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Pastor Enthusiastic About Future Direction Of The Catholic Community Of Portage

**Photo And Text
By Bruce A. Tomaselli**

Change is rarely easy - - uncomfortable at best.

When it involves the very ethnic roots of generations of families, it becomes for many a time of mourning for something lost.

Those feelings are understood by Bishop Mark L. Bartchak and the priests of The Catholic Community of Portage.

They know ethnic origins. Mostly, the people came by boat in search of a better life in America. The better life sometimes meant bitter toil in the coal mines, steel mills, and railroads.

They felt fortunate. Their children were born, lived their lives, and were buried from the very same parish. The parish became their family.

Dwindling numbers of parishioners and vocations have made clustering parish communities a necessity.

In 2013 Bishop Bartchak requested that Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish cluster with Saint Joseph Parish in Portage. In 1999, the Sacred Heart Parish merged with The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish to become Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. Saint John



FATHER ANDREW DRAPER T.O.R.

The Baptist Parish merged with Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in 2004.

The Saint John The Baptist Church building was sold, and the Eucharist and other Sacraments continue to be ministered in each church. That will remain consistent with addition of Saint Joseph Parish.

“When anything happens to a church it’s like a death. And,

when you’re in the state of flux, as we are now, it’s almost like watching a loved one die,” Third Order Regular Franciscan Father Andrew Draper observed, speaking to the sensitivity of the recent arrangement.

Father Draper is pastor of the relatively new cluster, and Third Order Regular Franciscan Father Joseph Janiszkeski serves as parochial vicar. “We under-

stand how hard this transition is,” added Father Draper.

There are a lot of tough decisions that are being made and many more to come. The two priests badly need input from all members of The Catholic Community of Portage. The biggest problem the two priests are facing at the moment is the lack of people volunteering. This is the peoples’ parish and they are the

ones who have to make it work.

“We are caretakers. This is not our parish. We’re here to help and guide, but the final responsibility lies within each of us to fulfill Bishop Mark’s vision of this faith community,” said Father Draper. “This is the peoples’ parish and we all have to pull together to make it work.”

Father Draper said, in the beginning he wasn’t completely sold on the name, The Catholic Community of Portage, but he likes it now and he says it works. “We are not only Catholic Parishes, we are part of the community of Portage,” he said.

Clustering the parishes made both priests a little nervous because it brought together nearly 1,000 families. Each of the priests has had plenty of experience in parish work.

Things are beginning to fall into place. For example, there are 90 or so home bound people in the community. Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist have been assigned sections of town to distribute Communion on First Fridays. It’s working.

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ANGEL TREE: Parishioners at Holy Name Parish, Ebensburg, helped by the generosity of the local community, made Christmas 2013 brighter for 53 families and 116 children, with some 600 gifts distributed through the Angel Tree. Pictured are (left to right) Sandy Inzana, Millie Bodenschatz, Katy Wozybak and Joe Inzana.

Adult Enrichment

Carmelites Offer Programs

Gallitzin: The Carmelite Community of the Word is offering their well-known "Sunday Sabbath Series." Spend your Sunday afternoons enriching your spiritual life and taking seriously God's invitation to Sabbath rest.

Upcoming Sunday Sabbath presentations are as follows: February 16: Many Faces of Fear: Exploring the Roots of Religious Fear; March 2: The Courageous Heart of Irena Sendler; March 23: Pius XII: Under the Roman Sky; April 6: Restless Heart: The Confessions of Saint Augustine. Donation is \$15.00

for each session or \$65.00 for five sessions registered at the same time. Pre - registration is required by the Friday before each session.

An overnight retreat, "Create a New Heart in Me O God," will be offered Friday, February 14 at 7:00 p.m. to Saturday, February 15 at 3:00 p.m. Retreats include conferences, private and communal prayer, and time for private reflection, as well as opportunity for spiritual direction. Donation is \$45.00 and includes two meals, overnight lodging in a private room, and materials. Pre - registration is required by February 11; a \$10.00 non - refundable deposit is due with registration.

Sessions will be held at Carmelite Community of the

Word Incarnation Center, 394 Bem Rd., Gallitzin. To register, get directions, or for more information, call (814) 886 - 4098.

Community

Feinstein Challenge

Johnstown: The Society of Saint Vincent DePaul will again partner with the Feinstein Foundation's \$1 million Challenge to Fight Hunger during the months of March and April.

The Feinstein Foundation allots \$1 million in grant money which is divided among organizations that help to feed the hungry across the country.

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society operates two Family Kitchens and Food Distribution



RECEPTION: A reception was held Tuesday, January 14 at Saint Francis University, Loretto, giving incoming president Third Order Regular Franciscan Father Malachi Van Tassell (left) an opportunity to meet and greet members of the university community.



DONATION: Society of Saint Vincent DePaul executive director Sonny Consiglio (center), accepts a donation from Wolf Furniture in Johnstown. Presenting the check is Tony Belskey, sales manager (left) and Dave Tomko, general store manager.

warehouses in Altoona and Johnstown as well as food pantries in Altoona, Carrolltown, Ebensburg, Johnstown and Pat-

ton. The Society is providing an average of 150 meals per day at each of its kitchens and serving approximately 1400 - 1500 fam-

ilies per month at its pantries. Anyone wishing to help with donations, fundraisers or food drives can contact a kitchen or pantry in their area or call (814) 539 - 4627.

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DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

The Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill seek applicants for the position of Director of Development. This person is responsible for donor cultivation and solicitation, grant writing, annual and ancillary appeals and special events coordination. The Director of Development is responsible to the community's leadership team and works in close relationship with the Director of Public Relations.

Position requires a collaborative operational style, proven planning and organizational abilities, strong oral and written communication skills, capacity to understand and articulate the mission of a congregation of women religious. Experience in fund-raising for a non-profit organization is helpful as is familiarity with the Raiser's Edge program.

Send resume to Office of Human Resources, 144 DePaul Center Road, Greensburg, PA 15601 by February 28, 2014.



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In The Alleghenies

Matthew Kelly Presentation Tickets Now On Sale

Tickets are now on sale for a presentation by internationally acclaimed speaker and author Matthew Kelly.

Kelly will present "Living Every Day With Passion And Purpose" on Saturday, September 27 at the Stokes Athletic Center on the campus of Saint Francis University, Loretto.

The event, sponsored by the Evangelization Ministry of the Parish Life Office of the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown, will begin with Morning Prayer celebrated by Bishop Mark L. Bartchak at 8:15 a.m., followed by Kelly's presentation beginning at 9:00 a.m. and concluding at 1:30 p.m.

Adult tickets are \$39.00 per person; charitable donations have made it possible for student tickets to be offered at \$15.00 each. Student tickets make an appropriate gift for Confirmation candidates.

Tickets may be purchased online at the diocesan webpage, www.dioceseaj.org, by clicking on the Donate/Register icon. Vouchers will be issued confirm-



MATTHEW KELLY

ing the purchase, with admission tickets being mailed several weeks prior to the event.

Tickets may also be purchased by sending a check, made payable to the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown, to P.O. Box 409, Hollidaysburg PA 16648 - 0409. Mail orders should include full name and address of the purchaser, a telephone num-

ber and an e-mail address.

According to Carmelite of the Word Sister Linda LaMagna, ministerial coordinator for evangelization, "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

"This will be an extremely motivating, life-changing experience. Matthew Kelly has a unique way of simplifying our Catholic faith in relation to our everyday lives and challenges us to be the best version of ourselves. This is your chance to become on fire with your faith and to learn simple ways to bring true happiness into your life as the Lord intended."

Sister Linda urges early purchase of tickets, as Kelly's events have been known to sell out quickly.

Ticket price includes all retreat materials, but does not include lunch. Persons attending may bring a brown bag lunch; there will be two breaks during which drinks and snacks may be purchased.

For further information contact Sister Linda at (814) 674 - 3712.



BISHOP WELCOMES SISTERS: Bishop Mark L. Bartchak has welcomed Sister Delphine Apinjoh (left) and Sister Vivian Nchuaji (right) to the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown. The Sisters are from Cameroon in central Africa, and have come to the Diocese to work with other members of their religious community, the Sisters of Saint Ann in Ebensburg.

Sisters From Cameroon Will Serve Locally

Two Sisters of Saint Ann from the central African nation of Cameroon have come to the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese to serve with their Sisters in Ebensburg.

Sister Delphine Apinjoh and Sister Vivian Nchuaji have come to the United States at the request of their Mother General, Sister Ernestine Fernandes. They were welcomed September 24, 2013 at the Pittsburgh International Airport by Sister Letizia LoRe, delegate superior, and Sister Anna Maria Lorenzon. Sisters Delphine and Vivian are experienced teachers and will be of assistance to the local community of the Sisters of Saint Ann in their apostolate of education.

The Sisters of Saint Ann have had a presence in Cameroon since 1986; since that time a number of young women have entered the community, and today there are 70 Sisters of Saint Ann in nine communities in the four Dioceses of Cameroon.

The charism of the Sisters of Saint Ann is to be an "instru-

ment of the mercy and providence of God to the little ones and to the poor," through their educational mission in schools at all levels. They are also involved in parish religious education programs, the visitation of families and in other charitable works.

Bishop Mark L. Bartchak assisted the local community of Sisters of Saint Ann in bringing Sisters Delphine and Vivian to the United States, by writing to immigration authorities endorsing their application to come to this country to minister with their Sisters.



UNIVERSITY MARCH FOR LIFE: A March for Life was held Wednesday, January 22, the 41st anniversary of the Supreme Court Decision Roe vs. Wade, legalizing abortion in the United States, at Saint Francis University in Loretto. The campus event began with a short prayer. The march took place around the mall in the center of campus and concluded with a Mass to pray for the unborn and the dignity of life. The event was sponsored by the university's campus ministry department.

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Point Of View

Chocolate hearts, long stem red roses and meatloaf (Yes, I said meatloaf!) are the hallmark signs for Valentine's Day at our home. Okay, you probably understand the chocolate and roses theme but where does the meatloaf idea come into play? Some may ask, "Couldn't you fancy it up, a wee bit, Amy?" "A little Filet Mignon or perhaps a seafood dish?" But with all due respect, my answer is "No thank you, our meatloaf suits us just fine!"

Valentines' day at our home would not be quite the same, without the juicy meatloaf. My kids get very excited when they see the heart shaped meatloaf nestled amongst mounds of soft whipped potatoes, gracefully adorned with a cheddar cheese arrow piercing throughout. No, Valentine's Day in our house is not fancy, in fact celebrating love in our house means meatloaf and I think this simple dish captures the idea of real love perfectly. You see, real love is not fancy, pretentious, a floating in the clouds type of feeling. Real love is warm, comforting and filling, just like our family's meatloaf. In honor of celebrating true love, I have invited a special couple, who has been married for over forty years, to write a reflection on their love and marriage. If you know them personally you would agree that their love is comforting, warm and filling as it flows over to the lives of others.

The following was written by Rick Wess, husband of Evie.

One of our favorite places in our house is at our kitchen ta-



Family Matters

By Amy Kanich
Chocolate Hearts And Meatloaf

ble. It's small enough that with our elbows on the table, we can comfortably reach out and hold each other's hands. It's where we share everything, especially our memories. It was during one of those moments recently that Evie asked me, "Do you remember the time we went skiing?" I did. It was forty years ago. Evie and I had left our babies at home with my mom and we went to Blue Knob to chaperone our parish youth group on a ski trip.

After all the kids were off to ski, Evie and I decided to give it a try ourselves. I remember falling, over and over. We fell and laughed and struggled to stand again gracelessly. Eventually our falling was interrupted by short bouts of gliding along on the snow, sometimes for twenty feet or so, before one of us and then the other would fall again.

As we sat at our little table reliving that adventure, it was Evie who recognized the bigger picture. "It's how our lives have been," she said. "We've fallen so many times, but we've always been able to get back up and try again." For a while, neither of us said anything as we thought about the stumbling and falling and also the pure joy of getting back up that has been our

marriage over the past 40 plus years.

"Do you remember," Evie asked, "when we started taking dance lessons?"

I did. We so admired how my parents looked as they glided across the dance floor. Theirs was the generation that knew what dancing was all about. We wanted to be like them. I remember our stumbling, our embarrassment and our practice sessions on our back porch with little post-it stickers on each other's shirts with the names of the dance steps written on them. I remember the first time we dared to display our skills at the Lemon Drop Lounge near Carrolltown. We were the youngest couple in the place by at least twenty years, and the couples there could really dance. It was so hard to walk out on that dance floor for the first time. Again we quietly sat with visions of dance steps and memories of the older couples who welcomed us so many years ago floating through our thoughts.

(Continued On Page 5.)



Another Perspective

By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein
The Catholic Press Is A Family Business

Catholic Press Month gets a lot less attention than does Catholic Schools Week. We don't even make much of a fuss about it here in our office. Still, I like to take time every year, when this special month rolls around, to reflect upon the importance of the Catholic press in the life of our Church, and how very much it has meant in my life.

My first memories of the Catholic press are from when I was a little boy, not even in school, and a door-to-door salesman came to our house selling subscriptions to the **Saint Anthony Messenger**. My mother bought one. **The Catholic Register** was, of course, also in our home. I remember that an advertisement for the diocesan vocations office made a deep impression on me; it showed a priest saying Mass (his back to the congregation in those pre-Vatican II days), facing a life-size crucifix. I'd look at that picture of the priest and think "Maybe someday that could be me."

My road to the priesthood took a detour through journalism school at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. At the Newman Center, there were always copies of the Greensburg Diocese's newspaper, **The Catholic Accent** and the **Pittsburgh Catholic** lying about, free for the taking. I was not to know then that one day the **Accent's** editor, Alice Laurich (may she rest in peace) would become both a friend and a mentor.

I did not expect to someday work in the Catholic press, myself. But two years after ordination I found myself named assistant editor of this publication, and three years after that, I became the editor. Twenty-eight of my almost thirty years as a priest have been spent at **The Catholic Register**; next month I will mark 25 years as editor. Working with Frances Logrando and Bruce Tomaselli for all of these years has been a rich blessing.

The Catholic press, is in many ways, my family business. The grand old man of Catholic journalism in the United States, Monsignor Matthew J.W. Smith, founder of **The National Catholic Register** and the associated chain of newspapers (of which this publication was once a part), was a cousin of my Grandfather Stein. Monsignor Smith began his career as a newspaperman as a reporter for the old **Altoona Tribune**. In 1913 he moved to Denver and was hired by the **Denver Catholic Register**. Ordained a priest in 1923, he founded the national newspaper and the chain of papers in 1927.

In the first edition of **The National Catholic Register**, Monsignor Smith wrote "If you like a Catholic paper with snap, vigor, courage, here it is. If you like one that is easy to read, here it is. If you like one that will always be loyal to the Church and has no selfish axe to grind, here it is." My hope and prayer is that my kinsman would be able to say the same of our newspaper today; I know we have not always lived up to Monsignor Smith's goal. I pray we will do better in that regard.

A family business? Yes indeed, for not only do I have that blood tie to an heroic editor, but the bonds of friendship with my staff here are as close as family ties. And through my membership in the Catholic Press Association, providing the opportunity for board and committee service, annual meetings and even foreign travel, I have made a circle of friends among other Catholic journalists, who are as dear as family members to me. And of course, gentle readers, there are all of you, the members of our diocesan family, who make the work we do here so worth while.

For all of this and for all of you, in this Catholic Press Month, I give thanks.



CELEBRATING LIFE: Students and faculty at Bishop McCort Catholic High School in Johnstown gather for a prayer service in the school gym on Wednesday, January 22, after extreme weather prevented students from attending the March for Life in Washington, D.C. The students especially prayed for baby Owen Sheridan, son of religion and history teacher Kevin Sheridan. Owen was born with a life-threatening condition and is recovering after surgery in Boston.

Pro - Life Cause Becomes Deeply Personal For Johnstown Family, School

By Tony DeGol

All expectant parents look forward to the day when they can hold their newborn child and look into his or her eyes.

That was the dream of Kevin and Jen Sheridan, members of Saint Clement Parish in Johnstown.

Their wish became a reality despite dire warnings from doctors that it likely would not.

Just weeks into the pregnancy last year, the Sheridans' unborn child was diagnosed with an encephalocele.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the condition is a sac-like protrusion of the brain that happens when the neural tube does not close completely during pregnancy.

Kevin Sheridan, a religion and history teacher at Bishop McCort Catholic High School in Johnstown, said the situation worsened as time progressed.

At about 22 weeks into the pregnancy, Sheridan said doctors told him and his wife that there was little hope the child would survive and gave them the option to terminate the pregnancy.

"My wife looked at me right away," Sheridan said. "She was

the first one to speak and said 'if we don't fight for our child, who will?' At that point the decision was made. We knew all along that there may be some pretty severe risks involved, but we were committed to giving our child the best and longest life possible, and we weren't ready to give up hope despite what the doctors said."

Defying the odds, baby Owen Sheridan was born in Johnstown on December 6.

He weighed about 12 pounds, but about half of that weight was from the sac on top of his head.

The newborn was moving his limbs, and he was reacting to light and sound.

"He appeared to be responding as a normal child would,"

Family Matters

(Continued From Page 4.)

Evie and I are grateful for all the help we've gotten over the years and especially for the nudges from the Holy Spirit that seem to always come at just the right time. One such nudge sent us to a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. This weekend made us realize that is God is the one who picks us up when we fall, gives us the courage to

Sheridan said.

Unfortunately, grave risks remained, including the threat of infection and meningitis.

A visit to specialists a few days after Owen's birth yielded more discouraging news, Sheridan said, noting that the doctors felt surgery would be too risky.

In fact, Sheridan said when asked what they would do in a similar situation, the specialists commented "we would never have brought him to term."

Eventually, the Sheridans learned that doctors at Boston Children's Hospital operated on a child from Wisconsin with a similar condition.

After meeting with physicians there, the decision was made to move forward with surgery on January 3 before it was too late.

According to Sheridan, the surgery was "beyond successful," and doctors felt it went better than they could have imagined.

As of late January when Sheridan was interviewed for this story, Owen was gaining weight and becoming more responsive each day.

That's the good news.

The bad news, says Sheridan, is that Owen's brain is malformed, and at least 20 percent of it is deemed nonfunctioning.

Although his future is uncertain, baby Owen has so far beat the odds, and his parents are so glad they did not give up hope and follow the early advice of doctors.

"We could never have lived with that regret," Sheridan said. "God put us at this place at this time, and we were going to

keep on trying and directs our everyday steps as we continue to dance! If one is interested in this weekend, they can go to the website YourMarriageIsWorthIt.org for more information. Upcoming weekends will be held in March and April. Thank you for allowing us to share a small glimpse of our marriage. We'll pray the Holy Spirit keeps nudging us in the right direction, and each of you recognizes that nudge when it comes to you. God Bless.

honor that obligation as best we could."

As they enjoy these precious days with their son, the Sheridans are especially grateful for the support they have received from both the Saint Clement and McCort families.

The high school has set up a fund to help cover Owen's medical expenses, while Saint Clement hosted a spaghetti dinner for the same purpose.

Many Rosary and prayer services have also been held — one, appropriately enough, on the day of the March for Life last month in Washington, D.C.

Because of the bad weather, McCort students were unable to make the trip, so a prayer service

was held in the school gym in honor of Owen.

"We feel extremely loved," said Sheridan, who was also the McCort head football coach until he recently resigned from the position due to his family situation. "With God, all things are possible. We have felt the strength to keep going in the darkest of times thanks to the prayers and support of the people around us. God's work is being done."

If you would like to contribute to the Owen Sheridan Fund, please send donations to the Owen Sheridan Fund, Bishop McCort Catholic High School, 25 Osborne Street, Johnstown, PA 15905.

It's safe to say that no one can question the commitment of pro-life forces after last month's March for Life in Washington, D.C.

Despite snow, temperatures in the single digits, and wind chills even lower, hundreds of thousands of people from around the country still made the trek on January 22, including many people from the Diocese of Altoona — Johnstown.

Much to his disappointment, Bishop Mark L. Bartchak was not among them.

The Bishop was scheduled to travel to Washington with students from Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy in Boalsburg, but the bus company cancelled the trip at the last minute due to the weather conditions and to ensure the safety of the students.

A few other groups also had to cancel, but, for the most part, there was still impressive representation from the Diocese in our nation's capital.

That commitment supports Bishop Mark's comments the night before the March for Life.

Every year on the eve of the March, the Bishop presides at a prayer service at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona.

During his homily, Bishop Mark reminded the faithful that the pro-life movement is not going away, and more young people are recognizing the value of life.

"(They) are beginning to realize what is at stake and why all of this is so important," the Bishop said. "They know as teenagers and young adults that in our world today, all of us will have days when our hearts are troubled. But most of all, they have faith in Jesus Christ, the only one who can take away our distress and our confusion, because he is the way, the truth, and the life."

Bishop Mark also pointed out how Pope Francis has encouraged youth to spread the Gospel message of Jesus Christ.

"He tells us not to let our hearts be troubled," the Bishop noted. "These young people going to Washington to make some noise in defense of life certainly make my heart less troubled. I pray for the young people of our Church and our country who have been inspired to be involved. I ask you to pray for them as I pray for you as well."

Nick Spinelli, a student at Bishop McCort Catholic High School in Johnstown and member of Saint Benedict Parish in Johnstown, was among those who went to the March for Life with other youth from his parish.

Led by Father Michael Wolfe, parochial vicar at Saint Benedict, their day started early with a youth rally and Mass at the Washington Armory.

"My experience this year at the March for Life was one of the best I've had yet," Spinelli said. "The March for Life is always a wonderful display of faith by Catholics and non-Catholics standing in solidarity for the dignity of life. Although it was terribly cold and windy, the hundreds of thousands of people gathered shoulder to shoulder not only warms your body but also your heart."

About 95 students from Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School in Altoona also braved the weather to attend the March.

In The Alleghenies

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Development

Annual Appeal Results

Hollidaysburg: The diocesan development office closed out the 2013 Annual Catholic Appeal by thanking all who made contributions totaling \$3,024,568. A record \$2,455,504 was allocated to diocesan ministries and services while \$569,064 (the most in 14 years) was returned to 66 parishes that exceeded their goals. The office also reported that 26,272 gifts were received from 14,932 families and individuals. The percent of registered households participating in the diocesan appeal was 39% which is slightly higher than U.S. Dioceses of similar size.

“Catholics in our eight counties are certainly not immune to the ongoing economic challenges, yet they clearly have a strong desire to support the life changing experiences carried out by a variety of diocesan ministries,” states development director Chris Ringkamp. Parishioners give generously to their own parishes throughout the year and extend their chari-

table support of diocesan ministries through the ACA.

A parish by parish summary report of the 2013 ACA can be downloaded from the Diocesan Mailing web page at www.dioceseaj.org.

The development office has mailed charitable gift receipts to all 2013 ACA contributors and has now turned its attention to the next Lenten Appeal which begins on March 16. For additional information about the ACA and other giving opportunities, please contact the development office at (814) 695-5577.

Family Life

Surviving Divorce

Lilly: The Family Life Office is sponsoring a faith - based program for Catholics who have experienced the heartbreak of divorce and want to renew their passion and purpose.

Beginning Tuesday, March 11, this 12 week series will be held from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Family Life Office, 5379 Portage Street (two miles off Route 22 on Route 53, between Cresson and Portage). This weekly facilitated workshop series is



CHRISTMAS BIRTHDAY PARTY: Parents and children at Holy Spirit Parish, Lock Haven, decorated gingerbread houses at the Help The Wise Men Celebrate Jesus' Birthday Party held Sunday, December 29, 2013.

based on a DVD program by Rose Sweet.

Cost: \$25.00/includes Personal Survival Guide. Registration deadline is Wednesday, February 26.

Send your payment, name, address, phone and email to the Family Life Office, 5379 Portage St., Lilly, PA. 15938.

For more information, call Family Life at (814) 886 - 5551 or familylife@dioceseaj.org.

Higher Education

Service Trip

Cresson: Deep within the spirit of Christmas is the truth that the holiday celebrates giving. The season offers a multitude of opportunities to give back to those among us who need it most. Sponsored by the Mount Aloysius College Office of Campus Ministry, 23 students and three staff members spent a pre - Christmas 2013 week helping the still struggling residents of New Orleans restore their community.

The Mount Aloysius College helpers landed in New Orleans in mid-December and were welcomed again at Camp Restore. Camp Restore is a volunteer Christian mission in New Orleans, LA. The well-established destination operates with the goal of restoring faith, home, and community to still struggling New Orleans. Camp Restore provides housing, food and equipment to volunteer

groups like the Mountie helpers who rebuild houses, churches, and schools and work on a wide range of New Orleans community projects. Mount Aloysius College and the sponsoring Sisters of Mercy have a long history of helping in the storm ravaged Gulf Coast.

Mercy Sister Helen Marie Burns, vice president of mission integration at Mount Aloysius sees the New Orleans experience as an essential component to the complete student experience at the College. “This is our eighth visit to the Katrina ravaged Gulf Coast,” she said. “Our students come away with a real sense of accomplishment. The work allows them to gain a sense of their own power for good by helping create a better life for those in need of their skills and, finally,” added Sister Helen, “they gain real gratitude for the gifts that make up the fabric of their own lives.”

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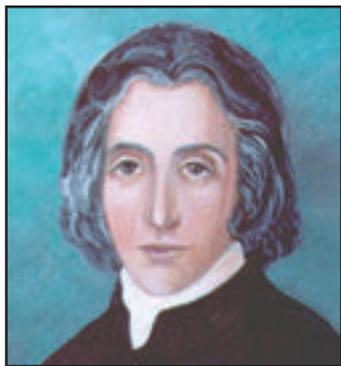
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Gallitzin Cause's Roman Phase Opened January 27

On the same day that Pope Francis advanced the sainthood Causes of eight candidates, the Roman Phase of the Cause of the Servant of God Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin was opened by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints at the Vatican.

Father Luis F. Escalante, Roman Postulator for the Gallitzin Cause communicated, via

e-mail to Monsignor Michael E. Servinsky, vicar general and Bishop Bartchak's delegate for the Cause, the news that the boxes of documentation sent to the Congregation in November 2013 were opened by Monsignor Papparlaro on Monday, January 27.

All documents, known as the "Acta" of the Cause, were

found to be in order, Father Escalante reported.

Father Escalante also told Monsignor Servinsky that Monsignor Papparlaro has now counseled patience, as a number of Causes from throughout the world have been submitted to the Congregation at this time, and the Acta of each must now be bound before further study.

In the meantime, Father Escalante said, his work will go forward as he studies his own copies of the documents.

Catholic News Service reported that among the Causes advanced by the Holy Father on January 27 was that of the founder of the Sisters of Charity of Quebec.

During a meeting with Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, the Pope signed a decree recognizing that Mother Marie-Anne-Marcelle Mallet lived the Christian virtues in a heroic way and is venerable.

Mother Mallet, who was born in Montreal in 1805 and died in Quebec in 1871, founded the Sisters of Charity with five other sisters in 1849. The institute, dedicated to the care of children, the sick and the elderly, operates today in Canada, the United States, Japan, Paraguay, Argentina and Congo.

The Pope also recognized the martyrdom of Father Pedro Asua Mendia, a Basque priest and architect killed in 1936 during the Spanish Civil War.

The recognition of Father Asua's martyrdom clears the way for his beatification.



CAUSE'S BOXES OPENED: Monsignor Papparlaro of the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints opens the boxes containing the Acta of the Cause of the Servant of God Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin Monday, January 27, and checks to see that all is in order.

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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Word of Life



The Pope Teaches

By Pope Francis
**Work And Pray
 For Christian Unity**

ROME (CNS) -- While Christian unity will be a gift from God, it won't drop miraculously from the sky but will be given to the followers of Christ step by step as they walk together and work together, Pope Francis said.

"To journey together is already to be making unity," the pope said Jan. 25 during an ecumenical prayer service marking the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

With Orthodox, Eastern Orthodox, Anglican, Lutheran, Methodist and other Christian representatives present and reading some of the prayers, Pope Francis presided over the service at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

The service began with Pope Francis, Orthodox Metropolitan Gennadios of Italy and Anglican Archbishop David Moxon, the archbishop of Canterbury's representative in Rome, bowing in prayer before the tomb of St. Paul on the feast of his conversion.

"We have prayed at the tomb of Paul and said to one another, 'Let's pray that he will help us on this path, this path of unity and love,'" the pope said later in his homily.

"Unity will not come about as a miracle at the very end," he said. "Rather unity comes about in journeying."

"If we do not walk together, if we do not pray for one another, if we do not collaborate in the many ways that we can in this world for the people of God," the pope said, "then unity will not come about."

Dialogue and collaboration are essential, he said, but unity will not be the result of human effort, "but rather of the Holy Spirit, who sees our good will."

Pope Francis, celebrating his first Christian unity week as pope, said that "two great popes, Blessed John XXIII and Blessed John Paul II," felt the urgency of Jesus' prayer that his disciples be one. They dedicated so much of their energy and teaching to ecumenism that the search for Christian unity has become "an essential dimension" of papal ministry, he said.

"We can say also that the journey of ecumenism has allowed us to come to a deeper understanding of the ministry of the successor of Peter, and we must be confident that it will continue to do so in the future," he said.

In his apostolic exhortation, "Evangelii Gaudium" ("The Joy of the Gospel"), Pope Francis wrote, "It is my duty, as the bishop of Rome, to be open to suggestions which can help make the exercise of my ministry more faithful to the meaning which Jesus Christ wished to give it and to the present needs of evangelization."

Pope Francis told the thousands of people who filled the Basilica of St. Paul for the evening prayer service that it is unacceptable to consider "divisions in the church as something natural, inevitable," because "divisions wound Christ's body (and) they impair the witness which we are called to give to him before the world."



ONE MORE TIME: In 1955 the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Saint Brigid Convent, Lilly, hosted a dinner celebrating the silver jubilee of Monsignor Philip B. Curran, pastor.

If you connect the term "human trafficking" with exotic locales and wild action films like "Taken," in which the actor Liam Neeson tracks down his daughter's captors in Europe and kills a slew of scary-looking Eastern Europeans in the process, you're like a lot of people, including me a few years ago.

I now realize that trafficking is a problem on the streets of my city, and trafficking recruiters may be no further than the middle school or high school my kids attended.

What is human trafficking? Trafficking is no less than a modern-day form of slavery. It can involve sending people to faraway places, but it may enslave someone in their own community. It often ensnares victims for the sex trade, but it can exploit people to work in factories, restaurants or farms. A hallmark of trafficking is that it focuses on the vulnerable. And the vulnerable are all around us, even when they seem invisible.

The United Nations estimates more than 20 million people are trafficked, or enslaved, worldwide. Others put that number at 30 million, but the real figure is hard to pin down when a "hidden" population is involved.

I recently spoke to a social worker at Covenant House, an organization that provides shelter and services to runaway and homeless youth. She works with vulnerable kids in a medi-



For The Journey

By Effie Caldarola
Modern Slavery

um-size American city and said young males and females are typical prey for a trafficker.

"A girl who hits the streets can be approached within 45 minutes," she said.

The ideal target is a 15- to 20-year-old girl who is alone in the world. She may be escaping abuse at home or has been kicked out by her family. She's needy, perhaps naive, and a trafficker befriends her and begins to groom her. He flatters her, spends money on her and leads her to believe she's in a romantic relationship.

To a troubled teen, he's prince charming.

Soon, he begins to exert control. He takes her identification and money. He may ask her to share sexual favors with others, or sometimes her initiation comes in the form of gang rape. Eventually, she is psychologically and physically dependent, and is used for the trafficker's money-making purposes.

This is different from prostitution, in which an adult woman chooses to trade sex for some

kind of payment. The trafficked youth finds herself in a place of coercion.

My Covenant House contact said that in the U.S. city where she works, her staff had encountered 25 young people in the past three months who fit the criteria for being trafficked and none fit a particular demographic. They can be the kids next door.

Pope Francis, aware of the issue when he served in South America, cares deeply about the problem. In November, he held a workshop at the Vatican in which experts discussed "Trafficking in Human Beings: Modern Slavery."

The U.S. Catholic bishops work with a group of more than 20 Catholic agencies, including Covenant House and Catholic Charities USA, to combat trafficking. States are beginning to pass laws dealing specifically with trafficking. Local as well as federal agencies such as the FBI have become involved in this battle and are becoming more attuned to signs of trafficking.



Question Corner

**By Father Kenneth Doyle
Our Daughter Became
A Protestant**

Q. I am a lifelong Catholic. My wife was raised Lutheran and converted to the Catholic faith after we were married 35 years ago. We raised our four kids in the Catholic Church.

Our daughter, who is 24, joined a Protestant church about a year ago. She met a young man at church, and they recently became engaged. It breaks my heart that she will not be married in the Catholic Church.

I have to admit that my daughter and her fiance are very involved in their church -- in fact, they lead Bible studies. They made the decision not to live together before being married because of their deep moral convictions.

I grew up during the era when we were taught that the Catholic Church was the only church. So I toss and turn at night and struggle every day with how to show my daughter love and support as she plans her wedding, even though I am hurting inside. I don't want to damage our relationship nor do anything that

would spoil her big day. Any advice would be appreciated. (St. Paul, Minn.)

A. Like you, I believe that the Catholic Church is the true church, that for all its human faults it is -- among the Christian religions -- the closest approximation to what Jesus came to establish and thus (especially because of the sacraments) the most effective way to salvation.

Daily I thank God that I am a Catholic. Like you, I would be deeply saddened if I had a daughter and she decided to leave the embrace of the Catholic Church.

At the same time, the church acknowledges that there are elements of sanctification and of truth in other religions, including non-Christian ones. That is to say, it is possible that people can reach heaven without being Catholic.

Referencing the Second Vatican Council, the Catechism of the Catholic Church points out in No. 819 that the word of God and the life of grace can

be found in other religions and that "Christ's Spirit uses these churches and ecclesial communities as means of salvation."

I would forego, certainly, for now, any attempt to talk your daughter out of her religious choice. You've made your feelings known. She is an adult and has made her decision.

If I were you I would be comforted, even excited, by the fact that she is actively putting her faith to work and that she is living out her moral convictions. I am confident that she is on the path to heaven, so you can peacefully leave the rest in God's hands and sleep soundly while you continue to show your daughter the love and respect for her that you clearly feel.

Q. I have been encouraging my sister, a lapsed Catholic, to start going to Mass again. Recently she moved and attended a new church close to her home in northern Kentucky. But the priest's sermon, she said, was all about the negative qualities of Islam, with a bit of anti-Mormonism thrown in at the end.

What can I say to encourage her that the Catholic Church as a whole is not anti-Islamic? (St. Louis, Mo.)

A. The Second Vatican Council in 1965 said this in "Nostra Aetate," No. 3: "The church has also a high regard for the Muslims. ... They strive to submit themselves without reserve to the hidden decrees of God. ... Although not acknowledging him as God, they venerate Jesus as a prophet, his Virgin Mother they also honor. ... They highly esteem an upright life and worship God, especially by way of prayer, alms-deeds and fasting."

Fast-forward nearly 50 years and hear Pope Francis in his first apostolic exhortation "Evangelii Gaudium." In No. 253, we read that "our respect for true followers of Islam should lead us to avoid hateful generalizations, for authentic Islam and the proper reading of the Quran are opposed to every form of violence."

Tell your sister that you would give the nod to the council and to the Pope.



Spirituality For Today

**By Father John Catoir
When Courage
Is Not An Option**

We often think of courage as a battlefield virtue. However, another kind of bravery exists in more familiar circumstances. Day after day, real courage often takes place at home, in the form of patient endurance, loyalty, constancy and the will to face a scary future with grace and determination. These qualities are all signs of the kind of courage that women possess in admirable proportions.

One of the most important qualities anyone can master in life is found in the art of putting on the will to bear discomfort. The golden rule requires it, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

In order to be charitable, we need to become less preoccupied with our personal needs. This requires sacrifice.

Mothers are famous for their ability to perform many difficult and monotonous duties. They practice privation. Privation occurs when one gives up the comfort of feeling free to do as one pleases.

Of course, men possess this noble virtue, too, but women excel in it, especially the mothers of young children. They persevere in difficult times showing us over and over again the noble virtue of love in action. As they try to love their children and husbands without counting the cost, they make the necessary sacrifices to keep the family alive and well. We are in admiration of their courageous commitment.

Admittedly, not everyone succeeds in being as brave as they wished they could have been. We do not judge them. Any human being can be overwhelmed at times by the crushing burdens of life. This truth makes women all the more praiseworthy. By the grace of God, many have persevered. Others have not.

To understand the nobility of courage more fully, we need to look at the relationship between courage and cowardice. The two are direct opposites. Cowardice is found in those who shirk their duties and descend into the quicksand of escapism. They always seem to blame others for their failures. When they do wrong, they refuse to own up to it and have a curious inability to say they're sorry.

Many cowards suffer from addictions of one kind or another. For them, repentance is a remedy they despise. Acknowledging the wrongs they have done and making amends in a spirit of genuine atonement is the only way to gain back their self-respect, but they are repelled by the thought of it. The 12-step program lays this out for recovering addicts.

One can only hope that they will experience that shocking moment of recognition called "hitting bottom." Until they wake up to fact that they're in danger of death, the addict is lost in a blinding fog. The truth that their habit is self-destructive is either hidden from their eyes or they have a death wish so far advanced that they have unwittingly become their own worst enemy.

When one descends into such a state of deep denial, he or she is blind to the sad truth that death is near. Everyone else around them sees it too clearly, which is why crisis intervention is so necessary. With God, all things are possible. Every saint-in-training has a past, and every sinner has a future. Never give up!

This is why we come to see that, after all is said and done, courage is not an option.

Scholastica
c. 480-547
February 10



Scholastica and her brother, Saint Benedict, were born to a wealthy Christian family in Nursia, Italy. Details of their lives come from the Dialogues of Saint Gregory the Great. After Benedict established his monastery at Monte Cassino, she founded a convent at Plombariola, and was its abbess for many years. The siblings met once a year outside Monte Cassino. At their final meeting, Scholastica begged Benedict to stay the night and, when he wouldn't, she asked God for help. A violent storm ensued and Benedict had to stay. They spent the night discussing the joys of heaven, and she died three days later. Scholastica is the patron saint of Benedictine nuns and convulsive children.

Hospital's New Chapel A Dream Come True For Pastoral Care Staff

Old And New Sacred Objects Come Together To Create A Peaceful Haven At UPMC Altoona

**Photo And Text
By Bruce A. Tomaselli**

Holy Family Sister Mary Aquinas Tolusciak, didn't struggle coming up with words to describe the new Friends All Faiths Chapel at UPMC Altoona, "It's a dream come true," said the diminutive religious.

For Tony Conrad it is. Conrad is director of Pastoral Care at the hospital. When Bon Secours Hospital closed in 2011, there were fears that the Pastoral Care Department would fall by the wayside. "UPMC embraced the pastoral and spiritual dimension of health care," he said, to his relief and many others.

"There was the fear that with the closing of the Catholic campus we would lose the spiritual component and caring atmosphere," said Bob Strawser, executive director of Mission and Service Excellence at Altoona UPMC.

In the beginning, Strawser and Conrad met with and were a part of a committee engaged with blending the Bon Secours and Altoona Hospital Campuses. They wanted to ensure that the best hospital technology blended with the best spiritual elements.

The men added that Jerry Murray, chief executive officer of UPMC Altoona, and the Board of Directors were very instrumental in continuing pastoral care.

Third Order Regular Franciscan Father Christopher J. Panagopolos, a full time chaplain, is thankful. "This chapel was given to us by the hospital and the Auxiliary Friends of UPMC Altoona. It shows the

importance they have placed on Pastoral Care," he said. They also received a generous gift from the UPMC Altoona Laboratory Department in honor of their friend and co-worker Patty Rebar.

There are actually three chapels that have been blended into the Friends All Faith Chapel. The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth established the first one in 1953 in the former Mercy Hospital. It was followed by the Bon Secours Chapel and the Altoona Hospital All Faiths Chapel, which have come together to form the new worship site.

Most of the furniture that adorns the new chapel came from Bon Secours Hospital. "We have taken great care to incorporate sacred articles and themes representing the major faith traditions represented here in these Allegheny Mountains," Conrad explained.

The matching Ambo, Altar, Tabernacle, and 14 stained glass windows depicting the Stations of the Cross, and representing the Roman Catholic tradition are from the former Bon Secours - Holy Family Hospital Chapel.

A stained glass window depicting the Burning Bush and the Ten Commandments, representing the Abrahamic Faiths (Jewish, Islamic & Christian), is from the former Altoona All Faiths Chapel.

The statue of the Holy Family, which for many decades graced the Emergency Waiting Room at Bon Secours - Holy Family Hospital, rests at the entrance to the chapel.

The Friends All Faiths Chapel is open 24 hours and every day of the week.

Three icons of Jesus the



FRIENDS ALL FAITHS CHAPEL: Pictured in the new Friends All Faiths Chapel at UPMC Altoona are (left to right) Third Order Regular Franciscan Father Christopher Panagopolos (chaplain) Sister of the Holy Family of Nazareth Mary Aquinas Tolusciak, Bob Strawser (executive director of Mission and Service Excellence) and Tony Conrad (director of Pastoral Care).

Healer, representing the Orthodox and Eastern Rite Catholic Tradition, were a gift in memory of Julia Susick from the Susick and Lubert families. They were hand painted by local artist Mary Susick.

Another icon, the San Damiano Crucifix, was a gift in memory of Travis Chuff from the Chuff Trust. The New International Version (NIV) Bible enthroned in the meditation area, and representing the Protestant Tradition, was a gift from the Pastoral Care Department.

The Pastoral Care Department has eight full time chaplains, four casual chaplains, and army of pastoral care workers, according to Conrad.

Several of the full time chaplains are graduates of local Catholic High Schools. They include: Father Panagopolos, Conrad, and Carmelite Community of the Word Sister Mary Ann Palko, graduates of Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School in Altoona. In addition, Carmelite Community of the Word Sister Celeste Ciesielka, and Barbara Rossi are graduates of Bishop Carroll Catholic High School in Ebensburg.

Father Panagopolos said they have blended the old with

new, providing an atmosphere for families and staff to be refreshed and renewed. "This is a place to develop a new outlook when people have received

news that seems too difficult to accept," he said. "This is a place to reflect, to nourish, and to refresh."

Pope Says Church Without Religious Sisters 'Unthinkable'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- A church without religious sisters would be "unthinkable," Pope Francis said, honoring the contributions consecrated men and women make to the church and society.

"Every consecrated person is a gift to the people of God on pilgrimage," he said Feb. 2, reciting the Angelus with visitors in St. Peter's Square. The pope had just finished celebrating Mass for the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, which the church marks as the World Day for Consecrated Life.

"There is such a great need for their presence, which reinforces and renews the commitment to spreading the Gospel, Christian education, charity for the neediest, contemplative prayer, the human and spiritual formation of the young and families, and the commitment to justice and peace in the human family," the pope said.

Straying from his prepared text, Pope Francis told people gathered in the square: "Think what would happen if there weren't any sisters, if there weren't any sisters in the hospitals, no sisters in the missions, no sisters in the schools. Think what the church would be like without sisters -- no, that's unthinkable."

Consecrated life is a gift that moves the church forward, he said.

"These women who consecrate their lives to carrying forward the message of Jesus -- they're great," he added.

In The Alleghenies

(Continued From Page 6.)

The roster of organizations in New Orleans which would be touched by Mount Aloysius students and staff included Rescue Ranch, an rural nonprofit ranch that cares for rescued horses; the Boys and Girls Club that needs help with young children in an after school program; Docville Farms, is involved in an extensive wetlands restoration project, the local ARC needs assistance with their ongoing garden and the local library in that part of the city is still reorganizing from Katrina's impact.

Mount Aloysius College senior Bradley Mikitko of Hastings, saw the New Orleans service trip as a great learning experience for himself and fellow students. "Each of the sites we visited during the week had unique challenges and opportunities for us to learn new skills

and provide help to these non-profit organizations and various New Orleans communities. Even though the time passed really quickly, we had a wonderful experience. The people we helped will remember the Mount Aloysius students," he said, "and we'll be sharing those memories too for years to come. These service trips are important and successful programs for students and staff members."

The students, with the help and support of the Mount Aloysius Campus Ministry department, spent months planning the trip and raising funds to cover expenses. The group was joined by three Mount Aloysius College staff members: Thomas Shireman, associate director of campus ministry; Elaine Grant, director of student activities and Brianna Baker, assistant director of athletics.

The Mount Aloysius Col-

lege community service during the summer and fall of 2013 totals nearly 8,000 hours. During that time various college groups completed 222 service projects throughout the southern Allegheny Mountain region as well as projects like the New Orleans service trip that touched people in other parts of the country and around the world in areas like Haiti and Guyana. Mount Aloysius College service opportunities seek solutions to problems in such diverse areas as economic opportunity, education, environment, health and wellness, veterans and deployed personnel. One hundred percent of Mount Aloysius College students perform community service as part of their educational experience.

New President's Reception

Loretto: Saint Francis University held a reception on Tuesday, January 14, to welcome president-elect, Third Order Regular Franciscan Father Malachi Van Tassell. The event gave faculty, staff, and students an opportunity to meet the new president as he transitions into the position.

On November 11, 2013, the Saint Francis University Board of Trustees elected Father Malachi to assume the office of president of Saint Francis University. His term will begin after Rev. Gabriel Zeis, T.O.R. concludes his tenure at the end of the academic year 2013 - 2014.

"As the oldest Franciscan institution of higher education in the United States, Saint Francis University has a proud heritage that I am eager to build upon. I am blessed to begin this leadership role during a high-energy time when we are celebrating our past successes as an institution, while creating a road map for our future," Father Malachi said of his new role.

"I am extremely thankful for this transitional period before I officially begin my tenure as president. I plan to meet with many constituent groups as possible, spending a great deal of time exploring the University's day-to-day operations, and working with our alumni and long standing partners in sup-

port our goals. This fact-gathering phase will allow me to hit the ground running in May."

Father Malachi, the son of Fred and Barbara Van Tassell, is a native of Poughkeepsie NY. He is the oldest of five children and has nine nieces and nephews. He professed vows as a Franciscan in 1999 and was ordained to the priesthood in 2004 at the Immaculate Conception Chapel at Saint Francis University.

Father Malachi has a Ph.D. in higher education leadership from Capella University, a master's degree in taxation from Arizona State University, and an undergraduate degree in accounting and Spanish from Franciscan University. A certified public accountant (Arizona), he worked for Coopers & Lybrand in Phoenix AZ and Ar-

thur Andersen in Albuquerque NM as a tax accountant prior to becoming a Franciscan.

Father Malachi's doctoral dissertation was on the subject of servant leadership. He has had two book reviews appear in the Journal of the American Taxation Association. He has served on various academic committees at Saint Francis University over the years, including service as the NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative and co-chair of the University's Day of Reflection committee.

(Continued On Page 12.)



MISSION BAZAAR: Saint Patrick School in Newry held a Mission Bazaar on Thursday, January 30 as part of the Catholic Schools Week celebration. Attendees played games and participated in a variety of activities to raise money for Saint Patrick School's mission projects. Pictured is Joe Dumm awarding a prize to Addison Smith.

St. Peregrine Shrine

**At the Church of
The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
1127 McKinley Avenue, Johnstown PA 15905-4323

Saint Peregrine is the Patron Saint of Cancer Sufferers.

He is a powerful intercessor with God for all those who are seeking good health.

Saint Peregrine (1260-1345) was a Servite Friar canonized in 1726. His feast is May 1.

Father Barry Baroni and the faith community at Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish Invite you to send your prayer intentions to the new Shrine of Saint Peregrine at their parish church. The suggested donation for a candle to burn at the Shrine is \$3.00; a novena booklet may be obtained for \$1.00. All intentions will be remembered at every Mass celebrated at the parish for a period of 30 days.

Please remember my intentions at the Shrine:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Intention: _____

(Continued From Page 11.)

'Pink Out'

Cresson: The Mount Aloysius College "Pink Out" effort, just completing its second year, is aimed at promoting better health for women through early detection of breast cancer, urging baseline and annual mammograms and breast self-exam. The Second Annual Mounties "Pink Out" volleyball game raised over \$2622.75 this year for the excellent healthcare of the Windber Medical Center's (WMC) Joyce Murtha Breast Care Center (JMBCC). The community embraced the message and the well-organized effort packed the Mount Aloysius College Athletic Health and Fitness Center as the Mounties took on Franciscan University last fall.

The full-court press against breast cancer was a cooperative Mount Aloysius effort involving students, staff and faculty from several departments including: Athletics, Controlling, Human Resources, Surgical Technology, Science and Mathematics, and Student Activities departments at the College. Activities

included T-shirt and teddy bears sales, concessions, raffles and lots of fun decorating the Mount Aloysius Health and Fitness Center for the special night of collegiate volleyball.

Appointed

Cresson: The Altoona Blair County Development Corporation's Executive Committee announced that Mount Aloysius College President Tom Foley has been appointed to serve on the Corporation's Board of Directors.

Foley worked in both the public and non-profit sectors, prior to joining academia. Most recently, he spent more than a decade as the CEO of the American Red Cross in Southeastern Pennsylvania and as President of the United Way of Pennsylvania. He also served in both the executive and legislative branches of the federal government, as legislative aide and counsel to Congressman James M. Shannon and then - Senator Joseph R. Biden.

Foley spent seven years of his career working for Governor Robert P. Casey, in two cabinet-level posts, including as Secre-

tary of Labor and Industry. He remains the youngest in the history of the Commonwealth to have held that post.

Prior to his government service, Foley was a Graduate Fellow at University College, Dublin, Ireland, after which he spent two years as counsel to the Nobel Peace Prize winning Peace People in Belfast, Northern Ireland. He was the first American elected to the group's Executive Board, initiated their award-winning integrated sports program and was the cofounder of the widely effective (and still active) Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ).

Foley is the 13th President of Mount Aloysius College and has served in that post since July of 2010. He is frequently honored throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for strong leadership, work ethic and his innovative approach to problem solving. Foley has received numerous citations for service in both the public and non-profit sectors.

The Mount Aloysius College President is a summa cum laude graduate of Dartmouth College. He earned his Juris Doctoris degree from Yale Law

School, where he served as an editor of the **Yale Journal Of World Public Order**.

A prolific author, Foley has written nearly 100 articles, op-ed and journal pieces on a variety of topics, including issues related to work, job training, community service and public security. He has testified in Washington and Harrisburg on matters of public policy on over 30 occasions, appeared often on TV and radio and keynoted numerous events in several states and in Northern Ireland. He is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, and has chaired eight statewide Boards and Commissions, including the Governor's Task Force on Workforce Development, PENNSERVE, and the State Board of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Foley and his wife, Michele, reside in Hollidaysburg, Pa. They are the parents of three sons: Thomas, Matt and Andrew.

Spread Holiday Cheer

Altoona: Members of Saint Francis University, Loretto's

Gamma Sigma Sigma, Gamma Phi Chapter, visited patients during the holidays and distributed more than 100 Christmas cards, some decorative wreaths, and books to children who were either patients or visitors.

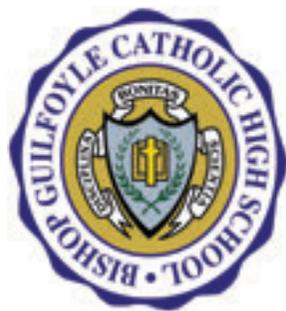
The nationally affiliated service sorority also provided several blankets to Maternity/Nursery Department for newborns.

"We go to UPMC Altoona before Christmas and Easter. It is something we like doing just to show we care, and it provides an opportunity for Gamma Sigma Sigma to give back to the community," said Abby Menett, service vice president for the sorority.

The service group's motto is "Unity in Service."

(Continued On Page 13.)

President Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School



Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School, Altoona, PA, is seeking a dynamic, compassionate, and innovative leader as its President.

The President is responsible for the overall success of the school. The President ensures the school's financial viability through prudent fiscal and enrollment management, and successful development and fund-raising efforts.

The ideal candidate will have a demonstrated capacity for broad business and/or institutional leadership and administration. The candidate will have a proven track record in the areas of strategic planning and assessment, institutional advancement and development, financial management and fiscal planning, strategic marketing, board management and labor relations.

BG provides a values-based educational experience, emphasizing academically challenging programs in a disciplined environment. It is devoted to its mission of preparing young men and women for rewarding and productive lives in our global society; young men and women of vision and passion who are securely grounded in Christian spirituality, academic proficiency, and personal accountability.

A full description of the position is posted at bishopguilfoyle.org. For primary consideration, send resume and cover letter to presidentsearch@bguilfoyle.org by March 8, 2014.

Portage Pastor Optimistic

(Continued From Page 1.)

Said Father Draper, "I love parish work, and Father Joe feels the same way. This is my niche. I previously was pastor at a parish in North Carolina for 13 years." He said he and Father Joseph have each taught school. "I love our faith community and the people of Portage, and I love being close to my religious community in Loretto."

Father feels that things are coming together slowly at a grass roots level. Bishop Mark Bartchak asked him to reduce the number of Masses and to reschedule them according to need. He added there's nothing carved in stone and they want to do what's best for all. "We're new to this process and learning just like everyone else," he said.

There are many things to consider when combining parishes such as the various organizations within the church. There

are Youth Ministry and Hospitality groups in each parish. Our Lady of the Sacred Heart has an Usher's Club, and Saint Joseph has a Knights of Columbus chapter and People Helping People outreach.

Father reiterated that this is a learning process for the priests, too. "Everyone is entitled to express their opinions and ideas," reminded Father Andrew. "Our Pastoral Council meetings are open to the public.

"If this doesn't come together to reflect Bishop Mark's goals, then we only have ourselves to look to," Father Draper added. "It's like that old cartoon, 'we have met the enemy and he is us.'"

But, Father Draper says he has no doubts that The Catholic Community of Portage will remain a vibrant Faith community. "I see nothing but a happy ending," he said without hesitation.

In The Alleghenies

(Continued From Page 12.)

Parishes

Busy Months

Lock Haven: The last three months of 2013 proved to be a particularly busy time at Holy Spirit Parish in Lock Haven.

Organized in 2012 from the merger of Immaculate Conception and Saint Agnes Parishes,

the new parish's Faith Formation Committee and Stewardship Committee have been working hard to implement programs and social activities to bring the community together and to reach out to the wider civic community.

A special effort has been made to reach out to young people, with several parties organized to bring them into more

active participation in parish life.

The group started things off with a fun "All Saints Day Party" in October, which was a great alternative to "trick-or-treating". Parishioners of all ages dressed up as their favorite saint, played saint-themed games and enjoyed some special treats donated by parishioners. A group of parishioners decided that it would be nice to help the less fortunate of the community by making and distributing free soup. So far HSP has had 2 Free Soup Saturday's, and those who attended were very appreciative. Various parish groups will be giving of their time distributing the soup in the future. The week before Christmas a group of parishioners braved the nasty weather and shared their talent by Christmas Caroling to the local nursing home and hospital, and delivered little gifts to our homebound parishioners. The parish recently held a "Help The Wise Men Celebrate Jesus'

Birthday Party" on December 29. Children and their families decorated gingerbread houses, made some holiday crafts, and enjoyed listening to "The Last Straw," a story about Hoshmakaka the camel, and his journey to the Baby Jesus. They celebrated Jesus' birthday with a birthday cake and a Three Kings cake. Various parish committees are sharing of their time, baking talent, and treasure by sponsoring a Breakfast Buffet once a month for the seventh - eleventh grade religious education classes. The youth of the parish may come a little early for class and enjoy a "breakfast buffet". Next month parents will be invited to this breakfast also, and will have the opportunity for socializing with other parents, Bible study, or watch a short film while their children attend classes.

A special Valentine's Day Party is now being planned, which will be held on February 15. Party goers will be decorating and eating heart shaped

cookies, making a rosary bracelet and learning about the rosary, playing some fun games and winning some great prizes. Other future social events being planned are a Family Movie Night, an Easter Party /Easter Egg Hunt, Mother - Daughter Tea, a Father-Son Breakfast, Vacation Bible School, and various bus trips.

Talk On Forgiveness

Huntingdon: The ROCK Committee (Reviewing Our Catholic Knowledge) of Most Holy Trinity Parish, Huntingdon, will present a talk about the power of forgiveness on Monday, February 24, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in Trinity Hall.

(Continued On Page 15.)



CNS Photo/Chris Heisey, The Catholic Witness

NEW HARRISBURG BISHOP: Bishop Ronald W. Gainer of Lexington, Ky., gestures during a Jan. 24 press conference after Pope Francis named him bishop of Harrisburg, Pa. Bishop Gainer has been Lexington's bishop for the past 11 years. He is a native of Pennsylvania, having grown-up in Pottsville, and served as a priest in the Diocese of Allentown, Pa., for 29 years. (CNS photo/Chris Heisey, The Catholic Witness)

New Harrisburg Bishop

(Continued From Page 16.)

"I know that Catholic schools are strong and numerous here," he said, noting a Lexington diocesan initiative focusing on the faith formation of Catholic school teachers and administrators.

Regarding prison ministry, he said the territory covered by the Kentucky diocese includes nine state and five federal prisons. He made it a priority to visit inmates there "to let them know that they are not invisible." Social justice also has been a priority, because of the poverty and unemployment in the 40 Appalachian counties of the Di-

ocese of Lexington; 74 percent of children there live below the federal poverty line. When there are such needs, he said, "we can't close our eyes or look the other way."

"We can name those problems and muster energy to address them," he added.

"My vision of a diocese is that we are in service to where the rubber meets the road, we are in service to our parish communities," Bishop Gainer said, "and we need to be able to be a resource, to give guidance where needed, and to help our parishes be the most vibrant communities of Catholic faith in service, worship and in teaching."

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Now Showing

Disturbing Elements Make Pro - Life Movie, 'Gimme Shelter' Mature Fare

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) -- Perhaps the best moment in the fact-based drama "Gimme Shelter" (Roadside) comes when its beleaguered, deeply sympathetic protagonist, played by Vanessa Hudgens, wonderingly recites a passage from the Book of Psalms that tells of God's promises to those who trust in him.

It's a moving scene precisely because such faith-based optimism seems so far removed from all that Hudgens' character, teenager Agnes "Apple" Bailey, has previously endured.

Long neglected by her drug-addicted, emotionally unstable mother, June (Rosario Dawson), Apple is also a veteran of nu-

merous foster homes -- in one of which, we eventually learn, she was sexually abused by the father of the family to which she had been entrusted.

As the film begins, Apple has understandably had enough of June's manipulative ways. So she flees the inner city, and seeks out her estranged, wealthy father, Tom Fitzpatrick (Brendan Fraser), the owner of a luxurious mansion in an upscale New Jersey suburb.

Though taken aback by Apple's arrival -- he comes home to find the scruffy runaway being carted off by the police, who've mistaken her for a thief -- Tom is at least tentatively willing to do his part for the girl. Apple gets a colder reception from Tom's wife, Joanna (Stephanie Szostak), who's intent on pursuing her ultra-respectable



CNS Photo/Roadside Attractions

GIMMER SHELTER: James Earl Jones and Vanessa Hudgens star in a scene from the movie "Gimme Shelter." The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

lifestyle undisturbed. (Tom and Joanna's two young kids look as though they've just stepped out of a Brooks Brothers catalog.)

Joanna's attitude grows even chillier when a bout of morning sickness tips all concerned off to the fact that Apple is pregnant. Both Joanna and Tom pressure Apple to have an abortion. But she insists on keeping her child, even if it means losing the security of her newfound refuge.

Back on the streets, Apple has an altercation with a predatory passerby that ends with her stealing -- and crashing -- the lowlife's car. This turns out to be a positive development because it brings her into contact with kindly hospital chaplain Father Frank McCarthy (James Earl Jones).

Father Frank is, of course, wholeheartedly supportive of Apple's determination to preserve the life of her baby. He offers her the opportunity to take up residence with his redoubtable friend, Kathy (Ann Dowd), the founder of a home for expectant adolescents.

Modeled on Kathy DiFiore, who established just such a ministry -- called Several Sources Shelters -- in 1981, Dowd's

character is gentle but firm, both with her charges and with any outsider who might threaten their welfare. Down-to-earth practicality, tough love and a belief in the need for structure characterize her approach.

Chaffing under such discipline, Apple finds herself tempted to escape it. But she simultaneously discovers a winning new aspect of life through her burgeoning friendship with the other moms-to-be.

A strong pro-life message obviously undergirds writer-director Ron Krauss' intermittently touching movie, which is also genuinely feminist, as witness the camaraderie cited above. And Hudgens' passionate

performance provides the project with another important asset.

The educational value and moral impact to be derived from the screen portrayal of this real-life work allow for cautious endorsement of it for older teens.

The film contains mature themes, including molestation, out-of-wedlock pregnancy and substance abuse, a scene of disturbing, though not gory, violence, at least one rough term and a handful of crass expressions. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Coming Up On 'Proclaim!'

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

February 16 -- Frank and Kay Rosica, members of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Altoona, who will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary this year, talk about love and marriage.

February 23 -- Two staff members of Catholic Charities of Altoona - Johnstown, Marjorie Plosky and Sharon Felson, talk about their work at the agency and how the faithful can benefit from their ministry.

Sunday Mass
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the Cathedral of
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10:00 a.m. WFBG Radio, 1290 AM

Sunday Mass Telecast
Live from Saint John Gualbert Cathedral
Downtown Johnstown
11 a.m. - Noon WWCP - TV FOX Channel 8

Proclaim!
10:30 a.m.

A half - hour of local Church news and features

May They Rest In Peace



Sister M. Dennis Donovan C.S.J.

Sister Mary Dennis Donovan, 98, died Monday, January 20, at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Baden in the 83rd year of her religious life.

Sister Mary Dennis, daughter of the late Matthew and Clara Marie (Oskowski) Donovan, entered the Congregation from Saint Titus Parish, Aliquippa, and ministered as a teacher and principal in the Altoona - Johnstown, Greensburg and Pittsburgh, Dioceses for more than thirty years.

After more than 65 years of active ministry, she came to the Motherhouse and continued to offer her services as a volunteer in the Development Office.

Surviving is a sister, Jo Sweeney, formerly of Sewickley; nieces and nephews, grand - nieces and grand - nephews, and the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Baden.

The funeral Mass for Sister Mary Dennis Donovan C.S.J. was celebrated Thursday, January 23 in the chapel of Saint Joseph Convent, Baden. Committal was in the Sisters' Cemetery on the Motherhouse grounds.

Donations in the name of Sister Mary Dennis may be sent to the Sisters of Saint Joseph Memorial Fund, Saint Joseph Convent, 1020 State Street, Baden, PA 15005.

Augustin Halka

Augustin Halka, father of Father Frantisek (Fero) Halka, a priest of the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese serving with the Archdiocese for Military Services, died Monday, January 20 in Slovakia.

The funeral Mass for Mr. Halka was celebrated Thursday, January 23 in Slovakia.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

(Continued From Page 13.)

Presenting "Forgiveness: God's Powerful Antidote To Hurt And Despair" will be Terri Roberts, the mother of the man who murdered and wounded a number of Amish girls at a school shooting in Lancaster County. The Amish community forgave him and supported his family at his funeral, teaching Mrs. Roberts about the power of forgiveness, and enabling her to forgive, in turn.

For further information, call (814) 448 - 2747.

Prayer

Carmelite Novena

Loretto: The year's second novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Saint Therese, the Little Flower, conducted by the Discalced Carmelite Nuns, will open at the Carmelite Monastery Chapel on Saturday, February 22 and end on Sunday, March 2.

All intentions recommended to the Carmelites will be remembered in the prayers of the nuns in the special Novena prayer recited after daily Mass.

Those desiring to share in the graces and blessings of these nine days of prayer and in the private prayers of the Carmelite Nuns during the Novena are requested to send their petitions to Mother Prioress, Discalced Car-

In The Alleghenies

melite Monastery, P.O. Box 57, Loretto PA 15940.

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

Life In The Spirit Seminar

Altoona: A Life in the Spirit Seminar will be held on Saturday, March 22 from 8:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament.

The Seminar is a Retreat experience that provides participants with an excellent opportunity to renew their faith in Jesus and is an exciting introduction into life lived in the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

The day begins with the celebration of Mass with Monsignor Robert Mazur as celebrant and includes dynamic spiritual teachings and testimonies, Spirit - filled praise and worship music, small group faith sharing, Eucharistic Adoration, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, moving prayer services and Christian fellowship.

Lunch and dinner are provided.

Featured speakers include Bishop Mark Bartchak, Bob and Marci Sutton, Father Michael Tinker T.O.R., Father John Gibbons, Father Bob Hilz T.O.R., Dr. Vic Rizzo, Cathy Chirdon, Julia Griffin, and Vince Watkins.

Music Ministry will be provided by the Sharers of the Word (Saint Francis Prayer Group), and by the Cathedral Charismatic Prayer group.

To register, please call (814) 941 - 3832 or e - mail Tonycond@aol.com. Suggested donation is adults \$25.00, (\$20.00 if registered by February 22). Students are free of charge.

Pre - registration is required and all ages are welcome.

Schools

Adding Seventh Grade

Lock Haven: In a unanimous vote at the Lock Haven Catholic School Council meet-

ing on Tuesday, January 14, council members agreed to add seventh grade to the current offerings, making the school a kindergarten through seventh grade school for the 2014 - 2015 school year.

The LHCS School Council also decided to add eighth grade for the 2015 - 2016 school year, making the school officially a combined elementary and middle school facility.

This decision was made after an approximately two year study of the needs of the LHCS community as well as the Holy Spirit Parish community. It is also part of the ongoing expansion project currently under way at the school.

Current and archived editions of The Catholic Register are available online at www.ajdiocese.org

Position Opening Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

Seeking a professional Administrative Assistant for the Mission Office that is willing to adapt to new ideas and a willingness to learn new tasks. A person that is able to multi-task with diverse projects and activities of this office:

- must be a practicing Catholic
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- team spirit with coworkers
- proficient in Computer skills: Word, Excel, Data Processing, use of the Web for research as well as updating the Mission Office Web Site with information of events relating to the Mission Office
- possess a knowledge of accounting skills, learning routine financial records, preparing financial reports, and meeting deadlines
- good communication skills
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Applicant will work two (2) days per week from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Applications for this position beginning in March, 2014 will be accepted from February 4 to 21, 2014. Send resume to **Rev. Robert J. Kelly, PhD., 933 S. Logan Blvd., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648. Office phone: 814-317-2648, email: rkelly@diocesaj.org**. Clarification and information may be requested by calling the Mission Office.

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New Harrisburg Bishop Says Diocese Needs To Serve 'Where Rubber Meets The Road'

By Jen Reed
Catholic News Service

HARRISBURG (CNS) -- Bishop Ronald W. Gainer, who will become the 11th bishop of Harrisburg when he is installed in March, introduced himself as a shepherd dedicated to the sanctification and ministry of his people.

In front of an enthusiastic crowd of diocesan employees and a host of local media gathered in Harrisburg for a Jan. 24 news conference, he said he was eager to connect with the people of the diocese to learn about its strengths and challenges.

Accessibility, he said, has been a hallmark of his episcopal ministry in the Diocese of Lexington, Ky., where he has been the bishop since 2003. He hopes to maintain that trend in Harrisburg.

"I have a lot to learn about this local church, about all of the people in these 15 counties, about the strengths and the areas of challenge," said Bishop Gainer.

Referring to his appointment to Harrisburg as a homecoming -- he was born in Potts-

ville and served as a priest of the Allentown Diocese for 29 years -- Bishop Gainer said he planned to "hear with the ears and the heart of a hometown boy."

Bishop Gainer, 66, will be installed March 19, at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg.

Introducing Bishop Gainer during the new conference, Father Robert M. Gillelan Jr., diocesan administrator, noted that his appointment came on the feast of St. Francis de Sales, known as the "gentleman saint."

"It seems appropriate then that today we officially welcome this Kentucky gentleman back to his native Pennsylvania," the priest said.

Following a sustained standing ovation as he stepped to the podium, Bishop Gainer expressed his gratitude to Pope Francis for appointing him to Harrisburg, and to Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, apostolic nuncio to the United States, who announced the appointment in Washington.

"It is with great humility and true joy that I accept this as God at work through the authorities of our Catholic Church. I am humble and grateful," he said.

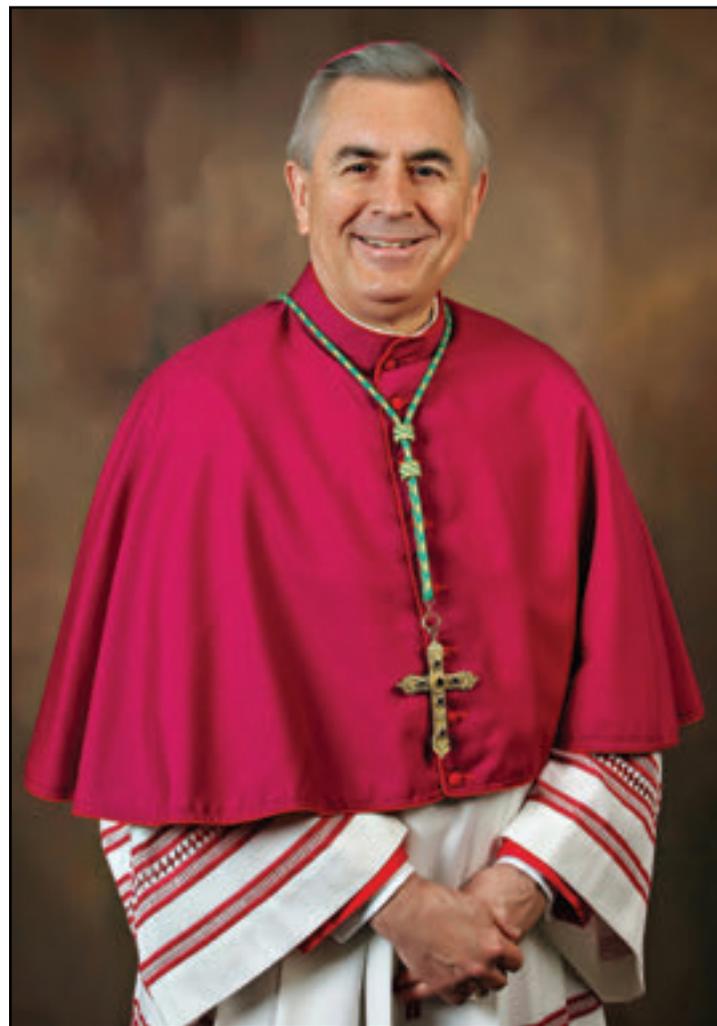
Bishop Gainer added: "I welcome today this new time in the life of the Diocese of Harrisburg, and in my own life and in my ministry, and I trust, truly, that the bond of faith, the bond of love, the bond of joy that developed in 11 years in my stewardship and shepherding the Diocese of Lexington will take place here and will grow quickly to unite us together in our Savior, Jesus Christ."

His appointment came nearly nine months after the death of Bishop Joseph P. McFadden, who died unexpectedly May 2 last year after nearly three years as head of the diocese.

Bishop Gainer in his remarks recalled "with reverence and with deep respect and gratitude" the memory of Bishop McFadden.

"His sudden passing was a sadness to all of us, and this local church continues in its own way to grieve that sudden loss of your shepherd," he said.

Bishop Gainer said he crossed paths with Bishop McFadden on numerous occasions. The two were members of the U.S. bishops' education committee, which Bishop McFadden eventually chaired.



CNS Photo/Diocese Of Harrisburg

BISHOP RONALD W. GAINER

He said he has kept the prayer card distributed during his predecessor's funeral Mass next to his computer since May. "Every time I've gone to my computer, I've seen the smiling face of your shepherd looking at me and I've offered a prayer for his happy repose. ... I continue to join with you in praying for Bishop McFadden," he said.

About the priorities he set for his ministry as Lexington's bishop, Bishop Gainer pointed to Catholic schools, prison ministry and social justice.

(Continued On Page 13.)

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