their faith, but to see themselves as members of Christ's body, the young church, on a bigger scale than their parish. We are hoping once again for a great turnout of our diocesan youth for this wonderful day," Swope remarked.

For more information or to register for SHYCON, contact your pastor, parish director of religious education (DRE), youth minister, or Catholic School Principal.

Holy Name Parish, Ebensburg, Plans Bicentennial Mass, Banquet, September 25

Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Ebensburg, will celebrate the 200th anniversary of its beginnings on Sunday, September 25. Bishop Mark L. Bartchak will mark the anniversary by coming to Holy Name to celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving at 11:30 a.m. Following the Mass there will be a social hour and banquet catered by Everyday Gourmet of Ebensburg. Clergy and religious who are from or who have served in the parish have been invited to return for the Mass and banquet.

Although the Mass and banquet are the high points of the anniversary celebration, the parish has had many other activities for over a year that were inspired by the occasion: a trip to see an Altoona Curve game in July of 2015, a parish picnic in August of that year, a spiritual retreat in October, Bicentennial Breakfast in April of this year and a pilgrimage to the shrines of Loretto conducted by Frank Seymour this July.



HOLY NAME PARISH, EBENSBURG

In addition, the theme of the Holy Name School's Spring Concert was the history of the parish expressed in songs of the



MONSIGNOR DAVID LOCKARD

the 200th anniversary of our beginning. Our Bicentennial Committee has devoted much time and energy to all the events of the past year which celebrated two centuries of the Lord working in our midst. I am extremely grateful to the committee as well as to all members of our parish who worked with them or who participated in these activities."

Holy Name of Jesus Parish, which was originally known as Saint Patrick's Parish, owes its origin to the great Prince Demetrius Gallitzin, "the Apostle of the Alleghenies." Father Gallitzin founded Saint Michael Parish in Loretto in 1799, and in 1816 he began to pay regular visits to a little log cabin church where he celebrated Mass in Ebensburg. The first resident priest, Father Thomas B. O'Flaherty arrived in 1844.

In 1850 a more permanent worship site for the congregation was completed in what is now the old cemetery (corner of Horner and Julian Streets) By 1865 both the town and the parish had doubled in size, and a new, larger church was needed.

Father R.C. Christy became pastor in 1865. He was a chap-

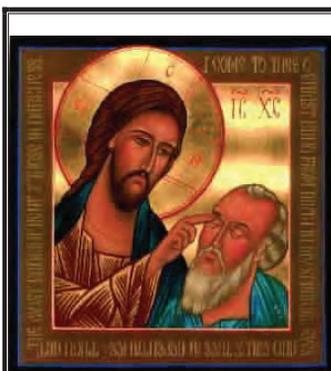
lain during the Civil War and had earned the title "The Fighting Chaplain of the Cumberland." Father Christy attacked the overcrowding problem by laying the cornerstone for the third church across Julian Street from the second one. The date was June 8, 1867. The church was completed in two years at a cost of \$25,000.00. At this time the parish was renamed "Holy Name of Jesus."

In 1910 Holy Name School began to serve the youth of the parish. The pastor at the time was Monsignor Hugh O'Neil, the longest serving pastor (34 years) in parish history. Following his death, his successor, Father Charles Gallagher continuously expanded the school to hold the "baby boomers" seeking a Catholic education. Holy Name School continues to serve not only Ebensburg, but Nanty Glo, New Germany, Summerhill and Portage areas, with a current enrollment of 270, plus a Pre-school.

Meanwhile the population growth which fueled the school expansion was also putting a strain on the 1869 church. On September 11, 1966 Holy Name celebrated its sesquicentennial by breaking ground for its 4th and current worship site, at the corner of Alton and Julian Streets. The new edifice, built in conformity to the liturgical guidelines of the Second Vatican Council, cost \$800,000.00 and was dedicated on February 25, 1968.

During the pastorate of Monsignor Arnold Gaus (1986-2013) the parish grew to almost 1,400 families and since 2001 also serves the Catholic people of Revloc. Monsignor Gaus oversaw the adoption of a "twin parish" in Hinche, Haiti which it supports spiritually and materially.

In addition to a message from the Pope, Mayor Randy Datsko of Ebensburg has issued a Proclamation naming Sunday, September 25, 2016 "Holy Name Church Day."



HEALING MASS

Monday
October 17, 2016
7:00 pm
Fr. Bill Kiel, Celebrant

CATHEDRAL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

For all in need of physical, emotional or spiritual healing and those who support them.

"I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly." John 10:10

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1800's, 1900's and 2000's, and the Vacation Bible School last summer featured a skit each day based on the life of its founding pastor, Prince Demetrius Gallitzin.

The current pastor of Holy Name, Monsignor David Lockard, is a native son of the parish who grew up in Ebensburg and was ordained a priest in the parish church in 1975. He returned in 2013 to pastor the faith community of his childhood. "I feel very blessed to be the pastor of my home parish at the time of



CNS Photo/Tyler Orsburn

ICONOGRAPHER: Colette Kalvesmaki, a Byzantine iconographer in Washington, is seen in her studio July 20. The ancient art of iconography allows her to combine her knowledge of theology and love of art and pass down stories of inspiration to future generations.

Iconographer's Curiosity About God Led To Growing Her Faith Through Art

By Allana Haynes
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Colette Kalvesmaki is trained in the ancient art of iconography, combining her knowledge of theology and her love of art to pass down stories of inspiration to future generations.

Growing up in a small town in a nonreligious family, she had a curiosity for God and religion that appeared in her late teens. It was not until after spending six months with a Protestant group in Japan at the age of 19, when she encountered God for herself.

She discovered iconography after moving to Boston down the street from Russian

iconographer, Ksenia Pokrovsky, whom she studied under for three years. She also earned a degree from St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary.

In an interview with Catholic News Service, she explained what inspired her to learn the art of iconography.

"My faith," she said.

"Initially, I didn't necessarily like (iconography), but as I grew more in my faith, I learned more about it and learned more about what the icon actually meant to the faith and to the Eastern Church," she continued.

"It's actually the banner of our faith, and is also a statement because Christ became man like us, (therefore) we can depict him. When I started realizing all of the rich theology within the

icon and the mystery within it, I felt like I was called to do it."

Kalvesmaki and her family run the Center for Byzantine Material Arts, a small gallery and workshop in Washington's Brookland neighborhood that displays authentic iconography available for purchase and hosts lessons for those interested in learning the centuries-old art form.

She explained that those who have seen her creations in the shop window have had varied reactions.

"It's very interesting being here because we attract all kinds of people who don't understand it and some people who have grown up with it, but don't understand the meaning of it," Kalvesmaki said. "I think once

you understand that, you come to a place where you really want to know more about your faith and go deep into your faith because, it's right here."

After viewing the icons, she said some people are inspired to learn to make one themselves.

"I think people look at it right away and they can see that it's not of this world in a sense, and it's something other and people are just drawn to it," Kalvesmaki explained. "I think people who want to grow deeper in their faith want to take these classes and want to sit down and make a bunch of these. We teach you how to do that here, step by step."

Kalvesmaki offers lessons to accommodate artists of different skill levels.

"We have intensive courses and we have private courses, but then there are also people who I take on as apprentice. Those are all different categories," she said.

During each lesson, Kalvesmaki teaches the artist the process of putting together an icon by walking them through the materials and technique.

Each lesson opens and closes with prayer, and each artist is encouraged to get to know each saint whom they will be depicting.

(Continued On Page 15.)

Now Showing

Hanks, Eastwood In Their Element In 'Sully'

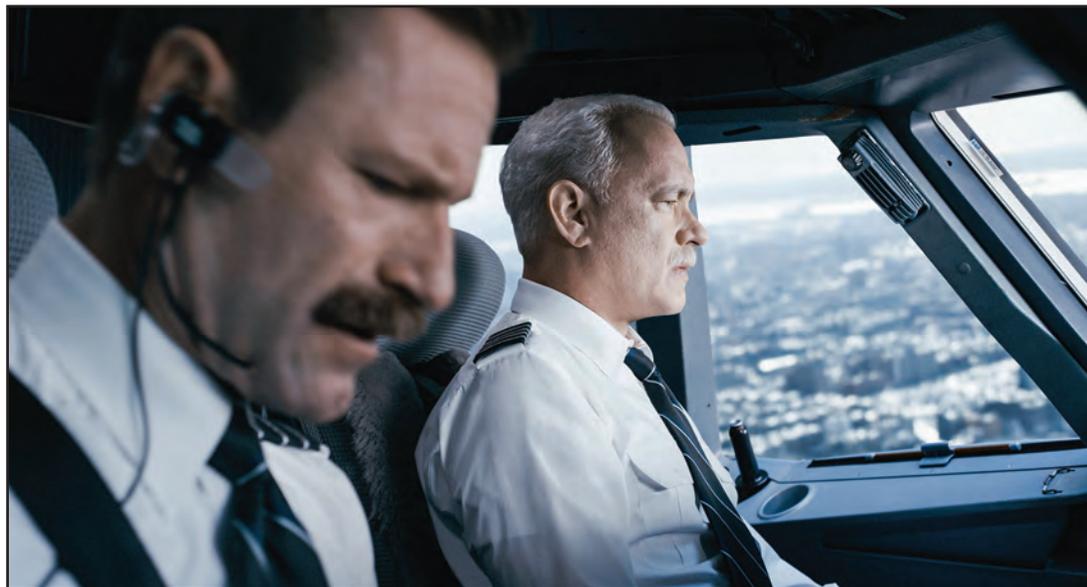
By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) -- Putting Tom Hanks in the cockpit as everybody's favorite aviator, US Airways Capt. Chesley Sullenberger, and bringing Clint Eastwood on board to direct him certainly sounds like a formula for high-flying success. And so it proves with "Sully" (Warner Bros.), Eastwood's satisfying adaptation of Sullenberger's memoir (co-written with Jeffrey Zaslow) **Highest Duty: My Search For What Really Matters**.

Hanks is in his element conveying the understated heroism

of the aviator whose 2009 feat in landing his plane on the Hudson River after it was crippled by a bird strike -- and saving all 155 souls on board in the process -- gained him instant fame.

Even as the public was embracing him as a hero, however, behind the scenes Sullenberger was being second-guessed by a team of federal investigators led by somberly suspicious Charles Porter (Mike O'Malley). In fact, the early stages of the National Transportation Safety Board's inquiry seemed to suggest that the aircraft's engines had not been totally disabled, as Sullenberger asserted, and that a much safer landing could have been made at any one of three nearby airports.



CNS Photo/Warner Bros.

SULLY: Arron Eckhart and Tom Hanks star in a scene from the movie "Sully." The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

It's these hidden events, together with Sullenberger torturous self-doubt, that lend the drama an element of suspense, despite the universal familiarity of its protagonist's exploit. They also inspire Eastwood to maintain a surprisingly sober tone, the enjoyable flashes of wit in Todd Komarnicki's script notwithstanding.

What emerges is the portrait of a morally deep-rooted and honorable man with a heartfelt concern for those in his charge. Other facets of his fine character are revealed by his appreciative attitude toward his co-pilot, Jeff

Skiles (Aaron Eckhart), with whom he rapidly forms a friendship, and the mutually supportive love he shares with his wife, Lorrie (Laura Linney). Despite some salty language in the dialogue, these ethical assets make "Sully" possibly acceptable for older adolescents.

The film contains potentially disturbing scenes of peril

and destruction, at least one use each of profanity and the F-word as well as about a dozen crude or crass terms. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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Coming Up On 'Proclaim!'

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

September 25 - - Sam Penna, an 11-year old member of Saint Patrick Parish in Johnstown, shares his inspirational story of how he uses his birthday to help those in need.

October 2 - - In celebration of the Year of Mercy, Andre McCarville, Catholic Campus Minister at Penn State Altoona, talks about the mission trips he leads for his students.

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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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In The Alleghenies

(Continued From Page 6.)

The long term goal is to assist the school in developing a sustainable business to employ graduates of the program, thereby creating economic growth and personal empowerment.

For more information, including sponsorship opportunities, please contact club co-advisors Nicole Bauman (nbauman@francis.edu) or Kent Tonkin (ktonkin@francis.edu) by calling 814-472-3026 or visiting francis.edu/Events/2016/09-Sept/Giving-For-Guinea/.

Prayer

Retreat Held

Ebensburg: Third Order Regular Franciscan Father Nathan Malavolti conducted the annual Ladies Retreat, August 12 - 14 at Mount Saint Ann. Forty - five women were in attendance.

The theme of the retreat was "The Jubilee of Mercy." In his talks, Father Nathan, from Franciscan University of Steubenville OH, spoke of the lives of the women of the Bible, who had experienced the mercy of Jesus, and who were examples for contemporary women to follow.

Novena To Saint Therese

Loretto: The Discalced Carmelite Nuns announce their annual Solemn Novena to Saint Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face, which will take place in their monastery chapel beginning Friday, September 23 and concluding Saturday, October 1, the feast of Saint Therese.

During the Jubilee Year of Mercy, the nine days of the Novena promise to be of great benefit to everyone's soul. Priests conducting the Novena always give inspiring talks based upon the life and example of Saint Therese, the Little Flower.

During the Novena, recitation of the Novena prayers will

take place twice, daily: during Benediction at 4:00 p.m., and during Mass at 7:30 p.m.

Roses will be blessed and distributed at both services on October 1.

Those unable to attend the Novena in person may share in its graces and blessings by sending their petitions to Mother Priore, P.O. Box 57, Loretto PA 15940.

Public Square Rosary

Altoona: The 10th Annual Altoona Public Square Rosary will be held at noon on Saturday, October 15 at Heritage Plaza, located at 11th Avenue and 14th Street.

Join with thousands of cities and towns across America praying the Rosary on the 99th Anniversary of the "Miracle of the Sun" at Fatima.

Healing Mass

Altoona: A healing Mass will be celebrated by Father Bill Kiel at 7:00 p.m. Monday, October 17 at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament for all in need of physical, emotional, or spiritual healing and those who support them.

Recently retired from the Diocese of Greensburg, Father Kiel entered the seminary at the age of 46 after spending 23 years as a Biology teacher. On a religious pilgrimage he experienced a call to pray for God's blessings and healing for others.

Iconographer's Ministry Builds Upon Theology, Art

(Continued From page 13.)

"A typical day for a private lesson would be that someone would come in for an hour and I ask them if they want to learn how to prepare the board, because I teach how to prepare the board, how to make the gesso (paint mixture with binder), and they work their way up," she said.

"We start very simple on the face. There are only two poses, one more or less frontal, and the other, a three quarters view. We usually start with an angel, a saint, a soldier saint, or a bishop, and then we work our way up to Mary and then Christ. When we reach Christ, we do the gilding. By the time we've reached that ability, we know how to paint, and we are creating Christ, respectfully," she added.

Kalvesmaki also explained how creating and teaching others the art of iconography has allowed her grow deeper in her faith.

"Doing it, I am constantly reading about the saints and constantly praying to them," she said. "Teaching it is kind of a wrench up because you have to live a Christian life. You want to pass on this faith through the icon to whoever is coming toward you. It urges me to grow



CNS Photo/Tyler Orsburn

AT WORK: Colette Kalvesmaki works on an icon in her art studio in Washington July 20.

constantly in Christ and to really live life on the edge with him and not to compromise. I'm constantly challenged to grow deeper in my faith. In just doing this, I'm drawn to that."

49th Annual Mass and Rosary Family Marian Celebration "Mary, Mother of Mercy: Our Life, our Sweetness and our Hope"



**Sunday
October 2,
2016**

3:00 p.m.

The Most Rev. Mark L. Bartchak
Bishop of Altoona-Johnstown
Principal Celebrant and Homilist

This Mass fulfills the Sunday obligation to attend Mass

**St. Benedict Church 2310 Bedford St.
Geistown section of Johnstown**

Annual Mini-Bazaar

&

Chicken Barbecue Dinner

Sunday, September 25, 2016 **11:00 AM to ???**

St. Demetrius Activity Center
(formerly St. Mary's School Hall)

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ADULTS \$10.00

**Children 6 to 12 - \$6.00
Children 5 and under FREE**

Takeouts \$10.00

Indoor Flea Market, Bake Sale, Games
Chinese Auction

Sponsored by St. Demetrius Parish, Gallitzin, PA

Please use rear entrance off Convent Street.

Coordinators Planning Exciting Catholic Life Day Of Prayer

Well Known Sister Of Mercy Will Lead Reflections Based On Jubilee Year Of Mercy

By Bruce A. Tomaselli

Coordinators for the Catholic Life Day of Prayer are more excited than usual this year.

Renowned educator, speaker and author, Mercy Sister Janet Ruffing of Yale Divinity School, will be the keynote speaker and facilitator at the Catholic Life Day of Prayer. The day will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. on Saturday, October 22 in the Bertschi Center on the campus of Mount Aloysius College in Cresson.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. followed by Mass, celebrated by Bishop Mark L. Bartchak.

All persons should pre-register by October 14. The prices are \$20.00 per person, \$10.00 for students, and includes lunch. The cost to register at the door on the day of the event is \$30.00 for adults, and \$15.00 for students.

There is no registration by phone, but persons can obtain forms by emailing: dcaminiti@dioceseaj.org or jthompson@dioceseaj.org. A registration form

can be ordered by phone at (814) 693 - 9605.

The theme for the day of prayer is based on the Jubilee Year of Mercy. "Enfleshing Mercy In Our Lives - A Circle of Giving and Receiving." Sister Janet will offer insight on how to live Mercy in our everyday lives.

The Day of Prayer continues the series of events held in the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese this year to celebrate the Year of Mercy, which began on December 8, 2015, and comes to a conclusion on The Solemnity of Christ the King on November 20.

Persons of all ages throughout the Diocese will share their personal experiences in living out the Corporal Works of Mercy. As Disciples of Christ we should all be living these works daily.

Sister Janet will reflect on the Corporal Works of Mercy: To Feed the Hungry; To Give Drink to the Thirsty; To Clothe the Naked; To Shelter the Homeless; To Care for the Sick; To Visit the Imprisoned; and To Bury the Dead.

She will discuss the compassionate exchange, experienced by persons who have reached out to those in need - - a stranger, a colleague, co - worker, parishioner etc.

Reflection questions for the day, include: Was there any experience of Jesus either during the encounter or action afterwards after prayerful reflection. What was it like for you? Were you the Jesus - like person or were you the recipient of a Jesus - like person reaching out to you?

Sister Janet will deliver two major keynote addresses at 9:30 a.m. and 1:45 p.m. She has been a professor in the Practice of Spirituality and Ministerial Leadership at the New Haven, CT school since 2013.

She holds a Ph.D. in Christian Spirituality from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA, as well as a Licentiate in Sacred Theology from the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley. Sister Janet has published six books and over 100 articles.

The Diocesan Catholic Life Day of Prayer is an opportunity for the faithful of the diocese to



SISTER JANET RUFFING R.S.M.

Sister Janet Ruffing R.S.M. will reflect on the Corporal Works of Mercy: To Feed the Hungry; To Give Drink to the Thirsty; To Clothe the Naked; To Shelter the Homeless; To Care for the Sick; To Visit the Imprisoned; and To Bury the Dead.

participate in a day of spiritual growth and enrichment. Master Catechists will receive five hours of continuing formation credit for attending.

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