

The Catholic Register

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YOUNG PEOPLE PRAY FOR LIFE: A group of young people from the Penn State Catholic Campus Ministry at Penn State's University Park campus attended the Thursday, January 21 Pro - Life Prayer Service at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona. They were accompanied by Benedictine Father Matthew T. Laffey, director of campus ministry at Penn State, and were greeted by Bishop Mark L. Bartchak following the service.

Bishop Extols Young People As 'Light To The Nations' Of The Pro - Life Movement

**Photos And Text
By Msgr. Timothy P. Stein**

*It is too little for you
to be my servant,
to raise up the tribes of Jacob,
and restore
the survivors of Israel;
I will make you
a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach
to the ends of the earth.*

- - Isaiah 49:6

According to Bishop Mark L. Bartchak, those words from the Prophet Isaiah, speaking of

the vocation of God's Suffering Servant, apply in a special way to young people who are committed to the Pro - Life movement.

"I am proud of our young people and encouraged by their enthusiasm for Pro - Life issues and for their participation in the annual March for Life," the Bishop said at a Thursday, January 21 Pro - Life Prayer Service at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona. The service is held annually on the eve of the national March for Life held in Washington DC on January 22, the anniversary of the day in 1973 when the United

States Supreme Court in the Roe vs. Wade decision made abortion on demand the law of the land.

"The annual March for Life is one expression of how God's people can follow the suffering servant, Jesus Christ, and become a light to the nations," the Bishop said, noting "The annual March for Life is a premiere opportunity for the Church to announce to the entire nation and to the world that all human life is sacred, from the moment of conception to natural death."

About 40 persons attended the Cathedral service. Among them was a group of students

representing Catholic Campus Ministry at Penn State's University Park Campus. During the service they heard the proclamation of verses 1 - 6 of Chapter 49 of the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. "When this part of the Book of Isaiah was written, there was plenty of doom and gloom for God's people of Israel," Bishop Mark explained.

"Jerusalem had been destroyed and the Israelites lived in exile as slaves in Babylon," he said. "But because of their faith, the hope of the Israelites was sustained - - at least partially - - because they believed that suffering leads to purification."

And, Bishop Mark continued, the people lived in the hope of their liberation through a leader, "and not just any leader. The leader would be the Messiah, who is especially known to be a suffering servant. And this suffering servant would transform the entire people of God into a suffering servant." Jesus is that Messiah and suffering servant, Bishop Mark said "and each of us as individuals and all of us as God's people have a role to play in being a light to the nations."

(Continued On Page 10.)

Adult Enrichment

Spring Classes

Johnstown: The Office of Adult Enrichment and Lay Ecclesial Ministry announces the following classes to be offered this Spring:

- - **Christian Prayer and Spirituality:** Prayer is conversation with God. Prayer may be oral or mental, occasional or constant. It is pouring out the soul, crying to heaven, seeking, making supplication, giving thanks and drawing nearer to God.

In this eight week course, participants will explore both traditional and contemporary expressions of Christian prayer and spirituality that will help one deepen their relationship with God, including Lectio Divina, (Latin for "sacred reading"), a method of prayer and spiritual reading to help discover God's will in all things.

This course is being offered at two locations:

- - Saint Catherine of Siena, Duncansville, Sister Marilyn Welch of the Carmelite Community of the Word; Wednesdays: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., March 2, 9, 16, 30; April 6, 13, 20, 27.

- - Saint Patrick School Building, Johnstown, Deacon Michael Russo; Tuesdays: 6:30

- 8:30 p.m., March 1, 8, 15, 29; April 5, 12, 19; May 3.

The cost of this course which includes registration and class materials is \$55.00.

- - **Church History:** The history of Christianity is a story of diversity, multiple developments, and pluralism. Yet throughout every era of Christian history the underlying and unifying thread has been a desire among the followers of Jesus the Christ to discern the presence of the Spirit and the marks of the Creator within the many faces of human culture, and to welcome and work to bring about a fuller realization of God's Kingdom within our midst.

This 10 week course offers an overview of Church history focusing upon Christianity in Europe from apostolic times to the present. Questions are raised about the role of the laity and models of Christian ministry as each era of Christian history is reviewed.

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CNS Photo/Maurizio Brambatti, EPA

POPE OPENS HOLY DOOR: Pope Francis opens the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica to inaugurate the Jubilee Year of Mercy at the Vatican Tuesday, December 8, 2015.

Pilgrims Will Walk Through Holy Doors

Pilgrims joining **The Catholic Register's** Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy pilgrimage to Italy will have the opportunity to walk in the footsteps of Pope Francis as they pass through the Holy Doors at each of the four major basilicas at the Vatican and the city of Rome.

A request is being made to the Vatican for the Altoona - Johnstown pilgrims to go in procession from Rome's Castel Sant'Angelo to the Vatican where they will enter the basilica through the Holy Door, opened by the Holy Father on December 8, 2015. They will also walk through the Holy Doors at the Basilicas of Saint Mary Major, Saint John Lateran and Saint Paul Outside the Walls.

The Catholic Register pilgrimage will take place from Monday, August 29 to Thursday, September 8. Pilgrims will arrive in Pisa on Tuesday, August 30, and from there will travel to Montecatini, Florence, Siena, Orvieto and Assisi, before arriving in Rome on Saturday, September 3, where it is anticipated that they will take part in the Sunday, September 4 Canonization of Blessed Mother Teresa of Kolkata. Optional excursions to other Italian sites will be offered on a free day, Tuesday, September 6. Pilgrims will take part in Pope Francis' general audience in Saint Peter's Square on Wednesday, September 7, before flying home on Thursday, September 8.

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

An informational session is scheduled for **Saturday, February 20** at 1:00 p.m. at Saint Mary Memorial Hall, 4th Avenue and 15th Street in Altoona (cafeteria on lower level). Belinda Lewis Held, associate director of religious and cultural tours from UNITOURS, will be present to answer all questions. RSVP to belinda@unitours.com if planning to attend.

There is a 30 - day early booking period; if you book before Wednesday, February 24, you will receive a \$50.00 discount.

To book this pilgrimage, call UNITOURS at 800 - 777 - 7432 and ask for Marianna.

More details and booking information can also be found online at www.unitours.com/client/DioceseOfAltoonaItalyPilgrimage.html.

To read what Pope Francis has to say about shrines and pilgrimages, turn to "The Pope Teaches" on page 8 of this issue of **The Catholic Register**.

LENTEN FISH DINNER

Queen Of Peace Parish Center in Patton (Upper Level) Fridays of Lent (including **Good Friday**), starting

Friday, February 12.

MENU Includes:



Choice of baked or fried fish or Salmon cake; choice of baked potato or french fries. The dinner also includes: fresh baked rolls, cole slaw, stewed tomatoes, macaroni & cheese, haluski, dessert and beverage. Pierogies a la carte.

4-7 PM

ADULTS, \$10/CHILDREN (5-12), \$5/CHILDREN (UNDER 5), FREE.

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In The Alleghenies



All Parishes Will Celebrate Sacrament Of Reconciliation February 11

Observing the Jubilee of Mercy and welcoming the beginning of the Lenten Season, the Local Church will make the Sacrament of Reconciliation, an encounter with the compassionate mercy of God, available throughout the eight counties of our Diocese the day following Ash Wednesday on Thursday, February 11. From 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., the faithful are invited to receive the Sacrament of Penance at their local faith community. If your pastor is responsible for more than one community, please check the parish bulletin for your particular schedule.

Saint Francis President Elected To National Position

Third Order Regular Franciscan Father Malachi Van Tassell Ph.D, president of Saint Francis University, Loretto, has been elected chair of the board of the Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities (AFCU). He will begin his term at the AFCU annual conference in Washington DC, this month.



FATHER MALACHI VAN TASSELL T.O.R.

Formally launched in 1997, the AFCU works to support its member institutions in their mission of Catholic higher education as characterized by the Franciscan values of love and respect for one another and for all creation, recognition that God is the Father of all persons, commitment to the search for truth and service to those in need. The association provides a forum for

dialog and fosters and facilitates collaboration among members.

“I look forward to serving as chair of the AFCU. I am accepting this position at an exciting time in the life of the association, which is nearing completion of its strategic plan,” Father Malachi said. “As we seek to implement that plan, I support the AFCU’s strategic vision for promoting the Franciscan charism found in our institutions, maximizing student success, and promoting opportunities to enhance the Franciscan ‘brand’ of higher education.”

Father Malachi was first elected to the AFCU board shortly after becoming president of Saint Francis University in 2014. Saint Francis is one of 24 member institutions of the AFCU.

Lenten Mission In Loretto

A Lenten Mission in honor of Our Lady of Loretto will be held at the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel in Loretto, beginning Sunday, March 6 and ending Friday, March 11. The mission director will be Father Daniele Vallecorsa, pastor of Saint Louise Parish in the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

The opening homily of the Mission will be preached at all Masses the weekend of March

5 - 6. On Sunday, March 6, Mission Prayers, homily and Benediction will be offered at 7:00 p.m. Confessions will be heard following the service. On the weekday evenings, Monday through Friday, Mass with Mission Prayers and homily will be offered at 7:00 p.m.

Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions will be held at 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday during the Mission.

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, Father John Byrnes and the parish family of the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel invite all to participate in what they hope will become an annual tradition in their parish, and to place their petitions before the Blessed Mother.

Those unable to attend in person may send their petitions to the Basilica at P.O. Box 10, Loretto PA, 15940.

(Continued From Page 2.)

This course is being offered at three locations:

- - Saint Catherine of Siena, Duncansville, Donald Gibboney; Tuesdays: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., March 8, 15, 29; April 5, 12, 19, 26; May 3, 10, 17.

- - Saint John Vianney, Mundy’s Corner, Deacon Tom Buige; Tuesdays: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., March 8, 15, 22, 29; April 5, 12, 19, 26; May 3, 10.

- - Holy Spirit Parish, Lock Haven, Deacon Chip Young; Wednesdays: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., March 9, 16, 30; April 6, 13, 20, 27; May 4, 11, 18.

The cost of this course which includes registration and material is \$55.00.

For registration or more information contact Office of Adult Enrichment and Lay Ecclesial Ministry, 625 Park Avenue, Johnstown, PA 15902; (814) 361 - 2000; e - mail: mheinze@dioceseaj.org.

Online visit www.dioceseaj.org/lay-ecclesial-ministry.

Community

Tax Preparation Help

Cresson: Cresson, Pa. – Some area residents seeking help with tax returns may find it through the Mount Aloysius College’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. VITA is now in its seventh year at Mount Aloysius College and this year MAC business students will be joined by accounting students from Penn Highlands Community College. The collaboration between Mount Aloysius and Penn Highlands gives qualified area residents more locations for greater convenience. VITA Tax preparation assistance will be available from February 8 through April 13.

(Continued On Page 6.)

Garvey Manor Nursing Home & Our Lady of the Alleghenies Residence

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Point Of View

As the door swung quickly open my youngest son leaped into the house with a huge grin on his face! "Boy, you must have a great day at school! I enthusiastically responded. "Best Day Ever!" he said. As my middle schooler leaped toward me, I noticed in his outstretched hand a small piece of paper, the very ticket that turned an ordinary day to the "Best Day Ever" type of day.

So what was it? A perfect report card? No. An invitation to a cool birthday party? No. It was a very small piece of paper with only a few words; a couple of sentences written by his teacher, a message although tiny in size spoke volumes to his heart. The exact message, "I am so proud you choose daily to love God and you show his love everyday to each of your classmates. God has a great plan for your life and I am so thankful God has chosen me to be your teacher!"

As his smile widened with each sentence I read, tears began to well up in my eyes. "Yes, I can see why this was your best day ever!" I quickly remarked, trying to hide the tears that were beginning to fall. I told him how very proud I was, for in my eyes there is no greater compliment I could have received about my son, than to know He was choosing every day to be God-like in his character to all those he has met.

After acknowledging my words, my joy-filled son ran up to his room to play his X-box leaving me there in the living room alone, eyes full of tears



Family Matters

By Amy Kanich

The Best Day Ever!

and a heart filled with gratitude. I prayed, thank you God for my precious child, this sweet message of affirmation and especially for this teacher who thought enough to lovingly affirm him in his Christ-like behavior, probably never fully realizing she just etched a forever memory on his sweet pre-teen heart.

As we celebrate faith filled education this week, I want to thank the men and women who have touched and will continue to have an impact on my children's lives.

- I want to thank all of my children's teachers who not only provide them with an exceptional education but are also so purposefully and intentionally sowing the seeds of faith within each and every subject they learn. Thank you for always finding a way to point their lessons, whether it be science, history, art or music back to their loving Creator. Your classrooms are surely a God ordained mission field, where the seeds of our faith are firmly planted. Thank you!

- I want to thank all of my children's teachers who take the time to pray with them throughout their school day reminding them God is present in

every moment of their lives. It warms my heart that you pray with my children on the average of twelve times a day. It makes me realize that you have the opportunity to pray with my children more than I do during the day and for accepting this great honor I thank you.

- I want to thank all of the teachers who hold my children accountable for their actions and behavior, not simply holding up the School Rules handbook, but also for pulling out the Bible asking them to be accountable to God Himself. For your courage to hold high standards are helping me to raise not only good and respectable children but faith-filled and Godly ones as well. Thank you!

- I want to thank those very special teachers who are always so eagerly seeking new ways to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ alive in their daily religion classes. You have accepted a huge responsibility for teaching the youth in this modern day culture, a task that cannot be easy, a mission I am confident you realize can only be accomplished by a having a deep, personal and intimate relationship with God Himself. Thank You!



Another Perspective

By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein
No Lasting City . . .

Driving home from work one day last Fall, I got quite a shock when I saw the former Tate's Superette building on 17th Street in Altoona being demolished.

Tate's represented a big chunk of my childhood. My Grandmother and Grandfather Ferramini lived just up the hill from the store; you could see the store from the kitchen window of their house. My sister and I used to love being sent there on errands by Grandma. For two kids from Wilmore, shopping at Tate's was like being catapulted into the big time! A supermarket right in town! It may have been just a neighborhood Mom and Pop store, but to us it was someplace special, unlike anything we knew in our own hometown. The Dutch Hill neighborhood where Grandma and Grandpa lived used to have many such stores; now I live in that same neighborhood, and the places I knew as a child are long gone, or have changed beyond all recognition. Seeing the Tate's building go seemed like the final nail in the coffin of my long gone childhood.

I've had that feeling before. None of the houses that my Grandparents lived in are in the hands of our family anymore. The same is true of my great-grandfather's house in South Altoona, a place that seemed like a piece of paradise when I was a kid. Following my father's death my mother sold the house I grew up in, in Wilmore, and moved back to Altoona. When she died some nine months later, I had to face the realization that I really didn't have a home anymore. That was tough.

Our parish faith communities have had to face the same reality. Across town from where I live and minister at Saint Mary's Parish, the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament Parish has demolished their former convent and school. I could keep tabs on the project by just looking across to the opposite hill. The Altoona skyline has changed with their removal. Sic transit gloria mundi - - so passes the glory of the world.

What Cathedral Parish is facing now has been faced by other parishes, and will be faced by other parishes in the probably not too distant future. The days when we needed so many buildings - - so many big buildings - - is passing. We have been called to let go of much that was precious to us - - places that served us so long and so well. But when I think of what has been allowed to go, what has slipped away, I am reminded of something I read about the decision the Sisters of Mercy made in 1979 to sell their Motherhouse in Bethesda MD: the Sisters were challenged to realize that their unity, their communion with each other, was not found in the buildings they owned, but in the mission they shared. And what was true of those Sisters is certainly true of us as the Church. Our mission to make Jesus known and loved is not dependent upon our buildings. Rather it is dependent upon each of us and our commitment to sharing our faith in Jesus with the world.

So, buildings come and buildings go. Some become parking lots, which is one very practical outcome to their demolition. Others are repurposed and put to new uses. The former Saints Peter and Paul Church in Altoona is now the home to a Coptic Orthodox faith community. Several former church buildings in Johnstown's Cambria City have found new uses as cultural centers. The buildings may pass from our hands, but the lessons we learned in them endure. We are a pilgrim people, after all, a people on the move. "For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the one that is to come" (Hebrews 13:14). As we tear down, move out, let go and move on, we recall that Jesus said "Do not let your hearts be troubled," (John 14:1) as He reminded us that in His father's house there are many dwelling places (John 14:2). Our true home is in heaven. That's the only home we should cling to.



Artwork By Megan Rusnak
8th Grade
Saint Benedict School, Johnstown

Celebrating The Extraordinary Jubilee Of Mercy

After the announcement of this Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy by Pope Francis, the Diocese formed a committee to plan and organize events and celebrations for this very special year. As part of the observance, during the six weeks of Lent, parishes, schools and campuses are all asked to focus on the message of Jesus in Matthew 25:35 - 40

"For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger, and you welcomed me, naked, and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison, and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer Him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison and visit you?' And the King will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did it for me.'"

Pope Will Commission Missionaries Of Mercy

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- More than 1,000 "missionaries of mercy" from all over the world will receive a special mandate from Pope Francis to preach and teach about God's mercy, said Archbishop Rino Fisichella.

About 700 of the missionaries who were chosen by Pope Francis will be in Rome to receive their special mandate in person during an Ash Wednesday ceremony in St. Peter's Basilica Feb. 10, said the president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization, the office organizing events for the Year of Mercy.

For the holy year, which runs until Nov. 20, Pope Francis said he would designate "missionaries of mercy" to be unique signs of God's mercy. He is also giving them special authority to pardon sins that carry penalties that only the Holy See can lift.

During a news conference at the Vatican Jan. 29, Archbishop Fisichella said there had been a huge response from priests and religious men who -- with permission from their bishops or superiors -- requested to serve as these special missionaries.

The original plan was to have just 800 missionaries, however, the number of requests was so great, 1071 men ended up being chosen, Archbishop Fisichella said. The missionaries will serve in their own dioceses, but they may be invited by other bishops to visit other dioceses as well.

The pontifical council will send out to all the world's bishops a list of the names and personal contact information of all the missionaries appointed by the pope, the archbishop said.

It will then be up to an individual bishop to reach out to a missionary on the list to invite him to his diocese, as well as cover expenses and provide what may be needed for his stay, the archbishop said.

Missionaries were chosen from all over the world, he said, including China, United Arab Emirates and East Timor. There were to be 125 missionaries from the United States and 10 missionaries from Canada, the council said.

"It is only the pope who nominates these missionaries, not the bishops, and it is he who entrusts them with the mandate to announce the beauty of the mercy of God while being humble and wise confessors who possess a great capacity to forgive those who approach the confessional," the archbishop said.

Our Lenten observance is as follows:

Week 1 - February 14—Feed the Hungry/Give Drink to the Thirsty

Week 2 - February 21—Shelter the Homeless/Welcome the Stranger

Week 3 - February 28—Clothe the Naked

Week 4 - March 6—Care for the Sick

Week 5 - March 13—Visiting the Imprisoned

Week 6 - March 20—Bury the Dead



The logo and the motto together provide a fitting summary of what the Jubilee Year is all about. The motto Merciful Like the Father (taken from the Gospel of Luke, 6:36) serves as an invitation to follow the merciful example of the Father who asks us not to judge or condemn but to forgive and to give love and forgiveness without measure (cfr. Lk 6:37-38). The logo -- the work of Jesuit Father Marko I. Rupnik -- presents a small summa theologiae of the theme of mercy. In fact, it represents an image quite important to the early Church: that of the Son having taken upon his shoulders the lost soul demonstrating that it is the love of Christ that brings to completion the mystery of his incarnation culminating in redemption. The logo has been designed in such a way so as to express the profound way in which the Good Shepherd touches the flesh of humanity and does so with a love with the power to change one's life. One particular feature worthy of note is that while the Good Shepherd, in his great mercy, takes humanity upon himself, his eyes are merged with those of man. Christ sees with the eyes of Adam, and Adam with the eyes of Christ. Every person discovers in Christ, the new Adam, one's own humanity and the future that lies ahead, contemplating, in his gaze, the love of the Father.

The scene is captured within the so called mandorla (the shape of an almond), a figure quite important in early and medieval iconography, for it calls to mind the two natures of Christ, divine and human. The three concentric ovals, with colors progressively lighter as we move outward, suggest the movement of Christ who carries humanity out of the night of sin and death. Conversely, the depth of the darker color suggests the impenetrability of the love of the Father who forgives all.

In The Alleghenies

(Continued From Page 3.)

Members of the Mount Aloysius Student Accounting Society (SAS) and the Penn Highlands Accounting students will receive training based upon IRS criteria required of all tax preparers. All student VITA volunteers – Mount Aloysius and Penn Highlands accounting majors and Mount Aloysius MBA grad students – will earn their IRS certification during intensive training at the College.

VITA offers free tax help to people who make \$54,000 or less, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and limited English speaking taxpayers who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns. There is no cost for the VITA Tax assistance.

The Mount Aloysius College VITA Office is located in College's new Athletic Convocation and Wellness Center, Room 201. Hours of service are by appointment, so it is best to call ahead. The access number for questions and appointments is 814-886-6621.

There are two Pennsylvania Highlands Community College VITA locations. These include the Penn Highlands Richland Campus and Ebensburg Center.

The Richland Campus is located at 101 Community College in Johnstown, Pa., in the Student Activities Office, Room A110N. The Ebensburg Center is located in the Hills Plaza Center on Route 22 in Ebensburg, Pa., in the Main Office. Tax preparation at the Penn Highlands locations require an appointment made through the central VITA phone number, (814) 886-6621.

Qualified taxpayers who wish to use the VITA program should treat the service no differently than if they were going to an accountant. Items needed to complete a return may include: proof of identification (photo ID); Social Security cards for you, your spouse and dependents; birth dates for you, your spouse and dependents on the tax return; wage and earning statements (Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, 1099-Misc) from all employers; interest and dividend statements from banks (Forms 1099); all Forms 1095, health insurance statements; health insurance exemption certificate, if received; and a copy of last year's federal and state returns, if available; total paid for day-care provider and the day-care provider's tax identifying number such as their Social Security

number or business employer identification number. If taxpayers wish to take advantage of direct deposit of refunds, then proof of bank account routing and account numbers will be needed--a blank check will work for this.

For additional information, or to make an appointment, call (814) 886-6621.

Family Life

Couples' Get - Away

Portage: The Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus are pleased to host a Workshop for Married Couples from February 19 - 21.

"The Married Couples Get - Away: Radiating God's Merciful Love," will be presented by Dr. Patrick DiVietri, a Catholic author, educator and marriage counselor, and Father Leo F. Arnone, pastor of Saint Francis Xavier Parish in Cresson.

Dr. Patrick DiVietri is Executive Director of Family Life Institute, Manassas, VA and is an authority in marriage and family, recognized by the Pontifical Council for the Family. An instructor at Christendom College, Front Royal, VA, Dr. DiVietri is also the author of comprehensive family-life education and support programs containing a complete theology on mar-

riage. Further information on this speaker may be obtained at www.familylifeinstitute.org.

The weekend will be held at the Sacred Heart Convent at 1872 Munster Road. Register with Mother Jacinta by Monday, February 15 by email: sisterjacinta@gmail.com or call (814) 505 - 2290. The suggested donation (not required), is \$75.00 weekend /\$30.00 a day.

High Schools

Multicultural Day

Altoona: Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School celebrated cultures and traditions from around the world with its annual multicultural day celebration on Tuesday, December 22, 2015.

A total of 45 students prepared 18 multicultural presentations on various ethnic backgrounds. The entire student body had the opportunity to travel from classroom to classroom experiencing a new culture in each room. Countries represented included China, Japan, South Korea, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Norway, Mexico, Slovakia, and Italy. Topics included history, dance, music, writing, crafts, food, games, daily life, holiday traditions, and language.

Some students used the day as an opportunity to explore and share their own cultural heri-

tage with schoolmates. Eleventh grader, Olivia Ronan, shared her Native American background with fellow students by instructing them in the creation dream-catchers.

Many of Bishop Guilfoyle's International Students participated in this opportunity to share their unique backgrounds with students from the local area. International students Peter Sirek, Natalia Halkova, and Erik Halka provided students with an in-depth look into their home country, Slovakia. Jason Kim from South Korea prepared authentic Korean snack foods.

Bishop Guilfoyle students who studied abroad in Ambialot, France, shared their international experience with the hope of inspiring more students to participate in BG's Study Abroad Program with Saint Francis University.

BG's Spanish Club presented the decorative paper craft of papel picado, which is considered a form of Mexican folk art. The craft is commonly displayed during holiday celebrations.

World language classes also participated as Ryan Burger and Michael Johnson, students currently enrolled in the Chinese language class at BG, presented Chinese wedding traditions.

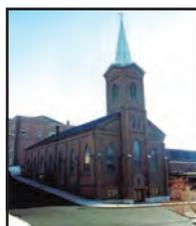
Higher Education

Nun - Physician To Speak

Cresson: Mount Aloysius College invites the southern Allegheny Mountain community to meet a very special woman. Sister of Mercy Karen Schneider is a practicing emergency - room pediatrician based at Johns Hopkins Children's Hospital in Baltimore MD. She has been a Mercy sister for more than 30 years and physician for 20. Her remarkable journey has taken her from a Brooklyn NY classroom, to Yale and Johns Hopkins Medical School, and now to tropical jungles and remote villages around the world.

(Continued On Page 15.)

**In the heart of "Dutch Hill,"
a Lenten tradition continues . . .**



Lenten Seafood Buffet

Eat In or Take out

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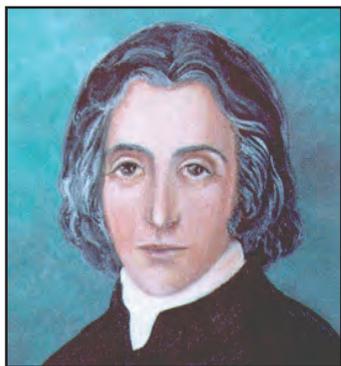
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Pope Advances Causes Of Priests, Martyrs

By Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis advanced the sainthood causes of 10 men and women, including the Argentinian "gaucho priest," Blessed Jose Gabriel del Rosario Brochero, known for his ministry to the sick and the dying.

The pope also recognized the martyrdom of Justo Takayama Ukon, a 17th-century Japanese samurai who died shortly after he was exiled to the Philippines for being Catholic.

During a meeting Jan. 21 with Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, the pope also signed a decree recognizing a miracle attributed to Blessed



BLESSED JOSE GABRIEL BROCHERO

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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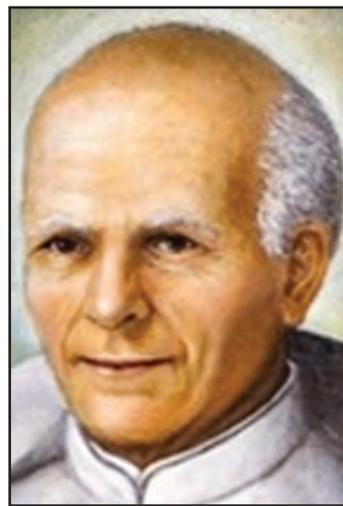


BLESSED JOSE SANCHEZ

Jose Sanchez del Rio, a 14-year-old Mexican boy martyred for refusing to renounce his faith during the Cristero War of the 1920s.

In recognizing the miracle attributed to Blessed Brochero, the pope has cleared the way for him to become Argentina's

The way has now been cleared for the canonization of Argentina's first saint.



BLESSED STANISLAUS PAPCZYNSKI

first saint. Pope Francis has expressed his admiration for the priest, saying that he was a man who "did not stay in the sacristy combing the sheep."

In addition, he recognized a miracle attributed to Polish Blessed Stanislaus Papeczynski, founder of the Marians of the Immaculate Conception. He was born in 1631 and died in Poland in 1701.

As in the case of the Argentina's "gaucho priest," the miracles in the causes of Blessed Papeczynski and Blessed Sanchez prepare the way for their canonizations. Final approval, and a date or dates for the ceremonies, will be set at a consistory with Pope Francis and cardinals in Rome.

Clearing the way for beatification ceremonies, Pope Francis also recognized miracles attributed to Italian Father Francesco Maria Greco, founder of the Little Workers of the Sacred Heart, who died in 1931, and Elisabetta Sanna, an Italian widow and mother, who died in 1857.

The other decrees approved by Pope Francis Jan. 21 recognized:

-- The martyrdom of Czech-born Father Engelmar Unzeitig, a member of the Marianhill Missionaries. He was born in 1911 and died in the Dachau concentration camp in 1945.

-- The martyrdom of Spanish Father Genaro Fueyo Castanon and 3 lay companions who were killed during the Spanish Civil War in 1936.

-- The heroic virtues of Italian Capuchin Father Arsenio da



BLESSED JUSTO TAKAYAMA UKON

Trigolo, founder of the Congregation of the Sisters of Mary the Consoler. He was born in 1849 and died in 1909.

-- The heroic virtues of Maria Velotti, founder of the Adoration Sisters of the Holy Cross. She was born in 1826 and died in 1886 in Casoria, Italy.



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Word of Life



The Pope Teaches

By Pope Francis

Shrines Are Homes Of Forgiveness, Mercy

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Shrines are homes of forgiveness that allow pilgrims to experience firsthand God's love and mercy, Pope Francis said.

In an audience with employees, workers and rectors of shrines and pilgrimage offices taking part in a Jubilee Year pilgrimage Jan. 21, the pope said shrines are "a privileged place" where pilgrims can feel "loved and looked upon with eyes of mercy."

"Anyone: young or old, rich or poor, sick or troubled or even a curious tourist, can find their due welcome because in each one there is a heart that is looking for God, sometimes without even knowing it," he said.

Going on a pilgrimage to a shrine and seeking the intercession of Mary and the saints are the most eloquent expressions of faith and are "a genuine form of evangelization that must always be promoted and valued," the pope said. He also compared pilgrims to Hannah, the mother of the prophet Samuel, who prayed with anguish in the temple for a son and "represents so many people that we may meet in our shrines."

"The shrine is truly a privileged space to meet the Lord and to experience firsthand his mercy," he said. "To confess in a shrine is an experience of touching with one's hand the mercy of God."

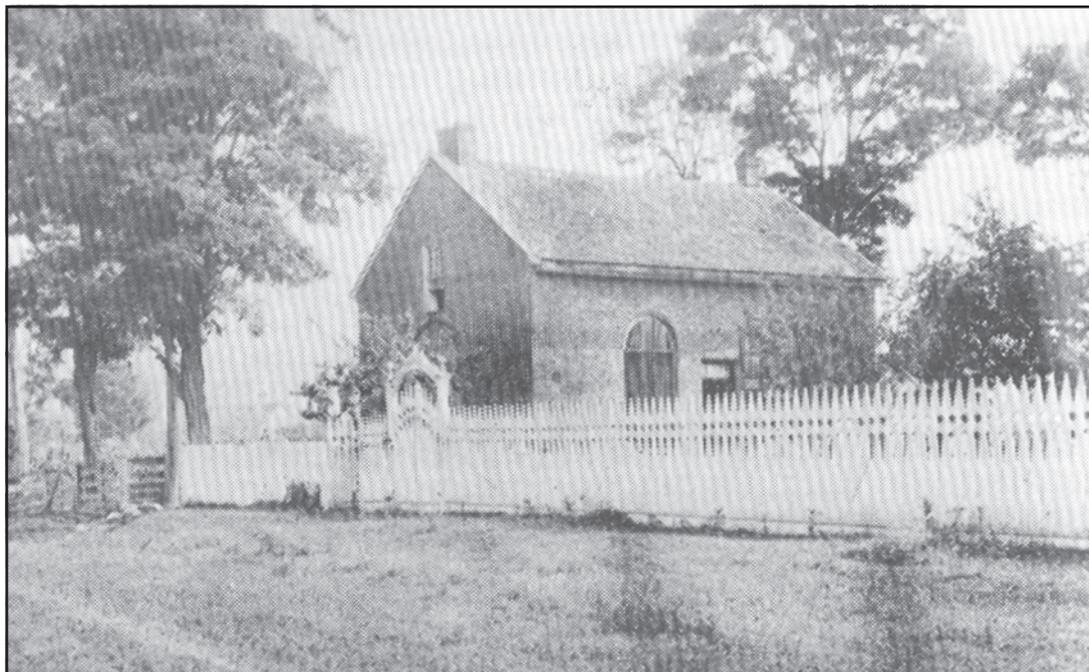
The pope emphasized the importance of making pilgrims who visit shrines feel welcomed, just as Jesus made sinners, the sick and the marginalized feel welcomed when they approached him. Welcoming pilgrims, he said, "is truly crucial for evangelization. Sometimes, all it takes is a word, a smile, to make a person feel accepted and loved."

When they get to a shrine, pilgrims often arrive tired, hungry and thirsty -- physical conditions that often "mirror their inner" state. For this reason, the pope said, it is crucial that rectors and employees of shrines attend to both the material and spiritual needs of those who visit and treat them as "a guest, as a relative."

"Let us ensure that every pilgrim has the joy of finally feeling understood and loved," he said. "In this way, they will feel nostalgia upon returning home from what they experienced and have the desire to return but also, above all, to want to continue the journey of faith in their ordinary lives."

A shrine must also be "a house of forgiveness" where pilgrims can encounter God's tenderness through confession. Priests who administer the sacrament of reconciliation, he said, must have "a heart steeped in mercy; their attitude must be that of a father."

Pope Francis called on the shrine workers to not only live out the Holy Year as "one great pilgrimage" but also their service "as a corporal and spiritual work of mercy."



ONE MORE TIME: The original Saint Thomas the Apostle Church in Bedford is seen in a 19th century photograph. The structure served the parish from 1816 until 1933, and was renovated as a shrine in 1958. Along with Holy Name parish in Ebensburg and Saint Patrick Parish in Newry, Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish is celebrating its bicentennial this year, and is an official diocesan pilgrimage site for the Extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy.

I have a problem. This weekend, the skies opened up and dumped a record amount of snow on my city. Yesterday afternoon, I spent two futile hours attempting to excavate my car.

As the sun set behind the row of brick houses across the street, I panicked. There was so much snow still left to go, and I was freezing! I wanted to go inside and hide, like an ostrich sticking its head into the sand.

But ignoring problems does not make them go away. My car's still buried, no matter how warm and toasty I am indoors.

Over the weekend, I watched "The Martian," a really neat movie about an astronaut who uses his knowledge of science to survive being stranded on Mars. He is hit with one deadly crisis after another, but he doesn't panic. Instead, he "gets to work," as he says. He solves his problems one at a time.

It doesn't happen overnight, but it happens.

At the end of the movie, addressing a set of astronaut candidates, he says: "Solve enough problems and you get to go home."

That's a lesson for those of us stuck underneath our metaphorical snowdrifts, feeling stressed and overwhelmed and



Coming Of Age

By Karen Osborne

Solving Big Problems With Small, Steady Steps

buried. All of the exams, all of the studying, trying to have a social life, trying to get into college, trying to wear the right clothes and be somebody. Being a teen can be incredibly stressful!

But you don't have to solve your problems all at once, or hide. You don't have to let your problems win.

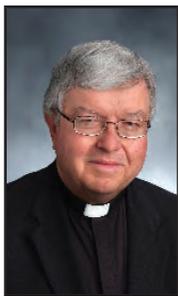
Start somewhere. Make progress -- just a little progress -- and you'll notice your outlook improving. Once you have a few wins under your belt, tackle the hard stuff. It gets easier.

Break things down into easy-to-finish portions. Don't think about the big research project as one big giant monster that has to be done in one weekend. Instead, break it down into phases: research first, write information on notecards, then write a first draft and then a final copy. Before you know it, you'll be finished.

Don't procrastinate. It feels good to put off difficult tasks -- up until the night before it's due! But getting things done on schedule or early will calm the feeling of being overwhelmed, and when you're done, the fun times will be sweeter.

If you don't like how you look, don't change everything all at once. Make small changes, one at a time, such as a new pair of sneakers or a new kind of lip gloss. Live with the change for a while. These incremental changes will be more likely to stick and make you feel more yourself than an expensive new wardrobe.

Face your problems, one at a time. As for me, I have 12 hours of sunlight today and a ton of snow to move with the help of shovel and the strength in my hands. It's a problem. But now I know how to deal with this problem, so it's going to be OK.



Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle
Saints In The Mass

Q. In the Canon of the Mass, we honor the saints Linus, Cletus, Clement, Sixtus, Cornelius, Cyprian, Lawrence, Chrysogonus, John and Paul, Cosmas and Damian.

The church recognizes more than 8,000 saints, many of whom are much better-known than that list in the Canon. Couldn't we draw more inspiration from saints whom we know a bit about -- perhaps St. Francis of Assisi, St. Patrick, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Therese of Lisieux, St. Teresa of Avila, St. Joan of Arc, St. Clare, St. Augustine, St. Bernadette, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Catherine of Siena, St. Benedict or St. Padre Pio? (Woodbridge, Virginia)

A. The Canon of the Mass to which you refer is the first of four general eucharistic prayers in the Roman Missal from which the priest may select. More commonly called Eucharistic Prayer I, it is also known by its former title, "the Roman Canon," and it served as the only eucharis-

tic prayer in the Roman rite for more than a thousand years.

It mentions, first, several of our best-known saints (Mary and Joseph, Peter, Paul and Andrew) before listing in parentheses a list of 21 saints that the priest may add if he so chooses. That longer list includes the saints you mention, who -- naturally, given the prayer's early origin -- come from the church's first few centuries. (Linus, Cletus, Clement, Sixtus and Cornelius, for example, were martyred popes.) My experience is that Eucharistic Prayer 1 is not used often and, when it is, the priest celebrant rarely opts to name the saints on the longer list.

Only the third eucharistic prayer specifically gives to the priest the option of adding other saints -- the saint whose feast is being celebrated, perhaps, or the patron saint of the parish -- but my sense is that celebrants sometimes choose to do this regardless of which of the eucharistic prayers they have chosen.

I agree with you that greater attention should be given to saints, particularly the more contemporary ones. In our parish, I typically give a 90-second talk at the beginning of weekday Mass about the particular saint whose feast we are marking. They are our heroes in the faith, and we ought to keep their example in front of us.

Q. Why do we permit and even encourage distractions at the most solemn times in the Mass? Soon after the consecration, we invite people to converse with one another at the sign of peace, which I believe should come much earlier in the eucharistic celebration.

Then we ask them to sing during the distribution of holy Communion. Why not keep this period a "quiet time," as a sign of our deep reverence for the presence of Jesus in the sacrament? (The Bahamas)

A. In June 2014, following lengthy discussion, the Vatican issued a letter determining that the sign of peace should remain in the Mass where it had traditionally been placed.

The letter, issued by the Congregation for Divine Worship, explained that the present positioning highlights the unity of the congregation as it prepares to receive the body and blood of Christ. Interestingly though, the letter did advert to the danger you discussed: that the motion and conversation during sign of peace could prove distracting.

To minimize that concern, the letter notes among other cautions that the faithful should not move about while exchanging the sign and that the priest should not leave the altar to greet members of the congregation.

When it comes to singing during the distribution of Communion, the General Instruction of the Roman Missal does say (in No. 86) that the Communion chant is "to express the spiritual union of the communicants by means of the unity of their voices" as they process to receive the Eucharist.

Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at askfatherdoyle@gmail.com.



For The Journey

By Effie Caldarola
Putting To Work
Lessons From A Great Saint

I don't think I can call it "the mysterious case of the handprint in the night," but it did jolt me awake.

In the wee hours, I didn't want to awaken my husband, so I turned on only a small bathroom light. Then, washing my hands at the double sink, darkness surrounding me except for the soft glow off to my right, I saw it: a tiny handprint on the large mirror.

It was my granddaughter Charlotte's hand, the oils from her tiny palm and fingers marking what in the daylight, or with all the lights on, looked to be a perfectly clean mirror.

Charlotte, at 14 months old, visited at Christmas. She delights in her own image, so one day I stood her on the large bathroom vanity and let her take in her entire body. Apparently, she braced her hand against the mirror producing an imprint virtually invisible to the naked eye.

Since Charlotte lives hundreds of miles from me, that imprint felt like a gift in the night. When I set up the conditions necessary for my husband to see the print, he joked that I'll never wash the mirror again. I am, after all, the woman who saved my first child's first booger -- well, at least for a few days -- and I still have a box of baby teeth in my dresser.

The imprint of Charlotte's hand is fading now, but it continues to remind me that all around me are the handprints of God, which I cannot always see except under the best conditions. God's presence is a constant, but recognizing that presence is dependent on my willingness to make those conditions possible, my willingness to be mindful.

We need to look for God's handprints and we have to be prepared for surprises. How often, I wonder, does God leave handprints, but I'm too busy or too self-absorbed to see?

St. Ignatius of Loyola gave us a great method of sensing God's presence in the feelings and events we experience each day.

It's called the examen, and he told his Jesuits, who are encouraged to use it twice daily, that it was the most necessary of prayers.

What's the examen? It's simply the habit of taking a few minutes, perhaps in the morning, and placing yourself in silence before God. Going back over the previous day, recall what delighted you, what events deflated you, what you were pleased with about your own behavior and how you disappointed yourself by your actions. Ask God to let you see where God was in all those emotions and actions.

The examen forces us to confront our feelings. Many times, we don't believe that our feelings are important to our spiritual growth. But actually, they're vital to seeing God's handprint.

Recently, I prayed over a feeling of emptiness. I had not been accepted for a job for which I'd applied and I was feeling down. But as I really examined my feelings, it became apparent that it wasn't the loss of the job I regretted. I'm not sure I looked forward to that job. What was bringing me down was a feeling of rejection.

I don't deal well with rejection. St. Ignatius warns us about the dangers of pride and of earthly success, but often I measure myself using those false standards. When I recognized that was where my feelings originated, I felt relief.

Looking at things more honestly, I suddenly saw doors opening instead of closing. The examen is a great Lenten practice. You may be surprised at the mysterious handprints you discover as you pray it.

Our Lady Of
Lourdes
1858
Feast - February 11



This feast recalls the 18 appearances of Mary to a young French girl, Bernadette Soubirous, from February 11 to July 16, 1858, near a grotto at Lourdes, France. Bernadette did not know the identity of "the beautiful lady in white," and asked who she was. Mary said, "I am the Immaculate Conception," the title Pope Pius IX had defined as dogma four years earlier. In 1890 Pope Leo XIII allowed the local Diocese of Tarbes to celebrate this feast; Pope Pius X made it a universal feast in 1907. Lourdes is still the most famous Marian shrine in Western Europe.

Signs Of Hope Abound For Pro - Life Cause, Bishop Tells Worshippers

(Continued From Page 1.)

“So,” he continued, “the reading from Isaiah is filled with hope, even while the people of Israel await deliverance.

“Are there signs of hope in our time, which seems to have been taken over by attitudes and ideas and even laws that run contrary to the teachings of Christ and the Church?

“My answer is yes,” Bishop Mark stated, “and again I point to the March for Life.”

Bishop Mark then enumerated three points that he called signs of hope for the Pro - Life cause in the United States.

“According to polls,” he said “‘pro - life’ has become the ‘new normal’ for Americans since 2009. Since 2012, 50% of Americans identified as pro - life, while those identifying as ‘pro - choice’ hit a record low of 41%.”

Secondly, he noted that “Young people are increasingly pro - life, which is evident as thousands of youth travel to the March for Life in Washington each year.

“Trends show that support of unlimited access to abortion by young people has dropped 12 percentage points since 1990,” the Bishop said. He cited a Gal-

lop poll which shows “support for making abortion broadly illegal is growing fastest among young adults.”

For his third point, Bishop Mark said that even national pro - choice leaders have admitted that the “pro - abortion movement is losing support among young people,” and that Nancy Keegan, president of the National Abortion Rights Action League resigned to allow a younger president to conduct youth outreach, and that she lamented “‘There are so many of them and they are so young.’”

Bishop Mark, who is noted for his rapport with young people, said “Whenever I ask them why this issue is so important to them, the response I hear most often is that you cannot be in favor of human rights and equality and freedom, unless you are Pro - Life.

“The right to life needs to be included in order to be consistent.

“And when I ask them why that needs to be included, they most often tell me that they accept and understand the teachings of Christ and the Church that every person, born and unborn, is made in the image and likeness of God.”

But, Bishop Mark explained, such a point of view is not something readily understood or accepted by all people.

“Young people are not surprised when I tell them that when they acknowledge these truths and give witness to them in various Pro - Life activities like the March for Life, they are like the suffering servant described in the Book of Isaiah.”

He went on “They may be ridiculed or mocked by some for their acceptance of the truth; but



BLESSING: Assisted by Deacon Gene Neral, Bishop Mark L. Bartchak offered a blessing to all those who would be taking part in the national March For Life on Friday, January 22 in Washington DC, at the conclusion of the Thursday, January 21 Pro - Life Prayer Service at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona.

they are the light that will take away the darkness.”

Even as Washington DC and much of the Eastern seaboard was threatened with a major winter storm that caused many to cancel their participation in the March for Life, Bishop Mark said the weather does not make a difference to those taking part.

“I have been on the March for Life. It could be cloudy or raining or even snowing. But there is an abundance of light.

It’s in the faces of hundreds of thousands of young people.

“And it is reflected back to them by the thousands of adults who join them as mentors and guides.”

Bishop Mark said that pro - life young people are the light to the nations spoken of by Isaiah.

“The words of Isaiah give us another way, which inspires so many young people who are searching for the truth and are

willing to take their places as suffering servants who follow the Suffering Servant who is the Lord Jesus.

“It’s stated so clearly in the closing words of the reading from Isaiah ‘ . . . I will make you a light to the nations that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.’

“Tomorrow at the March for Life - - and everyday - - let there be light!”

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Pro - Life Pilgrims Stuck In Snow Found Blessings

By Jessica Trygstad
Catholic News Service

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) -- Catholic youths from the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis were among those stuck on the Pennsylvania Turnpike overnight on the way home from the annual March for Life in Washington.

And they had stories to tell that include attending an impromptu roadside Mass complete with a snow altar.

"Each trip has something in it, but this one will be hard to forget," said Jack Dorcey, a chaperone from St. Pius X Parish in White Bear Lake.

The Minnesota buses carrying about 130 people left Washington after the march Jan. 22, but didn't beat the storm that slammed much of the East Coast. At 8 p.m., they came to a stop on the Pennsylvania Turnpike -- about 100 miles east of Pittsburgh, and hunkered down for the night. Traffic was at a standstill after a tractor-trailer jackknifed near a mountain tunnel and snow continued to accumulate on roads before the accident was cleared.

Bill Dill, from the archdiocesan Office of Marriage, Family and Life, said the group had plenty of snacks and fuel, but several people ventured out the next morning to get water. That's when they noticed many buses from the march and struck up conversations with fellow pro-life advocates, many of whom were Catholic.

"You can imagine the fraternity among these people," he told **The Catholic Spirit**, the archdiocesan newspaper.

While meeting up with others also stuck on the road, Dorcey met a priest from the Archdiocese of Omaha, Nebraska, who suggested they have a Mass.

Students already were playing in the snow, so Dill and Dorcey asked them to make an altar, which was no small feat in the powdery snow.

The students from Epiphany Church in Coon Rapids used



CNS Photo/Courtesy Carolyn Von Tersch

TURNPIKE MASS: Father Patrick Behm of Le Mars, Iowa, checks out his cellphone during Mass Jan. 23 at an altar constructed of snow alongside the Pennsylvania Turnpike. The group from the Diocese of Sioux City, Iowa, was returning home from the annual March for Life rally in Washington when Winter Storm Jonas consumed the East Coast. Also pictured is Father Damien Wee of the Archdiocese of Omaha, Nebraska.

pro-life signs from the march as shovels and then packed the snow for the altar so it wouldn't collapse. Once complete, they also laid the signs across the altar so that nothing would tip over. Using sticks, they made a cross to place against what they dubbed "John Paul the Great Hillside Chapel."

"No one Diocese had everything they needed to have a Mass. We didn't have a priest or hosts, but we had the inspiration," Dorcey said. "Omaha had vestments, but not a Mass kit. It all came together within an hour. You could see and feel that the spirit was there."

Dill and his wife, Tiffany, walked along the roadside inviting people to Mass, which was celebrated by Father Pat Behm from the Diocese of Sioux City, Iowa, and concelebrated by at least six other priests. Dorcey estimates about 600 people from a handful of states attended.

"People just started filing in. It was really cool to look on both sides and see people just streaming in to come to Mass," said Dorcey, who offered his umbrella during Mass to protect the Eucharist from the snow. Pat Millea, high school faith formation director at St. Michael in

Prior Lake, played music.

Before the Mass, Dill said one of the priests notified the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown of their plans considering the unusual circumstances and canon law requirements.

Dorcey said Mass was quick, but everybody was able to receive Communion. By the end of Mass, the buses were starting to move. When they left, someone stuck a pro-life sign in the middle of the altar to commemorate the occasion.

The group got back to St. Paul around 3:45 p.m. Jan. 24 and their trip officially ended with a Mass at the Cathedral of St. Paul, celebrated by Father John Ubel, the rector.

Reflecting on the experience, Dorcey said: "Everything that happened ... you could just feel God's presence right there."

He said that group leaders had discouraged the students from bringing their cellphones, but technology ultimately spread their pro-life message.

One girl used Twitter to share details about their roadside Mass. Soon after, a news station from the Twin Cities contacted her, and word spread from there.

Other March for Life groups stuck on the Pennsylvania high-

way included students from the Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, and Duquesne University in Pittsburgh and three buses from the Diocese of Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Maria Schuette, director of religious education and youth ministry for the Diocese of Green Bay, who was interviewed by phone Jan. 23 from one of the buses, described the delay as another opportunity for the group "to practice what it means to be pro-life."

The diocesan pilgrims: parish youth groups members, Catholic high school students and chaperones, turned the negative experience into a positive, she told **The Compass**, Green Bay's diocesan newspaper.

"We have been taking in strangers, people whose cars ran out of fuel," she said. "It's definitely been like a God moment for us."

Schuette said students provided people with bottled water and invited them to use the bathrooms on the bus or simply get warm.

"They have kind of made the most of the situation," she added. "They've gotten out, cleaned off visitors' cars, shared food and had snowball fights."

Danny Stewart, 17, a junior at Notre Dame Academy in Green Bay who had participated in his first March for Life, viewed the snow delay in philosophical terms. "A pilgrimage is like an adventure and you're going to experience times that are difficult," he said. "This is part of the difficult time so far. It's just crazy."

Through a March for Life Facebook page, the group had

been able to keep in contact with family and friends during their ordeal.

Schuette said prayers from families and other people who are following their trip were helpful. "We have really felt the prayers through the whole pilgrimage. We couldn't have done it without them."

She also said it was an opportunity for the group to pray for others.

"All the kids stepped up," she said, noting that they prayed the rosary not only for their own rescue, but for the safety of national guardsmen, the highway patrol and fellow travelers.

Another group, four busloads of pilgrims from the Diocese of Kansas City - St. Joseph, Missouri, were especially grateful that their chartered bus service figured out how to find a spot off the road with hot food and shelter.

The group of 160, including students, deacons, chaperones and eight priests, avoided the standstill traffic by taking a detour and arriving at American Legion Post 113 in Bedford, some 23 miles to the east, where they had a warm meal and slept on the hall's floors before resuming their trip the next day.

"It's very, very scenic right now," one of the pilgrims, Michael Aberer, told Catholic News Service Jan. 23.

Please see a related article on Page 16 of this edition of The Catholic Register.



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Mercy, Mission Go Together, Says Pope At Audience

By Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)

-- Mercy and mission have a close relationship that calls all Christians to be missionaries who share the joy of the Gospel without trying to force others to believe, Pope Francis said.

The joy that comes from conveying God's love and mercy is "the concrete sign that we have met Jesus," the pope said during his first jubilee audience Jan. 30. However, he added, "this does not mean proselytizing. This is making a gift: 'I am giving you what gives me joy.'"

An estimated 30,000 people gathered in St. Peter's Square for the jubilee audience, an event that will be held one Saturday each month throughout the Holy Year of Mercy.

In his talk, the pope said the Holy Year is a reminder for Christians to never tire of feeling the need for God's forgiveness "so that when we are weak his closeness makes us strong and allows us to live our faith with greater joy."

Christians are called to be missionaries of the Gospel like the first disciples, feeling the need to share the good news they have received. "We feel within us that we cannot hold back the

joy that has been given to us and we want to spread it," the pope said. "The joy that arises is what pushes us to communicate it."

The experience of the first disciples called by Jesus, he said, is an experience of love that "transforms us and compels us" to share its strength with others.

"In some way, we can say that from the day of our baptism each one of us was given an additional name to what our moms and dads had given us and this name is 'Christopher,' which means 'Christ-bearer.' Every Christian is a bearer of Christ," he said.

God's mercy is not just a "private consolation" but a catalyst that transforms Christians into "missionaries of mercy" to those in need. The pope called on the faithful to take their calling seriously and to live their



CNS Photo/Paul Haring

POPE GREETES CHILD: Pope Francis greets a child while meeting the disabled during a special audience for the Holy Year of Mercy in Saint Peter's Square at the Vatican Saturday, January 30. An estimated 30,000 people gathered in St. Peter's Square for the jubilee audience, an event that will be held one Saturday each month throughout the Holy Year of Mercy.

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Four Exciting Talks and Prayer Experiences to Ignite the Flame
of the Holy Spirit
and Love of Jesus in Your Life!

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"Faith" Fr. Jonathan St. Andre, TOR

"Intercession" Bob Sutton

"Repentance" Sr. Linda LaMagna, CCW

"Evangelism" Msgr. Robert Mazur

*Special Presentation by Bishop Mark Bartchak

++++

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

++++

To register: Call 941-3832 or e-mail 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.



FISH FRY

Feb. 12
Feb. 26
March 11



St. Mark Church
416 Sixth Avenue, Altoona

MENU

Baked or Fried Fish
French Fries
Macaroni And Cheese
Stewed Tomatoes
Cole Slaw
Drink

FREE Dessert

Adults \$10
Children \$5

4:00-6:30 PM
(while supplies last)



Mercy and mission have a close relationship that calls all Christians to be missionaries who share the joy of the Gospel without trying to force others to believe, Pope Francis said.

lives as believers "because only then can the Gospel touch the hearts of all people and open them to the grace of love."

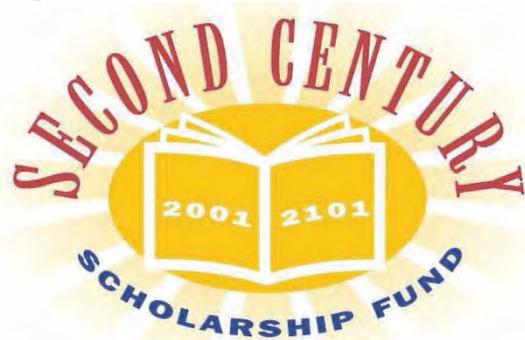
Before concluding the jubilee audience, Pope Francis led the crowd in praying for a woman named Elvira who, along with her husband, worked at the Domus Sanctae Marthae, the pope's residence. The long-time employee passed away Jan. 29 after a long period of sickness, the pope said.

Saying his residence is like a family, the pope told the crowd that he was sad at her passing.

"I invite you today to do two works of mercy: to pray for the deceased and console the afflicted," he said. "I invite you to pray a Hail Mary for Elvira's eternal peace and eternal joy, and pray that the Lord may console her husband and her children."



Help Us Celebrate Our EITC Contributors!



1,695 students enrolled in Catholic Schools throughout the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese received a record **\$1.6 million dollars** in Second Century Scholarships this year. This is made entirely possible by local businesses who earned PA Educational Improvement Tax Credits.



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The need for tuition assistance continues to exceed contributions. You can help us award financial aid to students in Catholic pre-school programs, elementary schools and high schools by encouraging local businesses to earn Educational Improvement Tax Credits.

Eligible businesses include manufacturers, retail establishments, medical practices, agricultural businesses and many more. Tax credits of up to 100% can be earned against Corporate Net Income or Capital Stock taxes. Sub-S shareholders can apply the credits against all classes of personal income.

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Business owners, finance office and accountants should contact the Diocesan Development Office at (814) 695-5577 or visit our website shown below for additional details.

Now Showing

'The Boy' Proves Nobody Puts This Baby In A Corner

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) -- A spooky house, an unsettling doll, a youthful baby sitter or nanny left vulnerably on her own. Do those gothic ingredients sound familiar? Of course they do.

Put Chucky inside the Victorian pile Norman Bates shared with his ma and strand Jamie Lee Curtis alone there to mind him, and you'll end up, more or less, with "The Boy" (STX).

Still, director William Brent Bell's reheating of horror-movie leftovers does go easy on the bloodletting. There's no Michael Myers or Freddy Krueger-style slice-and-dice included in this recipe. So adult viewers can sample the result at will, though elements of a different kind make this dish too spicy for the kids.

On the rebound from an abusive relationship with Cole (Ben Robson), her boyfriend, young Montana native Greta Evans (Lauren Cohan) takes a job as a nanny at a remote British mansion. Greta's attempt at a fresh start takes an unexpected turn, however, when she arrives to discover that her charge is a sinister porcelain doll that her elderly employers, the Heelshires (Jim Norton and Diana Hardcastle), have substituted for their deceased son, Brahms.

With that delightful eccentricity so typical of the English, the Heelshires insist that Greta treat the figurine -- as they do -- exactly like a real child. When the couple departs for a vacation soon afterward, Greta's willingness to put up with this charade is put to the test -- and quickly found wanting.

She parks faux Brahms in a chair and covers him over,



CNS Photo/STX Productions

THE BOY: Lauren Cohan stars in a scene from the movie "The Boy." 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.

but soon finds that such neglect gives rise to uncanny events. Nobody, it seems, puts this baby in a corner, unless they want to spend the night locked in an attic that's even creepier than the rest of the Heelshires' residence.

Greta receives guidance, comfort and eventually love from her sole human contact, the local grocer's clerk, Malcolm (Rupert Evans). Infatua-

tion increases the frequency of Malcolm's appearances beyond the weekly deliveries mandated by the Heelshires. That's just as well, given that Greta is steadily being driven batty by bratty Brahms.

With no one watching them (or so at least they think) the duo tries for a bedroom get-together. Though they're interrupted -- for all his naughtiness, Brahms is puritanical or at least jealous -- their thwarted endeavor, along with the odd tawdry term in the

dialogue, makes this efficient chiller safest for grownups.

The film contains considerable violence with brief gore, nongraphic premarital sexual activity and occasional profane and crude language. 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.

Sunday Mass
Broadcast Live from
the Cathedral of
the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona
10:00 a.m. WFBG Radio, 1290 AM

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

Proclaim!
10:30 a.m.

A half - hour of local Church news and features

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Coming Up On 'Proclaim!'

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

February 14 - - Dan and Brandi Lieb, members of Holy Name Parish in Ebensburg, talk about love and marriage on this Valentine's Day.

February 21 - - Tracey Ingold and Coleen Prostejovsky of Saint Francis Xavier Parish in Cresson discuss a new parish ministry designed to serve and support members of the faith community.

In The Alleghenies

(Continued From page 6.)

On Thursday, February 25th at 7:00 p.m., Sister Karen will give the Mount Aloysius College Spring 2016 Moral Choices Lecture in historic Alumni Hall. Her message will be another facet in the College's yearlong exploration of "Voice." There is no cost to attend her lecture.

Sister Karen Schneider grew up in Lynbrook, Long Island, NY. She graduated from Molloy College, Rockville Centre, NY in 1984. Twelve years later she graduated from SUNY Downstate Medical School after teaching in Brooklyn, NY. Sr. Schneider completed a pediatric residency at Yale University and then a Fellowship in Pediatric Emergency Medicine at Johns Hopkins. She continues her mission, working with Doctors Without Borders and her own initiative, the Mercy Medical Mission. She has become acquainted with students

from Mount Aloysius College at Mercy International Headquarters, Dublin, Ireland, and during mission trips to Guyana during the students' semester breaks. Through her Mercy Medical Mission she builds 10 weeks of travel into her schedule, recruiting resident physicians to assist her. In addition to medical mission work in Guyana, her team also travels to Peru, Haiti and Guatemala. To fund her Mercy Medical Mission efforts, Sister Karen depends on donations.

Schools

Principals Assigned

Hollidaysburg: The Altoona Quadrant Regional School Board has announced the campuses at which administrators of Holy Trinity Catholic School will be located.

Sherry Buck will serve as vice - principal of the middle school campus and director of the school's STREAM curriculum; Tabatha Griffin will serve

as vice - principal of the Altoona campus; and Cathy Damiano will serve as vice - principal of the Hollidaysburg campus.

Buck is in the middle of her first year as principal at Altoona Central Catholic School after serving two years as co - principal. Griffin has served as principal of Saint John the Evangelist School in Altoona since 2011. Damiano, principal at Saint Rose of Lima School in Altoona since 2013, began teaching at the school in 1987.

The Board announced in December that Elaine Spencer, the current principal of Hollidaysburg Catholic School, will serve as principal of Holy Trinity Catholic School. She will be based at the middle school campus, with oversight of all campuses. Each vice - principal will be responsible for day - to - day operations at her respective campus.

Holy Trinity Catholic School is scheduled to open in August, as part of a regionalization of Catholic education in the Altoona/Hollidaysburg/Newry areas.

1st Annual Lenten Mission In Honor Of Our Lady Of Loretto

MARCH 6 - 11, 2016

Father Daniele Vallecorsa, STL - HOMILIST



7:00 PM (Sunday) Mission Prayers with Homily/Benediction
7:00 PM Mass with Mission Prayers each night (Monday - Friday)
Eucharistic Adoration at 6 PM each night
Reconciliation/Confessions at 6 PM each night

Very Reverend John D. Byrnes, JCL, JV, Rector

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THE ARCHANGEL**

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Novena Devotions (Mass) Each Evening at 7 PM
Confessions Each Evening After Devotions



Ask The Infant For The Favor You Need
Mark Petition (s), Fill In, And Mail

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Peace of Mind | <input type="checkbox"/> Happy Marriage | <input type="checkbox"/> End To Abortion | <input type="checkbox"/> Health |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Help | <input type="checkbox"/> World Peace | <input type="checkbox"/> Return of Loved One(s) To God | <input type="checkbox"/> Pope's Intentions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Return To Sacraments | <input type="checkbox"/> Welfare of Parent: | <input type="checkbox"/> Peaceful Death | <input type="checkbox"/> SPECIAL INTENTIONS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Unity | | | |

Please Light A Candle For My Personal intentions. _____

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Winter Storm Jonas

Bedford Parish Showed Mercy To Pro - Life Marchers Stranded On Pennsylvania Turnpike

By Bruce A. Tomaselli

It didn't take long into 2016 for Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish in Bedford, to put into practice Pope Francis' wishes for this Year of Mercy to respond with compassion to those in need.

It's likely that Father Donald W. Dusza, pastor, gave much thought to the snowstorm that buffeted the town of Bedford and the rest of the Northeast on Friday night through Saturday on January 22 and 23. Bedford recorded over two feet of snow when the storm finally subsided.

Father Dusza was probably wondering how many people might venture out to attend his 4:00 p.m. anticipated Mass on Saturday.

"I actually was heading to the church around 3:30 when I got a call from a group of travelers from Sioux Falls Diocese of South Dakota, looking for lodging" he said. "They were returning home after attending the annual March for Life in Washington, when they became stranded overnight on the turnpike between New Baltimore and Bedford."

He told the group, mainly high school and college age stu-

dents, they were welcome to stay overnight in the school gym. Father immediately telephoned Railitsa Diehl who is in charge of the kitchen at the school. "She was a real trooper," said Father Dusza. "She worked really hard, by herself, to get a pasta meal together for the weary young people who were forced by Winter Storm Jonas, to spend Friday night on their busses.

"I can't say enough about her effort, and the sacrifice she made by coming out in the middle of a storm. The students and their chaperones really appreciated her efforts."

As the highways began to clear a bit on Saturday evening, Father Dusza received another request for shelter from more marchers on their way back to the Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska. They had been in touch with the South Dakota chaperones. So, that night, Saint Thomas Parish hosted a big sleep - over for about 160 pilgrims. Some of the travelers found blankets on their busses and they all slept on the gym floor.

Things became a little more hectic later that evening when Father Dusza received another call, this time from officials traveling with the Archdiocese of Omaha, Nebraska. "They said they were able to find shelter in the hotels around Bedford,



CNS Photo/Gregory L. Tracy, *The Pilot*

SNOW - BOUND MARCHERS: Pro - Life supporters walk in the snowfall up Constitution Avenue during the march for Life, Friday, January 22, the 43rd anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision legalizing abortion in the United States. The snowfall was the start of a two - day historic storm in the nation's capital. Many youthful marchers, stranded on the Pennsylvania Turnpike, found shelter and a hot meal at Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish in Bedford.

but were looking for a place to celebrate Mass," he said. The caravan was comprised of five busses totalling over 300 more persons.

"I told them we just had a small church building that only accommodated about 250 people. Along with my parishioners, it would be beyond capacity." Luckily, the group had two priests with them. Father Dusza told them they were welcome

to celebrate Mass in the school gym, an offer they happily accepted.

Naturally, a lot of new friendships were created among the travelers. "I found out that one of the priests on the trip attended Mount Saint Mary Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland, with Father Alan Thomas our vicar general," said Father Donald.

By Sunday morning most

of the busses headed North toward Interstate 80 to make their Western swing back home. The Northern part of Pennsylvania escaped the brunt of winter storm Jonas.

The storm made history across the Northeast. Blizzard conditions brought major cities to a standstill and cancelled thousands of flights leaving many people stranded far from their homes across the country. The huge storm also caused coastal flooding.

The 43rd Annual March for Life held on Friday, January 22 in Washington, went on despite the approaching storm. Over 50,000 people from all over the country attended the event.

Celebrating its bicentennial this year, Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish is an official Extraordinary Jubilee Year Of Mercy pilgrimage site for the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown, where the faithful may gain the Jubilee Year indulgence.

But for hundreds of weary travelers, that indulgence was expressed in a very practical way.

"It was an interesting weekend," laughed Father Dusza during a Monday, January 25 telephone interview. Providing the stranded marchers with shelter was "easily done and we were certainly glad to help."

PERIODICAL RATE MAIL

The Catholic Register

**Official Publication of the
Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown**