



# The Catholic Register

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## ‘We Need To Be In The Game,’ Serving Poor And Vulnerable, Bishop Says At Holy Hour

Photos And Text  
By Msgr. Timothy P. Stein

Those who wish to serve the poor and the vulnerable must recognize that they are poor and vulnerable themselves, Bishop Mark L. Bartchak said Tuesday, June 24.

Speaking at a Holy Hour - Prayer For Liberty marking the annual Fortnight For Freedom, Bishop Mark said that such a recognition of one's own limits must not prevent people of good will from reaching out to be of service to others.

Rather than be discouraged by government regulations that could derail faith - based efforts to be of service, Bishop Mark said to think of an eight - year old boy who was questioned about the score of a softball game.

When the youngster was asked if he was discouraged be-

cause the score was 18 - 0, he replied “No! We haven’t even been up to bat yet.”

“We need to listen to that little boy,” Bishop Mark reflected, and ask “Why be discouraged? We need to be in the game, engaged in a life of loving service for others, the lifestyle that Pope Francis constantly encourages us to embrace.”

The Holy Hour was held at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. This was the third year that the observance was held as part of the Fortnight For Freedom, a national effort of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, held from June 21 to July 4. Bishop Mark, recovering from shoulder surgery, served as homilist, while Bishop - Emeritus Joseph V. Adamec was president and celebrant of benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

In his homily, Bishop Mark held up Pope Francis as an ex-

emplar of the Church's insistence on the freedom to serve those most in need.

“From the very beginning of his papacy,” Bishop Mark said, “Pope Francis has spoken of our need to be ‘a Church of the poor, for the poor.’ We must recognize the poverty and vulnerability in the life of the Church.”

Noting that there are many ways to define “the poor,” Bishop Mark stated “The core meaning of ‘the poor’ as highlighted by Pope Francis is ‘the poor in spirit’ - - to be able to recognize one's own inadequacy and sinfulness, and to risk everything for the healing and truth embodied in Jesus Christ.”

Approximately 80 joined the Bishop and the Bishop - Emeritus in prayer at the Cathedral.

*(Continued On Page 11.)*

**FREEDOM TO SERVE:** The theme for this year's Fortnight For Freedom observance was “Freedom to serve the poor and vulnerable in accord with human dignity and the Church's teachings.” Those ideals were embodied in the life and ministry of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, the first United States citizen to be canonized a Saint. Mother Cabrini built hospitals, schools, orphanages and social service centers throughout the country. She is honored in a stained glass window at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona, where a Fortnight For Freedom Holy Hour - Prayer For Liberty was held Tuesday, June 24. The Cabrini window is located in the sacristy.





**SAINT ALOYSIUS:** Celebrating First Holy Communion at Saint Aloysius Parish, Cresson, were (photo at left, left to right) First row: Father John Byrnes (pastor), Marissa Lee, Andrew Dillon, Cameron Hill, Mrs. Bossler, Miss Baker. Second row: Ean Adams, Kenneth Boyd. Third row: McKinley Strunk, Olivia Richardson, Noah Clapper. Celebrating Confirmation were (photo at right, left to right) First row: Father Byrnes, Joshua Adkins, Jessica Nadonley, Brigid Mack, Nolan Link, Monica Lee, Third Order Regular Franciscan Brother Elijah Cleary. Second row: Sarah Westin, Edward Hegemann and Zachary Johnson. Not pictured: Ryan Biter.



**SAINTS PETER AND PAUL:** Celebrating First Holy Communion (photo at left) at Saints Peter and Paul Parish, Philipsburg on Saturday, May 3, were (left to right) First row: Lauren Dugan, Olivia Hutton, Gianna Folmar, Sophie Granville. Second row: Joshua Davis, Noah Ballenger, Isabella Paladina. Third row: Michele Bittering (catechist), Owen Burns, Reese Hazelton, Katherine Chverchko and Father Robert Kelly (pastor). Celebrating Confirmation on Thursday, June 5 (photo at right) were (left to right) First row: Morgan Williamson, Megan Bainey, Abby Showers, Father Kelly. Second row: Jerry Craven (director of religious education), Callie Peck, Olivia McCafferty, Kaelie Fox, Colton Moore. Third row: Ryan Kost, Tanner Wilson, Ben Webster, Carl Webster and Andy Gray.



**SAINT JOHN VIANNEY:** Saint John Vianney Parish, Mundy's Corner celebrated First Holy Communion on Sunday, May 4 and Confirmation on Sunday, May 18. Pictured at left are (left to right) First row: Adam Jasper, Caden Croft, Veronika Cramer, Adam Michalow, Evan Letzo. Second row: Father Andrew Stanko (pastor), Brittany Russell (catechist) and Deacon Tom Buige. Pictured at right are (left to right) First row: Kelly Deskevich, Breanna Malloy, Heidi Hendrickson, Emily Ramirez, Colleen Long. Second row: Steve Westrick (Confirmation director), Will Ola, Zechariah Thompson and Father Stanko.

# In The Alleghenies



**SAINTS GREGORY AND BARNABAS:** Saints Gregory and Barnabas Parish, Johnstown, celebrated First Holy Communion on Sunday, April 27 and Confirmation on Tuesday, June 3. Pictured at top are (left to right) First row: Dylan La Bar, Joshua Slavick, Tommy Stiffler, Michael Preuss, Landon Percinsky, Luke Schellhammer, Nicholas Preuss, Cole Smith. Second row: Father Robert Ruston (pastor), Julia Stiffler, Zoey McMinn, Hailey Drum, Chloe Roberts, Josie Sefcik, Ashlyn Kist, Regan Ribarich. Third row: Mary Beth Rykala and Sue Hall (catechists). Pictured at bottom are (left to right) First row: Mary Helen Percinsky (director of religious education), Martina Flanagan, Becca La Bar, Skyle Vogel, Samuel Vibostok, Daphne Moot (catechist). Second row: Father Ruston, Kaitlyn Stiffler, Jeffrey Schellhammer, Charles Kovalchik (Transfiguration Parish, Conemaugh) and Ron Moot (catechist).



**SAINT CLARE OF ASSISI:** Saint Clare of Assisi Parish, Johnstown, celebrated Confirmation on Tuesday, June 3. Taking part were (left to right) Father Matthew Misurda (pastor), Dawn Svirsko (catechist), Olivia Banda, Francesca Ramirez, Samantha Michaels, Natalie Costanzo and Joan Cammarata (director of religious education).

## Higher Education

### RN To BSN Night

**Cresson:** Registered nurses interested in earning their Bachelor of Science Nursing (BSN) are invited to attend an information night at Mount Aloysius College on Tuesday evening, July 15 at 6:00 p.m. in the College's Wolf - Kuhn Art Gallery. Refreshment will be available.

Mount Aloysius Nursing Division Chief Dr. Rebecca Zukowski noted that the college's RN to BSN program offers convenience, accessibility and is designed for working nurses. "The entire program can be taken online," she said. "However we also offer the option of taking classes at the college or in several community locations." Dr. Zukowski stressed that nurses can set their own pace in earning their BSN.

Nationally there is a mandate that RNs move toward achieving their BSN. The degree allows nurses to develop additional skills and assume more responsibility in their work setting.

At the Tuesday evening event attendees can expect answers to questions about financial aid, the admissions process, curriculum and convenience.

Faculty and staff will be on hand to present the program and answer any questions.

To register, contact the college's Office of Graduate and Continuing Education at (814) 886-6406 or email [gce@mtaloy.edu](mailto:gce@mtaloy.edu).

## Prayer

### Carmelite Novena

**Loretto:** A novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Saint Therese, the Little Flower, sponsored by the Discalced Carmelite Nuns, will conclude Wednesday, July 16, the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

All intentions recommended to the nuns will be remembered in a special novena prayer recited after the daily 7:45 a.m. Mass.

Those desiring to share in the graces and blessings of the novena and in the private prayers of the Carmelite Nuns may send their petitions to Mother Prioress, Carmelite 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 of the relic of Saint Therese.

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See Professional Profile on LinkedIn

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## Point Of View

There it is in large black and red letters, pointing the directions down the road, the sign advertising a "Garage Sale", as I quickly turn the steering wheel my heart skips for joy! If you know me, you already aware that I love garage sales. In fact, this is one of my absolute favorite summer hobbies I enjoy doing with my four children! With the local paper in one hand and a steaming cup of cappuccino in the other, we set out early Saturday morning, pursuing the neighborhoods for the sale of the day! So why do I love these tag sales so much? I really can't argue I love a good bargain and take delight in buying vintage items but what I love most about garage sales are the lessons on life I can teach my children amidst the thrill of the hunt! One of the biggest lessons I love to show my children is the value or perhaps unforeseen treasures in other's unwanted items. I love to challenge them to look beyond the initial first impressions and try to discover the beauty of the past, the usefulness of the item, a renewed purpose for the treasure they behold. Garage selling is more than a hobby for me, it is about teaching my kids to be good stewards of their money, guiding their minds from a throw away society, halting their impulses to buy the latest and greatest, teaching the value of caring for God's earth and the treasures within.

The second lesson I love to impress on my children, involves being patient and waiting on God's perfect timing to supply their needs or heart's desires.



## Family Matters

By Amy Kanich  
**Garage Sale Treasures Are Priceless**

I tell my children if God wants for them to have a particular item then He will provide, no questions ask. I frequently tell my kids to be watchful everyday for God to act for He truly loves to delight His children in big and small ways. I gently remind my children there have been many times in our life, when our family's budget was tight and could not purchase a needed or desired item and before we knew it this very same thing was on a dusty table in someone's garage at a price we could afford. God is good, He knows our desires, and He always does provide. Amidst the garage and yard sells, there are lessons taught, laughter shared, and disguised sermons hopefully well - learned. Just in case you are interested here are some of the treasures we found at last week's sales.....

- - A quaint, old, wooden slatted, nursing rocker which invites people to come and spend some time talking on my porch (\$7.00)

- - A colorful handmade quilt, which lovingly is displayed on wicker chair (\$5.00)

- - An old crock, one with a crack, now filled with beautiful summer flowers (\$1.00)

- - A lesson on stewardship for my children - Priceless.



Photo By Msgr. Timothy P. Stein

Do my children realize I am using our garage selling to preach the Gospel? Do they get it or not? I am not completely sure, but I do know one thing, they seem very excited when another Saturday morning rolls around. In the name of stewardship, the Family Life Office has a host of items (books, videos, office furniture etc) that are looking for a good home therefore we will be hosting a garage sale. All monies will go to Family Life Ministries. The date of the sale will be August 1 & 2. The address is 5379 Portage Street, Lilly. Come one, Come all! You never know the treasures that may await you! Blessings!



## Another Perspective

By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein  
**There's Another Summer Shot To . . . !**

The Fourth of July always brings improbably to mind a memory of a Christmas Day in my teenage years.

After a big holiday dinner, and the rush to open presents, our family settled down in the living room. Grandpa Ferramini took his place on the couch, and promptly fell asleep. When he woke, with a start, an hour or so later, he put his glasses on his nose, looked at his watch, and announced "There's another day shot to hell!" It was incredibly funny! The happiest day of the year, and that was my Grandpa's take on it! "Another day shot to hell!" I still chuckle when I think of it.

The connection with the Fourth of July? After that Christmas, Grandpa's phrase became almost a family motto. And every year on the Fourth, at some point my father would say "There's another summer shot to hell." The only surprise was in waiting around for him to say it. Would it be right after lunch? What it come late in the day? But always, always, he would echo Grandpa in making that announcement.

Here we are, ten days after the Fourth. Many will feel that the summer, if not quite "shot to hell," is in fact winding down. Because of the severity of the winter weather, the summer vacation got a late start for a lot of students. They are barely out of school, and now the days are ticking down for their return to school. July is half - way over; the year is half spent, too. In four months we'll be roasting turkeys for Thanksgiving dinner; in five months time we'll be putting up Christmas lights, and on Christmas Day I'll be remembering Grandpa waking up from a nap and giving a matter of fact assessment of the day. And so it goes. Such is life. So it always has been, and so it always will be. Time marches on.

I remember too, that as a child and as a teenager, I would often express my dissatisfaction at how slowly time was passing. Those were the times when my mother would say "Don't wish your life away." I had no idea then what she was getting at; now I do. How often, too, I used to hear someone older and wiser tell me "These are the best days of your life." I couldn't see it then, but I see it and understand it now. And more than that, I have come to know and to believe that this day, this moment, this time, right here and now, is the very best day of my life, the very best day I have ever had - - the very best day I will ever have, because, for the moment it is the only day I have!

Our Christian faith tells us that each day - - each second, each minute, each hour, every day, month and year - - is a precious gift from God. All time comes from His hands and all will be gathered back up into His grasp. His gift of time is freely given. Only He knows the limit of that gift. All that He asks is that we make a good use of it, and give Him a good return on what He has given us.

Another day shot to hell? Another summer shot to hell? Hardly.

Just another chance to show God how much His precious gift means to us.

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Sunday, Sept. 14 ~Altoona  
Cathedral Blessed Sacrament

Sunday, Sept. 21 ~Johnstown  
St. John Gualbert Cathedral

Liturgy 2:00 p.m.

**Bishop Mark Barchak**  
celebrant/homilist

Cookies/punch reception to follow

Make reservations through  
home parish by August 26

More information, contact:  
Diocesan Family Life Office-814-886-5551



**SAINT AUGUSTINE:** First Holy Communion was celebrated by Saint Augustine Parish in Saint Augustine on Sunday, May 4. Pictured are (left to right) First row: Madison Conklin, Nori Zamovitch, ellie McMullen, Koltlyn Cavalet, Kirsten Morealli, Kaprice Cavalet. Second row: Gaven VanTassell, Alexavier Farrell, Daniel Hock, Joseph Senko, Hunter Nelen. Third row: Deacon Steve Luke, Barbara Lewis (catechist), Father Joseph Fleming and Third Order Regular Franciscan Father Malachi VanTassell. Jane Stoltz is director of religious education.



**SAINT AUGUSTINE AND SAINT MONICA CONFIRMATION:** Saint Augustine Parish in Saint Augustine and Saint Monica Parish, Chest Springs, celebrated Confirmation on Saturday, April 27. Taking part were (left to right) First row: Father Joseph Fleming (pastor), Dustin Weber, Zachary Stoltz, Clayton Schinkle, Dominic Farabaugh, Father Donald Boslett (in residence at Saint Monica Parish). Second row: Jane Stoltz (director of religious education, Saint Augustine), Hannah Smithmyer, Madison Maslonik, Courtney Sherry, Allison Lidwell, Cassandra Hoover, Carmelite of the Word Sister Linda LaMagna (Confirmation director and director of religious education at Saint Monica Parish). Third row: Hannah Drass, Michaela Schreyer, Cori James, Ciearra Miller, Bridget Kranz, Roy and Lynn Holtz (catechists).



**SAINT MONICA:** Celebrating First Holy Communion at Saint Monica Parish, Chest Springs, on Sunday, April 27 were (left to right) First row: Joseph Hite, Olivia Hoover, Macey Lampenfeld, Alyssa Zupon, Madison Link, Caleb Potts. Second row: Carmelite of the Word Sister Linda LaMagna (director of religious education), Deacon Steve Luke, Father Joseph Fleming (pastor), Father Donald Boslett (in residence) and Bonnie Hite (catechist).

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# THE INDEPENDENT CATHOLIC FOUNDATION

*For The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown*

VOL. 14 NO. 1

Summer 2014

## Foundation Selects New Investment Portfolio Manager



Culminating in what turned into an almost year-long search, the Board of Trustees accepted the recommendation of a select search committee, comprised of Trustees and advisors, and selected Christian Brothers Investment Services, Inc. (CBIS) as the new portfolio manager for Foundation's assets. CBIS replaces BNY-Mellon who had managed the portfolio since 2007. "Our portfolio had doubled in the past 5 years, and we felt it was time to test the waters" said Tony Kamnikar, Finance Committee chair. He continued "it soon became clear that Catholic values investing, was the single most important factor when looking for a new manager. Of course we also expected

investment returns that met or exceeded benchmarks"

In 1981, the De La Salle Christian Brothers, founded CBIS as a way for Catholic organizations to access premier institutional investment management while remaining true to Catholic social teachings.

Today, CBIS is the investment industry's leading Catholic socially responsible investment management firm. They work in partnership with Catholic institutions worldwide, including dioceses, religious institutes, health care systems and educational institutions. CBIS helps Catholic institutions achieve their financial goals through the socially responsible management of their investments. Their clients are concerned not

only with investment profits, but with the way those profits are earned. They have two objectives when working on behalf of clients: first is to deliver highly competitive investment returns and second is to do this in a manner consistent with the ethical and social teachings of the Catholic Church. Their approach to investing is to leverage the enormous influence their clients possess as shareholders to promote better corporate performance in areas such as governance, wage justice, environmental sustainability and support for human rights around the world. And they utilize stock screens to avoid investing in activities that violate core Catholic values.

By targeting investing's double return — financial return and social return — CBIS believes and has demonstrated that its possible for Catholic that institutions can to achieve their investment goals and unify faith and finance. Information on CBIS can be found at their web-site: <http://www.cbisonline.com>

## Endowment Created To Benefit Ecumenical Conference Of Greater Altoona

Recently the husband of a founding member and long-time president of the Ecumenical Conference created an endowment in his wife's honor. The Ecumenical Conference of Greater Altoona began as the Ecumenical Center in a storefront in downtown Altoona in May 1967. It merged with the Blair County Council of Churches in 1970 and took its present name. The Conference is administered by a board of lay and clergy volunteers from Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox churches committed to the cause of Christian unity. The annual distribution of funds from the Foundation will finance a speakers series for the Conference. You may visit their website at <http://www.ecgaltoona.org> to see a list of upcoming activities.

Additional contributions may be made to this endowment at any time in any amount.

## Bishop McCort High School Class of 1964 "Challenge Grant"



The 1964 graduating class of Bishop McCort High School is continuing a tradition that begun with several earlier classes. To commemorate the 50th year of graduation, the class has established a scholarship endowment, but this class has added an extra "twist". Two class members have offered a matching grant initiative. With this, they will match dollar-for-dollar any contribution made until it totals \$10,000. This challenge will remain in effect until December 31, 2014. It works very simply. When a class member donates \$100.00 (or any amount); an additional \$100 is taken from this "challenge" and the scholarship endowment receives \$200.00. The goal is to reach a total of \$12,000.00 (this includes the matching funds) at which time the Independent Catholic Foundation will add an additional \$500 bringing the total to \$12,500. The significance of this amount is that it will provide a \$500 annual scholarship forever. If the totals exceed \$12,500 it will increase the amount of future scholarships. The details of this are being coordinated between the Foundation and the Development Office at Bishop McCort HS. Information is available at either office. Several other classes from both Bishop McCort and Bishop Guilfoyle High Schools have also used the Foundation to manage their class scholarships.

The Independent Catholic Foundation For The Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown

# FOUNDATION PROVIDES GRANTS TO DIOCESAN SCHOOLS

Following on the success last fall's tuition assistance grants, the Foundation provided additional grants to more Diocesan schools. Because the original grants were a marketing initiative, the Foundation asked the schools to help raise awareness for the Foundation by promoting the scholarships and the source of the funds. The schools that cooperated in the venture were given a second \$500 check. The second check was to be used at the discretion of the school, as long as it benefited the entire school. The majority of the schools used the funds to purchase equipment (most were iPad or computer related), but several used the money for programs, assemblies or special projects. In total the Foundation provided over \$18,000 in funds to the Diocesan schools.

*Shown are some of the schools and activities.*



*St. Thomas; Bedford*



*St. Benedict; Carrolltown*



*St. Nicholas; Nicktown*



*St. Patrick's; Newry*



*St. Joseph's Catholic Academy; Boalsburg*

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.

*Mark Twain*

Remember, if you ever need a helping hand, you'll find one at the end of your arm ... As you grow older you will discover that you have two hands. One for helping yourself, the other for helping others.

*Audrey Hepburn*

SUMMER 2014 - FOCUS



*Trustees Jim Carrieri & Hap Durbin; St. Therese; Altoona*



*Jamie DiDomenico; School Principal of St. Matthews; Tyrone*



*Assembly at Bishop Guilfoyle*



*Bishop McCort Classroom*



*Trustee Tom Kristofco; St. Rose of Lima; Altoona*



*Holy Name Family Night; Ebensburg*



*Trustee Bob Leahey; St. John; Bellefonte*

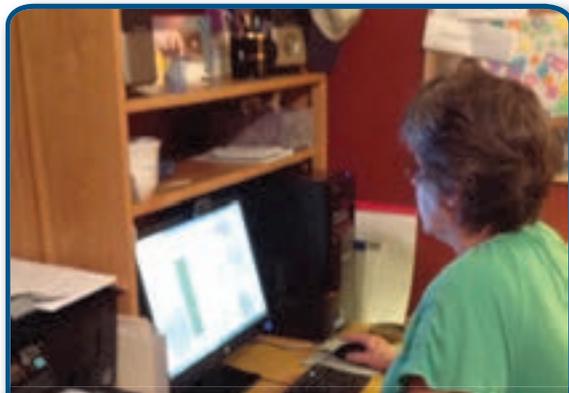


*Grant Presentation; Holy Name; Ebensburg*

SUMMER 2014 - FOCUS

**GIFT PLANNING WEB-SITE**

The Foundation has noted increased traffic on its Gift Planning pages located on our web-site. Last fall, working in consultation with the Tennessee based The Sharp Group the Foundation completely revised the look and information available on its web-site. The new pages include among others, retirement calculators, information on generating income, Q & A's and updated 2014 tax laws. The new pages can be found by visiting: [www.icfdaj.org](http://www.icfdaj.org) > Gift Opportunities > Planned Giving.



*Shown in the photo is a St. Matthew's parishioner looking at the new site*

You can't cross the sea merely by standing and staring at the water.  
*Rabindranath Tagore*

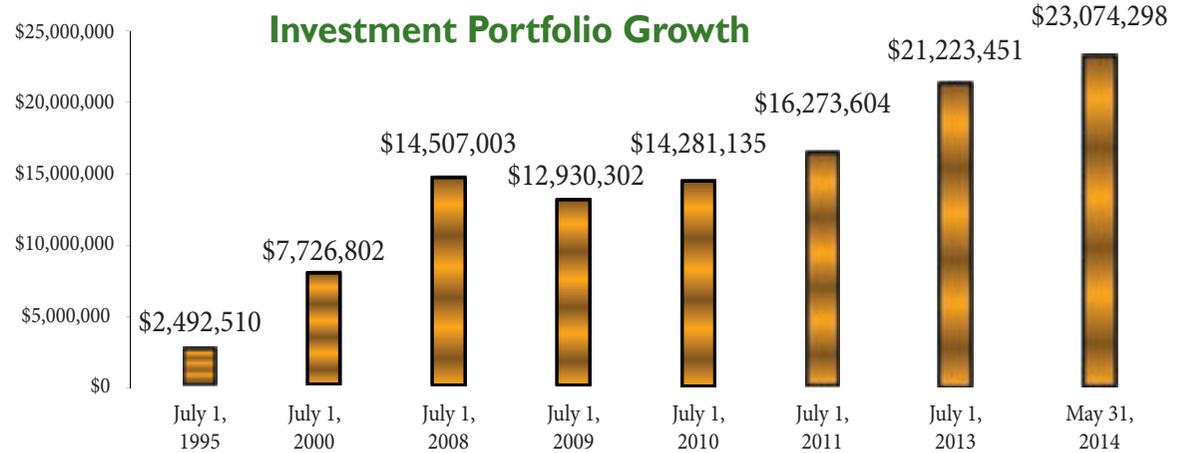
*Please Note*

In all instances it is advisable to speak with legal counsel, a Financial advisor and/or a tax consultant. No information contained in this newsletter or on the Foundation website should be considered legal advice.

**FOUNDATION CONTINUES TO ACHIEVE TREMENDOUS GROWTH**

Citing several years of record contributions and above average market returns, the Foundation is celebrating a milestone; surpassing \$23 million of assets under management. "We continue to add endowments at about one per month, and of course with the endowments comes the money" noted Bill Hiergeist, Executive Director. "We are flattered that more people

are coming to us when they want to remember their faith in estate planning and philanthropic activities" Hiergeist continued. Last fiscal year (ending June 30, 2013) there was a record setting almost \$2 million in contributions and as of May 30 of this fiscal year the Foundation has received over \$1.1 million in contributions to new and existing endowments.



*Think About It*

Have you left the Church in your Will? Because The Independent Catholic Foundation is legally separate from the Church, we are the ideal entity to serve as the fiduciary intermediary for you to leave a legacy of your faith. The Foundation is a unique resource. Our portfolio is invested according to our Morally-Responsible Investment Policy, in compliance with Catholic doctrine. We can assist in designing the most appropriate giving instruments, such as Donor-Advised Accounts, offering security and growth for your donated funds.

To learn about other opportunities and funds that have been established or to establish a fund for your parish or ministry, or to discover a variety of giving options for you and your family, including some that produce income for you, contact the Foundation office.

**Separate from, but committed to, the Diocesan Church**

The Foundation is an independent entity – legally separate from the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown – committed to the long-term strength and viability of Catholic institutions within the eight-county diocese. The Foundation is overseen by a board of trustees comprised of 17 lay men and women. The Diocese (as a legal entity) and the Diocesan Bishop have no role in the management of the Foundation, which is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization [a public charity]. Endowment funds are owned by the Foundation and can not be attached for Diocesan operating funds or any needs of the Diocese.

**For more information:**

Individuals, businesses, organizations or parishes are welcome to inquire about the Independent Catholic Foundation by contacting any Trustee or our office. Executive Director, Bill Hiergeist can be reached at the Foundation office.

For a list of current Trustees, please visit our web-site at [www.icfdaj.org](http://www.icfdaj.org)

Please visit our web-site at [www.icfdaj.org](http://www.icfdaj.org)

All inquires are held in the strictest confidence.

Bill Hiergeist, Executive Director (814) 201-2080 (814) 201-2092 (fax) (E-mail address) [Bill@icfdaj.org](mailto:Bill@icfdaj.org)  
3618 Fifth Ave., Suite 1 • Altoona, PA 16602



**HOLY HOUR - PRAYER FOR LIBERTY:** Bishop Mark L. Bartchak led approximately 80 worshippers taking part in a Holy Hour - Prayer For Liberty, Tuesday, June 24 at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona. The Holy Hour was part of the third annual Fortnight For Freedom observance.

# Bishop: Being ‘In The Game’ Means Showing God’s Love To Poor And Vulnerable

(Continued From Page 1.)

During the course of the Holy Hour, they responded to a Litany For Liberty, led by Bishop Joseph, and prayed:

*For the freedom to love,  
For the freedom to believe,  
For the freedom to hope,  
For the freedom to worship,  
For the freedom to serve in charity,  
For the freedom to care for the suffering,  
For the freedom to comfort the sick,  
For the freedom to feed the hungry,  
For the freedom to shelter the homeless,  
For the freedom to proclaim the Gospel,  
For the freedom to walk in chastity,  
For the freedom to live in peace,  
For the freedom to work in good conscience,  
For the freedom to seek justice,  
For the freedom to reject sin,  
For the freedom to reject coercion,*

*For the freedom to reject falsehood,  
For the freedom to reject evil temptations,  
For the freedom to reject injustice.*  
To each of the invocations the congregation responded “Give us your grace.”  
The Litany began, invoking the name of Jesus, calling Him: *Victor over sin and death,  
Source of light and hope,  
Fullness of truth and mystery,  
Teacher of seeking hearts,  
Healer of body and soul,  
Bringer of mercy and justice,  
He who humbles the heart and mind,  
Release of captives,  
Voice against violence,  
Courage for the lowly and downtrodden,  
Origin of all authority and power,  
True lawgiver,  
Unity of order and passion,  
Freedom of the Spirit,  
Obedient Son of the Father.*  
To each of those invocations, the worshippers responded “Free our hearts.”

In his homily, Bishop Mark reminded the worshippers that Pope Francis has reminded people from all walks of life that “we are all made for God, because we were all made by God.”

That transcendent part of human nature challenges all people to exercise their “God - given freedom to serve in the light of the truth about the God - given dignity of all life.” Simply put, Bishop Mark stated, this means we are to “love God and walk in His ways.”

In seeking the freedom to serve, Bishop Mark said we must ask, too “What are we as U.S. Catholics doing to seek, promote and defend religious liberty?”

“Let me first suggest,” he explained “that we get involved in the game. We have to say ‘Give us a chance.’ Don’t succumb to the danger of feeling we’ve already lost.”

Catholics want to be involved in the “game” of serving others, Bishop Mark said, to illustrate the truth of what Pope Francis meant when he said “Being a Christian is not an ethical

choice or a lofty ideal. It is an encounter with an event - - with the person of Jesus Christ, who gives life personal direction.”

When we have that encounter with Jesus, the Holy Father said “We are liberated from narrowness of vision and self - absorption.”

Bishop Mark explained that Pope Francis is teaching, as the Church has always taught, that “We become fully human when we become more than human - - when we embrace our transcendent nature - - when we embrace

God’s life and love given to us, and share that life and love with all.”

“Imagine,” Bishop Mark said “what we could do for the poor and the vulnerable if we embraced that truth.”

Bishop Mark concluded his remarks with a renewed call to service.

“If there is just one person out there who is poor and vulnerable, and who has never been shown the love of God in a personal way, then we must get in the game.”

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

# Diocese Celebrates Catholic Identity At Faith Day

(Continued From Page 16.)

Swope continued that each year people “tell me that it’s a fun day and how much they appreciate being able to share a faith - based day.”

People came from all points of the eight county Diocese including Preston and Samantha Bittering of Queen of Archangels Parish in Clarence. Their son Jeremiah, 13 months, was all smiles. The Bitterings were part of a large family group that gathered at the park.

Michele Bittering, Jeremiah’s grandma, came last year. “We love it. It’s a great opportunity to bring kids to the park at a discount rate. I’m trying to get my whole family here.”

Rose Castagnola, and her mom, Sara, are members of Saint Matthew Parish in Tyrone. They attend Faith Day every year. “We enjoyed going to see the Altoona Curve play, but this is nice for

the kids - - and provides more of a family atmosphere. It’s nice to gather together as a Diocese and celebrate Mass,” said Rose.

Her mom agreed and said, “This is more family - oriented. The park is so nice and the DelGrosso family goes all out to make it a nice experience.”

“We’re very pleased with the turnout today,” said Chrissy Anderson of Saint Francis Xavier Parish. “This is the largest number of people we’ve ever had, and each year the number gets a little bigger.”

Bishop - Emeritus Joseph V. Adamec was the main celebrant of the Mass, along with several priests of the Diocese, and Bishop Mark L. Bartchak delivered the homily.

“Bishop Mark has not resigned,” joked Bishop Adamec at the beginning of the celebration. Bishop Mark recently had shoulder surgery.

“The Pirates have cancelled



**MEETING BISHOP MARK:** Eli Updyke, 9, speaks with Bishop Mark L. Bartchak following the Faith Day held on Sunday, June 29 at DelGrosso Amusement Park in Tipton. With him is his father, Matt. His mom is Monica. They are members of Saint John Gualbert Cathedral Parish in Johnstown.

my contract,” said Bishop Mark prior to his homily with a shoulder brace visible on his right arm. He said it was nice to see so many people participating in the Faith Day activities.

The Bishop spoke of the importance of our names and identities. We keep names alive

from generation to generation. The readings from the Acts of the Apostles, and the Gospel of Matthew illustrated those thoughts.

“Jesus wanted to know what the Apostles thought of Him,” Bishop Mark said. “Peter said to Jesus ‘You are the Christ and the

Son of the living God.’ Those are two very important names.”

Jesus is both human and Divine and shares God’s nature, the Bishop continued. He gave Peter the keys to the Kingdom and declared that Peter is the foundation of the Church of Christ.

Bishop Mark said in this day and age people long for the day when the Lord God will take over. People are afraid of losing their identities and being persecuted in our times. “Your strength comes from your identity as members of the Catholic Church,” Bishop Mark reminded. “You need to remain strong.”

The sacrifice of the Mass makes us stronger, he said. “Our hope and our strength is to not be closed off to the world. We must reach out to others who are afraid,” Bishop Mark said.

“Pope Francis says we must proclaim and bring others to Christ. He said being a Christian comes from an encounter with Jesus Christ. God’s love frees us from our narrowness and self absorption. We must show our love to others.”

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**TABLE TALK:** Bishop Mark L. Bartchak enjoys lunch table conversation with campers during his Wednesday, June 25 visit to Camp Timothy.

## Young People Ponder Social Teachings, Service At Camp Timothy

Photo And Text  
By Tony DeGol

Every year when Bishop Mark L. Bartchak visits Camp Timothy, the campers beg him to join them on the zip line -- a pulley hanging from a cable mounted on an incline.

Every year, he politely declines the invitation.

This year, however, he had a very good excuse.

Bishop Mark visited the camp less than a week after shoulder surgery, and although his arm was in a sling, it did not stop him from his usual activities with the teens -- celebrating Mass, enjoying lunch, and fielding plenty of questions.

Camp Timothy was held the week of June 22 at Camp Sequanota in Somerset County.

Open to students entering grades 10, 11, and 12 and students who just graduated from high school, the Camp T experience is a mix of faith and outdoor adventures.

Among the spiritual highlights were daily Mass, large group evangelization, evening devotions, Eucharistic Adoration, and guided meditations.

Besides the zip line, the adventures included hiking, swimming, fishing, caving, and challenge courses.

This year's theme was "This I ask of you and only this: to act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with your God."

To highlight that message, camp director Francine Swope integrated Catholic social teachings throughout the week.

"As we were talking about the social teachings of the Church, I was so pleased to see that a lot of those kids were already living those teachings, and we were giving them reinforcement of what they are and how to live them as they go into the young adult years of their life," said Swope, the diocesan coordinator of Youth Ministry, Religious Education, and Sacramental Preparation.

The campers were asked to reflect on their experiences

throughout the week and keep a journal, she added.

Bishop Mark's visit on Wednesday, June 25 gave the campers plenty to ponder.

The Gospel reading talked about false prophets who come in sheep's clothing, and reminded that we will know them by their fruits.

In his homily, the Bishop explained the difference between a false prophet and a real prophet.

"A prophet is a person sent by God to share God's word and God's will for your benefit," Bishop Mark said.

He pointed out that a lot of people claim to be prophets with messages that seem appealing but, in reality, are empty.

"Unless God is part of the picture, it is going to be a false prophet and a false message," the Bishop stated. "Thanks be to God that what you receive here during your time at camp is the time to hear the real thing about God and about yourself."

After Mass, all 26 campers had the opportunity for Q&A with Bishop Mark.

When asked about teens that have fallen away from attending Mass, he suggested following the lead of Pope Francis who seeks out people rather than waiting for them to come to him.

Bishop Mark suggested first talking to an individual and finding out why he or she has become disconnected.

Invite the person to Reconciliation and to Mass, he proposed.

"Just the idea of reaching out to people makes all the difference," the Bishop said.

Swope was thrilled with the campers' engagement.

"They were very open to talking about things and sharing," she said. "Even though these kids were from all over the Diocese and did not know each other until they got there, you could see that bond forming and them actually beginning to care about each other and wanting to

get to know each other and become friends. I'm sure a lot of these kids will be friends well beyond Camp Timothy."

The teens seemed to echo Swope's sentiments.

"I love how (the camp) unites a bunch of people from different schools so you make new friends," said Daniel Sullivan, a member of Saint Mary Parish in Hollidaysburg.

"You make new friends and grow in your faith with God," added Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel (Loretto) parishioner Michaela Gresko.

The camaraderie was especially evident during a caving trip to Laurel Caverns in Hopewood.

Swope was impressed with how the kids worked as a team and helped each other navigate the darkness without even being asked.

And, of course, the zip line was its usual hit, which means Bishop Mark better get ready for another invitation next year.



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# Now Showing

## 'Transformers' . . . Yawn

By John Mulderig  
Catholic News Service

### NEW YORK (CNS) --

There may, no doubt, be circumstances that would justify a film having a running time close to three hours.

Some lavish adaptation of a Dickens novel, perhaps, or a sweeping historical epic might be expected to sustain prolonged viewer interest. A set of outsize Hasbro toys come to life, on the other hand, not so much.

Still, that's what audiences will find waiting for them in the

interminable "Transformers: Age of Extinction" (Paramount).

Such self-indulgence on the part of director Michael Bay is all the more regrettable because his fourth installment in this popular popcorn franchise is initially somewhat more engaging than its predecessors. The bond uniting small-time inventor, young widower and overprotective dad Cade Yeager (Mark Wahlberg) with his teen daughter, Tessa (Nicola Peltz), for example, gives us slightly more substantial human interest than was previously evident.

The rural setting of the Texas farm on which Cade and Tessa -- routinely joined by Cade's surfer sidekick, Lucas (T.J. Miller) -- live out a cash-strapped but mutually caring existence, moreover, makes for some pleasant visuals. Less welcome is the wayward relationship between Tessa and her clandestine boyfriend, Shane (Jack Reynor). As both Cade and the audience eventually discover, Pop has had better cause to worry than he knew.

Once the alien robots from whom the series takes its title show up, however, it does turn out to be a good thing that Irish-born Shane makes his living as a racecar driver. These mechanical beings are capable of changing shape at will, and do so most often by shifting into the guise of speedy vehicles. So it helps the humans who get mixed up with them -- as Cade does by buying a long disused truck -- to have some velocity of their own.

For those not fluently familiar with Transformers lore in all its manifestations, the briefest of explanations: the good, i.e. human-friendly, guys are called Autobots and are led by Optimus Prime (voice of Peter Cullen). Their adversaries -- and ours -- are known as Decepticons. The whole point of plunking down your dozen or so dollars at the box office is to watch these guys magically morph -- and noisily duke it out.

Stacked up against the endless shape-shifting and cacophonous combat, neither Wahlberg's strong presence nor an amusing turn by Stanley Tucci as Joshua Joyce, a Steve Jobs-like tech pioneer stands much of a chance. Also lost along the way are scattered religious references, and a more sustained theme about the dangers of overreacting to terrorism.

Besides sometimes ridiculous dialogue, Ehren Kruger's



CNS Photo/Andrew Cooper, Paramount Pictures

**TRANSFORMERS: AGE OF EXTINCTION:** Mark Wahlberg and Jack Reynor star in a scene from the movie "Transformers: Age of Extinction." 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.

script also includes a heavy dose of vulgarity. Together with the benignly treated behavior between Tessa and Shane mentioned above, such verbal lapses make this sci-fi slog an inappropriate one for those youthful viewers who might best be able to endure it.

As for their elders, the legal phrase "time served" may spring to mind well before the final credits roll.

The film contains relentless, though largely bloodless, violence, an implied premarital situation, use of profanity and rough language and numerous crude and crass terms. 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.

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## Coming Up On 'Proclaim!'

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

**July 20** - - Bishop-Elect Michael Rhyne of the Allegeny Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will look ahead to his ordination and talk about his ecumenical relationship with the Diocese.

**July 27** - - Tim and Kathy Balconi, new members of Saint Michael the Archangel Parish in Hollidayburg, will discuss their transition to a new parish and diocese after years in the Diocese of Rochester.

# Pope Francis Meets Sex Abuse Victims At Vatican

By Carol Glatz  
Catholic News Service

## VATICAN CITY (CNS)

-- Asking for forgiveness, Pope Francis told abuse survivors that "despicable actions" caused by clergy have been hidden for too long and had been "camouflaged with a complicity that cannot be explained."

"There is no place in the church's ministry for those who commit these abuses, and I commit myself not to tolerate harm done to a minor by any individual, whether a cleric or not," and

## May They Rest In Peace



## Sister Victorine Verosky C.D.P.

Divine Providence Sister Victorine Verosky died Sunday, June 15 at Providence Heights, McCandless Township. She was 100 - years - old.

The former Madeline Verosky was born in Braddock, and entered the Congregation of Divine Providence in 1929. She taught in the schools of the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown and Pittsburgh, and also in Dover OH. Sister Victorine served as academic dean of LaRoche College in McCandless Township.

Sister Victorine also served in Rome and in Korea, serving as director of formation for Korean women seeking to enter religious life. She established a Congregation of Divine Providence province in Incheon, South Korea, and served there for 22 years. Before retiring she spent 10 years in service to the poor at Jeremiah Fields in Harlem, New York City NY.

Surviving are a niece and a nephew.

The funeral Mass for Sister Victorine Verosky was celebrated Wednesday, June 18 in the Divine Providence Chapel at Providence Heights.

to hold all bishops accountable for protecting young people, the pope said during a special early morning Mass for six survivors of abuse by clergy. The Mass and private meetings held later with each individual took place in the Domus Sanctae Marthae -- the pope's residence and a Vatican guesthouse where the survivors also stayed.

In a lengthy homily in Spanish July 7, the pope thanked the three men and three women -- two each from Ireland, the United Kingdom and Germany -- for coming to the Vatican to meet with him. The Vatican pro-

## Sister Marilyn Joyce O.S.F.

Sister Marilyn Joyce, of the Sisters of Saint Francis of the Neumann Communities, died Tuesday, June 24 at Mount Alvernia, Millvale. She was 81.

A Pittsburgh native, Sister Marilyn entered religious life in 1953, and for 21 years taught the intermediate and secondary grades in the schools of the Dioceses of Altoona - Johnstown and Pittsburgh, and in Puerto Rico.

Sister Marilyn was co - director of a Franciscan internship program in spiritual direction that called for travel to South Africa, Kenya, Zambia, England and the Philippines. She also served in formation ministry in her community.

From 1989 to 1993 she was the community director of the Sisters of Saint Francis of Millvale. She served her community as archivist for 13 years.

Surviving is a sister, Adesta Hytha, and a brother, Edward Joyce.

The funeral Mass for Sister Marilyn Joyce O.S.F. was celebrated Thursday, June 26 in the Motherhouse chapel at Mount Alvernia.

**May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.**

vided its own translations of the unscripted homily.

The pope praised their courage for speaking out about their abuse, saying that telling the truth "was a service of love, since for us it shed light on a terrible darkness in the life of the church."

The pope said the scandal of abuse caused him "deep pain and suffering. So much time hidden, camouflaged with a complicity that cannot be explained."

He called sex abuse a "crime and grave sin," that was made even worse when carried out by clergy.

"This is what causes me distress and pain at the fact that some priests and bishops, by sexually abusing minors" violated the innocence of children and their own vocation to God, he said.

"It is something more than despicable actions. It is like a sacrilegious cult, because these boys and girls had been entrusted to the priestly charism in order to be brought to God. And those people sacrificed them to the idol of concupiscence," the pope said.

He begged for forgiveness "for the sins of omission on the part of the church leaders who did not respond adequately to reports of abuse," adding that the neglect not only caused the victims more suffering, "it endangered other minors who were at risk."

The pope asked God "for the grace to weep, the grace for the church to weep and make reparations for her sons and daughters who betrayed their mission, who abused innocent persons" and left life-long scars.

He told the men and women sitting in the pews that God loved them and he prayed that "the remnants of the darkness which touched you may be healed."

In an effort to help the abuse survivors heal, the pope met individually with each one, accompanied by a loved one or family member and a translator, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi,

the Vatican spokesman, told journalists.

The pope spent a total of three hours and twenty minutes in closed-door talks with each person, Father Lombardi said.

The Jesuit priest said the men and women were visibly moved by the Mass and meetings and had "felt listened to," and that the encounter was "something positive on their journey" of healing.

The length and nature of the pope's very first meeting with abuse survivors represent "a sign, a model, an example" for the rest of the church, that "listening is needed" along with tangible efforts for understanding and reconciliation, he said.

Responding to critics that the July 7 meeting and Mass were ineffectual and part of a publicity stunt, Father Lombardi said that if people had been able to see, as he had, the reactions of the men and women who took part in the private gathering, "it was clear that it was absolutely not a public relations event."

The raw emotion on people's faces, including the pope's, as well as his strongly worded homily, all showed the effort had been about "a dialogue with a pastor and father who tries to understand deeply" the wrongs that have been committed and the need "to be honest about reality," the Vatican spokesman said.

It was the first time Pope Francis met directly with a group of victims of clerical

abuse, following a tradition begun by his predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI, who met with victims for the first time as pope in 2008 during a visit to Washington, D.C. The retired pope subsequently met with other victims during his pastoral visits to Sydney, Malta, Great Britain and Germany.

Pope Francis asked Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston -- the head of a new Vatican commission on protecting minors -- to help organize the early July encounter.

The Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, which the pope established in December, met July 6 at the Vatican. They discussed expanding the number of members, especially from Africa and Asia, before the next meeting in October.



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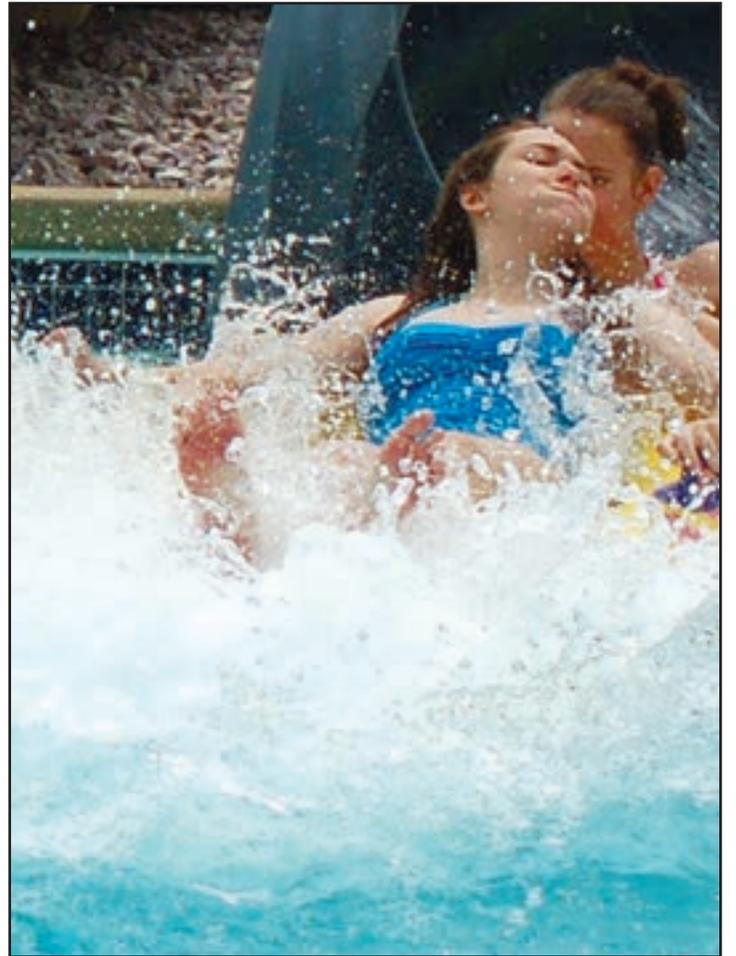
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# Participants Enjoyed Family - Oriented Nature Of Annual Faith Day Celebration



**FAMILY FUN:** Joscelyn Jones, 5, enjoys a picnic lunch with her mom, Michelle, at the annual Diocesan Faith Day held on Sunday, June 29 at DelGrosso's Amusement Park in Tipton. They are members of Saint Francis Xavier Parish in Cresson. Michelle's husband is Dan Jones.

**COOL RIDE:** Aleah Krug, front, and her friend, Rebecca Kwisnek, members of Saint Nicholas Parish in Nicktown, cool down on one of the water slides at DelGrosso's Amusement Park.

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

Children tell it like it is so there's no denying Joscelyn Jones when she said with a big

smile, "I'm really having fun." Joscelyn, 5, is the daughter of Michelle and Dan Jones of Saint Francis Xavier Parish in Cresson. Her favorite ride happened to be the Caterpillar.

They were part of a large

group of parishioners that enjoyed the annual Altoona - Johnstown Diocesan Faith Day held Sunday, June 29 at DelGrosso's Amusement Park in Tipton.

They were among a sizeable turnout that took advantage

of the generously reduced rate Ride and Slide Pass, and the 3:00 p.m. Mass celebrated on the park's main stage.

Tony DeGol and Francine Swope, co - chairpersons for the event, were pleased with

the number of persons that took part. "This is a great opportunity for Catholics from across the Diocese to gather with people from other parishes," they said.

*(Continued On Page 12.)*

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