



# The Catholic Register

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The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them.

When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

-- Luke 2:16 - 21



CNS Photo/Bridgeman Images

*The staff of The Catholic Register wishes you a very Merry Christmas,  
and a happy, healthy, holy New Year.*





## All I Want For Christmas – Is – What God Wants For Christmas

Bishop Mark L. Bartchak

Music has always been a part of my Christmas experience. We always listened to traditional religious songs like Silent Night, and non-religious songs like White Christmas. I recently read that the most popular non-religious Christmas song these days (based on how often it is played on the radio) is All I Want for Christmas is You.

Fans and music critics say that it is popular because of the lively music, but also because it has a positive message that downplays the importance of material gifts. Instead, the lyrics highlight the human desires of not being alone and wanting to be loved.

Although it does not share the same popularity, I discovered another contemporary Christmas song with an obvious religious theme: What God Wants for Christmas.

Darius Rucker said that he wrote the song with some friends because he wanted to put God back into the Christmas experience. The lyrics ask a question that many would not think about, while others would find it difficult to answer: “What do you give someone who gave His only Son?”

It immediately suggests a response found in the song: “What if we believe in Him, like He believes in us?” And the song leaves us to think about some evidence of that faith by suggesting “peace on Earth, no more empty seats in church; every Bible with no dust, the devil given up; more sister, more brother, more lovin’ one another.”

All of this is the message that Pope Francis put before the whole world during the Year of Mercy that we just concluded. For Pope Francis, that special jubilee year was just a beginning, because mercy is not supposed to be just an occasional act of kindness or good work.

Mercy is what the Christian life is all about. It’s our identity, our mission, and our purpose.

Christmas is the feast of the birth of Jesus Christ, the only Son of God as Darius Rucker knows. In giving his only Son to us and to the whole world, our Father in heaven demonstrated a love for us even when we are at our worst; even when we neglect to love our neighbor and love ourselves in the way that God loves us.

God’s love is a love that challenges us and invites us to want more; to want more healing for those who are wounded in body, mind, and spirit; to want more courage and strength to stand for what is right and good; to want more commitment, more faithfulness in living the Gospel of Jesus Christ every single day.

In addition to the two popular songs, I also learned about a book: **What God Wants For Christmas**, with the subtitle: “An Interactive Kid-Friendly Nativity.” It unfolds like a pop-up book.

There are seven boxes with some verses about an angel, the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph, the infant Jesus, a shepherd, and a wise man. The seventh box is a mirror, representing the person who is looking inside.

Whenever we look in a mirror we obviously see ourselves, with all of our hopes, dreams, desires, everyday problems, and even significant disasters. It can remind us of “All I Want for Christmas.”

But if it truly is a “Christmas mirror,” we should also be able to see something of God who gave us his only Son to be our Savior and the Savior of the whole world. It can and should remind us “What God wants for Christmas.”

It makes me think of these words of Saint Paul: “Now we see but a dim reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love; but the greatest of these is love.” (1 Corinthians 13:12-13)

God wants our love and devotion. God wants our hearts to be open to the saving and life-giving love of the only begotten Son whose birth is celebrated at Christmas.

The Lord Jesus Christ was born into the world, and he lived and died so that we can live – forever. He did it for love. And Christ did it because he believes in us.

Christ knows what we want and what we need for Christmas. The Lord Jesus continues to reveal what God wants for Christmas. May the love of Christ be in your hearts at Christmas and throughout the New Year!

+ Mark L. Bartchak

# In The Alleghenies



**ADVENT WREATHS:** A “Family Advent Gathering” was held by the Religious Education program at Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Lakemont, Altoona. During the event, students and families crafted live Advent wreaths for use in their homes. The wreaths were blessed by Monsignor Michael Becker, pastor, before the families took them home.

## Community

### Grant Proposals

**Hollidaysburg:** The Nazareth Family Foundation is accepting grant applications for Fiscal Year 2017 - 2018.

Grant requests must support the mission and criteria of the Foundation, which include: meeting a critical community

need; strengthening the family; demonstrating collaboration; addressing the moral and religious renewal of family life, and demonstrating a holistic approach to serving families in need.

The Foundation, established by the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth with funds from the sale of the former Mercy Hospital in Altoona, has been awarding grants to programs and services in the Blair County

area since 1997.

To request an application packet, call Sister Michele Collins at (814) 660- 2559; e - mail [MCollins.NFF@gmail.com](mailto:MCollins.NFF@gmail.com); or write to Nazareth Family Foundation, 601 N. Montgomery Street, Hollidaysburg PA 16648 - 1499.

Completed applications that meet the Foundation’s criteria must be received no later than March 15.

## High Schools

### Will Study Art

**Boalsburg:** Grace Cousins could have followed in her three sisters’ footsteps and attended her local public school. But she had the opportunity to forge her own path at a new high school in Boalsburg, and she hit the



**SAINT NICHOLAS VISITS:** “Saint Nicholas” visited Saint Francis of Assisi Parish, Johnstown, on Sunday, December 4. Saint Nicholas visited with the parish’s children and heard their Christmas wishes. Also enjoying the saint’s visit was Conventual Franciscan Father Anthony Francis Spilka, pastor (pictured).

ground running - - so to speak.

A talented artist and graphic designer, Cousins—who is on course to graduate from Saint Joseph’s Catholic Academy in the spring—will continue her studies next year at the Savannah College of Art & Design (SCAD) in Georgia. But she’s not putting her running shoes away yet: Cousins, a member of the Wolves’ back - to - back cross country state championship teams in 2015 and 2016, will also run at SCAD.

“From the moment my husband and I walked in the building four years ago, we knew it was the right place for her,” says Grace’s mom, Lisa Cousins, of Saint Joseph’s. “(Principal) Chris Chirieleison and (Guidance Counselor) Jean Kozak have been so supportive of my desire to add what was missing and work to bring a pretty awesome art program to Saint Joe’s.”

“It has been a great experience, and I am glad I decided to come here,” Grace adds. “I met a lot of inspiring people who all have taught me amazing things. My teachers encourage me to give my best.”

Giving her best in cross

country was never an issue for Cousins. Competing at the PIAA Class A championships in Hershey last month, she finished the 5 km (3.1 mile) course in 21:49, and helped the Wolves win their second straight state crown.

Not only did she get another gold medal that day, but Cousins and her teammates were wearing the team shirts that she designed. They feature a group of runners’ legs inside the outline of a wolf.

“Coach (Jayson) Jackson gave me the opportunity,” Cousins says of designing the T-shirts. “That was pretty neat to see my designs come to life.”

Whether she’s in class or running for the school, Cousins embodies the four pillars of Saint Joe’s: Faith, Scholarship, Leadership, and Service.

“The school has us attend monthly Masses, and the music is such a special part of our prayer,” she says. “I think the school incorporates our interests and encourages us to use our gifts to lead and serve at Saint Joe’s, and out in the world.”

*(Continued On Page 6.)*

## About The Pages 1 & 16 Artwork

Page 1: Mary and the Christ Child are depicted in this 17th-century painting by Giovanni Battista Salvi. The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, will be celebrated Sunday, January 1.

Page 16: The adoration of the Magi is depicted in a 14th-century painting by Giotto di Bondone. The liturgical feast commemorating this event, the Solemnity of the Epiphany, will be celebrated Sunday, January 8.

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## Point Of View

# Pope Urges People To Find Quiet Time At Christmas

By Carol Glatz  
Catholic News Service

**VATICAN CITY (CNS) --** Make time to get ready for what Christmas really is about -- the child born in Bethlehem signaling that "God is with us," Pope Francis said.

"This week let's make sure we try to find some time to stop, be quiet and imagine Our Lady and St. Joseph who are going to Bethlehem," he said after greeting people gathered in St. Peter's Square Dec. 18 for the Sunday Angelus.

Imagine what the Holy Family experienced on their journey: "the fatigue, but also the joy, the emotions and then the anxiety in looking for a place, the worry and so forth," he said.

The Christmas creche is very helpful in aiding these reflections, he said, adding "let us try to enter into the real Christmas -- that of Jesus, who drew near to us, God with us, near us -- in order to receive the grace of this holiday, which is a grace of closeness, love, humility and tenderness."

Before praying the Angelus with visitors, the pope asked that people welcome God with the same trust, faith, obedience and generosity Mary and Joseph had when they opened their lives to God and changed the course of history.

God asks everyone if he can "enter our life and offer us his son as gift. And us, what do we do? Do we welcome him, let him draw near or do we refuse him? Chase him away?" the pope said.

By welcoming God and seeking to follow him every day we, too, can "cooperate in his plan of salvation for us and the world," he said.

The pope also reflected on the experience of the Holy Family in a Dec. 17 video message to participants of a benefit concert at the Vatican for a children's hospital in Bangui, Central African Republic, and victims of the earthquakes that struck central Italy.

"Christmas, which is almost upon us, reminds us of the way in which God entered the world: born of the Virgin Mary and, like all children, he was wrapped in swaddling clothes, picked up and nursed. Not only that, he, his mother and Joseph had to come to terms with the fact that there was no room for them in the inn," he said.

God, Pope Francis added, chose to manifest himself not only in precarious circumstances but also first revealed the birth of his son to the most excluded.

"The good news, the announcement of the birth was not delivered to a king and princes but to shepherds, men poorly or ill-treated, hardened sinners, we could say. This is our God."



Photo By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein

## Another Perspective

By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein  
Why I Wait In Joyful Hope



In my last column I wrote about the notion of "waiting in joyful hope." I love that phrase and all that it stands for. I love to conjure up a mental picture of God's people looking to the heavens, their faces expressing awe and wonder, standing on tip-toe, yearning, striving, stretching forward to embrace Him at His coming. We wait in joyful hope because hope is all we've got!

Many people are looking to the year ahead with a strong sense of foreboding. The prophets of gloom, doom and despair want to assure us that things are as bad as they've ever been in our nation and our world, and that they are only going to get worse. But I prefer to stand with the late, great lyricist, Oscar Hammerstein II, who wrote of the perpetual cockeyed optimist "I'm stuck like a dope with this thing called hope, and I can't get it out of my heart."

My heart is filled with hope this Christmas Season. I am waiting in joyful hope for the coming of the new year, and I am happy to tell you why: in October, I became a great-uncle for the very first time. Last week, on Sunday, December 18, I baptized my little great-niece, Eleanor Grace Catalani. It's because of her, and because of the younger generation of my family that I have hope. I am in awe of the goodness of God revealed in them.

Eleanor is the first child of my oldest niece, Laura, and her husband, Tyler Catalani. Laura and Tyler were married in May 2015. They are a well-matched young Catholic couple. Products of Catholic education from kindergarten through college, they could well be the poster couple for Catholic schools. They take their faith seriously. They share a strong sense of service. They have taken to parenthood like ducks to water. As thrilled as I am to watch my sister and brother-in-law settle into their new role as grandparents, I am even more thrilled to watch Laura and Tyler growing into being a mommy and daddy. I see Eleanor held in their embrace, and I know the future is in good hands.

My younger niece, Emily, is Eleanor's godmother. Emily is another graduate of life-long Catholic education. She is now serving as a nurse as a member of the United States Navy. When I asked her why she wanted to join the military, and specifically why she wanted to become a Navy nurse, she explained "I thought about what so many service men and women are doing for our country, and I wanted to do something for them." The future is secure in this young nurse's caring hands.

I am hopeful for the future because I know that future is rooted in the past. When I see my sister and her family, when I watch Laura and Tyler build a new family, when I see Emily forging her own path, I see the fruit of all that my mother and father taught Elizabeth and me in our home in Wilmore. Those lessons served us well, and they are now the foundation upon which a new generation is building a home. How can I not be hopeful? I know where we've come from, and I have a strong sense of where we're going. Life is good, and it can only get better!

I know, dear readers, that in your hearts, you feel the same -- that you share my sense of hope and awe and wonder. You share my sense of gratitude for all that you've been given. If we can reach out to those who have lost hope, and convince them of the goodness we see all around us, there can be a blossoming of hope in the days and weeks and months ahead. The Year of Our Lord 2017 will truly be the Lord's Year if we refuse to let the flame of hope be extinguished.

Don't give up yet, dear world! The best is yet to come!

# Vatican Commission Launches Child Protection Website

By Catholic News Service

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** -- The Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors has launched a beta version of its website in English and has included its template for local guidelines on preventing sexual abuse, resources for a day of prayer for the victims and survivors as well as a mailing address to contact commission members.

The website -- [www.protectionofminors.va](http://www.protectionofminors.va) -- eventually will include versions in Spanish, Italian, Portuguese and French, the commission said in a statement Dec. 6.

Pope Francis' international Council of Cardinals identified the protection of children and young adults as one of the church's priority needs and suggested in December 2013 that he create a commission to advise him and assist dioceses and religious orders around the world in drawing up guidelines, handling accusations and ministering to victims and survivors. Pope Francis named the first members three months later and appointed as president Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston.



CNS Photo

**WEBSITE:** The Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors has launched a beta version of its website in English. The website eventually will include versions in Spanish, Italian, Portuguese and French.

## 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.

## Reporting Child Abuse

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

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

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

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

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

### 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.



**SPECIAL GUEST:** Altoona Mayor Matt Pacifico shows off his certificate of completion for taking part in the Hour of Code with Holy Trinity Catholic School students. He is joined by Meltem DiLeo, director of the STREAM curriculum at school.



**HARD AT WORK:** Students at Holy Trinity Catholic School in Altoona participated in an Hour of Code on Wednesday, December 7. The world - wide exercise offered students an introduction to computer programming.

## STREAM Curriculum

# Holy Trinity Students Join World - Wide Lesson

**Photos And Text  
By Tony DeGol**

Annika Barnes is only in eighth grade, but she is already thinking about a career in computer science.

She and her classmates at Holy Trinity Catholic School in Altoona joined millions of students around the world earlier this month for an Hour of Code – an introduction to computer science and computer programming.

Schools in 180 countries participated throughout the week of December 5.

At first glance, the students appeared to be “playing” video games. In reality, they were “coding” video games.

“I thought it was interesting and fun because I always wondered how people make games and videos using computers and cameras,” Annika noted after participating in the exercise on Wednesday, December 7.

Hosting an Hour of Code was a natural choice for Holy Trinity.

The regional school features a STREAM curriculum, which emphasizes Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, the Arts, and Math.

“Our main goal is to prepare students for 21st Century skills,” said Meltem DiLeo, director of the STREAM curriculum.

Computers are everywhere in our lives, DiLeo pointed out, but most of us are consumers rather than producers.

“Coding skills are like writing or reading,” she added. “If kids start learning these kind of skills at an early age, they will practice and learn and understand the basics, which will help them in creating computer technologies in their careers in the future.”

DiLeo noted statistics that show a high demand for workers with computer science skills. She said there are more than 500,000 computer jobs nationwide, but last year, only 42,000 computer science students graduated into the workforce. Statistics also show that computer science graduates enjoy a high starting salary and most

have full employment within six months of graduation.

Altoona Mayor Matt Pacifico participated in the Hour of Code at Holy Trinity Catholic School, and he echoed DiLeo’s comments about the importance of technology education.

“I really like what they’re doing here at Holy Trinity with the STREAM program because I think it is something that is very important to teaching the students and getting them pre-

pared for careers later in life,” Pacifico stated. “That is something I would like to see more of here in Altoona because the tech industry is so big right now, and I would love to be able to capture some of those companies to be able to locate here in Altoona, and I think if we have a skilled workforce right out of high school, and they go on to college and further their education in the technology, then they can come back home and have

jobs waiting for them when they return.”

Perhaps one day, students like Annika can take advantage of those opportunities.

“I’ve always been interested in science, and I watched a video on girls programming (computers), and they said a lot of girls don’t (enter the computer science field),” she said. “I’ve always been interested in doing things a lot of people don’t really do,” she said.

## In The Alleghenies

*(Continued From Page 3.)*

Soon, Cousins will take her talents to Savannah. She was able to get a feel for SCAD when she visited her sister there.

“I fell in love with the historic city of Savannah and its many inspiring places to create,” she says. “I’m also excited to participate on their cross country and track & field teams!”

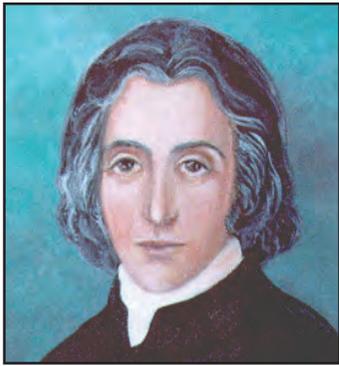
Lisa Cousins is confident

that her daughter will succeed wherever her path takes her in life. She’s also sure that Saint Joe’s gave her the solid framework she’ll need to succeed both collegiately and professionally.

“We couldn’t be more pleased with our decision to send Grace to Saint Joe’s,” she says. “Teachers, coaches, and staff noticed Grace’s potential. They worked with her specific learning style and saw the value in her artistic talent and how

she could use it beyond high school.”

*(Continued On Page 11.)*



## A Prince In The Service Of The Great King

The Servant Of God  
Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin  
1770 - 1840

### ‘The Sight Which They Never Beheld Before . . . ’

In a February 9, 1800 letter to Bishop John Carroll of Baltimore, Father Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin wrote of his first Christmas in McGuire’s Settlement, Cambria County:

*“Our church, which was only begun in harvest, got finished fit for service the night before Christmas. It is about forty - four feet long by twenty - five*

*feet wide, built of white pine logs with a very good shingle roof.*

*“I kept service in it at Christmas for the first time, to the very great satisfaction of the congregation, who seemed very much moved by the sight which they never beheld before.”*

To better suit the needs of his ministry in the young republic, the aristocratic Father Gal-

litzin put aside his princely title and noble name, and adopted his mother’s maiden name, and as “Father Augustine Smith,” served the congregation he gathered around him. In their 1999 book **Apostle Of The Alleghenies**, published by the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown, Margaret and Matthew Bunson write of Father Smith’s first Christmas Mass in his new home.

“The place Mitri chose for his chapel was on the land granted to the Church by Michael McGuire, on a slope some two miles from the McGuire farm. It commanded a splendid view of the surrounding countryside and was ideal as a symbol of unity for the entire community. The church itself was built largely by Mitri’s own hands, using white pine for its walls, covered with laurel and hemlock. It was small, deliberately so, given the size of his congregation. The date to which the residents looked forward with some enthusiasm was Christmas Eve, for Mitri would celebrate his first Christmas Mass in the chapel.

“The event proved a memorable one. Candles made from beeswax adorned the altar, and the most ornate decorations possible, laurels and evergreen boughs added color and charm. From across the entire region, Mitri’s congregation made its way to the log cabin church. Far more diverse and rugged than the parish members in Taneytown, the flock that claimed Mitri, ‘Father Smith,’ as its pastor was comprised of farmers, grizzled old soldiers, Indian traders, and women and children who



Photo By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein

**FIRST CHRISTMAS IN LORETTO:** A stained - glass window in the Immaculate Conception Chapel at Saint Francis University, Loretto, commemorates Father Gallitzin’s first Christmas Mass in the town in 1799.

donned whatever they felt was their best attire.

“Over the hills and through the forests, braving snow and wind, they came to the new church, dedicated to Saint Michael (partly in honor of Michael McGuire) and were greeted by Mitri. Music and singing filled the cold night air with the voice of Herr Feltz taking the lead. The most distinctive voice was that of Mitri as he intoned the Latin of the Mass and joined

in a rousing rendition of ‘*Gloria in Excelsis Deo.*’ He was home at last, and he was experiencing the unique joy bestowed upon those rare individuals who have given up everything in order to carry the Good News of redemption into the wilderness.”

### 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**

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# Word of Life



## The Pope Teaches

By Pope Francis  
At Christmas,  
Recognize Your Sin,  
And Let God Caress You

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** -- At Christmas, God reveals his full power, which is the power of relentlessly seeking his lost sheep and, when he finds them, giving them a caress, Pope Francis said.

"One who does not know the caresses of the Lord does not know Christian doctrine. One who does not let himself be caressed by the Lord is lost," the pope said Dec. 6 during his early morning Mass in the Domus Sanctae Marthae.

Christmas, he said, is a celebration of the fact that "the Lord comes with his power -- which are his caresses -- to find us, to save us like lost sheep and bring us back to the flock of his church."

Pope Francis said that when he reads the Gospel story of the lost sheep, he always thinks of Judas, "the most perfect lost sheep in the Gospels."

In the Bible, he said, Judas seems always to have had "bitterness in his heart," something critical to say about others and a standoffish attitude.

Judas, who is one of the apostles but betrays the Lord, has a "double life, that double life that many Christians have -- even priests and bishops, it pains me to say," the pope said.

"We must understand the lost sheep," he said, because "we, too, always have something -- small or not so small -- of the lost sheep."

The lost sheep, he said, know where the shepherd wants to lead them, but they go off in another direction.

God's response is described not only in the Gospel story of the lost sheep, the pope said, but also in the day's first reading from Isaiah 40: "Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord God, who rules by his strong arm. ... Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care."

Christmas, he said, is a celebration of the coming of the Lord, who "comes like a judge, but a judge who caresses, a judge who is full of tenderness, who does everything to save us."

Pope Francis said Matthew 27:3 gives the idea that maybe there was hope even for Judas who, as it says, "seeing that Jesus had been condemned, deeply regretted what he had done."

The good news of Christmas, the pope said, is that God never stops seeking out the lost sheep. Recognizing his love, people should allow themselves to be consoled and resolve to follow him more closely.

Pope Francis prayed for the grace "to await Christmas sincerely recognizing our wounds and sins, to await the power of God who comes to console us, who comes with power, but the power of tenderness and caresses that are born of his heart, a heart so good that he gave his life for us."



**ONE MORE TIME:** In a 1987 photo, Father Paul Robine, pastor, is shown with some of the Christmas decorations at Saint Aloysius Parish, Cresson.

Some have suggested with the closing of the Year of Mercy, 2017 should be a Year of Hope.

Weary, disillusioned and depressed describe best the feelings of many people I know. The cause is not only our political malaise, but a world of violence and contradictions.

Add to this the fact that we have entered a pharmaceutical age in which commercials constantly remind us of illnesses we might contract and medicines to counter them; that is, if you don't get reactions more detrimental than the promised cure.

Where do we find hope that counters a seemingly hopeless 2017?

The first reading of the Mass from the second Sunday of Advent contains our answer. In it, Isaiah cries out,

"On that day, a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him:

a spirit of wisdom and of understanding,

a spirit of counsel and of strength,

a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the Lord,

and his delight shall be the fear of the Lord."

It is from the line of Jesse, the father of David, that Christ comes, possessing the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Two of those



## The Human Side

By Father Eugene Hemrick  
A New Year Of Hope

gifts in particular contain the hope we desire: wisdom and fear of the Lord.

Wisdom promotes good judgment, i.e., desiring truth and pursuing it to the best of our ability. More important, it includes enlisting God's wisdom in seeking truth.

It is said that each time St. Thomas Aquinas composed a part of his magnificent work, the

"Summa Theologica," he raised it to God, seeking God's wisdom in his pursuit of truth. To succeed, truth needs humility and its gift of docility.

Unfortunately, the crowd's voice often crowds out God's voice.

What is particularly disillusioning presently is bashing truth. Worse than this, is the spirit in which it is done: vicious and godless. No wonder many are depressed. The human spirit depends on trustworthiness: Marriages, governments and churches can't succeed without it. When it is missing, failure follows.

Fear of the Lord doesn't imply being frightened. Rather, it is being in awe of God and God's wonders. It reminds those fulfilling heavy responsibilities that they aren't working for their own aggrandizement, but they are carrying out God's work on earth, pointing them heavenward and away from self.

Living the Spirit of the Lord is 2017's best shot at a hope-filled year.

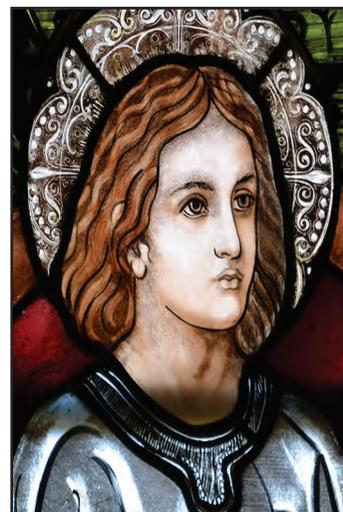


Photo By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein



## Question Corner

### By Father Kenneth Doyle Guidelines On Gluten - Free Hosts

**Q.** At our parish weekend Mass, one child comes regularly to the altar at the same time as the eucharistic ministers and receives Communion separately from the congregation. My understanding is that he has celiac disease and gets a gluten-free host.

But I just realized today that the celebrant gives him Communion using the same hand that has just touched the “regular” hosts. As a person with a food allergy myself (albeit a different one), doesn’t that risk a cross-contamination of the host received by the boy? (Lansdale, Pennsylvania)

**A.** The Mayo Clinic in 2012 estimated that 1.8 million Americans suffer from celiac disease; for them, eating gluten (a protein contained in wheat) can cause serious damage to the intestinal lining. This would mean that, in a Sunday congregation of 400 worshippers, two or three would likely be afflicted.

The U.S. Conference of

Catholic Bishops has recognized the danger you point out of cross-contamination. In their pastoral guidelines, they suggest that before Mass begins, a low-gluten host be placed in a pyx on the altar. (A pyx is a small inexpensive metal container, and most parishes would have several of them.)

When the person with gluten intolerance approaches the priest in the Communion line, he or she could simply be handed the pyx containing the consecrated host and then self-communicate.

You will notice that I use the term “low-gluten” rather than “gluten-free.” According to the Vatican, hosts must be made of wheat since Christ used wheat bread at the Last Supper.

In the parish from which I just retired, we used low-gluten hosts made by Benedictine nuns in Clyde, Missouri, that contain less than 0.01 percent of gluten and that medical research has deemed safe for most celiac sufferers. Researchers have es-

timated that most of those afflicted would have to consume 270 such wafers a day to reach a danger point.

For safety’s sake, a person with celiac disease is best advised to seek medical advice regarding the consumption of low-gluten hosts; those Catholics unable to consume even low-gluten hosts may receive under the species of wine only, even if the cup is not offered to the rest of the congregation at a particular Mass.

**Q.** A retired priest says one of the Sunday Masses each week at our parish. During football season, after the opening hymn, he spends a couple of minutes commenting on the football game that our local team played the day before.

This, of course, produces giggles from the congregation, which urges him to continue what I believe borders on sacrilege. (Also, at the conclusion of the liturgy, instead of saying, “The Mass is ended. Go in peace,” he says, “The Mass never ends; it must be lived by each of us today.”)

His comments at the beginning of Mass have irritated me to the extent that I now leave church until he has finished that part, and then I return to my pew. Your thoughts? (Columbus, Ohio)

**A.** The first rule, I would think, is that the Mass should be offered with the reverence and dignity that the circumstance warrants: This doesn’t rule out occasional humor, lighthearted commentary or reference to contemporary events, even football games.

But if the priest you mention regularly spends as much time as you say reviewing the fortunes of the Ohio State Buckeyes -- “a couple of minutes” and then some more -- that seems a bit excessive. (Your use of the word “sacrilege,” though, does sound a tad extreme.)

As to his extemporizing at the dismissal rite, why can’t he stick to one of the four formulas offered in the Roman Missal -- including “Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life,” which is what he seems to want to say?



## For The Journey

### By Effie Caldarola Do Catholics Stand With Standing Rock?

When my friend Mike Poulin went with two Sisters of Mercy to pray with a group at the Standing Rock Sioux Camp (officially, the Oceti Sakowin Camp) near Cannon Ball, North Dakota, he didn’t know what to expect.

The Indians and their allies, calling themselves the “water protectors,” were protesting the federal government allowing construction of a private company’s pipeline under the Missouri River a half mile from the Sioux reservation border and on land considered sacred.

By now, most Americans have seen the pictures of protesters marching through fierce blowing snow and Indians on horseback silhouetted against the Plains sky. And more troubling, a scene reminiscent of an earlier era: fire hoses turned on peaceful protesters.

Poulin is the justice coordinator for the Sisters of Mercy, West Midwest Community. The Mercy contingent wanted to see for themselves what was going on at Standing Rock, particularly because the community has named five critical social justice concerns, including care of the earth.

So when an Episcopal priest planned an interfaith and ecumenical prayer service in November at Standing Rock, Poulin headed north. With him at the gathering were Sister Aine O’Connor, a former Mercy Global Action coordinator at the United Nations, and another Mercy sister from Omaha.

Organizers expected about 100 people, but 500 showed up. The group gathered at the Backwater Bridge, which was blockaded to prohibit protesters from getting near the construction site.

When they arrived at the bridge, an overwhelming police presence greeted them.

“On the other side of the bridge, about 30 police and numerous law enforcement vehicles were stationed,” Poulin said. “At one point, a group of police marched down the hill together, all in riot gear.”

The Sioux Indian who met the Mercy contingent told them that protesters had sometimes seen men on the hill with guns poised as snipers.

It sounded like a lot of firepower trained on a group of clergy and justice workers praying peacefully. Poulin said the first thing you see in camp is the protesters’ huge sign proclaiming no guns, drugs or alcohol allowed.

The questions surrounding Standing Rock are complex. A history of broken treaties clouds the picture, as does a seeming unwillingness to listen to Indian concerns. The company selected Indian territory rather than areas with heavy white populations with little or no consultation, the tribe says.

Then, of course, there is the broader and equally complex environmental issue. Yes, we all drive. But over 2 million miles of oil and gas pipelines cover the U.S. Much of that is aging and needs updating to comply with new safety standards.

Do we really need more? Should our government’s efforts be turned toward reducing our demand for fossil fuel rather than continuing to accommodate its development?

At this point, the Army Corps of Engineers has halted construction and called for more study. If the pipeline proceeds, it has to cross the Missouri River somewhere, and the thorny question of using eminent domain to obtain private land to profit a large corporation is arousing ire among others outside of the Native American community.

There are other questions. Why do our government entities so readily militarize against their citizens, particularly minorities? And the National Catholic Reporter, and Poulin, both reported there were “a handful” of Catholics at the event. Why weren’t there more?

I know a nun who marched at Selma in her flowing habit alongside priests in their clerical garb. Are Catholics prepared for action today in the great social challenges we now face?

## Saint Stephen 1st Century Feast - December 26



Christianity’s first martyr was probably a Greek Jew. Stephen’s story is recounted in the Acts of the Apostles. He was among the first seven deacons chosen to serve the Hellenist Christian community in Jerusalem. But the wonders he worked rattled local Jewish leaders. Witnesses at his trial before the Sanhedrin gave false testimony, and Stephen defended himself with a stirring speech recalling the long history of Israel’s relationship with God and calling the Jews “stiff-necked people” who “always oppose the Holy Spirit.” As he was stoned to death outside the city, he cried out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” He is the patron of bricklayers, stonemasons and numerous individual Christian churches.

# Threeppeat! Bishop Guilfoyle Marauders Capture Third Consecutive State Football Championship Title

By Bruce A. Tomaselli

This Christmas season will forever hold a special significance to Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School, Altoona, and its football fans.

It is at this time of the year the football team collected a State Championship.

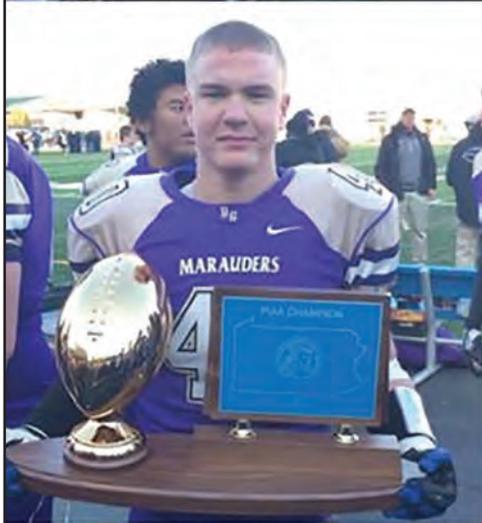
For the third consecutive year the Marauders brought home the "PIAA Class 1A crown" with a dominating 17 - 0 win over WPIAL power Clairton, once a perennial champion until Bishop Guilfoyle's reign began in 2014.

Along the way, Guilfoyle has built a 47 - game win streak, one of the five longest in Pennsylvania history. "This has truly been an amazing journey and I could not be prouder to be a part of it," said Head Coach, Justin Wheeler.

Coaches understand it's about the kids, the young adults, with who they spend so much time of the year. "Truly, the greatest reward for me is watching these players and their families continue to make memories that will last a lifetime," Coach Wheeler said.

This year's climb to the top of Class A was a bit steeper. Evan Chadbourn, the reigning Player of the Year in Pennsylvania tore his ACL and was lost for the season.

Coach Wheeler suffered a personal loss of his own when his grandma, Dolores Caurvina, "one of my biggest support-



**WIN THIRD CONSECUTIVE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP:** The Marauders of Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School, Altoona, won their third consecutive State PIAA 1A Football Championship with a 17 - 0 shutout of perennial powerhouse, Clairton, from Pittsburgh's WPIAL. On Friday, December 9, at Hershey Park Stadium, in front of a large contingent of area fans, the Marauders came away with another gem of a performance. Coach Justin Wheeler's team has now won 47 straight games, a streak beginning in 2014.

ers," passed away. "She loved sports, especially football. If she couldn't come to a game she made sure she could hear it on the radio."

In true family fashion, the Marauder Nation, coaches and players, attended her wake. "It

was a very special moment for my family and me," he said.

Michael Cacciotti, vice principal, athletic director, and once a Bishop Guilfoyle standout athlete himself, is running out of adjectives to describe the team's achievement. "At times

I'm speechless. To win one state title is unbelievable. It's a lot of fun to watch the community rally around the team, and the alumni return with pride."

Coach Wheeler said that one of his most special sports moments is seeing Evan Chad-

bourn rush for a touchdown, make an interception, and cause a fumble during the championship game. That's saying a lot as Coach Wheeler played four years as a member of the Penn State University football team.

(Continued On Page 11.)

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**THREEPEAT!:** Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School, representing the Laurel Highlands Athletic Conference, has incredibly strung together three straight Pennsylvania Class 1A Football Championships. The Marauders' 47th straight win, 17 - 0, over WPIAL powerhouse Clairton, most likely extended a streak that may never be matched in Altoona. Hershey Park Stadium is beginning to feel like home to Bishop Guilfoyle fans, who showed up en - masse. The Marauders rode the backs of their defense and some key offensive plays to record the title win.

*(Continued From Page 10.)*

"Like the rest of the team, Evan worked hard, sacrificed, and made it all of the way back from the torn ACL to get back into the starting lineup for the state championship game. Chadbourn, with an unbelievable amount of hard work, was cleared to play by doctors after just five months of rehab. Very few people would be able to do that," Coach Wheeler said.

It's the same work ethic the entire team puts forth every year, added the head coach. Instead of hanging their heads when Chadbourn went down at the beginning of the year, the team worked harder and dedicated the season to their teammate.

"A lot of hard work was put in by the kids and their coaches," Cacciotti remarked. "It's a sacrifice to train year around and attend summer workouts."

Cacciotti said it's interesting to watch the children of athletes he played with during his generation at Bishop Guilfoyle, develop in the system. "It seems

**"At times I'm speechless. To win one state title is unbelievable. It's a lot of fun to watch the community rally around the team, and the alumni return with pride."**

surreal to me, he laughed, but we are a family."

As he looks back over the past three seasons, Coach Wheeler says each championship team has its own identity, and that's part of what makes it special. "The one common thread between them is how hard each team has had to work in order to get to the state championship each year. "It takes an enormous amount of sacrifice by the players, the coaches, and their families to achieve the states' highest honor.

Coach Wheeler said this year's senior class was outstanding. "Andrew Irwin, Josh Trybus, Logan McGary, Luke Frederick, and Evan Chadbourn, were just a few of the leaders that kept us focused on returning to Hershey."

Coach Wheeler recalled that the Friday of the championship game in Hershey Stadium felt like a home game. He said "So many people from the school, and people from all over the area were at the game to support us, and we appreciated it.

"I would like to say thank you to the faculty and administration at Altoona Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School, as well as to the students, friends, families, and the entire Marauder Nation for the continuous and outstanding support."

## In The Alleghenies



**AID NEEDY FAMILIES:** Members of the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Family Life Committee decorated Christmas Trees with gift cards donated by the parishioners that will be distributed to needy families this Christmas.

*(Continued From Page 6.)*

### Higher Education

#### Honored For Service

**Cresson:** Mount Aloysius College has been notified that the 15,353 hours of community service performed during the 2014 - 2015 academic year has once again earned recogni-

tion on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. The recognition reflects service projects completed regionally, throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, across the country and internationally by Mount Aloysius students, faculty and staff. The President's Community Service Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition a college or univer-

sity can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement.

*(Continued On Page 12.)*



Photo By Bruce A. Tomaselli

**CELEBRATES SEASON:** Bishop Mark L. Barchak helped celebrate Christmas by volunteering his time at the Catholic Charities main office in Altoona. Bishop Mark and case workers loaded gifts into the cars of 25 designated families during the annual Catholic Charity Christmas Gift program. Anonymous donors provide presents for entire families that would otherwise not be able to enjoy gifts during the Christmas season. Over 70 children benefited this year. Along with the case workers, Catholic Charities Board members, and staff from the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese Administration Offices volunteered their muscles and time.

## In The Alleghenies

(Continued From Page 11.)

Mount Aloysius College president, Tom Foley, initiated the Mount Aloysius College Compact during his Inaugural Speech in September of 2011. At that time he committed the

college to graduating students who were career - ready, technology-ready and community-ready. “We are gratified that Mount Aloysius stands together with so many fine institutions of higher learning that teach human values through active and mean-

ingful community service,” said Foley. “At Mount Aloysius College we are engaged in a campus - wide exploration of the concept of Voice. This Presidential recognition reflects the collective Voice of Mount Aloysius College, translated as helping hands serving neighbors at home, throughout the state, the nation, and the world.”

Christina Koren, executive director of mission integration and community engagement credited a college - wide ethos of caring for the outstanding results. “When we looked at the roster of events and projects,” she said, “it was really a comprehensive and concentrated ef-

fort that reached every corner of the College. In total there were 315 service projects engaging 214 community partners locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. And while our partner organizations — the men, women and children who were the recipients of this work— are certainly grateful, we also recognize,” said Koren, “that the students, faculty and staff members who perform the work come away from it bettered and fulfilled by their experiences.

“Service is a one of the college’s four core values,” said Koren. “Hospitality, justice, mercy and service reflect who we are as a community, and giving back to others is a vital facet of the central experience of campus - life at Mount Aloysius College.”

Mount Aloysius student-athletes completed over 2,350 hours of community service, and virtually every student-run club on campus contributed nearly 8,000 hours more to neighboring community organizations. Students engaged in Connections classes at Mount Aloysius contributed well over 2,000 hours to the total, and the College’s Campus Ministry Department contributed over 3,000 hours of care.

A small sample of community service activities performed by the Mount Aloysius College community includes neighborhood cleanups throughout central and western Pennsylvania, organizing a softball clinic, putting smiles on disabled neighbors during Night To Shine in Johnstown, Pa., Mercy Youth Initiative events helped several communities through a variety of projects, MAC basketball players helped out a local team after school, the annual Pink Out Volleyball Game raised needed funds for the Joyce Murtha Breast Cancer Center in Windber, students staffed booths during Ebensburg’s PotatoFest, and MAC student-nurses held numerous blood drives. Base-

ball players help disadvantaged families find warm coats for the winter. Mount Aloysius service trips took students and others to Guatemala, Honduras, Puerto Rico, and Camden, NJ; and Mounties were familiar faces in regional senior centers, the local DePaul Thrift Shop, food pantries and much, much more.

The President’s Honor Roll was launched in 2006. The Honor Roll annually highlights the role of colleges and universities in solving community problems and placing students on a life-long path of civic engagement by recognizing institutions that achieve meaningful, measurable outcomes in the communities they serve.

For more information about Mount Aloysius College visit their website at [www.mtaloy.edu](http://www.mtaloy.edu) or call the College at (814) 886 - 6383.

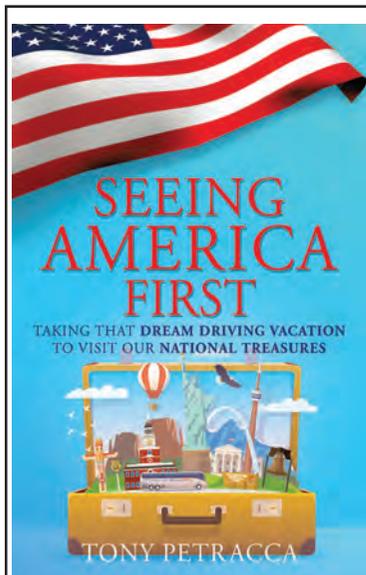
### Enrollment Opportunity

**Cresson:** Mount Aloysius College is giving students an opportunity to discover the College in time for spring semester 2017. The College’s Admissions Office will be open on Wednesday, December 28 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Enrollment management staff will be on hand to answer questions and to help students register for upcoming classes. There will be a campus tour at 11:00 a.m.

Mount Aloysius College offers over 70 academic programs which statistically earn good jobs or a ready pathway to graduate school. Mount Aloysius College’s NCAA Division III athletics offer 14 sports, and the developing campus continues attracting students looking for a “next level” college experience.

For more information about Mount Aloysius College visit their website at [www.mtaloy.edu](http://www.mtaloy.edu) or call their Admissions Office at 888 - 823 - 2220.

**The deadline for the next edition of The Catholic Register is Monday, January 2, 2017, for publication on Monday, January 9, 2017.**



By Father Anthony Petracca  
The Altoona-Johnstown  
Diocese

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# Faith And Diplomacy: Hackett Reflects On Role As U.S. Ambassador To The Holy See

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

## VATICAN CITY (CNS)

-- Ken Hackett, the U.S. ambassador to the Holy See, is gearing up to try retirement for the second time. The retired president of Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' overseas aid agency, is leaving his ambassadorial post three years and three months after presenting his credentials to Pope Francis.

For diplomats from around the world, the Vatican is known as a prime "listening post," and what Hackett is listening to a lot these days are questions about what President-elect Donald Trump has in store.

In an interview Dec. 15, Hackett said, "There is a general concern among everybody in the world -- whether you were for Trump or against Trump -- because it's a surprise every day" with his announcements, appointments, meetings and even his Tweets as he assembles his cabinet and prepares for inauguration.

Among other diplomats as well as within the Holy See, he said, "they just don't know that to expect" as far as what President Trump's positions, policies and actions will be on issues as varied as Palestine, human rights and immigration -- just three of the issues of deep concern to the Vatican and the worldwide Catholic Church.

The 69-year-old ambassador will leave Rome Jan. 20 -- Inauguration Day. He has no idea when Trump will nominate a new ambassador, but even after Trump identifies someone, it will take several months for the security vetting and approval by the Senate. In the meantime, the United States will be represented at the Vatican by a charge d'affaires, Louis L. Bono.

Looking back on his three years as ambassador, Hackett has no problem coming up with three highlights. First, without a

doubt, the visit of Pope Francis to the United States in September 2015. The other top moments were the visit of President Barack Obama to the Vatican in March 2014 and the canonization this year of St. Teresa of Kolkata, whom Hackett knew well.

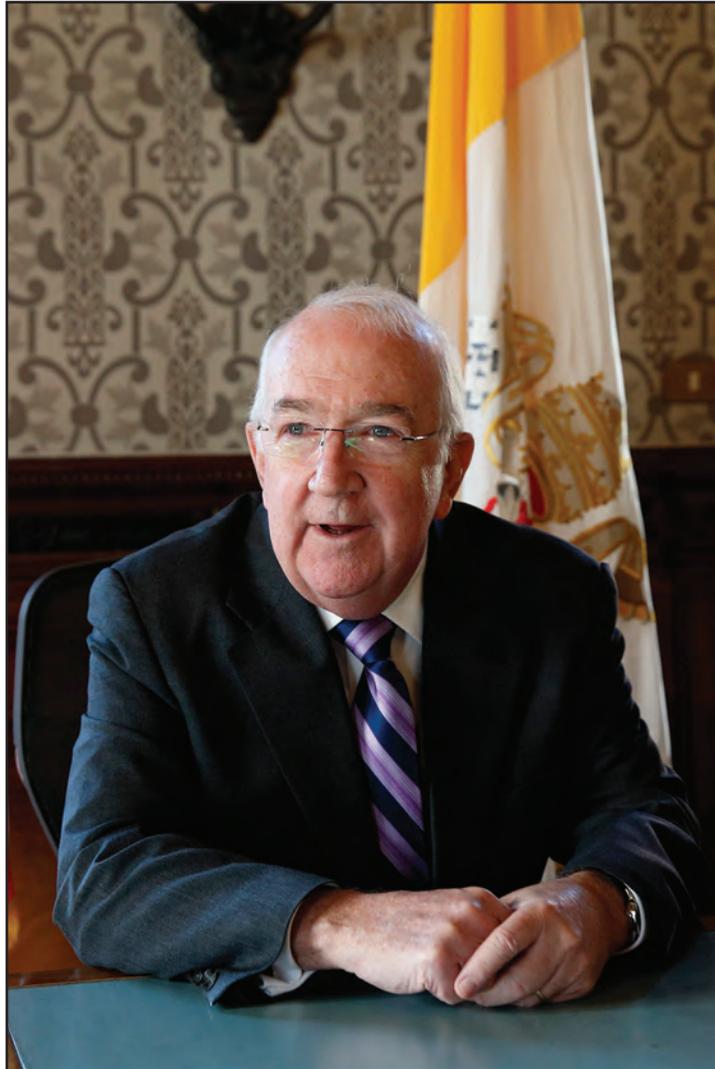
Before Pope Francis' trip, he said, "there was a long, long lead in where we had to prepare, work, encourage, offer insight, cautions -- and you never really know if they are going to be heeded, accepted or inculcated into the visit."

The ambassador said he had been nervous about how Pope Francis would be received by Congress and how his speech would go over, but the pope "captured their hearts and I think it had an impact across the nation and maybe across the world," especially the way the pope held up four iconic U.S. citizens as relevant models of virtue for Americans today: Abraham Lincoln, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Dorothy Day and Thomas Merton.

The pope's personality, his rhetoric and his use of the four "icons" allowed everyone to grasp his call for "compassion and engagement" with each other across partisan lines and with the wider world to work for the common good, Hackett said.

In almost 20 years as president of CRS, Hackett worked with church leaders at every level -- including many at the Vatican -- but he said as ambassador he was surprised by how little Curia offices share information with each other and by how hard people at the Vatican work. For example, he said, the monsignor who serves as the desk officer for U.S. affairs in the Vatican Secretariat of State, also has responsibility for Canada, Mexico, the Dominican Republic and Haiti. "That's a big portfolio."

The Vatican staff is "very bright, very intelligent and very committed. They want to make a change for the good," he said. "Pope Francis has inspired so



CNS Photo/Paul Haring

AMBASSADOR KEN HACKETT

**"You see some miraculous things" being the Vatican ambassador, Ken Hackett said. "You read about some horrible things. But the miraculous always overcomes the horrible."**

many people in the Vatican," and even if some people seem more interested in hearing about who is not onboard, "the vast majority are saying, 'This is great.' His leadership offers them the opportunities to do what they joined to do."

The U.S. ambassador's job is varied, as well, he said. War and peace, human rights, human trafficking, interstate relations,

climate change and nuclear nonproliferation were all on the Vatican's agenda.

Hackett represented the Obama Administration, which meant collaborating with the Vatican on issues such as the defense of Christians in the Middle East and climate change, he said, but it also involved listening to top Vatican officials who echoed the U.S. bishops' criti-

cisms of the contraceptive mandate in the Affordable Care Act and Obama's support for same-sex marriage.

The Catholic Church is "a big tent," Hackett said. "There are a lot of people with different viewpoints under that tent; there are scoundrels and saints."

Personally, serving as ambassador was a "time of growing faith," he said, adding with a laugh that it was not just because he received three plenary indulgences after attending the ceremonies for the opening of three Holy Doors in Rome for the Year of Mercy.

"You see some miraculous things" being the Vatican ambassador, he said. "You read about some horrible things. But the miraculous always overcomes the horrible."



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# Now Showing

## ‘Loving’ Restrained, Valuable Story

By Kurt Jensen  
Catholic News Service

**NEW YORK (CNS)** -- Dignity and understatement are usually noble qualities in a film. “Loving” (Focus), the fact-based story behind a landmark 1967 Supreme Court decision, is so restrained and decorous, however, that it nearly obscures the historical significance of the events it recounts.

Partly that’s the result of the portrayal of Richard Loving (Joel Edgerton). This white Virginia bricklayer, one of the movie’s two main characters, is shown to be taciturn, monosyllabic, almost stone-faced. The only fleeting emotions he expresses are terror whenever strange cars appear on rural two-lane roads and a sense of humor while watching the sentimentalized South on offer in an episode of “The Andy Griffith Show.”

Richard’s serene African-

American wife, Mildred (Ruth Negga), gets to display considerably more human qualities. It’s she who kicks off their legal crusade -- which eventually succeeded in demolishing race-based legal restrictions on marriage in the United States -- by writing to Attorney General Robert Kennedy.

Inspired by the civil rights movement, which she experiences only on TV, Mildred also understands the need for national news coverage.

The Lovings, who lived in Caroline County, Virginia, married in Washington in 1958 -- thereby evading, temporarily at least, their home state’s law forbidding interracial unions. Such “anti-miscegenation” statutes had their origins in the days of slavery but were reinforced in Southern states after the Civil War; Virginia’s was enacted in 1924.

Shortly after returning to the Old Dominion, the couple was arrested and jailed. Because



CNS Photo/Focus

**LOVING:** Joel Edgerton and Ruth Negga star in a scene from the movie “Loving.” 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.

the commonwealth rejected the validity of their marriage, deputies also hoped to arrest the Lovings on a fornication charge -- thus increasing the penalties they would face.

Contemptuous Sheriff Brooks (Marton Csokas) expresses the only flat-out racist sentiment in the movie, ridiculing Loving’s close proximity to black neighbors and telling him, “You were just born in the wrong place, is all.”

A judge gives the duo a one-year suspended sentence, and forbids them to return to Virginia for 25 years. So they move to Washington.

But they don’t take to city life, and when they return to Virginia for the birth of their first child -- Richard’s mother, Lola (Sharon Blackwood), is a midwife -- they’re arrested again. They eventually move to a neighboring county where law enforcement is less inclined to harass them. But they seek legal relief in order to return to Caroline County, where Richard has promised Mildred he’ll build her a house.

These circumstances must have been extraordinarily stressful, since the Lovings had no way of knowing whether any given nightfall would be the cue for a hate crime. Yet writer-di-

rector Jeff Nichols doesn’t allow either Richard or Mildred to be freely emotional.

Occasionally, relatives express their frustrations, but that’s it. Nichols keeps his drama free from the histrionics that surely must have occurred.

Lawyers from the American Civil Liberties Union, inexperienced but hugely confident in the merits of the case, guide it to the Supreme Court. But even there, their arguments and those from the state -- which at least would explain to viewers why all of this matters -- are truncated.

So no long monologues for any of the characters. Rather, the dialogue aims to be brief and pithy. When lawyer Bernard

Cohen (Nick Kroll) asks Richard what he should say to the justices, for instance, Richard merely grunts, “Tell them I love my wife.”

The cultural impact of the Lovings’ struggle makes this valuable viewing for mature teens, despite the elements listed below.

The film contains a premarital pregnancy, a couple of crass terms, fleeting racial slurs and two scenes of childbirth. 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:

**January 1** -- On this New Year’s Day, Father Alan Thomas, pastor of Saint Joseph Parish in Bellwood and Vicar General for the Diocese, shares some ideas for strengthening one’s spiritual life in 2017.

**January 8** -- Father Anthony Petracca, parochial vicar at Saint Anthony of Padua, Saints Cyril & Methodius, and Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parishes in Windber, discusses a book he wrote about his American travels.

### *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

# Brazilian Cardinal Arns Was Fighter For Human Rights

By Lise Alves  
Catholic News Service

SAO PAULO (CNS) -- Cardinal Paulo Evaristo Arns, known as the "cardinal of the people" and one of the most active voices against Brazil's military dictatorship, died in Sao Paulo Dec. 14. The 95-year-old retired archbishop of Sao Paulo had been hospitalized since Nov. 28 with pneumonia.

At a celebration for his 95th birthday, leaders of Brazil's landless movement as well as former government leaders, sportscasters, intellectuals, journalists and artists held a party at Sao Paulo's Catholic University and spoke about Cardinal Arns' dedication toward the poor and his fight against human rights violations and political persecution during the 1964-85 military regime.

"All of us who have done something that could be registered in the board of democratic resistance owe this to Dom Paulo, to his courage and prophetic-like fearlessness, and his teachings rooted in the Franciscan values of the apostles," former Justice Minister Jose Gregori said during the event. "You were the leader of the redemocratization of human rights in the country."

Announcing Cardinal Arns' death, Sao Paulo Cardinal Odilo Scherer said his predecessor "gave his life to God after having generously dedicated it to his brothers in this world."

"Let us praise God for the testimony of Cardinal Arns' Franciscan life and for his courageous commitment to the defense of human dignity and the inalienable rights of each person," Cardinal Scherer said. "Let us thank God for his example as a zealous pastor of the people of God and for his special attention to the children, the poor and the afflicted. Cardinal Arns, now, rejoice in heaven and obtain the fruit of your hope with God."

Cardinal Arns' casket was placed in Sao Paulo's cathedral for visitation until his Dec. 16 funeral and burial in the cathedral's crypt.

In a telegram to Cardinal Scherer, Pope Francis sent his blessing and condolences called Cardinal Arns "a generous pastor" and "an authentic witness of the Gospel amid his people." Brazil's military dictatorship ruled the country from 1964 to 1985. In one of his most famous actions against police violence in the 1970s, Cardinal Arns faced a military squadron to retrieve the body of Santo Dias da Silva, labor leader and member of the church's workers' pastoral.

"When we arrived, the Medical Institute (IML) was surrounded by police officers," recalled lawyer Luiz Eduardo Greenhalgh earlier this year. "Cardinal Arns came out of the automobile and waved his hand with the (bishop's) ring, to the side. The cops backed away (from the entrance) and we passed. We went in and Cardinal Arns looked at the bullet holes on Santo's body. He pointed his finger at the policemen and said 'Look what you did'. And all of the officers lowered their heads in shame."

In his 28 years as head of the Sao Paulo Archdiocese, he created 43 parishes, built more than 1,200 community centers, and encouraged the creation of more than 2000 basic ecclesial communities in the city of Sao Paulo.

Under Cardinal Arns, the Archdiocese of Sao Paulo had AIDS education and prevention programs, activities to help some of the city's 2 million homeless children and ministry to the city's convicts and criminal suspects. In 1989, the cardinal said critics called the prison ministry "defense of bandits, not defense of human rights."

In 1983, he was one of the founders of the Children's Pastoral, or office, with the help of

his sister, Zilda Arns Neumann, who died in the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, where she was doing humanitarian work.

Dr. Nelson Arns Neumann, international coordinator of the Children's Pastoral and Cardinal Arns' nephew, remembered his uncle fondly and told CNS it would be impossible to describe Cardinal Arns in a few sentences.

"He was unstoppable. Had a strong personality and usually achieved what he wanted," recalled the doctor.

"He was the one who convinced my grandfather to allow my mother (Zilda Arns Neumann) to become a doctor," Neumann told CNS. He said the office's work has expanded to more than 11 countries, helping 1 million children per month. In Brazil, it has been established in 3,900 municipalities and has more than 200,000 volunteers.

"Even in recent years, whenever we went out, he would put his hand on my shoulder and say 'Courage, courage, let's go,'" said the nephew, noting that his uncle constantly sought a more just society.

Cardinal Arns was born Sept. 14, 1921, in Criciuma, Brazil. In 1945, he was ordained a priest and served in Petropolis. He was ordained a bishop in 1966 and named archbishop of Sao Paulo in 1970, during the most violent years of Brazil's military crackdown. Three years later, in 1973, he was elevated to cardinal by Pope Paul VI.

That same year, the cardinal sold his ornate residence and its surrounding park to support church workers who helped slum dwellers.

He served in Sao Paulo until 1998, when he retired.

His death leaves the College of Cardinals with 227 members; it did not affect the number of electors, who can only vote until age 80.

May  
They Rest  
In Peace



time with engaged couples who designed their wedding bands based on the spirituality they shared. Sister Regina leaves a legacy of her art in pieces of fine jewelry, rings, pendants and her prized creation, a five-foot sculpture entitled "Mercy Alive," which is on display at Mercy Center, Dallas.

As her health declined in recent years, Sister Regina became a member of the prayer and presence ministry at Mercy Center.

Sister Regina is survived by her sisters and brothers, Joseph Kiel (Mary Lou Cassisi), of Annandale VA, Mauvette Kiel O'Dowd (Patrick, deceased), of Portage, Adele Kiel Kupchella (Charles), of Ebensburg, Connie Kiel Soulsby (John), of Madison OH, Mary Catherine Kiel, of Rowlett TX, Dot Kiel Kensinger (Bob, deceased), of Madison, OH, Patrick Kiel (Any Pena), of Burke VA., Michael Kiel (Janet Anderson), of Arlington VA, Russell Kiel (Sue Sweeney), of Portage; 130 loving and devoted nieces and nephews; and the Sisters of Mercy.

In addition to her parents, Sister Regina was preceded in death by an infant brother, James; her brothers-in-law, Patrick O'Dowd and Bob Kensinger; her nephew, Cris Tanter; and her aunt, Sister Fides Kiel, also a Sister of Mercy.

The Funeral Mass for Sister Regina Kiel R.S.M. was celebrated Friday, December 16 at Holy Family Church, Portage. Committal was in the Sisters of Mercy Cemetery on the campus of Mount Aloysius College, Cresson.

Memorial contributions in the name of Sister Regina may be made to the Sisters of Mercy, Mercy Center, Dallas PA 18612.

**Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.**

**May they rest in peace.**

**May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.**

**Amen.**



Sister Regina Kiel  
R.S.M.

Sister Regina Kiel, a member of the Sisters of Mercy Mid - Atlantic community, died Tuesday, December 13 at Mercy Center, Dallas She was 72.

She was born September 10, 1944, in Johnstown, the daughter of the late Alan and Regina (Harlan) Kiel. She was a graduate of Portage Area High School and received a degree in elementary education from Misericordia University, Dallas, and a bachelor's degree in fine arts as well as a master's degree at Indiana University of Pennsylvania in fine arts and jewelry.

Sister Regina entered the Sisters of Mercy in Dallas on September 8, 1962, and professed her vows on August 16, 1965, as Sister Marie Adele. She ministered locally as a teacher at Saint Columba School in Johnstown and Saint Patrick School in Newry. After several years of teaching, Sister Regina's creative abilities were well - recognized. In 1978, she opened and managed a private art studio at Mercy Center, Dallas, known as "Studio 1."

In her studio, Sister Regina carved images, using the lost wax process, and created customized jewelry by setting precious and semi-precious stones. Her sculptural projects consisted of wood, bronze, brass, gold and silver. A special part of her ministry was sharing retreat



The Magi were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother.

They prostrated themselves and did him homage.

Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

-- Matthew 2: 10 - 11



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