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Martha And Mary House Gives Shelter To Homeless

By Bruce A. Tomaselli

By all accounts, the Martha and Mary House, a shelter for the homeless, has met its expectations and more, as envisioned one year ago by the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese and Cambria County.

The shelter is a ministry of Catholic Charities of the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese. The Diocese became involved when approached by Johnstown and Cambria County officials, who sought to fill a void created by the closing the Salvation Army Shelter in Johnstown.

The building, located at 899 Bedford Street in the Dale Borough section of Johnstown, is owned by the Cambria County Redevelopment Authority and leased by the Diocese.

"We've had practically a full house on a daily basis since we opened in the Spring of last year," said Martha and Mary House Director Jeremy Woodhead. He estimates they have ministered to over 160 clients.

The house provides temporary shelter for persons who are in transition to other housing. The 13 - bed facility offers case management for seven - day periods with no more than 30 days of residency.

Jean D. Johnstone, executive director of Catholic Charities



CNS Photo/Jonathan Ernst, Reuters

HOMELESS JESUS: A man sleeps on a sculpture titled "Homeless Jesus" in front of the offices of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington September 16, 2015. In the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese, homeless persons can seek shelter at the Martha and Mary House in Johnstown.

ties for the Diocese, is happy with the progress of the shelter. "I am so pleased with the development of the Martha and Mary House.

"The staff has been exceptional, ensuring that each resident feels respected and valued. All sectors of the community - - the churches, businesses and agencies, and the residents themselves - - have been instrumental in the shelter's success."

The Martha and Mary

House not only gives a person a roof over their head, it helps in a variety of other ways. It provides case workers that facilitate searches for permanent housing, and internet access to help with job searches and assistance in resume writing.

Also, it helps with local transportation and collaboration with local service agencies. Finally, it establishes a permanent physical address, a requirement when applying for the Supple-

mental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

Woodhead said that in addition, there is a Transitional Housing Program in Cambria County. In its early stages, the effort will attempt to provide clients with more permanent housing of up to two years; and it will also work with local landlords to offer affordable permanent housing.

"The only two reasons a person would not be accepted as clients is that they are not an established resident of Cambria County for at least 90 days; or legal issues," explained Woodhead. Background checks are performed on all clients.

Martha and Mary House is staffed 24 - hours a day. Ashley Brougher is the second shift staff; and Jim Spencer is third shift or overnight staff. Brougher teaches life skills, resume writing; and facilitates a house meeting once a week, among other duties.

The Martha and Mary House has 503c status, and is a separate entity from the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese. "Every dollar that is donated goes directly to aid the clients of the facility," Woodhead added.

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CNS Graphic/ Malcom Gear Designers

High Schools

30 Hour Fast

Ebensburg: On Tuesday, March 22, Bishop Carroll Catholic High School observed a 30 Hour Food Fast and raised money for the Knights of Columbus in their efforts to aid Christian refugees experiencing genocide in Syria and Iraq. The Food Fast encompassed the three traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. It has been held almost annually since 1998.

This year, 28 juniors and seniors fasted from 6 am on Tuesday until noon on Wednesday, March 23. Each student who elected to participate raised at least \$60 prior to the event. During school, the participants wore purple Food Fast t-shirts and consumed only clear liquids. After school, as their classmates filed out and headed home, fasting students celebrated Mass and discussed the meaning of the fast.

According to Barbara Condor, religion teacher and Food Fast coordinator, "Kids really experienced hunger, were sensitized and gained appreciation for what we have, but they also felt a sense of accomplishment and camaraderie."

In the evening, students from Saint Francis University, Loretto, spoke about their recent mission trip to Jamaica. Students were free to play games in the gym and watch movies in the cafeteria, where they stayed overnight on mattresses and sleeping bags.

At bedtime, the students honored people suffering around the world with a candlelight Stations of the Cross. One student said, "I realized how important

it is to turn to God to get you through tough times."

The event "is part of the school's mission to live the gospel values taught by Christ about care for the poor and the respect and dignity due all of God's creatures," said Condor.

On Wednesday morning, the students went through a half-day of school before reconvening to break the fast with a meal they cooked together; students remarked that they felt accomplished and "never realized how hard it is to concentrate and study when you're tired."

According to Condor, for students who opted to participate, the fast "gives them a 'taste' of what the poor endure, but it is also a spiritual exercise in self-discipline and hungering for spiritual food and goodness as well as physical food."

Holocaust Survivor Writes

Boalsburg: In March, Laura Cunningham's 9th grade English students at Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy received a letter from Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel thanking them for writing to him as part of an assignment for class.

After reading Wiesel's 1960 memoir **Night**, which chronicles his experiences in concentration camps during the Holocaust, Cunningham prompted her students to compose a letter detailing how reading the book impacted them and posing questions to the author. "I felt that rather than administering a formal test at the end of this novel that my students would be able to take away more by being given the opportunity to address Mr. Wiesel directly," she said.

"**Night** is an emotional and difficult text to read, and this letter afforded my students a sort of



30 HOUR FAST: Students from Bishop Carroll Catholic High School, Ebensburg, pose with the signs they made to count down the hours for their Tuesday, March 22 30 Hour Fast. The event raised funds for the Knights of Columbus to share with Christian refugees from Syria and Iraq. The fast has been held annually at the school since 1998.



JUNIOR HIGH BAND FESTIVAL: Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School, Altoona, Instrumental Program members who participated in the Blair County Junior High Band Festival include (left to right) First row: John McGreger, Hollidaysburg Catholic; Hope Callahan, Saint Rose of Lima; Kori Vinglas, Saint Rose of Lima; Amelia Morning, Bishop Guilfoyle; Nicole Himes, Hollidaysburg Catholic; and Adam Elder, Hollidaysburg Catholic. Second row: Michael Johnson, Bishop Guilfoyle; Daniel Hamer, Saint John the Evangelist; Bradley Shaffer, Bishop Guilfoyle; Mel McConnell, Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School Elementary Band Director; Matt Brown, Saint Rose of Lima; Reed Edwards, Hollidaysburg Catholic. Missing was Sam Fiore, Bishop Guilfoyle.

closure that a generic test could not provide," Cunningham said, explaining the assignment.

One student's letter to Wiesel said, "I believe that God has blessed everyone with the ability to make good out of the bad in the world. I greatly appreciate that you took this blessing and used it to make the world a better and more peaceful place. I appreciate that you told the world your story that needed to be told and I appreciate you for finding light in this world of darkness and night."

Cunningham said, "This assignment enabled my students to take ownership and pride over what they were writing because they knew that I was sending the letters to the author. This added a sort of new element into their typical homework in that I would not be the only one reading their work." She sent the students' letters to The Elie Wiesel Foundation For Humanity in New York.

Cunningham and her students were pleasantly surprised to receive a response letter from

Wiesel dated March 7. "I felt very humbled that such a prolific author, and human being, took the time to write back to my students," she said.

Her excitement was matched by her students'. "When I pulled out the letter and began reading it, you could hear a pin drop in my classroom. My students clung to every word that Mr. Wiesel shared for they understood and appreciated the depths from which he wrote."

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In The Alleghenies



LETTER: Students in Laura Cunningham's 9th grade English class at Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy, Boalsburg, show off a personalized letter they received from Elie Wiesel, dated March 7, 2016. Cunningham's students wrote and sent letters to Wiesel after reading his memoir *Night* as part of an assignment for class, and the author replied with appreciation and answers to some of their questions. The students are, from left to right: Christian Chirieleison, Ryan Peachey, Sarah Watkins, Lea Fisher, Kaelan Wright, Jacob Powers, Sera Mazza, Zane Thornburg, Lindsey Carmack, Jason Thomas, Julia Cusatis, and Min Seok Lee.



SAINT BARTHOLOMEW: Scott Petrunak of Saint Bartholomew Parish, Wilmore, was confirmed Thursday, March 31. He is pictured with his great-aunt and sponsor, Sarah Ohning. Father Joseph Nale is pastor, and Diana Frantz is director of religious education of Saint Bartholomew Parish.

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Wiesel's letter thanked the students for their kind words, responded to their questions about keeping faith in times of hardship, and left them with this advice: "Keep learning and reading, more and more, to continue to think higher, and feel deeper."

Donates To Teen Center

Altoona: The Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School Drama Club collected more than \$3,000 after its two productions of the "The Wiz" for the Altoona Teen Center.

Bishop Guilfoyle senior Jacob Kurtz, who played the Wiz in the musical, spearheaded the idea of the BG Drama Club volunteering time painting and cleaning at the teen center along with helping with a financial collection.

The response from those attending the Bishop Guilfoyle school musical was overwhelming, according to Kurtz. "As much as I love the arts ... being able to use the arts to better our community was an extension of that love," Kurtz said. "The BG community on a whole has been very responsive. I believe our

school's culture and values create a sense of duty to help those in need. When the idea was first pitched it was seized upon by many other students and faculty members, all of whom I am indebted to for working alongside me in this process."

The leads from "The Wiz" - - Tevon Grove, Alyson Stevens, Patrick Donoughe and Daniel Sullivan - - spent time after the show collecting money in donation boxes near the lobby. "From day one of the project I found that every faculty member and student helped support it, and without them, it would have never happened," Kurtz said.

Family Services is relocating its teen center to a building on the corner of 17th Street and Sixth Avenue across the street from the Altoona Area Public Library. They continue to raise money to reach their goal of \$200,000. To donate to the center, call Family Services at (814) 944 - 3583 or go to its website at familyservicesinc.net.

"On February 27, 14 BG students - - several of them cast members from 'The Wiz,' descended upon the new location of Family Services Inc.'s Teen Center," said Lisa Hann, Family Services Inc. Executive

Director. "In a tornado - like flurry, they vacuumed, dusted, scrubbed and lugged construction debris. In three hours time, they had the place shining."

Athletic Hall Of Fame

Ebensburg: The fifth annual Bishop Carroll Catholic High School PAW Athletic Hall of Fame banquet was held Saturday, April 9 at Crystal. According to Rick Surkovich, president of PAW Power and chairperson of the PAW Athletic Hall of Fame, "Our committee prides itself on selecting individuals who have contributed to the athletic program at Bishop Carroll, bringing exceptional pride to Huskie Hill."

At this year's Sports Hall of Fame Dinner, five inductees will join the Husky Hall of Fame: standout athletes Doris Beaty Smith, Tom Carney and Josh Vasilko along with football coach Charlie Koren and Husky pride champion Fred McCabe. The dinner, hosted by the PAW Power Athletic Group, will pay tribute to these individuals, who have brought pride and recognition to the BC athletic program and community, and who are respected citizens of good char-

acter in their communities and professions.

- - Doris Beaty Smith, class of 1977, was a member of the Lady Huskies basketball team coached by Father James Conrad. Smith was a 1,000 point scorer (impressively before the introduction of the three-point line into scholastic basketball), earned four varsity letters, was named Diocesan Most Valuable Player in 1975-1976 and received all-star honors for First All-Diocesan her last two years as a Husky.

Upon graduation, Smith became a coach at her former Catholic grade school, Northern Cambria Catholic, where she began her basketball career, and was involved in starting the Youth Hockey Club at Central Cambria School District. According to Surkovich, Smith's accomplishments "set the standard of excellence" for generations of Huskies to follow.

Smith currently resides in Colver, with her husband Bill, and has raised two sons, William and Aaron. She divides her time between assisting special needs students as a paraprofessional at Central Cambria School District and serving as a nurse's aide at the Saint Francis Friary in Loret-

to. She also runs her own tuxedo and alterations business.

- - Tom Carney, class of 1980, was an all - star wrestler and football player during his Bishop Carroll years. Ironically, Carney had no interest in joining the BC wrestling team, but was encouraged to try out because his father and uncle had excelled at the sport. Carney found that wrestling did not come naturally to him, but he said, "Coach Bush never gave up on me and took the time to teach me the sport."

During his senior football season, Carney served as the Huskies' co-captain, was a runner - up for Tri-County Most Valuable Player and was on the Tri-County All-Star Team. He was named Most Valuable Defensive Player in the Ken Lantzy Tri-County All-Star Game. Carney went on to play football for four years at the University of Richmond, and was awarded the game ball in 1985.

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Point Of View

"I just want to sleep mom! To be honest, I really don't want to go to church. I only go because you make me. I know this might hurt you but I am still deciding if this whole religion thing is really for me. I gasped! As I could feel the anger rising up inside of me, I purposefully did my best to hold my tongue. For although these words were hard to swallow, I knew from past experiences if I didn't swallow these words in silence, one day I might just have to eat my own."

I read about the teenage sway from church in textbooks. I read about the so called normalcy of the young leaving the church at this age and I studied the reasons cited for their departure. But, I did not in any Theology course come to completely understand how these words from my own precious offspring would have the power to pierce my heart.

As I slowly left the room, stopping myself from the usual rant of the need to go to church, I closed the door and with tears in my eyes said a prayer. "Dear Lord, He is yours! You gave him to me. I am not a perfect Christian but I tried to make Him love you. I am sorry Lord, but today we will be going to church without him." As this prayer came rolling off of my lips, anger filled my heart. To my surprise it was not anger at my son. For I knew He was a good kid, who made good choices, who treated others with kindness, who knew right from wrong and many times, I mean many times, showed Christian



Family Matters

By Amy Kanich

'I Just Want To Sleep, Mom'

love through his actions. No my young adult son was not the object of my anger. God was!

As I drove to church I ranted out loud! "Why me God? Why doesn't my son know and love you? My husband and I really try to live authentic Christian lives. We follow the church's teachings. We pray with our children and taught them to tithe. We have spent thousands of dollars, sacrificing worldly goods, in order for our children to go to Catholic School. Why, Lord, why? Why do other kids seem to know you personally and my son does not?"

As my anger gave away to feeling of embarrassment for walking into church without him, I ushered my family into the back pew. As I continued to allow the anger to swell inside, I prayed hard. Lord, I would give my life to have my children know you. As I finished uttering my last words of desperation my eyes became fixed on the crucified Christ, the very image of the perfect parent, unlike me, who exactly felt the same way. As I sat there and stared at the cross I came to realize that Christ did die, gave His very life for His children to know Him. He paid the ultimate sacrifice and He

understands completely how it feels to have his children walk away.

As I walked out of the church, my heart was no longer angry, for I knew God traveled this very path before me. I can try to live a good authentic Christian life and I can pray hard for him every day of my life. But, God has NOT given me the sole responsibility to make my son love Him. His relationship with God is exactly that – HIS Relationship and He will only have this encounter when He finds God for himself.

As I walked through the doors of my home after church that morning, I was greeted by a messy hair, sleepy eyed teenager. "How was church mom?" he said quietly. "It was okay but I really missed you not being with us." I stated. "I know mom, I am sorry. I hope you are not upset with me. I want you to know it's not that I don't believe in God, I really do! I just think it is time for you to give me some space so I can find Him for myself!" As I hugged him tightly, I prayed the shortest prayer of my life. "Dear God, being a parent is really hard..... but I guess you already know that! Amen." Blessings!



Another Perspective

By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein
The Joy Of Listening

The last time I wrote a column about a television series with a religious theme was back in the 1997 – 1998 season, when I wrote in praise of the ABC drama "Nothing Sacred." I found it to be an accurate portrayal of the priesthood and parish life in the post – Vatican II Church. Most other people did not. My column brought on a raft of letters to the editor opposing my position, an advertisement in a daily newspaper asking for my ouster as editor, and a withering blast in a neighboring pastor's Sunday bulletin suggesting that I needed to have my head examined.

Since that dust – up I have been a bit more circumspect in endorsing television shows, movies, plays and books, particularly when they have a religious theme. I'm going to break that rule today and speak in praise of "Call The Midwife," which airs Sunday evenings on PBS. A recent episode provided me with much to think about and pray about, and I'd like to share those thoughts with you.

"Call The Midwife" is set in London's East End in the late 1950s and early 1960s. The storyline centers on a convent of Anglican nursing nuns and the secular nurses who live and work with them. The nuns are frequently seen at prayer. They share a warm and happy community life. They grieved when one of their sisters left the convent to marry the local physician, and they rejoiced when one of the young midwives decided to join their order. The nuns of Nonnatus House are flesh and blood people, real women, committed to God, to the people they serve and to each other. This is a depiction of a religious community which rings true, in a way that "The Bells Of Saint Mary's" and "The Flying Nun," never even approached.

In a recent episode, Sister Evangelina, an older nun who has lived most of her religious life at Nonnatus House, comes to the realization that she has become more nurse than nun. She has become enamored of her own opinion, insists that her way is always the right way and damn the consequences. When her intransigence almost leads to the death of one of the babies in her care, she steps back and sees herself for who and what she is - - who and what she has become, and resolves to change her ways. She asks to go away to a cloistered order, to a place of silence. "I'm all mouth," she tells her superior. "I've got to start listening again."

When Sister Evangelina spoke those words, I found myself struck dumb. I recognized myself in her frank admission of her faults and failings. Those of us who occupy a pulpit or who have the opportunity to reach thousands through the written word can become all too enthralled with the sound of our own voice, bewitched by our own cleverness with a catchy turn of phrase, and convinced that we have all the answers to every problem ever posed. Then, like Sister Evangelina, something happens to bring us up short and we are reminded that we would do well to be silent and to listen. We have to go back to the source of all things, drink at the well, and wait in quiet stillness - - just listening - - waiting for the sound of His voice.

All of us - - clergy, religious or lay person - - must recognize the need to be still, to be quiet, and to listen. All of the baptized are called to holiness. All of the baptized are called to a deep and abiding relationship with God. We are each here to be His instrument, but not necessarily to be His mouthpiece. Not every thought we spout out is God's gift to the world. We all have to remember to just shut up and listen; listen to Him and to each other. Pope Francis has issued an apostolic exhortation "Amoris Laetitia" (The Joy Of Love), which deals with love in the family. Surely the joy of love is also all about the joy of listening - - listening in respectful silence to those we share our earthly pilgrimage with, hearing from them all about how they have encountered God in their lives, and learning from that listening to expand our understanding of who God is and what it is that God wants from us and for us.

When we listen and learn we can better serve God and His holy people.



CNS Photo/Sid Hastings

FAMILY TIME: Children spend time with their grandmother in 2012 on the front porch of their home in Hillsdale Mo. Pope Francis' postsynodal apostolic exhortation on the family, "Amoris Laetitia" ("The Joy of Love"), was released Friday, April 8.

Pope Explores Nitty - Gritty Of Family Life

By **Cindy Wooden**
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis' hymn to love and family life is more like a country song than a Disney tune.

In "Amoris Laetitia" ("The Joy of Love"), Pope Francis' postsynodal apostolic exhortation on the family, there is passion and devotion, but also heartache and sweat. The "magic" he wrote about is not momentarily sparkly, but the result of prayer, grace, hard work and a willingness to apologize -- time and time again.

"Committing oneself exclusively and definitively to another person always involves a risk and a bold gamble," he wrote. But the payoff is huge.

The papal reflection on love, family life and the importance of marriage and child-rearing has sections that are deeply theological, pristinely poetic or even homiletic, like his reflection on the meaning of each line of the

passage from the First Letter to the Corinthians, Chapter 13, used at millions of weddings each year: "Love is patient, love is kind"

But it also got into the nitty-gritty business of life when a man and a woman leave their parents' home and try to make one of their own. However, while it quoted from some of his past speeches on family life, it did not include references to "plates flying" during arguments and refrained from making mother-in-law jokes, as he has been known to do.

Pope Francis reviewed the whole arc of married life from new and exciting young love to old age, sitting on the porch watching the grandkids play.

"Young love needs to keep dancing toward the future with immense hope," he wrote. "Hope is the leaven that, in those first years of engagement and marriage, makes it possible to look beyond arguments, conflicts and problems and to see things in a broader perspective."

While realistic about late nights and colic, the papal document is lyrical in its reflections on the blessings and challenges of welcoming children into families. He invited readers to join him standing in awe of God's gift of children, marveling that "God allows parents to choose the name by which he himself will call their child for all eternity."

Running after toddlers, supervising homework, trying to figure out how to be close to adolescents without smothering them and, finally, negotiating the "empty nest" syndrome all feature in the papal text.

Reaching together the later stage of family life, he insisted, is possible and beautiful.

"Although the body ages," he said, "it still expresses that personal identity that first won our heart. Even if others can no longer see the beauty of that identity, a spouse continues to see it with the eyes of love and so his or her affection does not diminish."

The path to the porch won't be easy, the pope wrote. But "each crisis has a lesson to teach us; we need to learn how to listen for it with the ear of the heart."

The pope's hymn includes the twang of yearning for that perfect, forever love. That yearning, present in most people from every culture and religion, shows that a stable, faithful union is what responds to human nature and to God's plan for humanity.

"Lovers do not see their relationship as merely temporary," he wrote. "Those who marry do not expect their excitement to fade. Those who witness the celebration of a loving union, however fragile, trust that it will pass the test of time."

To turn that dream into reality, try a little tenderness, the pope advised. Tenderness is a virtue "often overlooked in our world of frenetic and superficial relationships."

A loving gaze also is essential, he wrote. "How many things do spouses and children sometimes do in order to be noticed! Much hurt and many problems result when we stop looking at one another. This lies behind the complaints and grievances we often hear in families: 'My husband does not look at me; he acts as if I were invisible.' 'Please look at me when I am talking to

you!' 'My wife no longer looks at me, she only has eyes for our children.'"

Pope Francis' ballad on family love, life and loss urges Catholics to be patient and merciful with themselves as well as with their spouses and children. "No family drops down from heaven perfectly formed," so all must learn to grow together, including by making frequent use of the words, "Thank you," "please" and "sorry."

"The right words, spoken at the right time, daily protect and nurture love," the pope wrote.

Finding the right words also is Pope Francis' exhortation to the church as a whole. While standing up tall for the family, the church needs to stop whining about how often its teaching on love and marriage is attacked, he said. "We should not be trapped into wasting our energy in doleful laments, but rather seek new forms of missionary creativity."

Family life always has been challenging, the pope wrote. Just read the Bible, which "is full of families, births, love stories and family crises."

But the Bible, he said, also holds out the promise of "the goal of their journey, when God 'will wipe away every tear from their eyes and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore.'"



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In The Alleghenies



SAINT JOHN GUALBERT: Celebrating Confirmation at Saint John Gualbert Cathedral Parish, Johnstown, were (left to right) First row: Left to Right: Madison Gartrell, James Wadsworth, Emily King, Noah Buchan, Jylian Popovich. Second row: Rebecca Gvozden, Tyler King, Kyle Molnar, David Brothers and Iesha Favor. Father James Crookston is the rector of the Johnstown Cathedral.

(Continued From Page 3.)

His wrestling career at BC was also marked by excellence. Carney was the District Six Champion his senior year, finishing the season with a record of 32 - 4 and making the Tri-Counting All-Star Team. He coached wrestling for seven years while teaching at Penn Cambria, Glen Mills, Central Cambria and Sun Valley High Schools, then changed careers to law enforcement. Currently, Carney is in his 21st year with Chester County and is assigned to the Adult Sex Offenders Unit of Chester County Parole. He and his wife Kathleen have one daughter, Michelle Riches.

- - Josh Vasilko, class of 2000, was a four - year letterman and All - Conference golfer at Bishop Carroll. He was a runner - up at the District Tournament and participated in the State Championship in 1998 and 1999.

After golfing for the Huskies, Vasilko took his talent to the college level, golfing at Keystone College from 2001 - 2002. He excelled there, placing in seventh at the NJCAA National Championships in 2001, and was a two - time All American.

Vasilko then transferred to Murray State University, where he continued to play golf.

After college, Vasilko qualified for the 2008 PGA National Assistant Professional Championship in Port St. Lucie, Florida.

- - Charlie Koren served as principal of Bishop Carroll Catholic High School from 1990 to 1998, and was the head coach of the football team from 1993-1998. In 1998, under his leadership, the team claimed the District 5 & 6 Championship of Region 3. "Dr. Charlie Koren was a leader not only as the school's administrator but took his talents to the football field as well," said Surkovich.

Koren and his wife Becky have three daughters who are Bishop Carroll alumnae, Amy ('02), Christina ('03) and Julie ('03).

Before becoming a coach, Koren completed his undergraduate studies at Juniata College, where he was a four-year starter on the football team. He later taught and coached football at his alma mater, Pittsburgh Central Catholic High School, along with Duquesne University, where he received his doctorate, and Carnegie Mellon University. Following his time at BC,

Koren served as the Director of Education for the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown. In 2002, he received the President's Outstanding Educator Award from Saint Francis University. Koren is currently the Homer - Center School District Superintendent and serves on the Pennsylvania School Boards Association Insurance Trust and Armstrong - Indiana Insurance Trust along with the Pennsylvania State University Education Outreach Committee.

- - Fred McCabe, class of 1968, has served as a volunteer assistant coach for the Huskies' baseball and football teams. McCabe is an advocate for and avid fan of Bishop Carroll athletes. He dedicated a great deal of his time for several years to leading renovation projects for various teams' locker rooms, coordinating fundraising and remodeling efforts. Surkovich calls McCabe the "go-to man." McCabe's long hours of dedicated work revamped the gym lobby into the current Hall of Fame, which houses the banners of the inductees.

McCabe became an active volunteer for Bishop Carroll athletics after 30 years of service as a bridge - maintenance fore-



SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS: Students at Saint Benedict School, Carrolltown received awards for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, place and Honorable Mention in the school's annual Science Fair. Pictured are (left to right) First row: Fourth Grade: Lukas Conner, Sophia Hoover, Maelyn Kutruff, Christian Swander. Second row: Fifth Grade: Hannah Krug, Joslynn Kirsch, Kimberly Minnemyer, Joseph Snedden. Third row: Sixth Grade: Isabella Barrett, Aydin Swander, Luke Behe, Blaine Farabaugh. Fourth row: Seventh Grade: Julie Westrick, Abbie Baker, Edwin Maycovich, Gabriel Yahner. Fifth row: Eighth Grade: Mavrick Farabaugh, Jacob Sharbaugh, Adam Link and Lauren Bender.

man. He had to retire during recovery from open-heart surgery. His wife, Anne, has also volunteered at Bishop Carroll in the office and library. The two have three children, Nicole, Meghan and Drew.

Football Coaches

Boalsburg: Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy is pleased to announce the appointments of varsity football coaches Steve Guthoff and John Franco.

Principal Chris Chirieleison said the rich history between the two coaches will benefit Saint Joe's. "We are pleased to welcome both Steve Guthoff and John Franco to the Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy community as our new varsity football coaches. These gentlemen have worked quite well together in the past, and we are excited that the future of our football program is in their capable hands. I know first-hand how beneficial it can be to reunite with a mentor when assuming a new leadership role, and I am confident that Coach Guthoff will make the most of this op-

portunity to do so with his mentor, Coach Franco," he said.

Board of Trustees President Rob Thomas said attaining the highest quality coaches and teachers is a top priority. "One of our goals is to make sure we have the best administrators, faculty, staff, and coaches for our students. Steve Guthoff and John Franco are a great addition to the Saint Joe's family," he said.

Franco and Guthoff bring a combined 60+ years of coaching experience to the Wolves. Guthoff began his coaching career at Holy Cross High School in 1985 before moving to the collegiate level at SUNY Maritime, CW Post, Hofstra, and Penn State, where he served as a graduate assistant. In 1991, Guthoff returned to coaching at the high school level. He worked at several high schools, spending the majority of his time at Tyrone Area High School as a Defensive Coordinator for Franco (2001-2008, 2011).

(Continued On Page 12.)

The Pennsylvania Primary Election: Catholic Voter Information From The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference

Pennsylvania Primary Election Day is Tuesday, April 26.

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

Any politics of human dignity must seriously address issues of racism, poverty, hunger, employment, education, housing, and health care. Therefore, Catholics should eagerly involve themselves as advocates for the weak and marginalized in all these areas. But being ‘right’ in such matters can never excuse a wrong choice regarding direct attacks on innocent human life. Indeed, the failure to protect and defend life in its most vulnerable stages renders suspect any claims to the ‘rightness’ of positions in other matters affecting the poorest and least powerful of the human community. If we understand the human person as the ‘temple of the Holy Spirit’ -- the living house of God -- then these latter issues fall logically into place as the crossbeams and walls of that house. All direct attacks on innocent human life, such as abortion and euthanasia, strike at the house’s foundation. These directly and immediately violate the human person’s most fundamental right – the right to life.

-- From *Living The Gospel Of Life*, No. 22 with original emphasis (Pastoral Statement, U.S. Catholic Bishops, 1998)

The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC) neither supports nor opposes any candidate for public office. In an effort to educate voters, the PCC gave the statewide candidates the opportunity to make their positions known on key specific issues important to Catholics.

Attorney General

Stephen A. Zappala, II (D)
Joshua D. Shapiro (D)
John Morganelli (D)
John C. Rafferty, Jr. (R)
Joseph C. Peters (R)

Auditor General

Eugene A. DePasquale (D)
John A. Brown (R)

State Treasurer

Joseph M. Torsella (D)
Otto W. Voit, III (R)

U.S. Senator

Joseph A. Sestak, Jr. (D)
John K. Fetterman (D)
Katie McGinty (D)
Patrick J. Toomey (R)

Candidates who did not respond to the survey:
Zappala, DePasquale, Torsella, Sestak, Fetterman,
McGinty, and Toomey

1. What is your position on increased funding for Educational Improvement Tax Credits (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credits (OSTC) if the state budget includes an increase in public school funding?

Morganelli (D)	Support
Shapiro (D)	Support
Peters (R)	Support
Rafferty (R)	Support*
Brown (R)	Support*
Voit (R)	Support*

2. Which statement reflects your position most accurately?

1. I support legalized abortion.
2. I oppose legalized abortion in all circumstances.
3. I oppose legalized abortion, except when the life of the mother is in danger or the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest.

Morganelli (D)	3
Shapiro (D)	1
Peters (R)	3
Rafferty (R)	3
Brown (R)	3
Voit (R)	3

3. What is your position on expanding the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to provide health insurance to children in Pennsylvania who are undocumented immigrants?

Morganelli (D)	Oppose
Shapiro (D)	Support
Peters (R)	Oppose
Rafferty (R)	Oppose*
Brown (R)	Oppose*
Voit (R)	Oppose*

4. What is your position on amending Pennsylvania’s anti-discrimination laws for housing, employment and public accommodation to include sexual orientation?

1. They should include “sexual orientation” and “gender identity or expression” as protected classes, no exceptions.
2. They should contain specific provisions to protect the religious liberties of religious institutions and the rights of conscience of business owners.
3. No change is necessary.

Morganelli (D)	1
Shapiro (D)	1
Peters (R)	2

Rafferty (R)	3*
Brown (R)	3*
Voit (R)	3*

5. What is your position on increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates as a means to provide greater access to care for Medicaid-covered individuals?

Morganelli (D)	Support
Shapiro (D)	Support
Peters (R)	Support
Rafferty (R)	Support*
Brown (R)	Support*
Voit (R)	Support*

*Indicates comments were provided. See footnotes.

Learn more about voter registration and polling place locations at www.votespa.com; and get the latest election information and news about Catholic issues in the public square at www.pacatholic.org.

COMMENTS

Question 1. Brown – I support this program because I believe that families deserve this support to pursue a religious education. Rafferty – This is a terrific program and I have always supported. Voit– I believe that families deserve this support so they can take advantage of opportunities presented by religious schools.

Question 3. Brown – I oppose the use of taxpayer dollars, but I believe that this is an opportunity for private charities to step in to offer support. Rafferty – I oppose the use of taxpayer dollars but this is where charities need to step in. Voit – I oppose the use of taxpayer dollars for undocumented immigrants, but I believe that this is an opportunity for private charities to step in to offer support.

Question 4. Brown – If there is to be a law, this provision should definitely be included. Rafferty – If there is to be a law, this provision should definitely be included. Voit– If there is to be a law, this provision should definitely be included.

Question 5. Brown – The poor deserve care and I believe that health care professionals deserve to be adequately compensated. Rafferty - Healthcare professionals deserve a fair reimbursement and the poor deserve care. Voit – Healthcare professionals deserve to be adequately compensated for caring for the less fortunate and I believe our society has an obligation to help those who can’t help themselves.

The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown asked local candidates in contested races for United States Congress and the Pennsylvania General Assembly to respond to a Pennsylvania Catholic Conference questionnaire. Below are the responses we received.

UNITED STATES CONGRESS

1. What is your position on providing a federal tax credit to businesses that donate to scholarship organizations that provide scholarships for low-income students at private and religious schools in grades kindergarten through 12?

Bill Shuster (R) 9th District – Support

2. Which statement reflects your position most accurately?

- I support legalized abortion.
- I oppose legalized abortion in all circumstances.
- I oppose legalized abortion, except when the life of the mother is in danger or the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest.

Bill Shuster (R) 9th District

I oppose legalized abortion, except when the life of the mother is in danger or the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest.

Comments: "I am 100% pro life and a proud member of the Congressional Pro Life Caucus."

3. What is your position on legislation that would permit undocumented immigrants who have lived in the United States for a number of years, have worked and built equities in our country and who do not have criminal records to register with the government and take steps to earn legal status?

Bill Shuster (R) 9th District – Oppose

Comments: "I am opposed to any legislation that grants amnesty for millions of illegal immigrants."

4. What is your position on efforts to pass legislation (i.e., the Federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act) that would make sexual orientation and gender identity or expression protected classes that are equivalent to other protected classes (e.g., race, religion, sex, etc.)?

Bill Shuster (R) 9th District – Oppose

5. What is your position on increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates as a means to provide greater access to care for Medicaid-covered individuals?

Bill Shuster (R) 9th District – Oppose

PENNSYLVANIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. What is your position on increased funding for Educational Improvement Tax Credits (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credits (OSTC) where the state budget includes an increase in public school funding?

Jerry Carnicella (D) 35th District Senate – Support

Comments: "I am in favor of support for private schools and charter schools."

Frank Burns (D) 72nd District House – Support

Comments: "I have voted for a multi-million dollar increase in funding for the EITC program since taking office and I will continue to support such efforts. These successful programs are an example of how government and businesses can create a win-win situation for everyone."

Martin Westrick (D) 72nd District House – Support

Comments: "But our system for funding schools needs to be looked at and updated to our time."

John McGinnis (R) 79th District House – Support

Comments: "Education monies should empower students and parents and not bureaucracies."

Rich Irvin (R) 81st District House – Support

Comments: "I have supported increases in EITC."

2. Which statement reflects your position most accurately?

- I support legalized abortion.
- I oppose legalized abortion in all circumstances.
- I oppose legalized abortion, except when the life of the mother is in danger or the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest.

Jerry Carnicella (D) 35th District Senate

I oppose legalized abortion, except when the life of the mother is in danger or the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest.

Frank Burns (D) 72nd District House

I oppose legalized abortion, except when the life of the mother is in danger or the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest.

Martin Westrick (D) 72nd District House

I oppose legalized abortion, except when the life of the mother is in danger or the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest.

John McGinnis (R) 79th District House

I oppose legalized abortion in all circumstances.

Comments: "Life begins at conception and is due the protection of the state until natural death."

Rich Irvin (R) 81st District House
I oppose legalized abortion in all circumstances.

3. What is your position on expanding the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to provide health insurance to children in Pennsylvania who are undocumented immigrants?

Jerry Carnicella (D) 35th District Senate -- Oppose

Frank Burns (D) 72nd District House – Oppose

Comments: "Taxpayer resources should not be used for undocumented immigrants. When we allow taxpayer resources to be used in this way, it creates a disincentive for immigrants to follow the law and obtain the proper documentation to be in this country legally."

Martin Westrick (D) 72nd District House – Oppose

Comments: "We need to have a clear and separate plan for the undocumented immigrants."

John McGinnis (R) 79th District House – Oppose

Comments: "The state is not a proper vehicle for charity."

Rich Irvin (R) 81st District House – Support

Comments: "My own children were enrolled before I was elected state rep."

4. What is your position on amending Pennsylvania's anti-discrimination laws for housing, employment and public accommodation to include sexual orientation?

- They should include "sexual orientation" and "gender identity or expression" as protected classes, no exceptions.
- They should contain specific provisions to protect the religious liberties of religious institutions and the rights of conscience of business owners.
- No change is necessary.

Jerry Carnicella (D) 35th District Senate
They should contain specific provisions to protect the religious liberties of religious institutions and the rights of conscience of business owners.

Frank Burns (D) 72nd District House
They should contain specific provisions to protect the religious liberties of religious institutions and the rights of conscience of business owners.

Comments: "If there is a change to Pennsylvania's anti-discrimination law then it should contain specific provisions to protect the religious liberties of religious institutions and the rights of conscience of business owners. However any attempt by the Pennsylvania General Assembly to amend Pennsylvania's anti-discrimination law must recognize that such amendments could result in protracted

legal consequences that will ultimately be decided in the U.S. Supreme Court.”

Martin Westrick (D) 72nd District House

They should contain specific provisions to protect the religious liberties of religious institutions and the rights of conscience of business owners.

John McGinnis (R) 79th District House

They should contain specific provisions to protect the religious liberties of religious institutions and the rights of conscience of business owners.

Comments: “Religious freedom is under social and legislative attack.”

Rich Irvin (R) 81st District House

No change is necessary.

5. What is your position on increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates as a means to provide greater access to care for Medicaid-covered individuals?

Jerry Carnicella (D) 35th District Senate— Oppose

Comments: “I am reforming the entire health care system. With the repeal of Obamacare, all will receive the care they need. The poor Medicaid, the elderly Medicare. With our new system, we will not be fighting over reimbursement issues.”

Frank Burns (D) 72nd District House

“I believe strongly that we should never deny our people access to health care. With skyrocketing medical costs, we absolutely must find ways to control health care cost in this country so that we are able to provide Medicaid for our most vulnerable citizens.”

Martin Westrick (D) 72nd District House – Support

Comments: “If it doesn’t create too much of a burden to our taxpayers. If it does then we need to find a different approach.”

John McGinnis (R) 79th District House – Oppose

Comments: “Medicaid and Medicare dollars should be allocated as vouchers (e.g. health savings accounts) and not subject to bureaucratic reimbursement.”

Rich Irvin (R) 81st District House – Support

Comments: “From my research, PA is just above average. I would like to see how an increase would affect the budget before I would make a final decision.”

Guest Column

Focusing On The Common Good

By Father William J. Byron S.J.

In its Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, the Second Vatican Council described the common good as “the sum of those conditions of social life which allow social groups and their individual members relatively thorough and ready access to their own fulfillment” (No. 26).

In “Laudato Si’, on Care for Our Common Home,” Pope Francis refers to the common good as “a central and unifying principle of social ethics” (No. 156) and borrows the words I’ve just quoted from Vatican II to define it.

The common good is not the sum of all the individual goods, nor is it a utilitarian kind of greatest good for the greatest number of people.

It involves rather a conscious sense of respect for all people, an acknowledgment of the basic human dignity of everyone and a commitment to work for the promotion of conditions in society that encourage the development of each person’s human potential.

An image that helps the individual self-interested mind wrap itself around the notion of the common good is the image of the old-fashioned inner tube and a rubber tire. The wholeness and roundness of the tire suggests the oneness of society.

That image applies today to tires manufactured with the latest technology long after the inner tubes fell out of fashion. You may remember plunking yourself in an inner tube used as a flotation device in a swimming pool or on a lake when you were a child.

In any case, the inner tube’s potential for wear and tear -- the potential for a blowout that can flatten the entire tire (remember the rubber patches on those tubes?) -- serves to remind that it is in the interest of the whole tire that attention be paid to a small section in need of a plug or patch. Promotion of the common good protects the ultimate good of the individual.

Let that imagery go to work to persuade you of the oneness of society (the whole tire) and the importance to the whole of being attentive to one small area of weakness and vulnerability.

We should be paying more attention to the common good in this political season of presidential primaries. Think about the condition of family life in America (and around the world).

What about the condition of human dignity? Education? Housing? Health care, employment? Peace? The environment? Personal and national security? All of these social conditions relate to the common good.

Alfred Lord Tennyson once wrote, “Ah! When will all men’s good/ Be each man’s rule, and universal peace/ Lie like a shaft of light across the land?”

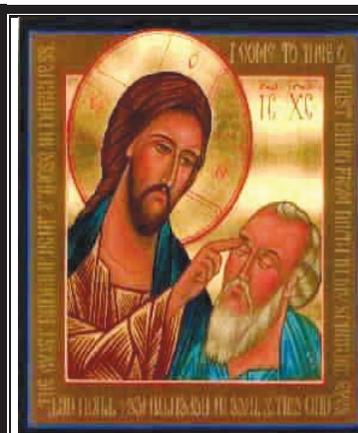
If the “tire” I mentioned earlier appears to be strong, but has a cut, leak or other point of vulnerability at just one small point, the whole thing will soon collapse. Think of this as the “collapse of the common good.”

One, small, unattended point of weakness or vulnerability can lead to the collapse of the whole thing. It is in the interest of the rich and powerful to assist the poor and powerless; they’re all part of the same tire.

All of us have to do a better job of understanding the “tire” that is the common

good and then convince ourselves and our elected representatives to do all that must

be done to keep the only tire we have in good repair.



HEALING MASS

Monday
May 23, 2016
7:00 pm

Fr. Bill Kiel
CELEBRANT

CATHEDRAL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
For all in need of physical, emotional or spiritual healing and those who support them.

“I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly” *John 10:10*

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PRESENTED BY THE CATHEDRAL CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

Joy Of Love In Family Life Is Theme Of Document

(Continued From Page 16.)

On the question of families experiencing difficulties, separation or even divorce and remarriage, Pope Francis said responses to the questionnaires sent around the world before the synod “showed that most people in difficult or critical situations do not seek pastoral assistance, since they do not find it sympathetic, realistic or concerned for individual cases.”

The responses, he wrote, call on the church “to try to approach marriage crises with greater sensitivity to their burden of hurt and anxiety.”

Particularly in ministry to divorced and civilly remarried Catholics, Pope Francis said, pastors must help each couple look at their actions and circumstances, recognize their share of responsibility for the breakup

of their marriage, acknowledge church teaching that marriage is indissoluble and prayerfully discern what God is calling them to.

Pope Francis said it would be a “grave danger” to give people the impression that “any priest can quickly grant ‘exceptions’ or that some people can obtain sacramental privileges in exchange for favors.”

At the same time, he insisted, “the way of the church is not to condemn anyone forever; it is to pour out the balm of God’s mercy on all those who ask for it with a sincere heart.”

Divorced and civilly remarried couples, especially those with children, must be welcomed in Catholic parishes and supported in efforts to raise their children in the faith.

Generally, without an annulment of their sacramental



CNS Photo/Paul Haring

NEWLYWEDS: A newly married couple hold rosaries in their hands as they leave Pope Francis’ general audience in Saint Peter’s Square at the Vatican February 24. Pope Francis’ post-synodal apostolic exhortation on the family, “Amoris Laetitia” (“The Joy of Love”), was released Friday, April 8.

marriage, such a couple would not be able to receive Communion or absolution of their sins unless they promised to live as “brother and sister.” But every situation is different, the pope said, which is why the church does not need new rules, but a new commitment on the part of pastors to provide spiritual guidance and assistance with discernment.

The diversity of situations -- for example, that of a spouse who was abandoned versus being the one who left -- makes it unwise to issue “a new set of general rules, canonical in nature and applicable to all cases,” the pope wrote. Quoting St. John Paul II, he said, “‘since the degree of responsibility is not equal in all cases,’ the consequences or effects of a rule need not necessarily always be the same.”

Pope Francis used the document’s footnotes to specify that the consequences include whether or not the couple might eventually be able to receive Communion: “This is also the case with regard to sacramental discipline, since discernment can recognize that in a particular

situation no grave fault exists,” he wrote. Those who are in a state of serious sin are not to receive Communion.

Another footnote commented on the church’s request that remarried couples who had not received an annulment and who want to receive the sacraments forgo sexual relations. “In such situations, many people, knowing and accepting the possibility of living ‘as brothers and sisters’ which the church offers them, point out that if certain expressions of intimacy are lacking, ‘it often happens that faithfulness is endangered and the good of the children suffers,’” he wrote.

Pope Francis wrote that he understood those “who prefer a more rigorous pastoral care which leaves no room for confusion. But I sincerely believe that Jesus wants a church attentive to the goodness which the Holy Spirit sows in the midst of human weakness, a mother who, while clearly expressing her objective teaching, always does what good she can, even if in the process, her shoes get soiled by the mud of the street.”

Turning to those who believe allowing divorced and remarried Catholics to receive Communion waters down church teaching on the indissolubility of marriage, the pope said, “we put so many conditions on mercy that we empty it of its concrete meaning and real significance. That is the worst way of watering down the Gospel.”

In many respects, Pope Francis wrote, church members themselves have presented and promoted such a dreary picture of married life that many people want nothing to do with it even though they dream of a love that will last a lifetime and be faithful.

“We have long thought that simply by stressing doctrinal, bioethical and moral issues, without encouraging openness to grace, we were providing sufficient support to families, strengthening the marriage bond and giving meaning to marital

life,” he wrote. “We find it difficult to present marriage more as a dynamic path to personal development and fulfillment than as a lifelong burden.

“We also find it hard to make room for the consciences of the faithful, who very often respond as best they can to the Gospel amid their limitations, and are capable of carrying out their own discernment in complex situations,” the pope wrote. Yet, “we have been called to form consciences, not to replace them.”

The role of an individual’s conscience made frequent appearances in the document, not only regarding the situation of those who may determine their new union is best for their family, but also regarding decisions over how many children to have.

Pope Francis praised Blessed Paul VI’s encyclical “Humanae Vitae,” which insisted every sexual act in a marriage must be open to the possibility of pregnancy, and included a large section reiterating what has become known as St. John Paul II’s “Theology of the Body.”

The saintly pope definitively opposed an old idea that considered “the erotic dimension of love simply as a permissible evil or a burden to be tolerated for the good of the family,” Pope Francis said. “Rather, it must be seen as gift from God that enriches the relationship of the spouses.”

Pope Francis called for church leaders to ensure more married couples are involved as leaders in designing and carrying out pastoral programs for families. Their witness is key, he said.

“Marital love is not defended primarily by presenting indissolubility as a duty, or by repeating doctrine, but by helping it to grow ever stronger under the impulse of grace,” he said. “A love that fails to grow is at risk. Growth can only occur if we respond to God’s grace through constant acts of love, acts of kindness that become ever more frequent, intense, generous, tender and cheerful.”

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Saint Peregrine (1260-1345) was a Servite Friar canonized in 1726. His feast is May 4.

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Pope Asks For Creation Of New Institutions Of Mercy, Charity

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis asked Catholic dioceses around the world to set up a permanent memorial of the Year of Mercy by establishing a hospital, home for the aged or school in an under-served area.

Celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday with an evening prayer vigil April 2 and a morning Mass April 3, the pope said the idea came to him during a meeting with a charitable organization and he decided to mention it at the vigil with participants of the European gathering of the World Apostolic Congress of Mercy and followers of the Divine Mercy devotion.

"As a reminder, a 'monument' let's say, to this Year of Mercy, how beautiful it would be if in every diocese there were a structural work of mercy: a hospital, a home for the aged or abandoned children, a school where there isn't one, a home for recovering drug addicts -- so many things could be done," the pope said.

"Let's think about it and speak with the bishops," the pope told thousands of people gathered in St. Peter's Square to pray the Divine Mercy chaplet of St. Faustina Kowalska, and also to remember St. John Paul II, who promoted the devotion and died April 2, 2005.

Reciting the "Regina Coeli" prayer at the end of Mass the next day, Pope Francis said the Divine Mercy Sunday celebration was "like the heart of the Year of Mercy," and he announced that Catholic parishes throughout Europe would be asked to take up a special collection April 24 as a sign of closeness and solidarity with people suffering because of the war in Eastern Ukraine.

The war has caused thousands of deaths and forced more than 1 million people to flee their homes, he said. Pope Francis prayed that the collection, a sign of solidarity and closeness, "could help, without further delay, promote peace and respect for the law in that harshly tried land."

The more one receives mercy, Pope Francis said at the vigil April 2, "the more we are called to share it with others; it cannot be kept hidden or kept only for ourselves."

God's mercy should drive people to love others, "recognizing the face of Jesus Christ above all in those who are most distant, weak, alone, confused and marginalized," he said.

"It pains the heart" when people talk about refugees and say, "Let's throw them out," or speak about the poor and say, "Let them sleep on the street," the pope said. "Is this of Jesus?"

Reflecting on the Gospel account of Thomas, who came to faith in the risen Lord when he was able to put his hands in Jesus' wounds, Pope Francis said, "a faith incapable of entering the wounds of the Lord is not faith. A faith unable to be merciful as a sign of the merciful wounds of the Lord, is not faith. It's an idea, an ideology."

"If we want truly want to believe and have faith," he said, "we must draw near and touch those wounds, caress those wounds, but also lower our heads and let others touch our wounds."

Celebrating the Divine Mercy Sunday Mass the next morning, Pope Francis said the Gospel story of God's mercy "remains an open book" to which people can add good news by being heralds of the Gospel and engaging in works of mercy, "which are the hallmarks of the Christian life."

Just as the disciples were afraid but nevertheless set out as the risen Lord commanded, he said, many times Christians today experience "an interior struggle between a closed heart and the call of love to open doors closed by sin."

"Christ, who for love entered through doors barred by sin, death and the powers of hell, wants to enter into each one of us to break open the locked doors of our hearts," the pope said. Where people are wounded, fearful and uncertain, Christians are called to reach out with Jesus' peace, mercy and healing power.

"In Christ, we are born to be instruments of reconciliation, to bring the Father's forgiveness to everyone, to reveal his loving face through concrete gestures of mercy," Pope Francis said. "Truly, God's mercy is forever; it never ends, it never runs out, it never gives up when faced with closed doors, and it never tires."



Photo By Bruce A. Tomaselli

SHELTER: The Martha and Mary House in Dale Borough in Johnstown has been providing shelter to the homeless since it opened its doors on February 27, 2015.

Sheltering The Homeless An Act Of Mercy At Johnstown House

(Continued From Page 1.)

The shelter has received donations throughout the year of money, goods, and manpower. In 2015, The Hiram G. Andrew's Center donated landscaping hours, and Stivers Nursery provided outdoor plants.

This year Woodhead hopes to raise planter beds, plant a garden, and build a gazebo so people can enjoy the outdoors. Persons can donate food, clothing, etc. by calling the Martha and Mary House at (814) 254 - 4413 or they can stop by anytime.

Woodhead came from the Greensburg area where he worked as a drug and alcohol abuse counselor for 15 years. "I came here because this is a new way to give back to the community," he said. "My training in

drug and alcohol abuse will also be put to good use."

Woodhead says they have had a very good first year, and they want to continue to grow and serve the community. "I've had a wonderful experience here," he added. "We have a great staff."

One of the charisms of Catholic Charities is to provide shelter for the homeless, which is a Corporal Work Of Mercy. "Martha and Mary House is a true example of carrying out our mission to serve others, especially the least among us," reminded Johnstone.

"I look forward to watching this program continue to grow and evolve, finding new and innovative ways to meet the various needs of the homeless residents of Cambria County," she said.

One of the charisms of Catholic Charities is to provide shelter for the homeless, which is a Corporal Work Of Mercy. "Martha and Mary House is a true example of carrying out our mission to serve others, especially the least among us," reminded Jean D. Johnstone.

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In The Alleghenies

(Continued From Page 6.)

Guthoff went on to serve as head coach for Tyrone for the 2012-2013 seasons before joining Franco at Altoona High School in 2014.

Franco has coached high school football for 38 years, 31 as a head coach, seven as an assistant coach, and 1 year in college at IUP. Franco looks forward to coaching again with Guthoff saying, "I'm interested in helping Coach Guthoff because I believe in his coaching ideals. I hope my experience in both coaching and teaching will help both Coach Guthoff and the student-athletes at St. Joe's."

Saint Joseph's Athletic Director Chad Walsh expressed excitement for the new experiences that student-athletes will

gain from this new coaching staff. "I know that the focus will be on developing fundamentals and am confident that our families will appreciate the approach that these two veteran coaches will bring to the varsity football program."

According to Guthoff, "It's time for the Wolves to take the next step by fielding a competitive team and winning football games. The goal of the football program at Saint Joe's is to win state championships."

Higher Education

Scholarship Applications

Altoona: The Independent Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown is seeking applicants for the 2016 Welge Scholarship. The Welge Endowment Scholarship Fund was established in 1995 to honor Adelaide G. (Heverly) Welge. This scholarship provides financial assistance to worthy parishioners of Roman Catholic Churches in Blair County excluding Tyrone. St. Matthew's Church in Tyrone already has a substantial endowment fund restricted to providing college scholarships for their parishioners. The Foundation Trustees are responsible for the awarding of the Adelaide G. (Heverly) Welge Scholarship(s) each year. This scholarship will be provided for the 2016-17 academic year.

To be eligible for the Welge Scholarship, applicants must meet the following requirements:

1. A member of a Roman Catholic parish (excluding Saint Matthew) located in Blair County;
2. A college student entering their junior or senior (third or fourth) year, enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student at an accredited four-year college or university;
3. Demonstrate financial need; and,
4. Submit a completed

application form on or before June 1. The application must be signed by the applicant's pastor to verify the applicant's active membership in their parish.

The Foundation expects to award three (approximately) \$500 scholarships this year. Additionally, the Foundation Trustees are asking Blair County pastors and clergy to help identify worthy and qualified individuals. Applicants are encouraged to complete the application and return it by June 1. The application is available at the Foundation office or on-line at the Foundation's web-site, www.icfdaj.org. Additionally, they should be available at the respective parish offices. The selection committee will identify a recipient (or recipients) based upon applications received. The selection process will be completed by June 30 and the funds will be distributed directly to the winners' schools by September. Questions should be directed to the individual pastors or the Foundation office at 201-2080 or via E-mail at Bill@icfdaj.org.

Blanket Collection

Loretto: The Saint Francis University Community Blanke-

ter group collected 104 beautiful quilted, crocheted, knitted, and embroidered blankets that will be distributed to sick and needy children through the Healing Patch, Nurse Family Partnership (Home Nursing Agency), and local hospitals.

The Blanketeers have been active on campus since 2006, and over the past ten years have donated more than 1,200 blankets to local children in need in Cambria County and surrounding areas. Each year the Blanketeers focus on creating comfortable, soft blankets for babies and young children.

The Saint Francis group was formed by Dr. Robin L. Cadwallader, professor of English/ Communications, and Dr. Margaret A. Garcia, associate professor of Business/Finance, with the assistance of Melita O'Donnell, executive assistant. Clare Ann Lasinsky of Ebensburg sewed tags on the blankets.

Over the past few years, the Healing Patch has distributed the blankets in "comfort bags" along with various other items (i.e. tissues, a memory book, a picture frame, etc.) to children following the death of a loved one. Additionally, the blankets have been distributed to Healing Patch participants during program activities around fears, worries, sleeping issues, etc. and sent home to provide comfort during the difficulties and isolation throughout the nighttime

hours - a common struggle for many young children during illness or following the death of a loved one.

Providing comprehensive educational, homecare and mentoring services to first-time mothers, Nurse Family Partnership will help to distribute blankets to newborns within the program providing a warm swaddling and encouraging "tummy time."

For additional information regarding the Saint Francis University Community Blanketeers, contact Melita O'Donnell at mddonnell@francis.edu.

Pathways/Empowerment

Cresson: Mount Aloysius College is partnering with CONTACT Altoona and the Wise Women of Blair County to bring the fifth annual Pathways to Empowerment Workshop to area women 18 years of age and older. The event will take place Saturday, April 23rd from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Hampton Inn, Altoona. There is no fee to participate but registration is required.

The Honorable Judge Linda Rovder Fleming, from Cambria County will serve as Keynote Speaker for Pathways to Empowerment.

(Continued On Page 13.)



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CONTEST WINNERS: Court Prince Gallitzin #2625, Altoona, sponsored an Education Contest for students in the Altoona area. The Awards Ceremony was held at Saint Rose of Lima Parish social hall in February. Pictured are (left to right) First row: Holly Butler, Marklin Myers, Marin Cooney, Josephine Gates, Madelyn Myers, Lily Adams, Julie Kline, Lucas Steinbugl and Marcus Lucas. Second row: Brynn Andrews, Madeline A. Foor, Maren Steinbugl, Rachel Lucas, Bradley Bare, Abbey Fleming and Father Timothy Grimme (Court chaplain). Third row: Carol Galioto (vice-regent), Jennifer Crum-Waite (education committee chair), Hannah Mashensic, Allison Bagley, Mark Stewart and Fiona McConnell.



DONATION: Saint Peter School, Somerset, presented a check for \$1921.00 to the Somerset County Mobile Food Bank. The funds were raised at the school's annual "Corporal Works Of Mercy Yard Sale" on Saturday, March 12. Pictured are (left to right) First row: Bena Croushore, Lukas Bowers. Second row: Kim Stiffler, Haley Basala and David Greene, secretary of the Somerset Mobile Food Bank.



BLANKET COLLECTION: The Saint Francis University Community Blanketeer group recently collected 104 beautiful quilted, crocheted, knitted, and embroidered blankets that will be distributed to sick and needy children through the Healing Patch, Nurse Family Partnership (Home Nursing Agency), and local hospitals. Pictured are (left to right) Third Order Regular Franciscan Father Malachi Van Tassel (university president), Melita O'Donnell, Allison Stockley (Healing Patch manager), Clare Ann Lasinsky and Linda Kline.

this valuable information with area women is one more way for women to find and strengthen their own voices in life.

Should you have questions about The Pathways to Empowerment Workshop, contact Christina Koren, executive director of mission integration and community engagement at Mount Aloysius College. Reach Koren at MissionIntegration@mtaloy.edu, or call (814) 886 - 6407. To register for the event, go to www.mtaloy.edu/wise-women.

Health Ministry

Loretto: Saint Francis University is accepting applications to the Academy for Leadership in Community Based Health Ministry program.

The Academy for Leadership in Community Based Health Ministry is a post-secondary certificate program focused on areas of actual community need and cultivating a team of health ministers that respond to that need. Individuals interested in the program do not need to have health care experience to qualify.

The Academy is comprised of seven face-to-face class sessions over a ten-month period. Class sessions consist of a variety of courses, and courses are taught by experts that are active in the field and/or University faculty.

Course faculty will guide students in the exploration of concepts of wholeness, holiness, and health; contemporary frameworks for understanding health, health promotion, and illness prevention; and appreciation of the history, philosophy, and models of health ministry, as well as the ethical and legal standards that apply.

The cost of tuition for the Academy is \$350, including all necessary materials.

For additional information, contact Cindy Drenning by phone, (814) 472 - 3027, or by email, CDrenning@francis.edu.

To apply, visit francis.edu/community-based-health-ministry or contact Cindy Drenning.

Prayer

Carmelite Novena

Loretto: The Disalced Carmelite Nuns announce their fourth novena this year in honor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Saint Therese, the Little Flower. It will be offered from Friday, April 22 until Saturday, April 30.

All intentions submitted to the Nuns will be remembered in the special Novena prayers after daily Mass.

Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament is held every Sunday at 4:00 p.m. and every First Friday of the month in Carmel's chapel. Benediction

is followed by veneration of the relic of Saint Therese.

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

Mens' Retreat

State College: A Mens' Retreat will be held at Our Lady of Victory Parish, May 13 - 15

It will be a non-resident weekend retreat with the theme: Courageous - Catholic Men of Action (1 Cor 16:13). There will be a number of exciting speakers, as well as opportunity for Mass, Reconciliation, and Adoration, along with small group discussions.

The Retreat begins with Mass on Friday evening at 6:00 pm, followed by a welcoming reception. In addition to Mass each day, there will be 5 speakers Saturday, and 2 on Sunday. The registration fee is \$60 per person. Please register at: <https://stpaulretreat.eventbrite.com>. You can register on-line and pay later.

For further information contact Andy Mazzara at amazara@aol.com or (814) 571 - 2956.

(Continued On Page 15.)



HELP STUDENT'S SISTER: Students at Lock Haven Catholic School donated the proceeds from their March "Change For Change" Day to assist Annie Eiler (in blue shirt), the sister of second grade student Aubrey Eiler. Annie was born with Galen Malformation, and has suffered a stroke and developmental delays.

(Continued From Page 12.)

Judge Fleming will discuss experiences in personal transformation and growth that she discovered in dealing with challenges in her own life. In addition to Judge Fleming's remarks, the Pathways To Empowerment

Workshop will include two breakout sessions dealing with Making Ends Meet (Finances), and Believing in Yourself (Self-Esteem and Self-Defense).

Pathways To Empowerment is one more segment in the Mount Aloysius College year-long theme of Voice. Sharing

Now Showing

'Greek Wedding 2' Isn't As Fat Or As Fabulous As The First

By Kurt Jensen
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) -- The close-knit Portokalos family -- loving, clingy, earthy and in your face at all the most inopportune moments -- returns in "My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2" (Universal).

Unfortunately, this follow-up lacks the zest of the 2002 romantic comedy that launched the formula "My Big Fat (fill in the blank)" into the American lexicon.

The moral structure is still there -- these folks look after each other with admirable ferocity. And, as in the first film, not a lot really goes on.



CNS Photo/Universal

MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING 2: Nia Vardalos and John Corbett star in a scene from the movie "My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2." The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Self-sacrificing Toula (Nia Vardalos, who also wrote the screenplay) is back working in her parents' Greek restaurant in Chicago, the bad economy having shuttered her travel agency.

Her daughter, Paris (Elena Kampouris), now a high school senior, finds their family a constant source of embarrassment. As Toula notes, "They don't know the difference between closeness and suffocation."

Toula and husband Ian (John Corbett) are having difficulties rediscovering marital intimacy. Paris wants to go to col-

lege in New York to gain some distance from the clan.

And then there's paterfamilias Gus (Michael Constantine). While researching his genealogy online in an attempt to prove that he's a descendant of Alexander the Great, Gus digs out his marriage license, only to find that the priest forgot to sign it.

Meaning -- according to the logic of the script anyway -- that he and spouse Maria (Lainie Kazan) have not been legally married all these years. So they must plan a wedding.

That's pretty much it. The real problem, though, isn't with

the ambling plot. It's the fact that Vardalos only manages the occasional adept gag, while director Kirk Jones can do little with the rest of the project.

As a result, the story comes down to a few pithy quotes interspersed with half-hearted physical comedy that has the taste of stale moussaka.

The film contains sexual references and light banter. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Coming Up On 'Proclaim!'

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

April 24 - - On this weekend when Bishop Mark celebrates the Neophyte Mass, a newly-initiated Catholic will join the Bishop to talk about the initiation experience.

May 1 - - Carmelite of the Word Sister Linda LaMagna, Diocesan coordinator of Evangelization, looks ahead to a Year of Mercy Holy Hour to welcome back or pray for those who are away from the Catholic Church.

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Live from Saint John Gualbert Cathedral
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A half - hour of local Church news and features



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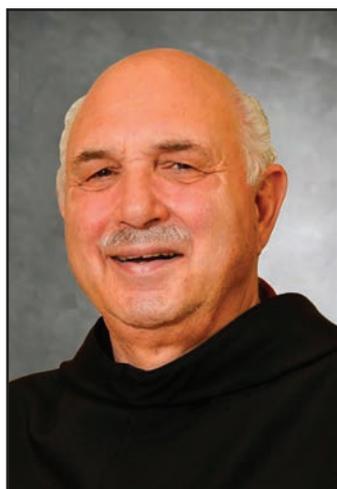
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May They Rest In Peace



**Father Angelus Migliore
T.O.R.**

Father Angelus Migliore, 78, of the Third Order Regular Franciscan Friars of the Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, died Monday, March 28, in St. Petersburg FL.

He was born on July 16, 1937 in New York City and given the name Salvatore, the son of the late Thomas and Frances (D'Angelo) Migliore.

He attended Our Lady of the Assumption grade school in New York City and graduated from Mount Saint Michael Academy, New York City in 1955. He attended Saint Francis College, Loretto, before entering the Franciscan Community in January, 1957 at Mount Assisi Friary, Loretto. He entered the novitiate on June 30, 1957, and professed simple vows on July 1, 1958 and solemn vows July 1, 1961. He received a bachelor of arts degree in Philosophy in 1961 from Saint Francis College.

Father Angelus did his theology studies at Saint Francis Seminary, Loretto, and was ordained to the priesthood by the late Bishop J. Carroll McCormick at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona, on May 23, 1964.

Father Angelus ministered in education teaching at Saint Thomas More High School in Philadelphia and Bishop Egan High School in Fairless Hills;

he served in the foreign missions of the Province, serving in Brazil from 1966 - 1974; served on the staff of Franciscan University of Steubenville, in Ohio, from 1974 - 1995; served in parish ministry as parochial vicar at Saint Patrick Church, Tampa FL from 1995 - 2003.

In 2003 Father Angelus was named pastor of St. Patrick's and continued to serve in that position until 2012.

He is survived by his sister, Rosemary Gasparetti of Martins Creek, and a brother, Thomas Migliore of Warner Robbins GA, and many nieces and nephews, and his Franciscan brothers. He was preceded in death by his brother Vincent Migliore.

The Funeral Mass for Father Angelus Migliore T.O.R. was celebrated Tuesday, April 5 in the chapel of Saint Francis Friary, Loretto, with Father Richard L. Davis, minister provincial, as principal celebrant. Committal was in the Friars' Cemetery on the campus of Saint Francis University.

Memorial contributions may be made to support retired T.O.R. Friars in care of T.O.R. Retirement Fund, Saint Francis Friary, P.O. Box 137, Loretto PA 15940.



**Sister Agnese Mikolaj
R.S.M.**

Sister Agnese Mikolaj, a member of the Mid - Atlantic Community of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, died on Tuesday, March 29, at Mercy Center, Dallas. She was 86.

The former Irene J. Mikolaj was born May 18, 1929 in Johnstown, the daughter of the

late Andrew J. and Catherine (Murin) Mikolaj. She graduated from Johnstown Catholic High School and received degrees from both Misericordia University in Dallas and Marygrove College in Michigan.

Sister Agnese entered the Sisters of Mercy in Dallas on September 8, 1947 and professed her vows on March 12, 1950. She served for many years as a teacher and principal in both the Altoona - Johnstown and Pittsburgh Dioceses. Following that, Sister Agnese entered the low - income housing ministry and was the housing manager at Valley Pike Manor in Johnstown. In her later years, she was a volunteer at the Windber Medical Center. She also was a member of the support staff at Resurrection Church in Johnstown. Sister Agnese moved to Mercy Center, Dallas in October, 2015.

Surviving are brothers Andrew, Johnstown; Michael, Brecksville OH; Stephen (Erma) McKinney TX; sisters Mary Lou Monsour, Lakewood OH and Ann M. (Theodore) Figart of Johnstown. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews, especially Christine, Ted and JoAnn, and many grand - nieces and nephews. Preceding her in death were brothers Joseph, John, Francis; her sister Margaret Ann, her sisters - in - law Julie Mikolaj, Marie Mikolaj, and Mary Lou Mikolaj and her brother-in-law Al Monsour.

The Funeral Mass for Sister Agnese Mikolaj R.S.M. was celebrated Friday, April 1 at Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Mercy Center, Dallas. Visitation was held at the Francis G. Ozog Funeral Home in Johnstown on Sunday, April 3, where a prayer service was conducted by Father George Gulash, pastor of Resurrection Parish. Committal was in the Sisters of Mercy Cemetery on the campus of Mount Aloysius College, Cresson, on Monday, April 4. A Memorial Mass will be held at Resurrection Parish, Johnstown.

Memorials can be made to the Sisters of Mercy at Mercy Center, P.O. Box 370 Dallas, PA 18612 or Resurrection Roman Catholic Church, 324 Chestnut Street, Johnstown, PA 15906.

In The Alleghenies

(Continued From Page 13.)

Marian Retreat

New Baltimore: Father Richard B. Tomkosky, pastor of Saint John the Baptist Church and Retreat Center will be conducting an overnight weekend retreat at the parish retreat center from Friday May 20 until Sunday May 22 on the topic of "the meaning of the St. Louis Marie de Montfort's Total Consecration to Jesus thru Mary and how Marian Devotion can deepen one's Catholic Faith."

The retreat will begin Friday evening and conclude Sunday afternoon. Meals and private room lodging are included. Reservation required by Friday May 13. Space is limited. Please call (814) 733 - 2210 for cost and more information.

'Mass For Peace' Concert

Hollidaysburg: The Blair Concert Chorale will close its 2015 - 2016 season with a performance of Karl Jenkins' "The Armed Man: A Mass For Peace" at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, April 23 at The First United Methodist Church, 801 Allegheny Street.

A compelling account of the consequences of war, "The Armed Man" will feature a live orchestra, four professional guests soloists, and a film created specifically to be shown with the composition.

Prior to the performance Dr. Patricia J. Wesley, a professor and poet at Penn State Altoona, will lecture about her family's struggle through the Liberian Civil War in the 1990s and the importance of faith in their survival.

Tickets are \$15.00 for adults and \$8.00 for students and are available at Thompson's Pharmacies and at the door. They also may be purchased online at Eventbrite.com.

For more information, visit the Blair Concert Chorale online at www.blairconcertchorale.org.

Schools

Receives Grant

Somerset: St. Peter School has been awarded a \$2500 grant from the Independent Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown. The school applied for the grant to enhance its focus on school literacy.

The funds will be used to purchase classroom bookshelves, dictionaries for all grades and literature selections.

The Foundation is an independent entity - - legally separate from the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown - - committed to the long - term strength and viability of Catholic institutions within the eight - county Diocese.

Change For Change

Lock Haven: Lock Haven Catholic School's "Change for Change" for the month of March was donated to Annie Eiler, the little sister of Aubrey Eiler who is in second grade at LHCS. Annie's mom, Rachel, is a volunteer at the school.

Annie was diagnosed with Galen Malformation at birth, a very rare condition affecting one in three million babies. At six - months - old, Annie suffered a stroke and brain stem hemorrhage which has caused her to have significant delays.

Annie recently got to try out a "Scoot" while at the Children's Development Center. Her parents and therapists believe it would be beneficial for Annie to have one. The cost of the "Scoot" is around \$700.00.

LHCS held their "Change for Change" day in March. This is a day that the students can donate money/items to a special cause and are able to wear clothes other than their school uniforms. The students raised \$1,234.00. for Annie, who will now be able to get her Scoot, and an "Upsee" which will allow Annie to stand and walk with the help of an adult.

Share Truth Of The Family With Mercy; Help Those Who Are Struggling, Says Pope Francis

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)

-- The same mercy and patience that are essential for building a strong family must be shown to those whose families are in trouble or have broken up, Pope Francis said in his highly anticipated postsynodal apostolic exhortation.

The document, "Amoris Laetitia" (The Joy of Love), on Love in the Family," released April 8, contains no new rules or norms. However, it encourages careful review of everything related to family ministry and, particularly, much greater attention to the language and attitude used when explaining church teaching and ministering to those who do not fully live that teaching.

"No family drops down from heaven perfectly formed; families need constantly to grow and mature in the ability to love," Pope Francis wrote. People grow in holiness, and the church must be there to give them a helping hand rather than turn them away because they have not attained some degree of perfection.

The exhortation was Pope Francis' reflection on the discussion, debate and suggestions raised during the 2014 and 2015 meetings of the Synod of Bishops on the family. Like synod



CNS/Nancy Phelan Wiehceh

A FAMILY PRAYS: A family prays after arriving for Sunday Mass in 2011 at Saint Joseph Church in Alexandria VA. Pope Francis' postsynodal apostolic exhortation on the family, "Amoris Laetitia" ("The Joy of Love"), was released Friday, April 8. The exhortation is the concluding document of the 2014 and 2015 Synods of Bishops on the family.

members did, the pope insisted that God's plan for the family is that it be built on the lifelong union of one man and one woman open to having children.

Synod members, including priests, religious and laypeople serving as experts and observers, talked about everything from varied cultural forms of courtship to marriage prepara-

tion and from the impact of migration on families to care for elderly parents.

Pope Francis' document touches on all the issues raised at the synods and gives practical advice on raising children, urges a revision of sex-education programs and decries the many ways the "disposable culture" has infiltrated family life and

sexuality to the point that many people feel free to use and then walk away from others.

"Everyone uses and throws away, takes and breaks, exploits and squeezes to the last drop. Then, goodbye," he wrote.

Much of the document is tied to the theme of God's mercy, including Pope Francis'

discussion of welcoming the vulnerable.

"Dedication and concern shown to migrants and to persons with special needs alike is a sign of the Spirit," he wrote. Both are "a test of our commitment to show mercy in welcoming others and to help the vulnerable to be fully a part of our communities."

The synod issues that garnered the most headlines revolved around the question of Communion for the divorced and civilly remarried, as well as Catholic attitudes toward homosexuality.

"In no way must the church desist from proposing the full ideal of marriage, God's plan in all its grandeur," Pope Francis said.

He repeated his and the synod's insistence that the church cannot consider same-sex unions to be a marriage, but also insisted, "every person, regardless of sexual orientation, ought to be respected in his or her dignity."

(Continued On Page 10.)

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