



# The Catholic Register

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## Pope Confirms He Will Visit Philadelphia In 2015

By Francis X. Rocca  
Catholic News Service

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** -- Pope Francis said he would attend the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia in September, making it the first confirmed stop on what is expected to be a more extensive papal visit to North America.

The pope made the announcement Nov. 17 in a speech opening an interreligious conference on traditional marriage.

"I would like to confirm that, God willing, in September 2015 I will go to Philadelphia for the eighth World Meeting of Families," the pope said.

The announcement had been widely expected, since Pope Benedict XVI had said before his retirement that he hoped to attend the Philadelphia event. Popes typically fulfill their predecessors' publicly known travel plans, as Pope Francis did in July 2013 when he attended World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro.

Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, who was in Rome for the families meeting, told Catholic News Service the announcement was "a surprise in the sense that it was announced so early; you know usually they don't make these announcements -- four months out is the typical and here we are 10 months away, and the Holy

Father said he is coming to Philadelphia."

"The Holy Father has said that he's going to be coming to Philadelphia for quite a few months," he told Catholic News Service. "He's been telling me that personally, but for him to announce it officially that he is coming so early is really quite an unusual thing, so it's going to re-energize our efforts. There's a lot of enthusiasm already, but I think 90 percent of the enthusiasm's based on the fact that the Holy Father will be with us, and now that he's said that I expect that there will be even a double amount of enthusiasm ... and I'm very happy about that."

Catholicphilly.com reported the archbishop noted that Pope Francis has focused "on the many challenges that families face today globally. His charisma, presence and voice will electrify the gathering.

"As I've said many times before, I believe that the presence of the Holy Father will bring all of us -- Catholic and non-Catholic alike -- together in tremendously powerful, unifying and healing ways. We look forward to Pope Francis' arrival in Philadelphia next September, and we will welcome him joyfully with open arms and prayerful hearts."

In August, Pope Francis told reporters accompanying him on the plane back from South Korea that he "would like" to go to

Philadelphia. The pope also noted that President Barack Obama and the U.S. Congress had invited him to Washington, D.C., and that the secretary-general of the United Nations had invited him to New York.

"Maybe the three cities together, no?" Pope Francis said, adding that he could also visit the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico on the same trip -- "but it is not certain."

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, told reporters Nov. 17 that Pope Francis wanted to "guarantee organizers" that he would be present at the meeting in Philadelphia, "but he did not say anything about other possible stops or events during that trip. And for now I do not have anything to add in that regard."

Although few details of the papal visit have made public, organizers for the families' congress expect Pope Francis to arrive Sept. 25 for an afternoon public visit with civic officials.

That would begin his first trip as pope to the United States and the second papal visit to Philadelphia in a generation; St. Pope John Paul II visited the city in 1979. He will be the fourth sitting pope to visit the U.S.

During his visit, Pope Francis is expected to attend the Festival of Families Sept. 26, a cultural celebration for hundreds of thousands of people along Philadelphia's main cultural



CNS Photo /Paul Haring

**POPE AND PHILADELPHIA ARCHBISHOP:** Pope Francis talks with Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia during his general audience in Saint Peter's Square at the Vatican November 19. The pope confirmed November 17 that he will attend the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia in September.

boulevard, the Benjamin Franklin Parkway.

Donna Farrell, executive director for the 2015 World Meeting of Families and its chief planner, said although Philadelphia has hosted St. Pope John Paul's visit, the city has "not had anything like this unique Festival of Families. It's really going to be something special."

Registration for the congress opened in mid-November. The meeting will be a weeklong series of talks, discussions and activities.

Pope Francis is expected to celebrate a public Mass for an estimated 1 million people on Sept. 26 on the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, in

full view of the crowds arrayed from the museum down the Ben Franklin Parkway.

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, welcomed the pope's announcement.

"The presence of Pope Francis at the World Meeting of Families in our country will be a joyful moment for millions of Catholics and people of good will. Our great hope has been that the Holy Father would visit us next year to inspire our families in their mission of love. It is a blessing to hear the pope himself announce the much anticipated news," Archbishop Kurtz said.

## Family Life

### Christmas Tea

**Lilly:** All women and men who have experienced the loss of a spouse are invited to share together a cup of comfort, a cup of tea (or coffee if you prefer). Sponsored by the Diocesan Family Life Office, this special "Christmas Morning Tea" will be held on Wednesday, December 10 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Family Life Office, 5379 Portage Street.

This morning tea will include a time for prayer, faith comfort notes and fellowship. Widows and widowers throughout the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese are invited.

Reservations required one week before. Contact the Family Life Office at (814) 886 - 5551 or [familylife@dioceseaj.org](mailto:familylife@dioceseaj.org)

### Marriage Encounter

**Lilly:** Worldwide Marriage Encounter of Western Pennsylvania is offering two weekend encounter opportunities for Married Couples within the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese. A Commuter Worldwide Marriage Encounter will be held on Saturday, January 24, 2015 at 7:00 a.m. to Sunday afternoon, January 25 at the Sacred Heart Spir-



**NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY:** Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School, Altoona, has inducted its latest class into the National Honor Society. Inductees include (left to right) First row: Allison Bare, Rebecca Kasun, Morgan Turchetta, Alyssa Trybus, Delaney Hallinan, Jamie Murgas, Drake Patel. Second row: Natasha Rasmussen, Madison Hearn, Nicole Watt, Alyson Stevens, Maria Ruggery, Hannah Carey, Taylor Johnsonbaugh, Maya Irwin, Rylee Adams, Shaelyn Rickens, Mikayla Mignogna, Brynee Baughman, Emily Yanoshak. Third row: Christopher Brown (advisor), James Burke, Daniel Sullivan, Nathan Hagg, Colin Berkheimer, Michael Fox, Ryan Evanko, Collin Welteroth, Alex Gburek, Jacob Kurtz and Ashton Truby.

tuality Center (1872 Munster Rd.,) Portage.

An overnight weekend is also scheduled for February 27, 28, March 1, 2015, Friday evening to Sunday afternoon, at The Atherton Hotel, State College.

For more information, call (814) 495 - 4854 or register on line at [www.yourmarriageisworthit.org](http://www.yourmarriageisworthit.org)

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ers, and phones to focus only on each other. If you'd like greater depth, growth and enrichment in your relationship, don't miss this chance! For couples who want to make a good marriage better.

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## High Schools

### National Honor Society

**Altoona:** Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School recently inducted 18 students into the school's Aquinas Chapter 5057 of the National Honor Society.

Selection for the National Honor Society is based on achievement in academics, character, leadership and service.

The four seniors inductees included Colin Berkheimer, Delaney Hallinan, Morgan Turchetta and Alyssa Trybus.

The 14 junior inductees included Nathan Hagg, Alex Gburek, Jacob Kurtz, Daniel Sullivan, Mikayla Mignogna, James Burke, Madison Hearn, Collin Welteroth, Rebecca Kasun, Emily Yanoshak, Allison Bare, Drake Patel, Jamie Murgas and Alyson Stevens.

Bishop Guilfoyle also recognized its second year National Honor Society members: Rylee



**VETERANS DAY DISPLAY:** Students at Saint John the Evangelist Catholic School, Bellefonte, created a display of memorabilia from family member military veterans, for presentation at an assembly held Veterans Day, Tuesday, November 11.

Adams, Brynee Baughman, Hannah Carey, Ryan Evanko, Michael Fox, Maya Irwin, Taylor Johnsonbaugh, Natasha Rasmussen, Shaelyn Rickens, Nicole Watt, Maria Ruggery and Ashton Truby.

### Online Newspaper

**Altoona:** Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School's journalism class is getting a taste of the newspaper world with the debut of the **Marauder Mirror**. The online newspaper produced by BG journalism class ([www.maraudermirror.org](http://www.maraudermirror.org))

contains a wide array of stories and features that are updated on a daily and weekly basis.

Some of the features include Clergyman of the Month, Athlete of the Week and Interview of the Month, which most recently included an interview with Dr. Kevin Yeskey, who is a specialist on Ebola.

(Continued On Page 3.)

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# In The Alleghenies



**MILESTONE:** The Lock Haven Catholic School has reached a major milestone in their fundraising for the new building, hitting the \$1 million mark. Their current total fundraising amount is \$1,012,000. The Lock Haven Catholic School Expansion Committee is amazed at the support they have received thus far, but wants to remind people that Lock Haven Catholic School needs their help more than ever to help them reach their total goal of 1.5 million dollars.

*(Continued From Page 2.)*

The journalism class provides pre-game and post-game coverage of sporting events, which includes videos in the on-line newspaper. Other coverage includes student life, club corner, poll question of the month, photo galleries along with regional college and professional sports coverage.

“The students have really taken grasp to the **Marauder Mirror**,” said Bishop Guilfoyle journalism teacher Jordan Griffith. “It has given the students an interest in journalism. They are getting to see the final production. It’s not just reading journalism and comparing journalism, they get the chance to be the journalists. They are watching the news, getting educated on topics and they ask if they can cover a topic like Ebola.”

The BG newspaper staff includes Jordan Rhone, Anna Baughman, Joe Dombrowski, Delaney Hallinan, Nick Hofer, Adam Horell, Amanda Irwin,

Nicole Kiser, Anthony Livoti, Sam McCloskey, Danielle Rudolf, Alexis Shaw, Clarisse Spencer and Morgan Turchetta.

“When we started, they had all of the information, but they didn’t know how to bring the story to life for the readers,” Griffith said. “Don’t write that Ben Roethlisberger threw six touchdowns, describe three of those touchdowns so the reader can visualize what happened in the game. They were writing two to three paragraphs and now they are writing six to seven paragraphs. They are enjoying it because they are seeing the big picture and giving the reader the big picture. Their writing has taken off.”

Rhone, a senior who has taken a leadership role in the journalism class as one of the editors, produces the pre-game football interviews that are found under the video section. He uses imovies app to edit the video content that is posted to the online newspaper Web site along with Youtube. Rhone, who

was the sports editor for the Altoona Central Catholic student newspaper, said the **Marauder Mirror** has opened up new opportunities.

“The goal of the **Marauder**

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Carmela Manago  
Executive Director

**Mirror** is to provide the student body with a primary news source they can turn to with information that is enjoyable for them to read. Giving them that place to go is the most exciting part,” Rhone said. “It’s an interesting hobby for me. I’ve enjoyed writing my whole educational career. When I had an opportunity to take this class and I would be working on the newspaper that definitely jumped out at me that I would be interested in.”

As a standout football player on the Bishop Guilfoyle undefeated team, who has been interviewed by the **Altoona Mirror** after the game, senior McCloskey said it’s been interesting to see both sides of reporting.

“It’s a lot of easier to answer the questions in the question

and answer part of it,” McCloskey said of being interviewed. “It’s a little bit more difficult asking people and interviewing them because it’s hard to come up with questions to make sure you’re asking the right questions to get the point of what you’re writing your article about.”

## Higher Education

### Honored For Service

**Cresson:** Mount Aloysius College honored staff and faculty who contributed 280 years of cumulative service to the College.

*(Continued On Page 6.)*

## St. Peregrine Shrine

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Intention: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Point Of View

“You are one of those Christmas freaks aren’t you?” she said with a quirky smile. Taken back I realized where she was probably coming from. It’s one of those mistakes, I should have known better not to make, especially when conversing with this person. As the conversation of stressing out over the holidays, which always makes its debut this time of year, came bellowing out of her mouth, I quickly added, “Oh, I am ready, not stressed out at all, in fact, I have everything almost done.” She glared at me, “You got to be kidding,” she said and then the Christmas freak remark came pursing through her lips.

At first I was offended, taken back, because I don’t consider myself a Christmas freak at all. Actually, I am not sure what the definition of one is anyway. But then it struck me, she was trying to console herself because she gets totally stressed out over the holidays and she knows I simply do not. It is not that the holiday preparations never get to me. Believe me, in years past there were times, I would willingly take on the role of the Grinch that Stole Christmas if it was offered. But I have to say I am getting better and better. In fact, every year, I get almost all of my presents bought and decorating done by the first week in December, if not sooner. Okay, I realize many readers are probably now agreeing with the whole Christmas freak remark but let me explain.

I do absolutely love Christmas. I love the sights, smells and wonders of this most wonderful



## Family Matters

By Amy Kanich  
**A Christmas Freak**

time of the year. It is a well known fact I love to play Christmas carols and hymns long before the first snow falls. I burn evergreen candles and decorate about every inch of my house. But, this is not the reason I do all of this in advance. I don’t do it to show off or have bragging rights about being on top of it all. I do it for one reason alone. I do it for Christmas, the real meaning of Christmas. I do it so Christmas, can be Christmas, exactly how it should be, a season filled with joy and hope, a peaceful time of expectation. I know Christmas is not about the Santa decorations, reindeer cookies or snowmen. In fact, you will not find much of those in my house. Christmas is about the birth of our Savior, the Newborn King, and because of Him we do Christmas in our home really big and exceptionally really early!!!!

Why the early thing you may ask? Shouldn’t we be celebrating Advent first? Yes, we should celebrate Advent; it’s one of our Church’s most precious times of the year. But, to say we are celebrating Advent and actually doing so is a completely different story! You see, in the past, instead of my Advent days being marked with quiet

reflection, prayer and a personal commitment to ready my heart for the Newborn King, the complete opposite was usually true. I would spend the days prior to Christmas rushing around like a mad woman, hustling about, trying to get everything done! I would obsess over the perfect Christmas card, decorate inside and out, bake a thousand and one cookies, plus provide a fairytale like Christmas morning for my kids. Looking back, I surely gave my kids a wonderful Christmas but the truth is I also gave them a less than Holy, in fact, quite lousy, sometimes non-existent Advent season! So this year, I promise things are going to be different. Yes, my kids will have a wonderful Christmas but more importantly they will have a mother who is not tired and frazzled but a mom who readies them to celebrate the birth of the Savior of the World. So now you can see why my decorating is done and my presents are bought. I am reclaiming this Holy Season for my family and myself. I guess one would say it is a mother’s valiant attempt to keep Christ in Christmas.

(Continued On Page 5.)



## Another Perspective

By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein  
**Righting Old Wrongs**

The late Metropolitan Nicholas R. Smisko of the American Carpatho – Russian Orthodox Church was a good friend of The Catholic Register. Whenever I met His Eminence, he had a kind word about our paper, and always assured me of how much he enjoyed receiving it.

How I wish that Metropolitan Nicholas had lived to see the article on page 16 of this issue, which reports on the Vatican’s decision to lift a 1929 ban on married priests in the Eastern Catholic Churches living and working outside of their ancestral homelands.

As Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, prefect of the Congregation for the Eastern Churches noted in publishing the ban’s lifting, the 1929 decision, “Cum data fuerit,” resulted in some 200,000 Ruthenian faithful embracing Orthodoxy. Among them were the people who in 1938 established the American Carpatho – Russian Orthodox Church, headquartered at Christ the Saviour Cathedral in Johnstown.

It was not a mere fit of pique or ill – temper that caused so many Ruthenian Catholics to become members of the Orthodox Church. Their action was, rather, a response to a long – term campaign of “Latinization” of their Churches, both in their European homelands, but most especially in the United States. Here in this country the overwhelming sense was that to be Catholic one had to be “Roman” Catholic, and that anything that differentiated one group of Catholics from another had to be suppressed, with the Roman or Latin model being predominant. Unity, in this model, meant conformity. Some of the efforts might now be considered mild, such as the introduction to Eastern Catholics of Western devotional practices like the recitation of the Rosary, the wearing of Scapulars, devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and the substitution of icons with statues. But the suppression of the married priesthood was seen as the final, fatal blow to the identity of the Eastern Catholic Churches. Married clergy and their families were woven tightly into the fabric of their Church communities. Priests’ wives held an honored position in their parishes. The ban on married priests struck directly at the Eastern Churches understanding of themselves. In 1937, many Ruthenians in the United States made the decision to break with Rome; the creation of the Carpatho – Russian Orthodox Diocese came a year later.

Almost 30 years later, in 1964, the Catholic Church, meeting at the Second Vatican Council, took another look at the Eastern Catholic Churches. We no longer spoke of them as “rites,” indicating that they were identified primarily by the way they worshipped, but as “Churches” -- ecclesial communities with their own history, traditions and particular law. Diversity in unity was recognized as a value for the life of the whole universal Church. Fifty years after the Second Vatican Council’s decree “Orientalium Ecclesiarum,” was published, the lifting of the ban on married clergy in countries of the Eastern Churches’ diaspora represents another significant step forward into the full integration of the Eastern Churches into the life of a truly Catholic Church.

Metropolitan Nicholas and our now Bishop – Emeritus, Bishop Joseph V. Adamec, worked long and hard, together, to heal the wounds of the 1937/1938 division of our Churches from one another. Their friendship blossomed into a true brotherhood, encouraging all of us -- in both Churches -- to make the same journey into a deeper fraternal relationship. I am sure Bishop Joseph rejoices in the latest news from Rome, and wishes too that his beloved Brother – Bishop could have lived to see this day.

It would be simplistic, and triumphalist to now say that the Carpatho – Russian Church can come back into union with Rome. Our brothers and sisters in that Church have found a true home in Orthodoxy, a home that welcomed them in 1937/1938, in a way that we would not. May they at least see that this latest chapter in a long story as a sign of desire to right old wrongs and a recognition of the gifts that Eastern Christians bring to the Church.



**DISCUSSING POPE FRANCIS:** Gathering for a panel discussion titled “Pope Francis: His Witness and Our Response” on November 18 at Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Altoona were (left to right) First row: Monsignor Michael Becker, pastor of Saint John the Evangelist Parish and Ecumenical Minister for the Diocese; Bishop Michael Rhyne of the Allegheny Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Rev. Kathy Kind, Superintendent of the Altoona District of the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church; and William Wallen of the Altoona Jewish Federation. Second row: Bishop Mark L. Bartchak; Rev. Cory Hartman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Hollidaysburg; and Rev. Anthony Roeber of Saint Mary Orthodox Church in Johnstown. The event was sponsored by the Ecumenical Conference of Greater Altoona. Bishop Mark delivered the keynote speech.

## Pope Francis Topic Of Panel

**Photo And Text  
By Tony DeGol**

There are some who say Saint Pope John Paul II told us what we should do; Pope-Emeritus Benedict told us why we should do it; and Pope Francis is

### Family Matters

*(Continued From Page 4.)*

So with the Christmas tree lights on, smell of evergreen in the air and the flicker of Advent Candles on my wreath, my family is now ready for Christmas. In fact, my family is going on a four week Advent retreat, right here in our own home and I can't hardly wait! By the way, I am not really a Christmas freak, I am more of a Jesus freak and personally, my dear friend, I wouldn't have it any other way! Wishing you a Holy and Blessed Advent Season!

showing us how to do it.

That sentiment was evident not only from the Catholic perspective, but from Christian and Jewish points of view at a gathering titled “Pope Francis: His Witness and Our Response.”

Sponsored by the Ecumenical Conference of Greater Altoona, the event was held Tuesday, November 18 at Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Altoona.

Bishop Mark L. Bartchak was the keynote speaker.

He reflected on the Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, which translates to The Joy of the Gospel.

Published in November of last year, it is the first significant writing of Pope Francis since his election to the Papacy.

Following the Bishop's address, leaders from various faith traditions offered their own perspective to the crowd of about 200 people.

The panel included Bishop Michael Rhyne of the Allegheny Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America; Reverend Anthony Roeber, Saint Mary Orthodox Church in

Johnstown; William Wallen of the Altoona Jewish Federation; Reverend Kathy Kind, Superintendent of the Altoona District of the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church; and Reverend Cory Hartman, Pastor of First Baptist Church of Hollidaysburg.

Monsignor Michael Becker, Pastor of Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Altoona and Ecumenical Minister for the Diocese, served as moderator.

In his keynote, Bishop Mark offered some observations about what the Holy Father said about ecumenical and interreligious issues in *The Joy of the Gospel*.

Pope Francis, he noted, wants us to build on what unites us as Christians.

In the Orthodox tradition, Catholics have the opportunity to learn more about the meaning of Episcopal collegiality and the experience of synodality.

“I am mindful of the Eastern Churches that are in full communion with the Pope,” Bishop Mark stated. “On the one hand it sounds so positive, but on the other it continues to beg

the question of the scandal that results from the division that remains between Eastern Catholic Churches and the Orthodox Churches.”

The Bishop continued, “That situation has often been viewed from the perspective, ‘If you are not with us, you are against us.’ And the only solution would be, ‘You better join us.’ The path that is encouraged by Pope Francis in this regard is consideration of the Holy Spirit, who can lead us more fully into truth and goodness through an exchange of gifts.”

Regarding the Jewish faith, Bishop Mark pointed out that Pope Francis has written that we cannot consider Judaism a foreign religion, and that the Church is enriched when she receives the values of Judaism.

“Pope Francis is appropriately honest in saying that there are certain Christian beliefs that are unacceptable to Judaism, and at the same time, the Church cannot refrain from proclaiming Jesus of Nazareth as Lord and Messiah,” the Bishop said. “Yet, Pope Francis reminds us that there is a complementarity which allows us to read the Hebrew Scriptures together with our Jewish brothers and sisters so that together we can help one another explore the riches of God's word.”

Bishop Mark also addressed interreligious dialogue, reminding the crowd that Pope Francis

says it is necessary for peace in the world.

“As a path for dialogue to occur, Pope Francis urges us to engage in conversation about our mutual responsibility of serving justice and peace,” the Bishop added.

In concluding his speech, Bishop Mark cited multiple examples of how the Pope is reminding us to share what we believe to individuals of other faith traditions without comprising the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Those examples include the Holy Father inviting the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople to attend his installation as Bishop of Rome and Pope Francis being the first pope ever to visit an evangelical church.

Of course, one of the Pope's most famous actions was washing the feet of male and female prison inmates on Holy Thursday, including the feet of a young Muslim woman.

“For Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel is the joy of an encounter with the person of Jesus Christ,” the Bishop reflected. “It includes the joy of meeting the Lord Jesus in various encounters with persons. Pope Francis is keen on finding a path or pathways through which we can encounter one another and through which we can encounter the Lord Jesus. For Pope Francis, this pathway is evangelical. It is the pathway of the Gospel.”

### Bishop Responds To News Of Papal Visit

Bishop Mark L. Bartchak is excited to learn that Pope Francis will visit the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia next year.

The World Meeting of Families, sponsored by the Vatican's Pontifical Council for the Family and hosted by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, will be September 22 - 25, 2015. Held every three years, it is the largest Catholic gathering of families.

For months, there has been great hope that the Holy Father would be present at World Meeting of Families. On Monday, November 17, during an address at the Vatican, Pope Francis made public his intention to visit the gathering.

“I am excited to learn that Pope Francis will visit the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia next year,” Bishop Bartchak said. “It is the Church's responsibility to nurture the family with love and encouragement, and certainly Pope Francis is doing that every day. His presence at this conference will be a further source of inspiration to families around the world and truly a special moment for the faithful here in Pennsylvania and throughout the United States.”

Bishop Bartchak said the dates of the World Meeting of Families are reserved on his calendar, and he plans to attend the event.

For more information about the World Meeting of Families, please visit the special section on the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown website at [www.dioceseaj.org](http://www.dioceseaj.org).

# In The Alleghenies

(Continued From Page 3.)

The Mount Aloysius College Service Award Dinner took place in the Cosgrave Meeting Room. Mount Aloysius president Tom Foley, together with director of human resources Tonia Gordon recognized 22 Mount Aloysius staff and faculty members for 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service to the College. Various department heads and supervisors assisted in marking the years of service celebrated by their fellow staff and faculty members.

Foley noted that 2014 - 2015 continues as a year in which the college is exploring as a learning community the theme The Good Life. "Your commitment to Mount Aloysius College and the passion you share so generously with us continues to attract great students who come

to us for a quality and affordable education. Thank you for your work that has touched over 15,000 alumni," said President Foley. "We are grateful for your continued contributions to The Good Life of our students and each other. Your gifts continue to be recognized and valued throughout the southern Allegheny Mountains and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Thank you."

During the event Foley also acknowledged almost 150 years of cumulative service given to Mount Aloysius by four Sisters of Mercy who now serve the college as volunteers.

Noting the contributions of Sisters Giuseppe DaBella, Benedict Joseph Watters, Charlene Kelly, Eric Marie Setlock, Foley noted that all four sisters served the school as faculty and admin-

istrators during their active careers at The Mount. That service continues through almost daily volunteer consultation and subject matter expertise that they continue to make available to the school.

"Your contributions go far beyond the considerable work of your hearts and hands," said Foley, addressing the four Sisters of Mercy. "Your daily presence also connects us to the core principles of Mount Aloysius, and helps us prepare students who are job-ready, tech-ready and community-ready."

He added, "You serve this campus in ways that can never be measured. You illuminate our journey from a strong, storied past and help lead us into a bright future. Because of you, our star continues to shine throughout these mountains and beyond"

Applauded for 25 years of service: Linda Gaston, assistant director of financial aid; Sandra Nypaver, assistant professor; and Chris Mingyar, assistant professor.

Celebrating 20 years at Mount Aloysius College: Cheryl Kowalczyk, assistant professor; and Joan Mix, library cataloging technician.

Congratulated for 15 years of service were: Chris Clinton, bookstore manager; Michelle Elliott, assistant director of financial aid/processing specialist; and Sharon Miller, assistant professor and clinical coordinator.

Marking 10 years of contributing to the college: Margaret Boyce, assistant professor; Dr. Mike Engle, associate professor; Veronica Fleming, administrative coordinator; Linda Leahey, office specialist and receptionist; Dr. Chris Lovett, registrar; Robert Rabatin, instructor; Leigh Ann Robertson, clinical instructor; Dr. Donald Talbot, associate professor; Andy Wantiez, IT helpdesk manager; and Sally Weber, associate registrar.

Accepting thanks for five years of service: Megan Beaver, instructor; Amanda Wess-Gates, accountant II; Jeff Homady, head coach - golf; and Duckki Min, head athletic trainer.



**OXFAM LUNCHEON:** Students at Saint Rose of Lima School in Altoona hosted its annual Oxfam Luncheon on Thursday, November 20 in the school cafeteria. Students and guests drew tickets assigning them to a "rich," "middle," or "poor" lunch. The "rich" meal (pictured above) consists of pasta, meatballs, salad, dessert, and soda; the "middle" meal is soup, crackers, and juice; and the "poor" meal is just rice and water. The banquet reminds students of the different levels of income in the world and the disparity of how people eat.

## Schools

### Honor Veterans

**Bellefonte:** Students at Saint John the Evangelist Catholic School spent the morning of Tuesday, November 11, learning about the United States Armed Forces and honoring veterans, including those in their families.

Captain Ryan Bruner of the U.S. Army and Master Sergeant Lara Simmon of the PA Air National Guard led the morning's assembly to give students in grades kindergarten through 5th grade perspective on today's national holiday.

Master Sergeant Simmon spoke about her own service to our country, what it means to be a veteran, why and how we honor our veterans, and the oath that is taken during enlistment. She also educated students on the different branches of the armed forces, their respective songs and bugle calls, and other details. She also explained the importance of different roles in the military and showed students on a map places in the world where veterans have served.

Captain Bruner read from "In Flanders Fields," a poem written by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae during the First World War, and all students received red poppies, donated by the Bellefonte VFW. Captain Bruner spoke about the importance of education in service and his own experiences in Afghanistan.

Prior to the Veterans Day event, students submitted photos and other items from veterans in their families. Master Sergeant Simmon prepared each student's submission in a display in the auditorium that included photos, flags, and artifacts, such as uniforms and medals.

After the presentations, students were given a chance to show pictures and talk about the veterans in their families. Students also presented a song, "Thank You, Soldiers," to their presenters and dedicated to all veterans.

Ed and Nancy Rose of Bellefonte donated new flags for each classroom.

The All - School Mass on Wednesday, November 12, was celebrated in honor of all veterans.

## Garvey Manor Nursing Home & Our Lady of the Alleghenies Residence

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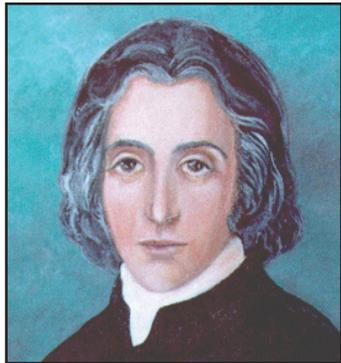
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## A Prince In The Service Of The Great King

The Servant Of God  
Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin  
1770 - 1840

## U.S. Bishops Endorse Cause Of Ecumenical Leader

By Mark Pattison  
Catholic News Service

**BALTIMORE (CNS)** -- The U.S. bishops gave their support to advancing the cause of Father Paul Wattson, a onetime Episcopal priest who joined the Catholic Church more than a century ago along with the mem-

bers of the Society of the Atonement, which he co-founded.

The support, which came on a voice vote without audible dissent, was given Nov. 11, the second day of the bishops' annual fall general assembly in Baltimore.

Father Wattson, whose father was himself an Episcopal priest, was ordained as an Episcopal priest in 1886, accord-

ing to Auxiliary Bishop John J. O'Hara of New York, in remarks to the bishops prior to the vote.

The Society of the Atonement, made up of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement and the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement, has its headquarters in Graymoor, New York, which is in the New York Archdiocese.

Father Wattson saw the need for both a Franciscan spirituality in the Episcopal Church and a way to serve the poor, Bishop O'Hara said.

A third need arose before the end of the 19th century: "Repair the breach in a divided church," Bishop O'Hara said.

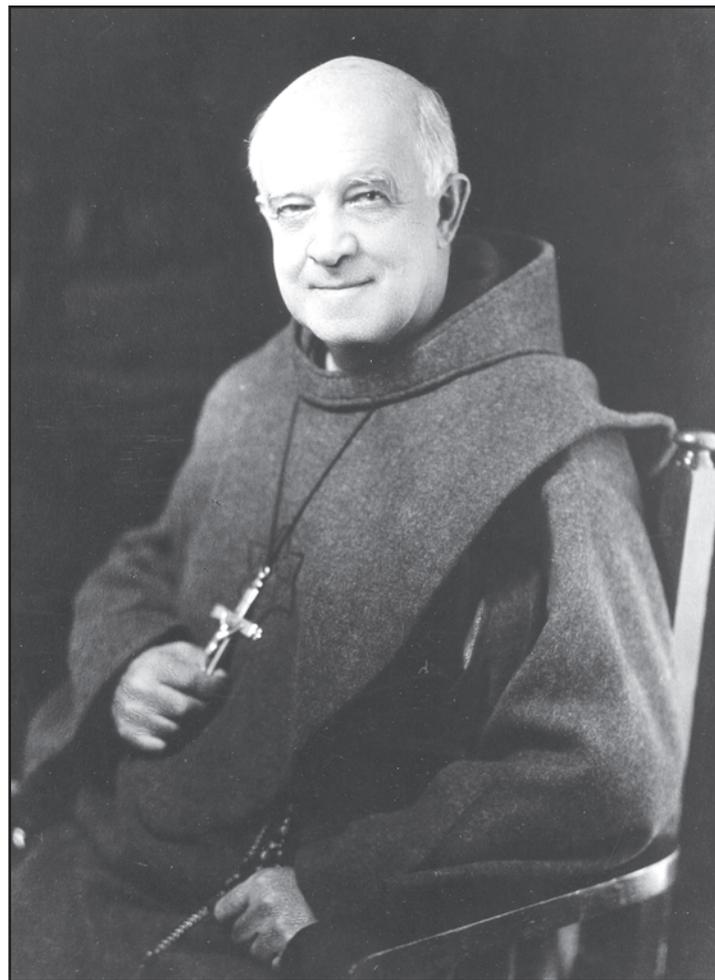
Father Wattson established Graymoor in 1899. Simultaneously, an Episcopalian friend and a novice, Lurana White established the Sisters of the Atonement.

In 1903, Father Wattson started the Church Unity Octave. Now more commonly known as the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, it "continues to this day," Bishop O'Hara said. The week is observed each January.

As a sign of his concern for the poor, Father Wattson founded St. Christopher's Inn, "which continues to this day to be a beacon of hope," the bishop said, offering "counseling and hope for those who are addicted and all the rest."

In 1909, Father Wattson was received into the Catholic Church, bringing with him the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement and the Sisters of the Atonement. He was ordained a Catholic priest in 1910.

Bishop O'Hara added that



CNS Photo/Society Of The Atonement/Graymoor

FATHER PAUL WATTSON

Father Wattson was "one of the first to enter into dialogue. Father Paul was one of the first to reach out. Father Paul was one of the first to build bridges."

Part of the canonization process requires that a diocesan bishop seek the opinion of at

least a regional conference of bishops on the appropriateness of opening a cause. The U.S. bishops were similarly consulted on the sainthood cause of Catholic Worker co-founder Dorothy Day and they endorsed the cause at their fall meeting in 2012.

## Prayer For Father Gallitzin's Intercession

O God, light of the faithful and shepherd of souls, who sent Servant of God Demetrius Gallitzin to serve God's people in the Allegheny Mountains, feeding your sheep by his words and forming them by his example, pour out your Spirit to sow seeds of truth in people's hearts and to awaken in them obedience to the faith.

May the Gospel continue to be preached and the Sacraments bring power and grace to the faithful. By the example of this man of faith, Demetrius Gallitzin, may your people advance in the path of salvation and love.

Confident of your faithfulness to us, we humbly ask you, our God, to grant us the favor of (name your intention).

May Christ's saving work continue to the end of the ages, and may we feel a more urgent call to work for the salvation of every creature. We pray this, as did your priest Demetrius Gallitzin, through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

+ + +

Kindly send information about favors granted to:

**The Cause for the Servant of God  
Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin  
Diocese Of Altoona - Johnstown  
927 South Logan Boulevard  
Hollidaysburg PA 16648**



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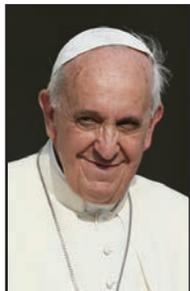
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# Word of Life



## The Pope Teaches

By Pope Francis

### Create Jobs, Don't Expand Welfare, Handouts

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** -- The Catholic Church calls for the creation of job opportunities and the recognition of the dignity of the poor, not simply for more handouts or expanded government welfare programs, Pope Francis said.

Acknowledging the dignity of every person, he said, requires a lot more than charity; it means devoting energy and imagination to creating jobs and opportunities for them to use their talents to feed their families.

Pope Francis made his remarks in a video message played Nov. 20 at the Italian church's Festival of Catholic Social teaching, a gathering in Verona that included economists, business leaders and others interested in promoting social justice.

As the global economic crisis continues, he said, there is a "great temptation to stop and lick one's wounds, seeing them as an excuse not to hear the cry of the poor and see the suffering of those who have lost the dignity of bringing bread home because they have lost their jobs."

Christians are called to look beyond their own needs, broaden their horizons and trust that by working with others, including with governments, they can "unleash goodness and enjoy its fruits."

"Today it is said that many things cannot be done because there is no money," he said. Yet, "the money for weapons can be found, the money to make war, money for unscrupulous financial transactions."

At the same time, he said, there seems to be no money "to create jobs, to invest in learning, in people's talents, to plan new welfare programs or to safeguard the environment."

"The real problem isn't money, but people," he said. "We cannot ask money to do what only people can do or create. Money alone will not create development; to promote development we need people who have the courage to take the initiative."

"Taking the initiative means overcoming excessive aid," he said, "better on a different future and a different way of resolving problems."

Pope Francis spoke about the father of a young man with Down syndrome who joined with other parents and people with Down syndrome to form a cooperative, and then found a for-profit company willing to sell what the cooperative made.

The dad, he said, needed the support offered by the state and by private organizations, but he was not content until he found a way to help his son make a living.

If the father had not taken the initiative, the pope said, he would have been stuck asking the state for everything.

When Christians look for ways to create new jobs, new ways of organizing a labor force and new ideas for employee participation schemes, Pope Francis said, they should put an important Gospel value into the mix: love.

"Love is a real force for change," he said. It is what makes people refuse to stop at the ordinary and predictable, giving more of themselves than they thought possible."

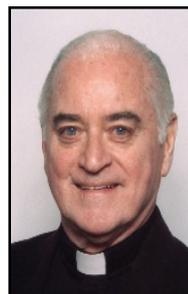


**ONE MORE TIME:** The December 1, 1961 edition of *The Catholic Register* reported on the Sunday, November 19, 1961 dedication of the new Saint Joseph Church in Portage. In this photo, Bishop J. Carroll McCormick, assisted by a native son of the parish, Father Samuel Tomaselli (left) watches as Father John Miller, pastor, places the cornerstone of the new edifice.

There's a saying out there that goes like this: "Unity in necessary things; liberty in doubtful things; charity in all things."

It's hard to pin it down to one particular person, but it addresses a sentiment in the recent Synod of Bishops on the family. The Catholic Church teaches that a Christian has a right and duty to follow his or her conscience. Catholics follow their conscience all the time on a variety of matters. This is a contentious topic, no matter how you approach it. When the topic came up recently during the synod, it was to discuss issues, such as whether a Christian in "good conscience" can receive Communion, even though he or she may not be following what the church has set forth.

Some bishops expressed opposition. Pope Francis tried to stress mercy over legalism. That should be applauded. Having once served as the Judicial Vicar and Chief Judge of the Diocesan Matrimonial Court for 10 years, I witnessed hundreds of cases where we were forbidden by the rules of evidence to give an annulment to those who had serious doubt about the validity of their marriage. After watching many cases, I believe the church's legal system should never be an obstacle to justice. I experienced some cases in



## Spirituality For Today

By Father John Catoir  
The Synod And Flexibility

which people approached the church tribunal for an annulment only to be turned down because they couldn't prove their case. It was disheartening.

I remember a case in which, prior to the marriage, a woman signed a statement that she was open to procreation, but later admitted that she never intended to have any children. In another case, prior to the marriage, a man promised that he would be faithful to his wife for life, but it turned out that he always intended to keep a mistress.

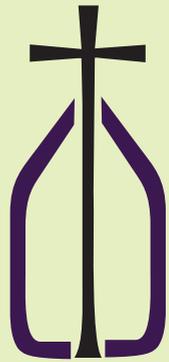
Each case is an example of fraud going to the heart of the contract. Each marriage is a contract and can be declared invalid if there is a serious defect in the consent, or if one of the parties lacked the psychological capac-

ity to enter into and sustain the burdens and obligation of marriage. However, such defects must be proven. An intention that existed years ago is very difficult to prove. For some, so is psychological incapacity, especially if there is no cooperation from the primary witnesses.

The church never allows a marriage to take place if there is a prior marriage still on the books. Marriage is indissoluble. However, Pope Francis realizes that the system doesn't always work. Everything is not black and white. What Pope Francis is trying to do, the way I see it, is make the church a port in the storm of life by creating an emotional atmosphere that is more pastoral and less legalistic.

At the end of the synod, Pope Francis thanked all for their work, but he warned against temptations. One temptation he warned against was "hostile inflexibility."

**What Pope Francis is trying to do, is make the Church a port in the storm of life by creating an emotional atmosphere that is more pastoral and less legalistic.**



# Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

## Chronicle

Altoona Office: Blair, Bedford and Huntingdon Counties • Bellefonte Office: Centre and Clinton Counties • Johnstown Office: Cambria & Somerset Counties

VOLUME ONE • NUMBER THREE

FALL 2014

TO LOVE AND SERVE OUR NEIGHBORS AS OURSELVES



## Urgent Appeal for Heating Assistance Funds, Households in Need Continue to Rise

*Generosity Keeps Families Warm  
Through Winter Months*

**D**uring the peak of winter, up to 30% of a household's income may be needed to cover heating bills, especially for those who rely on deliverable fuels like oil, kerosene and propane.

Without help, many area households—especially those surviving on a fixed income—simply cannot afford to heat their homes and pay for essentials like housing, food and medicine.

### Record Assistance Recorded Last Year

Last year, between the three offices of Catholic Charities, a record \$170,867 in heating assistance was distributed to residents in need in our eight-county service area. Winter heating assistance accounts for more than 51% of the emergency financial assistance funds that we distribute and is the most expensive type of assistance that Catholic Charities provides.

### Who Needs Heating Assistance

It's widely known that for low-income households, PUC-regulated utilities like natural gas and electricity do not shut off service during the winter moratorium, which runs from December 1 through March 31; these households typically have a constant source of heat through the winter despite their ability to pay.

There is no moratorium available to households with deliverable fuel sources—when the oil, propane or kerosene are gone, so is the heat. In addition, households living just above the official low-income guidelines are

not covered by the moratorium and are therefore likely to struggle.

Being without heat when outside temperatures dip below freezing can be extremely dangerous, especially for sick and elderly individuals, and infants and children.

**Catholic Charities works hard throughout the winter season to help individuals and families in our service area who are truly in need to be able to heat their homes.** It's important to note that households must use all of their LIHEAP benefits before Catholic Charities provides assistance.

**It's likely you know someone like the people we meet every day:** an elderly neighbor getting by on a fixed income; a young family facing recent unemployment of one spouse, trying to make ends meet on a single income; a hard-working friend dealing with an unexpected illness or injury, or caring for an ill or elderly family member, losing hours and income at work. These are real stories and circumstances that bring people to our door, depending on the generosity of others and the mission of Catholic Charities to keep from freezing.

### Generosity Fuels Heating Assistance Program: How You Can Help

Private donations are critical to Catholic Charities' ability to provide heating assistance during the winter. Generous donations from parishioners within our Diocese and from people of all faiths in our community

keep neighbors in need warm during the cold winter months.

Grants from Lee Initiatives, the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies, local United Ways, and FEMA's Emergency Food and Shelter Program also support heating assistance.

Being blessed with support from individuals and organizations allows Catholic Charities to answer the call of Jesus to love and care for our neighbors as ourselves. You can be part of our mission to help our neighbors in need by making a tax-deductible gift to Catholic Charities this winter. A form is included on page 3 and online giving is available at [www.catholiccharitiesaj.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesaj.org).

Find more information on heating assistance on page 2.

## *In this issue...*

Catholic Charities at work in your community

*Thank You to Parishes*

*Board Member Profile*

*Mystery Novels Benefit Catholic Charities*

*Catholic Charities Helps This Christmas*

# The Facts on Heating Assistance: Individuals and Families At Risk

## Reducing Heating Costs

Catholic Charities encourages anyone seeking heating assistance to also look for ways to decrease their home heating bill. For example, finding places where air gets into your home also identifies where heat is escaping. Plugging holes, reducing drafts, and insulating as much as possible will keep more heat inside and help reduce costs.

## WHERE HELP IS AVAILABLE:

### LIHEAP

#### (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) and LIHEAP Crisis Program

Catholic Charities encourages anyone who believes they may qualify for emergency heating assistance to first work through LIHEAP.

LIHEAP is a state-run program with eligibility based solely on gross household income. Households must be at or lower than 150% of the federal poverty level to qualify. LIHEAP opened November 3, and applications can be made by mail, in person through the Public Assistance Office (welfare office), or online at [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us). Benefits are determined by county, fuel type, and number of people in the household, averaging anywhere between \$100 to \$1,000 in assistance.

LIHEAP also maintains a crisis program for 1) households whose main heating source has been shut off, 2) those households that have received a termination notice, or 3) households whose deliverable fuel has been depleted, or will be depleted within 15 days. Crisis grants range from \$25 - \$500.

*Catholic Charities encourages anyone who believes they may qualify for emergency heating assistance to first work through LIHEAP.*

## Centre County Fuel Bank

The Centre County Fuel Bank is run by Interfaith Human Services and brings together many agencies, businesses and organizations, to assist low-income households in need of emergency heating assistance. Catholic Charities donates annually to the Fuel Bank and serves as an application intake site for the program. It opens on January 15, 2015 and closes in March, or once funds have been depleted. The Fuel Bank

also conducts classes to help people manage their expenses. Visit <http://www.ihs-centrecounty.org/centre-county-fuel-bank.html>.

## Customer Assistance Programs (CAPs)

Pennsylvania's major gas and electric utilities are required to provide Customer Assistance Programs (CAPs). These plans help low-income families afford their utilities through payment plans, discounts, and late payment forgiveness programs. Catholic Charities offices in Altoona and Johnstown are able to process Penelec and People's Natural Gas CAP applications. Call the offices for more information and an eligibility screening.

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## Thorough Intake Process

Catholic Charities conducts extensive interviews, taking emergency or extenuating circumstances into consideration. Sometimes applicants are surprised at how thorough the intake procedures can be. The process is critical in order to assure that we are helping those in the most dire need, as each year the total need is greater than the funds available.

## Contact Your Local LIHEAP Office

Bedford	(814) 624-4072
Blair	(814) 946-7365
Cambria	(814) 533-2253
Centre	(814) 861-1955
Clinton	(570) 893-4409
Fulton	(717) 485-3151
Huntingdon	(814) 643-4098
Somerset	(814) 443-3683

## 2014-15 LIHEAP & CAPs Eligibility Guidelines (150% of Poverty)

Household Size	Annual Household Gross Income
1.....	\$17,505
2.....	\$23,595
3.....	\$29,685
4.....	\$35,775
5.....	\$41,865
6.....	\$47,955
7.....	\$54,045
8.....	\$60,135
9.....	\$66,225
10.....	\$72,315

*Each Additional Person Add \$6,090*

# Faith In Action: Doing The Work Of The Church

**A** Catholic Charities Board Member for more than four years, Jan Andrews is truly passionate about the impact the organization has in the community.

**“Catholic Charities works to improve the community and the people in it,”** Jan says.

She first came to Catholic Charities through her friend and former board member, Mary Wiley.

“Mary and I have worked together on other boards and church youth events, and Mary thought Catholic Charities would be a good fit for me,” says Jan.

She met with Mary and Executive Director, Jean Johnstone, to learn more. They explained what Catholic



Jan Andrews, Catholic Charities Board Member

*“Catholic Charities does the work of the church. They help people find direction and become more self-sufficient.”*

Charities does. Jan was especially impressed with the fact that the organization serves all people, regardless of their religious affiliation. She also identified with the Catholic Charities' mission to alleviate poverty.

“Catholic Charities does the work of the church. They help people find direction and become more self-sufficient,” Jan says.

Jan is particularly proud of being part of an organization that offers Emergency Financial and Heating Assistance and counseling to help people. She says that through these programs people can live their lives with a sense of dignity. She also notes that if Catholic Charities is unable to help someone, they will work with other community organizations to find a solution that is right for the particular circumstances.

This year Jan served on the committee that helped choose the recipients of the humanitarian awards, which were presented at Catholic Charities Annual Dinner in May. There are two awards that are given to celebrate and honor the recipients.

**“It was so exciting to see kids and adults doing things within the Diocese and within their own parish to help others. In a time when there can be so much negative news, it is nice to know that there is good work and good news within our parish communities,”** Jan explains, **“To be a part of honoring their work was very rewarding.”**

Jan and the board meet up to six times a year to help guide Catholic Charities, support the staff and assist with fundraising. She lives in Hollidaysburg with her husband David. They have two children: Ashley, 27, and Scott, 23. Jan works as Firm Administrator at the law firm of Andrews & Beard.

The Andrews are members of St. John's Catholic Church in Lakemont where she plays handbells and has taught CCD. Jan is also passionate about her work for the American Cancer Society and is president of the Blair Volunteer Leadership Council.

## Parish Support Greatly Appreciated Remembering Those Facing Hardships This Christmas



**T**hank you to the faithful parishioners of our Diocese who supported Catholic Charities through our annual special collection in November. One hundred percent of the contributions collected go directly to supporting neighbors in need in your county of residence.

As we approach the Christmas season, we ask you to continue to remember those who are facing financial hardships, often feeling alone and without hope. For these individuals and families, sadly, the Christmas holiday can be the most difficult time of year.

**You, through your support for Catholic Charities, can be there to provide help and hope.**

Gifts to Catholic Charities provide help for emergency heating assistance, housing costs, medication, doctor visits, and other critical needs. The average request for assistance is just \$250, an indication we can truly provide a hand-up to an individual or family.

Every year, the need in our communities exceeds our capacity of funds. While we assisted nearly 6,000 households last year, there were many others who still needed financial assistance that wasn't available.

**As Catholics, we are called to fulfill the Gospel teachings through acts of kindness, selflessness, mercy and generosity. Through the mission of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown we have a powerful opportunity to answer this call.**

**If you missed the special November collection, you can still make an impact this winter and during the Christmas season. A form is provided here, or you can make a gift online at [www.catholiccharitiesaj.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesaj.org).**

Support from our faithful parishioners is a blessing to our staff, our volunteers and especially to the clients that we serve.

## Giving hope to young father in need



*In a matter of a few short weeks everything changed. One day a young father was working full-time, earning enough to put a roof over his family and food on their table. Then, unexpectedly, he became ill. Diagnosed with kidney disease, he faced doctor appointments, procedures, and recovery time. The decrease in work hours meant lost wages. His wife's part-time income wasn't enough. He needed help.*

Catholic Charities sent this young father home with a box of food, a box of books for his children, and a ray of hope that everything was going to be okay. When he recovers from his illness, we are confident he will get back on his feet. He will proudly take care of his family as he always intended. Every day at Catholic Charities we see people like this father. Helping people, thanks to your support, is the heart of what we do.

*From the Executive Director:*

## What Better Gift than the Gift of Hope?



As the cold winter months approach, your neighbors need your help more than ever. Elderly people on a fixed income, the person dealing with an unexpected illness or job loss, and countless other circumstances beyond people's control, leave them unable to afford the high cost of heating their homes.

Catholic Charities is one of several agencies that provide resources for those seeking emergency heating assistance. Others include the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Customer Assistance Programs (CAPs), and the Centre County Fuel Bank. Funds for these programs generally come from a combination of donations and government funding.

**Each year though, the need grows as the government funding and non-profit grants are cut more and more. Donations from individuals have become critical to us in helping individuals in need in our community.**

Winter months can be difficult for all of us. Weeks or months of cold, dark days will eventually dampen the spirits of almost anyone, much less someone who is already struggling, dealing with hardships, or perhaps suffering from depression or mental illness. Add to that a holiday season spent alone, and maybe you can begin to understand why this time of year is especially difficult for many of our clients.

### Every gift counts

Together, we can make a difference in the lives of our neighbors this winter and this holiday season. We can extend a helping hand to them that will get them through a tough time and give them hope for a better tomorrow. Every donation counts, no matter the amount.

Please give what you can to help our neighbors in need this year. Your donation can help keep someone warm during the cold winter months. More importantly, it can give them hope that things will get better and that there are people who care about them. What better gift to give this holiday season than the gift of hope?

In Sincere Gratitude,

Jean D. Johnstone, Executive Director

The official registration and financial information of Catholic Charities may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

### Yes, I want to make a donation that will make a difference.

I want to make a difference to people in our community who need it most. Please accept my contribution of:

\$35  \$50  \$100  \$250  \$500  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed, made payable to:  
Catholic Charities

- or -

Donate online: [www.catholiccharitiesaj.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesaj.org)

**Catholic Charities of the  
Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown**

1300 12th Avenue  
P.O. Box 1349  
Altoona, PA 16603

Please add me to upcoming  
email communications:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Guild of Guardians Seeks To Increase Impact

As needs in our communities grow, it is our goal to grow to serve them. Catholic Charities doors are always open to people in need but the reality is that we cannot fulfill every request. In order to grow and impact more individuals and families, a new giving opportunity has been created for donors.

The Guild of Guardians has been created for donors interested in making a consistent annual gift at the \$1,000 level. Gifts can be made in installments or in one lump sum.

"Feedback from donors indicates that many are interested in making a bigger impact," said Jean Johnstone, Executive Director. "We wanted to create a formal opportunity for those

donors who can make this annual commitment."

Importantly, she added, gifts to the Guild of Guardians are unrestricted, so they can be allocated toward the most critical needs.

Jean also explained that accounting for annual gift commitments will allow Catholic Charities to plan ahead knowing that these funds will be available. Potentially, this may open new opportunities for Catholic Charities to make the most of its resources.

In addition to Catholic Charities emergency financial assistance program, the Guild of Guardians will help Catholic Charities provide its holistic combination of social services, which also includes life skills education and counseling. These

programs remove barriers to self-sufficiency and are tailored to the unique circumstances of the individuals we serve.

The Guild of Guardians will play a critically important role in the future of Catholic Charities: as needs in our communities grow, so we must grow to respond to these needs. A prime example of this effort is our homeless shelter, which is now set to open in 2015. Similarly, communities throughout our service area have unique needs that may match up with our strengths and skills. We must be ready to take on these new challenges.

Donors who are interested in learning more about the Guild of Guardians can request more information by calling the Altoona office at (814) 944-9388.

## Three Offices Provide Unique Help at Christmas



At Christmas, all three of our offices make an effort to support individuals and families in special ways. Our Altoona office holds an Adopt a Family program, in which businesses, churches, schools, and individuals can support local families who have been selected by our staff as recipients of the program. Sponsors are paired anonymously with a family and asked to provide:

- Gifts for children, such as toys, clothes, school supplies and other items
- Grocery store gift card for the family
- A financial donation to assist with home heating costs (delivered by Catholic Charities directly to the family's utility company or fuel vendor)

Families chosen as recipients of the program have all undergone a thorough financial review, are experiencing a financial emergency and have been recommended by our staff.

To adopt a family this Christmas, contact Catholic Charities office at (814) 944-9388. Information will be provided to you on your matched family or families.

All three Catholic Charities offices rely on gas cards to help people visit loved ones in hospitals or nursing homes, and to travel for their own doctor appointments, which are sometimes out of the area at major medical centers.

Similarly, gift cards for grocery stores and Walmart can help families purchase groceries, clothes, and items not covered by other programs. For example, when clients are hired for jobs, they sometimes need special uniforms or shoes, like steel-toed boots or non-slip shoes. Gift cards can help purchase these items, ultimately helping clients on the road to success.

We are most grateful for your support and wish you and your family a blessed Christmas.

### Need Help?

Call or visit a Catholic Charities location near you

#### Main Office Locations

##### Altoona Office:

Blair, Bedford & Huntingdon Counties  
1300 Twelfth Avenue  
Altoona, PA 16601  
Phone: (814) 944-9388

##### Bellefonte Office:

Centre and Clinton Counties  
213 East Bishop Street  
Bellefonte, PA 16823  
Phone: (814) 353-0502

##### Johnstown Office:

Cambria & Somerset Counties  
321 Main Street, Suite 5G  
Johnstown, PA 15901  
Phone: (814) 535-6538



## Novels Benefit Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities is blessed to be the beneficiary of proceeds from the sale of two mystery novels written by Bishop Joseph V. Adamec. The second novel, *Heir Non-Apparent*, is now available for purchase for \$25, plus \$3 shipping and handling, through the form available here, or by calling Catholic Charities at (814) 944-9388. The first novel, *Flight of the Beetle*, is also still available for purchase through Catholic Charities. The books are also available for purchase at the Altoona office.

Both books make excellent gifts, for Christmas, confirmations, birthdays and other special events.

All of us at Catholic Charities extend our sincere thanks to Bishop Joseph for his ongoing and enthusiastic support.



### RESERVE YOUR COPIES TODAY!

YES! Please reserve for me \_\_\_\_\_ copies of the mystery novel *Heir Non-Apparent* at \$25.00 each (if to be picked up) or \$28.00 each (if to be mailed).

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Mail to:  
**CATHOLIC CHARITIES**  
1300 Twelfth Avenue  
P. O. Box 1349  
Altoona PA 16603

(814) 944-9388



## Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle  
How To Obtain Relics

**Q.** Please forgive my awful handwriting. I have multiple sclerosis and also Parkinson's disease and can no longer do very well on a typewriter or computer. My question is: Why is it so hard to obtain first-class relics? (Also, do I need permission from my bishop to obtain them?) I am now 65 years old and virtually bedridden, a convert to the Catholic Church in my teens. There are two saints to whom I have special devotion, and to have their relics would be a great comfort to me: St. Rita of Cascia and St. John Mary Vianney. I appreciate any advice you might offer. (Tell City, Indiana)

**A.** First, a primer on the three classes of relics. As explained by Catholic News Service: "A first-class relic is the physical bodily remains of a saint or blessed like bones, blood and hair; a second-class relic is a personal possession, such as clothing, devotional objects, handwritten letters or even furniture; and a third-class relic

is an object that has touched a first-class relic. These -- usually small snips of cloth that have touched a blessed or saint's tomb -- often end up in public distribution fixed onto prayer cards."

Relics have been venerated in the church since the earliest centuries of the Christian era because they evoke the memory of the person honored and are thought to put one in closer contact with the virtues of that saint.

The largest collection of relics belongs to the Vatican and is kept at a convent adjacent to the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome. The practice of making relics generally available to the public, particularly first-class relics, ended about 20 years ago at the insistence of the Vatican.

Today, you can apply to the Vatican for a specific relic only with a letter of permission from your bishop and only if the relic will be used for a church altar or other public purpose. The private ownership, especially of first-class relics, is highly dis-

couraged since it is seen as limiting the evangelizing effect of the saint's memory.

Occasionally, second- or third-class relics can be obtained by contacting the religious order or shrine of a particular saint. (The national shrine of St. Rita of Cascia is in Philadelphia, and the shrine of St. John Mary Vianney is in Ars-sur-Formans in France). If these shrines are unable to provide you with relics, they can at least offer you devotional material on the saints and information about their lives.

The church's Code of Canon Law says specifically and strongly (in No. 1190) that, "It is absolutely forbidden to sell sacred relics." When relics are obtained, there is often a charge for the metal container encasing the relic and for mailing costs, but not for the relic itself.

**Q.** Why do so many priests leave the altar as soon as the final hymn begins? The choir practices the hymn for hours, and then the priest hurries off right after they start. So other people begin to leave, too, and nobody pays any attention to the music. I think it's rude. (Bound Brook, New Jersey)

**A.** I agree. The guidelines of the church (the General Instruction of the Roman Missal) are silent on the matter of a recessional hymn, and some parishes choose not to use one at all -- their thinking being that the congregation is sent forth immediately to "glorify the Lord by their lives."

But if a hymn is used, common courtesy and liturgical propriety ought to keep the priest at the altar for the greater part of it. Since it is a "recessional," the final part of the hymn may accompany the priest back down the aisle; but he should encourage the congregation to sing (and respect the choir) by not moving too soon.

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



## For The Journey

By Effie Caldarola  
Finding God  
In The Silent Moments

Do you ever sit idly in front of the television, remote control in hand pointed like a weapon, and flip through channels wondering why the offerings are so bad?

It's enough to make a woman pitch her remote and grab the nearest novel. Fortunately, right before I did that one night, I switched to public television and found a documentary about Sister Wendy Beckett.

Do you remember Sister Wendy? I think everyone at some point has caught her art programs, where she arouses in ordinary viewers an interest in painting and art.

The documentary revealed Sister Wendy's ability to help you fall in love with a painting. Her explanation of Caravaggio's portrayal of Christ with the woman caught in adultery and her accusers brought me to prayer.

But the documentary's focus this time was Sister Wendy. The nun, now 84, exudes a holy joy. Originally a teaching sister, she later experienced a call to the contemplative life. Today, she lives, a hermit, on the grounds of a Carmelite monastery in England. She wears a full habit and smiles out at the world from behind large glasses.

Some have described her teeth as "rabbit-like," and indeed she would have been an orthodontist's dream if she had been an American child. Instead, she was born into a British family in South Africa where her father was a doctor.

Even as a child, Wendy felt the pull and presence of God. In the documentary, she tells a charming tale of her first Communion. She was sure that when she finally received Christ in the host, she would hear him speaking to her. When she knelt expectantly after Communion, she heard nothing.

It was then, she said, that she realized that God's way of communicating is in the silence. Sister Wendy has been comfortable with silence ever since. She prays for hours each day in a little trailer on the Carmelite property.

Every sister must do work to help support the community, she said, so originally she translated Latin texts. Somehow, it became obvious that she had a particular gift for explaining art and revealing the sacred in it.

She has presented several art history programs and written more than 25 books on the subject. One of her latest books is "Real Presence: In Search of the Earliest Icons."

Listening to Sister Wendy, it was clear she is a woman completely at peace in her intimate relationship with God. I felt as if I might be listening to Julian of Norwich or any of the great anchorites of history, women who have separated themselves from the constant noise and distractions of life yet who seem to understand life better than anyone.

In 2010, Sister Wendy told **The Telegraph** in England that when she was young, it seemed that being a nun was the way to belong totally to God. Now she realizes, "This was narrow thinking. Anybody can belong totally to God, in any way of life and at any age. All he asks is our desire."

I thought about the silence that I miss out on, sometimes when I'm foolishly clicking through those television channels. Sister Wendy's joyful life reminds me that God is waiting in the silence for all of us.



Juan Diego

1474 - 1548

Feast - December 9

Baptized at 50, this Indian was walking to Mass on December 9, 1531, when Mary appeared to him on Tepeyac Hill, near Mexico City. She asked him to petition the Bishop for a shrine to be built there. But the Bishop asked for a sign. On December 12, Juan returned to Tepeyac; Mary told him to pick flowers blooming atop the hill and put them in his cloak to take to the Bishop. When Juan opened the cloak, the flowers fell out and the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe adorned his garment. This miraculous image is preserved in the famous basilica in Mexico City. Juan lived out his days as a hermit near the first chapel built there; he was canonized in 2002.



**HONORING ALTAR SERVERS:** Bishop Mark L. Bartchak celebrated a Mass saluting altar servers from parishes throughout the Diocese on Sunday, November 23 at the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel in Loretto. Pictured (left to right) are First row: Cody Falger, Owen McCarville. Second Row: Ashley Kubat, Zach Sentz. Third row: Father Matthew Reese, diocesan Director of Vocations; Nathan Ringkamp, Neil Sutton, Bishop Mark, Dominic Farabaugh, and Deacon Gene Neral, Director of the Permanent Diaconate. Bishop Mark had the chance to personally greet and thank altar servers during a dessert reception following Mass. Joining the Bishop are Allura Nesbella (left) and Lily George, both members of Our Lady of the Alleghenies Parish in Lilly.

## Bishop Honors, Thanks Altar Servers At Loretto Mass

**Photos And Text  
By Tony DeGol**

Altar servers are not just serving the Lord, but also every person in the pew.

Bishop Mark L. Bartchak conveyed that message to altar servers and their families from around the Diocese during a special Mass recognizing their contributions.

It was held on Sunday, November 23 at the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel in Loretto.

The Gospel reading on that Solemnity of Christ the King reminded that the best example of how we can serve the Lord is by serving others, the Bishop said in his homily.

“In your work as altar servers, you serve the people of your parish who come to Mass so that they can worship our Lord Jesus Christ and be strengthened by His Word that is spoken to us in the Sacred Scriptures,” Bishop Mark noted. “And they especially want to be strengthened in receiving His Body and Blood

in the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.”

The Bishop recalled his own experience as an altar server when he was a boy.

“It felt like a huge honor to serve, to help the priest during the Mass,” he remembered fondly. “It’s the place where I first started thinking about being a priest when I was just nine years old. A couple of times when I was a server, and I was close to the altar, I started thinking ‘I wonder what it would be like to be a priest?’”

Bishop Mark pointed out that serving at the altar helps young people discover their vocation in life because it puts them close enough to God to hear Him in a special way.

The Diocesan Vocations Office sponsored the Mass and a dessert reception at Our Lady of Loretto Community Hall, next to the Basilica.

“When we talk about being an altar server, we talk about a very privileged role someone plays in the liturgical life of the Church,” said Father Matthew Reese, Diocesan Director of Vocations. “That person has a

unique perspective on what happens during the sacrifice of the Mass. It is no small wonder then that being an altar server has inspired, and continues to inspire, many to consider a vocation to Priesthood or religious life.”

Several Diocesan priests concelebrated the Liturgy, and many religious filled the pews.

Both Bishop Mark and Father Reese encouraged the servers to approach those priests or religious at the social gathering – or any other time – with any questions they may have.

During the reception, the Bishop distributed his much-loved prayer cards featuring a photo of him greeting Pope Francis in Rome last year and a prayer for vocations.

Each server also received a small gift in appreciation for their dedication to the ministry.

While the gift was certainly appreciated, it was clear in speaking with the servers who attended that their true reward is so much greater.

“For me, it’s really special because I get to serve with my sisters and my friends and I get to serve the Lord in a special

way,” said Connor Ebersole, a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Altoona.

Nathan Ringkamp, a member of Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Altoona, added, “It is a real privilege to serve the Lord. It’s a very big honor for me to do it.”

Both Ebersole and Ringkamp have been altar servers for several years.

By contrast, third grader Owen McCarville has only

served for a few months, but his enthusiasm is contagious.

“The first thing I really like is taking up the Body and Blood of Jesus,” said the Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, Altoona, parishioner with great joy.

He added that he especially likes serving at weekday morning Mass whenever he gets the chance – even though it means getting up a little earlier than normal.

## Pope Canonizes Six Saints

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** -- Creating two Indian and four Italian saints November 23, the feast of Christ the King, Pope Francis said, “They responded with extraordinary creativity to the commandment of love of God and neighbor,” dedicating themselves, “without holding back, to serving the least and assisting the destitute, sick, elderly and pilgrims.”

The new saints are:

-- Kuriakose Elias Chavara, the Indian founder of the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate, a Syro-Malabar Catholic order. Born in 1805, he died in 1871.

-- Euphrasia Eluvathingal, a member of the Carmelites founded by St. Chavara. She lived 1877-1952.

-- Nicholas of Longobardi, an Italian friar of the Minim order, who lived 1650-1709.

-- Giovanni Antonio Farina, an Italian bishop of Vicenza and the founder of the Teaching Sisters of St. Dorothy. He died in 1888.

-- Ludovico of Casoria, the 19th-century Italian founder of the Grey Franciscan Friars of Charity and the Grey Franciscan Sisters of St. Elizabeth.

-- Amato Ronconi, a 13th-century lay Franciscan and founder of a hospice for the poor, which is now a home for the elderly in Rimini, Italy.

# Diocese's Parishes Celebrate Rite Of Welcoming For Catechumens And Candidates

By Bruce A. Tomaselli

After a long absence there is no warmer feeling than returning home to the love and familiarity of family. It's a time of happiness and celebration.

In the Fall each year, a Catholic parish is that welcoming family, inviting persons that wish to be initiated into the Catholic faith.

"It's both beautiful and inspiring that these people have experienced God's call in their hearts," said Jeanne Thompson, coordinator of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) for the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese.

On November 22, Jessica Roland was received as a new catechumen at the Rite of Acceptance held at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona. Thompson said that Roland was so filled with God's grace she and her sponsors couldn't stoop smiling.

"I was very nervous before it started," she said to Thompson. "When the sign of the cross was made over my heart with the prayer, 'receive the sign of the cross over your heart, that Christ may dwell there in faith,' I felt like I belonged so much, I was overwhelmed. It was beautiful. I knew deciding to be baptized is the right thing for me, and my family."

The Rite of Acceptance Into the Order of Catechumens and Rite of Welcoming of the Candidates is celebrated each year in front of the parish family at Mass. Catechumens and candidates are persons who are being officially recognized by the Church as preparing for Baptism at Easter, and to full initiation into the Catholic Church.

"The Rite is important because it's a public declaration in front of the parish family," Thompson added.

Chad Bernard Little and Lisa Ruth Hershey of Most Holy



**SIGNING OF THE FEET:** Father David Arseneault, pastor, prays "Receive the sign of the cross on your feet, that you may walk in the way of Christ," while celebrating the Rite of Welcoming for catechumens at Most Holy Trinity Parish, Huntingdon, in October.

Trinity parish in Huntingdon, were welcomed to their new faith community through the Rite of Welcoming in October.

According to Father David Arseneault, pastor, "The two were very moved by the ritual, especially the signing of the senses when the sponsor makes the sign of the cross while praying over the candidate. They were inspired by the musical responses, and the prayer and support of their sponsors and parish family."

At the same ceremony, Mariah Gail Shubble and Olivia Marie McKinney, were accepted into the order of Catechumens; they will be baptized at Easter. "These children replied with conviction that they wanted to be members of the Catholic Church and follow Christ," said Father Arseneault.

"The parishioners' affirmation of the catechumens was warm and welcoming. The young and old gathered to congratulate these special people. We are looking forward to their full participation in liturgies and parish activities."

Father Arseneault explained the RCIA process is a year-round process at Most Holy Trinity, which positively influences the new evangelization efforts of the Church.

Thompson said the ritual is very important. "These catechumens are now accorded the full Rite of Marriage and full Christian Burial in the Catholic Church; they are able to have a Mass at a funeral, which is of great meaning to many people," she added.

Over the years, Thompson, said, they are seeing more and more people of all ages, and as families, coming together to join the Catholic Church.

The Rite of Acceptance and Welcoming Into the Order of Catechumens was established during Vatican II in the 1960s. The Church mandates that the Rite is to be celebrated in all parishes.

The Altoona - Johnstown Diocese, through the RCIA, offers ongoing training for teams within the parish community, that facilitate the instruction and the full initiation of these people



**WELCOMED INTO THE PARISH:** Carol and Don Gibboney (front), in October were welcomed into Most Holy Trinity Parish in Huntingdon during the Rite of Acceptance Into The Order of Catechumens. Pictured (left to right) are (rear) Penny Nester (sponsor), Harry Lang (sponsor), Sister Katherine ) O'Neil, director of Christian Initiation, Carol Lang (sponsor), and Frank Demar (sponsor).

into the Catholic Church. "Every parish should have a trained team of men and women ready to begin the process for those who desire to join the Catholic Faith," Thompson said.

The parish is a very important part of the Rite, says Thompson. The members assembled at that Mass are not only witnesses of the public desire and commit-

ment of the catechumens and candidates, but are also to be living signs of Jesus' invitation to become another disciple in the Family of God. Performing this Rite at a Mass allows the faith community to know who their newest members are so that they can support them in prayer and by example.



## Bishop's Appointments

Reverend Joseph W. Fleming, appointed pastor of Saint Catherine of Siena Parish in Mount Union and Saint Mary Parish in Shade Gap, effective November 24, 2014.

Reverend Monsignor Timothy J. Swope, V.F., appointed temporary administrator of Saint Augustine Parish in Saint Augustine and Saint Monica Parish in Chest Springs, with assistance from Deacon Steve A. Luke, effective November 24, 2014. Monsignor Swope will continue as rector of the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel in Loretto and dean of the Prince Gallitzin Deanery.

Reverend Joseph C. Nale, continuing as pastor of Saint Stephen Parish in McConnellsburg and Immaculate Conception Parish in Dudley.

Reverend Monsignor Michael A. Becker, appointed Ecumenical Minister of the Diocese, effective October 28, 2014. Monsignor Becker will continue as pastor of Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Altoona and Diocesan Coordinator of Campus Ministry.

# Postal Service Says Christmas Stamp Offers Message Of Hope, Wonder

By Sarah McCarthy  
Catholic News Service

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** -- The U.S. Postal Service unveiled its new Christmas stamp for the upcoming holiday season with a message that it hopes will continue beyond Dec. 25.

The stamp dedication ceremony took place Nov. 19 at St. John's Episcopal Church in Washington in front of about 50 spectators. The new stamp features the three Magi, perched on camels, being guided by the star of Bethlehem as it rises in the east.

"The story of these three wise men emphasizes the importance of the Christmas message, and the hope and the wonder that (Christ) offers all of mankind," said Louis J. Giuliano, a member of the Postal Service board of governors. "Like the Christmas story and the story of the Wise Men, these stamps are good forever. I think that's important."

Each year, the service issues holiday stamps through the agency's Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee. The committee, established in 1957, submits proposals for new stamps which must be approved by the postmaster general.

This year, artist Nancy Stahl, who has worked with the Postal Service before, collaborated on the Christmas stamp with designer Greg Breeding. To draw the Magi, Stahl said, she researched the clothing worn by people of the areas where the three men came from and looked at modern representations of them in Christmas processions.

"I looked at everything," she said in an interview with Catholic News Service. "I took my own direction. I wanted it to have a sense of awe and I wanted it to be slightly majestic so it would have some special quality to it."

Cindy L. Tackett, a marketing agent for the Postal Service, said the Christmas stamp always has a large demand. Whereas a typical stamp mailing is around 20 million to 40 million, she said, sales of the Christmas stamp can reach 100 million.

"It's an important time of the year for us and we know our customers come into post offices looking for these stamps to mail their holiday cards," she said.

For Stahl, the fact that people across the U.S. will see her artwork is "very cool," she said.

"Because Christmas is when people use the mail most (and) that's when they send out a lot of cards ... this will get used a lot and that makes me very happy," she said. "It's so much fun to receive (the stamp) on your own mail."

Giuliano said the Postal Service is "pleased and excited" that the stamp will be used by millions of Americans in the upcoming weeks and he thinks it will provide people an opportunity to consider "the real meaning of Christmas."

Although sales of the Christmas stamp peak during the holiday season, Giuliano said he hopes people will continue to use it throughout the year to spread "the spirit of good will."

"It's a beautiful stamp and when you put it on a letter ... even if it's not Christmas, I think it would make you feel lighter and encouraged by the Christmas message," he said. "Hopefully the person who receives it might (feel that way) as well."



CNS Photo/U.S. Postal Service

**2014 CHRISTMAS STAMP:** A 2014 Christmas stamp issued by the U.S. Postal Service features a silhouette of the Three Kings. The limited edition "Christmas Magi" Forever stamp was unveiled Wednesday, November 19 at Saint John's Episcopal Church at Lafayette Square near the White House in Washington. The stamp celebrates the biblical story of the Three Kings, the wise men who set out from the East bearing gifts for Jesus.

**"The story of these three wise men emphasizes the importance of the Christmas message, and the hope and the wonder that (Christ) offers all of mankind," said Louis J. Giuliano, a member of the Postal Service board of governors. "Like the Christmas story and the story of the Wise Men, these stamps are good forever. I think that's important."**



DR. MARIE HILLIARD PH.D.

## Conference Addresses End - Of - Life Care

Photo And Text  
By Tony DeGol

End-of-life care can be one of the most feared and painful matters for an individual or family to face.

It is also an area filled with many misconceptions.

Doctor Marie Hilliard, Ph.D., the director of Bioethics and Public Policy at the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia, recently visited the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown to address some of those misconceptions and remind the Catholic faithful that there is guidance available.

Doctor Hilliard was the keynote speaker at a day-long conference titled "Do Not Delete: Defending Life at Risk in a Throwaway Culture."

Sponsored by the Pro-life Healthcare Alliance, the Human Life Alliance, Counselors for Life of Altoona, and the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred

Heart of Jesus of Cresson, the conference was held on Saturday, November 15 at Saint Francis University in Loretto.

As part of her address, Doctor Hilliard discussed the ethical and religious directives for Catholic healthcare services that help guide individuals and their providers on end-of-life care.

The 72 directives, promulgated by the Bishops of the United States, are "very reasonable and prudent," noted Doctor Hilliard, but often misunderstood even in the Catholic community.

"Because of that, we have seen society jump into this fear mongering on end-of-life care that has led us now to moves toward assisted suicide," said Doctor Hilliard, a registered nurse and canon lawyer who serves as a resource to the United States Bishops.

She has also been a consultant on faith and community based initiatives for President George W. Bush.

One of the biggest misconceptions about end of life issues is that one must die in pain, Doctor Hilliard said.

"There is what's called the principal of double effect, and a person in pain can receive pain medication, and we might have to increase the amount of that pain medication even though we might inadvertently – and not by intent – slow some respirations when they're near death, and we have nothing else to offer them to control pain – not with the intent to kill them versus assisted suicide where we kill the patient to kill the pain. That has never been the church's teaching, that we have to withhold treatment when we know there might be a

side - effect – when we have no other alternative – without the intent to kill them."

Another common misconception, Doctor Hilliard added, is that once an individual starts a treatment, such as a ventilator, he or she cannot stop it.

As a result, a patient is often hesitant to begin a potentially helpful treatment.

"Sometimes we have to give it a shot and see if it works and see if the person is going to benefit from it," she said.

A third misunderstanding, according to Doctor Hilliard, is that a person in a persistent vegetative state is brain dead.

In fact, the person might even know what we are saying

to him or her, she pointed out.

"We can't determine that because they are not fruitful for society, we can starve them to death."

Doctor Hilliard stressed that anyone with questions about end-of-life issues should take advantage of the resources of the NCBC.

She said there is a free consultation service available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The NCBC telephone number is (215) 877-2660.

Anyone seeking more information can also access the NCBC website at [www.ncbcenter.org](http://www.ncbcenter.org).

## Cardinal: Help Church In Diaspora Preserve Traditions

By Laura Ieraci  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- While fully part of the universal Catholic Church, the Eastern Catholic churches suffered from the prejudices of the Latin-rite majority and an emphasis on uniformity among all Catholics,

### Married Priests

(Continued From Page 16.)

"It's good news for everybody in the Catholic Church, both East and West," he added. "Vatican II called for the church to respect the ancient traditions of the Eastern churches. It was true in principle but not in practice."

Father Laschuk said he also hopes the new legislation will create a culture in the church in North America, in which married clergy are more welcome.

"Previously, there were cases where married priests were not treated fully as priests, as if they were somewhat less," he said. "I hope this will grant them greater respect, now that the Holy Father has approved it."

said the head of the Congregation for Eastern Churches.

Marking the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council decree "Orientalium Ecclesiarum," which affirmed the richness of the Eastern churches within the Catholic communion, Cardinal Leonardo Sandri said, "Diversity at the center of the church is something that reflects a project of God."

In his Nov. 20 message for the anniversary, the cardinal described "Orientalium Ecclesiarum" as the "crowning of an important journey in the Latin conscience" toward acceptance of the Eastern churches.

The Eastern churches historically faced "several prejudices" in the Catholic communion, namely an ecclesiology of "universal uniformity," which, he said, "considered the Latin church and its 'rite' as the universal model."

"At the base, there was perhaps a consideration of Eastern Catholic Christianity as quaint folklore, sometimes not deeply understood and confused with the Orthodox Church," he wrote.

However, the Second Vatican Council offered a new understanding of the Eastern churches and affirmed "the necessary diversity within the

universal church," he said. It expressed "great esteem for their ways of governance, their canonical disciplines as regards priests -- including the married priesthood -- their piety, their ways of understanding the Christian mystery and their vision of the church," he wrote.

"Diversity is an indicator of communion and almost the condition for its possibility, not its negation," he wrote. "It is diversity, owed to the Spirit, and expressed according to the cultural horizon of each people who has welcomed the Gospel."

Praising the "witness of courage and hope" of the martyred Eastern Catholic churches, the cardinal also noted the significant challenges faced by many Eastern churches today as they minister in territories affected by war, political upheavals and humanitarian disasters.

Faced by these challenges, many Eastern Catholics have immigrated to countries where the Latin church is predominant, he said. In light of this migration, he said, the more numerous Catholic communities are called "to help Eastern Catholic churches in the diaspora preserve, love and transpose ... their religious traditions in new cultural contexts."

# Now Showing

## 'Big Hero 6' Stays True To Familiar Playbook

By Joseph McAleer  
Catholic News Service

**NEW YORK (CNS)** -- Parents be warned: Your kids will want a robot for Christmas.

If so, blame "Big Hero 6" (Disney), the latest 3-D animated adventure from the studio that brought you last year's cuddly must-have sensation, Olaf the snowman from "Frozen."

This time, it's Baymax (voice of Scott Adsit), an inflatable vinyl robot designed by a college student, Tadashi (voice of Daniel Henney), to be a "Personal Health Care Companion." In other words, Baymax is to serve as both nurse and nan-

ny for Tadashi's troublesome younger brother, Hiro (voice of Ryan Potter).

Unlike Mary Poppins, Baymax is short on words and discipline. Instead, this distant cousin of the Marshmallow Man offers warm, squishy hugs and a playful demeanor -- and steals the movie.

Unfortunately, the rest of "Big Hero 6" is less inventive and follows a familiar playbook. That's not especially surprising given that the film is loosely based on a Marvel Comics series.

The setting is the city of "San Fransokyo," a mash-up -- as its name obviously suggests -- of San Francisco and Tokyo: think cable cars and cherry



CNS Photo/Disney

**BIG HERO 6:** The animated artistry of characters Aunt Cass and Hiro Hamada star in a scene from the movie "Big Hero 6." The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

blossoms. Tadashi and Hiro are orphans (a Disney standard), raised by their sassy Aunt Cass (voice of Maya Rudolph). They share a passion for robotics.

After Tadashi dies in a lab explosion under mysterious circumstances, Hiro uncovers an evil conspiracy (naturally), and sets out to find the bad guys.

Of course, Hiro needs backup. So Baymax gets a high-tech makeover, which turns him into a version of Iron Man. And an assortment of Tadashi's college buddies are recruited for the adventure.

Superhero feats are not in their nature, however. "We're nerds," Wasabi protests.

"No -- you can be anyone you want," Hiro insists. With distinctive costumes and high-tech weapons, the sextet -- rounded out by Baymax -- is christened "Big Hero 6."

Directors Don Hall ("Winnie the Pooh") and Chris Williams ("Bolt") ramp up the action as "Big Hero 6" morphs into a version of "Revenge of the Nerds." The film's Marvel provenance is evident in noisy smash-bang sequences which may be too intense for younger

viewers.

Parents will appreciate the movie's calmer moments which offer good lessons in friendship, self-sacrifice, and resisting temptation.

Preceding "Big Hero 6" is "Feast," a charming animated short directed by Patrick Osborne. It offers a dog's-eye view of life, love, and the pursuit of happiness, one meal at a time. "Feast" is acceptable for all ages.

The film contains mildly scary sequences, references to puberty and some slightly edgy humor. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

## Coming Up On 'Proclaim!'

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

**December 7** - - Amy Hill, Communications Director for the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, recaps the past legislative session in Pennsylvania and looks ahead to the next one.

**December 14** - - As Christmas nears, Carmelite of the Word Sister Linda LaMagna, Diocesan coordinator of evangelization, discusses how Catholics who have not been engaged in the Church can begin the process of coming home.

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# Faith Is Getting Its Due On The Small Screen

By Mark Pattison  
Catholic News Service

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** -- Treatments of the Catholic faith are getting their due on various TV networks. Except that, with the fractured nature of the 500-channel universe -- a quaint term to anyone with satellite TV -- you have to keep your eyes wide open. Blink and it'll be gone.

About the only thing viewers can hope for is that the programming will be available on the channel's website, or on YouTube, or available via Netflix or some other streaming service. This applies both to fictional treatments of faith as well as documentaries and news programming.

CBS had an interview with Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston on the Nov. 16 installment of its long-running news-magazine "60 Minutes." Excerpts of the interview made the news wires. But an interview like this has a rather short shelf life; don't count on it being rerun in the summer.

Earlier that evening, the Sunday edition of "NBC Nightly News" had a longer-than-usual feature on Archbishop Blase J. Cupich of Chicago two days before his installation as archbishop of the nation's third largest archdiocese. The Jesuits' America magazine partnered with the network on the special.

Try looking at the NBC News website to watch it if you missed it. Given how many American eyeballs are watching football on CBS or Fox that time of the evening, it's likely that a lot of Catholics missed it.

On cable Lifetime's new documentary series "The Sisterhood: Becoming Nuns" follows five women considering joining religious life. The series premiere was scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 25, 10-11 p.m. EST on the cable channel. It sounds a touch reminiscent of the 2006 cable series "God or the Girl," with followed young men as they explored whether they had

a call to the priesthood. Lifetime has committed to six episodes of "The Sisterhood," which would take it through Dec. 29 if the episodes run weekly.

But to think of each installment as an "episode" tends to devalue, at least for me, the discernment process these young women must go through. Nor does it help when Lifetime refers to the individuals contemplating religious life as the "cast." Another warning sign: The producers are responsible for two different cycles of the reality series "Breaking Amish," which gives Amish teens a taste of life outside their community and culture, and hilarity most definitely does not ensue.

Journalist Lisa Ling, one of the original hosts of ABC's "The View," explored the reasons some women choose religious life in a Lifetime documentary special two years ago. But in November, Ling, now with CNN, took an hourlong look Nov. 15 on why some men choose the seminary in the first-season finale of her new documentary series "This Is Life With Lisa Ling."

Given the demands of the 24-hour news cycle, it's uncertain at best whether this -- or any -- week of "This Is Life" would be rerun on CNN, except possibly overnight. But CNN does a good job of keeping its expanding documentary programming, under the label of CNN Films -- on its website.

Not to be left out is public television. PBS will lead off a six-part series, "Sacred Journeys With Bruce Feiler," with a group of 30,000 military veterans on a pilgrimage to Lourdes, France, looking for some kind of healing. Half of the soldiers aren't Americans. Of the Americans, half aren't Catholic. Even so, all hope for healing, either physical or spiritual, from the waters of Lourdes. The installment airs Wednesday, Dec. 16, 8-9 p.m. EST. But, as with most PBS programming, it's best to check your local listings to make sure of the date and time.

The A&E cable channel, which hasn't completely sur-

rendered the "A" (arts) and "E" (entertainment) parts of its programming portfolio to reality TV, is presenting some more original programming with two titles designed to appeal to people of faith.

"The Red Tent" stars Minnie Driver and Debra Winger as the two most recognizable names to audiences. It tells the story of the family of Old Testament figures Jacob and Leah as seen through the eyes of their daughter Dinah. The miniseries, based on a best-selling novel, will be shown Sunday-Monday, Dec. 7-8, 9-11 p.m. EST each night.

This continues A&E's successful foray into biblical programming, based on the success early last year with the minise-

ries "The Bible," which begat the feature film "Son of God."

Roma Downey and Mark Burnett, the husband-wife team responsible for "The Bible" and "Son of God," also return to A&E with a two-hour program, "The Women of the Bible." It will be shown Sunday, Dec. 7, 7-9 p.m. EST on A&E.

Downey will narrate about some of the most "impactful" women of the Bible, including Eve, Sarah, Rahab, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus." There also will be on-screen time granted to some high-profile Christian women, although none of those proffered by A&E in an announcement about the show are Catholic.

This all takes place before their new post-Bible series,

"A.D.," debuts on NBC. The peacock network hasn't announced a debut date for "A.D." Its ratings fortunes have revived in the past few years, leaving NBC to be more strategic in finding good time slots instead of using series and specials to plug gaping wounds in its schedule.

In any event, the shows, especially those on cable, need and sometime deserve frequent airing to find their target audience and to amortize the cost of production and rights-buying. So if 9 p.m. on a Monday night during Advent doesn't work for you, you may need to either record it, or be patient and wait for a rerun during Lent -- or at 2 a.m. before the infomercials take over.



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# Vatican Lifts Ban On Married Priests For Eastern Catholic Churches Outside Of Homelands

By Laura Ieraci  
Catholic News Service

## VATICAN CITY (CNS)

-- The Vatican has lifted its ban on the ordination of married men to the priesthood in Eastern Catholic churches outside their traditional territories, including in the United States, Canada and Australia.

Pope Francis approved lifting the ban, also doing away with the provision that, in exceptional cases, Eastern Catholic bishops in the diaspora could receive Vatican approval to ordain married men. In recent years, however, some Eastern Catholic bishops went ahead with such ordinations discreetly without Vatican approval.

Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, prefect of the Congregation for the Eastern Churches, signed the decree June 14. It was published later online in the "Acta Apostolicae Sedis," the official periodical through which Vatican laws and decisions are published.

The new law says the pope concedes to Eastern Catholic bishops outside their traditional territory the faculties to "allow pastoral service of Eastern married clergy" and "to ordain Eastern married candidates" in their eparchies or dioceses, although they must inform the local Latin-rite bishop in writing "in or-

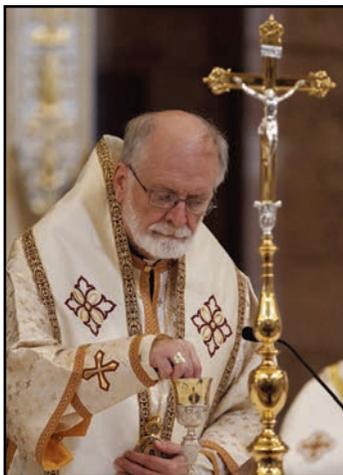
der to have his opinion and any relevant information."

"We are overjoyed with the lifting of the ban," Melkite Bishop Nicholas Samra of Newton, Mass., told Catholic News Service in a Nov. 15 email.

The Vatican decree explained that in response to the "protests" of the Latin-rite bishops in the United States, in 1890 the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples prohibited married Ruthenian priests from living in the United States. And in 1929-30, the Congregation for Eastern Churches extended the ban to all Eastern-rite priests throughout North America, South America and Australia.

The 1929 prohibition, known as "Cum data fuerit," had significant repercussions for the Eastern Catholic churches in the United States. Cardinal Sandri's decree noted that soon after the law was promulgated, "an estimated 200,000 Ruthenian faithful became Orthodox."

Beaverdale native, Ruthenian Bishop John Kudrick of Parma, Ohio, told CNS Nov. 16 that he sees the end to imposed celibacy for Eastern priests in the diaspora as an acknowledgment of the Eastern churches' "obligation to maintain their integrity" and "of the right of the various churches to equal responsibility of evangelization throughout the world."



CNS Photo/Paul Haring

## BISHOP JOHN KUDRICK

"The world needs the church in its fullness," he said, adding he believes the "change of policy results from the long-standing experience of married priests in the Western world, especially the Orthodox, but also Eastern Catholic."

Bishop Kudrick said Eastern churches in the diaspora have a responsibility to minister to new immigrants, who are accustomed to married priests.

"Because of the dual responsibilities to maintain continuity with our past and to reach out to the society to which we are called, some degree of freedom is necessary," he said.

Father Alexander Laschuk, a canon lawyer, said the new decree also "regularizes a situation" in which some Eastern

married men were being ordained despite the 1929 law. Father Laschuk is a Ukrainian Catholic married priest and university lecturer, who also works for the regional tribunal of the Archdiocese of Toronto.

In the 1970s and 1980s, in an attempt to circumvent the Vatican restriction, some Eastern Catholic married men were ordained clandestinely outside North America. Many of them received suspension notices from the Holy See, he said.

By the mid-1990s, Ukrainian Catholic bishops were ordaining married men in Canada, he said, and the suspension notices eventually stopped coming. Such ordinations, though few, were even less frequent in the United States.

Still, Father Laschuk said, the ordinations did not represent a "regular" situation in the church. "It was something that was happening. I wouldn't even say that it was tolerated," he said. "It was happening underground. The Holy See and the Latin bishops were being informed after the fact because I think it was understood that if they were told before, permission would not be coming and it would be stopped."

The modus operandi was that "it was better to ask for forgiveness than to ask for permission," he said.

"From a canonical point of view, the new legislation puts into universal law the possibility of (Eastern Catholic) married men being ordained throughout the world," Father Laschuk said, with the full faculty to ordain granted to each Eastern Catholic ordinary within his diocese.

Jesuit Father Brian Daley, a longtime member of the North American Catholic-Orthodox Theological Consultation, said he expects the new legislation will have a "very positive" impact on ecumenical relations. For many Eastern Catholics and Orthodox, he said, the ban "has been a wound and a source of resentment."

Consultation members had issued a statement June 6 urging an end to the ban, which was experienced as an injustice among Eastern Catholics. Among the Orthodox, the ban created mistrust toward the Catholic Church and a sense that their tradition would not be respected in the event of full communion between the two churches, he explained.

"It's really important that this has finally been cleared up. It is one more divisive issue that has been taken away," said Father Daley, a theology professor at Notre Dame University in Indiana.

(Continued On Page 13.)

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