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PACKAGING FOOD: As part of the annual Senior High Youth Conference held Sunday, October 23, teens from around the Diocese packed food for those in need. At left, participants worked together to package rice and other items. At right, Bishop Mark L. Bartchak donned a hair net and helped (left to right) Jaden, Shane, and Maura, members of Saint Michael Parish in Hollidaysburg. The young people packed 30,000 meals to benefit the Stop Hunger Now program.

At SHYCON, Teens Put Mercy Into Action

Photos And Text
By Tony DeGol

The newly canonized Saint Mother Teresa of Kolkata often spoke of doing small things with great love. Hundreds of teenagers from throughout Altoona-Johnstown recently did something big with much love and a lot of fun.

The Diocese's annual Senior High Youth Conference was held on Sunday, October 23 at Saint Francis University

in Loretto. Sponsored by the Diocesan Office of Youth Ministry, the 900 participants had the opportunity to engage in something never before featured at SHYCON.

The teens packaged meals for the national organization Stop Hunger Now, which provides food to those in need.

"Since it is the Year of Mercy, we wanted the participants to really understand their call to show God's mercy to others," said Francine Swope, coordinator of Youth Ministry,

Religious Education, and Sacramental Preparation. "We wanted a way to make sure they had a hands-on experience of showing mercy."

The activity was a perfect fit with the theme of SHYCON 2016: "Got Mercy. Know Mercy. Show Mercy."

A section of the SFU gym was transformed into a makeshift food packaging factory as the teens donned hair nets and measured out rice and other items to be included in boxes.

By the end, the youth packaged 30,000 meals.

"Most of the kids didn't know each other, but worked together," Swope noted. "They were laughing and having fun working side-by-side and hand-in-hand to do this project."

Blaine, a SHYCON participant from Saint Michael Parish in West Salisbury, said the exercise empowered him.

"I think it's amazing that I'm able to help pack 30,000 meals for people who are less

fortunate and don't have the same stuff that I do," the tenth grade student stated. "It makes you feel like you can do anything. Helping that many people is a lot different than helping two or three."

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OLV DAY: Our Lady of Victory Parish and School in State College marked the feast of Our Lady of Victory, Friday, October 7, as “OLV Day,” with a number of special events. At left, pastor, Father Neil Dadey, joins in the OLV Day Walk - A - Thon. This year, the Walk-a-thon raised over \$70,000 to support the educational objectives of the school. The day also included the dedication of a statue of Our Lady and the Christ Child (right), in honor of the late Father Valentine Bradley, formerly parochial vicar at Our Lady of Victory Parish. The statue is based on the famous painting of Madonna della Strada (Our Lady of the Street), in 1896 by Roberto Ferruzzi. The image depicts Mary as a homeless person seeking food and shelter for her son and herself.

The Arts

Concert

Baden: December 2016 marks the 100th anniversary of the copyright of the Sisters of Saint Joseph beloved Christmas carol, “In a Manger Lowly.” The song continues to resonate with thousands of students who were taught the song by our sis-



Photo By Tony DeG...

SCOUTING CELEBRATION: Bishop Mark L. Bartchak celebrated the annual Catholic Scouting Mass on Saturday, October 22 at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona. Following the Mass, the Bishop presented awards to boys, girls, and adults who are involved in the Scouting ministry throughout the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown. “Scouting is all about learning about how good you really are, because that’s the way God made you and every person,” said Bishop Mark. “And you learn that through so many activities and projects that help other people too.” Father Joseph Orr, pastor of Holy Spirit Parish in Lock Haven, is the Scouting Chaplain. Denise Kreckel is the chair of the Catholic Committee on Scouting.

ters over the decades in schools and parishes in the dioceses of Altoona - Johnstown, Pittsburgh and Greensburg. Each year, we receive dozens of request for the song, now on a CD, and the sheet music!

To celebrate the occasion with the wider community, the Sisters of Saint Joseph are hosting an Advent - Christmas concert, featuring the song. It also will be an opportunity to honor Sister Ruth (Venard) Sattler,

90, musical director of the “In a Manger Lowly” album that was recorded in 1961, and Sister Donna Marie (Carolyn Marie) Beck, 84, who was the pipe organist for the recording.

The concert, which will be followed by a reception, is scheduled for 2 o’clock on Sunday, December 4, 2016, in the Motherhouse Chapel. Seating is limited! To purchase tickets, commemorative items, or sponsorships, or to obtain more in-

formation, visit: www.bit.ly/InAManger Or call: (724) 869 - 6574. There are also opportunities to honor Sister Donna Marie and Sister Ruth with “Congratulations, Sister” ads.

Adult Enrichment

Sacraments Class

Johnstown: The Office of Lay Ecclesial Ministry announc-

es that a Sacraments Class will be offered at two locations

This eight week course will focus on an understanding of the Sacraments today. Participants will study the post Vatican II theologies of Baptism, Reconciliation, Confirmation, Sacrament of Healing, Marriage, Holy Orders and the central mystery of our faith, the Mass.

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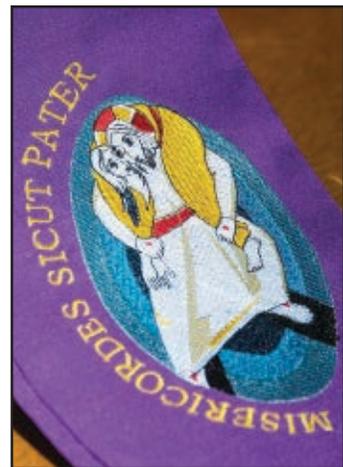
Travel with Msgr. Stanley Carson to Lourdes and Fatima; June 24th-30th, 2017; \$3,000

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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In The Alleghenies



CNS Photo/Fiona Basile

Year Of Mercy To Close . . .

The Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis, will come to a close on the Solemnity of Christ the King.

Bishop Mark L. Barchak will celebrate Mass at two locations to mark the closing of the Year of Mercy. The faithful are invited to take part in these liturgies.

They will be celebrated:

-- Saturday, November 19, 5:00 p.m., at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona.

-- Sunday, November 20, 11:00 a.m., at Saint John Gualbert Cathedral, Johnstown.

Liturgical Reflection . . .

Thursday, November 24, is Thanksgiving Day and a special Day of Prayer in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. The theme of the prayer is the Harvest and Fruits of the Earth. As our country gives thanks to God for our many blessings, Catholics are encouraged to participate at Mass and give thanks to God for all the gifts we have received. Please join in praying the following:

Father all-powerful,
your gifts of love are countless
and your goodness infinite;
as we come before you on Thanksgiving Day
with gratitude for your kindness,
open our hearts to have concern for every man, woman, and child,
so that we may share your gifts in loving service.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen

nior citizens on Wednesday, November 23 from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at Torvian Dining Hall on the university's campus.

The dinner, open to residents of the local nursing homes, senior centers and senior community members, is prepared and served by members of the Saint Francis campus community, and donations for the dinner are collected by university faculty, staff and students. Student volunteers also offer a valet parking service throughout the event.

Last year, the Center served over 720 guests, a record - breaking number for the annual dinner.

The dinner is free, but reservations are required. Any senior wishing to reserve a meal can call (814) 472 - 2877 or 472 - 2878. No name is needed when reserving a spot.

The Dorothy Day Outreach Center is also seeking student and community volunteers to

assist with the dinner. Those interested in volunteering can fill out a volunteer form, or can call Mary Adams at 472 - 2877. Volunteers are always needed to make the dinner a success.

The Dorothy Day Outreach Center serves local families in need in four counties (Blair, Bedford, Cambria, and Somerset), providing support, programs, food, clothing, and monetary assistance. It relies mainly on donations from the local community to be able to help others.

Grants Available

Merion: The Sisters of Mercy of the Mid - Atlantic Community will be awarding grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 for projects designed as healthy community initiatives for residents within the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese. The projects must be consistent with the



Photo By Tony DeGlo

PATRIOTIC ROSARY: The Diocesan Courts of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas sponsored the fifth annual Patriotic Rosary on Saturday, October 22 at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona. The Patriotic Rosary invites the faithful to pray for our country and for the wisdom of its leaders. Bishop Mark L. Barchak presided and offered a homily. Various elected officials from Blair County participated. The gathering also included Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

philosophy and mission of the Sisters of Mercy and the Catholic Church, in that they provide services for persons who are economically disadvantaged, especially women and children. The deadline for submitting proposals is March 1, 2016.

The Sisters of Mercy award grants every two years for projects designed as healthy community initiatives. In 2015, \$25,000 in funding was awarded to nineteen non - profit organizations within the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese.

The grants result from an Endowment established by the Sisters of Mercy within the Independent Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown. The Endowment was started with a gift of \$250,000 from the Mercy Health System (now Catholic Healthcare Partners) in Cincinnati, which the Sisters of Mercy co - sponsor. With the investment in the Foundation, the Sisters hope to leverage additional funds to promote healthy community initiatives.

For additional information or to request grant application

forms, please contact: Healthy Community Initiatives, c/o Colleen Maher, Office of Development, Sisters of Mercy, 515 Montgomery Avenue, Merion PA, 19066; by email at cma-her@mercymidatlantic.org, or by phone at (610) 664 - 6650 ext 525.

Christmas Cards

Altoona: Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Blair County Chapter, is offering Christmas cards for sale this season. Two beautiful designs are available, one entitled "Madonna and Child," depicts Mary's love and tenderness as she beholds her Infant Son, Jesus; the second design, entitled "The Holy Family," portrays Mary and Joseph, lovingly gazing at the sleeping Baby Jesus. Both designs are available for \$7 per package of 11 cards. Your purchase helps support the pro - life work of CCHL in Blair County.

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CNS Photo/Lisa Johnston

(Continued From Page 2.)

The course will be offered beginning in January, at Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament - Seton Suite, Altoona; Monsignor Robert Mazur, instructor and at Saint Michael Parish Hall in Saint Michael; Father D. Timothy Grimme, instructor.

The cost of registration and material, which includes a book on each sacrament, is \$65.00.

Registration forms are available online at www.dioceseaj.org/lay-ecclesial-ministry or by contacting Marybeth at (814) 361 - 2000 or by email at mheinze@dioceseaj.org.

Community

Thanksgiving Dinner

Loretto: The Dorothy Day Outreach Center at Saint Francis University will hold its annual Thanksgiving dinner for area se-

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Another Perspective

By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein Days To Inspire Us

Seventy – three years after he died in battle, Nicholas Cancilla came home to Altoona. His remains, recovered from a Japanese Island, were brought to his hometown for a funeral Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, and burial at Calvary Cemetery. Those ceremonies on Monday, November 7, marked the beginning of a remarkable week.

The very next day, citizens cast their votes for the person who will be the next President of the United States of America. Nicholas Cancilla gave his life defending the right of free people to choose their leaders in free elections. His sacrifice was on my mind when I cast my ballot. He sacrificed all for the sake of his fellow citizens. We can vote and peacefully choose our leaders because men and women like him knew that the democratic system we enjoy in this country is something worthy living for, fighting for, and dying for.

The week ended with the commemoration of Veterans Day, a day when we pause to remember all those who have served our country in the Armed Forces. I am proud of the fact that my father was an Army veteran. His brothers served in the military too - - one in the Army and one, my Uncle Paul, seeing active duty in the Navy during the Second World War. I have another uncle, still thankfully with us, Uncle Frank, who is also a veteran of that war. These men are American heroes; they served with out hesitation. They knew the importance of giving something back to the land that gave them so much.

The eventful days of last week with their emphasis on leadership, service, and patriotic pride, will quickly be followed by several more special days: the closing of the Jubilee Year of Mercy on the Solemnity of Christ the King, Thanksgiving Day on November 24, and the First Sunday of Advent on November 27. These days are as challenging as the days we have just completed; they challenge us to continue to be a merciful people, a thankful people, and a people who wait in joyful hope for the coming in glory of the Lord Jesus.

The days ahead bring us many challenges, most notably the challenge of coming together behind our new President, a person for whom many of us did not vote. The election and the nastiness preceding it are over. Now we must forge ahead and rally behind our new chief executive and work together to heal the wounds of division that have surfaced in our country. The inspiring days of last week, and the inspiring days till to come this month, show us how to do that.

As we go forward we have to remember that patriotism - - love of country - - must prevail over love of self. Self – interest and self – preservation are not as important as working for the common good. The willingness to be of service must be our guiding light. As we go forward we have to remember to be “merciful as the father is merciful,” not just for a day, not just for a year, but always. We have to give thanks constantly for the blessings that are ours as citizens of the United States of America, and give active witness to thankfulness by striving to build up God’s Kingdom here on earth, so that when He returns He will recognize us as His own.

Our inspiring days are not all behind us. There are many more yet to come. If we look back to the past to learn a lesson from those who have gone before us, and work hand in hand to build a better present, the future will be as grand and as glorious as we could ever hope for it to be. Our faith tells us that the best is yet to come.

Point Of View

Pope Says Church Never Likely To Ordain Women

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

ABOARD THE PAPAL FLIGHT FROM SWEDEN (CNS) -- The Catholic Church insistence that it cannot ordain women to the priesthood and episcopacy is a teaching likely to last forever, Pope Francis said.

After being hosted by the Lutheran Church of Sweden, which is led by Archbishop Antje Jackelen of Uppsala, the nation’s first woman primate, Pope Francis was asked Nov. 1 if the Catholic Church might one day have women priests and bishops.

As he has done in the past, the pope responded that the question was settled in 1994 by St. John Paul II, who taught that because Jesus chose only men as his apostles, the ordination of women in the Catholic Church is not possible.

He was asked, “Really? Never?” And he responded, “If one carefully reads the declaration of St. John Paul, it goes in that direction, yes.”

In one of his briefest airborne news conferences, Pope Francis spent just over 40 minutes with reporters and answered six questions ranging from Sweden’s newly restrictive immigration policy to the role of women in the church. He also was asked

about his experience with charismatic and Pentecostals, the roots of his concern about human trafficking, secularization in Europe and his meeting in late October with Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro.

Christians must never close their hearts to refugees and migrants, but governments have a duty to regulate the flux of newcomers as they allocate resources to ensure their integration into society, he said.

“It’s not human to close one’s heart,” the pope told reporters flying with him from Sweden back to Rome.

As he has in the past, Pope Francis insisted nations live up to international agreements offering special welcome and protection to refugees fleeing war and persecution. While Catholic social teaching holds that every person has a right to migrate in search of a better life, accepting newcomers is a serious obligation when the person’s life is at risk.

Europeans should not be frightened by the latest wave of newcomers, he said. “Europe was made with a continual integration of cultures, many cultures.”

The Catholic Church insistence that it cannot ordain women to the priesthood and episcopacy is a teaching likely to last forever, Pope Francis said.

The key, he said, is to ensure a proper integration of newcomers with language lessons, a home, schools and jobs. “The danger is that when a refugee or migrant is not integrated, he or she is ‘ghetto-ized.’”

Responding to the question about Maduro, Pope Francis said he met with him at the president’s request. “I listened to him for half an hour,” he said. “I asked a few questions. I heard his opinions. It’s always good to listen to both sides.”

Like in any conflict, he said, “either you dialogue or you scream.” The political and social tensions in Venezuela -- tensions that have unleashed a major economic crisis and huge suffering for many -- must be resolved with dialogue, he said.

The Vatican, he added, is supporting dialogue in Venezuela and, at the invitation of both the government and the opposition, has sent Archbishop Emil Paul Tscherrig, the nuncio to Argentina, as an observer.

The secularization of Europe, or of any society, the pope said, is usually the result of one of two factors: “a weak evangelization” caused by “lukewarm Christians” or a cultural process in which a growing number of people start thinking they are the lords of history.

A “healthy” form of separation of church and state is not the culprit, he said.

Prevention Is Possible: Changing Our Culture To End Sexual Violence

Sexual assault is a serious and widespread problem that has a lasting impact on individuals, communities and families. What we say and do about it matters.

Rape jokes, sexist language, and casting the blame for a sexual assault on the victims are all examples of rape culture or the normalization and trivialization of sexual assault and violence.

Even in private, conversations that convey disrespectful attitudes or encourage illegal acts continue to foster a culture where sexual assault is normalized. And this puts people at risk.

What can you do to reverse rape culture?

Speak up in a respectful manner when lines are crossed. Because when we passively stand by and allow others to talk about committing crimes, or even joke about assault, we allow sexual violence to thrive.

Understand that there are no behaviors or choices that make a person deserving of rape or sexual violence. The only thing that puts a person at risk of sexual assault is the presence of a perpetrator.

Take action.

Sexual violence is preventable by working together in our community—in our homes, neighborhoods, schools, faith settings, workplaces, and other settings—to es-

tablish boundaries for healthy relationships and respectful conduct.

As individuals, we can intervene to stop behavior that may lead to sexual assault, promote and model healthy attitudes, behaviors, and relationships, believe survivors, and assist them in finding resources. Our communities and organizations can create and strengthen policies to promote safety, equality, and respect, provide support for survivors, and hold those who harm others accountable.

Today, the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape is calling on our community members to take a stand.

We must do better.

For our children—our sons and daughters, nieces and nephews, and all of our loved ones, who should not fear taking the city bus, walking down the street or spending time with loved ones because of sexual abuse.

Prevention is possible and it's everyone's responsibility. Recognizing that you are a part of the solution is the first step in preventing sexual violence. Together we can prevent sexual violence.

As individuals, we can intervene to stop behavior that may lead to sexual assault, promote and model healthy attitudes, behaviors, and relationships, believe survivors, and assist them in finding resources. Our communities and organizations can create and strengthen policies to promote safety, equality, and respect, provide support for survivors, and hold those who harm others accountable.

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. Bartchak 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

(Continued From Page 3.)

To see photos of the cards and inside verses, go to www.BlairCountyProLife.com. To order, call Pat, (814) 946 - 0681 or Dorothy, (814) 505 - 2886.

Higher Education

Distinguished Alumni

Cresson: The Mount Aloysius College Alumni Association has named Dr. Glenn Neff as the Distinguished Alumni of 2016. Dr. Neff received the Award during the 2016 Alumni Recognition Dinner held recently in the Bertschi Center and Technology Commons located on the Mount Aloysius campus. The Dinner was part of the College's com-

bined Homecoming/Alumni Weekend festivities. Mount Aloysius College President, Dr. Thomas P. Foley and Jennifer Dubuque, Vice President for Institutional Advancement presented Glenn Neff with the award. Dr. Thomas P. Coakley, professor of English at Mount Aloysius College, introduced Dr. Neff.

Dr. Coakley was Dr. Neff's Short Fiction Writing class professor during his studies at Mount Aloysius College. "To my mind, Glenn is the perfect embodiment of that Mercy focus on providing the tools for people to be what they want to be; to create their future," Dr. Coakley said.

A native of Johnstown, Dr. Neff is a graduate of Mount Aloysius College. Starting his educational journey as an adult, non-traditional student, Dr. Neff's story typifies that of many Mount Aloysius adult students. Like many Mount Aloysius College students, Dr. Neff is the first in his family to attend college. Juggling a full - time business, Neff first completed an associate's degree and then a bachelor's degree in Professionals Studies at Mount Aloysius.

Urged on by his mentors – the late Professor Margaret Steinbeiser and Dr. Thomas Coakley, – Neff kept advancing his education. Eventually he earned a master's degree in English and then a doctorate in Literature and Criticism from Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP).

Dr. Neff served as an adjunct professor at Mount Aloysius College from 2000 until 2003. In 2003, he became a full-time faculty member in the English and Fine Arts Department. He serves as the director of the Mount Aloysius College Honors Program.

During his introduction, Dr. Coakley told the crowd that Professor Steinbeiser, Dr. Neff's advisor at the college, jokingly said Dr. Neff would find himself in trouble due to his imagination

or, she correctly predicted, he would become a professor.

During his time at IUP, Dr. Neff met his future wife, a Fulbright Scholar from Thailand, Dr. Tuangtip "Noon" Klinbubpa. Their marriage opened a new world to him. His research interests, American Literature and Film Studies, were perfect for southeast Asian universities. In 2006, Neff lectured at Silpakorn University, Bangkok, Thailand. Dr. Neff then served as a visiting guest lecturer at the Department of Western Languages and Linguistics at Mahasarakham University for the next four years. During his visits, he lectured undergraduate and graduate students on American film, and American literature focusing on Emerson, Thoreau, and Whitman and their influences on American culture.

In January 2010, Dr. Neff took part in the International Conference on Languages, Society, and Cultures in Asian Contexts held jointly by the University of Hyderabad, India and Mahasarakham University, Thailand. Neff was a featured speaker during the main portion of the Conference where "The Role of Scholars in Preserving and Promoting Asian Languages and Cultures" was discussed. His presentation made a strong case for the importance of teaching and study in the humanities as a significant means of advancing multi-cultural understanding in the 21st century's global community.

Glenn lives with his wife, Noon, in the house his father built in Johnstown.

Prayer

Carmelite Novena

Loretto: This year's eleventh Novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Saint Therese, the Little Flower, offered by the Discalced Carmelite Nuns, will open Tuesday, November 22 and conclude Wednesday, November 30.



CHAMPS: The fourth grade flag football team from Holy Trinity School, Altoona team won the Blair Rec championship, Tuesday, November 1, defeating Pleasant Valley 18 - 12 in 4 overtimes. Pictured are (left to right) First row: Isaac Yarnell, Isaac Yeskey, Nick Foor, Hamilton Gates, Carter Belton, Nick Irwin. Second row: Branden Reilly, Ben Steinbugl, Trent Adams, Nick McCloskey, Michael Cacciotti, Taurean Consiglio. Third row: Coaches Bernie Steinbugl, Zane Gates, Jeff Adams, Ian Foor and Ryan Reilly.

All intentions will be remembered with the special Novena prayers following daily Mass in the chapel at Carmel.

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

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.

Vocations

Day Of Discernment

Loretto: The Cloistered Dominican Nuns of the Perpetual Rosary invite single women under the age of 40 to get to know them online as well as in person.

The nuns welcome young women considering a religious vocation to attend a Day of Discernment on Saturday, November 26 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at their monastery at 1834 Lititz Pike.

In preparation for this day, the nuns also will be interviewed

live on social media on Wednesday, November 17, starting at 7:00 pm through the Facebook page of Lancaster - area author and lay Dominican Erin McCole Cupp (facebook.com/ErinMcColeCuppAuthor).

During the interviews, viewers will have an opportunity to meet some of the nuns of the monastery ahead of time and learn about their special charism and prayer ministry. At the Day of Discernment, young women will have an opportunity to interact in person with this joy-filled community of cloistered nuns, take a closer look at what life is like living in a monastery, and experience the vitality of a vocation to lifelong intercessory prayer.

This event is free, but registration is required. To register or to receive more information about the Day of Discernment event, or to arrange another time to meet the nuns and discuss a possible vocation, please contact Sister Mary Veronica, at (717) 569 - 2104 or info@opnuns-lancaster.org.

Additional information about the Cloistered Dominican Nuns of the Perpetual Rosary is available online at <http://www.opnuns-lancaster.org>. RSVP by Friday, November 18.



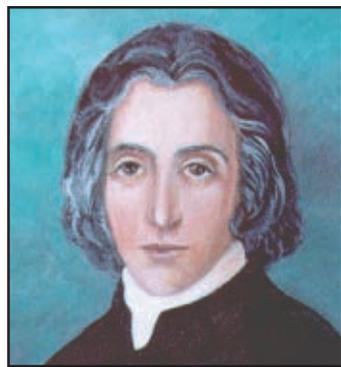
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- Hallmark Cards
- Gifts



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(814) 623-1442



A Prince In The Service Of The Great King

The Servant Of God
Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin
1770 - 1840

Pope Offers New Beatitudes For Saints Of A New Age

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

MALMO, Sweden (CNS) -- The saints are blessed because they were faithful and meek and cared for others, Pope Francis said.

At the end of an ecumenical trip to Sweden, Pope Francis

celebrated the feast of All Saints Nov. 1 with a Catholic Mass in a Malmo stadium. He highlighted the lives of the Swedish saints, Elizabeth Hesselblad and Bridget of Vadstena, who "prayed and worked to create bonds of unity and fellowship between Christians."

The best description of the saints -- in fact, their "identity card" -- the pope said, is found

in the beatitudes from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, which begins, "Blessed are the poor in spirit."

And, he said, as Christian saints have done throughout the ages, Christ's followers today are called "to confront the troubles and anxieties of our age with the spirit and love of Jesus."

New situations require new energy and a new commitment, he said, and then he offered a new list of beatitudes for modern Christians:

-- "Blessed are those who remain faithful while enduring evils inflicted on them by others and forgive them from their heart.

-- "Blessed are those who look into the eyes of the abandoned and marginalized and show them their closeness.

-- "Blessed are those who see God in every person and strive to make others also discover him.

-- "Blessed are those who protect and care for our common home.

-- "Blessed are those who renounce their own comfort in order to help others.

-- "Blessed are those who pray and work for full communion between Christians."

"All these are messengers of God's mercy and tenderness," Pope Francis said. "Surely they will receive from him their merited reward."

Registered Catholics in Sweden number about 115,000 -- just over 1 percent of the population. But with recent waves of immigration, especially from

Prayer For Father Gallitzin's Intercession

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

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

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

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

+ + +

Kindly send information about favors granted to:

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



CNS Photo/Paul Haring

SISTERS: Bridgettine sisters wait for the start of Pope Francis' celebration of Mass at the Swedbank Stadium in Malmo, Sweden, Tuesday, November 1. They are members of an order founded by Saint Bridget of Vadstena, and revitalized by Saint Elizabeth Hesselblad, two Swedish Saints cited by the Pope during Mass.

Chaldean Catholic communities in Iraq, local church officials believe the number of Catholics is double the reported figure.

Reflecting the multicultural makeup of the Catholic Church

in Sweden and the rest of Scandinavia, the prayer intentions at Mass were read in Spanish, Arabic, English, German and Polish, as well as in Swedish.

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Word of Life



The Pope Teaches

By Pope Francis

A Hopeful Reminder Of The Resurrection

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Visiting a cemetery on the feast of All Souls can evoke feelings of loss and sadness, but for Christians marking the feast, it also is an affirmation of hope in the resurrection, Pope Francis said.

Through his death on the cross, Jesus "opened for us the door of hope where we will contemplate God," the pope said Nov. 2 at an evening Mass amid the tombs of Rome's Prima Porta cemetery.

"The hope of the resurrection never fails us," the pope said. "The first one who walked this path was Jesus. We will walk the path he has walked."

As the sun set among scattered gray clouds, hundreds of people attending the Mass were seated along the cemetery walkway, surrounded by the burial plots of countless loved ones. Just before beginning the Mass, Pope Francis, dressed in a purple chasuble, laid roses in front of a tomb within the walls of the cemetery's mausoleum.

Reflecting on the feast day's first reading from the Book of Job, the pope noted that in the midst of suffering and darkness, "Job proclaims hope."

"As for me, I know that my vindicator lives and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust. I will see for myself; my own eyes, not another's, will behold him," Job says.

Although visiting the tombs of loved ones who have passed away and realizing that death will come for each person can bring feelings of sadness, the pope said that the act of bringing flowers to a cemetery is also a sign of joyful hope in the afterlife.

The feast of All Souls takes on a "dual meaning" where "sadness is mixed with hope," he said.

"We return home today with this dual memory: the memory of the past, of our loved ones who have gone and the memory of the future, the path we will go on with the certainty and with the assurance that came from Jesus' lips: 'I will raise him up on the last day,'" the pope said.

Italians, taking advantage of the Nov. 1 public holiday celebrating All Saints, traditionally visit the graves of their loved ones, often tidying up their graves and laying fresh flowers on the eve of the feast of All Souls.

Before concluding the Mass, Pope Francis blessed the tombs, while reciting a prayer to God that he would "comfort those in the pain of separation" and that those who have died will "one day participate in the paschal victory of your son."

"The hope of the resurrection never fails us," the Pope said. "The first one who walked this path was Jesus. We will walk the path he has walked."



ONE MORE TIME: In 1947, Boy Scout Troop 99 from Holy Name Parish, Ebensburg, was named the "Bishop's Own Troop," and was honored by Bishop Richard T. Guilfoyle. Father Charles W. Gallagher, pastor, is pictured at right.

In an age of porn and sleaze, the need for a deepened respect for the positive aspects of human sexuality is real. In marriage, the desire to give one's self to the delight of the beloved is a sign of Christian holiness.

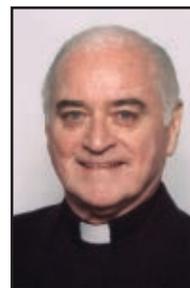
Human sexuality is perhaps the most talked about but least understood subject in the world. Our culture reduces sex to a form of entertainment.

There is never any thought given to the dangers of "free love." Without a mutual commitment, sex can be dangerous on many levels.

Promiscuity in one's youth can lead to an attitude about sex that scorns the idea of fidelity in marriage, and infidelity is the leading cause of divorce. In view of the fact that true love requires service and sacrifice, promiscuity is not a good way to prepare for a permanent marriage.

Our Lord taught that the noblest form of love is to lay down one's life for the beloved. In marriage, this kind of surrender begins when there is a true marital commitment. Sexuality is a gift that possesses both dignity and spiritual beauty.

A great deal can be said about the humdrum reality of marriage life. People need to accept themselves as human, as they try to deal with their shortcomings and weaknesses. But there is no reason to think of marital pleasure as sinful; it is a God-given instinct.



Spirituality For Today

By Father John Catoir
The Beauty Of Human Sexuality

There are many forms of sensual delight, like the enjoyment of a beautiful sunset or the thrill of listening to a great symphony. Such noble emotions contribute to our sense of well-being and happiness. Sexual pleasure is a particular form of sensual delight that is designed to be used in the service of married love. It brings new life into the world and increases the mutual support and comfort of married life.

Then, where does the sin factor come in?

Sexual sins are not sinful because of the pleasure factor. How could they be? Marriage is a sacrament that God created so that man and woman would find a "helpmate" in one another and grow in love and union and beget new life.

The precise nature of the sinfulness of illicit sex is not found in the sensual feelings it produces, but in the degree of selfishness a person projects. One who would risk taking advantage of another, despite the fact that it might lead to severe emotional pain, turns an act of love into an

act of self-indulgence.

That's why it is always wise for a young person to practice chastity. The alternative is to risk dangers that could lead to a life of sadness and regret. Part of chastity entails refraining from premarital sex, and the Catechism of the Catholic Church states that "the virtue of chastity blossoms in friendship," but it also exists in married life.

In the Second Vatican Council's Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, the first chapter discusses fostering the nobility of marriage and the family. Speaking of marriage, the document says:

"This love God has judged worthy of special gifts, healing, perfecting and exalting gifts of grace and of charity. Such love, merging the human with the divine, leads the spouses to a free and mutual gift of themselves, a gift providing itself by gentle affection and by deed, such love pervades the whole of their lives: Indeed, by its busy generosity it grows better and grows greater."

“Separate from, but committed to, the Diocesan Church”

The Independent Catholic Foundation is an independent entity – legally separate from the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown – committed to the long-term strength and viability of local Catholic institutions. The Foundation is overseen by a board of trustees comprised

of 13 lay men and women. The Diocese (as a legal entity) and the Diocesan Bishop have no role in the management of the Foundation, which is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization [a public charity]. Endowment funds held by the Foundation cannot be attached for

the Diocesan operating funds or any needs of the Diocese, but must be utilized for the intended purpose of the person(s) or parish that created an endowment fund that is administered based upon an irrevocable legal agreement.

Among its overall goals and objectives, the Independent Catholic Foundation is to:

- † Provide a source through which donors can make living and testamentary gifts to benefit their charitable objectives and sustain the works of parishes, schools, agencies, ministries and outreach programs of the diocese and other Catholic ministries supported by its donors.
- † Serve as a depository for charitable funds, mainly in the form of permanent restricted endowments. Additionally, unrestricted gifts are encouraged for use as needed by the Foundation.
- † Invest according to a prudent policy that closely balances risk versus reward with safety and provides an adequate mix of investments to generate both consistent growth and income. Importantly, invest according to our Catholic Values
- † Provide a resource and vehicle to administer Donor Advised Funds

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT *and the Executive Director*

We welcome you to the fall edition of our newsletter FOCUS. We want to provide some news about what we're working on, what we've accomplished and our hopes for new and exciting things to come. As we begin to work on a new edition of FOCUS, we have a habit of reviewing past issues so as to present new and useful articles without being redundant. We are pleased with how far we've come. In the spring of 2012 we reported in the FOCUS that we had offered almost \$508,000 in distributions to various ministries; this year we offered over \$1 million. In that same newsletter we reported having 190 individual endowments; as this letter is written we now have 243. An increase of almost 28% in 4 years! We are presently working our way through a strategic planning process. We made a "listening tour", meeting with many different constituents. We were excited to hear what we are doing right

and learned of a need for different services and offerings. We are now working on an expanded set of offerings. While the investment returns for fiscal year 2015-2016 (ending 6/30/2016) were rather flat, the investment growth for both fiscal year 2016-2017 and calendar year 2016 are showing a positive returns with calendar year 2016 growing 5.57% as of September 30. Through the generosity of our donors we have received over \$400,000 as of September 30; some of that being estate gifts from individuals who wanted to create their family legacy. We continue to be encouraged by many positive comments regarding our investment portfolio being aligned with our Catholic faith because of Christian Brothers Investment Services. We are humbled by our success and pray that God continues to smile on our efforts. We hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter and trust it provides insight on how you can remember your parish or favorite Catholic ministry in your estate planning. Please feel free to contact our office or any Trustee to discuss how we may be of service.



(L-R) Bill Hiergeist, Executive Director
Jim Carrieri, President

“You are not here merely to make a living. You are here in order to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world, and you impoverish yourself if you forget the errand.”

*– Woodrow Wilson,
28th United States President*

WELGE SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The Independent Catholic Foundation announced the winners for the 2016 Welge Scholarship. This year's winners are: Veronica Compton, a member of Sacred Heart in Altoona who will continue her studies at Penn State Altoona; Ben Kasun, a member of St. Therese who also attends Penn State Altoona and Lynnea Burr a member of St. Joseph Parish, Bellwood who attends Lock Haven University. The Welge Endowment Scholarship was established in 1995 to honor Adelaide G. (Heverly) Welge. This annual scholarship provides financial assistance to worthy parishioners of churches in Blair County. The applicant must be entering their junior or senior year at any accredited college. The Foundation Trustees are responsible for the awarding of the Welge Scholarships each year. Trustees who live in Blair County are asked to serve as a sub-committee for the review and selection process. The committee was impressed with both the quantity and quality of this year's applicants. A \$500 check will be sent to the respective colleges on behalf of the winners to aid in their tuition. An additional eight endowments are held by the Foundation that benefit worthy students from parishes throughout the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. The application process for these varies, with most being administered by the individual parish or high-school. During the last school year, the Foundation distributed over \$50,000 under the guidelines of these additional college endowments. Information on how to establish a college or high-school scholarship is available at the Foundation office or at www.icfdaj.org

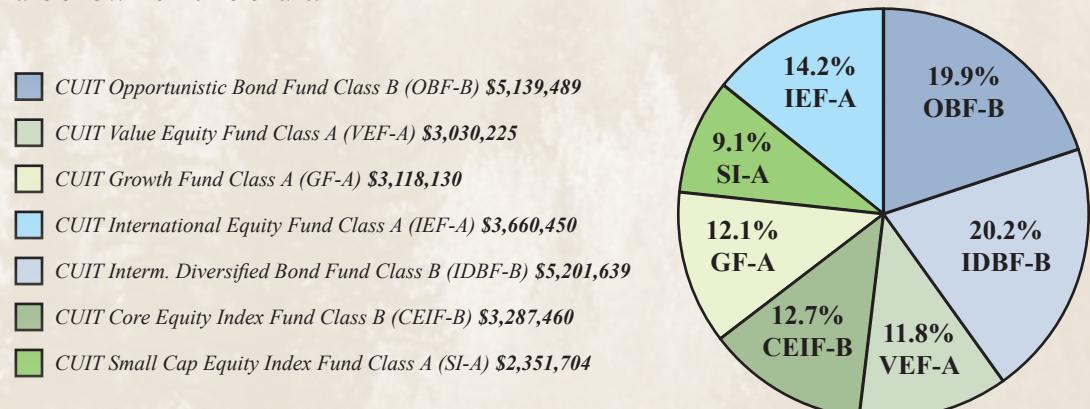


FAMILY LEGACY'S THROUGH COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

In June 2015 Pope Francis wrote in his encyclical *Laudato Si'* "What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us?" Some families thought that question was answered by educating the next generation and thus created named college scholarships: Bertha & Leonard Zanghi, Charles J. & Mildred A. Morningred, Suzanne (Sickler) Ohl. These scholarships are offered through a process designed by St. Matthew (Tyrone) Parish leadership and awarded to members of the parish. During the 2016 selection process these three scholarships awarded over \$41,000 to 22 different students. Other families have created the Ron J. Fiochetta, the Kayla Nicodemus and the Adelaide G. (Heverly) Welge scholarships that benefited eight additional students offering \$7,300 more in tuition aid. These students are not members of a particular parish and are offered the scholarships through a different selection process. In 2014 the John G. Kurey Scholarship Endowment for St. Catherine of Siena (Mt. Union) was created through an estate gift and offers an additional \$7,100 in scholarships. As noted, the above are college scholarships, an additional 58 scholarships offering a total of almost \$200,000 benefit the Diocesan affiliated High Schools. These figures do not include the Knights of Columbus Seminarian Endowment fund that provided \$6,000 of seminarian support. Pope Francis would be proud of these families! Information on how to create your legacy is available at the Foundation office.

ASSET ALLOCATION

All funds are invested according to the Foundation's Investment Policy. The current policy and allocations were refined in the months following the Foundation's choice of Christian Brothers Investment Services (CBIS) as portfolio manager in July 2014. The Foundation Trustees and donors have been pleased with the investment performance and service provided by CBIS. Everyone is pleased and proud that all funds are invested according to our Catholic values. Most investors would consider our allocation of 60% equities and 40% fixed income as a "moderate" allocation. Cornerstone Advisors Asset Managers, Bethlehem, PA provides additional consulting. The current allocations are shown on this chart.



FOUNDATION HONOR SOCIETY

The Foundation is continuing to promote an honor society within the Foundation named the Saint Simon Society. This society will recognize an individual for whom a contribution to the Foundation has been made in the amount of \$1,000.00. This contribution can be made by an individual, their family or a group of friends or employees. Membership can be funded over two years with membership beginning when fully funded. The honoree can be living or deceased, and of course someone can join in their own name. Named after Saint Simon of Cyrene who helped Christ carry his cross on the way to Calvary, membership will help the Foundation in two ways. One half of the contribution will be put into the general fund for current use, with the second half being put into an endowment that will support the Foundation forever. Recognition will include a member listing on a separate page on the Foundation web-site and a mass will be offered annually for members' intentions or for their remembrance, in the case of a deceased member. The mass will be offered annually in May, in which the feast day of Saint Simon is celebrated.

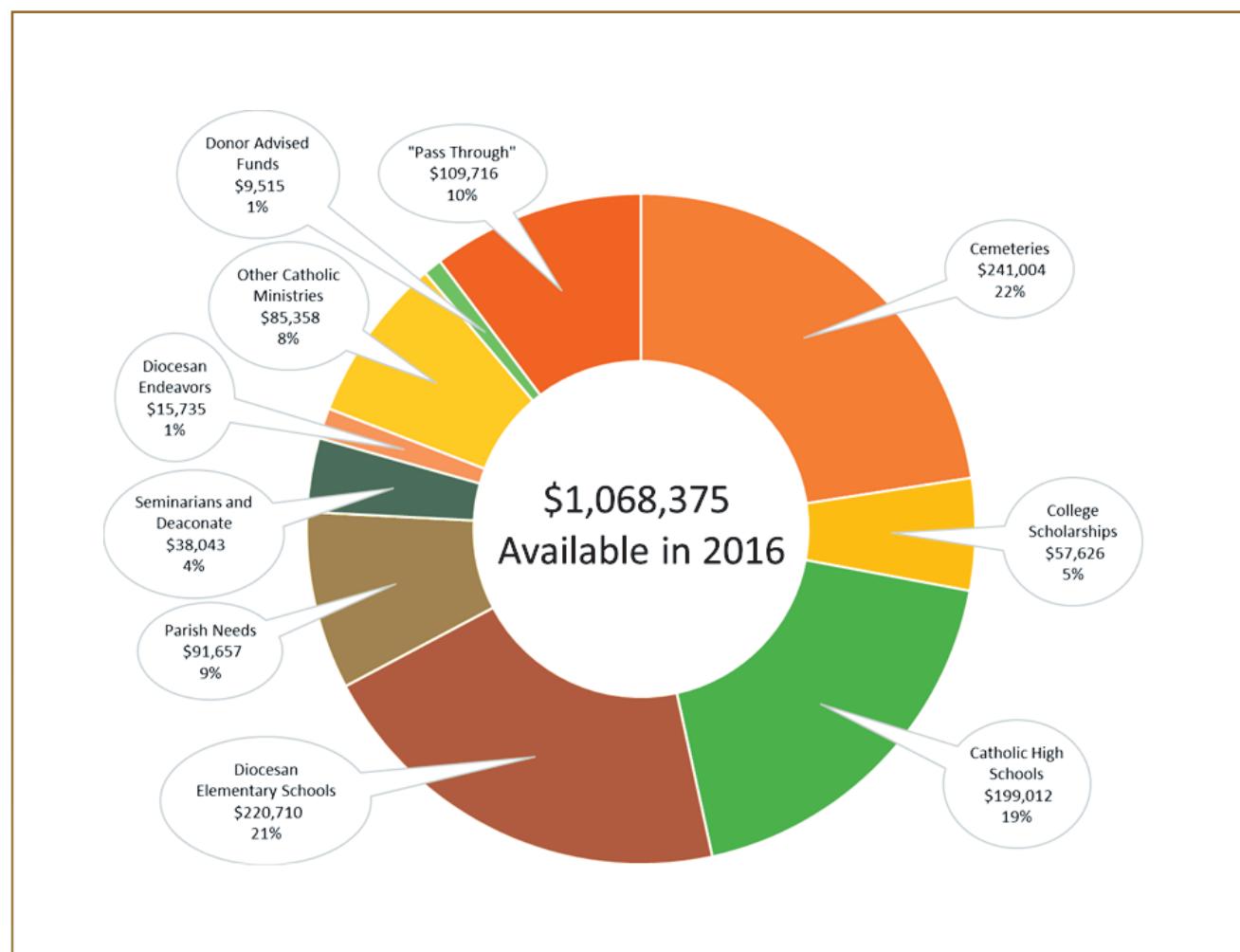
GIVING AT YEAR END

As the end of this calendar year approaches, many people think about financially supporting their favorite ministry. Charitable giving at year end may result in tax savings for the donor. Last year Congress made permanent the popular provision allowing people 70 ½ or older to make tax-free gifts directly from an IRA. The Foundation's website contains information that may be helpful in deciding how and how much to give. The website includes, along with other information, retirement calculators, information on generating income, Q & A's and updated 2016 tax laws. The pages can be found by visiting: www.icfdaj.org > Gift Opportunities > Planned Giving. It is always prudent to consult with your personal tax advisor.



INDEPENDENT CATHOLIC FOUNDATION EARNS COVETED 4-STAR RATING FROM CHARITY NAVIGATOR

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. 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 & CEO of Charity Navigator. Independent Catholic Foundation's rating and other information about charitable giving are available free of charge on www.charitynavigator.org. "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."



WELCOME AND THANKS

At its June meeting, the Foundation welcomed two new Trustees. Joining the board for a three year term are Ms. Jackie Martella and Mr. Rick Musar. Jackie was invited to join the board by Monica Garver and the nominating committee. Jackie, her husband and two sons are active members of St. Benedict's Parish in Johnstown. A second generation Registered Pharmacist, she is co-owner of Martella's Pharmacies and Boswell Prescription Services. Jackie a graduate of Duquesne, also serves on the Board of St. Frances University. Rick was invited to join the board by Bob Leahey and the nominating committee. He, his wife and daughter are members of Our Lady of Victory in State College. Rick has a strong background in investments and finance having degrees in engineering and accounting with an MBA from Pitt. In 1998 he and partners founded Aris Corporation an Investment Advisory and Pension Administration firm. Rick now provides consulting to Aris and additionally is an adjunct professor at Penn State. He is a member of the state and national Institutes of Certificated Public Accountants. Outgoing President Dino Persio offered special thanks to Vince Barbera and Tom Kristofco for their years of service; Vince and Tom, were both past presidents. Additionally the board said thanks and farewell to Monica Garver and Tony Kamnikar who were also leaving because of term limits. The Trustees offered a round of applause for the departing Trustees and for incoming President Jim Carrieri.

Trustees

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President

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St. Mary, Altoona
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William M. Hiergeist (Ex-Officio)
St. Matthew, Tyrone

Dino Persio, Esq.
Holy Name, Ebensburg
Immediate Past-President

John J. Wolf
Cathedral, Altoona



WELCOME MARY ANN MIOBELLI

Mary Ann joined the Foundation as accountant in June of this year. She comes to the Foundation having been controller at Nason Hospital in Roaring Spring. She also spends her time working in the office at St. John's (Lakemont) and with her family and Grandson. She replaced long time staff accountant

Matt Reilly who relocated from the area with his wife and daughter. "She really had to hit the ground running" noted Executive Director Hiergeist because she joined us at the end of our fiscal year immediately followed by our distribution process". "She's a great addition to the staff" added Hiergeist.

A Note to Pastors

The Independent Catholic Foundation is guided by 13 lay men and women. In June 2016, four Trustees retired from the board because of term limits. We are looking for lay individuals who you think would be able to contribute to our good works. Many Trustees have supported the Foundation financially but there is no obligation to do so; all Trustees do support us with their prayers and involvement. They would be asked to attend 4 Trustee meetings per year, usually held in Altoona. They are also required to be practicing Catholics and active members of their parish. We have committees that guide our finances, marketing, communication and outreach efforts. If you know someone who you think would be a good candidate, please let us know. We are especially interested in candidates from counties other than Blair, Centre and Cambria.

Please Note

In all instances it is advisable to speak with legal counsel, a Financial advisor and/or a tax consultant. No information contained in this newsletter or on the Foundation website should be considered legal advice.

"Like" us on Facebook

The Foundation has a Facebook page! Please "like" us on Facebook and you will see periodic updates and current news. We have had a page for sometime, but we are now working on adding content in a timelier manner. Please feel free to offer suggestions on what you'd like to see. Search for "Independent Catholic Foundation". "Like" us and follow along.

For more information:

Individuals, businesses, organizations or parishes are welcome to inquire about the Independent Catholic Foundation by contacting any Trustee or our office. Executive Director, Bill Hiergeist can be reached at the Foundation office.

For a list of current Trustees, please visit our web-site.

Please visit our web-site at www.icfdaj.org

All inquires are held in the strictest confidence.

Bill Hiergeist, Executive Director (814) 201-2080 (814) 201-2092 (fax) (E-mail address) Bill@icfdaj.org
3618 Fifth Ave., Suite 1 • Altoona, PA 16602

Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle
The Changing
Parish Landscape

Q. About five years ago, my work transferred me out of state. At the time, I was attending my local Catholic church, which was clustered with two other parishes. We had a vibrant Catholic community with Masses each day of the week, week-night Bible study and prayer groups and, on weekends, multiple Masses from which to choose.

Now, having recently retired, I have moved back to the same area, but the difference from five years ago is stark and alarming. The two parishes we were clustered with have closed, we have Mass on only two weekdays and no "extracurricular" groups.

On weekends, we have only one Mass on Saturday and one on Sunday, and we no longer have confessions on Saturdays. Sometimes the priest fails to show, without sending a replacement; the eucharistic ministers distribute Communion to a stunned crowd and then we all go home.

I would like to see whether there is anything I can do to help (besides pray), but no one else seems to be talking about the issue. Any advice would be appreciated. Our numbers at Mass are still high, and the priest is the same one from five years ago -- but this is not the same church. (Southern Indiana)

A. Your story is a familiar one across the face of America today. In many areas of the country, Catholic parishes have closed or merged and, with the shortage of priests, the number of Mass options has declined. (This is particularly true in urban areas, since many Catholics have migrated to the suburbs.)

Some things you mention need not be happening. Confessions should be available every weekend; even if few people go.

Regarding "extracurricular" activities -- like prayer groups and Bible study -- what you might do is to round up a few like-minded friends and just begin; you don't need a priest for

Saint Lawrence
O'Toole
1128 - 1180
Feast - November 14



The son of an Irish chieftain, Lorcan Ua Tuathail was held hostage for two years by a rival family. He later became a monk, then abbot, at Glendalough, where his rule was strict. In 1161, Lawrence became archbishop of Dublin; his chief work there was clergy reform. In 1170, English King Henry II sent Anglo-Norman nobles to Ireland to dispatch Irish leaders; thereafter, Lawrence was embroiled in politics, the beginning of "the troubles" with England. He attended the Third Lateran Council in Rome in 1179 and was appointed papal legate in Ireland. He died in Normandy, while trying to mediate Norman-Irish property disputes with Henry, and was canonized in 1225.

those, and ample printed material is available to guide your discussions.

As for the priest not showing up for Mass, I don't, of course, know the reason; priests are aging and so it may be a health issue. You might decide to speak directly to the priest, telling him how unsettling this is for parishioners, or you could contact your diocesan office to be sure that they are aware of the situation. Perhaps the diocese could provide a retired priest as a replacement when needed.

Q. I read the Catechism of the Catholic Church daily. I also read the Quran, to try to understand what the Islamic faith teaches. In the catechism, No. 841 states that the creator of the heavens and the earth is the same creator as the Islamic faith worships (Allah).

But in the Quran, Surah 18 says that Allah has no sons or daughters and (by implication) can be no part of the Trinity. Can you explain to me, then, how the catechism came to that conclusion? (Fayetteville, Georgia)

A. The section of the Catechism of the Catholic Church that you reference (No. 841) quotes the Second Vatican Council's document "Lumen Gentium" in saying that "(Muslims) profess to hold the faith of Abraham, and together with us they adore the one, merciful God, mankind's judge on the last day."

The Quran has no vision of God as Trinitarian and states that Allah has no sons or daughters. But for two people to describe an object differently does not mean that they are describing two different objects.

So to say that Judaism, Christianity and Islam are all Abrahamic religions does not mean that they are equally true or speak of God with the same degree of accuracy.

It means instead that all three faiths are attempting to describe the same reality, namely Abraham's God: One God alone who is sovereign Lord, to whom all must be obedient and who embodies what is ultimately most important for someone's life.



For The Journey

By Effie Caldarola
'Tattoos On The Heart'

The other day, I climbed out of bed a little before 4 a.m. to head to the Philadelphia airport.

My kids live in three different time zones from one another and from my husband and me, and we'd just had a short reunion to celebrate the second birthday of the person who represents our family's next generation, Charlotte.

Now, time for us to fan out across the country.

Forgoing morning showers or even a cup of coffee, four of us quietly left Charlotte's house in the darkness, dropping off a car rental, finding different airlines, different gates, hugging goodbye as each traveler peeled off.

I recognized again that the pain of separation underscores the blessing of being loved.

Arriving home, I revived myself with a short nap. No matter how tired I was, I didn't want to miss an address that evening at Creighton University. Jesuit Father Greg Boyle, the author of **Tattoos On The Heart: The Power Of Boundless Compassion** and the founder of Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles, was speaking at our local Jesuit university.

Father Boyle entered the Jesuits in 1972, and his ministry eventually took him to a parish in East Los Angeles rife with gang activity and violence. He buried large numbers of young people and saw the pain of family crisis.

Some would find the experience deadening and debilitating. With the Jesuit grace of seeing God in all things, Father Boyle saw challenge and possibility.

No one wants to lead the life of misery that gang involvement produces, Father Boyle realized. That's not the life anyone would choose if given a viable alternative.

Homeboy Bakery was his first endeavor, training and employing former gang members who often worked side by side with partners from rival gangs. Eventually, the bakery set the groundwork for Homeboy Industries, which today employs and trains former gang members in a variety of enterprises. Homeboy Industries website says 15,000 men and women are provided services each year.

Father Boyle talks about his experience with gang members much like he writes, with humor and touching insight. Jesuits write great books -- Father James Martin, Father Gary Smith, to name just two -- but it's hard to beat Father Boyle. Good news: He's working on another one.

It was on another airplane trip years ago that I encountered **Tattoos On The Heart**. Reading Father Boyle's tale about gang members, the people he has buried, love's ability to redeem, had me chortling and sobbing by turns. I'm sure my fellow passengers thought they'd been seated next to a crazy lady.

The Creighton crowd was heavy with students. If you go to a Jesuit university in the U.S., you've likely been assigned **Tattoos** in some class at some point, and many kids had their books with them to be autographed.

Father Boyle told the crowd about recent funerals. No project serving the marginalized is going to be successful all the time. If we're caught up in measurements of "success," we often forget true mission.

Addressing his young audience, Father Boyle told them several times that Creighton is not a place to be but a place you will go from. He was telling the students -- and all of us -- that we are called, we're sent, to be the boundless compassion that can change lives.

I sent a copy of Father Boyle's book to one of the people to whom I'd said goodbye at the Philadelphia airport. It's a tale that bridges separation. It's a story of maintaining humor, faith and compassion in life's darkest moments. It's a story that goes beyond the mean streets of East L.A. It's a story of the best of being Catholic.



FIRST TIME PARTICIPANTS: Bishop Mark L. Bartchak poses with members of Queen of Archangels Parish in Clarence and Snow Shoe, at the Senior High Youth Conference. This was the first time the parish sent a group to SHYCON. Father Michael Wolfe, pictured in the back, right, is the Administrator of the parish.

SHYCON Asked Teens To Focus On Mercy

(Continued From Page 1.)

Added Connor, a member of Saint Stephen Parish in McConnellsburg: "I learned a lot about myself and others by hanging out with them and learning that

not everyone has as much as I do, and I can do a lot to help others by packaging meals and just being a friend to those who don't have one."

Attendees were also enlightened by two keynote addresses from nationally-recognized speaker Mike Patin.

He discussed mercy in a teenage world that involves gossip, dating, and social media, and he reminded the crowd to

follow the example of Jesus.

"I hope they can place mercy before judgment," Patin told **The Catholic Register** after his presentations. "I hope they can be practical in trying to bring their better angels to every situation and that they're surrounded by good adults and good teenagers who spot them and help them want to do the same."

In between listening to the keynote addresses and packing food, the teens had fun and laughs with giant inflatables.

The event ended with Mass with Bishop Mark L. Bartchak.

In his homily, the Bishop pointed out that mercy is about attitude, action, and identity.

"You're just going to be a do - gooder if you do good, compassionate, forgiving, and nice things to people," he said. "But if you understand and you believe that the Lord God is kind

and merciful; He forgives our sins; that Jesus died on the cross for you and for me; if that's in the background of your attitude about mercy, then your action is going to be real."

Engaging the youth, the

Bishop asked how to spell God. G-O-D, the teens shouted.

"Wrong!" said Bishop Mark, recalling comments by the Holy Father. "Pope Francis says the name of God is MERCY!"

"Since it is the Year of Mercy, we wanted the participants to really understand their call to show God's mercy to others," said Francine Swope, coordinator of Youth Ministry, Religious Education, and Sacramental Preparation. "We wanted a way to make sure they had a hands-on experience of showing mercy."



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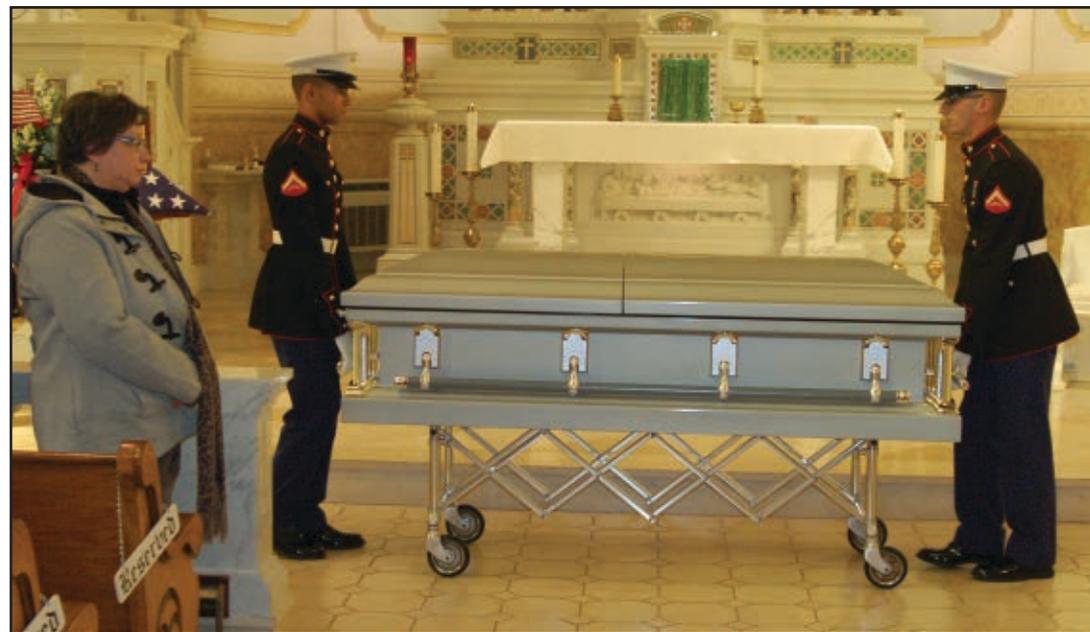
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FINAL SALUTE: Darlene Johnson looks on as two United States Marines prepare to remove the coffin containing the remains of her uncle, Private First Class Nicholas J. Cancilla, from Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Altoona, following a Monday, November 7 funeral Mass. The American flag was saluted before the service members placed it upon the coffin holding the body of the 18 - year - old Altoona native, recovered from a grave on a Japanese island, 73 years after his death in a World War II battle.

Community Pays Tribute To Fallen WWII Hero



SHOW OF RESPECT: Community members showed their respect for the fallen Marine by providing an honor guard, lined with flags, between the Santella Funeral Home and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church on Eighth Avenue in Altoona.

(Continued From Page 16.)

“Nick was a high school student when the news of Pearl Harbor reached Altoona,” said Father Frank. “Over the protests of his parents, Nick dropped out

of school and entered the recruiting station in 1942. As his younger brother, Frank Jr., remembered, ‘He was going to be a glorified Marine,’” he said.

Father Frank knew Frank Jr., himself a World War II U.S.

Navy veteran. “Unfortunately I buried him on November 16 last year. He was so proud of his brother Nicholas, and named his son after him. Tragically, Frank’s son Nicholas was killed in action in Vietnam.”

Private First Class Nicholas Cancilla completed his basic training in October of 1942, and by November that year, his Company B, 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines, 2nd Marine Division, led an assault on the island of Betio in the Tarawa Atoll. Marines representing Frank’s unit attended the funeral Mass.

His unit met a large entrenched Japanese resistance and Nicholas, along with many other Marines and sailors paid the ultimate sacrifice to help preserve our American freedom.

Father Frank quoted from the Book of Revelation during his Homily: “I saw a new heaven and a new earth. Behold, I make all things new. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. The victor will inherit these gifts.”

He said Nicholas inherited eternal life by his heroic service to all of humankind. “I chose the Gospel reading of the Beatitudes because they describe qualities and not actions. Nicholas was fighting so that we all can live in peace. He is truly a child of God.”

Deb Shaffer of Dubois, a volunteer with History Flight, said according to the Department of Defense there are 88,000 missing POWs and MIAs. History Flight is a non - govern-

ment, non - profit organization that helps unite the remains of those 88,000 soldiers with their families.

Jennifer Morrison of Bloomington IN, is a volunteer genealogist with History Flight. “My job is to find the next of kin to let them know there is a possibility History Flight may have found one of their loved ones.

“I notified Frank Cancilla in 2013 and told him his brother’s remains may have been located on Tarawa Atoll. The next step was made by the Marines, who sent a DNA kit to the family so a positive identification could be made.”

Morrison said Frank was happy Nicholas’s remains were found. “He was a peaceful and polite man, and he handled it all very well” she added. “My part in this is very humbling. I’m often the first person to notify a family that the mission continues.”

Darlene, her husband, Frank, and several other family members journeyed to Altoona for the Mass and burial. They were surprised by all of the attention. “It was just a beautiful Mass and I really loved the choir,” said Darlene following the Mass. My Dad would have loved it.”

Foundation Of Faith: Religious Patch Cracks Left In Wake Of Natural Disasters

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)

-- When the Benedictine monks in Norcia led residents in prayer before the ruins of their medieval city, they showed one way the church steps into action in times of crisis.

First responders encouraged the religious, recognizing they could do their job better when the distraught receive emotional or spiritual rescue, too. SOS, after all, means "save our souls."

In fact, the one disaster that cameras don't easily capture is the shattering of people's resolve and the collapse of courage when everything they have is gone.

"Certainly the crumbled walls and the missing roofs" are a problem, Archbishop Renato Boccardo of Spoleto-Norcia said, but the most serious concern is the people -- "people who have been living for two months in a state of continual fear and worry and are under considerable psychological stress and losing hope."

He told Vatican Radio the day after the Oct. 30 tremors that the people he talks to are tired of starting over; some have rebuilt their homes twice already from past quakes.

"The temptation to give



CNS Photo/Remo Casilli, Reuters

NUNS SURVEY QUAKE DAMAGE: Nuns stand next to a partially collapsed wall Sunday, October 30, following an earthquake in Norcia, Italy.

up is there," he said, and the church's job is to "sustain hope, listen to people vent and dry their tears."

As central Italy quaked, a city further north was celebrating its own rebirth from ruin and honoring the perseverance and selflessness of those who helped save it.

Florence -- the cradle of the Renaissance -- was commemorating the 50th anniversary of the day the Arno River burst its

banks Nov. 4, 1966.

Water, silt and debris smashed into septic systems and tanks of fuel oil and gas, creating a black-brown sludge that permeated priceless works of art, books and manuscripts. Rushing waters 20 feet high carried away roads, cars and supplies, and filled homes and businesses with oily muck.

The disaster prompted hundreds of students, workers and professionals to go help the city, earning them the name, "the mud angels." Some of their testimony and details were published in the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, and on internet news sites.

Cardinal Gualtiero Bassetti of Perugia-Citta della Pieve was among the mud angels, according to the Vatican newspaper.

He was a 24-year-old priest who had been ordained in Florence just two months prior. He and a handful of teenagers broke into a garage where tanks of acetylene were illegally stored. With the water quickly rising, they pulled out the tanks to lessen the potential and power of an

explosion, he said.

Cardinal Giuseppe Betori of Florence, who was 19 at the time, said seeing "the suffering, the loss on the Florentines' faces" was unforgettable.

He and many other seminarians and young priests studying in Rome went to Florence with the encouragement of their rector who believed the experience would be "formative." In fact, the cardinal told the Italian news agency ANSA, it turned out to be a course in theology "with a shovel in my hand."

They slept in a theater and wore boots and overalls like all the other volunteers, he said.

While media attention buzzed around those salvaging books from the national library in the historic center, the seminarians were assigned to the outskirts of town to help a working class neighborhood, Cardinal Betori said.

For those folks, "we really were angels," he said, "unexpected apparitions, a presence that was a pure gift."

He said he's "proud to have been among the people and not

the books, not to diminish the importance of culture, especially in Florence, but it seems to me that for a seminarian, a priest, a bishop, it is much more important to be able to say 'I served the people.'"

He helped residents dig through the sludge for their precious possessions, like a metal box filled with a married couple's love letters. Hit with a bad case of the flu, he ended up on a cot for a week, "doing nothing more for Florence" until Pope Benedict XVI appointed him archbishop of the city in 2008.

Now, he says, he always recalls "that the first staff I held in my hand in Florence was the handle of a shovel. It helps me, let's say, stay measured" when he processes into church with a pastoral staff in hand, reminded of "those days filled with mud and water."

Cardinal Betori was to lead a Mass Nov. 4 at the Church of Santa Croce, together with other prelates who had been "mud angels" in their youth.

L'Osservatore Romano said three Italian cardinals and at least six bishops had been "mud angels." Indian Cardinal Telesphore Toppo of Ranchi, then a 27-year-old theology student in Rome, even contributed by donating blood.

Responding to Italy's latest disaster -- the series of earthquakes -- Archbishop Boccardo has organized a "task force of hope," assigning available priests to live among those left homeless.

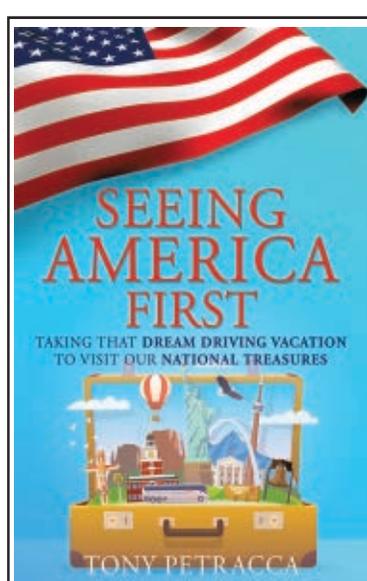
One of his priests, Father Marco Rufini, has been living in a car like other townfolk in Norcia. He told Vatican Radio Nov. 1 that even though the town has lost its churches, "the house of God isn't the walls but the people."

If people are on their knees in sorrow or pain, then the church needs to kneel down with them -- "to work on that edifice made of living stones," he said.

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HANNAH HARTSWICK

New Catholic Charities Counselor Will Help Children Process Emotions

By Bruce A. Tomaselli

Anger is a complex emotion. Not a result, but in many cases a frustrating attempt to communicate and express feelings that lie deeply within us.

As children, adolescents, and adults, we all struggle to understand our emotions.

Hannah Hartswick MS, NCC, a recent addition to Catholic Charities staff, is trained to help individuals understand and communicate those feelings.

Hartswick, is a native of the Bellefonte - State College area. She received her M.S. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Lock Haven University, and her undergraduate degree from Pennsylvania State University.

After working as a Reunification Counselor with The Fam-

ily and Intervention Crisis Services, she said she felt a calling to work with those young people and their families.

This type of therapy is new to our area and is designed to help young people, who have dealt with neglect or abuse, heal from those traumas experienced individually or as part of a family unit.

"I want to help them understand their emotions, thoughts and behaviors, and how they can move on and express them in an appropriate manner," explained Hartswick.

She employs the traditional cognitive approach to these problems, but also incorporates art, play and music into the therapy.

"Even as adults we have trouble communicating our feelings," said Hannah. "We must work together to understand our emotions and to share and pro-

cess them in a healthy way. Our thoughts and emotions are not the same thing."

Children and young people may very well suffer trauma because of neglect in the home. Anxiety and depression accompany these abuses. "I felt drawn to these young people and their families," Hartswick said. "Children have a natural love for their parents despite what has gone on their homes. I work to relieve the fears of these children and reunify these families."

She said parents need reminded sometimes that a child acting out is not the sign of a bad child. It's a child that doesn't understand their feelings and how to communicate them. These children get frustrated because of their inability to communicate. That leads them to act out. Parents also should know it's not always something they've done that makes a child act out inappropriately.

There are few therapists in this area who specialize with children, and very few who use play therapy as one of their techniques.

Hartswick said that one of the biggest hurdles she must negotiate is the stigma that is attached to therapy. "Many people still see it as a sign of weakness, but what it is is a new unbiased system of support.

"It's understandable that persons are nervous and anxious to speak with a stranger, but most times they come to realize there is a heavy weight lifted from their shoulders. There is no shame in needing a little extra help." But, she reminds "Therapy is not a magic wand and individuals must make an effort to put in some work."

One of Hartswick's favorite quotes is from Ernest Hemingway, who wrote: "The world breaks everyone, and afterward some are stronger in the broken places."

"All of us have these broken moments. We need to understand that those moments have the capacity to make us stronger.

"Sometimes we need help to learn how to be stronger and process those broken times," she said.

Hannah will divide her time between the Bellefonte and Al-

toona Catholic Charities offices.

Hartswick is drawn to children and enjoys addressing their emotions through creative activities.

"I look forward to identifying the strengths of each of my clients," Hannah said. "I acquaint myself with their pattern of thinking and decide if a creative or more cognitive type of therapy will most benefit them. Children have such a wonder-

ful imagination, which leads to a more creative therapeutic approach. Activities such as painting, art projects, music, etc. help to put some distance between themselves and their problems. That makes it easier for them to deal verbally with their experiences."

Hannah and her husband, Derrick, are the parents of two girls, Chloe, 8, and Lyla, 5.

Parents Play Pivotal Role In Encouraging Vocations

By Carol Zimmerman
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When young people feel called to the priesthood or religious life, they can't keep it a secret. Eventually, they need to break the news to their parents.

And whether their parents expected the news or are pleasantly surprised or shocked by it, their response carries a lot of weight.

Father Mark Ivany, director of spiritual formation at a minor seminary in the Archdiocese of Washington, said it makes a big difference when seminarians feel their parents' support.

But he also says "the Lord is never outdone though," meaning the vocational call can still be followed without a parent's enthusiasm, but it might be more of a challenge.

Sister Mary Angela Woelkers, a 27-year-old Sister of the Servants of the Pierced Heart of Jesus and Mary, said it was a "great blessing" to have her parents support her decision to become a sister, but she also clarified that it didn't mean they "joyfully carried me to the convent."

She felt called to religious life when she was 18 but didn't tell her parents about it until a year later.

"Now looking back, I think of it like dating," she said, adding, "If I were dating, maybe I'd tell my parents, but I wouldn't bring him home to meet Mom and Dad until I knew for sure."

Sister Mary Angela, who grew up in Great Falls, Montana, and is now on a mission assignment in Rome, thinks she would've been able to pursue her vocation even if her parents hadn't supported her.

"The call of the Lord was very strong and I think that I would've been able to follow it even in the midst of great adversity, but it's been an immense gift from the Lord for me and for my parents that they were open to receive the vocation," she told Catholic News Service in an Oct. 27 Skype interview.

When she broke the news to her parents, her father's response was: "This is something very serious, like getting married," which she was glad to hear because she wasn't sure how he would react. And now, two years after Sister Mary Angela professed her final vows, she said her parents continue to be open to her vocation, or as she put it: "They want to know more and to walk with me."

That's also the attitude of Barb and Tom Niezer of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne, Indiana, whose son Daniel is studying for the priesthood for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, at Mount St. Mary's in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Barb Niezer said she and her husband "continue to pray that God's will be done."

"We've learned a lot through Daniel. As much as we want (his priesthood), it's not our decision or his, it's the Lord's," she said.

Now Showing

'Denial' Makes Powerful Moral Point

By Kurt Jensen
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) --

A prominent attempt to erase one of history's most notorious genocides -- and the possible strategies for defeating that effort -- are explored in "Denial" (Bleecker Street).

Director Mick Jackson's fact-based drama recounts the case for libel initiated in 1996 by English writer David Irving (Timothy Spall) against American historian Deborah Lipstadt (Rachel Weisz).

In her 1993 book, **Denying The Holocaust: The Growing Assault On Truth And Memory**, Lipstadt had labeled Irving a Holocaust denier. Following the appearance of a British edition of the work, Irving sued both Lipstadt and her U.K. publishers, Penguin Books.

Lipstadt believes that pas-

sionate testimony from survivors can prove the existence of the Holocaust and win a difficult trial in which, under British law, the burden of proof is on the defendant. Her expert lawyers are determined to bore in instead on the false theories espoused by Irving, a churlish self-taught historian of World War II who's gone over to the dark side.

Sourced from Lipstadt's 2005 memoir, **History On Trial: My Day In Court With A Holocaust Denier**, David Hare's script mostly avoids courtroom histrionics in favor of delineating how the defense arguments were constructed. He also shows how Lipstadt, a professor of Jewish history at Emory University in Atlanta, misunderstood her legal team's tactics nearly to the end of the trial.

The big break in the actual proceedings, held in London in 2000, was Irving's misguided decision to serve as his own prosecutor, rather than use bar-



CNS Photo/Bleecker Street

DENIAL: Rachel Weisz stars in a scene from the movie "Denial." 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.

risters to represent him. An additional advantage was gained when, in keeping with the rules of evidence, the defense was given access to Irving's vast diaries, compiled over 20 years.

The film's emotional heart is in quiet scenes filmed at the Auschwitz death camp in Poland, where Jackson takes care to show melting snow on barbed wire as if the fences are weeping. Here, too, Lipstadt recites El Maleh Rachamim, the traditional funeral prayer of Ashkenazi Jews.

The camp, of course, offers its own indisputable testimony in the form of its gas chambers. But lead barrister Richard Rampton (Tom Wilkinson), who's been taking notes on how the executions operated, uses the setting to observe that the lack of a complete scientific investigation of the death machinery has given a foothold for cranks like Irving. They insist that Zyklon B, manufactured as a pesticide, was used only for delousing, not mass murder.

There's no real question of how the trial will end. Spall plays Irving with bug-eyed malevolence. Irving even goes so far as to turn up at one of Lipstadt's book readings to heckle her and announce that he'll give

\$1,000 in cash to anyone who can prove that Hitler intended to slaughter Jews.

To keep control over the testimony and deny Irving a forum for grandstanding, Lipstadt's lawyers refused to put either their client or any victims of the Holocaust on the stand. In response to Lipstadt's pleas for a contrary approach, solicitor Anthony Julius (Andrew Scott) admonishes her, "A trial, I'm afraid, is not therapy."

"Denial" makes a power-

ful point about moral as well as intellectual truth. Gainsayers of the worst horrors will always be with us, but they must be fought at every turn.

The film contains detailed discussions of atrocities and a single rough term. 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.

Coming Up On 'Proclaim!'

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

November 20 -- As we close the Year of Mercy, representatives from the Service Club at Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy in Boalsburg share how they are carrying out the Corporal Work of Mercy of giving drink to the thirsty.

November 27 -- Mary Frances Shedlock, a liturgical musician at Saint Mary Parish in Nanty Glo, talks about her ministry and the importance of sung prayer at Mass.

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Holy See Clarifies Rules On Cremation

Burial And Cremation
Instruction From Gerhard Cardinal Muller
Prefect Of The Congregation
For The Doctrine Of The Faith
October 2016

By Msgr. Robert Mazur

November is the traditional time when Catholics remember our dead in prayer and it is our custom to make visitations to cemeteries to pray for our dead. The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has issued an Instruction to restate the doctrinal and pastoral reasons for the preference of the burial of the

May
 They Rest
 In Peace



Sister Alberta Grimme
C.S.J.

Sister Alberta Grimme, 97, died Thursday, October 27, in the 79th year of her religious life as a Sister of Saint Joseph of Baden.

The daughter of Herman and Myrtle (Gartland) Grimme, Sister Alberta entered the Congregation from Saint Mark Parish, Altoona.

For nearly 60 years, Sister Alberta served as a teacher in the Dioceses of Altoona - Johnstown, Greensburg and Pittsburgh. She primarily taught first and second - graders in schools

remains of the faithful and to set out norms pertaining to the conservation of ashes in the case of cremation. The Church encourages conventional burial of the faithful whenever possible, as well as requires the appropriate reservation of the remains when cremation occurs.

The resurrection of Jesus is the culminating truth of the Christian faith, preached as an essential part of the Paschal Mystery from the very begin-

nings of Christianity. Through his death and resurrection, Christ freed us from sin and gave us access to new life. It is true the Christ will raise us up on the last day, but it is also true that, in a certain way, we have already risen with Christ in the Sacrament of Baptism. Because of Christ, Christian death has a positive meaning. By death the soul is separated from the body, but when the Lord comes in all his glory, he will give incorruptible life to our body, transformed by reunion with our soul.

Following the most ancient Christian tradition, the Church insistently recommends that the bodies of the deceased be buried in cemeteries or other sacred places. In memory of the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord, the mystery that illumines the Christian meaning of death, burial is above all the most fitting way to express faith and hope in the resurrection of the body. By burying the bodies of the faithful, the Church confirms her faith in the resurrection of the body, and intends to show the great dignity of the human body. The body of the deceased Catholic is the body once washed in Baptism, anointed with the oil of salvation, and fed the Bread of Life; the same body that reached out in service to the needs of others.

Burial in a cemetery adequately corresponds to the piety and respect owed to the bodies of the faithful departed who through Baptism have become temples of the Holy Spirit. The Church considers the burial of the dead one of the corporal works of mercy. Burial of the faithful departed in cemeteries encourages family members and the whole Christian community to pray for and remember the dead. Through the practice of burying the dead in cemeteries, in churches or their environs, Christian tradition has upheld the relationship between the living and the dead.

Cremation is sometimes chosen as an option because of sanitary, economic or social considerations. The Church raises no doctrinal objection to this prac-

tice, since cremation of the deceased's body does not affect his or her soul, nor does it prevent God, in his omnipotence, from raising up the deceased body to new life. Cremation does not negate neither the Christian doctrine of the soul's immortality nor that of the resurrection of the body. The Church continues to prefer the practice of burying the bodies of the deceased, because this shows a greater esteem towards the deceased. In the absence of motives contrary to Christian doctrine, the Church after the celebration of the funeral rite, accompanies the choice of cremation.

With the legitimate motives present for the choice of cremation, the ashes of the faithful must be laid to rest in a sacred place such as a cemetery or in a church. From the earliest times, Christians have desired that the faithful departed become the objects of the Christian community's prayers and remembrance. Their tombs have become places of prayer, remembrance and reflection. The faithful departed remain part of the Church, made up of the living and the dead. The reservation of the ashes of the departed in a sacred place ensures that they are not excluded from the prayers and remembrance of their family or the Christian community. It pre-



CNS Photo/Gregory A. Shemitz

URN: An urn containing cremated remains is seen in a niche in the Holy Rood Cemetery mausoleum in Westbury, N.Y.

vents the faithful departed from being forgotten or their remains from being shown a lack of respect when the immediate subsequent generations have too passed away.

The conservation of the ashes of the departed in a domestic residence is not permitted. Nor are the ashes to be divided among various family members. It is not permitted to scatter the ashes of the faithful departed in the air, or land, at sea or in some other way, nor may they be preserved in mementos, pieces of jewelry or other objects. These actions cannot be legitimized by an appeal to the sanitary, social, or economic motives that may have occasioned the choice of cremation. When the deceased notoriously has requested cremation and the scattering of ashes for reasons contrary to the Christian faith, a Christian funeral must be denied that person.

The Church affirms the preference of the burial of the remains of the faithful. Cremation requires the appropriate reservation of the ashes. This information is shared as we all will some day face death. We are aware of the Church's directives regarding the care of the body of the deceased. May we be reassured in the certain hope that we will rise, body and soul, on that great day of Christ's return.

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Altoona Marine Comes Home To Hero's Welcome, 73 Years After His Death In World War II Battle

Pfc. Nicholas J. Cancilla Fought And Died 'So We All Can Live In Peace'

Photos And Text
By Bruce A. Tomaselli

He left Altoona as a wide-eyed 17-year-old many years ago, excited about his first big life adventure.

Seventy-three years later Nicholas J. Cancilla returned to his hometown a hero, to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, where he was baptized so long ago.

Cancilla died in November 1943, during one of the bloodiest battles of World War II on the Tarawa Atoll in the Gilbert Islands. Nearly 1,000 U.S. Marines and 700 U.S. Sailors lost their lives in the battle in the Pacific. In addition, there were over 2,300 wounded.

The remains of U.S. Marine Private First Class Nicholas Cancilla, killed in action during the first day of battle on the island, were laid to rest on Monday, November 7, in Calvary Cemetery with full military honors.

Third Order Regular Franciscan Father Frank A. Scornaienchi, pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, celebrated the funeral Mass.

Cancilla's surviving family attended. "My Dad was so happy to hear that his brother's remains were located and he would be coming home," said Darlene Johnson of Midlothian VA, Cancilla's niece and one of very few remaining relatives. Unfortunately, her father Frank Jr., was buried from Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish nearly one year ago.

"The response from this community is overwhelming," Johnson said. "I never expected all of this. It's heart-warming."

The Mass was well attended by the community, along with the Marines, all branches of the Armed Forces, government officials, and local and state officials of various service organizations.

In addition, the Patriot Guard Riders, veterans and motorcycle riders, were represented.

Born of Italian immigrants parents, Nicholas Cancilla lived in the Pleasant Valley neighborhood, with his parents, Frank Sr., his mother, Maria, and brother Frank Jr.

Father Scornaienchi quoted from a story sent by the Marines, which said that Nick was outgoing and was well known to



HONORED: Marine Private First Class Nicholas J. Cancilla was honored by Marine Corps comrades at a funeral Mass celebrated Monday, November 7 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Altoona. A photo of the young Marine, who died 73 years ago in a World War II battle, was displayed at the entrance of the church.

the residents of his Polk Avenue neighborhood.

(Continued On Page 11.)



PERIODICAL RATE MAIL

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