



# The Catholic Register

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CNS Photo/Paul Haring

**EASTER SUNDAY AT THE VATICAN:** Pope Francis walks past a display of flowers as he celebrates Mass Easter Sunday, March 27, in Saint Peter's Square at the Vatican. For more on the Holy Father's celebration of Easter, please see coverage beginning on page 5 of this issue.

Christ has died. Christ has risen! Christ will come again!

**Higher Education**

**Loans To Jamaicans**

**Loretto:** Students from the Saint Francis University School of Business recently traveled to the impoverished villages of Lionel Town and Maggotty, Jamaica for a mission trip. The students met with aspiring entrepreneurs about economic development and provided business assistance and microloans to interested people in the town through the University's own Jamaican International Microloan Initiative (JIMI).

The students include Kilee Bomgardner of Hershey, John Hazenstab of Altoona, David Budash of Indiana and Brooklynne Summers of Roaring

Spring.

While in Jamaica, the students met with nearly 100 applicants and were able to give loans to 18 entrepreneurs. The loans ranged from \$10,000 to \$80,000 Jamaican dollars, the equivalent of about \$85 - \$675 USD. The loan recipients were not charged interest and have 6 - 12 months to repay the loan.

This is the fourth year for the JIMI program at Saint Francis University. Since its inception, over \$18,600 USD, or \$2.1 million Jamaican dollars, has been lent to entrepreneurs in Jamaica, and a total of 74 entrepreneurs have been directly and indirectly impacted from JIMI. Since 2013, the loan repayment rate has been calculated at 92 percent.



**OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL:** Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Altoona, celebrated Confirmation on Wednesday, March 30. Pictured are (left to right) First row: Kaitlyn Plunket, Eva Aveni, Emily Bare, Bailee Loughridge, Olivia DelGrosso, Emily Evangelisto. Second row: Tyler Glunt, Alanna Leidig, Natalie Johnson, Carley Ciampoli, Madeline Hott, Natalie Nardelli, Katlynn Thompson. Third row: Harrison Pellegrine, Sophia Damiano, Brynn Danella, Hanna Feathers, Caitlyn Palazzi, Michael Piccerillo, Brandon Haun. Fourth row: Mason Ferrucci, Karen Snowden (director of religious education), Jacob Plunket, Third Order Regular Franciscan Father Terrence Smith (parochial vicar), Joshua Frye, Third Order Regular Franciscan Father Frank Scornaienchi (pastor), Trevor Hyle and Steven Snowden.

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*\*Special Presentation by Bishop Mark Barchak*

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**Jesus said: "I have come to set the earth on fire, how I wish it were already blazing."**

Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday—April 16, 2016

8:00 AM to 3:30 PM

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**To register:** Call 941-3832 or e-mail [tonycond@aol.com](mailto:tonycond@aol.com).

**Suggested donation:** Students free\*, Adults \$18.00,

\$15.00 if pre-registered by March 16.

(\*Cost is paid by scholarship; pre-registration required.)

**Music Ministry will be led by the Cathedral Prayer Group and the St. Joan of Arc Prayer Group.**



**CHAMPIONS:** The Saint Benedict School, Johnstown, Girls Varsity Basketball Team won the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese playoffs and represented the Diocese in the 2016 PA State CYO Basketball Tournament. Pictured are (left to right) First row: Julia Horwath, Reagan McClurkin, Ally Diamond. Second row: Assistant Coach Steve Diamond, Jackie Honkus, Alaina Zasadni, Head Coach Jerry Horwath, Kelsey Way, Kaitlyn Rusnak, Megan Rusnak and Assistant Coach Chuck Rusnak. The Girls Varsity Basketball Team competed in the 2016 Pennsylvania State Catholic Youth Organization Basketball Tournament after winning the Altoona Johnstown Diocese playoffs. The tournament was hosted by the Diocese of Pittsburgh and held at Cardinal Wuerl Catholic High School in Cranberry. With a 1 and 2 record the Lady Panthers finished 6th overall out of eight teams from across the Commonwealth.

This year, the largest loan in the amount of \$675 USD was given to a woman named Kerry - Ann, a previous loan recipient.

Kerry - Ann used the first loan to purchase a freezer to begin selling frozen foods in her grocery and liquor shop.

*(Continued On Page 3.)*

# In The Alleghenies



## Jared Box Project Reaches Milestone In Outreach Effort

On Friday, March 18, faculty, staff, students, and families of Our Lady of Victory Catholic School, State College, came together to assemble Jared Boxes, an annual project that honors the life of Jared McMullen. Jared was an OLV student who, at just five years old, fought a courageous battle with cancer.

After Jared's passing, Cindy Kolarik (mother of OLV students at the time) was inspired to create the Jared Box Project to honor his memory and help his classmates cope with the loss. Now, Jared Boxes have been created nation-wide, and OLV students assemble boxes every spring as a tribute to Jared.

The school collected 246 boxes to benefit local children and their families.

This year, the Jared Box project reached all 50 states, and over 250,000 boxes have been made nationwide. To celebrate the long-standing success of the project, the school was decorated with balloons representing each state.

Following the preparation of boxes, child life specialists came to take them to the hospital for distribution and to talk to the students about the children receiving the boxes.

The boxes from OLV were distributed to children at Janet Weis Children's Hospital in Danville, where Jared was treated. Mount Nittany Medical Center is kept supplied by many local Girl Scout troops, schools, and this year the Our Lady of Victory Parish religious education classes.

"This project is a wonderful way to honor Jared's memory," said Principal Samantha Weakland, "and over the years, we have received many heartfelt notes from families of the recipients."

"Our students enjoy this project each and every year," she added. "It's a great opportunity for them to help local children who are struggling and to see the impact they're making."

Weakland - - as well as many families benefiting from the project - - is thankful for the efforts of students and families at OLV who make this on-going tradition possible.

*(Continued From Page 2.)*

After seeing great success with her first loan, she applied for a loan to purchase animal feed, fertilizer, and similar items to add more variety to the product offerings in her store.

"It is very humbling to see how appreciative, trusting, and joyful the people of Jamaica are," Bomgardner said. "Even though this was my fourth year being a part of JIMI, I learn more and more about myself each year. I realized that it is

possible to make a positive impact on someone's life. This experience is truly life-changing."

The Jamaican International Microloan Initiative is a joint effort between the University's Enactus team and Hugs United mission trip organization. Students will be fundraising throughout the year so they are able to offer more loans to the people of Jamaica during next year's spring break mission trip.

If you are interested in donating to JIMI or have any questions, please contact Kilee

Bomgardner at kab103@francis.edu or (717) 580 - 4556, or Lisa Georgiana at lgeorgiana@francis.edu.

### Workshop/Exhibit

**Cresson:** The Mount Aloysius College's Arts for Healing series invites the public to enjoy the work of celebrated Pennsylvania artist Julie Mader. Mader's exhibit entitled, "The Power Within" will hang in Mercy Hall of the College's Athletic Convocation and Wellness Center from

April 14 to August 31. In addition to her exhibit, Mader will hold a workshop called "Why Remember" on April 23 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Her workshop will involve simple activities aimed at helping participants rediscover moments in time through the use of visualization techniques. The fee for Mader's "Why Remember" Workshop is \$10. Mader's appearance at Mount Aloysius College is funded by a gift from the Pennsylvania Rural Arts Alliance.

Dr. Donald Talbot, professor of fine arts and visual arts program coordinator at Mount Aloysius College, explained the goals of Mader's Workshop. "Julie Mader's unique 90-minute workshop uses her artistic techniques to help participants capture a moment in time by transforming it into a torn paper collage. The healing effect of this activity is the preservation of that specific event and really making it part of our personal

history. We are really looking forward to Julie's time with us."

Dr. Talbot added, "The benefits and uses of her exercises, specifically with regard to the country's aging population will be discussed, as well as the importance of compassionate listening and kindhearted questioning skills. Julie was one of a handful of Pennsylvania artists chosen to participate in a pilot program called, 'Creative Aging' which was offered to select Senior Centers across the state in 2015. The program was a partnership of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and the Department of Aging."

Talbot noted that Mader's artwork was inspired by witnessing her Smethport neighbors struggle with cancer. Her observations became increasingly relevant when her own father was diagnosed with cancer in 2014.

*(Continued On Page 6.)*

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## Point Of View

As I sat in a crowd of people listening to their testimonies of faith my heart became confused. My pondering thoughts went between the emotions of joy for their obvious excitement about new revelations of faith and at the same time my heart ached for I knew they missed so much along the way.

Listening to their faith witness, I heard over and over again throughout all of their heartfelt messages the same repeating theme. Stories of faith shared by cradle Catholics who finally came to realize they could have a deep and personal relationship with the very God who created them. A realization that brought many to tears, an encounter I am sure will forever change their lives.

So why the state of confusion of my heart? Given the privilege of being present while others so honestly shared their faith stories gave me a new appreciation for the power of prayer and community faith sharing. This encounter was a beautiful representation of the church at its best. But, these same stories, shared by cradle Catholics now living in their sixth and seventh decade of their lives, expressed how after all these years, they finally came to realize they can have deep union and relationship with Christ bewildered and broke my heart.

Although, I was sincerely happy for them in their newly found deeper level of faith, I really wondered silently in my heart, how cradle Catholics sixty and seventy years old could never have experienced a deep



## Family Matters

By Amy Kanich

### Faith Relationships

relationship with God. Several thoughts filled my mind. Is it because they did not seek to know God more personally and intimately... never fully engaged in the call to discipleship...settled into complacency doing the least expected in order to still be called a practicing Catholic...or maybe they simply never were shown the way?

Now a tougher question to answer. Has the church in its attempts to share the doctrines and teachings of our faith overlooked helping people to truly understand the deep desire of God to share intimately with them every detail of their lives? Perhaps in the church's eagerness to share the beautiful truths of our Catholic faith it failed to connect how the doctrines and precepts apply to people's everyday lives. Perhaps the church thought it was okay to sit back watching from afar the faithful go through the expected motions of the faith, afraid to lovingly encounter its believers by challenging and encouraging them to walk intimately and more deeply together the journey of faith. Or, has the church simply taken for granted the faith of its people never realizing they were hungry for more?

So what is the answer? The answer is maybe a little of both. God calls each person into a personal and deep relationship with Him. Going through motions to satisfy obligations does not ensure a personal relationship with our Lord. Going only to church on Sundays with no real change in our everyday lives does not speak deeply of one's faith. On the other hand, Christ ordained our church to be responsible for shepherding His flock. One of Pope Francis' most famous quotes sums up the church's expected involvement in its people's lives. He said, "We must smell like the sheep." Maybe we, the church, need to start smelling ourselves more closely for the scent of the sheep! If the smell is faint or barely unrecognizable then maybe we need to start having the courage to strap on our sandals, gather our shepherd's staff and go out into the fields to dwell among the flock. Perhaps we the faithful and the church need to keep each other accountable, checking in with each other frequently, having the courage to not settle for the status quo, being personally responsible for walking together on this beautiful journey of faith.



## Another Perspective

By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein  
You Raise Me Up

We are celebrating Easter as the Church continues Her celebration of the Year of Mercy. This Extraordinary Holy Year, proclaimed by Pope Francis, has as its motto the words "Merciful Like The Father."

The Resurrection of Jesus is the greatest proof of the mercy of the Father. The Father did not abandon Jesus. He did not cast Him off or forget Him. When Jesus was at His lowest, He cried out to His father, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" The Father, in His great mercy responded by raising His son from the dead. The Father stands in solidarity with His son. The Father shared His heart with the heart of His son. The resurrection of Jesus is the triumph of mercy -- the proof that God stands with His people in good times and in bad. As He raised up Jesus, so too, He will raise us up.

The popular singer, Josh Groban, has a wonderful song about this very theme. It expresses so well all that the human heart sometimes feels about life, and about our fears for the future. It is ultimately a song of hope, and it is entitled, "You Raise Me Up." It begins:

When I am down and, oh, my soul, so weary;  
When troubles come and my heart burdened be;  
Then I am still and wait here in the silence,  
Until you come and sit awhile with me.

You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains;  
You raise me up to walk on stormy seas;  
I am strong when I am on your shoulders;  
You raise me up to more than I can be.

There is no life - no life without its hunger;  
Each restless heart beats so imperfectly;  
But when you come and I am filled with wonder,  
Sometimes, I think I glimpse eternity.

I don't know if Josh Groban was specifically thinking of the resurrection of our Lord when he wrote those lyrics, but they certainly express the thoughts and feelings we experience when we consider the need for resurrection in our lives. They are a powerful reflection on mercy: the idea of someone sharing our burdens, someone giving us a share in their power when we feel weak and weary. Maybe Groban is addressing God; maybe not. But in these lyrics we can find an expression of God's care for us, and of the care we should show one another, if we are going to be merciful as the Father is merciful.

These words from that beautiful song remind us that we are to be there for one another in those times of worry and woe, those times of pain and hunger, those times when someone is feeling weary and burdened, more dead than alive. By our care and concern we are to raise one another up to new life. We are to assure our brothers and sisters that they are not alone, they have not been abandoned, they have not been forsaken. We are called to be merciful like the Father and to do for others what God has done for us. We are called to help one another to be filled again with wonder, and to help our sisters and brothers move beyond the limits of pain and fear to glimpse eternity.

We are called in this season of the Resurrection to say with gratitude to God and to those who make His presence felt in our lives "You raise me up to more than I can be."

# Reconcile With God, Resurrect Hope In Others, Pope Urges At Easter



CNS Photo/Paul Haring

**ARRIVES FOR EASTER MASS:** Pope Francis arrives in Saint Peter's Square at the Vatican to celebrate Easter Mass, Sunday, March 27.

**The risen Jesus “makes us sharers of his immortal life and enables us to see with his eyes of love and compassion those who hunger and thirst, strangers and prisoners, the marginalized and the outcast, the victims of oppression and violence,” the Pope said Sunday, March 27 after celebrating Easter morning Mass.**

**By Cindy Wooden and  
Junno Arocho Esteves**

## VATICAN CITY (CNS)

-- Easter is a feast of hope, a celebration of God's mercy and a call to pray for and assist all who suffer, Pope Francis said before giving his solemn blessing “urbi et orbi” (to the city and the world).

The risen Jesus “makes us sharers of his immortal life and enables us to see with his eyes of love and compassion those who hunger and thirst, strangers and prisoners, the marginalized and the outcast, the victims of oppression and violence,” the pope said March 27 after celebrating Easter morning Mass.

Easter in Rome dawned bright and sunny; in St. Peter's Square, the steps leading up to the basilica were turned into an abundant garden with thousands of tulips, daffodils and flowering bushes.

On Easter morning, the pope does not give a homily. Instead, with hands clasped in prayer and head bowed, he led the tens of thousands of people in the square in silent reflection.

After Mass, before giving his solemn blessing, Pope Francis said Easter should give people the courage to “blaze trails of reconciliation with God and with all our brothers and sisters.”

Speaking about Christ's power over death and sin, the pope prayed that the Lord would touch places in the globe scarred by war, terrorism, poverty and environmental destruction.

“The risen Christ points out paths of hope to beloved Syria, a country torn by a lengthy conflict, with its sad wake of destruction, death, contempt for humanitarian law and the breakdown of civil concord,” the pope said. “To the power of the risen Lord we entrust the talks now in course.”

He prayed that the power of the Resurrection would

“overcome hardened hearts and promote a fruitful encounter of peoples and cultures,” particularly in Iraq, Yemen, Libya and the Holy Land.

“May the Lord of life also accompany efforts to attain a definitive solution to the war in Ukraine, inspiring and sustaining initiatives of humanitarian aid, including the liberation of those who are detained,” he prayed.

On Easter and throughout the Holy Week liturgies that preceded it, Pope Francis showed special concern for the fate of refugees and migrants fleeing violence and poverty and for Christians facing persecution in the Middle East and other parts of the world.

At Rome's Colosseum Good Friday, after presiding over the Stations of the Cross, the pope offered a long meditation on how Christ continues to be scorned, tortured and crucified in suffering people around the world.

“O Cross of Christ,” he said March 25, “today too we see you raised up in our sisters and brothers killed, burned alive, throats slit and decapitated by barbarous blades amid cowardly silence.”

“O Cross of Christ, today too we see you in the faces of children, of women and people, worn out and fearful, who flee from war and violence and who often only find death and many Pilates who wash their hands,” he said.

Two days later, celebrating the Resurrection, Pope Francis said the Easter message “invites us not to forget those men and women seeking a better future, an ever more numerous throng of migrants and refugees -- including many children -- fleeing from war, hunger, poverty and social injustice.

*(Continued On Page 12.)*

# In The Alleghenies

(Continued From Page 3.)

Some of the plants which are depicted in her exhibit are now routinely used as chemotherapeutic agents.

Registration is required to participate in the Workshop. To register call or email, Dr. Donald Talbot at (814) 886 - 6470, or email him at dtalbot@mtaloy.edu.

## Awarded Grants

**Loretto:** Saint Francis University was recently awarded a total of \$8,000 from Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield in support of its Dorothy Day Outreach Center and two upcoming health-related conferences.

"We are grateful to Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield for its continued support of our community outreach efforts. We look forward to working together to provide services that enhance the well-being of the local community," said University

President Third Order Regular Franciscan Father Malachi Van Tassell.

The Dorothy Day Outreach Center is a volunteer-based agency that strives to apply Franciscan values by following in the footsteps of its namesake, Dorothy Day. The Center offers a variety of assistance to the economically disadvantaged, including emergency financial aid, food, and clothing, as well as direct student assistance through many volunteer programs that integrate community service, faith formation, academic excellence, and youth development. Primarily, the services provided by the Dorothy Day Outreach Center target impoverished families, particularly the working poor. It works with more than 25 community agencies to serve more than 1,500 families per year, coordinating and providing emergency financial assistance, clothing pantry, food pantry, and other efforts geared to helping the community.

Highmark awarded \$5,000 in support of The Dorothy Day Outreach Center to help carry out its mission.

"As the region's leading health insurer, we at Highmark consider it our responsibility to reinvest in our communities to help ensure that individuals – from all walks of life – remain as strong and healthy as possible," said Mary Anne Papale, director of community affairs for Highmark Blue Shield. "By supporting Saint Francis University's Dorothy Day Outreach Center, we are able to provide basic needs assistance in this predominantly rural, underserved community that will have significant and lasting results."

Highmark also awarded Saint Francis a \$1,500 sponsorship for the "Autism: Putting the Pieces Together Conference" held at the DiSepio Institute for Rural Health & Wellness. The conference is an ongoing series of educational sessions dedicated to current trends in research and

innovative treatments and programming, as well as dialogue with subject matter experts regarding therapies for those with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). This year's event will focus on a child's "Transition Across the Years."

An additional \$1,500 sponsorship was also awarded by Highmark for Saint Francis' "Conference for Rural Health Providers." Held annually, the conference is an opportunity for health care professionals to engage in educational sessions and dialogue with subject matter experts regarding current updates, obstacles, and challenges to health care in rural practice settings. It can be beneficial to primary care physicians, clinical educators and clinicians, academic professionals, and administrative personnel working in the health care field.

"Highmark wants to work together to help build stronger, healthier communities, and an important aspect of achieving that goal involves education. The health care conferences offered by Saint Francis University will allow people to gain the knowledge they need to work toward improving health care for all," said Papale.

This summer's academies include App Inventor Academy (June 26 - July 1); Environmental Engineering Design Academy (June 26 - July 1); Protein Chemistry Academy (June 26 - July 1); Gaming Academy (July 10 - 15); Science of Exercise Academy (July 10 - 15); 3D Printing Academy (July 17 - 22); and From Dragons to DNA (July 17 - 22).

Visit [francis.edu/stem-summer-academies-16/](http://francis.edu/stem-summer-academies-16/) to learn more and register.

## Prayer

### Reflections On Mercy

**Hollidaysburg:** The Diocesan Liturgy Committee is sponsoring a series of Morning and Evenings of Reflection on the Spiritual Works of Mercy. The first of the series will be held Tuesday, April 12, from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. at Saint Mark Parish in Altoona.

All are invited to participate in this time of prayer and reflection. Stories of mercy will be shared and time will be allotted for all to reflect on mercy in their personal lives. Plan to attend this spiritual opportunity during this Holy Year of Mercy.

To help the planning committee know the number of people planning to attend, please contact Saint Mark Parish at (814) 942 - 0364 to RSVP.

Reflection Morning/Evenings will also be conducted Tuesday, April 19, at Most Holy Trinity in Huntingdon, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.; Saint Benedict Parish in Carrolltown, on Saturday, April 30, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon; Holy Spirit Parish in Lock Haven, on Wednesday, May 11, from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.; Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Bellefonte, on Tuesday, May 17, from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.; Saint Peter Parish in Somerset on Thursday, September 15, from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.; and at Resurrection Parish in Johnstown on October 29 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.

(Continued On Page 13.)

## STEM Registration

**Loretto:** Saint Francis University's STEM Summer Academies are now open and registrations are being accepted until April 15.

These academies are week-long programs designed to provide an opportunity for talented high school students between their sophomore/junior and junior/senior years to experience science, engineering and computer science in action.

Selected students will be provided with room and board, all course supplies and materials (up to a \$2,000 value), and can earn two college credits upon completion of the program. In addition, they will gain experience in classroom and laboratory settings, along with hands-on environmental and industry-based learning. Students with an interest in pursuing a career in the sciences or technical fields are encouraged to apply.

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# *Therese*

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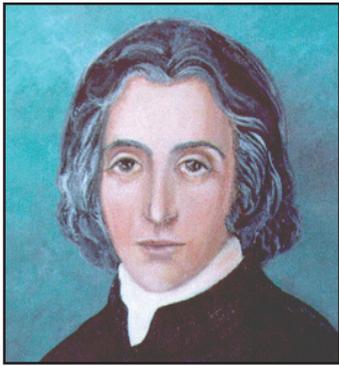
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## A Prince In The Service Of The Great King

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1770 - 1840

## Mother Teresa To Be Canonized September 4

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis will declare Blessed Teresa of Kolkata a saint at the Vatican Sept. 4.

The date was announced March 15 during an "ordinary public consistory," a meeting

of the pope, cardinals and promoters of sainthood causes that formally ends the sainthood process.

At the same consistory, the pope set June 5 as the date for the canonizations of Blessed Stanislaus Papczynski of Poland, founder of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception, and Blessed Mary Elizabeth Hessel-

blad of Sweden, who re-founded the Bridgettine sisters.

In addition, Pope Francis declared that Oct. 16 he would celebrate Mass for the canonizations of Argentina's "gaucho priest," Blessed Jose Brochero, and Blessed Jose Sanchez del Rio, a 14-year-old Mexican boy martyred for refusing to renounce his faith during the Cristero War of the 1920s.

Setting the dates concludes a long process of studying the lives and writings of the sainthood candidates:

-- Mother Teresa was widely known as a living saint as she ministered to the sick and the dying in some of the poorest neighborhoods in the world. Although some people criticized her for not also challenging the injustices that kept so many people so poor and abandoned, her simple service touched the hearts of millions of people of all faiths.

Born to an ethnic Albanian family in Skopje, in what is now part of Macedonia, she went to India in 1929 as a Sister of Loreto and became an Indian citizen in 1947. She founded the Missionaries of Charity in 1950.

Shortly after she died in 1997, St. John Paul II waived the usual five-year waiting period and allowed the opening of the process to declare her sainthood. She was beatified in 2003.

After her beatification, Missionary of Charity Father Brian Kolodiejchuk, the postulator of her sainthood cause, published a book of her letters, **Mother Teresa: Come Be My Light**. The letters illustrated how, for de-

gades, she experienced what is described as a "dark night of the soul" in Christian spirituality; she felt that God had abandoned her. While the letters shocked some people, others saw them as proof of her steadfast faith in God, which was not based on feelings or signs that he was with her.

The date chosen for her canonization is the eve of the 19th anniversary of her death and the date previously established at the Vatican for the conclusion of the Year of Mercy pilgrimage of people like her who are engaged in works of mercy.

-- Blessed Papczynski founded the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception in Poland in the 17th century. Today the Marians are special promoters of the Divine Mercy devotion of St. Faustina Kowalska.

Born in 1631, he was ordained as a Piarist priest, but left the order after 10 years. His new congregation was established officially in 1679 and he died in 1701. He was beatified in Poland in 2007.

-- Blessed Hesselblad was born in Faglavik, Sweden, in 1870 and went to the United States at the age of 18 in search of work to help support her family. She studied nursing in New York and, impressed by the faith of the Catholics she cared for, began the process of entering the Catholic Church. Coming from a Lutheran family, she was conditionally baptized by a Jesuit priest in Washington, D.C. On a pilgrimage to Rome, she visited the home of the 14th-century St. Brigid of Sweden and was welcomed by the Carmelite sisters who were then living there.

She received permission from the pope to make religious vows under the rule of St. Brigid and re-founded the Bridgettine order that had died out in Sweden after the Protestant Reformation. She was beatified in 2000.

-- Blessed Brochero, the "gaucho priest," was born in Argentina in 1840 and died in 1914. Ordained for the Archdiocese of Cordoba, he spent years traveling far and wide by mule to reach his flock. Pope Francis, in a message in 2013 for the priest's beatification -- a ceremony scheduled before the Ar-

gentine pope was elected -- said Father Brochero truly had "the smell of his sheep."

He gained particular fame for his work caring for the sick and dying during a cholera epidemic in 1867. With his own hands, he built churches and chapels and opened paths through the western mountains of Cordoba province. During his travels, he contracted Hansen's disease, more commonly known as leprosy; many people believe he was infected by sharing a cup of mate, an herbal tea, with someone who already had the disease.

-- Blessed Sanchez was martyred in Mexico in 1928, just weeks before his 15th birthday. In 1926 Mexican President Plutarco Elias Calles had introduced tough anti-clerical laws and confiscated church property across the country. Some 90,000 people were killed in the ensuing Cristero war before the government and church reached an accord in 1929.

Young Sanchez wanted to fight in the war alongside his brothers, but he was too young. Eventually, he was allowed to be the flag bearer of a unit. During an intense battle, he was captured by government troops, who ordered him to renounce his faith. He refused, even when tortured. The boy was executed about two weeks later. He was beatified in 2005.

## 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.

+ + +

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# Word of Life



## The Pope Teaches

By Pope Francis

### Pope Asks Pakistan's Government To Protect Christians

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** -- Pope Francis appealed to the government of Pakistan to take steps to ensure the safety of the country's Christians and other minorities the day after a terrorist bombing killed at least 70 people and injured more than 300 who were spending Easter afternoon in a public park.

In Lahore, Pakistan, the pope said, "Easter was bloodied by a hideous attack, which massacred many innocent people, mostly families belonging to the Christian minority -- especially women and children -- who were in a public park joyfully celebrating the Easter holiday."

After reciting the "Regina Coeli" prayer with pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square March 28, the pope condemned the Lahore attack as a "cowardly and senseless crime." Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, a splinter group of the Taliban, said it carried out the attack and specifically targeted Christians celebrating Easter.

Pope Francis appealed to "the civil authorities and all community leaders in that nation to do everything possible to ensure the security and serenity of the population, particularly the most vulnerable religious minorities."

"Violence and homicidal hatred lead only to pain and destruction; respect and brotherhood are the only paths that lead to peace," he said.

Before leading the crowd in reciting the "Hail Mary" for the victims and their families, Pope Francis asked the people in St. Peter's Square to pray that God "would stop the hand of the violent, who sow terror and death, and that in the world there may reign love, justice and reconciliation."

In his main address, and again after leading the "Regina Coeli" prayer, the pope spoke about the importance of making a real effort to live with the hope the Resurrection should bring.

"Life has vanquished death. Mercy and love have vanquished sin," the pope said.

"We know that faith and hope are a gift of God and we must ask for it: 'Lord, give me faith, give me hope. We need it so much,'" he said.

Before asking people to pray for him, the pope led the crowd in repeating three times, "Christ, my hope, is risen."

**In Lahore, Pakistan, the Pope said, "Easter was bloodied by a hideous attack, which massacred many innocent people, mostly families belonging to the Christian minority -- especially women and children -- who were in a public park joyfully celebrating the Easter holiday."**

**After reciting the "Regina Coeli" prayer with pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square March 28, the Pope condemned the Lahore attack as a "cowardly and senseless crime."**



**ONE MORE TIME:** The 1959 - 1960 officers of the Knights of Saint George Auxiliary at Saint Mark Parish, Altoona were (left to right) First row: Madeline Armstrong (vice - president), Leocadia Counsman (president). Second row: Dorothy Moore (secretary/treasurer), Sarah Keller (trustee), Mary Kay Wesner (trustee) and Marcella Datrix (guard). Not pictured was trustee Clara Himes. The auxiliary was formed in 1949.

I'm pretty sure the teacher was a little concerned when I told her students I didn't like to read when I was a kid.

I had nothing against it, but I wasn't going to "waste" any of my summer vacation with my nose in a book. I wanted to be outside playing or plunked down in front of the TV. Mom, bless her heart, would take all five of us to the library on a regular basis. I suppose I came home with a book or two, but I doubt I ever opened any of them.

I would read for school. I had to do that, but not during vacation. I didn't have to do that. It certainly never bothered me that my brother and sisters received certificates proclaiming "I read 10 books this summer" or some such. Good for them. It wasn't for me, and Mom and Dad never pushed it, though both were big readers.

I discovered the love of books when I entered the seminary at the tender age of 14 and there was little or no TV time and a lot of time set aside for quiet. That meant no playing outside.

I had to do something. I looked at a book and then another, and then another. By the time I left at the age of 19, I was a reader who wanted to be a writer. That's why, down the road, I would stand up in front of a grade-school classroom and talk about books I had written



## Your Family

By Bill Dodds

### When It Comes To Vocations, God Is Full Of Surprises

for children and my silly poems for kids that were in anthologies, and a little bit about columns and articles and editing and the life of a freelance writer.

But still, I always wanted to give the little gal or guy who had no interest in reading outside assignments a bit of hope. It was OK. You'll be fine. It may well be that you haven't found your particular interest.

At some point, we're "called" to do something that mildly interests us, a hidden talent. Discovering what that is can, in many, many ways, amaze

your parents, stun your siblings and amuse your friends. Who could have imagined it, they ask? She became a teacher, or he's a cop now. It can seem God really does have a sense of humor.

So, what's the lesson here for us moms and dads, grandmas and grandpas? We may think we know what young family members will end up doing with their lives. We may hope and pray they do something we want them to do, but between their free will and the Holy Spirit giving them nudges, it's not up to us.

What we can do is give them a childhood, an adolescence and (sometimes) an early adulthood that offers them the experiences, opportunities, education and self-confidence to answer that very personal call, that very wonderful call.

It can be a call to the priesthood or religious life, to marriage or to being single. And within that, to the work, the career, the ministry that fits them so well -- one that was custom-made, by God himself.

**We can give our children and grandchildren a childhood, an adolescence and (sometimes) an early adulthood that offers them the experiences, opportunities, education and self-confidence to answer that very personal call, that very wonderful call.**



## Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle  
Is A Funeral Mass Required?

**Q.** Unless illness prevented it, I have attended daily Mass most of my life. (I love starting the day with the Lord in his house!) Now in my late 80s, I have already paid for my funeral arrangements. Because I have only a few relatives still living, I have requested that there not be a wake. For the same reason, I do not want a funeral Mass. I would like only a private committal service at the grave site. Does the Catholic Church require both services? (Upstate New York)

**Q.** Catholicism is a strong part of my identity, and all my friends and loved ones know that. But on the other hand, neither my wife nor my children, nor most of my siblings or cousins, nor any of my closest friends is a practicing Catholic. Since they would be unable to participate fully in the Mass, I am thinking that I would prefer a non-Mass funeral service (in my parish church if possible), followed at some point by a me-

morial Mass. Does this choice make sense, given my circumstances? (Red Wing, Minnesota)

**A.** Strictly speaking, the church's Code of Canon Law does not mandate a funeral Mass. Having said this, rarely should there not be a funeral Mass. The Eucharist is the central prayer of Catholics.

It is the act of worship that gives praise and thanks to God for the victory of Jesus over sin and death, and it commends the deceased to God's tender mercy. This is the most powerful prayer that can be offered on a deceased person's behalf, and why should a Catholic who has died be deprived of that benefit?

A funeral Mass can also be inspirational and educational for those in attendance, including non-Catholics as well as Catholics who may have fallen away from regular practice. Each element -- the scriptural readings, the homily, the music and the prayers -- reminds those in attendance that God conquers all

things, including death. I would think long and hard before deciding not to have a funeral Mass -- especially for myself!

**Q.** In my diocesan newspaper, I read recently that in 1966 Pope Paul VI reduced the Lenten days of fasting and abstinence to two: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

I am a cradle Catholic, still practicing and now 75 years old. I have fasted all 40 days of Lent for years and years, as I understood was prescribed. How is it that I am just hearing now about the lifting of that rigorous rule? For many years, fasting -- with only one full meal a day -- was extremely difficult for me. Why was there no broadcast of the change? (Indianapolis)

**A.** I have just read on-line an Associated Press story from Feb. 17, 1966, which ran on front pages of newspapers across America. The article leads by saying that "Pope Paul VI decreed major changes today in the centuries-old rules of fasting and abstinence for Roman Catholics." It goes on to explain that "days of fasting during the Lenten season were reduced to two -- Ash Wednesday and Good Friday."

This does not mean, of course, that the change was explained well and thoroughly from every Catholic pulpit in America, so you may well have missed it through no fault of your own. But looking back now, what have you lost?

You made a greater sacrifice, in memory of the sufferings of Jesus, than you were required to do -- and I can only believe that you have stored up credits where they matter most. (I should add, though, that if fasting might prove harmful to someone's health, any reasonable priest would dispense that person immediately.)

*Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at [askfather-doyle@gmail.com](mailto:askfather-doyle@gmail.com) and 40 Hopewell St. Albany, N.Y. 12208.*



## For The Journey

By Effie Caldarola  
Moving Forward,  
With Sweet Memories  
Of The Past

The message came from someone out in the farm community where I grew up. There was going to be an auction, she said, and two of the stained glass windows from the little church I attended as a child were coming back up for sale after all these years.

Like many Catholics in the U.S., I once went through the trauma of my childhood church closing. The reasons, a shortage of priests, an exodus from family farms, aren't too different from what people in urban areas hear now: The population is shifting, the old ethnic neighborhoods, like the tightknit farm communities, are breaking up and moving on.

If you've been through it, you know the pain.

My church was called St. Patrick's Dublin, a mission of St. Patrick's of Clyde, another country church a few miles away. My great-grandfather, who fled the Irish famine, was one of Dublin's founders.

Dublin was a simple little white building nestled amid cornfields and dusty country roads. But the Irish farmers did justice to the place. They brought saplings up from the river and lined the area with trees. They brought a statue of St. Patrick, the familiar one with a shamrock proclaiming the Trinity, and they brought in lovely stained glass windows.

I was the fourth generation of my family to live in that community, which eventually became a mixture of Irish and Bohemians. Since Dublin was a mission, baptisms were done at Clyde, but my mother insisted I be baptized at Dublin's altar rail. That's an enduring grace.

When Dublin closed and an auction was held, I was finished with college and living away. I did attend the last wedding, of a close childhood friend, at the church. Old photos reveal a beautiful bride and a groom dressed in some outlandish 1970s plaids.

The tiny church was packed for our last celebration. It was a bittersweet day, and I still remember a man turning around when he heard me sob.

Soon, everything was auctioned, including the church, under the edict that it be dismantled so as not to emerge as a barn or pigpen. A memorial was placed at the side of the unpaved road; otherwise only memories remained.

First Communion, Christmas Masses at 7 a.m., baseball games in the field south of the church, the day my little brother -- in his haste to start the fun at the church picnic -- tripped carrying the baked beans and sent the casserole flying.

I remember an evening as an adolescent, sitting outside the confessional with the parish priest, the two of us the only people in the little building, me tongue-tied about confession, he tongue-tied and not knowing how to help me speak. I remember the ominous Midwestern storm clouds rolling in as I left Dublin that night.

Hearing that something from those decades long ago had re-emerged was startling.

Should I go to the auction? It was a long drive out to a remote farm. I didn't want to try to find the place alone, and I had no one to go with. But I think maybe something else held me back.

Instead, on that bright day heralding the beginning of spring, I kept to my plan to attend my political party's caucus at a local school. Hundreds of people poured in, the mood respectful and convivial. It was an exercise in participatory democracy at its finest, all about tomorrow's America.

Memories are wonderful, grace is enduring, but windows come and go. That little church had been my life, but on that sunny Saturday, everything was all about tomorrow.

Benedict The Moor  
1526 - 1589  
Feast - April 4



Born near Messina, on the Italian island of Sicily, Benedict was the son of African slaves who, as their eldest son, was given his freedom. Growing up, he was nicknamed "il moro sante" ("the holy Moor") for his piety and good works. He became a hermit and then the community's superior; but, after the pope ordered them to disband in 1562, Benedict became a Franciscan lay brother. He served as cook, but drew many visitors and supplicants with his reputation for holiness and miracles. Despite his illiteracy, Benedict was chosen as superior and also as novice master, before being allowed to return to his kitchen refuge. He is a patron saint of Palermo, Sicily, and of blacks in the United States.



Photo By Bruce A. Tomaselli

**PARISH REPRESENTATIVES:** Terry and John Carnicella represented Saint Mary Parish, Altoona, and received the Holy Oils, at the Monday, March 21 celebration of the Chrism Mass.



Photo By Tony DeGol

**SEMINARIANS:** All six Diocesan seminarians served at the altar at the Chrism Mass. Pictured first row (left to right): Jonathan Dickson; Father Matthew Reese, Director of Vocations; and Peter Crowe. Second row (left to right): Michael Pleva; Devin Crouse; Mark Groeger; and Austin Keith.

## Chrism Mass Inaugurated Holy Week Celebrations



Photo By Bruce A. Tomaselli

**PREPARING THE CHRISM:** With a silver spoon, Bishop Mark L. Bartchak mixes aromatic balsam with olive oil, preparing the mixture for the blessing that will render it Holy Chrism, one of three Holy Oils blessed during the Chrism Mass celebrated Monday, March 21, at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona. The Bishop was joined by the priests and deacons of the Diocese in the celebration, which was witnessed by representatives of every parish faith community, sent by their pastors to receive the oils which will be used in worship throughout the coming year. Also blessed were the Oil of Catechumens and the Oil of the Sick.

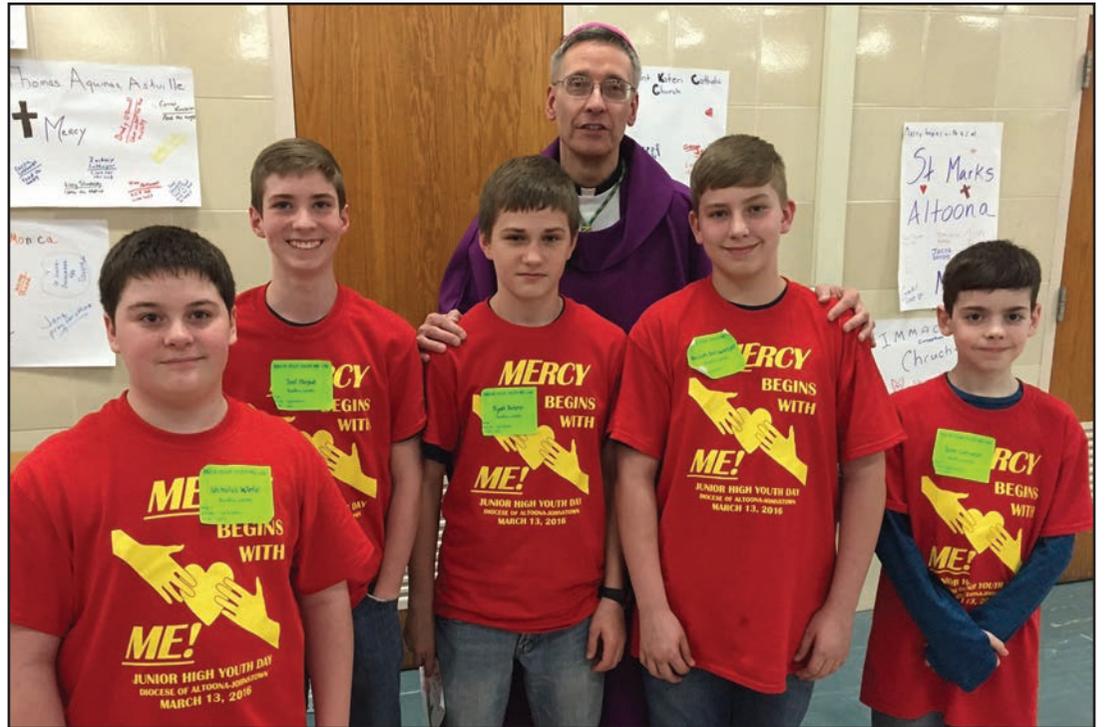
The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the Lord and a day of vindication by our God, to comfort all who mourn; To place on those who mourn in Zion a diadem instead of ashes, to give them oil of gladness in place of mourning, a glorious mantle instead of a listless spirit.

-- Isaiah 61: 1 - 3A



Photo By Bruce A. Tomaselli

**PRIESTS:** (Left to right) Monsignor Timothy P. Stein, pastor of Saint Mary Parish, Altoona and editor of **The Catholic Register**, and Father Mark S. Begly, pastor of Our Mother of Sorrows Parish, Johnstown and Vicar Forane (Dean) of the Johnstown Deanery, bow to kiss the altar at the beginning of the Chrism Mass celebration. During the Mass all the priests present renewed the promises they made on the day of their ordination to the presbyterate.



**BASILICA MEMBERS:** Members of the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel Parish in Loretto were among the dozens of students participating in Junior High Youth Day 2016. Pictured with Bishop Mark L. Bartchak are (left to right): Nicholas Wirfel, Joel Hogue, Ryan Bohrer, Mason Beiswenger, and John Corcoran.

**MERCY MUSIC:** Will Smith leads students in song during Mass at Junior High Youth Day. Smith, of the Diocese of Greensburg, was the keynote presenter at the event and wrote the song “Mercy Begins With Me,” mirroring the theme of JHYD.

## ‘Mercy’ Theme Of Junior High Youth Day

**Photos And Text  
By Tony DeGol**

We are all familiar with the lyrics, “Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.” Students participating in this year’s Junior High Youth Day learned that the same can be said for mercy.

In honor of the Church’s celebration of a Year of Mercy, the theme of the day-long event was “Mercy Begins With Me.” Banners listing the Spiritual Works of Mercy were displayed throughout the auditorium of Bishop Carroll Catholic High School – home to JHYD each year – as a reminder to the youth of what they can do to be instruments of God’s infinite love and mercy.

“The one important thing we wanted them to realize was

that as baptized Catholics, they already receive mercy freely from God, and they should go out and share that mercy and forgiveness with other people,” said Francine Swope, coordinator of Youth Ministry, Religious Education, and Sacramental Preparation for the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. Swope’s office sponsors Junior High Youth Day each year for students in sixth, seventh, and eighth grade.

The Sunday, March 13 gathering included keynote addresses from Will Smith, Director for Liturgy and Music at Mother of Sorrows Parish in Murrysville in the Diocese of Greensburg; games; Reconciliation; and Mass with Bishop Mark L. Bartchak.

Smith, who has been a presenter at other Diocesan youth gatherings, engaged the students with a powerful mix of words

and music, including a song he wrote especially for the event. He drove home the point that in order to show mercy, there needs to be a link among head, heart, and hands.

“Without the understanding, the connection with your heart, and then the action, there can really be no mercy in a world that needs mercy so very much,” Smith stressed.

Offering practical suggestions for the youth, he urged them to not be boastful, but rather to carry out mercy quietly – indeed letting their actions speak louder than any words.

“Now that I learned about mercy, you just can’t leave people stranded,” said George Rozum, a member of Saints Gregory and Barnabas Parish in Johnstown. “After today, it’s going to be able to help me help other people in their lives.”

Stevie Webber, a member of Saint Mary (Immaculate Conception) Parish in Altoona, said she feels called to volunteer and make her community a better place.

“Mercy is about sharing love and doing things that can help others because you need to put other people before yourself,” she commented.

Bishop Mark saluted all those in attendance. In his homily, he talked about situations when embarrassment can lead to something awesome.

The group heard the Gospel story of a woman who was caught in adultery and dragged in front of Jesus by a group of men who wanted her to be stoned for her sin. The woman was embarrassed, ashamed, and frightened, the Bishop said.

Jesus told the men that any of them without sin should strike first. They backed away, and Jesus counseled and comforted the woman. He did not condemn her.

The Spiritual Works of Mercy were apparent throughout that Gospel reading, Bishop Mark noted.

“Mercy is when we recog-

nize how we are to be treated with forgiveness, with compassion, and with God’s love,” he said. “Our world needs mercy today. It needs all of those things you see on those green banners (referring to the Spiritual Works of Mercy). I hope you learn them, memorize them, but most of all, live by them.”

Perhaps JHYD attendee Anna Prostejovsky, a member of Saint Francis Xavier Parish in Cresson, summed up the message of the day best.

“If you say you love God, but don’t love your brother, then you truly don’t love God.”

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**EASTER VIGIL:** Holding a candle, Pope Francis enters Saint Peter's Basilica at the Vatican for the Easter Vigil celebration, Saturday, March 26. The pontiff baptized and confirmed 12 catechumens during the celebration.

## Easter

*(Continued From Page 5.)*

"All too often, these brothers and sisters of ours meet along the way death or, in any event, rejection by those who could offer them welcome and assistance."

Celebrating the Easter vigil March 26, Pope Francis said Easter is a celebration of hope, one that must begin within the hearts of each Christian.

"Christ wants to come and take us by the hand to bring us out of our anguish," he said in his homily. "This is the first stone to be moved aside this night: the lack of hope which imprisons us within ourselves. May the Lord free us from this trap, from being Christians without hope, who live as if the Lord were not

risen, as if our problems were the center of our lives.

"Today is the celebration of our hope, the celebration of this truth: nothing and no one will ever be able to separate us from his love," the pope said.

"The Lord is alive and wants to be sought among the living," Pope Francis said. "After having found him, each person is sent out by him to announce the Easter message, to awaken and resurrect hope in hearts burdened by sadness, in those who struggle to find meaning in life. This is so necessary today."

During the Easter vigil, Pope Francis baptized eight women and four men, including Yong-joon Lee, the South Korean ambassador to Italy, who took the baptismal name, Stephen. The ambassador's wife, taking the name Stella, was also

baptized.

One by one, the catechumens approached the pope who asked them if they wished to receive baptism. After responding, "Yes, I do," they lowered their heads as the pope poured water over their foreheads.

Confirming the 12 during the vigil, the pope asked the cardinals, bishops and priests present to join him in raising their hands and praying over the newly-baptized so that God would send forth the Holy Spirit upon them.

At the beginning of the vigil, after blessing the Easter fire, Pope Francis entered a darkened basilica, gently illuminated by the light of the Easter candle.

In his homily, reflecting on the Easter account from the Gospel of St. Luke, the pope noted how the disciples doubted the

testimony of the women returning from the empty tomb.

Peter, he said, was the first of the men to rise and run to the tomb, choosing not to "succumb to the somber atmosphere of those days, nor was he overwhelmed by his doubts."

"This marked the beginning of Peter's resurrection, the resurrection of his heart. Without giving in to sadness or darkness, he made room for hope; he allowed the light of God to enter into his heart, without smothering it," the pope said.

Like Peter and the women, he added, Christians cannot discover life by being "bereft of hope" and "imprisoned within ourselves" but, instead, must allow Christ to bring life and break open their tombs, sealed by "the stones of our rancor and the boulders of our past."

While problems will always remain, he said, Jesus' resurrection is a sure foundation of Christian hope and not "mere optimism, nor a psychological attitude or desire to be courageous."

The Holy Spirit "does not remove evil with a magic wand. But he pours into us the vitality of life, which is not the absence of problems, but the certainty of being loved and always forgiven by Christ, who for us has conquered sin, death and fear," he said.

Christians are called to awaken the same hope in the hearts of others, Pope Francis said. Without such witness the church risks becoming "an international organization full of followers and good rules, yet incapable of offering the hope for which the world longs."

# In The Alleghenies

(Continued From Page 6.)

## Red Mass

**Loretto:** Saint Francis University will host its annual Red Mass/Law Day on Friday, April 22, on its Loretto campus. Bishop Mark Bartchak, J.C.D., will serve as celebrant, and Father John Byrnes, will deliver the homily. The keynote address at the Law Day Lunch will be given by The Hon. Joy Flowers Conti, U.S. District Court of Western District of PA.

Father Brynes was appointed the third rector of the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel, Loretto, on Aug. 19, 2015. He is a member of the Eastern Regional Conference of Canonists and the Canon Law Society of America. He serves as Judicial Vicar for the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown, judge and Director of the Tribunal, as well as a lecturer in canon law for the office of Diaconal Formation. A fourth-degree Knight of Columbus, he has served on the Administrative Board of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference.

Father Byrnes is an alumnus of Bishop Carroll Catholic High School, Ebensburg, graduating as valedictorian in 1985. Father Byrnes completed his undergraduate degree in English literature and philosophy at the Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus, Ohio in 1989. He was assigned to studies in Rome, Italy in 1989. He completed his graduate studies in systematic theology at the Gregorian University in 1992. At the same university, he completed his licentiate in 1994, specializing in canon law. Father Byrnes received his priestly formation at the Pontifical North American College, Vatican City. While in Europe, he served in inner-city/interfaith ministry with Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity, among the Punjabi community, at Saint Anselm Parish in Southall, London, England.

He was ordained to the transitional diaconate by Cardinal James Hickey at Saint

Peter's Basilica, Vatican City. He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Joseph Adamec at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona, in 1994. He has served in high school, hospital and parish ministry in Johnstown, Altoona, Cresson and Loretto. Father Byrnes was Diocesan Vocation Director and curator of the Prince Gallitzin Chapel House from 2002 to 2006. He served as pastor of Saint Aloysius Parish, Cresson, from 2006 - 2015.

Judge Conti is the Chief United States District Judge of the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, assuming office in 2013. She was first nominated to the court by President George W. Bush in 2002. She was confirmed by the Senate on July 29, 2002, on a Senate vote and received her commission on July 31, 2002.

Born in Kane, Judge Conti graduated from Duquesne University with her Bachelor's degree in 1970, where she was a member of Alpha Phi. She later graduated from Duquesne University School of Law with a Juris Doctor degree in 1973. She was awarded a J.D. degree summa cum laude and distinguished herself as the first female editor-in-chief of the Duquesne Law Review.

Judge Conti began her legal career working as a law clerk

for Justice Louis L. Manderino, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania from 1973 - 1974. In 1974, she was the first woman lawyer to be hired by Kirkpatrick, Lockhart, Johnson & Hutchinson. In 1976, she joined the faculty of Duquesne University School of Law and became a tenured professor of law. In 1982, she returned to private practice with Kirkpatrick & Lockhart and became a partner in 1983. In 1996, she joined Buchanan Ingersoll, PC as a shareholder. She has been a prodigious author and lecturer on bankruptcy and corporate law.

The Red Mass will begin at 10:30 a.m. in the Immaculate Conception Chapel followed by lunch at the John F. Kennedy Student Center.

All area judges, lawyers, law enforcement officials, friends and area residents of all faiths are invited to participate in Red Mass/Law Day.

To register for lunch or find out more information about events contact Vickie Soyka at (814) 472 - 3001 or vsoyka@francis.edu.

## Holy Hour

**Johnstown:** In observance of the Year of Mercy, Bishop Mark L. Bartchak will preside at a Holy Hour to reach out to and to pray for individuals who are not engaged in the Catholic

Church. It will be held Thursday, May 12 at 6:00 p.m. at Saint Clement Church.

Altoona-Johnstown has announced that Rosemary Batzel, principal of Cathedral Catholic Academy in Johnstown, will also serve as Principal of Saint Andrew School in Johnstown for the remainder of the academic year.

Grace Guetta, who had served as Principal of Saint Andrew since 1997, passed away unexpectedly in February.

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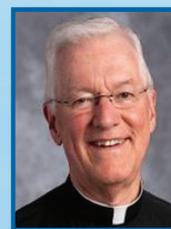
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# Now Showing

## Questions Of Faith At Heart Of 'Miracles'

By John Mulderig  
Catholic News Service

**NEW YORK (CNS)** -- The fact-based drama "Miracles From Heaven" (Columbia) tells a remarkable story.

Though director Patricia Riggen's screen version of Christy Beam's 2015 memoir is clearly designed for believers -- and sometimes feels padded -- even dedicated skeptics may have trouble dismissing its underlying narrative.

A wife and the mother of three daughters, Christy (Jen-

nifer Garner) is going about her everyday life in the Fort Worth area of Texas when tragedy strikes without warning: Her 10-year-old middle daughter Annabel (Kylie Rogers) develops an unexplained but seemingly unshakable illness.

Alarmed, Christy refuses to accept the series of more or less casually delivered misdiagnoses from unfocused doctors with which she's presented. And eventually, the grim truth emerges. Annabel's symptoms are identified as stemming from pediatric chronic intestinal pseudo-obstruction, or CIPO, a rare, painful and incurable condition



CNS Photo/Columbia Pictures

**MIRACLES FROM HEAVEN:** Jennifer Garner, Queen Latifah and Kylie Rogers star in a scene from the movie "Miracles From Heaven." The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

that prevents the body from digesting food.

Persistent Christy now focuses on obtaining the care of one of the few specialists in CIPO, Dr. Samuel Nurko (Eugenio Derbez). However, although kindly and caring, Dr. Nurko proves powerless to combat the disease -- and Annabel's death sentence stands.

Although Christy and her easygoing veterinarian husband, Kevin (Martin Henderson), are dedicated churchgoers -- John Carroll Lynch plays their good-humored pastor -- Christy's faith crumbles in the face of Annabel's current torment and impending demise. She finds herself unable to pray. She's also deeply angered by the misguided notions of some fellow parishioners who seem to entertain a pre-Christian understanding of the connection between sin and misfortune.

Yet a startling, almost inexplicable, turnaround awaits Christy -- one which is certainly providential if not indeed miraculous.

Though it may be aimed at a self-selecting audience of the already convinced, screenwriter Randy Brown's script minimizes neither its protagonist's crisis

of doubt nor the larger mystery of innocent suffering.

The dialogue also takes a wide view of what counts as a divinely inspired marvel, highlighting the above-and-beyond kindness shown to Christy and her clan by an ensemble of secondary characters. The most significant of these is Angela (Queen Latifah), a gregarious waitress who takes an instant -- and cheering -- shine to Annabel.

While squeaky clean as far as the normal array of objec-

tionable elements is concerned, "Miracles From Heaven" nonetheless includes both subjects and sights that make it inappropriate for the youngest viewers.

The film contains mature themes as well as potentially upsetting incidents and medical procedures. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

## Coming Up On 'Proclaim!'

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

**April 10** -- As the Diocese prepares to highlight the Spiritual Works of Mercy during this Year of Mercy, Benedictine Father Jude Brady, Pastor of Saint Benedict Parish in Carrolltown, offers ideas to put the Spiritual Works into practice.

**April 17** -- In celebration of Confirmation season in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, newly confirmed individuals will join the Bishop to talk about the power of receiving the Holy Spirit.

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# Mother Angelica, Foundress Of EWTN Dies Easter Sunday, Aged 92

By Catholic News Service

**BIRMINGHAM, Ala.** (CNS) -- Mother Angelica, who founded the Eternal Word Television Network and turned it into one of the world's largest religious media operations, died March 27 at age 92.

Feisty and outspoken, she was a major controversial figure in the U.S. church in the closing decades of the 20th century. At the same time, the international scope of EWTN's media operations gave her a ready calling card at the Vatican.

She built the venture into a network that transmits programs 24 hours a day to more than 230 million homes in 144 countries via cable and other technologies. It broadcasts in English and several other languages.

Mother Angelica had been ill for years. She was operated on Dec. 24, 2001, in a Birmingham hospital to remove a blood clot in her brain after she suffered her second major stroke. It left her with partial paralysis and a speech impediment.

Last November, she was placed on a feeding tube as she continued to battle lingering effects of the strokes. In February, members of her religious order, the Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration, said she was in delicate condition and asked for prayers for her.

Mother Angelica died at her order's Our Lady of Angels Monastery in Hanceville, where she "was surrounded by the prayers and love of her spiritual daughters, sons and dear friends," said a statement from the Poor Clares.

A funeral Mass was celebrated April 1 in the upper church of the Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament by bishops and clergy from around the world. Father Joseph Mary Wolfe, a Franciscan Missionary of the Eternal Word, was the homilist. Following her funeral,

Mother Angelica's body was interred in the shrine's Crypt Chapel.

"This is a sorrow-filled day for the entire EWTN family. Mother has always, and will always, personify EWTN, the network which she founded," Michael P. Warsaw, chairman and CEO, said in a statement.

"In the face of sickness and long-suffering trials, Mother's example of joy and prayerful perseverance exemplified the Franciscan spirit she held so dear. We thank God for Mother Angelica and for the gift of her extraordinary life," he said. "Her accomplishments and legacies in evangelization throughout the world are nothing short of miraculous and can only be attributed to divine providence and her unwavering faithfulness to Our Lord."

In 2009, Pope Benedict XVI awarded the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Cross to Mother Angelica and Deacon Bill Steltemeier, then-chairman of EWTN's board of governors, for distinguished service to the church. The cross, whose name is Latin for "for the church and the pope," is the highest papal honor that can be conferred on laypeople and clergy.

Because of ill health, Mother Angelica received the award in her private quarters. But in the public ceremony, Bishop Robert J. Baker of Birmingham said "Mother Angelica's effort has been at the vanguard of the new evangelization and has had a great impact on our world."

Mother Angelica was equally at home giving a scale model of her satellite dish to St. John Paul II or ruffling the feathers of high-ranking church officials with whom she disagreed.

In 1997, she got into a public squabble with Cardinal Roger M. Mahony, then archbishop of Los Angeles, when, on her TV show "Mother Angelica Live," she criticized his pastoral letter on the Eucharist, saying it was confusing about the real presence of Christ.



CNS Photo/Courtesy EWTN

**MOTHER ANGELICA  
P.C.P.A.**

"I'm afraid my obedience in that diocese would be absolutely zero. And I hope everyone else's in that diocese is zero," she said.

In 1990, EWTN canceled an exclusive contract to air programs produced by the U.S. bishops after disagreements over EWTN's coverage of bishops' conference meetings.

In 1993, she termed "blasphemous" a church-sponsored World Youth Day event during St. John Paul II's visit to Denver because a mime troupe used a woman to portray Jesus in a dramatized Way of the Cross. She said the event showed the "destructive force" of the "liberal church in America."

Mother Angelica often said she accompanied her faith with a "theology of risk" that gave her the resolve to undertake large projects without any clear indication she would succeed.

"Faith is having one foot on the ground and the other up in the air, waiting for the Lord to put the ground under it," she once said of her hands-on approach to doing things.

"We have lost the theology of risk and replaced it with a theology of assurance" that says "you have to know what's going to happen before you embark on something new," she said on another occasion.

Before starting EWTN, Mother Angelica wrote what she

called "mini-books" on moral and inspirational themes. The popularity of the mini-books attracted media attention, and Mother Angelica began appearing on television talk shows. She said these appearances made her aware of the tremendous influence television has in spreading messages.

Prior to starting EWTN, Mother Angelica was renting studio space from a Birmingham television station to produce videotapes of her talks on religious issues for airing on the Christian Broadcasting Network. She broke the relationship with the network after it aired a movie she considered blasphemous.

With the support of her religious community, Mother Angelica began consulting with media experts about starting her own TV station, hatching the idea of EWTN. She was granted a license by the Federal Communications Commission, and EWTN went on the air in August 1981.

She began with \$200 and little knowledge about TV production. The operation started in a building meant to be a garage on the grounds of the Our Lady of the Angels Monastery she headed in the Irondale suburb of Birmingham. Originally its daily programming of several hours was carried by three cable systems.

In 1992, Mother Angelica launched the short-wave EWTN Global Catholic Radio which broadcasts in English and Spanish. In 1996, EWTN started a satellite-delivered AM/FM radio network with programming also available for rebroadcast by local stations.

In 1998, Mother Angelica stepped down as the head of EWTN and Deacon Steltemeier was appointed chairman and CEO. He died in 2013.

Mother Angelica was born April 20, 1923, as Rita Rizzo in an Italian neighborhood in Canton, Ohio. She described her childhood as rough. Her father

abandoned the family when she was young and her parents eventually divorced. She lived with her mother and said their existence was marked by poverty.

In 1944, she joined her religious order and professed her solemn vows in Canton in 1953 as Sister Mary Angelica of the Annunciation.

In 1962, she founded Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, a move she said was to fulfill a promise to Christ if she emerged from an operation able to walk. The operation was necessary after she slipped while using an electric scrubbing machine and was thrown against the wall, injuring her spine. After the operation, she used a leg brace.



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# Mother Teresa's Canonization Expected To Draw Local Pilgrims To Rome In September

With the Vatican confirming that Mother Teresa of Kolkata will be canonized on Sunday, September 4, it is expected that many pilgrims from the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown will join a pilgrimage, sponsored by **The Catholic Register**, to attend the event in which the foundress of the Missionaries of Charity will be named a Saint.

"Mother Teresa is beloved by many people in our Diocese, because of her love for the poorest of the poor, and her strong defense of all human life from conception, until natural death," said Monsignor Timothy P. Stein, editor of **The Catholic Register**. "I am sure many of them will want to take advantage of the once - in - a - lifetime opportunity to attend her canonization ceremony, and to pray with Pope Francis and thousands of other people from all around the world, for her intercession.

"I am certain that this is an event that no one will ever forget."

From the time the pilgrims arrive in Italy on Tuesday, August 30, following their Monday, August 29 departure from Dulles International Airport in Virginia, the local pilgrims will be walking in the footsteps of the Saints. They will visit Siena, home of the Dominican Saint Catherine, and spend two nights in Assisi, visiting the shrines and holy places associ-



CNS Photo/Stefano Relladini, Reuters

**CANONIZATION:** A large crowd is seen in Saint Peter's Square at the Vatican, as Pope Francis celebrated the canonization Mass for Saints John XXIII and John Paul II, April 27, 2014. Pilgrims from the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown will be part of a similar crowd of worshippers September 4, when they attend the canonization of Mother Teresa, foundress of the Missionaries of Charity.

ated with Saint Francis and Saint Clare. Upon arriving in Italy the pilgrims will tour Pisa, spend two nights in Montecatini from which they will visit Florence, and will also visit the hilltop city of Orvieto, the sight of a Eucharistic Miracle, honored by a 14th century Cathedral dedicated to the Assumption of Mary.

Arriving in Rome Saturday, September 3, pilgrims will take part in the canonization Mass, be part of a special procession



CNS Photo.Nancy Wiechec

MOTHER TERESA

to the Vatican to enter the Holy Door, and visit each of the other three Major Basilicas with Holy Doors in order to obtain the special indulgence for the Extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy. They will continue to walk in the footsteps of Saints as they visit the catacombs where many early Saints and Christian martyrs were buried, and where the infant Christian community of Rome worshipped.

On Wednesday, September 7, pilgrims traveling with **The Catholic Register** will attend Pope Francis' general audience in Saint Peter's Square.

The **Register** pilgrimage will run parallel to one sponsored by **The Catholic Standard** of Washington DC. Donald, Cardinal Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington, may be participating, and the two groups will then join the Cardinal for Mass on one of the days in Rome.

The total cost for the pilgrimage is \$4,299.00, including flights to and from Dulles, all taxes, hotels, the services of a professional tour guide, a luxury motor coach, breakfast each day, and most dinners. Transportation to and from Dulles will also be provided.

To book a place on **The Catholic Register** Holy Year Of Mercy pilgrimage call UNITOURS at 800 - 777 - 7432, and ask to speak to Marianna.

More details and booking information can also be found online at [www.unitours.com/client/DioceseOfAltoonaItalyPilgrimage.html](http://www.unitours.com/client/DioceseOfAltoonaItalyPilgrimage.html).

One month prior to the pilgrimage's departure date, an informational meeting will be conducted by Belinda Lewis Held from UNITOURS, to provide final travel details to all those persons who will be making the trip.

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