



# The Catholic Register

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## Volunteers Remind Imprisoned Of God's Love

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By Bruce A. Tomaselli

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God is the ultimate giver of second, third, and fourth chances. Sometimes we need to be reminded that these opportunities also extend to the imprisoned.

Catholic volunteers are among those that minister to these persons, helping to open their hearts to God and another chance to right their world.

The reasons for their incarcerations are many, but Jinny Jones of Holy Name Parish in Ebensburg, serves to open them to the Gospel and the love of Jesus Christ. "In their search for understanding the predicaments that have led them to this point in their lives, I suggest to them that maybe they are here for God's purpose. Maybe they are here right now as part of a divine plan." Jinny has served as a volunteer minister at the Cambria County Prison in Ebensburg for over three years.

Doctor Catherine Shoemaker of Ebensburg serves as the coordinator of Catholic volunteers and she has been a volunteer herself since 1997, when the new Cambria County Prison was opened.

"When we started the ministry our goal was to be a Catholic presence in the prison," Shoemaker said. "We have about six



CNS Photo/Paul Haring

**POPE BLESSES PRISONER:** Pope Francis blesses a prisoner as he visits the Curran - Fromhold Correctional Facility in Philadelphia September 27, 2015. Volunteers bring the healing presence of Christ to prisoners at facilities throughout the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese.

volunteers that facilitate prayer and study, plus we have priests and deacons that also volunteer."

Both of the women wish that someday there develops a coordinated effort among all of the volunteers who minister at prisons in the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese.

Currently, there are six county prisons in the eight - county Diocese. They are: Cambria, Blair, Huntingdon, Centre,



CNS Graphic/Malcom Grear Designers

Bedford, and Somerset. There are also many state and federal prisons in which the diocese has assigned clergy and diaconal chaplains.

"Many of these prisons have vibrant parish communities within their walls," said Jeanne Thompson, coordinator of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)for the Diocese. Many of the incarcerated participate in the RCIA program.

"We are a presence in many of the county, state, and federal prisons, along with various other ministries."

Doctor Shoemaker, and Jones care deeply for the inmates to whom they minister.

In the Cambria County Prison, they facilitate prayer and study on Saturday and Sunday. "We use the Liturgy as a starting point, which leads to questions and discussions," said Doctor Shoemaker. "These sessions close with a prayer and can last anywhere from 30 minutes to an hour." Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist also lead Communion services.

Throughout the week the volunteers meet with persons with whom spiritual connections are made during the weekend discussions.

Volunteers are always needed. Doctor Shoemaker said they are subject to the standard background checks. Volunteers must also have sound knowledge of the Catholic faith, and be persons that will follow orders, which is very important in a prison setting.

(Continued On Page 10.)

**Higher Education****Art Exhibit**

**Cresson:** Mount Aloysius College's Arts for Healing series continues with a collection titled "Transformation" by Johnstown artist Jaime L. Helbig.

The 16 - piece exhibit invites viewers to bear witness to personal transformations through the evocative portraits of her subjects. "Transformation" is on display now at the college's Athletic Convocation and Wellness Center's Mercy Hall - the eastern - most concourse on the main floor. The facility is open throughout the year from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. "Transformation" is available for viewing until April 8. A closing reception is scheduled for April 7th from 3:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Visitors are urged to call the College to avoid a conflicting event.

Helbig is an art educator and serves on the faculty of Penn Highlands College, and Community Arts Center of Cambria County. She has taught at both the elementary and secondary levels at Davidsville Community Church and School, Davidsville; Westmont Elementary School, Johnstown; and Indiana Junior High School, Indiana.

For additional information contact Mount Aloysius College at (814) 886 - 4131. There is no fee to attend the exhibit.

**Sign Day**

**Loretto:** Saint Francis University will host its fifth annual Sign Day on Sunday, April 10, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the John F. Kennedy Student Center.

The event is open to students in grades one through twelve. Participants will learn the alphabet, numbers, National



**COACH HONORED:** Dr. John P. Walker (center), varsity Cheerleading coach at Bishop McCort Catholic High School, Johnstown, for over 28 years, was honored Saturday, January 30 as the 2016 GTM Sportswear Spirit Coach of the Year, by The Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, Inc. (PIAA) and GTM Sportswear (GTM). The award was presented at the 4th Annual PIAA Competitive Spirit Championships at the Giant Center in Hershey.

## Walker Is Coach Of The Year

The Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, Inc. (PIAA) and GTM Sportswear (GTM) have awarded Bishop McCort Catholic High School Varsity Cheerleading coach, John P. Walker DMD, the 2016 GTM Sportswear Spirit Coaches Award. A presentation was made during the event finals at the 4th Annual PIAA Competitive Spirit Championships on Saturday, January 30th, 2016 at the Giant Center in Hershey, PA. This award recognizes a PIAA coach who represents leadership and integrity in cheerleading, their dedication and commitment to their team and involvement in their local community.

Dr. Walker has been a Varsity Cheerleading coach at Bishop McCort Catholic High School for over 28 years. He believes that coaching goes far beyond practices, games and competitions by teaching responsibility, respect and the value of hard work to all of his cheerleaders. During his tenure, Bishop McCort Varsity Cheerleading has earned the following accolades:

- 2 - UCA National Champions – 2010 & 2015
- 10 – UCA National Top Ten Finalist
- 15 – UCA Regional Competition – First Place
- 20 – Pennsylvania State Cheerleading Championships – First Place
- 2 – PIAA Competitive Spirit State Champions – 2014 & 2015

Dr. Walker is one of the most decorated high school cheer coaches in the nation. As a highly respected coach, he has become a resource for other coaches around the country for advice and direction. Dr. Walker has served as a competition cheer judge locally, regionally and nationally and has been selected by Varsity Brands to be a feature speaker for their 2016 Coaches Convention for the North East Region of the United States.

The Bishop McCort Varsity Cheerleaders under the direction of Dr. John P. Walker traveled to Orlando, Florida for the UCA National High School Cheerleading Championships February 6 and 7 to defend their 2015 National Champion title.

Anthem, and will also jam in ASL to "Fight Song" by Rachel Platten. In addition, Boy and Girl Scouts will have the opportunity to learn the Scout Promise or Scout Law in ASL, and will be on their way to earning a badge.

Registration for the event

is due no later than Monday, March 7. The cost is \$10.00 per child using the mail in registration or \$10.50 by using the online registration, and includes a t-shirt. Participants should bring a labeled bagged lunch.

For more information or to register, please call (814) 472 -

3051 or email [kbeck@francis.edu](mailto:kbeck@francis.edu). You can find the registration form(s) online by typing the following into your computer browser - <http://francis.edu/asl-sign-day/>.

(Continued On Page 3.)

## 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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# In The Alleghenies

## Doors Of Mercy Installed At Saint Peter School



**DOORS OF MERCY:** Posing with the Doors Of Mercy they designed at Saint Peter School, Somerset, are (left to right) First row: Gracie Bowers, Violet Lopaze, Lauryn Good, Josi Dirienzo, Bena Croushore, Faith Custer, Emily Klejka, Austin Augustine, Liam Egal, Sam Jano, Ethan Platt. Second row: Willa Sharbaugh, Sydney Rush, Bart Sharbaugh (maintenance supervisor), Kim Stiffler (religion teacher), Aiden VanLenten, Ryan Wilmotte, Nolan Riggs and Sheila Ulerich (fifth grade teacher).

Saint Peter School in Somerset is celebrating the Jubilee Year of Mercy with its own "Doors of Mercy." The students and staff under the guidance of religion teacher Kim Stiffler, have been talking about mercy, and learning about the Spiritual Works of Mercy and the Corporal Works of Mercy and how to live out Pope Francis' call to mercy in their daily lives both in school and out of school. Students had completed numerous art and writing projects about mercy when Mrs. Stiffler decided that the school could have their own actual doors to celebrate this Jubilee Year. With the help of Bart Sharbaugh, the maintenance supervisor, some old doors were refinished and painted and given new hardware. The students in fifth grade and their teacher, Sheila Ulerich, were given the task of creating the 16 panels depicting the Spiritual and Corporal Works of mercy using copper paper embossing and tooling. Embellishments were then added to copy the details on the Holy Door in Rome and the doors were placed on a frame in a semi-open position to remind students, staff and visitors to keep the doors of mercy open. The doors were on display for the school's Open House in celebration of Catholic Schools Week and will be on display throughout the rest of the year.

(Continued From Page 2.)

### Blood Drive

**Cresson:** The Mount Aloysius College Medical Assistants Club will sponsor a Red Cross Blood Drive on Tuesday, February 23 at the college. The event

will take place in the Cosgrave Student Center, rooms 120 - 122, from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

This drive is special because it is named in honor of a local blood recipient who credits his blood donors with saving his life. Matt Weeke of Clinton, is

alive today because there was enough blood available to sustain him through a bleeding emergency recently. Weeke explained, "I was suffering through a gastric perforation and losing a lot of blood. Even with great medical attention, had there not been enough of a local supply



CNS Photo/Paul Haring

**AUDIENCE:** Pope Francis greets the crowd during a special audience for the Holy Year of Mercy in Saint Peter's Square at the Vatican, Saturday, January 30. Pilgrims joining **The Catholic Register's** pilgrimage to Italy in September will have the chance to attend the Holy Father's regular Wednesday General Audience in Saint Peter's Square.

## Discount Available For Register Pilgrimage

Pilgrims booking a spot on **The Catholic Register's** Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy pilgrimage to Italy can earn a \$50.00 discount if they book by Wednesday, February 24.

**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.

Arrangements are also being made for the **Register** pilgrims to take part in a special procession from Castel Sant'Angelo to the Vatican Basilica, where they will walk through the Holy Door.

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.

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](http://www.unitours.com/client/DioceseOfAltoonaItalyPilgrimage.html).

of blood I would not have survived." Weeke required 15 pints of blood during his emergency.

The students enrolled in the Mount Aloysius College Medical Assistant program urge the public to participate and to make the Matt Weeke Blood Drive a success.

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## Another Perspective

By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein  
**Peace On Earth,  
And Mercy Mild**

# Point Of View

"I dread Fridays!" one of my sons uttered while getting dressed for school. "Why? most people love Fridays, it's the Mondays they dread, maybe you got your days mixed up!" I remarked back. "You're funny mom! I do love Fridays but not during Lent for we have to sit through those boring Stations of the Cross. All that standing and kneeling makes my legs hurt!" Tempted to stand in my religious, righteous mother role I stopped myself from saying, "You think your legs hurt! How do you think Jesus' legs felt being crucified?" Instead, I chose to step back and remember those young days of old when I too felt exactly the same way!

Why do so many Catholics find the Stations more of a cross to bear than a devotion to treasure? Is it because they are not devout Catholics? Or maybe they are a little less holy than those who faithfully attend. No, I think the real reason may be something we Catholics don't want to consider let alone possibly admit. I think the real reason some of our beloved Catholic traditions are not treasured is because in many instances, especially in our youth, we have been forced to swallow a bunch of spoon fed words, never being taught on how to digest these devotions in the context of our daily lives. OUCH!

Although, these words may be hard to swallow, the fact is Christ did not have a Passion, Death and Resurrection for us to simply read and regurgitate words. He came so we can know and love Him intimately



## Family Matters

By Amy Kanich

### Lord, Let Me Walk With You

everyday of our lives. He came so we can have life and live it abundantly. He came to show us the way to everlasting life. So does this mean we discard the beautiful traditions, devotions and prayers of our Faith? No! These very forms of prayer and devotions have been given to us by our Church to help us navigate our Christian journey and they become fully alive when we choose to intentionally and deliberately take the time to personally immerse ourselves in the journey of our salvation.

How can we start to become more fully engaged in our prayer traditions or devotions? A great way to start is by using these prayers to reflect on our own personal journey of faith, asking the Holy Spirit to reveal to us personally how we can become closer to Christ. I too struggled with the Stations of the Cross but I began to write down personal reflection questions that challenge me to look beyond the mere recited words, looking more deeply into the recesses of my heart. I share with you one of my own reflections for one of the Stations of the Cross.

First Station - Jesus is Condemned to Death - Have there been moments in this past week

I pompously chose to sit on the throne of judgment so willingly and piously passing verdicts on others? Have I condemned others in my life by my careless words or perhaps even intentional actions that showed contempt for them? Did I lack courage to defend another when their character or reputation was being mocked or ridiculed by others in my presence or did I choose to be one with the crowd? Have I been judged or condemned unfairly by others? If so, how did I respond?

Our Catholic Church in its rich wisdom has beautiful prayer traditions that can help us on our journey of faith. We cannot simply say, I don't get anything out of it making this the excuse to not engage or perhaps worse just go through the motions. Christ is calling us deeper this Lenten Season, may we have the boldness and courage to personally respond, Lord, let me walk that lonely road with you..... for when we do Lent will become not only a season of the church but a time of deepening our relationship with the very Christ who walked the rugged road to Calvary to die for you and me! Blessings!

Perhaps you are wondering why I should have chosen to use the words of a Christmas carol to headline my column in the Lenten season. No, cancel that thought. Of course you are wondering why I am headlining a Lenten column with the words of a Christmas carol. Trust me, gentle reader, there is method to my madness. It's not just the snowflakes falling outside my window as I write this column, or the fact that this year there is one of the fastest turnarounds between Christmas and Lent in recent memory. I find myself wanting, at this time of year in particular, on those words from "Hark The Herald Angels Sing," because of the words that complete the sequence; for after all, we sing "Peace on earth, and mercy mild. God and sinners reconciled." What thought could be more Lenten than that?

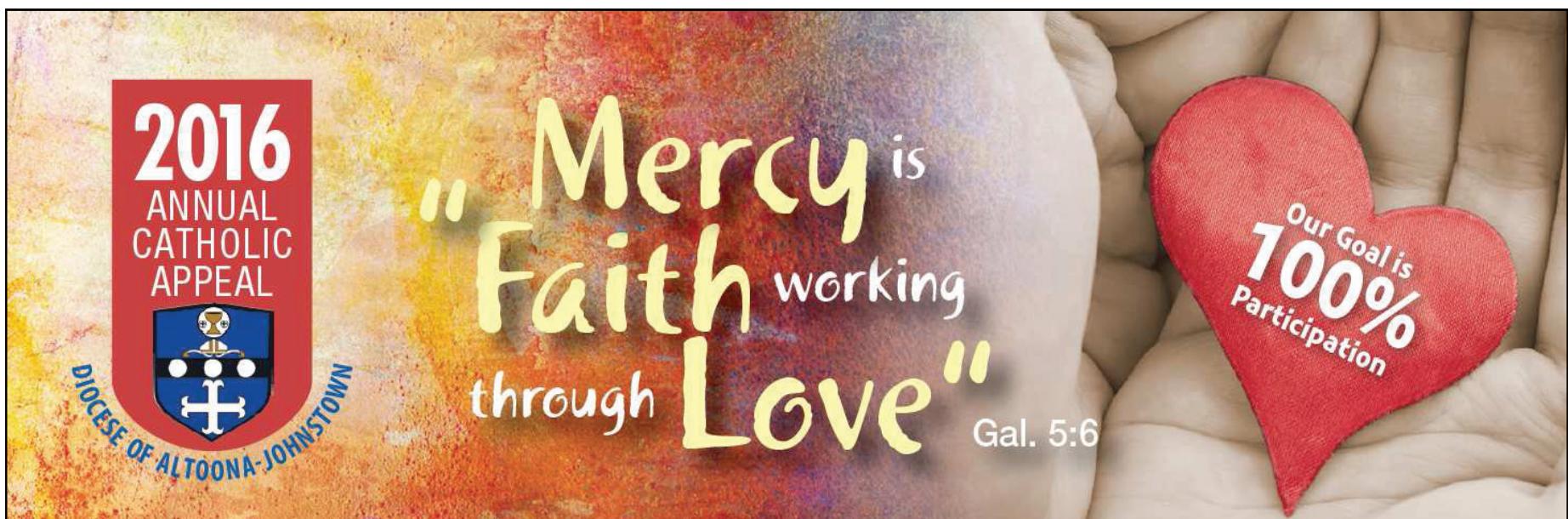
I am writing, too, in the Year of Mercy, and it occurs to me that God's mercy to us, His sinful people, is a mercy that is always gentle, always mild. He reconciles us to Himself with a hand clothed in a velvet glove. He takes us up with a relaxed grasp. He asks us to be reconciled with one another in a similar fashion, to remember that there is strength in weakness, power in gentleness. As Saint Francis DeSales, beloved patron of Catholic journalists said "Nothing is so strong as gentleness, nothing so gentle as real strength."

A friend of mine, a Benedictine Sister of Pittsburgh, posted something on Facebook that makes the same point about how a mild and gentle mercy is the means by which we are reconciled with God and with one another. Sister Shelly wrote "God does not beat up on God's glorious creatures, so neither should we." Turning to Saint Francis DeSales, again, "When you encounter difficulties and contradictions, do not try to break them, but bend them with gentleness and time."

Isn't that just how God has always dealt with us -- with gentleness, with a mercy that is mild? When He became incarnate He came not as a conquering hero out to vanquish His foes, but as a baby born in a stable and cradled in a manger. He was a man keen to spare the embarrassment of His hosts at the wedding at Cana, and so His first miracle was not a Technicolor, Hollywood spectacular, but the quiet changing of water into wine. He was not a God who dwelt on the heights, wrapped in clouds of incense, withdrawn from His people, but a Shepherd God who went freely among His people, allowing them to reach out and touch Him as He reached out and touched them. Walking to His death, He stopped to comfort His mother, and was Himself comforted and consoled by a woman who came out of the crowd to wipe His face with a towel.

All of this must inspire us as we seek reconciliation in this Lenten season, and as we go about practicing prayer, penance and good works. We have to remember that we have not just the 40 days or six weeks of Lent to carry out our good resolutions; we have 365 days (366 this year) and 52 weeks to be about the business of living a good Christian life. We don't need to go at it like gangbusters, like warriors bringing in the big guns to topple the city walls. We need to treat ourselves, and others, as God has treated us -- in a mild, merciful fashion, in a gentle and quiet way. Again, I call to mind Saint Francis DeSales, who said "Never be in a hurry; do everything quietly and in a calm spirit. Do not lose your inner peace for anything whatsoever, even if your whole world seems upset."

Peace on earth, and mercy mild. Makes sense, doesn't it? -- at Christmas, during Lent, and always.

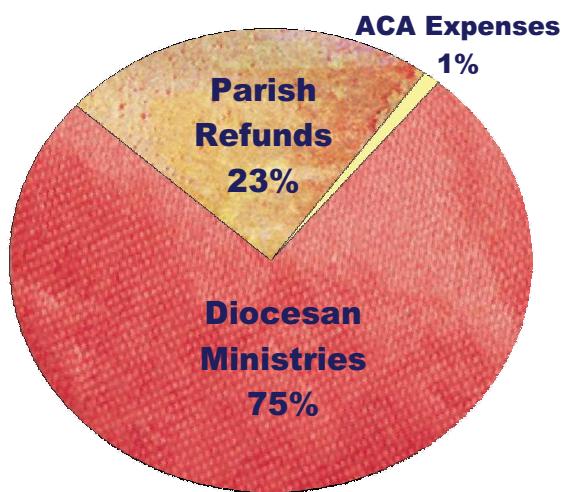


Your generous contribution to the Annual Catholic Appeal is an act of *Mercy*. It provides the means for so many ministries of our diocese to have a direct impact in the lives of those who long for what really matters, to know and experience the person of Jesus and his abundant *Mercy* and *Love*.

**Bishop Mark Bartchak**



### Distribution of 2015 ACA Gifts



We refunded a total of \$770,412 to Parishes that exceeded their goals last year!



*Your 2016 ACA gift will provide immediate relief to these ministries.*

Campus Ministry	Adult Faith Formation
Catholic Charities	Evangelization
Catholic Register	Lay Ecclesial Ministry
Communications	Liturgy & Worship
Ongoing Formation of Clergy (both Priests & Deacons)	Office of the Bishop
Dmitri Manor	Mandeville Twinning
Education	Family Life
Family Life	Christian Initiation
Finance	Religious Education
Fulton County	Development
Catholic Mission	Sacramental Preparation
Chancery	Tribunal
Information Systems & Technology	Vocations
	Youth Ministry

**Commitment Sunday, February 28**

Please place your gift in the offertory or donate online at [www.dioceseaj.org](http://www.dioceseaj.org)



# In The Alleghenies

## Mount President Chairs Mercy Presidents' Council

Mount Aloysius College President Tom Foley has been named Chairman of the Presidents Council of the Conference for Mercy Higher Education, (CMHE). As Chairman of the CMHE Presidents Council, Foley will facilitate regular business and ongoing efforts of the Council which is made up of presidents of 16 US colleges and universities operating under the auspices of the Religious Sisters of Mercy.

"The opportunity to serve with fellow leaders of the 16 US Mercy colleges and universities across the country is an honor," said Foley. "I am happy for the chance to lead our collaborative efforts to maximize the value and the values inherent in 180 years of Mercy education in America."

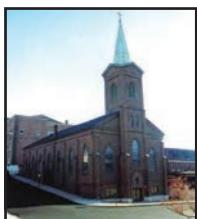
In addition to Mount Aloysius College, CMHE represents Carlow University, Pittsburgh; College of Saint Mary, Omaha,



**DR. TOM FOLEY**

NE.; Georgian Court University, Lakewood Township, NJ; Gwynedd Mercy University, Gwynedd Valley; Maria College, Albany, NY; Mercy College of Health Sciences, Des Moines, IA; Mercyhurst University, Erie; Misericordia University, Dallas; Mount Mercy University, Cedar Rapids, IA; Saint Joseph's College, Standish, ME; Saint Xavier University, Chicago, IL; Salve Regina University, Newport, RI; Trocaire College, Buffalo, NY; University of Detroit Mercy, Detroit, MI; and University of Saint Joseph, West Hartford, CT.

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

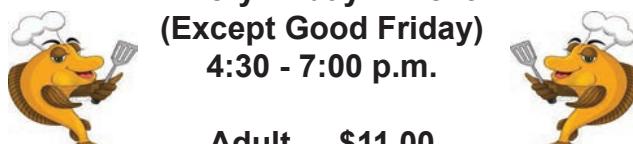


### Lenten Seafood Buffet

**Eat In or Take out**

**Featuring Weekly Chef's Special**

**Served at Saint Mary Parish  
Memorial Hall 4th Avenue and 15th Street  
Every Friday in Lent  
(Except Good Friday)  
4:30 - 7:00 p.m.**



**Adult -- \$11.00  
Children Ages 3 - 12 -- \$5.00  
Children Under 3 -- Free  
Takeout Dinners -- \$8.00**



**STUDENTS DONATE:** Students from the Catholic Campus Ministry at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown have donated \$1,145.00 to the Food For Families Program sponsored by the Saint Vincent DePaul Society in Johnstown. Campus minister LaDonna McCrary presented the check to Saint Vincent DePaul executive director Sonny Consiglio as students (left to right) Megan Kostan, Carolyn Zeis, Chloe Bovier, Nicholas Wolf, Sarah Brasili, Erica Mendel, Jess Numer and Melissa Moore looked on.



**CURSILLO RETREAT:** Cursillo members from the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese made their Fall retreat at Saint Emma Retreat Center in Greensburg. The theme of the weekend was "The Paschal Mystery and the Sober Intoxication of the Holy Spirit." Reflections were led by Deacon Scott Little. The retreat center is sponsored by the Benedictine Nuns of Westmoreland County. Retreatants took part in Morning and Evening Prayer, Mass, exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, chapel visits and free time to enjoy the retreat center grounds. Pictured are (left to right) First row: Betty Dennis, Nicholas Smith, Mercedes Smith, Benedictine Mother Mary Ann Noll ( prioress). Second row: Margaret Charney, Barb Bundy, Mary Molnar, Marge Murray, Sharon Becker. Third row: Diane and Deacon Scott Little. Fourth row: Roseann Bennett, Diane Gorka, Francine Boland, Susanna Tomlinson. Fifth row: Jo - Ann Semko, Sue Kinsinger, Tom Price and Crisitan Ridella. Not pictured: Sue Caldwell.

*(Continued From Page 3.)*

### Blanket Collection

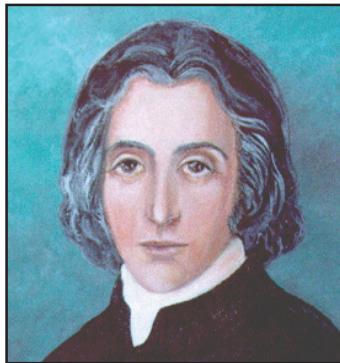
**Loretto:** The Saint Francis University Community Blanketeers' annual blanket collection kicked off on February 8 and will run until Friday, April 1. The blanketeer group was first

organized in 2006 by Dr. Robin L. Cadwallader and Dr. Margaret A. Garcia, with the assistance of Melita O'Donnell.

Each year the Blanketeers focus on creating comfy, soft blankets for babies and young children. Since 2006, the group has collected more than 1,100 beautiful quilted, crocheted,

knitted, and embroidered blankets, which have been donated to children in need in Blair, Cambria, Clearfield and Somerset counties.

*(Continued On Page 12.)*



## A Prince In The Service Of The Great King

**The Servant Of God  
Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin  
1770 - 1840**

## Mercy Cross Has Ties To Father Gallitzin

A universally recognized symbol of Mercy is the direct result of Father Demetrius Gallitzin's dying wish for religious Sisters to minister to the people of Loretto.

When seven Sisters of Mercy from Carlow, Ireland, traveled through the mountain village in 1843, in the company of Bishop Michael O'Connor, first

Bishop of Pittsburgh, en route to establishing the first Mercy convent in the United States, the Bishop told them of the Prince-Priest's life and ministry in the Allegheny Mountains, and how on his deathbed in 1840 he had expressed the hope that someday Sisters would come to Loretto to carry on his mission of service to his flock.

The Bishop's story made a deep impression on Mother Frances Warde, the leader of the little band. Mother Warde, the first Sister of Mercy to make her religious profession into the hands of the foundress, Venerable Mother Catherine McAuley, would in five years time send Sisters of Mercy to Loretto.

The Sisters there established Saint Aloysius Academy, which by the turn of the 20th century would have relocated to Mount Aloysius in Cresson, where a junior college was opened in 1939.

It was a faculty member of Mount Aloysius Junior College who in 1972 designed the Mercy Cross, now worn by Sisters of Mercy all around the world.

In a 1994 interview with **The Catholic Register**, the late Sister Maria Josephine D'Angelo said that when the Sisters were given the option of wearing secular clothing instead of a religious habit, a need was felt for a symbol that the Sisters could wear as a sign of their identity. Sister Maria Josephine designed a contemporary adaptation of the cross that Sisters of Mercy had worn at the end of their rosaries since the foundation of the community in 1831.

The original Mercy Cross was of ebony and ivory; a small white cross inset upon the dark surface of a larger cross.

"I couldn't possibly do anything but the Mercy Cross," Sister Maria Josephine said. "It was a symbol that was always so meaningful to our community."

"In the novitiate," Sister Maria Josephine recalled, "it



**MERCY CROSS:** Sister Maria Josephine D'Angelo of Mount Aloysius in Cresson (top left), designed the contemporary Mercy Cross (top right) in 1972. The traditional Mercy Cross is seen on the habit of Mother Frances Warde (bottom left), who brought the Sisters of Mercy to Loretto in 1843, in response to the deathbed wish of Father Demetrius Gallitzin for Sisters to continue his mission of service to the people of his mountain flock.

## 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, forever and ever. Amen.

+++

Kindly send information about favors granted to:  
**The Cause for the Servant of God  
Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin  
Diocese Of Altoona - Johnstown  
927 South Logan Boulevard  
Hollidaysburg PA 16648**

was drummed into us that our congregation was founded on Calvary. The symbolism of the cross is what our community was founded upon.

"Our spirit is self-giving," she explained. "Mercy means reaching out to those who are in need -- and those who are in need are most often people who are suffering. The symbolism of the cross just follows through."

Sister Maria Josephine found that the Mercy Cross was an abiding symbol precisely because it is a cross. "As long as there is Christianity, the cross will be an important symbol to Christian people." And, she continued, "People of an older generation saw the religious habit as the religious. Now, as we move into a new generation of people who never knew what a religious habit looked like, I know that people do recognize me as a religious person because of this symbol."

"The Mercy Cross identifies me as someone who is dedicated to serving the people of God."

Sister Maria Josephine began teaching art, as a laywoman, at Mount Aloysius in 1947. She

entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1948, and returned to the Mount in 1951, where, with the exception of two years spent in a House of Prayer, she continued to serve until moving to the Sisters of Mercy retirement center in Dallas, Luzerne County, where she died November 27, 2012. She is buried in the Sisters of Mercy Cemetery on the Mount Aloysius College campus.

Sister Maria Josephine received little acclaim for her most famous work, and that was how she preferred it; that the focus be on the Mercy Cross, and not on the artist who designed it.

"To me," she said "it represents all that Mercy means."

131 South Pleasant Ave.,  
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# Word of Life



## The Pope Teaches

**By Pope Francis  
Forgive Like Jesus**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Confessors have two choices: to be like Jesus who readily forgave sins or like the devil who always condemns, Pope Francis said.

"You can either do the work of Jesus, who forgives, by giving your lives in prayer (and) through many hours seated there or you do the work of the devil who condemns and accuses," the pope said during Mass Feb. 9 with Capuchin friars from around the world.

The Mass at the Altar of the Chair in St. Peter's Basilica was held in conjunction with the veneration of the relics of two Capuchins, Sts. Padre Pio and Leopold Mandic; Pope Francis requested their relics be brought to the Vatican for the Year of Mercy.

Both saints, the pope told the friars, spent long hours in the confessional as ministers of God's mercy and forgiveness.

Recalling the day's Gospel passage, in which the Pharisees and scribes condemn Jesus and his disciples for not observing traditions, the pope reminded the Capuchins that confessors are called to be "great forgivers in the confessional."

"The confessional is for forgiving," he said. "And if you cannot give someone absolution, please, do not 'beat' him."

The pope repeated the story of a former Capuchin provincial who was sent to a shrine as a confessor after his retirement. The friar, who usually had a long line of people waiting for him, "always found a way to forgive or at least leave that person's soul in peace with a hug."

However, the priest expressed concern that he was forgiving too much. "And what do you do when you feel that way?" the pope recalled asking him.

"I go to the chapel in front of the tabernacle, and I tell the Lord: 'I'm sorry Lord, forgive me, I think I forgave too much today. But Lord, it was you who gave me a bad example,'" the friar responded.

Forgiveness, the pope explained, is a "caress from God" and confessors who do not forgive become like the scribes in the Gospel "who are always there to accuse," much like "the great accuser in the Bible: the devil."



CNS Photo/Paul Haring



**ONE MORE TIME:** A 1940 photograph documents renovations to the sanctuary of Saint Patrick Church in Newry, a structure built in 1833. The 1833 building served the parish until 2006 when the present church, the parish's third, was dedicated. Along with Holy Name parish in Ebensburg and Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish in Bedford, Saint Patrick Parish is celebrating its bicentennial this year, and is an official diocesan pilgrimage site for the Extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy. The Jubilee Year indulgence may be gained at any of the three churches June 12 and 26, July 10 and 24, and August 14 and 28. The churches will be open from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. those days, for that purpose.

Good news, Mom and Dad! Take comfort in this Year of Mercy, because you've been living and teaching the corporal and spiritual works of mercy for years.

When it comes to the corporal, day after day you've been: feeding the hungry ("What's for dinner, Mom?"), giving drink to the thirsty (more so when the little ones couldn't reach the faucet), clothing the naked (and clothing them again as your kids outgrow pants, shirts, coats, and shoes overnight), sheltering the homeless (when they're young but, these days, that sheltering includes 20- and 30-somethings), visiting the sick (providing chicken soup, placing a cool hand on a warm forehead, and dashing to the pediatrician or pharmacy).

What about visiting the imprisoned and burying the dead? More often, but not always, this can involve extended family and friends. It's helping those whose loved one is in trouble with the law, and offering your support to those who are grieving.

The same is true for the spiritual works. Just look at that list and consider what you do as a parent: counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, admonish sinners, comfort the afflicted,



## Your Family

**By Bill Dodds  
Practicing The Year Of Mercy  
Begins At Home**

**Deed. Word. Prayer. These three keys will help you in unlocking the Year of Mercy and filling your home with merciful love that mirrors God's love and mercy for you.**

forgive offenses, bear wrongs patiently and pray for the living and the dead.

Counseling, instructing, admonishing, forgiving, that's parenting. That's marriage. Sometimes words are needed. Often it's the example you set. It's the way you choose to live your life, to live your Catholicism.

But, of course, both sets of works extend beyond family and friends. Throughout the world, and in your community, there are those who are literally hungry, homeless and all the rest. There are those who are doubtful, ignorant, sinners and who offend in many ways.

You probably know that Divine Mercy Sunday, celebrated on the Sunday after Easter, trac-

es its origin back to St. Faustina Kowalska, a Polish sister and visionary. In her diary, she writes of Jesus saying to her:

"My daughter ... you are to show mercy to your neighbors always and everywhere. You must not shrink from this or try to excuse or absolve yourself from it."

"I am giving you three ways of exercising mercy toward your neighbor: the first by deed, the second by word, the third by prayer. In these three degrees is contained the fullness of mercy, and it is an unquestionable proof of love for me. By this means a soul glorifies and pays reverence to my mercy."

By these, you and your family do that, too: Deed. Word. Prayer.

These three keys will help you in unlocking the Year of Mercy and filling your home with merciful love that mirrors God's love and mercy for you.



## Question Corner

**By Father Kenneth Doyle  
Resettling Muslims**

**Q.** It is my understanding that the Catholic Church, along with other religious organizations, is helping to relocate Syrian and other Middle Eastern refugees, of whom more than 90 percent are Muslim. Shouldn't saving persecuted Christians from this region be the priority?

The church has to realize that, as terrorism by these refugees continues to escalate here at home, the church will become an accomplice in these acts. I lost an acquaintance (a Messianic Jew) in the San Bernardino, California, massacre. Some of these Muslims will participate in terrorist acts, and an even larger percentage -- though quietly passive -- will support such terrorism.

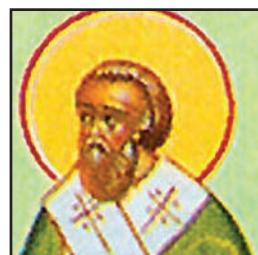
I have written to Catholic Charities, my diocesan newspaper and the League of Bishops expressing my concerns but have received no response. Now I no longer donate to Catholic Charities -- or to any collection when I do not know fully what my money supports. I no longer

contribute to Catholic education since I learned that one diocese has provided a "prayer room" at a Catholic high school for the Muslim students.

The church will have much to answer for, as Muslim attacks continue to go logarithmic (sic) in this country. The actions of my church have led me to a personal "crisis of faith." Does the Bible, or do the teachings of Jesus, ever tell us that we should willfully provide for our own demise? (City of origin withheld)

**A.** Normally I would not choose to run a letter like this because of its blatant bias. But realism causes me to worry that there may be other readers who share some of the feelings expressed, so I prefer to respond.

**To view Muslims generically as terrorist sympathizers is not only irresponsible but wildly inaccurate.**



Nestor  
Died circa 251  
Feast - February 25

As bishop of Magydus, in the Roman province Pamphylia (now Turkey), Nestor was forced to deal with an edict from Emperor Decius, requiring all citizens to sacrifice to Roman gods and produce a certificate to that effect or suffer imprisonment and torture. Many Christians turned to pagan ways to save themselves, but Nestor would not, though he did send many of people into hiding. After his arrest, he was tortured by order of the governor, who hoped to curry the emperor's favor. When Nestor told his torturers he would be ever with Christ, they crucified him. According to tradition, pagans and Christians knelt together in prayer during his martyrdom.

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No, we needn't choose to participate in our demise. Pope Francis, in his address to diplomats in January 2016, called for nations to "find the right balance between its twofold moral responsibility to protect the rights of its citizens and to ensure assistance and acceptance to migrants."

In the past five years, at least 4 million Syrians have fled their country as a consequence of the civil war and the rise of the Islamic State terrorist group. Children make up more than half of those displaced, and they have paid the heaviest price.

According to data gathered by Catholic Relief Services, "many have witnessed violence and the loss of homes or loved ones; the vast majority have been out of school for years."

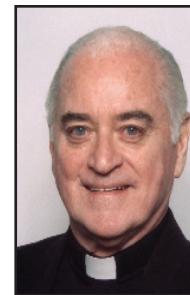
Christian humanitarian groups such as CRS and World Vision, which are on the ground helping refugees, do not distinguish between Christians and non-Christians; they simply serve all who are desperately seeking a home.

American priest Jesuit Father Tom Smolich, the international director of Jesuit Refugee Services, said, "The idea of only taking Christian refugees is contrary to what we stand for as an immigrant nation."

To view Muslims generically as terrorist sympathizers is not only irresponsible but wildly inaccurate. In a 2014 Christmas letter, Pope Francis noted that "Islam is a religion of peace, one which is compatible with respect for human rights and peaceful coexistence."

In November 2015, Auxiliary Bishop Eusebio Elizondo of Seattle, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Migration, echoed that observation: "These refugees are fleeing terror themselves," he said. "They are extremely vulnerable families, women and children who are fleeing for their lives. We cannot and should not blame them for the actions of a terrorist organization."

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



## Spirituality For Today

**By Father John Catoir  
Get To Know Pope Francis**

There are many opinions circulating about Pope Francis. Some say he's too liberal, others say he stresses mercy too much over justice. Permit me to present a few facts about how the pope has performed his duties since assuming the chair of St. Peter. I hope it will help you to know him better.

At the beginning of his pontificate, he was asked a question about the possibility of ordaining women priests. He answered: "[A]s far as women's ordination is concerned, the church has spoken and said: 'No.'"

Then a priest from Australia, Father Greg Reynolds, didn't take him seriously, and went on promoting women's ordination. The pope excommunicated him.

That was in 2013, the first year of his pontificate. Father Reynolds already had been suspended by his archbishop. He had been forbidden from performing any priestly duties but continued to do so publicly.

In an article published by the **National Catholic Reporter**, Father Reynolds expressed shock and bewilderment, blaming the excommunication on the fact that he promoted women's ordination. "I am very surprised that this order has come under his watch; it seems so inconsistent with everything else he has said and done." This gross miscalculation cost him dearly.

Another area where Pope Francis has been misjudged is on his courage. Is he too weak? Do you remember in 2014 when Pope Francis traveled to Calabria, Italy? He made big news by being the first pope to excommunicate all members of the mafia.

He did it at a public Mass in the strongest terms, blaming them all for following an evil, murderous path. There were many who feared for his life that day, because they knew that anyone who defies the mafia is targeted. Maybe that's why Pope Francis has said that he doesn't expect his papacy to last too long.

The mafia excommunication was planned for maximum effect. In this Year of Mercy, you may ask whether it's merciful to excommunicate anyone? The answer is written in canon law. The penalty of excommunication is intended to be medicinal not punitive. It is designed to give a serious warning to the recipients, hopefully, to turn them around so they may repent their sins before they face final judgment.

There have been many kings, bishops and cardinals, and even saints -- Joan of Arc, for example -- who were excommunicated but were exonerated or they humbly atoned for their sins.

Anyone who sees this pope as weak or indecisive is not paying attention. He has been consistently courageous in denouncing evil wherever he finds it. Even terrorists have felt the sting of his reproach.

After the 2015 attacks in Paris, Pope Francis condemned the terrorism as blasphemous and barbaric. "The path of violence and hatred cannot resolve the problems of humanity, and using the name of God to justify this path is blasphemy," he said.

Maybe what he's trying to tell us -- and is leading by example -- can be found in "The Joy of the Gospel," where he gave us these words to help us move with similar courage:

"But if we allow doubts and fears to dampen our courage, instead of being creative we will remain comfortable and make no progress whatsoever," he said. "In this case we will not take an active part in historical processes, but become mere onlookers as the church gradually stagnates."

# Visiting The Imprisoned A Corporal Work Of Mercy

(Continued From Page 1.)

The prison houses all levels of male and female criminals and they are not permitted to interact. Each level of offense is its own group.

Jones says volunteers are important as they can help these inmates discern God's plan for them, and of course remind them that the Holy Spirit is always there for them. "Sometimes I can notice a spark in their eyes, and maybe a tear, and I can see that The Holy Spirit has touched them."

Jones worked for 10 years in Ohio for the Office of Rehabilitation Counseling under the State Department of Labor and Industry. She retired in 2012 and moved back to this area. "I worked in prison ministry in Ohio and wanted to get back into it," she said. She worked



with the mentally challenged and those with developmental disabilities in the prison setting.

"I missed working in the prison. I believe that is what God has called me to do. Doctor Shoemaker approached me after church one day and asked me if I'd be interested, and I jumped at the opportunity.

"I very much enjoy my interaction with the inmates. I even write notes to them while I'm in Florida during the winter months."

The differences volunteers can make in the lives of the incarcerated can be imperceptible, but they occur. The volunteers distribute Bibles and Rosaries whenever they are needed. Doctor Shoemaker said 50% of the Rosaries they give out are to non-Catholics because it is the only physical symbol of God to which they have access. Sometimes it can lead to bringing a person back to their faith or to begin an association with the Church.

"Our hope is that we can bring these people help on the county level before their lives get too bad," said Doctor Shoemaker. "Jesus came to us sinners and turned our lives around."



CNS Photo/David Maialetti, Pool

**INMATE PRAYS:** Inmate David Hernandez, 39, prays during the visit of Pope Francis to the Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility in Philadelphia September 27, 2015.

She said in this Year of Mercy visiting the imprisoned is a Corporal Work of Mercy. "It can be extremely gratifying and extremely frustrating," Doctor Shoemaker explained with a laugh. But you couldn't get her to stay away.

For anyone looking to evangelize in a group or individual catechesis, this is a great opportunity.

"We are always looking for persons to be the welcoming face of the Church," Doctor Shoemaker said. "It requires patience to bring as many people as possible to God's family."

Anyone interested in learning more about volunteer Prison Ministry they can call Doctor Shoemaker at (814) 241 - 7345.

## Infant Of Prague Novena February 28 to March 7, 2016

St. Andrew Church, 1621 Ferndale Avenue, Johnstown, PA 15905

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



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Pope's Intentions

Return To Sacraments

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# 'Life, Love, And Mercy'

(Continued From Page 16.)

Before greeting each Catechumen and Candidate personally, Bishop Mark told them "I am honored and proud and glad to be part of this journey with you."

The Rite was celebrated at the Cathedral of Saint John Gualbert in Johnstown on Sunday afternoon, and at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona that evening. It is always celebrated on the First Sunday of Lent, and this year it was celebrated as the Northeast experienced near record frigid temperatures. But according to Jeanne Thompson, diocesan coordinator of Christian Initiation, there was a warmth to the celebrations.

"Braving the cold weather, the men, women, youth and children entered the Cathedrals with smiles on their faces. The parish directors and leaders of the Christian Initiation process told me that in the week leading up to this Sunday their people were really excited and looking forward to meeting the Bishop, and to be with other people who, like themselves, had made the decision to join the Catholic Church."

Greeting the Catechumens and Candidates as they gathered prior to the Rite, Thompson said "I was moved by the level of seriousness in their responses. I knew this was a true expression



**BOOK OF THE ELECT:** After the Book of the Elect was signed by each catechumen, and those signatures were witnessed by Bishop Mark, Deacon James J. Janosik processed the Book through the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, so that it could be seen by all taking part in the Rite.



The Catholic Register, February 22, 2016

Page 11

of their deep and life - changing decision."

Thompson said that this year's celebration made her feel a little bit "mushy," and that the first celebration, in Johnstown was when "I first realized that these soon - to - be - Catholics truly had a deep desire to celebrate the sacraments, and were answering the call of God they had recognized at a recent time, or a past time in their lives.

"They knew they were supposed to be a member of the Catholic Church."

Two moments in particular struck Thompson.

"I was truly moved to tears as I felt the level of emotion at the applause following the signing of the Book of the Elect, and how that continued long after

the book was held up ceremonially for all to see. I thought this was a true sign of the loving support for these Catechumens and Candidates as they continue in their faith journey and their preparation for the sacraments."

She went on "As the names of the already baptized Candidates were announced, the parish directors spoke with pride and sincerity.

"To me, this was another sign that God is in charge! It gave me great hope and joy for the present, and for the future of our Church."

Retreats for the Catechumens, now known as the Elect, and for the Candidates will be held Palm Sunday weekend. They will participate in a Mass of Thanksgiving April 23.

## The FIRE Rally!

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](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.



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Position available in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown at St. John the Evangelist Catholic School, Lakemont, PA. Candidates must submit a letter of interest, resume, the PA Standard Application OR Diocesan Teaching Application, college transcripts, PA Certification, three letters of recommendation (two professional, one from pastor), current (within one year) Act 151, Act 34, and Act 114 clearances, Act 126 Mandated Reporter, Act 168 Employment History Check, and completion of Diocesan Youth Protection Program.

Send *complete* applications to:  
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**Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Education Office**  
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# In The Alleghenies

(Continued From Page 6.)

All blankets should be new and hand made in a size suitable for small hands (approximately 36 x 48 inches). While any materials are acceptable, washable fabrics and yarns are desirable as these blankets will get a lot of use and see many washings.

Blankets can be dropped off at Saint Francis University and placed in the crib located in the entrance of Scotus Hall. For other drop-off arrangements, call (814) 472 - 3004.

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

## Parishes

### Speaker

**Bedford:** As part of the bi-centennial celebration of Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish, Dr. John Bergsma will present "How to Get through the Bible in an Hour!" on Saturday, March 5 from 1:00 until 3:00 p.m. in Saint Thomas the Apostle School Hall, 129 West Penn Street. The program is free of charge, and food and drink will be available for purchase during the presentation.

Dr. John Bergsma is a full professor of Theology at the Franciscan University of Steubenville, in Steubenville, Ohio. He holds the M.Div. and Th.M. degrees from Calvin Seminary, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and served as a Protestant pastor for four years before entering the Catholic Church in 2001 while pursuing a Ph.D. in Theology from the University of Notre Dame.



**CELEBRATING:** Our Lady of Victory School and Our Lady of Victory Preschool, State College, and Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy, Boalsburg, joined together for the opening of Catholic Schools Week, celebrating a Mass Sunday, January 31 at Our Lady of Victory Church. Pictured are (left to right) St. Joseph's students: Aubrey Thomas, Nick Shearer, and Hannah Straub; OLV students: Nick Beattie, Josh Rogan, Kaila Roberts, Jaidyn Young, Caroline Swenson, and Caitlyn Brannon; OLV Preschool Students: Elizabeth Szmanski, Max Vendemia; Fr. Neil Dadey (pastor), OLV Principal Samantha Weakland and OLV Preschool Director Beth Dougherty



**STUDENTS DONATE FOOD:** Students at Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy in Boalsburg saw an opportunity to help a local food bank left short on funds by the State budget stalemate. Led by the school's Service Club, students, parents, faculty, and staff worked together to collect enough items to help restock the shelves of the State College Food Bank following its busy holiday season. The donation drive brought in more than 500 items, weighing 493 pounds, to help local individuals and families in need. Items collected included oatmeal, coffee, rice, canned meats, condiments, sugar, soap, shampoo, and more. "The donation from Saint Joe's came at a critical time," said Carol Pioli, executive director of the State College Food Bank. "Donations are important year round, but especially after the holiday season. People are very generous in December," she continued, "but that can make January tough. As the holiday spirit dwindles, so do donations." Said SJCA student Jordan Wiser "We knew that supplies at the food bank would be low after the holidays. We rallied around Service -- one of our four pillars -- and thanks to tremendous generosity, we collected a lot of items on the 'greatest need list' we received from the food bank. It was a perfect opportunity to come together as a school to serve our community."

## 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.**  
Takeout's available in the lower level of Parish Center



# BG Student Photographer Gets The Picture

**By Bob Kasun**

Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School senior Brad Young anxiously awaited the October 11, 2015 edition of the **Altoona Mirror**.

Like many BG students, his name was going to appear in the Sunday paper. And even though his name was going to appear in tiny six - point lettering -- around forty percent smaller than normal newspaper type -- he was excited.

Young, a talented photographer light years ahead in the photography world for his age, had his first photos published in the **Altoona Mirror** from the District 6 girls' tennis championships. The photo credit read, "Photo for the **Mirror** by Brad Young" in small type, but in his eyes, it looked like a big headline.

"Surreal," said Young, describing his reaction to seeing his photos in the **Altoona Mirror**. "Being published gives validation to my work, has helped me gain self-confidence and a desire to continue to learn and excel in my work."

Young, who is a parishioner at Saint Rose of Lima Parish in Altoona, has had more than 15 of his photos published in the **Altoona Mirror** since mid - October. He appreciates the guidance and feedback of the **Mirror** photographers. Young traveled with an **Altoona Mirror** photographer to take photos of the Penn State - Michigan football game.

"And thanks to the many kind people over at the **Mirror** I have been given the opportunity to photograph a Penn State game with another photographer," Young said. "Working with the people at the **Altoona Mirror** has really made a positive impact on my photos with the advice and the constructive criticism they have given me."

According to **Altoona Mirror** photo editor J.D. Cavrich, Young's talent speaks volumes. "Brad definitely is advanced in



**STUDENT'S PHOTOGRAPH:** This photo of District 6 soccer champion Jordan DeLeo is one of the 15-plus photos by Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School senior Brad Young that has been published by the **Altoona Mirror**.

photography as a high school senior, not only with the equipment that he uses, but using his timing to get the peak action of sports photography, and his eye for cropping and composing the final image," Cavrich said. "It's refreshing also to have him be not only responsible for being at planned events, but being on time photographing events, and sending his photos electronically on a deadline to the paper afterwards."

Young said he developed an interest in photography when his Dad would take photos of Brad and his older brother Matt participating in various sports. "Looking at those pictures and discussions with my dad got me interested and I started taking photos and eventually invested in equipment and necessary software," Young said.

Along with being published in the **Altoona Mirror**, Young's photos have appeared in the national student newspaper for the 2014 BG state championship football game and **The Catholic Register**.

"I have shot many types of subjects, including sports, marine life, landscape, and portraits," Young said. "[My photos] have also been utilized

in organizational websites including BG and marketing material for big screen and billboard advertisement."

Young's photography has been a big hit with BG parents who can gain access to hundreds of photos at BG sporting events and purchase them for a very reasonable price. "My Dad and uncle started R and R Photography and when I started taking pictures for the school sporting events I wanted parents and students to have access to these pictures so I began to upload my pictures to their site as well," Young said. "Since I do more than just sports I eventually expanded to my own website which still connects to R and R Photography ([www.bradyoung-photo.com](http://www.bradyoung-photo.com)) for anyone wishing to purchase photos. Parents and student seem to enjoy the access to professional quality pictures at a low price, as hundreds of pictures have been sold."

Young's photography has also expanded into senior photos. He said he has taken several dozen senior photos of students of BG, Tyrone, Hollidaysburg and Altoona. "The more pictures I take the more requests I get," Young said. "I have gotten lots

of good feedback from parents and students, and I feel good about the quality of pictures I produce."

Young's talents are also appreciated and encouraged by the Bishop Guilfoyle administration. Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic principal Joan Donnelly said, "Brad is our 'go to' student photographer. His photos are excellent at capturing the student-life environment at our school. His willingness to give of his time and talent is greatly appreciated."

Ultimately, Young is hoping to parlay his great start into a professional career in photography with his sights set high. "I aspire to become a premier photographer for national publications. To be able to explore the unseen and sensational people, places and things the world has to offer," Young said.

## 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)

# Now Showing

## 'Risen': The Resurrection From A Skeptic's Point Of View

**By Junno Arocho Esteves**  
Catholic News Service

**ROME (CNS)** -- Hollywood is no stranger to movies depicting the life and death of Christ, trying to present Jesus from the perspective of the Gospels, which are the written accounts of Jesus' life and ministry from those closest to him.

Joseph Fiennes, the actor starring in "Risen," said his new project seeks to illustrate the story of Christ's death and resurrection from a unique perspective.

"We're seeing this narrative play out, which is dear to mil-

lions of us and means so much, through the eyes of a skeptic, through the eyes of a nonbeliever," Fiennes told Catholic News Service Feb. 4. Fiennes plays Clavius, a Roman tribune charged by Pontius Pilate to investigate the events following Christ's death. His character, he said, begins as an enemy "who is there to put down any zealot insurrections; so from his point of view, Yeshua (Jesus) is just another terrorist."

The film, Fiennes said, departs from other depictions by picking up where most movies leave off: the crucifixion. Additionally, Clavius sees Jesus'



CNS photo/Columbia

**RISEN:** Joseph Fiennes stars in a scene from the movie "Risen." Fiennes said his new project seeks to illustrate the story of Christ's death and resurrection from a unique perspective.

execution as acceptable punishment for threatening the established order. "For (Clavius), the crucifixion is just another day at the office, so he's deeply conditioned to think in one way," he said.

The 45-year-old British actor told CNS that a pivotal scene, one in which Clavius meets Jesus, was akin to his brief encounter with Pope Francis at the general audience Feb. 3.

"To tell you the truth, I had so many questions and when he looked me in the eye, the conversation seemed pointless," Fiennes recalled. "It was a connection beyond conversation, he's deeply connected as a spiritual being and so talking seems like

a waste of time, it seemed shallow. And it's the same with the character meeting Christ, as if to say, 'This is enough.'"

Clavius' initial doubts, Fiennes said, speaks to the nature of faith "whether you are an absolute, ardent believer or an atheist." The main character's knowledge and intellect can't grasp what he has witnessed.

"He can't reduce the noise and tune into the greater consciousness, and a lot of us suffer from that," Fiennes said. "I think if there is any takeaway from this movie, that might be a big one."

To prepare for the scene in which Jesus, played by actor Cliff Curtis, and Clavius meet, Curtis took a 30-day vow of silence, Fiennes said. Saving their

first moment of speaking to each other for that scene, he said, allowed them to imbue it "with a sense of respect toward what that moment would mean for those two characters."

"That's our little way of trying to prepare for that moment. We'll never get it right, we'll never get the huge monumental essence of it, but we try to get a thread of it," he said.

The story of "Risen," he added, is not meant to preach or to divide those who believe and those who don't but rather unite them "in the experience."

"I hope that a believer and a nonbeliever, an agnostic and an atheist can all sit in the auditorium together in a wonderful, positive environment and enjoy the narrative," Fiennes said.

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**Sunday Mass Telecast**  
*Live from Saint John Gualbert Cathedral*  
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**10:30 a.m.**  
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Upcoming guests on "Keeping The Faith," Bishop Mark L. Bartchak's segment of "Proclaim!" will include:

**February 28** - - Jeremy Woodhead, director of the Martha and Mary House in Johnstown, operated by Catholic Charities, joins Bishop Mark to discuss the shelter's impact in the community one year after opening.

**March 6** - - Aleah Krug, a member of Saint Nicholas Parish in Nicktown and a student at Bishop Carroll Catholic High School in Ebensburg, shares how Catholic education has made a positive impact in her life.

## May They Rest In Peace



**Deacon Bernard J.  
Zernik**

Deacon Bernard J. Zernik, 72, of Nicktown, died Saturday, February 6, at UPMC Montefiore Hospital, Pittsburgh.

He was born March 29, 1943, in Spangler, the son of the late John and Mary M. (Lubert) Zernik, and was preceded in death by brothers, Blair, John and Robert Zernik; and sister, Agnes Bolette.

He is survived by his loving wife of 49 years, Dolores "Dee" (Sherry) Zernik; children, Robert Zernik, Carrollton; Bernard, married to Lori (Sherry) Zernik, Nicktown; Barry, married to Christine (Bracken) Zernik, Cresson; Brigitte Benamati, Nicktown; and Beth Ann, wife of Tom Sciko, Portage; grandchildren, Andrew, Olivia and Jeremy Zernik, Adam (Jennifer Hassen), Ryan (Rebecca Dominick) and Courtney Zernik; Jonathon and Matthew

Zernick; Krista, Christopher, Darren and Jordan Benamati; Alexa Lavery, Haley and Lauren Sciko; and great - grandchildren, Violet Zernick, Jason Covington and Andrew Zernick.

Deacon Zernik was the brother of Edward Zernik, Michigan; Ann Baker and Angie Campbell, both of Northern Cambria; Theresa Janosko, Littleton; Ted Zernick, Indiana and Eugene Zernick, Northern Cambria.

He was a U.S. Army veteran of the Vietnam era and member of American Legion Post 506, Carrollton. Deacon Zernik was the owner/operator of Zernick Construction, which he established in 1972 and partnered with his sons in 1997. He retired in 2006. He was a member of Knights of Columbus Council 2277.

Following studies at Saint Francis University, Loretto and Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, he was ordained a permanent deacon by Bishop Joseph V. Adamec on May 30, 1998, and began his ministry at Our Lady of the Alleghenies Parish, Lilly. At the time of his death he was serving in diaconal ministry at Prince of Peace Parish, Northern Cambria, where he also served as director of religious education.

The Funeral Mass for Deacon Bernard J. Zernik was celebrated Friday, February 12 at Saint Nicholas Church, Nicktown. Committal was at Saint Nicholas Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to the Saint Vincent De-Paul Society or to the Legion of Mary.



**CHECK PRESENTATION:** The Knights of Columbus presented Bishop Mark L. Bartchak with a check for \$1,400 to assist with seminarian expenses. The check was presented on Monday, December 20, 2015 at the Diocesan Administration Center in Hollidaysburg. Pictured (left to right) are: Father Matthew Reese, Diocesan Director of Vocations; seminarians Michael Pleva, Devin Crouse, and Jonathan Dickson; Leo McKenzie, Knights of Columbus; Bishop Mark; and seminarians Mark Groeger, Austin Keith, and Peter Crowe.

Steubenville, Dr. Bergsma is a popular teacher who inspires his students with a love of Scripture. He and his wife Dawn reside with their eight children in Steubenville, Ohio.

### Year Of Mercy Mission

**Patton:** A Parish Mission for the Year of Mercy will be held at Queen of Peace Parish from Saturday, March 5 - Thursday, March 10, at 7:00 p.m. each evening. The mission will be preached by Father William Casey of the Fathers of Mercy.

Each mission service will consist of Exposition, the Divine Mercy chaplet, and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Confessions will be heard each evening.

Soup and sandwiches will be served nightly, after devotions, in the lower level of the parish center.

For more information contact Queen of Peace Parish at (814) 674 - 8983, or by e - mail at [qpchurch@verizon.net](mailto:qpchurch@verizon.net).

### Lenten Mission

**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.

sa, 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.

Father John Byrnes and the parish family of the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel invite all to participate, 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.

### Prayer

### Carmelite Novena

**Loretto:** The Discalced Carmelite Nuns announce their second Novena of the year to Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Saint Therese, the Little Flower. The novena begins today, Monday, February 22 and concludes Tuesday, March 1.

All intentions will be remembered in the special Novena

prayer offered following daily Mass in Carmel's chapel.

Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament is given every Sunday at 4:00 p.m. and every First Friday of the month in the public chapel at Carmel, followed by veneration of the relic of Saint Therese.

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

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## In The Alleghenies

(Continued From Page 12.)

Dr. Bergsma's articles, some co-authored with Dr. Scott Hahn, have appeared in several academic journals as well as Lay Witness, the magazine of Catholics United for the Faith, and he has published two books, **Bible Basics for Catholics: A New Picture of Salvation His-**

**tory** (Ave Maria Press, 2012) and **New Testament Basics for Catholics** (Ave Maria Press, 2015).

He has appeared as a guest on EWTN's The Journey Home, Franciscan University Presents, and Relevant Radio's Drew Mariani Show. Twice voted Faculty of the Year by graduating classes of the Franciscan University of

# Bishop Tells Catechumens, Candidates That Jesus Wishes To Write The Words ‘Life, Love, And Mercy’ In Our Hearts

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

Scripture only records one instance of Jesus writing something, Bishop Mark L. Bartchak said Sunday, February at as he presided at the Rite of Election and Enrollment of Names of Catechumens, and Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates, at the Cathedrals in Johnstown and Altoona.

He was referencing the story in John's gospel (8:1 - 11) where the Scribes and Pharisees bring a woman caught in adultery to Jesus, and the Lord bent down and wrote something on the ground.

"Jesus may have been writing something inconsequential," Bishop Mark said "but do you realize what He was doing that whole time?"

"Jesus was writing something in the heart of that woman who stood there silently before Him."

Jesus was writing words of life, of love, and of mercy, the Bishop stated "and He especially wants to write those words in our hearts."

Gathered for the Rite were people from 37 parishes, including 88 Candidates who have already been baptized, and 40



**WELCOME:** Bishop Mark L. Bartchak extended a warm welcome to Catechumen Amya Miller of Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament Parish, Altoona (left) and to Candidate Paul Rossman of Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel Parish, Loretto (right) at the Rite Of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion celebrated Sunday, February 14, at the Altoona Cathedral.

Catechumens who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In those numbers are five Candidates and three Catechumens from Our Lady of the Mount Parish at State Correctional Institution at Rockview.

Bishop Mark spoke to the Catechumens and Candidates of his joy at receiving their let-

ters explaining their faith journeys, and told them "I am truly honored to have received them, and I am grateful for the many ways in which they strengthen my faith."

He said "You shared some of the fears and hurts of your past, and you shared the joys of being brought to Jesus now; not

to be condemned, but to be given a share in His life, His love, and His mercy as these gifts are poured out on us in His Church, especially through the sacraments."

Bishop Mark said the letters he received "strengthen my faith because your stories are already stories of a realization of your

sharing in God's life, and love, and mercy, and how much you desire for that to be the core of your lives after you are formally received into the Church at Easter."

(Continued On Page 11.)

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