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Bishop Leads Diocesan Faithful On Year Of Mercy Pilgrimage To National Shrine Basilica



Photos And Text
By Tony DeGol

Jim Kilcoyne and his wife, Steph, already had what some might consider to be the ultimate Year of Mercy experience – a pilgrimage to Rome. However, the couple could not resist yet another awesome opportunity in celebration of the Jubilee Year.

The Kilcoynes were among the many faithful from Altoona-Johnstown who participated in a Diocesan pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, November 12.

“This church is one of a kind, and we didn’t want to miss it,” stated Kilcoyne, a parishioner at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona. “We wanted to come down with Bishop Mark and members of our parish to reflect on the Year of Mercy and to enjoy this wonderful, wonderful place of worship. It’s miraculous that something like this exists so close to home.”

Affectionately referred to as “Mary’s House,” the Basilica is the largest Roman Catholic Church in the United States and North America and one of the ten largest churches in the world.

Pope Francis, Pope - Emeritus Benedict XVI, Saint John Paul II, and Saint Mother Teresa of Kolkata have all visited the Romanesque structure, which is home to more than 70 chapels and oratories celebrating the global Catholic culture.

While pilgrimages to the Basilica have occurred regularly in the history of our Diocese, those participating on this sunny and crisp fall day noted the significance of the Year of Mercy. The faithful had the opportunity to walk through the Holy Door and receive a Plenary Indulgence.

Living The Call

In his message of welcome, Monsignor Vito Buononno, Director of Pilgrimages for the Basilica, pointed out that the day’s journey was not about pleasure and relaxation, but rather a call to examine one’s life and how it reflects the Lord.

“Now is the only time we have to live this call of this Jubilee Year of Mercy,” he said.

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ALTAR SERVER: Diocesan Seminarian Sean Gibson, a member of Saint Peter Parish in Somerset and pre-theology student at Saint Mary’s Seminary in Baltimore, was among the altar servers during Mass. Also pictured are Bishop Mark and Deacon Samuel Albarano.

Diocese

Retired Religious

Hollidaysburg: The annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection will be held December 10 - 11 in the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown. Coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO), the parish-based appeal benefits nearly 33,000 senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests whose communities lack adequate retirement savings.

The Diocese contributed \$65,297.17 to the last collection. In 2016, the Carmelite Community of the Word, Third Order Regular of Saint Francis in Hollidaysburg and the Third Order Regular of Saint Francis in Loretto received a combined total of \$145,061.89 in financial

assistance made possible by the Retirement Fund for Religious. Women and men religious who serve or have served in the diocese but whose communities are based elsewhere may also benefit from the annual appeal.

Catholic Bishops of the United States initiated the collection in 1988 to address the significant lack of retirement funding among U.S. religious communities. Proceeds help underwrite retirement and health-care expenses. Nearly 95 percent of donations directly support senior religious and their communities.

The appeal raised \$30.7 million in 2015, the sixth highest total in its history. As a result, the NRRO distributed \$25 million to 401 religious congregations. These funds supplement the day-to-day care of elderly religious and help their congregations implement long-range



TOUR MUSEUM: Pictured are a few of the students from Bishop Carroll High School, Ebensburg, who visited the Holocaust Museum in Washington DC on Wednesday, October 26. Pictured (left to right) are: Trista Bradley, Adison Divido, Alysa Martinazzi, Emma Simmons, Caroline Semelsberger, Emily Kutskel, Georgia Sherry, Alivia Borlie, Kiona Diviny and Grace Hoffman.

retirement strategies. Throughout the year, additional funding is allocated for congregations with the greatest needs.

“We are humbled by the love and support that Catholics across the nation share with our senior religious,” said Sister Stephanie Still, a member of the Sisters of the Presentation and newly appointed NRRO executive director.

The retirement - funding deficit is rooted in low salaries and changing demographics. Traditionally, Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests—known collectively as women and men religious—worked for small stipends. As a result, many religious communities lack adequate retirement savings. At the same time, elderly religious are living longer and now outnumber younger, wage-earning religious. Among communities providing data to the NRRO, 68 percent have a median age of 70 or above. The income of those engaged in compensated ministry cannot keep pace with the growing cost of eldercare.

In addition to providing financial support for immediate needs, proceeds from the annual appeal underwrite educational initiatives in retirement planning and eldercare delivery. Workshops, webinars and print resources, for example, address topics ranging from property-planning to caring for members with dementia.

“Our mission is to help religious communities meet current

eldercare needs while preparing for the ones to come,” said Sister Stephanie. “We remain grateful for all those who support these efforts.”

Visit retiredreligious.org to learn more.

High Schools

Holocaust Museum

Ebensburg: On Wednesday, October 26, students, faculty and staff from Bishop Carroll Catholic High School trekked to Washington DC to visit the Holocaust Museum and explore the capital.

This trip was funded by a generous grant from the Blanche Beerman Holocaust Museum Fund through the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies.

Prior to the trip, students engaged in curriculum based around the Holocaust to comprehend the widespread impact this historical event made on the world. Each teacher taught at least one lesson relating to the topic, such as:

- *Racial and cultural tolerance
- *The history of the event
- *How the Holocaust led to the adoption of ethics in medical testing and scientific studies
- *The mathematical impact of the event
- *And more

The museum offers an incredible number of resources, from historical artifacts and video footage to exhibitions of genocide following the Holocaust. For

an even more interactive experience, visitors can research their family’s history in the Holocaust Survivors and Victims Resource Center.

Students were moved by the experience and thankful for the opportunity to participate in a hands - on learning experience outside the classroom.

“Visiting the museum truly makes you see that the Holocaust isn’t just words on a page, but a real event that affected millions of people,” said junior Andrew Cruscil of Loretto. “This was a great day for all of the students, and I want to thank the Community foundation for providing this opportunity for all of us.”

The lessons taught in the classroom and the museum visit helped students gain a better understanding of the significance of the Holocaust and its global impact.

“On behalf of our faculty, staff and students, I would like to express our gratitude to the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies for funding this opportunity said Carroll CEO Jerry Stephens. This valuable learning experience wouldn’t have been possible without the generous grant we received from the Blanche Beerman Holocaust Museum Fund.

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In The Alleghenies



Photo by Tony DeGol

FOCUS ON FAMILY: The Ecumenical Conference of Greater Altoona sponsored a program discussing *Amoris Laetitia*, the recent Apostolic Exhortation by Pope Francis focusing on the family. The gathering was held on Monday, November 7 at Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Lakemont, Altoona. Bishop Mark L. Bartchak delivered the keynote address, and representatives from other faith traditions and the social services community offered their perspectives. Participating in the program were (left to right): Reverend K. Joy Kaufmann, Presbyterian tradition; Father Anthony Roeber, Orthodox tradition; Bishop Mark; Susanna Tomlinson, retired social worker; and Monsignor Michael Becker, pastor of Saint John the Evangelist Parish and Ecumenical Minister for the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown.

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Higher Education

Military Friendly

Cresson: Mount Aloysius College has been designated a 2017 Military Friendly® School by Victory Media. The designation reflects the college's commitment to helping US service personnel and veterans find a clear path to academic and career success. Military Friendly accolades are earned from the publisher of G.I. Jobs and Victory Media after reviewing survey results which measure a college's commitment to supporting service personnel and veterans.

Mount Aloysius President Tom Foley noted that the commitment of the college's faculty and a strong administrative team remains focused on the special needs of veterans and service personnel. That focus has earned the college its seventh designation as Military Friendly. "Veterans tell us that Mount Aloysius offers them significant advantages like one-on-one faculty support, and expert assistance from both our Financial Aid and Registrar's Office. This to

veterans, service personnel and their families dedicated hands-on support as they make the transition to college. Everyone associated with Mount Aloysius is grateful for their service to our country," said Foley.

Mount Aloysius College's collective dedication to helping all students obtain academic success has gained significant national recognition. Mount Aloysius was one of only four colleges in the United States named in a White House press release as an "engine of opportunity." The designation reflects the College's ability to engage students where they are and help them to optimize their academic and career possibilities.

Veteran students and service personnel who are eligible for military benefits are helped by financial aid experts and committed faculty at Mount Aloysius. The College waives its application fee and tuition deposit for all applying military members and veterans. Mount Aloysius also has an active Military Service Members Club on campus.

The Military Friendly® Schools designation is awarded to the top colleges and universi-

ties in the country that are doing the most to embrace military students, and to dedicate resources to ensure their success both in the classroom and after graduation. The methodology used for making the Military Friendly® Schools list has changed the student-veteran landscape to one that is much more transparent, and has played a significant role over the past seven years in capturing and advancing best practices to support military students across the country.

Publishes Book

Cresson: Dr. Matthew P. Arsenault, assistant professor of political science at Mount Aloysius College, has published a book titled, **Political Regimes And Varieties of Capitalism**. Arsenault's work is being published by Palgrave Macmillan Press and will be released in February 2017.

Dr. Arsenault is a former Presidential Management Fellow with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau where he focused on banking regulation. His book documents research that seeks to explain why and

how different nations create different forms of capitalist economies.

"Most people view capitalism as one unique economic system," said Dr. Arsenault. "The reality however, is that capitalism lies along a spectrum. At one pole we have the liberal market economies – like that in the United States and Great Britain – which emphasize fierce competition, free markets, and minimal government intervention. At the other end of that spectrum, we find coordinated market economies – like those found in continental Europe – characterized by a more cooperative relationship between economic actors, like government, business, and labor."

"Majoritarian political systems tend to create an environment of strong political competition between business, government, and labor," he said, "while consensus political systems create much more cooperative political environments.

"Ultimately," said Dr. Arsenault, "it really comes down to asymmetries of power. Majoritarian systems provide a disproportionate amount of power to business interests. Consensus systems offer a much more equitable distribution of power, putting labor and business interest on a more equal footing."

Arsenault applied statistical testing to his findings through

two in-depth case studies. "I examined the response of Germany and Great Britain to the almost universal push for market liberalization in the 1980s," he said. "While Great Britain – like the US, also a majoritarian system – adopted liberal reforms, the German consensus system was able to halt dramatic changes to the economy. I found that it was the political institutions – namely the electoral system – that led to more rapid changes in Britain, and slower changes in Germany."

"I'm especially interested in applying my theory to Britain's recent exit from the European Union," he said. "The so-called 'Brexit' appears to confirm my hypothesis that political institutions are instrumental in shaping the economy."

Dr. Arsenault teaches in the department of Justice, Law and Society at Mount Aloysius College. He has held this position since 2014. Arsenault specializes in comparative political economy, and electoral systems. He also teaches classes on international and comparative politics, social science research methods, and American political institutions.

(Continued On Page 6.)

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Point Of View

I was startled a few weeks ago when familiar feelings of grief surfaced. It was evening, mid-October, and there was a sadness I hadn't felt for a while.

The same thing happened the next night.

This January, it will be four years since my wife, Monica, died of uterine cancer. It's not an exaggeration to say I still think about her every day. I assume I always will, and that pleases me.

And like a lot of widows and widowers, I talk to my spouse every day, too. Sometimes silently. Sometimes aloud. I share a memory, tease her a little, ask for her help or thank her for supplying that help.

It's good to have friends in "high places."

It's bad because they aren't here the same way they used to be.

A few days after my evenings of sorrow, my daughter mentioned that she had been feeling sad lately. "Missing Mom."

What popped into my head was "Oh, good. Me, too." Not that it was good she was sad but, somehow, I wasn't alone in this. Or off-base in some way.

It helps to hear that.

Then she added: "Stupid Halloween."

Of course! I told her I had

If you're grieving the loss of a loved one this Christmas, I say to you what I've been saying to myself: Be gentle with yourself. Be patient with yourself. Be kind to yourself.



Your Family

By Bill Dodds

Coping With Holiday Grief

been feeling the same way but didn't know why. Yes, I knew the "big" why but not the "why now?" why.

It was because Halloween kicks off two and a half months of tough going.

Not as tough as the first holiday season after Monica's death. And the second was a little easier. The third easier still.

But Halloween through mid-January -- anniversaries of Monica's death and funeral -- are more difficult than the rest of the year. It seems a part of me, a part of my brain, starts experiencing that or acknowledging it before another part is aware of why that's going on. It's a strange thing. Not unfamiliar now, but strange.

I don't think I'm alone in that. I wouldn't be surprised to hear other widows or widowers say the same thing happens with them. Fortunately, I can ask some.

I started going to a spousal-loss support group about three months after Monica died. Run by a social worker, it was a tremendous help. Once a week, and then once a month, I sat at a table with about a dozen other men and women who were new to widowhood -- who hated the term "widowhood," who were overwhelmed, just as I was.

Eventually, we "graduated" in the sense that the grief wasn't as raw as it had been during those first months, over that first year. After a second year, the group began meeting on its own at a monthly potluck.

It's always good to see them and I know they're glad to see me, and not just because I bring (store-bought) chocolate cheesecake.

The other day I came across an article on grief I wrote in 2013. In it, I said:

"If you're grieving the loss of a loved one this Christmas, you may find yourself thinking this isn't how your life was 'supposed to be.' How you thought and prayed it would be.

But it is.

And there's no changing that.

If you're grieving the loss of a loved one this Christmas, I say to you what I've been saying to myself: Be gentle with yourself. Be patient with yourself. Be kind to yourself.

Do what you want to do and can do when it comes to this holiday and holy day. Accept the fact that perhaps, this year, you can't do what you want to do or think you 'should' do. Not now. Not yet.

And that's OK."

It's advice I'll do my best to follow this year.



Another Perspective

By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein
**You Win Some,
You Lose Some**

I spent the week after our presidential election in London. In one of the few conversations I had there about the election results, I learned something both amazing, and sad: there are no more competitive team sports in English schools.

"Kids can't deal with losing," said the taxi driver who took me to my hotel on my arrival. "They're traumatized if they lose. Everybody has to be a winner."

That sort of thinking would not have gone over real well in the house in which I was raised. My parents had a very simple attitude: You win some, you lose some. That's life. How many times I heard one of them say "If at first you don't succeed, try, try and try again." There wasn't so much talk about winning or losing, but rather the encouragement to always do my best, and, when necessary, to try a little bit harder the next time. It's advice that has served me well.

Believe me, I know a lot about losing elections. In my 58 years I have run for a variety of offices -- from school safety patrol captain in the sixth grade, to student council member in junior high school and high school, to parish council president in college. And with only two exceptions, I have lost every election I have ever competed in. My only wins were a seat on student senate in the seminary, and a position on the board of directors of the Catholic Press Association. And in both cases, my bid for re-election failed. I was a one-term wonder.

(In the interest of full disclosure, I should point out that I once won an election for jury foreman, but that was an office I did not want and tried my best to refuse. I was probably more traumatized by winning that one than I was by losing any of the others.)

The thing about "losing" is that in time, you do eventually get over it. Losses are, after all, a fixture of time, not of eternity. They are moments on a calendar, events noted by the ticking of a clock. They come, they go, they pass. It's been a long while since I've thought of that safety patrol election and cried "I was robbed! I should've been the captain!" Let me haul out yet another cliché: time heals everything. You are only traumatized by your losses if you choose to be traumatized by your losses. Let them go. Move forward. Get over it. Move on.

Losing lost its sting a very, very long time ago, when an itinerant preacher, a carpenter from Nazareth, lost His life on a cross on a hill in Jerusalem. That most traumatic event was supposed to be the end of His story, but it wasn't. And the resurrection of the Lord Jesus from the ignominy and humiliation of rejection, failure and losing, His rising above it all, means that the same will be true for all of us. Loss is not the end of the world. Loss is not the end of the story. There is always something better and brighter looming on the horizon. Sometimes you just have to sit and wait for it, but it will always come.

You win some, you lose some. That's life. That's also part of God's plan for each of us. You're only a loser if you choose to be a loser. Perhaps Ernest Hemingway said it best: "The world breaks everyone and afterward many are strong in the broken places." Choose to be strong, and you will be.

Abuse Charter Translated Into Vietnamese

By **Peter G. Sanchez**
Catholic News Service

CAMDEN, N.J. (CNS) -- Rod Herrera, director of Child and Youth Protection for the Diocese of Camden, and Vietnamese Catholic leaders of South Jersey presented Bishop Dennis J. Sullivan with a bit of history.

They gave the bishop a copy of the first Vietnamese translation of the U.S. bishops' "Charter for the Protection of "Children and Young People" and their "Essential Norms" document that assures that all dioceses and eparchies adhere to the charter.

Herrera was joined in presenting the translation by Thu Nguyen, director of Most Precious Blood Parish's Vietnamese American Cultural and Education Center in West Collingswood, and Deacon Kim Nguyen, of Most Precious Blood Parish.

The newly translated documents have since been sent to the U.S. Conference of Catholic bishops and are now available on the U.S. bishops' website, along with the English- and Spanish-language versions.

The U.S. bishops' charter -- first adopted in 2002 and revised in 2005 and 2011 -- outlines how church

leaders must provide a safe environment for children and young people in church-sponsored activities. It established uniform procedures for handling sex-abuse allegations and adopted a "zero tolerance" policy.

The charter also requires background checks and training in child protection for church employees and requires dioceses facing allegations made about priests or other church workers to alert authorities, conduct an investigation and remove the accused person from duty.

The bishops approved the norms in 2006. The charter and norms have Vatican approval.

Earlier this year, Herrera asked Thu Nguyen to translate the documents, after discovering that there were no translations available for the nation's Vietnamese Catholics.

No stranger to interpreting and translating texts, Thu last year assisted with the Vietnamese translation for the program of Philadelphia's World Meeting of Families.

As director of the volunteer-based center in West Collingswood, which "helps Vietnamese immigrants become acclimated into American life," Thu works with Vietnamese Catholics and their families, provid-

ing social activities and classes that teach both Vietnamese and English to all ages.

After Herrera gave her the project of translating, she recruited volunteers to help, including two other translators with Deacon Nguyen as the editor. Most Precious Blood's pastor, Father Joseph Nguyen, (no relation among the three), oversaw the parish endeavor.

Explaining the difficulties of the project, she cited the differences in Vietnamese and English culture.

"It's one thing to translate; it's another to convey the meaning of what is being written, and interpret," she told the **Catholic Star Herald**, Camden's diocesan newspaper.

Thu depended on both dictionaries and fellow Vietnamese Catholics for difficult passages.

The English-, Spanish- and Vietnamese-language versions of the U.S. bishops' charter and norms can be found on the website of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops at this link: <http://tinyurl.com/lwj9lgx>.

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.ccwrcsafe.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.)

Before coming to Mount Aloysius College, Dr. Arsenaault worked for the U.S. Department of the Army and was embedded with U.S. Army forces serving in Iraq in 2010 and 2011. His duties included work as a social scientist and intelligence analyst. For his service he was awarded both the Superior Civilian Service Award by the U.S. Dept. of the Army, and the Global War on Terrorism Civilian Service medal by the U.S. Dept. of Defense.

Arsenaault received his Doctorate in Political Science and master's degrees in both political science and international developmental administration from Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. He also attended the Institute of Qualitative and Multi-Methods Research (IQMR) at Syracuse University and Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) at the University of Michigan.

Art For Healing

Cresson: Mount Aloysius College and the Conemaugh Health System invite the public to experience "The Art for Healing - 2016." This exhibit is available for viewing now until

January 4, 2017 and is located in the College's Athletic Convocation and Wellness Center's Mercy Hallway.

The art on display is a collection of works from participants in the Art for Healing Program. The pieces were created during several work-sessions of Conemaugh's Arts for Healing. The exhibit is co-sponsored by Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art (SAMA). The sessions also benefited from the advice of Dr. Donald Talbot, associate professor of English and Fine Arts at Mount Aloysius College. Art for Healing is a health initiative with the Conemaugh Health System in collaboration with SAMA and Mount Aloysius College. The program improves the quality of life for patients who suffer with chronic conditions and pain.

Dr. Talbot noted that the large sunlit space of the Mercy or East Hall of the ACWC is ideal for exhibiting this artwork. "We expect exhibitors to be able to display and discuss their pieces, addressing their personal experiences with creating art and experiencing healing in the process."

Several regional artists will be on hand to display and discuss their work. Thus, far the list of contributing artists includes: Christine Blasko, Rebecca Cas-

tiglione, Sharon Davidhizar, Sandra Dayton, Jon Hordubay, Jessie Karol, Regina Karol, Patti Kristoff, Joanne Luberto, Janet Marchegiani, Susan Novak, Linda Shriver, Cindy Slaventa, Sharon K. Swain, Ronald Wanko, Anna Marie Wirfel, Ken Wirfel and Rita King.

Dr. Talbot noted that attendees to the event can expect to see a wide range of art. "The pieces are eclectic and each artist truly speaks from the heart, relating their personal journeys from hurt to healing. The event will not disappoint," he said.

The art ranges from silk scarves, clay creations, carvings and an array of paintings.

Prayer

Festival Of Praise

Altoona: A Festival of Praise will be presented in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament this evening, Monday, November 28 at 7:00 p.m. by the Cathedral Prayer Group. Deacon Kevin Nester will preach.

Ordained to the diaconate in May of 2015, Deacon Nester serves at Most Holy Trinity Parish in Huntingdon. An engineer by profession, he and his wife, Penny, reside in Alexandria.

Music will be led by the Cathedral Prayer Group Music Ministry. All ages are welcome to come and be blessed.

Schools

Support Former Student

State College: This past spring, RJ Shirey, a 2014 graduate of Our Lady of Victory Catholic School (now a junior at State College Area High School), was involved in a serious hunting accident that resulted in several surgeries and ultimately an amputation of one leg above the knee.

During these trying months, the faculty, staff, students, and families of OLVCS have kept RJ



SCHOOL HONORED: Our Lady of Victory School in State College has been honored with the silver award for Best Charter/Private School category for **State College Magazine's** "Best of State College" edition. "We are honored to have been named among the top private/charter schools in Centre County," says OLVCS Principal Samantha Weakland. "None of it would be possible without our dedicated faculty and staff, loyal donors, and generous parents and volunteers." Pictured are OLV students enjoying reading with Mrs. Salada.

and his family in their prayers.

Now, this winter, the whole school is making a strong fundraising effort to support the family, who has racked up expenses due to frequent hospital trips, numerous surgeries, and the purchase of RJ's prosthetic leg.

Language arts teacher, Mrs. Brandimarte, and art teacher, Mrs. McQueary, are leading the effort, and students are eager about the opportunity to help RJ.

Mrs. Brandimarte says the fundraising builds upon the values students are being taught every day at OLVCS.

"We're always teaching our students to show kindness and compassion for others," she says, "—even something as small as smiling and striking up a conversation with a student sitting alone at lunch. What we're doing for RJ is one more way for our students to put the values they're learning into practice to help others."

You may submit news for "In The Alleghenies" may be submitted to tstein@dioceseaj.org or to btomaselli@dioceseaj.org.

Photos should be submitted in the jpeg format for the best reproduction.

To deepen their understanding of RJ's situation, students are engaging in conversations about the science involved with prosthetic legs, as well as the emotions involved in such an injury during science class with Mrs. Groves.

The students are truly putting their hearts and souls into helping a beloved member of the OLVCS family. During the annual OLV Day in October, students brainstormed ideas for fundraising, with proceeds from upcoming events to be donated to the Shirey family in March. "While we can't raise an extravagant amount of money, we're still able to make an impact on RJ's family," Mrs. Brandimarte says.

The school's theme for OLV Day (their annual day of service) was this advice from Saint Teresa of Calcutta: "Do small things with great love." In that spirit, faculty, staff, and students are embracing the impact that they can make on RJ no matter how small.

Regardless of the money raised, RJ's family is just thankful for the outpouring of support.

"I want to thank you with all my heart for helping us," Kristin, RJ's mom, tells Mrs. Brandimarte. She hopes to plan a trip to the school soon so she and RJ can visit with and thank the students, faculty, and staff.

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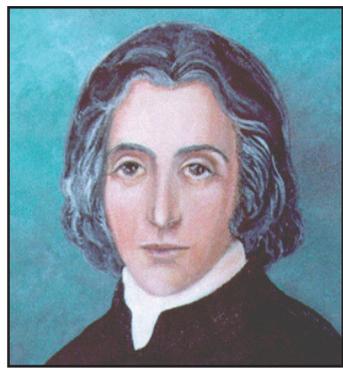
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A Prince In The Service Of The Great King

The Servant Of God
Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin
1770 - 1840

Bishops Approve Moving Ahead Four Sainthood Causes

By Catholic News Service

BALTIMORE (CNS) -- During the U.S. bishops' fall general assembly Nov. 14-16 in Baltimore, they approved by voice vote the sainthood causes of four men and women as part of the episcopal consultation in

the Catholic Church's process for possible canonization.

The four candidates are Julia Greeley, a former slave who lived in Colorado; Sister Blandina Segale, a Sister of Charity who served on the frontier; Father Patrick Ryan, who ministered to those suffering yellow fever; and Msgr. Bernard Quinn, who fought bigotry and



SISTER BLANDINA
SEGALE S.C.

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
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established a black church and orphanage in Brooklyn, New York.

The four causes were presented individually to the group of bishops prior to their vote Nov. 15.

Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila of Denver, presented Greeley's cause to the bishops because she lived her adult life in Colorado and ministered there to those in poverty while she was poor too.

Greeley was born a slave in Hannibal, Missouri, sometime between 1838-1848. She lost the use of her right eye from an assault by a slave owner. Freed from slavery by the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, she went to Colorado, where she became Catholic a few years later.

As a lay Franciscan, closely affiliated with the Jesuits at her parish, she was actively involved in promoting the faith and devotion to the Sacred Heart. She died in 1918.

Sister Blandina, was described to the bishops as anything but bland, and even had

a run in with Billy the Kid during her work in the American frontier. She was born in Italy in 1850 and immigrated to Cincinnati when she was 4. She joined the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati when she was 16 and worked in schools, orphanages and hospitals in Ohio, New Mexico and Colorado.

She became a defender of the poor, the sick, the marginalized, Native Americans and Mexican and Italian immigrants. She often visited jails and became involved in issues such as human trafficking and juvenile delinquency. She died in 1941 at age 91. Her cause was introduced by Archbishop John C. Wester of Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Bishop Richard F. Stika of Knoxville, Tennessee, told the bishops about Father Patrick Ryan, an Irish immigrant, born in 1845 and ordained in 1869 in Nashville, Tennessee. Father Ryan was pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul's Parish for six years. In 1878, he died at 33 years old of yellow fever. His community in Chattanooga was struck with the epidemic that killed hundreds and during the epidemic, the priest is went to the worst infected areas of the city to help the sick and the needy.

The other priest's name submitted for the canonization process is Msgr. Bernard Quinn, born to Irish immigrants in 1888 in Newark, New Jersey. Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of Brooklyn presented the priest's cause to the bishops. Msgr. Quinn was ordained to the priesthood in 1912, and served as a priest in the Diocese of Brooklyn where he particularly emphasized priestly and religious vocations for black Catholics.

In 1922, he established St. Peter Claver Church for black Catholics in Brooklyn and years later built an orphanage for the African-American community that was twice burned to the ground by the Ku Klux Klan before it was successfully built the third time.

Five years must pass from the time of a candidate's death before a sainthood cause may begin. The bishop of the diocese or eparchy in which the person died is responsible for beginning

the examination into his or her life and names a postulator to conduct the investigation. The local bishop consults bishops in his region on the advisability of pursuing the cause. A canonical consultation with the body of bishops is part of the process.

Materials and documentation supporting the cause must be gathered. Once that phase is completed, the documentation is sent to the Vatican Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

Three major steps come next: First is the declaration of a person's heroic virtues, after which the church declares the person "Venerable." Second is beatification, after which he or she is called "Blessed." Third is canonization, or the declaration of sainthood. In general, two miracles must be accepted by the church as having occurred through the intercession of the prospective saint; one must occur before beatification, and the other after beatification.



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Word of Life



The Pope Teaches

By Pope Francis
People Can Sniff Out Greedy Priests

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Catholics will forgive their priests for almost any weakness, but not for an exaggerated attachment to money or for mistreating parishioners, Pope Francis told 160 priests who work in Vatican nunciatures around the world.

"The people of God have a great nose" for sniffing out priests who serve the god of money more than God the father, he told the priests Nov. 18.

Celebrating Mass with them in the chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae, Pope Francis focused on the day's Gospel reading, which was St. Luke's account of Jesus throwing the money-changers out of the temple.

In the reading, Jesus accuses the merchants of turning the Lord's house into a "den of thieves."

"The Lord helps us understand what is the seed of the Antichrist, the seed of the enemy, the seed that ruins his kingdom" -- an attachment to money, the pope said.

"A heart attached to money is an idolatrous heart," he said. A church, like the temple, is supposed to be a house of prayer, a place to encounter the God of love, the pope said. But "the lord-money" constantly tries to enter even there.

The merchants and money-changers did not just make themselves at home in the temple, Pope Francis said. "Who rented them places, huh? The priests. The priests rented them and money entered" into the house of God.

The devil tempts people, including priests, to make money an idol, leading to a life that is "without the happiness, without the joy of serving the true Lord who is the only one who can give us true joy," the pope said.

"It's a personal choice," he told the priests. "What is your attitude toward money? Are you attached to money?"

The Catholic faithful, he said, are pretty sharp "in canonizing as well as condemning" their priests. "They will forgive many weaknesses, many of their priests' sins. But there are two they cannot forgive: an attachment to money -- that they cannot forgive -- and the mistreatment of people, which is something the people of God cannot digest."

With other weaknesses, he said, people will say, "Yes, but he is not well" or "poor man, he's lonely." They try to justify" his behavior.

Pope Francis told the nunciature staff members that "it is sad to see a priest arrive at the end of his life -- in agony, in a coma -- and his nephews and nieces are gathered, looking around to see what they can take."

Priests should have "sufficient money, that of an honest worker, and sufficient savings like an honest worker would have," but not wealth. He prayed that God would give him and all priests the grace of being content with what is enough "and not seek more."



ONE MORE TIME: Four Sisters of Mercy were assigned to catechetical ministry at Saint Mary and Holy Child Jesus Parishes in Windber in 1950. They served in the two parishes for ten years, closing their convent in 1960.

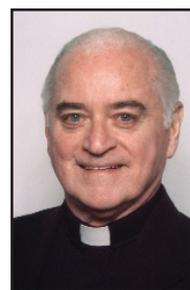
After 56 years of the priesthood, at age 85, I want to say a word of thanks to my brother priests, who have sacrificed so much to bring the good news of God's love to our troubled world.

Years ago, the priests of my diocese elected me to be their clergy personnel director, a job which helps the bishop in the assignment and placement of priests. Eventually, it led to my becoming president of the National Association of Church Personnel Administrators.

My respect for priests is therefore based on years of experience working with them and for them. They have all chosen a life of altruism, based on a deep faith in God's love, and so it is fitting to offer them this tribute of gratitude:

Dear Father, please know that you have the heartfelt thanks of millions of Catholics for all you do, and have done over the years, to carry out the mission that Jesus assigned to you. Your generous service includes: offering the holy sacrifice of the Mass, baptizing babies, hearing confessions, assisting the dying and comforting the afflicted. It also encompasses your hidden life of empathy for those who come to you with their problems and emotional pain.

As a priest, you have had to face a lot of turmoil in your life: stress coming from the backlash



Spirituality For Today

By Father John Catoir
To My Brother Priests

of the child abuse scandal and anger from anti-Catholic bigotry. With it all, you've managed to persevere, holding on to your dignity.

Jesus faced far worse, even to the point of dying on the cross. When he said, "Take courage, I have conquered the world" (Jn 16: 33), he was aware of the feelings of loneliness and inadequacy you have endured from time to time as you carried out the duties of your vocation.

Like St. Paul, you've always known that God's grace will sustain you. He said, "If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness" (2 Cor 11:30), because his weakness reminded him that the strength he needed came directly from Christ.

You, Father, have lived

My respect for priests is based on years of experience working with them and for them. They have all chosen a life of altruism, based on a deep faith in God's love.

through turbulent times. The exaltation of exaggerated individualism has caused many problems. As the baby boomers now begin to retire, all of us need to consider their legacy. They were caught up in the sexual liberation movement, and many of them rejected the religious values of their parents.

Sexual promiscuity, smoking pot and experimenting with drugs all contributed to a soaring divorce rate. The human misery that followed has been disturbing the peace in our culture ever since.

Dear Father, it has not been easy, but through it all, you have remained a carrier of divine love, a true believer and a spiritual leader in the battle against Satan, who goes about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Keep depending on the Lord's strength, and all will be well.

P.S. We priests send our sincere thanks to the laity for all the love and support you have so generously bestowed upon us year after year. God bless you, always and forever.

Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle
Miracles For Sainthood

Q. I have read that miracles are required before someone can be proclaimed a saint. Can you tell me more about the process and perhaps give me some examples of miracles for saints recently canonized? (Roanoke, Virginia)

A. The process for canonization has been developed by the church over time -- with increasing rigor. The first Christian saints were martyred for their faith in persecutions during the church's earliest centuries.

Later, Christians started to recognize as saints those who had lived virtuous lives even though they had not been put to death for their beliefs, and church leaders realized the need for a more formal authentication. (In the 12th century, Pope Alexander III wrote to the King of Sweden castigating the Swedish people for venerating an imbibing monk who had been killed in a drunken brawl.)

The current steps toward canonization provide for one

miracle to be documented for beatification and another one for canonization. Miracles obtained through someone's intercession are regarded as proof that the person is in heaven and able to intervene with the Lord. The general procedures for canonization were outlined by St. John Paul II in an apostolic constitution issued in 1983.

The pope, as the church's supreme legislator, can and occasionally does dispense from the requirement on miracles, especially when the deceased is universally recognized for holiness. (This was done for Pope John XXIII when he was canonized in 2014.) Reported cures are scrutinized thoroughly by a panel of medical experts who must conclude that there is no natural explanation to explain the recovery of health.

When St. John Paul II was canonized (also in 2014), a guest at the ceremony was a woman from Costa Rica who had recovered inexplicably from a brain aneurysm after praying to that

deceased pontiff. In September 2016, St. Teresa of Kolkata was canonized after a Brazilian man with multiple brain tumors was healed when loved ones pleaded to Mother Teresa on his behalf.

Q. Since we believe that judgment takes place at the time of death, why do we pray for the dead? Prayer is supposed to change us, not God. Are we to believe that extra prayers will change his mind and get us into heaven faster? (Northampton, Pennsylvania)

A. We do, as you say, believe that a divine judgment takes place at the time of death. But part of the Christian faith is the belief in purgatory, the belief that for some individuals there will be required a period of "purification" -- a chance to "clean up from" and "make up for" past sins and imperfections before entering the eternal embrace of the Lord in heaven.

It is that period of purification that the church believes can be reduced by the prayers of those still living on earth. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church says: "From the beginning the church has honored the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the eucharistic sacrifice, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God" (No. 1032).

Our belief is rooted in the Scriptures, as far back as the Second Book of Maccabees in the Old Testament, where Judas Maccabeus prayed for his comrades slain in battle that they might be freed from sin and obtain "the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness" (2 Mc 12:45).

Prayers for the deceased have been a strong and consistent part of Christian life -- at the bedside when one has died, at wake services, at funeral and anniversary Masses and burial rites -- even though we don't presume to know exactly how they work. Death and its sequel, including judgment, will always be a mystery to us for as long as we are on this side of heaven.



For The Journey

By Effie Caldarola
After The Election,
Prayer Precedes Activism

Like millions of others, I was up way too late on election night, waiting for results to be clear before heading to a sleepless bed.

In the morning, social media exploded. No matter how one voted, passions prevailed. People exulted or were despondent; people were euphoric, depressed, angry, at times, simultaneously.

There was no in-between. Clearly my little Facebook page was a metaphor for a divided country.

Folks who had been all too happy to post partisan political rhetoric on their pages for over a year were suddenly whining that people were not being nice to them now.

Friends who normally posted kids' pictures of sewing accomplishments suddenly laced remarks with profanity. People suspected others' motivations. Folks took turns accusing or denying that a vote stemmed from racism, xenophobia or misogyny.

Contributing to my Wednesday mood was the fact that Nebraska had voted to reinstate the death penalty. For three years, I worked as an organizer with an anti-death penalty group in our state. A legislative coalition, the majority Republican, strongly supported by Nebraska's three Catholic bishops, abolished the death penalty in our state legislature.

Not only did our legislators have the courage to abolish, they summoned the votes to override our governor's veto. But success was short-lived. A petition drive resulted in the issue being on the ballot, and now, about 60 percent of the electorate had voted to reinstate execution.

So, Wednesday passed in fatigue and weariness. Then, I noticed an email invitation. I am on the mailing list for a local Methodist church, which I had worked with during my organizing days.

Their church was open Wednesday night for "Prayers for Peace." They were offering a time "to process, reflect, and come together in the wake of the election."

The thought of praying in community in a quiet, nonpartisan place was deeply appealing. Perhaps a Catholic Church in town was offering the same -- one had opened their doors on Election Day for prayer -- but I didn't know of any.

So, I headed to the Methodist church. Small groups were chatting softly and solitary folks were praying silently in pews. The three-hour open house had included a communion service, but I had purposely arrived after that concluded.

Nevertheless, the pastor came to me and indicated the bread and chalice that remained on the altar.

"You're welcome to receive communion," she said.

"I'm not a Methodist," I explained politely.

"Neither is God," she smiled.

Ah, yes, I thought. And neither is God a Democrat or a Republican, a liberal or a conservative. No political labels for God, just compassionate, merciful, inclusive.

After victory or defeat, the first inclination is to recommit to your own partisan efforts. This isn't a bad inclination -- citizens should work for causes, charities and justice issues that call to them. Passion is good.

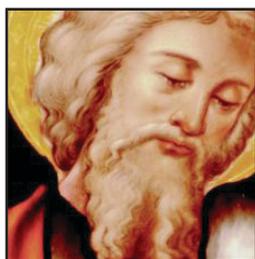
But prayer comes first.

By Thursday, Facebook was growing reflective. People were apologizing for outbursts and offering support to anyone in a group who might be harassed, terrorized or intimidated by a small but dangerous minority.

A friend posted a picture of Martin Luther King Jr. with his words: "I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear."

That hangs in my office now, a reminder from a martyred hero that courageous political activism begins, ends and has its roots in love, faith and God.

Saint Andrew
First Century
Feast - November 30



In the synoptic Gospels, Andrew is a Galilean fisherman grouped with his brother, Peter, and with James and John in the inner circle of apostles; in John's Gospel, he is the disciple of John the Baptist who is the first to follow Jesus and who brings his brother to the Lord. Many traditions about Andrew come from the apocryphal second-century Acts of Andrew, which depicts him as a zealous missionary in the Black Sea region who is crucified -- tied to an x-shaped cross -- by the Roman governor. Some early church historians also said he evangelized in Greece and Asia Minor. He is the patron saint of Scotland, Russia, Greece and those who fish for a living.

Pilgrimage Was Moving Event For Participants

(Continued From Page 1.)

“What you as the Church of Altoona - Johnstown, with your Bishop, Bishop Mark Barchak, are going to do today is answer that call to be merciful as your Heavenly Father is merciful; to unite yourselves with Jesus Christ, the face of the Father’s mercy.”

The pilgrims, who came either on their own or on parish-sponsored buses, had plenty of opportunity for spiritual renewal and fellowship. Bishop Mark presided at Midday Prayer in the Upper Church. Afterwards, participants could tour the Basilica, enjoy lunch, and browse in the gift shop.

Later in the afternoon, the Bishop and priests from the Diocese heard Confessions. The day ended with Mass in the Crypt Church.

“Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has said that to go on pilgrimage to shrines is one of the most eloquent expressions of the people of God, and that in every shrine, we encounter our Lord,” Monsignor Walter Rossi, Rector of the Basilica, said at the beginning of Mass.

During the Year of Mercy, Monsignor Rossi added, Pope Francis presented Mary as the ultimate witness that the mercy of God knows no bounds.

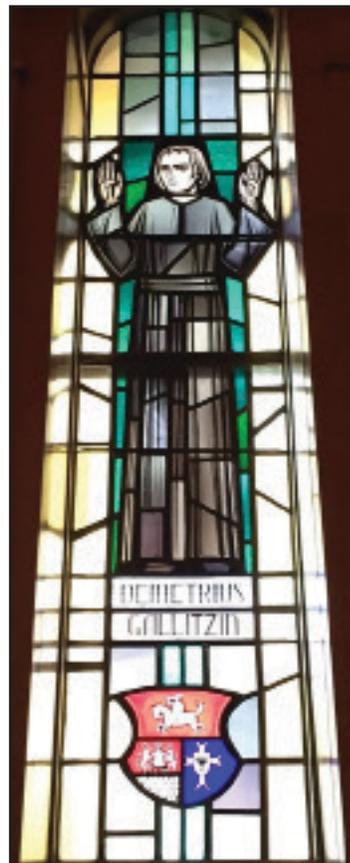
Oceans Of Mercy

In his Homily, Bishop Mark recalled the story of an elderly woman who had burst into tears after seeing the ocean for the first time. When asked why she was crying, she answered, “This is the only thing I have ever seen that there was enough of.”

During the Jubilee Year of Mercy, the Bishop continued, Pope Francis wanted everyone to open their eyes, minds, and hearts to see something of which there is also enough – mercy.

“God has oceans of Mercy,” proclaimed Bishop Mark.

“From the receiving side, mercy comes to us as that sense of relief that we are not con-

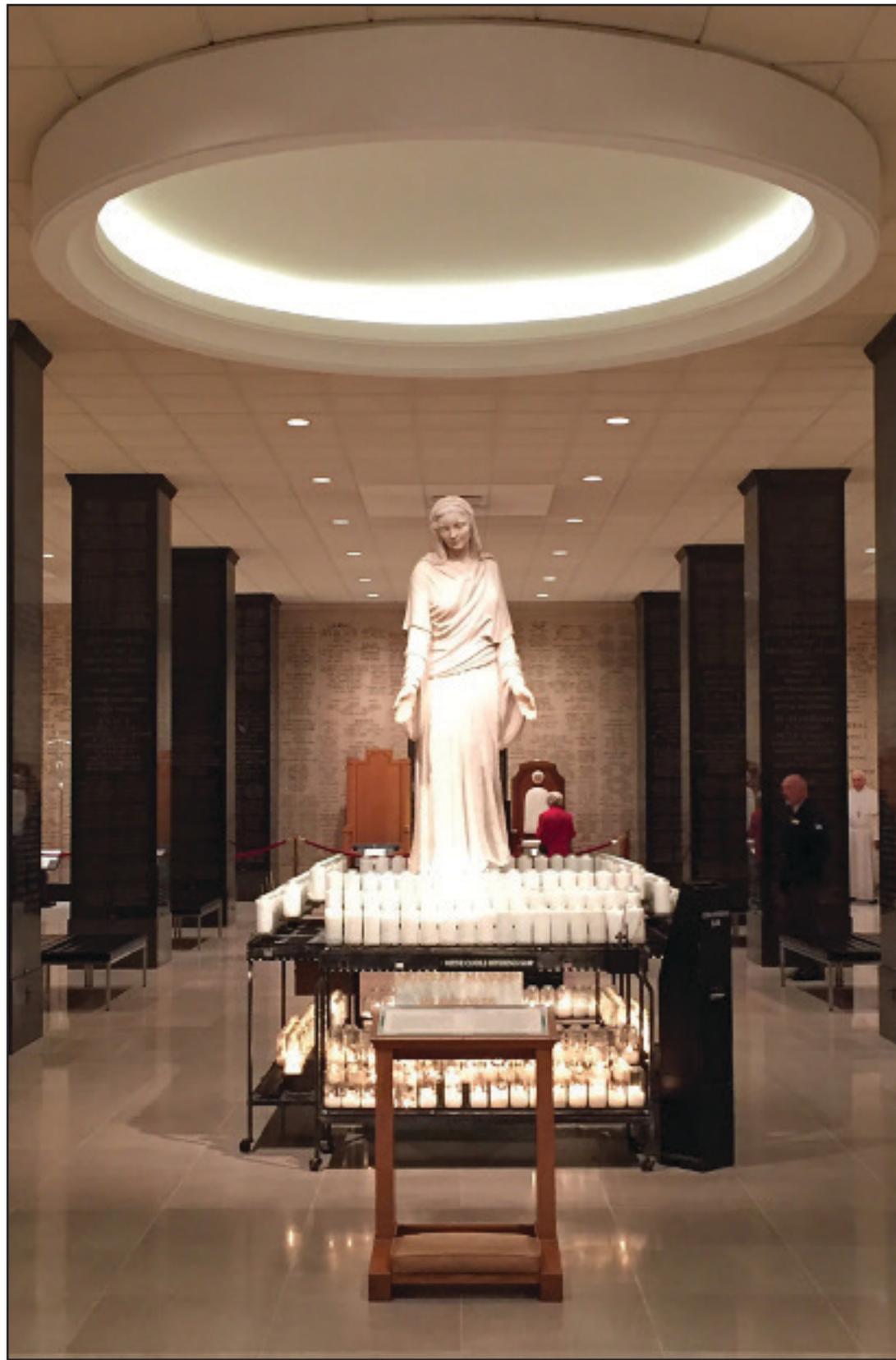


GALLITZIN WINDOW: A stained glass window featuring the image of Servant of God Demetrius Gallitzin can be found in the sacristy of the Upper Church in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Bishop Mark and priests of the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown always enjoy seeing the window during visits to the Basilica.

demned when we confess our sins,” he stated. “Instead, we are able to receive the gift of God’s forgiveness and the healing that comes with it through the sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.”

Bishop Mark was grateful that so many from the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown had the opportunity to receive that sacrament as part of the pilgrimage.

“Since this Basilica was first established, the number of people who have received that experience of mercy here is probably in the millions,” he theorized. “God has oceans of mercy.”



PRAYER INTENTIONS: A statue of Mary in the main concourse of the lower level of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception is one of many places in the Basilica where individuals can light a candle in honor of a special intention.

The Bishop offered some advice for the pilgrims who celebrated the gift of that mercy.

“I know you want to take some of it home with you, but don’t be stingy,” he cautioned. “Take a lot of it with you because this pilgrimage is not complete until you have shared the effects of this pilgrimage with others. I

also know that many of you are already doing that as you lit a candle today or will say a prayer during this Mass for someone back home who has more than their share of chaos right now.”

The Lord’s mercy will not expire at the end of the pilgrimage, nor at the end of Jubilee Year of Mercy (Sunday, No-

vember 20), Bishop Mark mentioned.

“God has oceans of mercy and he wants you to share it with others as though it is the most important thing you could possibly give away.”

(Continued On Page 11.)



MASS: The Pilgrimage Mass was celebrated in the intimate setting of the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The altar is known as the Mary Memorial Altar; it was a gift to the Shrine from all the Catholic women of the United States named Mary. The Crypt Church was the first part of the National Shrine Basilica to be completed and opened for public worship.

(Continued From Page 10.)

Sights, Sounds, Memories

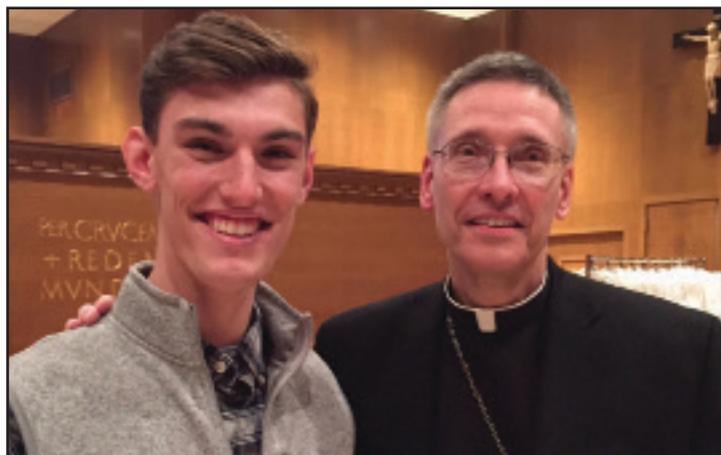
Diocesan seminarian Sean Gibson was among the altar servers.

“It was very special to serve Mass with the Bishop and with priests from the Diocese,” said Gibson, who is studying pre-theology at Saint Mary’s Seminary in Baltimore. “I’m very grateful to be asked, and I’m glad to be here.”

About two dozen men and women comprised a pilgrimage choir to lead worshippers in sung prayer.

“I just couldn’t say ‘no,’” said Justin Treon about the invitation to be the psalmist at Mid-day Prayer. “I knew this was going to be a wonderful occasion, and I’m just thrilled to be here and be part of it.”

Treon, a member of Saint Aloysius Parish in Cresson and



HAPPY REUNION: Nick Spinelli (left), a 2016 graduate of Bishop McCort Catholic High School in Johnstown and current student at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., made the short trek to the Basilica to attend Mass during the Diocesan pilgrimage. Spinelli, a former Teen Talk host on the Diocesan Proclaim! television ministry, used to interview Bishop Mark on the show.

student at Mount Aloysius College in Cresson, was one of many young adults present for the pilgrimage.

Another was Nick Spinelli, a 2016 graduate of Bishop McCort Catholic High School in Johnstown. He is attending college in Washington and could

not resist coming to Mass when he heard about the pilgrimage.

“I was thrilled to see so many young people on the pilgrimage,” Spinelli said. “It reinforced my reasoning of why I chose to attend college at The Catholic University of America right beside our country’s Catholic Church. As always, it was great to see Bishop Mark and my friends from the Diocese again.”

For all who participated, the day provided memories for a lifetime.

“It means joining a group of people that share the same faith I do, and it’s parishioners from other parishes that you don’t usually see that you get to talk and visit with,” said Terry Gebhardt of Saint Catherine of Siena Parish in Duncansville. “Coming here to this place of worship, I realize that it does belong to all of us.”

The pilgrimage moved

Mark Komula, a recent convert to the Catholic faith.

“It’s an awesome experience, especially as we get near the end of the Year of Mercy,” said the parishioner of Saint Peter in Somerset. “It really is fantastically beautiful – way beyond what I could have imagined.”

Jesse Ickes and Nicole Bagley, an engaged couple from the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament offered similar sentiments.

“Being here in this beautiful Basilica, surrounded by people from here locally as well as from other parishes to celebrate the pilgrimage of the Catholic Church is really a touching experience,” stated Ickes.

Added Bagley: “I’ve been here before, but it’s more amazing this time. There is always something new to see, and I really just feel God’s presence here.”

Pope Says Christ Is King Of Mercy

(Continued From Page 16.)

Following Christ the King also means accepting “the scandal of his humble love,” which can be difficult because it “unsettles and disturbs us.”

Christ’s love, the love Christians are called to imitate, is concrete and tangible and is not concerned with personal comfort, power and superiority.

Even in evangelization “the lure of power and success seem an easy, quick way to spread the Gospel,” he said. The Year of Mercy was a call to “rediscover the youthful, beautiful face of the church, the face that is radiant when it is welcoming, free, faithful, poor in means but rich in love, on mission.”

Christ the king, “our king, went to the ends of the universe in order to embrace and save every living being,” he said. “He did not condemn us, nor did he conquer us, and he never disregarded our freedom, but he paved the way with a humble love that forgives all things, hopes all things, sustains all things.”

Christ’s followers are called to continue his saving mission, the pope said.

At the end of the Mass, Pope Francis signed his new apostolic letter, “Misericordia et Misera,” (Mercy and Misery), which a papal aide announced was written to affirm that the commitment to sharing the merciful love of God continues because it is “the heart of the Gospel.”

The pope gave the letter, which was to be made public Nov. 21, to a group of people representing different sectors of the church: Manila Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, president of Caritas Internationalis; Scottish Archbishop Leo Cushley of St. Andrews and Edinburgh, on behalf of diocesan bishops; two priests who were “missionaries of mercy” for the Holy Year; a permanent deacon; two religious women; an extended family; an engaged couple; two women catechists; a person with disabilities; and a person who is ill.



GREETES CARDINAL CUPICH: Pope Francis greets new Cardinal Blase J. Cupich of Chicago after celebrating the closing Mass of the jubilee Year of Mercy in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican Sunday, November 20.

CNS Photo/Paul Haring

Pope Calls New Cardinals To Be Agents Of Unity In Divided World

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)

-- The Catholic Church's 17 new cardinals must dedicate their lives to being ministers of forgiveness and reconciliation in a world -- and sometimes a church -- often marked by hostility and division, Pope Francis said.

Even Catholics are not immune from "the virus of polarization and animosity," the pope told the new cardinals, and "we need to take care lest such attitudes find a place in our hearts."

Creating 17 new cardinals from 14 nations Nov. 19, the pope said the College of Cardinals -- and the Catholic Church itself -- must be a sign for the world that differences of nationality, skin color, language and social class do not make people enemies, but brothers and sisters with different gifts to offer.

Three of the new cardinals created during the prayer service in St. Peter's Basilica were from the United States: Cardinals Blase J. Cupich of Chicago; Kevin J. Farrell, prefect of the new Vatican office for laity, family and life; and Joseph W. Tobin, whom the pope asked to move from being archbishop of Indianapolis to archbishop of Newark, New Jersey.

Only 16 of the new cardinals were present for the ceremony. The Vatican said 87-year-old Cardinal Sebastian Koto Khoarai, the retired bishop of Mohale's Hoek, Lesotho, was created a cardinal although he was unable to travel to Rome.

After reciting the Creed and taking an oath of fidelity to Pope Francis and his successors, each cardinal went up to Pope Francis and knelt before him. The pope gave them each a cardinal's ring, a three-cornered red hat and a scroll attesting to their appointment as cardinals and containing their "titular church" in Rome. The assignment of a church is a sign they now are members of the clergy of the pope's diocese.



CNS Photo/Paul Haring

NEW CARDINAL: New Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Indianapolis gives a thumbs up as he arrives for the consistory.

After the consistory, Pope Francis and the new cardinals hopped in vans for a short ride to visit retired Pope Benedict XVI in the Mater Ecclesiae Monastery, his residence in the Vatican gardens. The retired pope greeted each cardinal, thanked them for stopping by and assured them, "My prayers will accompany you always."

Cardinal Mario Zenari, the pope's ambassador to Syria, spoke on behalf of the new cardinals, promising Pope Francis that they and the entire church would continue to be envoys of God's mercy, bending down to help those "left half dead on the side of the road, wounded in body and spirit."

The Gospel reading at the consistory was St. Luke's version of Jesus' discourse to his disciples: "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you."

"They are four things we can easily do for our friends and for those more or less close to us, people we like, people whose tastes and habits are similar to our own," Pope Francis said. But Jesus, not mincing his words, calls his followers to more.

"With people we consider our opponents or enemies," the pope said, "our first instinctive reaction ... is to dismiss, dis-

credit or curse them. Often we try to 'demonize' them, so as to have a 'sacred' justification for dismissing them."

In God, he said, there are no enemies. There are only brothers and sisters to love.

All people are embraced by God's love, he said. "We are the ones who raise walls, build barriers and label people."

Just as God loves and forgives the pope and the cardinals for their sinfulness, he said, so they must love and forgive oth-

ers, undergoing "the conversion of our pitiful hearts that tend to judge, divide, oppose and condemn."

Looking around the modern world, Pope Francis said, "we live at a time in which polarization and exclusion are burgeoning."

"We see, for example, how quickly those among us with the status of a stranger, an immigrant or a refugee" are seen as threats, he said. They are presumed to be an enemy because they come from a different country, "because of the color of their skin, their language or their social class. An enemy because they think differently or even have a different faith."

The "growing animosity between peoples" is found even "among us, within our communities, our priests, our meetings," the pope said.

"We need to take care lest

such attitudes find a place in our hearts, because this would be contrary to the richness and universality of the church, which is tangibly evident in the College of Cardinals," he said. The cardinals come from different countries, "we think differently and we celebrate our faith in a variety of rites. None of this makes us enemies; instead, it is one of our greatest riches."

As the Year of Mercy was ending, Pope Francis called on the new cardinals -- and everyone present in the basilica -- to continue to proclaim "the Gospel of mercy," going out to where people live, giving them hope and helping them become signs of reconciliation.

At the end of the consistory, the College of Cardinals had 228 members, 121 of whom are under the age of 80 and eligible to vote in a conclave to elect a pope.

Cathedral Prayer Group Schedule



All are welcome!
Please Clip and
Save.

Mon, November 28th, Eucharistic Festival of Praise, 7PM, Cathedral.
Deacon Kevin Nester—preaching.

Mon, December 12th, Praise & Worship, 7PM, Cathedral. **Advent/Christmas Party to follow.**

Mon, January 9th, Praise & Worship, 7PM, Cathedral. **Mary Jo McConnell**—to give witness talk.

Mon, January 23rd, Praise & Worship, 7PM, Cathedral.

Mon, February 6th, Praise & Worship, 7PM, Cathedral.

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Now Showing

‘Fantastic Beasts’ Visually Impressive, But Predictable

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) -- Fans of British novelist P.G. Wodehouse have a special place in their hearts for one of his most memorable comic creations, a shy and eccentric newt fancier with the immortal name Augustus Fink-Nottle.

Gussie, as his pal Bertie Wooster always called him, turns out to bear some similarity to the protagonist of “Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them” (Warner Bros.).

Since the film is primarily a fantasy and not a comedy, however, this resemblance proves a mixed blessing.

Penned by “Harry Potter” scribe J.K. Rowling, and set in 1926 New York, the movie follows the stateside adventures of

Newt Scamander (Eddie Redmayne), an alumnus of Harry’s alma mater, the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, who specializes in studying and preserving the creatures of the title. As he travels the globe, Newt keeps an entire menagerie of the outlandish critters he’s collected in an ordinary-looking but magical suitcase.

When this valise accidentally falls into the hands of everyday mortal Jacob Kowalski (Dan Fogler), the owner of an outwardly identical grip, it’s easy to foresee the fallout. Jacob cluelessly releases the inhabitants of Newt’s portable zoo, thereby creating two interconnected problems for the spell-caster.

First, there’s the danger of setting off a panic as fauna unknown to nature wander the streets of Gotham. The result of such a sensation, moreover,



CNS Photo/Warner Brothers. Entertainment

FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM: Katherine Waterston, Eddie Redmayne, Alison Sudol and Dan Fogler star in a scene from the movie “Fantastic Beasts and Where To Find Them.” The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

would be to reveal to humans the existence of the whole carefully hidden world of wand-wavers -- with persecution and conflict the likely results.

To prevent all this, Newt joins forces with local Ministry of Magic enforcement official Tina Goldstein (Katherine Waterston). While barely able to understand the alternate reality he’s suddenly stumbled into, Jacob, too, lends a hand. Finally, to round things out -- and create parallel love possibilities -- Tina’s sister, Queenie (Alison Sudol), also joins the chase to retrieve the strays.

As directed by “Harry Potter” veteran David Yates, “Beasts” is visually impressive. And Folger brings off Jacob’s working-stiff persona to droll effect. But, overall, emotional engagement is lacking -- perhaps because Redmayne makes withdrawn bashfulness one of his peculiar character’s leading qualities. Thus special effects wind up predominating over human interaction.

The predictable mayhem punctuating the story is thoroughly stylized. So parents may be more concerned to find that a vaguely religious atmosphere

surrounds one of the villains of the piece, anti-wizardry crusader Mary Lou Barebone (Samantha Morton).

The film contains considerable action violence with minimal gore and a couple of uses of a slang term some may

find vulgar. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Coming Up On ‘Proclaim!’

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

December 4 - - Hannah Hartswick, a counselor at Catholic Charities, will offer guidance for individuals struggling with grief, loneliness, or financial difficulties in the upcoming Christmas season.

December 11 - - As we spotlight All Saints School in Cresson as our School of the Month, a family with many ties to the school shares their thoughts about Catholic education.

Sunday Mass

Broadcast Live from
the Cathedral of

the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona
10:00 a.m. WFBG Radio, 1290 AM

Sunday Mass Telecast

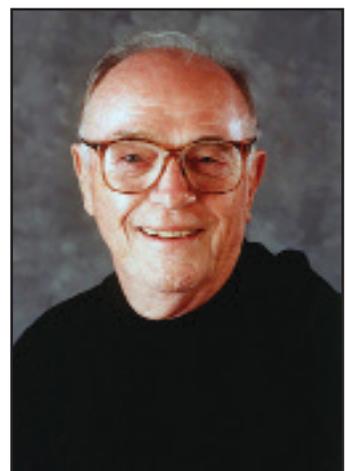
Live from Saint John Gualbert Cathedral
Downtown Johnstown
11 a.m. - Noon WATM - TV ABC Channel 23

Proclaim!

10:30 a.m.

A half - hour of local Church news and features

May They Rest In Peace



**Father Brian J. Miller
T.O.R.**

Third Order Regular Franciscan Father Brian J. Miller, 91, died Sunday November 6, at Saint Francis Friary – Mount Assisi, Loretto.

He was born John Wilfred Miller March 4, 1925 in Braddock, the son of the late James and Margaret (Clougherty) Miller. He was a graduate of Saint Thomas High School, Braddock.

After graduation, he entered the Third Order Regular Franciscan community, Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus on September 6, 1944 at Mount Assisi Friary. He made his novitiate at Sacred Heart Friary, Loretto and professed his first vows on September 20, 1945.

Father Brian professed his solemn vows on September 20, 1948 at Mount Assisi Friary, Loretto. Father Brian was ordained to the priesthood by the late Bishop Richard T. Guilfoyle of the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown, at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona on May 16, 1953.

Father Brian received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy from Saint Francis College, Loretto in 1949. He completed Theological studies at Saint Francis Seminary, Loretto in 1953. Father Brian received his Master of Arts in Mathematics from Villanova University in 1959.

Father Brian ministered in education and administration. He served on the faculty of Saint Thomas More High School, Philadelphia and on the founding faculty of Bishop Egan High School, Levittown. He taught mathematics at Saint Francis College, Loretto where he also served as the Registrar, and at Saint Francis Preparatory School, Spring Grove. He served as Executive Vice President of Saint Francis College and as Assistant Headmaster at Saint Francis Preparatory School. He served on the Boards of Trustees of Franciscan University of Steubenville OH, Saint Francis College and Saint Francis Preparatory School.

In 1992, Father Brian transitioned into pastoral ministry at Saint Mary, Our Lady of Grace Church, Saint Petersburg FL. He served there until 2011 as parochial vicar.

As his health declined, Father Brian returned to Saint Francis Friary - Mount Assisi, Loretto where he served in the ministry of prayer. Using his mathematical skills and financial expertise, Father Brian served the Province as Provincial Treasurer for more than 20 years.

Father Brian was preceded in death by his brothers, Joseph, Edward, Father James and sisters Mariata Doyle, Peggy Delaney and Patricia Groark. He is survived by many nieces and nephews and grand - nieces and nephews and his Franciscan brothers.

The funeral Mass for Father Brian J. Miller T.O.R. was celebrated Wednesday, November 9 in the chapel of Saint Francis Friary - Mount Assisi, with Father Richard L. Davis, minister provincial, as principal celebrant. Committal was in the Franciscan Friars' Cemetery on the campus of Saint Francis University, Loretto.

Memorial contributions may be made to support retired T.O.R. Friars, c/o Saint Francis Friary, PO Box 137, Loretto PA 15940.

**The souls of the just
are in the hand of
God, and no torment
shall touch them.**



**Father Warren Murphy
T.O.R.**

Father Warren Murphy, 87, of the Third Order Regular Franciscans of the Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, died Friday November 11, at Garvey Manor, Hollidaysburg, after an extended illness.

He was born on November 22, 1928 in East Boston MA. He was baptized at Sacred Heart Church, East Boston, and given the name Leo Francis. He was the son of the late Leo F. and Amelia (Francis) Murphy. He graduated from Provincetown Grammar School and Provincetown High School, Provincetown, MA, and Bryant and Stratton Commercial School, Boston, MA.

After graduation, Father Warren worked in business for five years. He entered the Third Order Regular community in Loretto in September 1951, and did his postulancy at Mount Assisi Friary. He made his novitiate at Portiuncula Friary, Washington, DC, and pronounced First Vows on July 5, 1953. On July 5, 1956 Father Warren pronounced his Solemn Vows at Mount Assisi Friary.

Father Warren was ordained to the priesthood by the late Bishop George Leech, D.D. of the Diocese of Harrisburg, at the Immaculate Conception Chapel, Loretto on May 28, 1960. Father Warren received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy from Saint Francis College (University), Loretto in 1956. He completed his Theological studies at Saint Francis Seminary, Loretto in 1960. He received his Master of Music degree from The Catholic University of America,

Washington DC in 1972.

Father Warren ministered for 15 years at Saint Francis College (University). He was superior and taught at both Saint Francis Seminary, Loretto and Toronto, Canada. In 1980, Father Warren was assigned to the Diocese of Ft. Worth, Texas. For one year, he was parochial vicar at Saint Michael Parish, Bedford. He was pastor at Saint Thomas Parish, Fort Worth for 7 years. Father Warren became pastor of Saint Andrew Parish, Fort Worth in 1988. In addition to his pastoral ministry, he was assigned by the Diocese to minister in a special manner to the broken, the marginalized and those discriminated against. In 2008, he was a priest in residence at Saint Andrew Parish.

In 2012, Father Warren returned to Saint Francis Friary - Mount Assisi, where he served in the ministry of prayer.

Before entering the community, he served as an organist. He was an accomplished pia-

nist. After ordination he taught Chant, Music Appreciation, Music History and Chorus. He directed the College and Seminary Choirs and numerous concerts. Throughout his adult life he had a deep appreciation for music and introduced many others to the beauty of music.

Father Warren was preceded in death by his twin sister, Loretta Murphy White. He is survived by four nephews and one niece and his Franciscan brothers.

The funeral Mass for Father Warren Murphy T.O.R. was celebrated Wednesday, November 16 in the chapel of Saint Francis Friary - Mount Assisi, Loretto with Father Richard L. Davis, minister provincial as principal celebrant. Committal was in the Franciscan Friars' Cemetery, on the campus of Saint Francis University, Loretto.

Memorials may be made to T.O.R. Friars, c/o P.O. Box 137, Loretto, PA 15940.

A NEW YEAR...A FRESH START INFINITE POSSIBILITIES Adult Enrichment and Lay Ecclesial Ministry SCHEDULE OF 2017 CLASSES

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Cathedral, Seton Suite, Altoona (6 weeks)

Msgr. Robert Mazur - Mondays: 6:30-9:00 PM
January 9, 16, 23, 30; February 6, 13

St. Michael Church Hall, St. Michael (8 weeks)

Father D. Timothy Grimme - Tuesdays: 6:30-8:30 PM
January 10, 17, 24, 31; February 7, 14, 21, 28

Living Your Strengths

Family Life Office, Lilly (7 weeks)

Msgr. Michael Becker - Thursdays: 6:30-8:30 PM
January 26; February 2, 9, 16, 23; March 2, 9

Christian Prayer and Spirituality

St. Catherine of Siena, Duncansville (8 weeks)

Sister Marilyn Welch, CCW - Wednesdays: 6:30-8:30 PM
March 8, 15, 22, 29; April 5, 12, 16, 26

St. Patrick School Building, Johnstown (8 weeks)

Deacon Michael Russo - Tuesdays: 6:30-8:30 PM
March 7, 14, 21, 28; April 4, 11, 18, 25

Church History

St. Catherine of Siena, Duncansville (10 weeks)

Deacon Donald Gibboney - Tuesdays: 6:30-8:30 PM
March 7, 14, 21, 28; April 4, 11, 18, 25; May 9, 16

St. John Vianney, Mundy's Corner (10 weeks)

Deacon Tom Buige - Tuesdays: 6:30-8:30 PM
March 7, 14, 21, 28; April 4, 11, 18, 25; May 9, 16

**For more information visit: www.dioceseaj.org/lay-ecclesial-ministry
Telephone: 814-361-2000 / Email: mheinze@dioceseaj.org**

Proclaim Christ The King Of Mercy, Pope Says At Conclusion Of Holy Year

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)

--Following Christ the King, whose regal power is love and mercy, means the whole church and each Christian must "follow his way of tangible love," Pope Francis said.

Celebrating the feast of Christ the King Nov. 20 and officially closing the extraordinary jubilee celebration of the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis insisted, "we have received mercy in order to be merciful."

On a warm, late fall morning, St. Peter's Square was filled with an estimated 70,000 people for the Mass, which was celebrated by the new cardinals Pope Francis had created the previous day.

The pope and the new cardinals first went to the atrium of St. Peter's Basilica and gave thanks for "the gifts of grace received" during the Holy Year. Pope Francis then went to the threshold of the Holy Door and pulled each side shut. The door will be sealed until the next Holy Year, which is likely to be 2025.

In his homily, Pope Francis said that even if the Holy Door is closed, "the true door of mercy, which is the heart of Christ, always remains open wide for us."

The power of Christ the King, he said, "is not power as



POPE CLOSES HOLY DOOR: Pope Francis closes the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica to mark the closing of the jubilee Year of Mercy at the Vatican Sunday, November 20.

CNS/Tiziana Fabi, Pool Via Reuters

defined by this world, but the love of God, a love capable of encountering and healing all things."

Like the "good thief" who turned to Jesus on the cross and

was assured a place in heaven, anyone who turns to God with trust can be forgiven, the pope said. "He is ready to completely and forever cancel our sin, because his memory -- unlike our

own -- does not record evil that has been done or keep score of injustices experienced."

Loving like Christ loves us, he said, means constantly seeking the grace to forgive others,

forget the offenses committed and be instruments of reconciliation in the world.

(Continued On Page 12.)

PERIODICAL RATE MAIL

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