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49th Annual Family Marian Celebration

Bishop: “God’s Mercy Is About Hands - On Faith”

Photos And Text
By Bruce A. Tomaselli

We don't always get what we want, and if we do, it's not always immediately, Bishop Mark L. Bartchak reminded the gathering at the 49th Annual Family Marian Celebration, Eucharist and Rosary. "The Lord says that the one who has faith will live," he said.

The Celebration was held on Sunday, October 2, at Saint Benedict Church in Johnstown. The theme this year was: "Mary, Mother of Mercy: Our Life, Our Sweetness and Our Hope."

The Celebration began with the introduction of the Rosary by Father David Peles, pastor. The Five Glorious Mysteries were presented by Fathers Anthony Petracca, Anthony Francis Spilka, Andrew Stanko, Brian Warchola and Angelo Patti.

Bishop Mark noted the parallel between the first reading from Habakkuk and the Gospel of Luke. Habakkuk's prayer is of frustration. He complains to the Lord that he has been crying for help.

"Habakkuk was afraid that he would die without finding favor with God," Bishop Mark said. "At the end of the reading Habakkuk says that the Lord answered him and explains that



LEADING IN PRAYER: Father Brian Warchola, parochial vicar at Saint Benedict Parish, Johnstown and administrator of Saint Michael Parish in Saint Michael, led the faithful in praying the Fourth Glorious Mystery of the Rosary, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, during the 49th Annual Family Marian Celebration held Sunday, October 2 at Saint Benedict Church.

there have been some delays, but the person who has faith will not be disappointed. The Lord says that the one who has faith will live."

People get impatient waiting for God to provide. They say they are tempted to ignore God because it feels like God is ignoring them. They want their

faith increased or answers to their prayers, right now.

When Habakkuk asked for help and the disciples asked for an increase in their faith, they were really asking for mercy. "They were asking for mercy; God's mercy. And in case you are not clear about this, mercy, God's mercy, is about hands - on

faith," Bishop Mark explained.

He said most of us think about mercy in terms of forgiveness of our sins. That's definitely part of it. We pray for that kind of mercy at the beginning of Mass when we cry out: "Lord have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord have mercy.

Bishop Mark said "From the very beginning of this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis has been reminding us that Divine Mercy, God's mercy, and our response to that mercy is so much more.

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25, 30, AND 35 YEARS OF SERVICE: (Left to right) First row: Rose Bassaro, Holy Name School in Ebensburg; Betty Ann Benson, Saint Benedict School in Carrolltown; Deborah Fisher, Holy Trinity Catholic School in Altoona; Kimberly Lallemand, Saint Benedict School; and Michele Kirk, Bishop Carroll Catholic High School in Ebensburg. Second row: Jo - Ann Semko, Assistant Director of Education; Bishop Mark; William Rhoades, Holy Name School, and Sister of Charity Donna Marie Leiden, Director of Education. Absent from photo is Elaine LaRocca, Divine Mercy Catholic Academy in Johnstown.



40 YEARS OF SERVICE: (Left to right) First row: John DeFazio, Bishop McCort Catholic High School in Johnstown; Patricia Berkey, Divine Mercy Catholic Academy; Mary Weidenhof, Our Lady of Victory School in State College; and Shirley Beldin, Holy Name School. Second row: Jo - Ann Semko; Bishop Mark; and Sister Donna Marie Leiden.



45 YEARS OF SERVICE: (Left to right) Jo - Ann Semko; Bishop Mark; Judine Hertzog, Holy Name School; and Sister Donna Marie Leiden.



MASTER CATECHISTS: (Left to right) Jo - Ann Semko; Debbie St. Pierre, Saint Benedict School; Bishop Mark; Cathleen Lykens, Holy Name School; and Sister Donna Marie Leiden.

Diocese Recognizes Catholic Educators

Bishop Mark L. Bartchak celebrated Mass and recognized educators from Catholic schools in the Diocese marking five, ten, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, and 45 years of service on Friday, September 23. The Bishop also recognized those achieving the status of Master Catechist. The Liturgy and Years of Service Awards were part of the

annual Diocesan Education In-Service. Mauricio Velasquez, MBA, president of The Diversity Training Group, delivered the keynote address. The In - Service was held at Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School, Altoona.

In The Alleghenies



LIVING ROSARY: The religious education students in grades 9 - 11 at Saint Bartholomew Parish, Wilmore, enacted the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary during a Living Rosary at the parish church Sunday, October 2. Pictured are the students portraying the Fifth Luminous Mystery, the Institution of the Holy Eucharist. Father Joseph Nale is pastor and Diana Frantz is director of religious education.

Foundation

4 - Star Rating

Altoona: The Independent Catholic Foundation's (ICF) strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency have earned it a 4 - star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent charity evaluator. This is the third consecutive time that ICF has earned this top distinction.

Since 2002, using objective analysis, Charity Navigator has awarded only the most fiscally responsible organizations a 4 - star rating. In 2011, Charity Navigator added 17 metrics, focused on governance and ethical practices as well as measures of openness, to its ratings methodology. These Accountability & Transparency metrics, which account for 50 percent of a char-

ity's overall rating, reveal which charities operate in accordance with industry best practices and whether they are open with their donors and stakeholders. On June 1, 2016, they upgraded their methodology for rating each charity's financial health with CN 2.1. These enhancements further substantiates the financial health of our four star charities.

Independent Catholic Foundation's exceptional 4 - star rating sets it apart from its peers and demonstrates its trustworthiness to the public," according to Michael Thatcher, President and CEO of Charity Navigator. "Only a quarter of charities rated by Charity Navigator receive the distinction of our 4-star rating. This adds ICF to a preeminent group of charities working to overcome our world's most pressing challenges. Based on its 4 - star rating, people can trust that their donations are go-

ing to a financially responsible and ethical charity when they decide to support local catholic ministries through ICF.

"It's important our donors trust that we're using their donations properly to facilitate the temporal support of local Catholic ministries," said Jim Carrieri, President of ICF. "Our 4 - star Charity Navigator rating demonstrates to our supporters our good governance and financial accountability."

Independent Catholic Foundation's rating and other infor-

The Catholic Register, October 17, 2016

mation about charitable giving are available free of charge on www.charitynavigator.org.

sponsible for additional planting and further developing the greenhouse area."

Badger adds that future plans include the addition of raised garden beds and purchasing additional accessories for the interior of the greenhouse. Two grant proposals are in process for additional funding.

The project has grown from a science department project into one that is much more far-reaching. Once the greenhouse is up and running, and the gardens surrounding it are completed, the final result will align with all four pillars that make up the foundation of Saint Joseph's mission: faith, service, leadership, and scholarship.

Faith: A spiritual garden area will include Biblical plants and provide space for meditation and reflection.

Service: A vegetable garden will provide food for home-bound neighbors and local food programs.

Leadership: A pollinator garden and compost bins will support a commitment to environmental stewardship.

Scholarship: The project will create outdoor lab space for biology and environmental science classes.

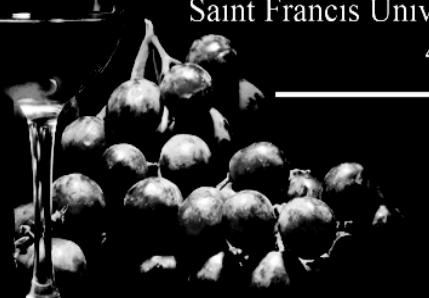
(Continued On Page 6.)

Dorothy Day Outreach Center presents its second annual wine tasting event

Saturday, October 22

John F. Kennedy Student Center
Saint Francis University, Loretto

4 p.m. - 8 p.m.



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Price includes: round trip from Altoona & Pittsburgh International Airport, air Taxes and fees/surcharges; ten days & 16 meals.

For Information contact:

814-942-4479

stheresealtona@atlanticbb.net

Fifth Annual Patriotic Rosary Celebration

WITH BENEDICTION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

DATE/TIME:

2:00 P.M. Saturday, October 29, 2016

PLACE:

Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona, PA

PRESIDING:

The Most Reverend Mark L. Bartchak,
Bishop of Altoona-Johnstown

Local elected officials to participate

Sponsored by Altoona-Johnstown Diocesan Courts of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas

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Another Perspective

By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein
Election Demands Prayer

Point Of View

How I wish those desiring to lead our country could take to heart the message Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda of St. Paul and Minneapolis gave in his address at the August J.S. Paluch vocations seminar.

Archbishop Hebda listed three qualities of leadership Pope Francis exemplifies best: humility, consistency in values and leading with the heart as well as mind.

"Pope Francis isn't afraid to admit his limitations," Archbishop Hebda pointed out. Often the pope has said, "I am a sinner," a humble admission that is so contrary to leaders who feel the need to appear strong and faultless.

St. Bonaventure gives us a unique insight into humility. For St. Bonaventure, poverty and humility were the source of Christian perfection that need to



The Human Side

By Father Eugene Hemrick
The Heart Of Leadership

be brought forth in acts of charity and love. Christ, the ultimate leader, embodied all of these virtues -- clearly seen in his humble and loving submission to death on the cross.

Connecting virtues to leadership is crucial and leads to other valuable insights. For example, it teaches us to acknowledge that without God's support we wouldn't exist. It exhorts leaders to get off their high horse and to drop to their knees in gratitude to God because without thankfulness, there's no humility, and

without humility, a vital leadership quality is missing.

Often leadership is pictured in terms of people possessing special talents, strong character and inspiring ideas. But from whom did these gifts come ultimately? Is it not from God?

To admit everyone is poor and dependent on God is by no means a sign of weakness. Rather it is a humble way of living the truth. This is difficult because we live in an atmosphere immersed in half-truths, twisted truths and outright lies that weaken our resolve to live the truth constantly no matter the cost.

One look at Pope Francis' leadership teaches us he is persistent in reaching out to the poor and encouraging the church to be more merciful.

Further examination of his character reveals a man who leads with his heart as well as his mind. In Latin, "mercy" contains the word "heart," the heartfelt love that Pope Francis desires in the church.

Leadership has always been extremely difficult, needing herculean strength to practice it. Conducting it humbly, balancing heart with mind and consistently following Christ's model of leadership is the crux of that needed strength.

The Catholic Register neither endorses nor opposes any candidate for elected office.

Our position as an agency of the tax - exempt Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown precludes us from doing so.

That tax - exempt status also prevents us from accepting political advertising. If we did run political ads, we would have to accept them from candidates representing all sides of the political spectrum, including those who advocate positions opposed to the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. This we are not prepared to do. Nor will we accept political advertising that is supposed to be educational or informational. We have made this decision for the very same reason. To accept such advertising from one side would mean opening up the doors to such material from all sides.

What we can do, and what we have done in this issue and will do again in our next issue is to present educational material prepared by the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. We will report on the upcoming election using articles from Catholic News Service, the news reporting arm of the U.S. Bishops' Conference. All of these entities, as tax - exempt bodies, are bound by the same rules we are.

In this issue you will find an article from Catholic News Service reporting on comments Pope Francis made about our November elections. The Holy Father's advice is valid for this election in this country, and for any election in any country: Pray, be informed, and vote your conscience.

The first part of the Pope's advice to voters is the most important. It is a right that no tax laws can take away. As a Church, our first duty is to pray. We must pray for the candidates and for an election result that will best serve the common good of our nation and our world. We must always pray for our beloved country.

There is a scriptural mandate for this kind of prayer. In his First Letter to Timothy, Saint Paul says, "*I ask that supplications, prayers, petitions and thanksgivings be offered for everyone, for kings and all those in authority, that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life, in all devotion and dignity. This is good and pleasing to God our savior, who wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth.*" (I Timothy 2:1 - 4)

In the days and weeks ahead, let us respond wholeheartedly to that mandate, praying for those in authority and those aspiring to authority, that our nation and our world might live in peace, and that God's truth will reign in the hearts of all.



CNS Photo/Paul Haring



When A Child Discloses Abuse

By Anne Ard of Centre County Women's Resource Center

It is the conversation every parent fears most. Something just doesn't seem right with your child, something seems "off." So you ask, "What's bothering you? You seem upset." Your child might hesitate, not wanting to tell. So you push a little bit, "What is it, sweetie? You can tell me, you won't be in trouble." Then it comes, in a rush of words, or perhaps slowly, agonizingly, the story comes out. Someone has touched your child in an inappropriate way. Someone has sexually abused your child.

This conversation between you and your child is full of both challenges and opportunities. The challenges include understanding and responding appropriately to your child's physical and emotional needs as well as your own. The opportunity lies in the reality that your child's healing from the trauma of sexual abuse can begin with this very conversation.

The opportunity for healing to begin actually starts with recognizing your child's courage in disclosing sexual abuse and continues as you manage your own understandable emotional response. While you may be feeling shock, disbelief, anger, and a myriad of other emotions, it is important not to manifest those to your child. When you express anger or disbelief, it reinforces the belief many children have, often suggested by those who abused them in the first place, that they (the children) have done something wrong, will be in trouble, or won't be believed. So respond calmly to your child and believe what your child is telling you. Children rarely make up stories about abuse

and your child needs to know that he/she will be believed, supported, and protected.

Your second response should be to thank your child for telling you and for being brave. It takes an incredible amount of courage to disclose abuse, even to the most loving and supportive parents, so let your child know that you are proud of her/him for telling.

When you start by believing, you have laid the groundwork for further healing conversations to happen. As hard as it may be, listen calmly and openly, let the child take his/her time, tell your child that she/he can tell you anything. Don't ask leading questions, and allow the child to tell you in his/her own way and on her/his own terms. According to the national child sexual abuse organization, Darkness to Light, key phrases you can say to your child include: "What happened is not your fault," "I believe you," "I'm the adult and it is my job to protect you," and "We will get through this together."

Once you have listened to your child's story, you can explain to him/her that you may need to talk to another adult to address the situation. That will help prepare your child for the next step in their healing process – talking to a trained professional who can explore the details of the abuse appropriately and refer you and your child to support and resources in your community. Your local rape crisis center can provide support to you and your child and connect you with appropriate resources in your community such as a Children's Advocacy Center. Abuse should also be reported to Childline (800-932-0313). Your local office of Child Protective Services can also provide assistance with reporting and resources.

Remember that you are the most important resource available to your child as he/she heals from the trauma they have suffered. Give them your attention, your compassion, your belief in them. And find ways to care for yourself in the process. Your child's trauma has impacted you as well and you will need support and compassion as you give those to your child. Healing can happen – for both of you.

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://victimsservicesinc.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.

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

(Continued From Page 3.)

Saint Joe's biology, chemistry, physics, and environmental science teachers are collaborating on the design and implementation. The goal is for the greenhouse and garden areas to be 100% student - led year after year. In 2016 – 2017, the first phase of the project will include the greenhouse, a pollinator garden, and a vegetable garden. Other components that are planned for later years include a spiritual garden and an apiary.

"Having a greenhouse is an important addition to the teaching tools that we have for our students in the sciences," said Catherine E. Merovich, Ph.D., Biology Teacher. "It's an opportunity for our students to engage in long-term projects where they can explore the biology of plants and conduct quality experiments throughout the school year and even into the summer months."

Just this month, the students in nutrition class planted fall vegetables including potatoes, onions, two types of lettuce, spinach, Swiss chard, radishes, carrots, herbs, and a few perennial flowers. They plan on harvesting the vegetables in late November. Some of the harvest will be used by the school cafeteria and the remainder will be donated to a local food pantry.

Presidents' Award Winners

Altoona: Fourteen Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School students were selected President's Education Award recipients.

The criteria for the award is based on cumulative grade point average, exhibits discipline and drive to excel academically, demonstrates the characteristics that positively reflect Bishop Guilfoyle, and receives recommendations by 75 percent of the recommending faculty.

The award winners include Anna Audley, Angelica Bartkowiak, Lauren Betar, Sarah Callan, Jordan DeLeo, Kaitlyn Edmiston, Preslee Litzinger, Danielle Miller, Delaney Myrick, Corey Patterson, Kathleen Price, Claire Resick, Karis Taddei, and Joshua Trybus.

Guide Rails Installed

Ebensburg: Thanks to Representative Frank Burns, Bishop Carroll Catholic High School student - athletes, coaches, and fans no longer have to worry about being harmed by traffic accidents occurring on Route 422 during their time on the field.

A few years ago, Penn Dot removed the guiderails along the road since the field's location doesn't meet their new criteria for guide rails.

However, Route 422 han-



FIELD TRIP: Pictured on a Monday, September 26 field trip to Harper's Ferry WV are (left to right) Bishop Carroll Catholic High School, Ebensburg teacher Jon Nagy and students Lance Li, Ava Myers, Alexa Dunchack, Brandon Durbin, Annie Sharbaugh, Calvin Wirlf, Madeline Vasilko, Dani Vella, Anna Kline, and Kevin Blais.

dles a lot of traffic, including coal trucks and other tractor trailers. Without the guide rails, potential traffic accidents near the field posed a major threat to the safety of the school's athletes, coaches, and fans.

Representative Burns worked closely with Bishop Carroll CEO Jerry Stephens to find a donor for guide rails and connected him with Penn Dot to ensure Bishop Carroll's maintenance staff installed them properly.

"We are very grateful for Representative Burns' attention to this situation," said Stephens. "This field is much safer today thanks, in no small measure, to the help we received from him."

Higher Education

Academic Award

Cresson: The Mount Aloysius women's soccer team earned the 2015-2016 National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) College Team Academic Award for exemplary academic performance over the course of the 2015-2016 academic year. The honor is the second consecutive for the Mountie women's soccer program under Head Coach Matt Davis.

To qualify for the award, a team must have a minimum grade point average of 3.0 or higher for the entire academic year. Mount Aloysius earned a 3.13 team GPA over the Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 semesters.

Celebrating its 75th Anniversary in 2016, the National Soccer Coaches Association was founded in 1941 and is based in Kansas City MO. It is a non-profit organization with the mission of advocating for, educating and serving soccer coaches to encourage excellence and elevate the game.

Accreditation Reaffirmed

Loretto: Saint Francis University President Third Order Regular Franciscan Father Mal-

achi Van Tassell, is pleased to announce that the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) has reaffirmed accreditation of Saint Francis University, with no requirements for a follow-up report. The University first achieved MSCHE accreditation in 1939 and has maintained continuous accreditation since. "I am very grateful to all the faculty, staff, students, and trustees who served and contributed during the evaluation process. I believe, too, that this is an affirmation of the many ways we serve our students, to help them grow in wisdom and knowledge, develop an appreciation for beauty and truth, and deepen their faith," Father Malachi said of the achievement.

The reaccreditation action is a culmination of a multi-year effort beginning in 2014 that included a year -long, self -study process followed by a site visit in April 2016 by an evaluation team consisting of eight faculty and administrators from peer institutions in the Middle States region. After committee review at MSCHE, the full Commission approved the final reaffirmation action in June 2016.

(Continued On Page 15.)

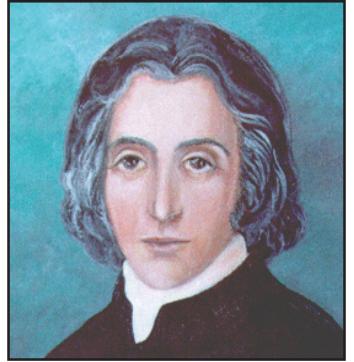
THE DIOCESE OF ALTOONA-JOHNSTOWN

Has an opening for the following position:

Advancement Coordinator

Responsibilities include building nonprofit databases, launching annual fund drives, scholarship programs, endowment growth, etc., in association with Catholic grade schools with an emphasis on Holy Trinity Catholic School (Altoona) and Divine Mercy Catholic Academy (Johnstown).

To view job description and qualifications, go to www.dioceseaj.org. Resumes must be submitted by October 21, 2016 to 927 South Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; Attn: Human Resources



A Prince In The Service Of The Great King

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

Cures Claimed With Rocks From Toronto Bishop's Crypt

By Catholic News Service

TORONTO (CNS) -- The statistical probabilities behind praying your way out of stage 4 cancer are not good. When you're too skinny, too weak and hallucinating half the time, when friends and family come

to your house and just cry, you don't make any long-term plans.

Unless you've got a rock from the crypt of Bishop Michael Power.

Bits of broken brick and limestone from the basement of St. Michael's Cathedral, all taken from near the final resting place of Toronto's founding Catholic bishop, have made their way into the hands of at least 18 seri-

ously ill people across Canada. Some of them are now claiming miraculous cures.

Bishop Power was buried beneath his cathedral in 1847, two years before it was consecrated. He was just shy of his 43rd birthday when he died after weeks of ministering to sick Irish refugees in sheds at Toronto's lakefront.

The idea that stones unearthed from below Toronto's cathedral might hold the power to cure started with Carol Bragagnolo, project manager for Angelus and Associates and an inveterate rockhound. As she kept the cathedral's restoration project on schedule and on budget, Bragagnolo found herself thinking about how the very stones of the cathedral have absorbed generations of prayer.

"There are years' worth of prayers in each stone of the cathedral," said Bragagnolo. "The closer I collected them to Bishop Power's crypt, the more powerful they would be."

"Power ministered to the sick and dying without concern for his own health and safety, so it makes sense for those who are sick to seek his intercession," said Father Michael Busch, St. Michael's rector.

What's central to the experience of those who have endured and conquered illness with the help of stones from Bishop Power's crypt isn't some magic ingredient in the rocks, but the faith of those who pray with them, said Father Busch.

"It's not the actual object that saves," he wrote in an email.

"It serves only as a focal point of prayer."

Deborah Zago was dying of uterine cancer when she received a bit of broken brick from Bishop Power's crypt.

"They gave me two weeks to live," said Zago of Burlington, Ontario. "There was really nothing they could do for me. I was too far gone. I was 70 pounds. ... I had my priest come around and give me Communion and my last rites."

Before Easter 2014, a home care nurse recommended palliative care. There was faint hope that if she could get her weight up, Zago might get strong enough to recover from surgery and endure chemotherapy. Then she was given a broken bit of brick from Bishop Power's crypt.

"When I was dying, I needed a morphine drip of course, right? I had the worst pain. God knows, I would never have wished this pain on anybody. I used to go down with this pain that had me screaming on the front room floor," she said.

But after receiving the brick, her weight increased and she began chemotherapy at Hamilton's Juravinski Cancer Centre. Through the months in hospital, followed by months in the big red armchair in her living room, Zago hung onto her rock. She has no doubt that prayer and the stone brought her back.

"As they kept on giving me chemo, I kept on praying with this stone. I kept on saying, 'Dear stone, that you may be filled with the people's prayers and the people asking you to work their miracles for them in their life -- whatever their life had, in the facts that they were struggling with.' I held my stone since the time I was sick. I have great faith in the stone, and I have great faith in God."

Dr. Jacalyn Duffin, Queen's University medical historian and hematologist, has examined 400 years' worth of miracles in the Vatican libraries for two books she has written about miracles. She is not a Catholic and is skeptical of religious faith generally. Her study of medical miracles is a scientific inquiry into what Catholics mean when they say

they've experienced a miracle.

"Even though I am not part of that world view, I think we (doctors) have to respect the fact this is how they experience their illnesses," she said. "I have enough humility to admit that if I have no explanation, that doesn't mean that I can refute hers."

Though medical science prefers to ignore miracles or unexplained cures, Duffin believes they are happening all the time.

"Prayer is helpful even if you don't get the miracle," Duffin said. "It's consoling. It gives you strength. It gives you courage. It grounds you somehow."

Father Busch said he would love to see pilgrims coming to St. Michael's Cathedral and the tomb of Bishop Power, but he hopes the pilgrims look beyond miracles.

"I am not sure if people came expecting a miracle that they would find what they came for," he said. "If they came to ask for assistance with the burdens they carry through Michael Power's intercession, they may receive some benefit. I gave my own sister, who was dying of lung cancer, a rock to hold. It did not cure her. But it did focus her prayer and helped her carry the burden of the disease. She seemed less afraid, and she lived much longer than anyone thought she would."

ProximoTravel

Pilgrimages for Catholics and people of all faiths

Travel with Msgr. Stanley Carson to Lourdes and Fatima; June 24th-30th, 2017; \$3,000

Several other trips to different Destinations- prices starting at \$2,500 w/ airfare included from anywhere in the US: The Holy Land; Italy; France, Portugal, & Spain; Poland; Medjugorje, Lourdes, & Fatima; Ireland & Scotland; England; Austria, Germany, & Switzerland; Greece & Turkey; Viking Cruises; Caribbean Cruises; Budapest; Prague; Our Lady of Guadalupe; Colombia; Brazil; Domestic Destinations; etc... (Hablamos Español)

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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, forever and ever. Amen.

+++

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Word of Life



The Pope Teaches

By Pope Francis
Pray, And Vote Your Conscience

ABOARD THE PAPAL FLIGHT FROM AZERBAIJAN
(CNS) -- Catholics facing difficult political choices must study the issues, pray about the election and then vote according to their consciences, Pope Francis said.

Flying back to Rome from Azerbaijan Oct. 2, the pope was asked by a reporter what U.S. Catholics should do in a presidential election where both candidates hold some positions contrary to church teaching.

Although he was in a relaxed mood and welcomed reporters' questions for almost an hour, Pope Francis said he would never comment on a specific electoral campaign.

"The people are sovereign," he said. "Study the proposals well, pray and choose in conscience."

Pope Francis also was asked when he would name new members to the College of Cardinals and what criteria he would use to choose them.

He said he still had not decided precisely when to announce the names or hold the consistory to create the new cardinals, but it would likely be at the end of this year or the beginning of 2017.

As for the choices, Pope Francis said, the list of worthy candidates is long, "but there are only 13 places" to reach the limit of 120 cardinals under the age of 80.

The selection process will aim for a geographic mix, he said. "I like it when one can see in the College of Cardinals the universality of the church, not just the European center, shall we say."

Although he and the reporters traveling with him had not yet returned to Rome and already were set to go to Sweden Oct. 31-Nov. 1, a journalist asked the pope where he would be traveling in 2017.

A trip to Fatima, Portugal, is definite, he said. He intends to go May 13 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima.

Also on the calendar, the pope said, is a trip to India and Bangladesh and another trip to Africa, although the specific nation or nations has not been decided.

Asked about his promise to visit Colombia after peace was established in the country, Pope Francis said the peace agreement signed in September between the government and rebels was important, but the people of Colombia still have to vote to ratify the agreement and begin the real work of living in peace.

In addition, Pope Francis confirmed that he had spoken with Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, about setting aside the usual five-year waiting period to allow the collection of eyewitness testimony regarding the murder in July of French Father Jacques Hamel as he celebrated Mass.



ONE MORE TIME: Girl Scout Troop 125 of Saint Leo Parish, Altoona, honored winners of the Marian Award in 1962. Pictured are (left to right) First row: Paulette Frederick, Beth Martin, Mary Bravin, Barbara Craver, Sheila Turchetta, Mary Jo Heverly, Karen Yeager. Second row: Father John P. Manning (pastor), Helen Casciotti, Bonita Frederick, Joyce Macharola, Helen Wilczenski and Bernadette Weakland (leader).

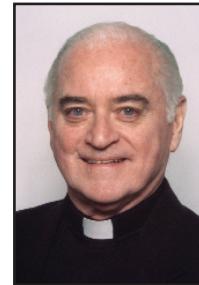
The Oscar for best picture of the year went to "Spotlight," the movie that told the story of the child sex abuse scandal in the Archdiocese of Boston. It was released Nov. 6, 2015, and received six Oscar nominations, including two wins. To date, it has grossed nearly \$100 million in foreign and domestic sales at the box office.

I resisted going to see it at first, but now I'm glad I did. It helped me to understand the bravery of **The Boston Globe** reporters who fought through a lot of opposition to uncover all the facts. It also brought to light the extent of the cover-up, which went far beyond Massachusetts.

My heart and prayers go out to all of the victims. I was a victim myself once. When I was 13, a priest smelling of alcohol attempted to molest me. Even though I resisted, I remember crying for two days afterward. I was too afraid to report it to anyone.

Years ago, when an accusation was made, many bishops hesitated to call the police immediately. Bishops wanted to hear the priest's side of the story, and they abhorred the possibility of a public scandal. In America, a person is innocent until proven guilty, but in these cases, once a serious accusation becomes public, the priest's reputation is ruined, and then the presumption of innocence disappears.

Many of these accused priests pleaded innocent. As a



Spirituality For Today

By Father John Catoir
'Spotlight' On Child Abuse

result, justice was often delayed, and sometimes even denied.

Today, there is a zero tolerance policy firmly in place. All of the recent popes have denounced these crimes, saying that there is no place in the Catholic Church for a priest child abuser.

I'll tell you a story from my own experience to show how easy it is to be fooled by a child abuser. It never entered my mind that a fellow priest, whom I thought I knew well, was in fact a child abuser. There was no sign of it. But one day I read in the paper that he was accused of abusing a young boy; as it turned out, more than one.

In time, he was tried, found guilty, defrocked and sent to jail. Then, tragically, after two years, he committed suicide in his jail cell. Please say a prayer for him and others like him.

In the past, psychiatrists believed that with treatment and

If you are one of the many who left the church because of these scandals, please think about coming home.

rehabilitation, a child abuser could be healed and allowed back into active ministry. They often put it in writing: "Father (so and so) is now ready to return to active duty." The bishops were glad to give a repentant sinner another chance. Alas, this was a big mistake.

In those days, child abusers were treated in the same way that alcoholic priests were treated. Once they repented, stopped drinking, went for rehab and returned clean and sober, they presented themselves as ready for a new assignment. But in the case of child abusers, we now see that there is a high rate of recidivism among them. We can no longer take the risk, even when they are subjectively sincere.

Human nature is the issue, not the priest's sincerity. Pray for priests, and if you are one of the many who left the church because of these scandals, please think about coming home. We love you, and through the sacraments and other ministries, we want to help you in the healing process.

May the Lord be your strength and your joy.

Question Corner

**By Father Kenneth Doyle
Where Is Heaven?**



Q. I am 91 years old and I am wondering just where heaven is. I have heard priests say that it is here on earth, the same as hell and purgatory. But when I pray the Apostles' Creed I say, "He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty."

We all want to go to heaven and see Jesus, but I would like to have some idea of where it is. Can you help me? (Altoona, Pennsylvania)

A. In addition to the words to which you refer in the Apostles' Creed, there are multiple scriptural quotations that might lead one to believe that heaven is "up." In the account of Christ's ascension, for example, the angels say to the apostles: "Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way" (Acts 1:11).

In the Gospel of John, Christ tells Nicodemus; "No one has gone up to heaven except the

one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man" (Jn 3:13). And Psalm 14 says, "The Lord looks down from heaven upon the children of men" (Ps 14:2).

The reality, though, is that God does not occupy some remote geographic corner of the physical universe, and no Map-Quest search can determine exactly where heaven is. The difficulty comes in trying to express transcendent ideas in human language; time and space are finite concepts, and God is not limited by them.

Far better to be guided by the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which tells us that the expression "who art in heaven" in the Lord's Prayer "does not mean a place ('space'), but a way of being; it does not mean that God is distant, but majestic. Our Father is not 'elsewhere': He transcends everything we can conceive of" (No. 2794). Or, as St. John Paul II said in a Wednesday audience on July 21, 1999, heaven is "neither an ab-

straction nor a physical place in the clouds, but a living, personal relationship with the Holy Trinity."

After death we will experience fully that unity with the divine, to our everlasting and perfect joy. Just how that will happen, what it will look and feel like, is not yet ours to know. But, as Billy Graham once said, "The only GPS that can give you flawless direction is the 'Gospel plan of salvation.'"

Q. I have been following the legal wrangling over where the body of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen should rest: New York, where he is buried now, or Peoria, Illinois, where he was born. I am appalled that diocesan leaders would do battle over something like this.

Sheen belongs to God and the church -- not to whoever has his bodily remains. I feel that the arguing should cease, so that the canonization process can get moving. Am I missing something? (Yorktown, Virginia)

A. Fulton Sheen was born in 1895 in the village of El Paso, Illinois, which is part of the Catholic diocese of Peoria. But he spent most of his priestly life in Washington, D.C., and in New York City, where he served as an auxiliary bishop for 15 years and where, from 1951 until 1957, he hosted the television program "Life is Worth Living," which drew some 30 million viewers every week.

When Archbishop Sheen died in 1979, he was buried in New York City in accordance with his family's preference and his own choice.

Peoria has long felt, since it has done the work and borne the expense of the canonization process, that Archbishop Sheen's body should be transferred for enshrinement in St. Mary's Cathedral in that city. Both Archbishop Sheen's family and the Archdiocese of New York have resisted, citing Archbishop Sheen's own desire to be buried in New York.

The canonization process has been tabled while this difference on the final resting place is being resolved.



For The Journey

**By Effie Calderola
Are Outward Signs Of Faith Offensive?**

I am settling into my cramped seat in a small aircraft when I smell it: the nauseating odor of fried food in close quarters. I turn, ready to glare, when I see that the culprit, a middle-aged man, is bowed in prayer over his meal, hands folded, eyes closed.

All is forgiven. I am a pushover for religious witness. As a person of faith, I welcome the expressions of others on their faith journey, whether my own tradition or another. I like to see people seeking God.

On a recent drive home, it was a Jewish man and his young son I spotted walking from the synagogue, dressed in matching black pants, jackets and black hats, sporting the traditional Jewish sidecurls.

Another day, it is my friends who work in refugee resettlement, who are converts to Islam, wearing their tight-fitting head coverings.

I love Ash Wednesday's dark smudges, Good Friday's public processions.

However, in our pluralistic society, some take offense at outward signs of faith.

What is offensive to others?

The writer Leah Libresco was curious about that so she commissioned a survey of two groups, one Christian and the other agnostic and atheist. She asked the Christian group if they would expect someone to be uncomfortable by certain actions, and she asked the nonbelievers if they are uncomfortable by those actions.

For example, "pray with physical object." I envision someone silently praying with her rosary.

Of the Christian group, 23 percent thought this might make others uncomfortable, but only 12 percent of the agnostics and atheists replied they would be uncomfortable. Good news so far.

Likewise, only 5 percent of nonbelievers reported discomfort if you decline food or beverage for religious reasons while 15 percent of Christians expected they might be uncomfortable. So maybe saying no to that hamburger because it's a Lenten Friday isn't offensive.

But here's a kicker: What made the nonbelievers uncomfortable, way more than the Christians expected, was someone saying, "I'll pray for you," or asking to pray with you.

I thought of Christopher Hitchens, the brilliant writer and outspoken atheist. When he was dying of cancer, he was offended by those who told him they were praying for him.

I didn't blame him, even though I prayed for him myself. But writing to him and waving that in his face? That's like saying, "I know what's best for you, like it or not."

Truly, that's not the purpose of prayer.

We offer to pray for people who share our convictions regarding prayer. But to impose my prayer verbally upon another who may not believe in prayer is wielding my certainty of truth like a bludgeon. That's not kindness, but a smug expression of rightness.

So, in this era of political correctness, where do you stand on the issue of offensiveness?

If someone is uncomfortable with my Lenten ashes, too bad. I don't want to give offense, but I feel assured that the majority of people will see my actions as my private witness. I'm not trying to be "in your face." I'm trying to be in solidarity with people of faith, and that's my right.

But if I cross that line that separates my behavior from an attempt to change others' behavior, I may become legitimately offensive.

But aren't we supposed to evangelize?

St. Francis of Assisi is thought to have said, "Preach the Gospel always; if necessary, use words."

The most effective witness we give is our lives, lives of mercy and compassion. That makes any outward sign of our faith impressive and legitimate. That kind of evangelization is rarely offensive and often powerful.

**Saint Paul
Of The Cross
1694 - 1775
Feast - October 20**

Paolo Francesco Danei, the oldest son in a poor but noble Italian family, lived austere even as a teen. After a year in the Venetian army, he returned to a monk-like life of prayer and penance, and refused to marry. In a vision in 1720, Our Lady, wearing a black habit with a white cross and bearing Jesus' name, told Paul to start an order to preach Christ's passion. With his bishop's approval, he founded the Discalced Clerks of the Most Holy Cross and Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ, which he led for the rest of his life, and later began a nuns' institute. Passionists were soon doing missions, retreats and spiritual direction throughout Italy. Paul was canonized in 1867.

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Celebration Honors Mary As Mother Of Mercy

(Continued From Page 1.)

"He has repeatedly reminded us that we should all be engaged in practicing the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. They are hands - on acts of faith."

He said the works of mercy are opportunities to touch the heart and soul of other human persons, especially in times and places where prejudice and even hatred towards other human persons tells us not to engage because they are of a different race, religion, economic, or ethnic background.

Pope Francis reminds that mercy is an attitude and way of life. When he announced the Ju-

bilee Year of Mercy on Divine Mercy Sunday in April of 2015, he said that we need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace. Our salvation depends on it.

Said Bishop Mark, "In Pope Francis's announcement of the Year of Mercy, he tells us no one has penetrated the profound mystery of the incarnation like Mary.

"He says her entire life was patterned after the presence of mercy made flesh. The Mother of the Crucified and Risen One has entered into the mystery of His love.

"Mary is Mother of Mercy and She is Mother of God; Mother of Jesus. The Lord Jesus

received His human form from the Virgin Mary through the power of the Holy Spirit. The eternal word of God was made flesh; which means God became very hands - on by entering our world."

Bishop Mark said that mercy becomes hands - on when we become someone who stands with and stands for persons who are hurting, neglected, abused, lost, sick, dying, lonely, confused or afraid.

"Each time we receive the Body and Blood of Christ from this altar, we celebrate the saving mystery of the death and resurrection of Christ," Bishop Mark reminded.

"Each time we receive the Body of Blood and Christ from this altar, our prayer for mercy is



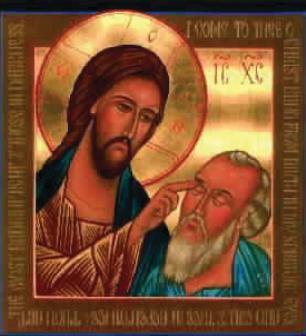
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Election Guide -- 2016

Know the Positions of the Presidential Candidates

In keeping with its mission, the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC) aims to educate and inform Catholics about a wide range of issues. The information listed here has been compiled from policies, public statements, official and campaign websites and other resources to help voters form their consciences before entering the voting booth. The issues that appear here do not represent a complete list of issues that may be of importance to Catholics. The PCC neither supports nor opposes any candidate for public office.

Any politics of human dignity must seriously address issues of racism, poverty, hunger, employment, education, housing, and health care. Therefore, Catholics should eagerly involve themselves as advocates for the weak and marginalized in all these areas...*But being 'right' in such matters can never excuse a wrong choice regarding direct attacks on innocent human life.* Indeed, the failure to protect and defend life in its most vulnerable stages renders suspect any claims to the 'rightness' of positions in other matters affecting the poorest and least powerful of the human community. If we understand the human person as the 'temple of the Holy Spirit' -- the living house of God -- then these latter issues fall logically into place as the crossbeams and walls of that house. *All direct attacks on innocent human life, such as abortion and euthanasia, strike at the house's foundation.* These directly and immediately violate the human person's most fundamental right -- the right to life. -- From *Living the Gospel of Life*, No. 22 with original emphasis (Pastoral Statement of the U.S. Catholic Bishops, 1998).



ABORTION

"I believe we need to protect access to safe and legal abortion, not just in principle but in practice," Clinton said at a rally in January.

Clinton supports the repeal of the Hyde Amendment and the Democratic Party Platform states, "We will continue to oppose—and seek to overturn—federal and state laws and policies that impede a woman's access to abortion, including by repealing the Hyde Amendment." The Hyde Amendment restricts the use of federal funds to pay for abortions.

DEATH PENALTY

In 2011, Trump said he is "very much in favor of the death penalty."

During a February 2016 debate, Clinton said regarding the death penalty, "I do for very limited, particularly heinous crimes, believe it is an appropriate punishment, but I deeply disagree with the way that too many states still are implementing it."

DOCTOR PRESCRIBED SUICIDE

No statement by Trump on this issue could be found, but the Republican Party Platform states, "We oppose euthanasia and assisted suicide."

During a February Town Hall Meeting, Clinton said doctor prescribed suicide "is a crucial issue that people deserve to understand from their own ethical, religious, faith-based perspective...I want as president to try to catalyze that debate." The Democratic Party Platform makes no mention of doctor prescribed suicide.

EDUCATIONAL CHOICE

In his book *The America We Deserve* (2000), Trump wrote, "we've got to bring on the competition—open the schoolhouse doors and let parents choose the best school for their children. Education reformers call this school choice, charter schools, vouchers, even opportunity scholarships. I call it competition—the American way."

These comments, policies and statements are snapshots from each candidate's public career, campaigns and websites as of August 2016. For embedded links to these resources, visit www.pacatholic.org. The candidates also represent the platforms of their political parties, which can be viewed at www.democrats.org and www.gop.com. Information appears here for informational purposes only and does not represent a complete list of issues that may be of importance to Catholics. PCC neither supports nor opposes any candidate for public office.

General Election 2016: Pennsylvania's U.S. Senate Candidates

In our commitment to follow Jesus Christ we must do more than just show up for Mass on Sunday morning, we must bear Christian witness in all we do – in our homes, in our work and recreation, in our interaction with the world around us, and in the public square.

The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC) neither supports nor opposes any candidate for public office. In an effort to educate voters, the PCC gave the statewide candidates the opportunity to make their positions known on key specific issues important to Catholics. Incumbent Senator Pat Toomey (Republican) completed a written questionnaire (complete responses available at www.pacatholic.org). Candidate Katie McGinty (Democrat) did not respond to the candidate questionnaire. Information about her views was therefore compiled from her campaign website and public statements.

On Life & Dignity of the Human Person

McGinty is endorsed by EMILY'S List, a political action committee with a mission to "elect pro-choice Democratic women to office." They describe McGinty as "pro-choice, and supports *Roe v. Wade*." (www.emilyslist.org)

Toomey opposes legalized abortion, except when the life of the mother is in danger or the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest. (PCC Survey) He is endorsed by the PA Pro-Life Federation. (www.paprolife.org)

Election Day is November 8!



Immigration

McGinty denounced federal legislation that would deny Community Development Block Grant funds to cities that in effect shelter or give sanctuary to illegal immigrants. At the same time, she wrote a letter to Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney requesting him to reconsider the city's immigration policy and open the dialogue with federal officials "so that those who pose a threat don't fall through any crack in local and federal jurisdiction." (katiemcginty.com)

Toomey describes our immigration system as "fundamentally broken." He has "supported efforts to strengthen border security, ensure that our immigration laws are enforced, and stop the outrageous practice of sanctuary cities that undermine our laws." (PCC Survey)

HILLARY CLINTON

DONALD TRUMP

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Clinton's campaign website states that her energy "plan is designed to deliver on the pledge President Obama made at the Paris climate conference" where over 190 countries agreed to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions and meet existing financial commitments to an international climate fund.

FREEDOM OF RELIGION

Clinton described the First Amendment Defense Act as "taxpayer-funded discrimination by those who cite religion as a reason to deny services to LGBT people nationwide." The First Amendment Defense Act would protect against adverse federal actions directed toward individuals and organizations whose religious beliefs and moral convictions indicate that marriage is between one man and one woman.

HEALTH CARE ACCESS FOR THE UNINSURED

According to her website, Clinton will "defend the Affordable Care Act and build on it to slow the growth of out-of-pocket costs." Her plan would also provide health insurance for the lowest-income Americans by incentivizing states to expand Medicaid, and make enrollment through Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act easier.

IMMIGRATION

According to her website, Clinton will "introduce comprehensive immigration reform with a pathway to full and equal citizenship within her first 100 days in office." She will "defend President Obama's executive actions" to provide deportation relief for DREAMERS and parents of citizens and lawful residents; "end family detention and close private immigrant detention centers" and "promote naturalization."

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

According to her website, Clinton will defeat ISIS by "intensifying the coalition air campaign against ISIS fighters, leaders, and infrastructure; stepping up support for local Arab and Kurdish forces the ground and coalition efforts to protect civilians; and pursuing a diplomatic strategy aimed at resolving Syria's civil war and Iraq's sectarian conflict between Sunnis and Shias—both of which have contributed to the rise of ISIS."

MARRIAGE

In response to the Supreme Court's decision to strike down state laws defining marriage as between one man and one woman, Clinton tweeted, "Proud to celebrate a historic victory for marriage equality."

POVERTY

In 2013 while members of Congress were debating the details of the Farm Bill, Clinton tweeted, "What happens to kids in families cut from unemployment insurance & food stamps? They're #2SmallToFail, & deserve an equal chance to succeed."

REFUGEES DISPLACED BY TERRORISM

Clinton said the U.S. should do more to help Syrian refugees. "We're facing the worst refugee crisis since the end of World War II...I think the United States has to do more, and I'd like to see us move from what is a good start with 10,000 to 65,000 [refugees permitted in the U.S.]."

Trump said regarding refugees, "It is a very, very disturbing thing that's going on in Europe. And we're going to have it over here, too. And they just can't do what they're doing...We're not going to keep them here. They're going back."



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Published by the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, the public affairs agency of Pennsylvania's Catholic Bishops, www.pacatholic.org.

Part II of our Election Guide, featuring candidates for the United States House of Representatives, the Pennsylvania General Assembly, and statewide offices will appear in the October 31 edition.

Tax Credits for School Choice

McGinty has not made public statements about funding tax credits for education at the federal level. She is endorsed by the Pennsylvania State Education Association (www.psea.org) as a "pro-public education candidate." PSEA has traditionally been opposed to school choice.

Toomey believes "we should empower parents to choose the best school for their kids whether they are public or private, religious or non-religious." He says he could support a federal education tax credit "as long as it was offset with a corresponding spending reduction." (PCC Survey)

Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, & Religious Liberty

McGinty has not commented specifically about religious exemptions in non-discrimination legislation. However, she says she will fight to expand antidiscrimination protections, "No one should be denied access to housing, healthcare, or employment because of their gender identity or sexual orientation." (katiemcginty.com)

Toomey supported the Employment Non-Discrimination Act that would prohibit discrimination based sexual orientation. However, he "introduced and forced a vote on an amendment to strengthen and broaden the bill's underlying protections for faith-based organizations." (PCC Survey)

Access to Health Care for the Poor

In a press release, McGinty said that she was "proud to work with Governor Wolf to expand Medicaid that provides health care to more than 600,000 Pennsylvanians" during her time as his chief-of-staff. (katiemcginty.com)

Toomey believes that Medicaid is a valuable program but that its "flawed financing structure encourages states to further expand their Medicaid programs while shifting growing costs to the federal government." He supports giving states more flexibility to encourage efficiency. He does not support further federal mandates. (PCC Survey)

Learn more:

Katie McGinty – Democrat for Senate
katiemcginty.com

Toomey for U.S. Senate
www.toomeyforSenate.com

Pennsylvania Catholic Conference
www.pacatholic.org

Where Policy, Religion Fail, Sports Can Lift Spirits, Say Speakers

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)

-- Wherever public policy, communities and even religions may have failed, sports and recreation are ready and set to lift wounded spirits and build cooperation and peace in the world, said a number of speakers at a Vatican conference.

"Sport is the medicine my mother couldn't give me" to counteract the bullying and exclusion growing up in York, Pennsylvania, one Special Olympic champion said.

Despite growing up poor, partially blind and mentally challenged, "I could do Double Dutch like no one else" with jump-ropes and could run faster than the others, Loretta Clainborne said during a global conference on "Sport at the Service of Humanity," hosted by the Pontifical Council for Culture Oct. 6-7.

Maria Toorpakay Wazir -- a professional squash player who grew up in the Taliban's "hotbed of terrorism" tribal regions of Pakistan -- told the audience "it was an accident" and a blessing "I got into sports."

"When I realized at 4 years old, boys have more freedom than girls," and social practices would forbid her from playing sports, getting an education and leaving the house, she said, she burned all her dresses.

Seeing the mound of fire, her father said he would be her No. 1 fan and from then on call her Genghis Khan, helping her pretend to be a boy so she could follow her dreams.

After competing and placing second in the "under 15" boys' division in weightlifting, she said, she turned to squash because lifting weights alone all the time became "boring."

Her father favored the switch, too, because she was getting into fights with boys a lot and she said he told her, "Now you won't hit people. You will hit a ball against a wall."

But, a requirement to show a birth certificate for training meant everyone found out Genghis was a girl, which led to abuse, harassment, attacks and "extreme bullying for years." No matter what other people said or thought about her though, "I knew I was strong," she said. "I knew I was perfect."

Despite receiving support and a security detail from the national government and winning third in the world junior women's championship, she and her family faced huge threats, which forced her to stay confined to her home for three and a half years. She said she spent those years smashing a ball against the walls and doggedly emailing people "all over the world" looking for a sponsor to get her out of Pakistan.

Living in Toronto since 2011, "I've played in freedom," winning top rankings and becoming "a better player and human," she said.

After seeing how people of many faiths can respect each other, she said the world's problem "isn't a clash of civilizations and religions, it's a clash of ignorance. We are ignorant about each other."

People learn to understand and respect others after they "connect emotionally," she said, "and sports did that for me."

Sports and recreation also have turned life around for thousands of vulnerable and isolated people in Australia, including as ethnic minorities and people suffering from substance abuse, economic hardship, mental illness or homelessness, said Peter Cullen, founder of RecLink.

The organization brings public servants, private companies, charitable groups and volunteers together to organize and run activities that "create a sense of community, help people feel better, improve their health, and feel like they belong," Cullen told Catholic News Service.

He said their strategy is a low-cost, replicable model for any community. For example, a RecLink volunteer might get a police officer to volunteer to coach or manage a team, a welfare or probation officer to canvass potential players and a news outlet to draft players, provide publicity and track results.

The larger community experiences change, too, he said. When people attend nationwide events and exhibitions showcasing people's achievements, they no longer see a prisoner, a drug addict and all the prejudices that often go with labels, Cullen said, but a human being.

Jesuit Father Patrick Kelly, professor of theology and religious studies Seattle University, told CNS that Catholicism is a natural advocate for promoting the importance of play for the integral good of every human being.

On the one hand, Catholicism understands "that the person is a unity of body, mind and spirit" and it recognizes that virtue is about moderation.

St. Thomas Aquinas, for example, strongly endorsed the virtue of play and the sin of excess, which includes an excess of work or study, said the priest, who authored "Catholic Perspectives on Sport: From Medieval to Modern Times."



CNS Photo/Ettore Ferrari, EPA

FAITH AND SPORT: Pope Francis is seen with U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, left, and Thomas Bach, president of the International Olympic Committee, during the opening ceremony of a world conference on faith and sport Wednesday, October 5 in the Vatican's Paul VI audience hall.

"We tend to value work almost as the ultimate value," he said, forgetting or disdaining the benefits of play.

Even the world of sport has become excessive in some ways with an overemphasis on winning, fame and fortune at all costs.

"My feeling is the play element gets marginalized and lost in the sports in the United States," he said.

Even some parents lose sight when they "look at even children's play instrumentally, as a means to a college scholarship," and so they may push

their kids starting at a young age to work year-round in order to standout in a particular sport.

Catholic institutions and their sports programs need to be careful not "to fall into the same mindset that's predominant in the culture of viewing sport instrumentally as a means to an end," he said. "Because that's a very small step then to viewing our students as means to an end."

Taking part in a sport, he said, has to remain "an educational experience that leads to the development of the full person."

Pope To Sports World: Don't Cheat People Out Of Joy, Benefits Of Game

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis challenged the sports world to fend off corrupt and manipulative practices and to uphold the values of honesty, fairness and transparency.

"It would be sad for sport and for humanity if people were unable to trust in the truth of sporting results, or if cynicism and disenchantment were to drown out enthusiasm" or joyful and unselfish participation, he said Oct. 5 in the Vatican's Paul VI audience hall. He spoke during the opening ceremony of a world conference on faith and sport hosted by the Pontifical Council for Culture Oct. 6-7.

In his talk, the pope mentioned a campaign led by the United Nations to "fight against the cancer of corruption in all areas of society."

"When people strive to create a society that is fairer and transparent, they collaborate with the work of God," he said.

The pope presented "representatives of sport and of the businesses that sponsor sporting events" with the task and challenge to maintain the honesty of sport and protect it "from the manipulations and commercial abuse."

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Special Mass Draws Members Of U.S. Military Sea Services To Mother Seton's Shrine

By Cameron Rogers
Catholic News Service

EMMITSBURG, Md. (CNS) -- Members of the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Merchant Marines and Public Health Services were recognized at the annual Pilgrimage for the Sea Services Mass Oct. 2 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, the retired archbishop of Washington and son of a ship captain, celebrated the Mass. It was organized, among others, by retired Adm. William Fallon. Hymns were sung by the Catholic Choir from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis.

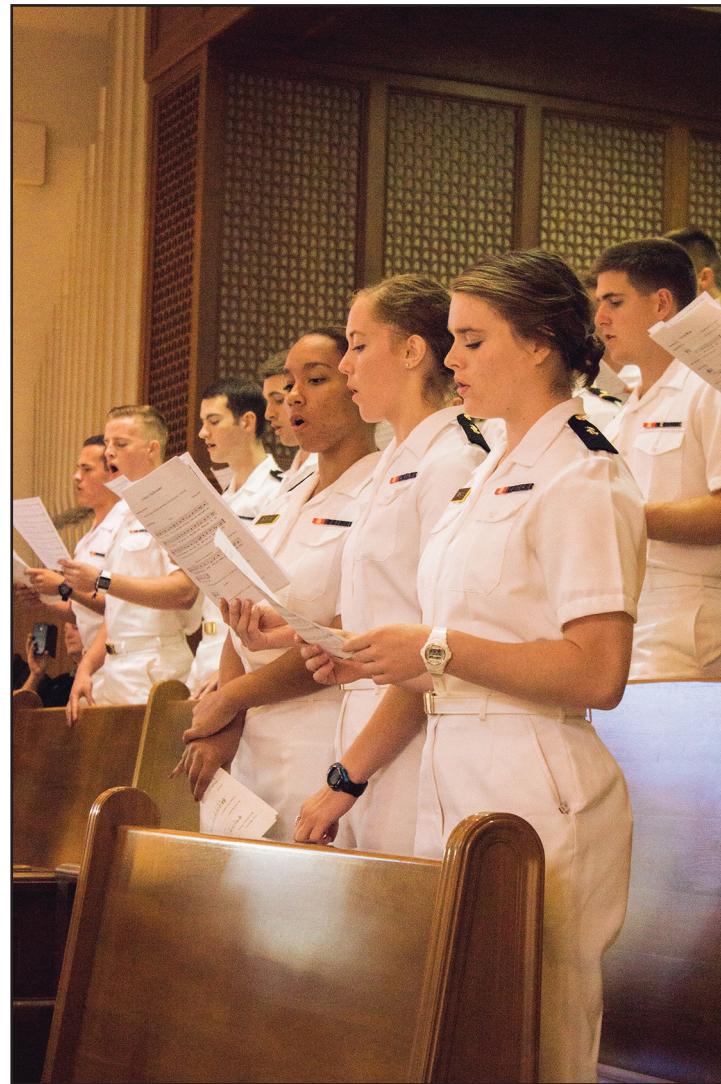
The story of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, who became a Catholic after traveling to Italy with her ailing husband, is familiar. The widow underwent many hardships, but founded the Sisters of Charity, schools and orphanages. She died in 1821 and was canonized as the first American-born saint in 1975.

Less well known is that her two sons, Richard and William, served on the USS Cyane and USS Macedonian, respectively. Her devotion to them led then-Msgr. John O'Connor, a former Navy admiral and chaplain and the future cardinal-archbishop of the Archdiocese of New York, to lead the effort to have her named "Patroness of the Sea" in the late 1970s.

Fallon, whose education includes a Catholic high school in New Jersey and Villanova University, said Mother Seton's work and entombment at the shrine that bears her name made it a natural location for the acknowledgement of those who serve at sea.

"They face a lot of dangers," he said, of the U.S. armed forces. "It's good to pay tribute to them."

During his homily, similarly, Cardinal McCarrick spoke of Mother Seton's dedication to her



CNS Photos/Courtesy Seton Shrine

SEA SERVICES MASS: (Left) The U.S. military's Joint Ceremonial Color Guard leads the opening procession for the Pilgrimage of the Sea Services Mass Sunday, October 2 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg MD. (Right) The U.S. Naval Academy Catholic Choir sings hymns during the Pilgrimage of the Sea Services Mass.

The story of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, who became a Catholic after traveling to Italy with her ailing husband, is familiar. The widow underwent many hardships, but founded the Sisters of Charity, schools and orphanages. She died in 1821 and was canonized as the first American-born saint in 1975. Less well known is that her two sons, Richard and William, served on the USS Cyane and USS Macedonian, respectively. Her devotion to them led then - Msgr. John O'Connor, a former Navy admiral and chaplain and the future cardinal - archbishop of the Archdiocese of New York, to lead the effort to have her named "Patroness of the Sea" in the late 1970s.

sons in the Navy, and praised the service of the men and women in the armed forces.

"I see a group of people who love their country," he said. "We are not alone in wanting peace around the world."

Almost every pew in the shrine's basilica was occupied.

A Joint Ceremonial Color Guard led the opening procession, and remained at attention for the national anthem. A local Knights of Columbus council also participated in the Mass.

Afterward, worshippers conversed while enjoying a courtesy dinner provided by the shrine's staff.

"It's a really good ceremony, it always has been," said Michael Weaver, an Army veteran from Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, who attended with his daughter, Michelle. "Mother Seton kind of brought the religion to the region."

Carol Birzer, a Navy veteran,

spoke highly of the Catholic Choir from the Naval Academy, which had not sung in the previous Pilgrimage for the Sea Masses she had attended at the shrine.

"It's nice knowing we had a saint here," said Birzer, of the grounds where Mother Seton lived and taught.

Tony DiJulio, program director at the shrine, said he hoped the site's beauty and history continue to draw people.

"I see (Mother Seton) as a model parent," he said. "I also think, for anyone who has hard times, she's a model on how to remain faithful and committed to the Lord."

Now Showing

Miss Peregrine's Home Too Peculiar For Most Children

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) -- Director Tim Burton is on his home turf with the gothic fantasy "Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children" (Fox).

While his adaptation of Ransom Riggs' 2011 novel is mildly entertaining, however, it's hobbled by an overly complicated premise and by the head-scratching implications of time travel.

Bridging the film's two settings, present-day Florida and the Britain of the 1940s, is kind-

ly grandfather Abraham 'Abe' Portman (Terence Stamp). As a boy during World War II, Abe had been sent from his native Poland to a remote island off the coast of Wales where he had found a refuge in the institution of the title.

Though he has a frayed relationship with his son, Frank (Chris O'Dowd), Abe and his grandson, Jake (Asa Butterfield), are the best of friends, and Abe delights in regaling Jake with tales of the otherworldly goings-on he experienced at Miss Peregrine's (Eva Green) establishment. As he gets older, though, Jake becomes skeptical



CNS Photo/Fox

MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN: Eva Green, Asa Butterfield and Georgia Pemberton star in a scene from the movie "Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children." 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.

about Abe's yarns, to the detriment of their bond.

Following Abe's mysterious death, which seems to be linked to his past, Jake convinces Frank to take him to Wales where he hopes to learn the truth about grandpa's childhood.

Once there, Jake enters the "time loop" which allows Miss Peregrine and her charges -- all of them endowed with paranormal gifts -- to live the same day in the fall of 1943 over and over again. Each evening, we learn, they magically reverse time at precisely the moment a Luftwaffe bomb is about to obliterate their Victorian mansion.

As Jake falls for Emma (Ella Purnell), a girl who can float through the air, and battles an eyeless villain named Barron (Samuel L. Jackson), familiar Hollywood tropes about the value of being different from everyone else and substituting a self-selected family for an inadequate biological one are trotted out yet again. Jake discovers that he, too, is a "peculiar," and receives from Miss Peregrine and her kids the love and attention good-hearted but ineffectual Frank has always failed to deliver.

While too scary for tots -- one scene shows Barron and his evil cohorts feasting on gouged-out eyeballs -- "Miss Peregrine" is generally well suited for their older siblings, many of whom will likely appreciate its macabre elements. There's mayhem aplenty, but it's almost all bloodless. Accordingly, only the occasional touch of slightly vulgar language, together with a couple of lapses where the Second Commandment is concerned,

will raise a red flag for parents.

The film contains much stylized violence with minimal gore, some disturbing images, at least one use of profanity, a milder oath and a few crass terms. 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:

October 23 -- As Bishop Mark prepares to celebrate his annual Mass recognizing Scouting in our Diocese, Boy Scout Matt Beam and his dad, Michael Beam, members of Saint Matthew Parish in Tyrone, recall a special Scouting project they completed for the parish.

October 30 -- Our People from the Pew series spotlights Lu and Mary Lessard, parishioners of the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel in Loretto. The couple discusses their spirituality as members of a parish with a strong connection to the Prince - Priest, Servant of God Demetrios Gallitzin.

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Proclaim!
10:30 a.m.
A half - hour of local Church news and features



Aurele H. Ledoux

Aurele H. "Butch" Ledoux, 98, of North Dartmouth MA, died Wednesday, October 5, at Saint Luke's Hospital. He was the father of Father Albert Ledoux, pastor of Saint Demetrius Parish, Gallitzin.

He was born October 31, 1917, in North Dartmouth, the son of the late Henri & Arzelie (Brouillette) Ledoux. He was preceded in death by his wife of 54 years, Georgianna (LeBlanc), and brothers and sisters Amelia Pepin, Alphonse, Loretta Tetrault, Gerard, Conrad, and Aline Saulniers. He was the last member of his immediate family.

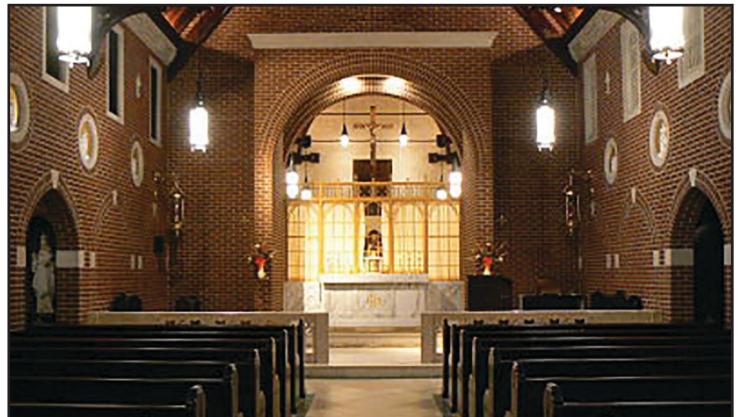
He is survived by his sons Father Albert, and Leo, and his wife Susan of North Dartmouth.

A World War II veteran of the U.S. Army Air Forces, he worked for 40 years at Morse Cutting Tools, retiring in 1980. An avid Yankees fan, he also ran the Saint George Parish Bingo in Westport for many years, and worked the Stang Bingo after that.

He was a fervent Catholic and very devoted to St. George Parish, where he was a member of the Holy Name Society, served on Parish Council, and likewise as an officer for the parish Credit Union. Along with his wife, he was a recipient of the Diocesan Marian Award.

The Funeral Mass for Aurele H. Ledoux was celebrated Wednesday, October 12 at Saint George Church, Westport MA. Committal was at Sacred Heart Cemetery #1, New Bedford.

**Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.
May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.**



CARMELITE NOVENA: The Discalced Carmelite Nuns of Loretto will hold their monthly Novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Saint Therese, the Little Flower, in their newly - renovated public chapel and cloistered choir October 22 - 30.

(Continued From Page 6.)

The evaluation team report included several positive observations. The overview section of the report notes that "since its last self-study in 2006, Saint Francis University has undergone a number of changes that have placed it in an enviable position relative to its peer institutions – mid-sized liberal arts colleges located in rural America." Other observations include that Saint Francis University has strengthened its mission statement and goals so that they are part of the living fabric of all aspects of the University, developed a number of successful market-driven programs in the health sciences and engineering and developed growing online master degree programs in business and the health sciences, restructured itself as a university with four schools: Arts and Letters, Business, Health Sciences, and Sciences, substantially expanded the size of the full-time faculty, seen significant increases in its enrollment, engaged in aggressive fundraising and seen modest endowment growth so that the university remains affordable for the students that it serves, enhanced its physical plant both by building new structures and renovating old ones, installed a new president in the last two years, and begun a thorough assessment of all university programs and activities.

Overall, the evaluation team found that "Saint Francis University is a dynamic and vibrant educational community com-

mitted to its mission, offering a rigorous educational experience and graduating students who are excellently prepared to embark on their chosen careers."

A few weeks ago, Saint Francis University welcomed more than 400 new students to begin the 2016-2017 academic year. With returning students, total University enrollment is nearly 1,700 undergraduate and 600 graduate students. The University's undergraduate programs are built upon a liberal arts foundation, informed by its Franciscan and Catholic values, delivered largely in a residential setting, and include 58 majors and 55 minors. Graduate degrees are offered in the health sciences, business, and education in on-campus, off-campus, and online formats. Please visit the program index or call (814) 472 - 3100 for information.

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education is recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education to conduct accreditation and pre-accreditation activities for institutions of higher education in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, including distance education and correspondence education programs offered at those institutions. The Commission has served the Mid - Atlantic Region since 1919. The Commission is a voluntary, non-governmental, membership association that defines, maintains, and promotes educational excellence across institutions with di-

verse missions, student populations, and resources. It examines each institution as a whole, rather than specific programs within institutions. The Commission is led by commissioners who are institutional leaders from member schools, decides actions for member schools, and employs a staff including vice presidents who serve as liaisons to each member school.

The University remains committed to the accreditation process that "ensures institutional accountability, self-appraisal, improvement, and innovation through peer review and the rigorous application of standards within the context of institutional mission," as described in the mission statement of MSCHE, available at <https://www.msche.org/>. Please contact the University Accreditation Liaison Officer, Dr. Peter Skoner (pskoner@francis.edu or 814 - 472 - 3085), with any questions.

Local Artist Exhibits

Cresson: Local artist, S. Scott Steberger, is the latest creative talent to exhibit artwork at Mount Aloysius College in Cresson, Pa. Over 40 of the artist's landscape drawings and paintings are on display at the College's historic Wolf-Kuhn Gallery. Steberger, who grew up and still resides in Lilly, Pa. says that almost all of the pieces in the exhibition represent rural scene within 10 to 20 miles of his Lilly home.

"My landscapes are inspired by the Alleghenies," he said. "I am most attracted to sites where man-made "things" interact with nature to form scenes of harmony; cultivated farmland, a winding-road through the trees, an old silo shooting into the sky and of late, the windmills, dancing like stick figures along the horizon."

A graduate of the Pennsylvania State University's Art Program, Steberger's work has been exhibited throughout the southern Alleghenies and western Pennsylvania regions. Highlights include the Carnegie

Museum of Art in Pittsburgh, the Westmoreland Museum of American Art in Greensburg, and locally, the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art's various museums as well as the Artworks/Bottleworks in Johnstown, Pa. In addition to making art, Steberger is an adjunct instructor at both Mount Aloysius College in Cresson and Saint Francis University in Loretto.

S. Scott Steberger's "Barns and Trees and Things" will be exhibited until January 13, 2017. The Wolf Kuhn Gallery of Mount Aloysius College is located at 7373 Admiral Peary Highway, Cresson, Pa. The Gallery is free to the public, weekdays, during normal school hours. The exhibition can be seen on weekends. Visitors are urged to call Mount Aloysius College at (814) - 886 - 6327 or (814) - 886 - 4131 to verify availability. They will happily accommodate visitors.

Prayer

Carmelite Novena

Loretto: The year's tenth novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Saint Therese, the Little Flower, offered by the Discalced Carmelite Nuns, will open Saturday, October 22 and conclude Sunday, October 30.

All intentions submitted to the Nuns will be remembered in the special Novena prayers following daily Mass in the newly renovated chapel at the Carmelite Monastery.

Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament and veneration of the relic of Saint Therese is held every Sunday and every First Friday of the month at 4:00 p.m.

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

Diocesan Faithful Can Obtain Jubilee Indulgence During National Shrine Pilgrimage

Throughout the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, the faithful have been able to obtain an indulgence by passing through designated Holy Doors at special places of worship.

Sixteen pilgrims from the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese received the indulgence when they journeyed to Rome in early September and walked through the Holy Doors at the four Major Basilicas, including Saint Peter's Basilica at the Vatican.

Others of the faithful were able to receive the indulgence by visiting any one of three parishes -- Saint Thomas the Apostle in Bedford, Holy Name in Ebensburg, and Saint Patrick in Newry -- which were observing their 200th anniversary this year. Bishop Mark L. Bartchak designated those churches as the sites of the official Holy Doors for the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown.

On Saturday, November 12, Bishop Mark will lead pilgrims from the eight county Diocese to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington DC where they will again have the opportunity to pass through a Holy Door, and become eligible to receive the indulgence.

In addition to passing through a Holy Door, pilgrims are also asked to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, receive Holy Communion, and pray for the intentions of the Holy Father, Pope Francis.

Pilgrims will arrive at the National Shrine Basilica at 11:00 a.m., and will celebrate midday prayer at noon. Confessions will be heard beginning at 1:30 p.m., and Mass will be celebrated at 3:00, prior to departure from Washington at 4:30 p.m.

Parishes are making arrangements to charter busses for the trip.

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception houses more than 70 chapels and oratories honoring the Blessed Mother of God.

Pilgrims to the Basilica have included three Popes: Saint John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis, who visited there in September 2015.



Photo By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein

MIRACULOUS MEDAL CHAPEL: A chapel dedicated to the Miraculous Medal is among the 70 chapels found in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington DC.

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