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Rain Couldn't Dampen Promise Of Bright Future For Vocations To Diocesan Priesthood

Photos And Text
By Msgr. Timothy P. Stein

The Sunday, July 13 Day of Discernment for men considering a vocation to the diocesan priesthood might have been considered a washout.

Plans to bring the day to a close with a Mass outdoors at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Alleghenies in Loretto had to be scrapped when a late afternoon storm lashed the scenic site with high winds and heavy rains. A refuge from the storm and a dry place for the Mass was found inside the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel.

But Father Matthew Reese, diocesan director of vocations was not perturbed or downhearted by the change of plans. As the Mass began, with sheets of rain visible through the open windows of the Basilica, he warmly welcome the worshippers to "this beautiful night in Loretto!" -- and asked them to pray for the eight young men who had joined him and Bishop Mark L. Bartchak, and two of the Diocese's three seminarians, who had spent the afternoon together praying, reflecting and talking about the call to diocesan priesthood.

Father Reese said the eight men -- high school and college



MASS FOR VOCATIONS: Bishop Mark L. Bartchak was the principal celebrant of a Mass for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood, Sunday, July 13 at the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel in Loretto. He was assisted in waiting to receive the Offertory Gifts by (left to right) seminarian Jonathan Dickson, Deacon Michael Condor and seminarian Peter Crowe. The Mass concluded a Day of Discernment for young men considering a vocation to priesthood in the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown.

students ranging in age from the mid - teens to the early twenties, began their time together with a Holy Hour, during which Bishop Mark spoke about the scene in Saint John's gospel where Jesus calls His disciples and invites them "to come and see" what life with Him would be like. The group then shared dinner to-

gether in a casual setting "giving us all the chance to talk and to get to know one another," Father Reese said.

Following dinner, seminarian Jonathan Dickson spoke to the group about his own vocational call. The day concluded with a question and answer session.

Father Reese said one of the first questions posed was "If a man is considering the priesthood, how does he know whether to choose the diocesan priesthood or becoming a priest in a religious order?"

Discerning that choice, he said, involves recognizing the essential charism of the dioc-

esan priest: "Going out among the people -- serving the people of a particular Diocese -- literally serving as a parish priest.

"The different religious orders each have their own charisms," he explained "and that charism is not necessarily the parish priesthood."

Even with the rain washing away the possibility of an outdoor celebration of the Eucharist, Father Reese said the day "went very well. The men who were there are very serious about giving thought to the possibility of the priesthood."

The eight men attending the day in Loretto were drawn from the approximately 30 men Father Reese is in regular contact with, from his office in the Prince Gallitzin Chapel House. He noted that contact with prospective priests is made in a variety of ways.

"I regularly make parish visits," he said, "where I speak at Mass about vocations, and often, after Mass, a man will come up and identify himself and express his interest, and we keep in touch by phone and by mail."

"The Bishop, too, interacts with a number of young people, especially at Confirmations, and he will put young men in contact with me."

(Continued On Page 10.)

Catholic Charities

Golf Outing For Shelter

Bedford: The H.F. Lenz Company has announced that its eleventh annual Charity Golf Outing will benefit the Catholic Charities Emergency Shelter Program in Cambria County.

The event will be held Monday, August 25 at the Bedford Springs Resort. Brunch at 9:00 a.m. will precede a 10:30 a.m. shotgun start. The day will conclude with a buffet dinner at 4:00 p.m.

Individual entry fee is \$225.00, and includes greens fees, cart, practice range, both meals and a cash bar; single dinner reservations may be made for \$50.00.

Space is limited, and reservations must be made by Friday, August 1. Checks made payable to Catholic Charities Homeless Program may be mailed to Laura Bernardo, H.F. Lenz Company, 1407 Scalp Avenue, Johnstown PA 15904.

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown became involved in the Emergency Shelter Program in Cambria County in October 2013. Homeless persons are given a maximum of 30 days shelter, and are treated with respect, compassion and care, while working with a case worker to



HOLY NAME: First Holy Communion was celebrated Saturday, May 3, by Holy Name Parish, Ebensburg. Taking part were (left to right) First row: David Schweitzer, Kaden Nelson, Faith Smith, Claire McMullen, Evan George, Matthew Kirsch, Taylor Ream, Jakob Zernick, Jemma Sikora, Maddox Smith, Madeline Lauer, Brandon Baker, Noah Vivian, Jack Muldoon, Jack Washko, Blaise Mazey, Luke Bogus, Sara Link. Second row: Domenico Micco, Thomas Banfield, Aidan Illig, Emily Eutsey, Mary Golden, Blake Kreutzberger, Paige Landis, Emma Crimmins, Jack Trostle, Logan Holley, Johnathan McAndrew, Madelyn Brunatti, Tobey Becquet, Brandon Prazinko, Robin McMullen, Janice Noonan. Third row: Doreen Braniff, Sarah Zearing, Monsignor David Lockard (pastor), George Dill, Emily Vandenberg, Jacqueline Watson, Olivia Heinzeroth, Joseph Iacono, Joshua Zonnak, Evan Garrity, Christian Boland, Jason Westrick, Reese Eckenrode, Anthony Benko, Summer Koss, Easton Semelsberger, Father Brian Warchola (parochial vicar). Fourth row: Sophie Westrick, Victoria Wasser, Max Oravec, Caleb Knee, Alicia Heinrich, Layla Roberts, Ally Kudlawiec, Shelley Yagus, Samuel Evans, Brock Kutske, Samantha Riden and Maggie McCullough.

develop a plan for stabilization and permanent housing.

Renovations are now ongoing to a permanent 12 - bed shelter in Johnstown's Dale Borough. A cooperative effort of Catholic Charities, United Way of the Laurel Highlands, Cambria County Redevelopment Authority and the community at large, the new shelter will provide emergency housing for the most vulnerable members of the community.

All proceeds from the Golf Outing will be donated to Catholic Charities for the shelter.



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Community

SVDP Golf Outing

Altoona: The Society of Saint Vincent DePaul's Youth Ministry will hold its sixth annual Golf Outing Sunday, August 24 at the Park Hills Country Club.

(Continued On Page 3.)

MAY CROWNING: Moments with Mary and May Crowning was held Sunday, May 4, at Saint Therese Parish, Johnstown. Taking part were (left to right) First row: Leah Petrone, Adalin Matejovich, Carly Piscatella, Emma Matejovich, Aubrey Burkett, Haley Goller. Second row: Kathy Goas, Jenna Stofko, Sarah Sorchilla, Faith Goas. Third row: May Queen Courtlyn Adams, Tara Bicko, Franciscan Father Bernard Karmanocky (pastor) and Tyler Schmidetter.

The deadline has now passed for the submission of First Holy Communion, Confirmation, May Crowning and Graduation photos for publication. We thank all who submitted photos this year. All photos received prior to deadline will be published in upcoming editions of The Catholic Register.

In The Alleghenies



FIRST VOWS: Four men professed first vows as Franciscan Friars of the Third Order Regular, Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, on Saturday, May 31, in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception at Saint Francis University, Loretto. Their vows were received by Father Richard L. Davis, minister provincial. Pictured (left to right) are: Father Seraphim Beshoner (director of post - novitiate formation), Brother Joseph Paul Murtha (Baltimore), Brother David Dodd (Nashville), Father Richard L. Davis, Brother Marius Strom (Philadelphia), Brother Elijah Cleary (Sioux Falls SD) and Father Jonathan St. Andre (director of novices). Having completed novitiate, the friars will reside at Saint Louis Friary, Washington DC, while they study at the Catholic University of America.



NOVICES: Five postulants were received into the novitiate of the Third Order Regular Franciscan Friars, Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, by Father Richard L. Davis, minister provincial, on Friday, May 30, in the chapel of Saint Francis Friary at Mount Assisi, Loretto. Pictured are (left to right) Father Richard Davis, Brother Zachary Burns (Milford), Brother Stephen Mary (Thomas Waruszewski, Pittsburgh), Brother Daniel Maria (Daniel Klimek, Chicago), Brother Serviam Maria (Alec Banda, McAllen TX), Brother Rufino (Jose Carona, San Diego, CA) and Father Jonathan St. Andre (director of novices). The five novices will spend their novitiate year at Saint Bonaventure Hall, Mount Assisi, in preparing to profess first vows in 2015.

(Continued From Page 2.)

The entrance fee is \$80.00 per golfer, or \$320.00 per foursome. The fee includes green fees, skills contests, on course refreshments and dinner.

Tee sponsorships for businesses and organizations are \$100.00.

To register, or for more information, call (814) 659 - 8773 or e - mail avcdepaul@atlanticbb.net.

Family Life

Anniversary Masses

Lilly: The Family Life Office of the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese has announced the scheduling of the Annual Wedding Anniversary Liturgies honoring couples celebrating their 1, 25, 40, 50, 55, and 60+ anniversaries within the 2014 calendar year.

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QUEEN OF ANGELS: Celebrating Confirmation at Queen of Angels Parish, Central City, were (left to right) Michael Knapp (catechist), Adam Knapp, Kimberley Mabon and Father Joseph Maurizio (pastor).



BROTHER MATTHEW D.
HERSHEY O.S.B.



BROTHER CANICE
McMULLEN O.S.B.

State College Natives Profess Benedictine Vows

Two men, natives of State College, have professed vows as Benedictine Monks of Saint Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe.

Making his first profession on Thursday, July 10 was Brother Matthew D. Hershey. Making solemn profession for life on Friday, July 11 was Brother Canice McMullen.

Brother Matthew D. Hershey is the son of Bob and Mary Hershey. He attended Our Lady of Victory elementary school and is a graduate of State College Area High School. He earned a degree in special education from Franciscan University of Steubenville in 2008.

Brother Canice (Daniel) McMullen is the son of Craig and Ruth McMullen. He is a 2006 graduate of State College Area High School. He earned

a bachelor of science degree in accounting from Pennsylvania State University in 2010.

He entered the novitiate at Saint Vincent Archabbey in 2010 and made simple profession of vows in 2011. He began studies at Saint Vincent Seminary in 2011.

Brother Canice served as assistant to the Business Office (2011-2012) and the Archabbey Investment Committee (2011-present). He was named assistant to the director of Archabbey Finances and Investments in 2012 and sacristan in 2012, and has served as assistant to the master of ceremonies for the Saint Vincent Archabbey (2011-present), and assistant to the director of vocations (2011-present).

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Another Perspective

By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein
In Memoriam:
Father Christian R. Oravec

Point Of View

I was not sure we should attempt to go outside that night for the skies were pitch black and the wind brisk. It would have been much easier to stay inside in the warmth and light of the familiar place, but down deep in our hearts we knew it needed to be done. With everything in hand, we rounded up the troops and started out! As we approached the door, the night skies seemed darker than before and due to the unknown territory our steps slowed as we walked into a seemingly dark abyss. "But wait," my husband Bill yelled, "follow me" he added. As he used a small light to guide our footsteps, there was comfort in knowing someone knew the path and came prepared to lead.

The plans for that night were not about an adventurous outing but a simple prayer service for engaged couples of our Diocese, a beautiful and meaningful end to one day of the weekend retreat. As we readied the couples, with unlit candles, we guided them in the dark across the beautiful retreat grounds, settling under a row of pines. The air was chilling, the dark unsettling, with the only other audible sound was that of a small animal nestling in the bushes beyond the pond.

As everyone gathered in a circle, Bill and I placed a large Christ candle in the center of the apprehensive couples and before you knew it, the tension gave way to a relaxing calm. The beautiful flame, from the now lit candle, casted a glow among the circle of prayer engulfing all with its simple comforting



Family Matters

By Amy Kanich
A Light In The Darkness

light. As the evening prayer was read and everyone invited to take the Christ flame and light each other's candle, this once darkened place was now fully bright, flaming about from God the source of light himself.

I have to admit there was something about Bill and me lighting the first of the small candles that really hit me straight in the heart. Although exhausted from the days of the retreat, I could feel the Holy Spirit speaking to me saying, "You are lights to these couples, in a world that is so very dark." I almost started to cry. These beautiful couples, many very young, need familiar lights to follow. They are walking into the unknown and at times will be greeted with unfamiliar paths, going into places of darkness, where only a light, if lit, will keep them from falling.

The Catholic Church loves engaged couples so much it requires marriage classes before they say "I do." Contrary to what many may believe, these classes are not required as a way for the church to have control or set rules over those who desire to receive the sacrament, rather these courses are a way to share God's love and vision for marriage and provide couples much needed faith resources

to assist in the early years. These classes are a source of light and direction given to guide and direct these precious couples to the author and creator of marriage, God Himself. The church is lighting the way and for that we all should be thankful! So with that said, our Diocese is in need of married couples to come forth and share their lights with the young, soon to be married couples of our Diocese. Marriages don't need to be perfect. (Whose is?) The couples that are needed, are ones that realize they struggle but depend on the grace of God to see them through!

So where can you help to shine the light? Married couples are needed to come forth bearing their lights. (Yes, married couples, this is your invitation to be a part of our Marriage Preparation ministries!) There are many aspects to this ministry including prayer partners, hospitality couples, retreat leaders and workshop presenters. All can serve in big and small ways. Although, the world is in darkness over marriage, our church is still a beacon of light burning brightly. If you would like to help carry the torch of light to others please call the Family Life Office at (814) 886 - 5551.

By any reckoning, Father Christian R. Oravec T.O.R. was a man who stood head and shoulders above the crowd.

A tall man, of commanding presence, he could have been called, with no lack of reverence to the One to whom that title is usually given, "the great high priest."

A man who held center stage with a winning smile, he was a scholar of keen intellect, an administrator of finely honed skill and someone not afraid to crack a joke at his own expense.

At graduation exercises in the 1980s, when Saint Francis University was still known as "the college among the pines," Father Christian was at his best when a Mother's Day snow squall (not an uncommon event in Loretto) put a damper on events. Surveying the crowd before him, Father Christian welcomed the guests to campus. Standing resplendent in his doctoral robes, he alluded to the snow outside and said "It is not inappropriate then that you should be greeted by a big, jolly man in a red suit." He was a college president with a common touch.

Many will mourn the Saturday, July 19 death of Father Christian as the passing of a friend. The Oravec family and the Third Order Regular Franciscan Friars will remember him as a brother. All will think of him gratefully as a priest and a pastor -- a man who was truly an "alter Christus," another Christ to all the countless men and women of all ages and walks of life to whom he ministered in the 50 years of his ordained life, and his almost 59 years of Franciscan religious life.

During Father Christian's lengthy tenure as president of Saint Francis University, the school adopted a set of "Goals For Franciscan Higher Education" which are as much a description of Father Christian himself as they are of the seat of higher learning he presided over: "A humble and generous attitude toward learning; reverence for all life and for the goodness of all humanity; respect for the uniqueness of individual persons; a global vision; service to the poor and the needy; a community of faith and prayer; and a spirit of simplicity and joy" all lived within a "Franciscan presence."

We of the Diocese of Altoona – Johnstown have cause to be grateful to Father Christian. A Johnstown native, he was always willing to lend a hand to be of assistance to the local Church, and was truly a brother to our diocesan presbyterate. I am grateful, too, for his interest in The Catholic Register, and his always complimentary remarks about the contents of the paper. Father Christian was always a cheerleader for the home team!

When Christian Hall, a student residence and conference center on campus was named for him and dedicated in 1998, Father Christian said "A faculty member asked that if this recognition meant that I have become a legend in my own time. I told him hardly, and to finish the thought, I assured him that neither am I a legend in my own mind."

Maybe not in your own mind, Christian, but you were a legend in your own time to many of us. Rest in peace, good friend, beloved brother, good and faithful servant.



SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS: Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish, Ashville, celebrated Confirmation on Saturday, April 26 and First Holy Communion on Sunday, April 27. Pictured at left are (left to right) Father Sean Code (pastor), Lydia Slovikosky, Donna Stoy (director of religious education), Nic Gallagher and Sebastian Pettenati. Pictured at right are (left to right) First row: Anthony Smithmyer, Gina Pettenati, Chloe Karabinos, Kyra Vinglish, Andrew Krug. Second row: Karen Smithmyer (catechist), Father Code, Bernice Shumac (catechist) and Donna Stoy.



PRINCE OF PEACE: Prince of Peace Parish, Northern Cambria, celebrated First Holy Communion on Sunday, May 4 and Confirmation on Thursday, May 15. Pictured at left are (left to right) First row: Ben Carpinello, Austin Amsdell, Logan Baran, Olivia Hrubochak. Second row: Father Larry Lacovic (pastor), Dylan Nelson, Brooke Farrell, Alivia Yahner, Makayla Stephens, Andrew Farabaugh, Theresa Burba (principal, Northern Cambria Catholic School). Third row: Sherry Delosh and Dee Zernick (catechists). Pictured at right are (left to right) First row: Dominic Buck, Andrew Barnosky, Blair Hornick, Noah Kelly. Second row: Molly Salley, Anissa Delfonso, Patricia Sheredy, Samantha Stossel, Melissa Bender, Frank Gomolka (catechist). Third row: Father Lacovic, Christopher Moore, Cory Franks, Evan McCombs, Jason Abrams and Alexander Matejczyk.



OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART: Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, Portage, celebrated Confirmation on Friday, April 25 and First Holy Communion on Saturday May 3. Pictured at left are (left to right) First row: Third Order Regular Franciscan Father Andrew Draper (pastor), Annelise Murphy, Nicholas Lutz, Savannah Layo, Carmelite of the Word Sister Nancy Spence (Confirmation director). Second row: Kyle Davis, Ryan Richards. Third row: Matthew Bartoletti, Michael Brya and Bradley Rosemas. Pictured at right are (left to right) First row: Jacob Nolan, Emma Richards, Luke Stohon, Emma Hazlett, Sacred Heart Sister Theresa Marie (director of religious education). Second row: Connor Binaut, Tori Harrison, McKenna Young (server). Third row: Christina Nolan (catechist), Hanna Burkett (server), Third Order Regular Franciscan Father Joseph Janiszewski (parochial vicar), Lucas Rosemas (server) and Maryann Krisko (aide).



SAINT JOSEPH, WILLIAMSBURG: Saint Joseph Parish, Williamsburg, celebrated First Holy Communion Sunday, June 1. Pictured are (left to right) First row: Rowan Gorsuch, Bralyn Ellis, Leyton Weimert, Bethany Rison, Joey Zeher. Second row: Diane Sault (catechist) and Father Aron Maghsoudi (pastor). Mrs. Sault has served as catechist for the First Holy Communion class for 40 years. This was her last class.

(Continued From Page 3.)

This public recognition of those who have faithfully lived the vocation to married life provides an opportunity for all to recall the value and importance of such commitments in today's world.

A punch and cookies reception will follow the Eucharistic celebrations for celebrating couples and their family members.

Couples who wish to attend one of these celebrations should contact their home parish by Tuesday, August 26 to make the necessary reservations.

Foundation

Scholarship Winners

Altoona: The Independent Catholic Foundation announced the winners for the 2014 Welge scholarship. This year's winners are: Olivia Pompa, Christopher Raybuck and Hayley Kelleher. Olivia and Christopher are members of Saint Michael the Archangel Parish in Hollidaysburg and Hayley is a member of Sacred Heart Parish in Altoona. Hayley attends Penn State; Olivia attends Shippensburg University and Christopher attends Duquesne University.

The Welge Endowment Scholarship was established in 1995 to honor Adelaide G. (Heverly) Welge. This annual scholarship provides financial

assistance to worthy members of parishes in Blair County. The applicant must be entering their junior or senior year at any accredited college.

The Foundation Trustees are responsible for the awarding of the Welge Scholarships each year. Trustees who live in Blair County are asked to serve as a sub - committee for the review and selection process. The committee was impressed with both the quantity and quality of this year's applicants. A \$500.00 check will be sent to the respective colleges on behalf of the winners to aid in their tuition.

An additional eight endowments are held by the Foundation that benefit worthy students from parishes throughout the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown. The application process for these varies, with most being administered by the individual parish or high-school. During the last school year, the Foundation distributed over \$50,000 under the guidelines of these additional endowments. Information on how to establish a college or high-school scholarship is available at the Foundation office or at www.icfdaj.org

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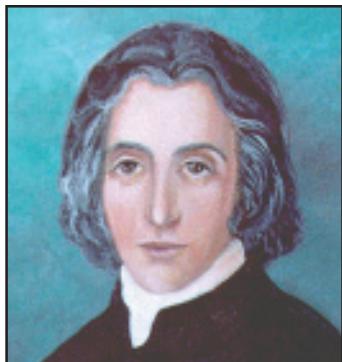
SAINT MATTHEW: Saint Matthew Parish, Tyrone celebrated First Holy Communion Saturday, May 3. Pictured are (left to right) First row: Aliyah Riling, Tyler Smyder, Jaelyn Delozier, Dravyn Crowell, Jacob Rice, Steven Buck, Kylie Edmondson, Lukas Walk. Second row: Brayden Daniels, Deegan Baldauf, Brady Ronan, Rebecca Lewis, Riley Corl, Angel Jimenez, Corrigan Shanafelt, Hannah McClellan. Third row: Helen Quinn (catechist), Father Jozef Kovacik (pastor) and Vanessa Haney (teacher). Not pictured are Hunter Walk, Mark Raffetto (coordinator of religious education) and Jamie DiDomenico (principal).



SAINT MARY, NANTY GLO: First Holy Communion was celebrated by Saint Mary Parish, Nanty Glo on Sunday, April 27. Pictured are (left to right) First row: Zancer Sekerak, Wyatt Barosky, Waylon Barosky, Ian Ray. Second row: Robert Rummel, Lyric Smith, Tatum Laughard, Olivia Janosik, Morgan Frederick, Ava Carlton. Third row: Alex Reba, Brody Lanzendorfer, Jordan Kotelnicki, Gino DiPaolo, Parker Alexander, Brandon Prazinko. Fourth row: Father Leonard Voytek (pastor), Deacon James Janosik and Susan Morris (catechist).



SAINT ANDREW GRADUATION: Celebrating Eighth Grade Graduation at Saint Andrew School, Johnstown were (left to right) First row: Grace Guaetta (principal), Callasandra Burgan, Leo Newman, Shawn Manges, Victoria Sipes, James Fecko, John Yoder, Katherine Konieczny. Second row: Kale Camacho, Cassandra Coleman, Alexa Stephens, Brianna Thompson, Shannon Booth, Devin Nau, Gabriel Coleman, Troy Wills, Karen Bell (teacher). Third row: Zachary Beblar, Joseph Hochstein, Bryon Geophart, John Jacob, Nilay Parekh, Jeffrey McKissick, Austin Dressick and Father Angelo Patti (pastor).



A Prince In The Service Of The Great King

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

Tomb Is Fitting Monument To Life Of Prince - Priest

This is Part One of the history of the Servant Of God Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin's tomb. It can be found in full on the website of the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel in Loretto, www.basilica-loretto.org.

Chiseled into the gray-stone granite pedestal honorably supporting the heroic sized bronze statue of Fr. Gallitzin over his tomb is this indelible epitaph highlighting the touch points of our illustrious Catholic pioneer

and priest: "Demetrius Augustine, Prince Gallitzin. Born at The Hague, December 22, 1770. Founded Loretto, 1799. Died May 6, 1840. This statue erected to his memory. 1899."

Father Gallitzin stand-

ing tall and erect, his Russian Aristocrat persona showing his strong masculine and cultured character, can be seen wearing his skull cap, cassock with shoulder cape, carrying his daily breviary in his left hand and his walking cane in his right hand.

This is how one would have seen him in the 1830's standing outside his church or walking amid his parishioners during the one and forty years he spent here in tireless ministry to the One, True, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, and to his frontier flock to whom he gave everything -- spiritual and material. Forever cast in motionless bronze he now rests atop the five ascending levels of limestone and granite blocks that form the tiered monument supporting this larger - than - life American Catholic folk hero.

Beneath this massive arrangement of Allegheny Mountain stone, in a hollowed out under - ground crypt which measures 5' high, by 6' wide, by 12' long, its white-washed cement walls and rounded ceiling bearing the scars of old age, lays the ash and dust remains of Dr. Gallitzin. now eternally asleep inside a 2300 lb. sealed air tight vault. A crucifix is out - set near the arched head of the casket. Above this is a copper plated plaque simply inscribed -- "Prince Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin. 1770- 1840." And in the left margin of this plate is an embossed depiction of a setting sun somewhere behind a grove of trees on the Alleghenies. One can pilgrimage to this Holy Site, walk thru the gated entry of the



Photo By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein

PRINCE'S STATUE: Since 1899, the centennial year of his ministry in Loretto, a bronze statue of the Servant of God Prince Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin, has stood atop his tomb.

fenced enclosure bearing his arched name plate with a surmounting cross, descend the east - lying narrow steps and on thru the low ceiled entrance tunnel, and walk reverently around the dark and silent aisles of this antique burial crypt. One can touch the coffin, bow and say a prayer, and petition his intercession as did his parishioners of so many years past. The tomb is open to the public at all times. Come visit him in prayer.

(To be continued.)



2014 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL
Journeying ~ Building ~ Professing



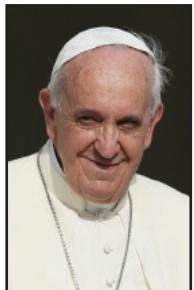
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Word of Life



The Pope Teaches

By Pope Francis

Another Generation Will Be Lost If No End Made To Throwaway Culture

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis urged a group of economists and financiers to help reverse the current "throw-away" culture and put people at the center -- not the fringes -- of monetary strategies and policies.

Children, the elderly and young adults are all being rejected "because they're not useful," he said. "Who's going to be disposed of next? Let's stop ourselves in time, please," he said July 12.

The pope spoke to a group of experts participating in an international seminar organized by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. About 70 people, many of them leading economists, central bankers, heads of international and intergovernmental organizations and church leaders, came together July 11-12 to discuss ways economic systems and policies could work toward "a more inclusive economy" and the common good.

The pope thanked participants for meeting to discuss such important issues and urged them to reflect on the current situation "without fear and with intelligence."

He said people today have been stripped of their humanity and turned into cogs of a "social, economic system, a system where inequalities rule."

He likened the process to the way Italian "grappa" or brandy is made, in which grapes are distilled and transformed into something completely different.

Individuals, he said, are also being run through a sort of "organizational" distillery -- transforming their original essence, making them "lose their humanity" and "become an instrument of the system."

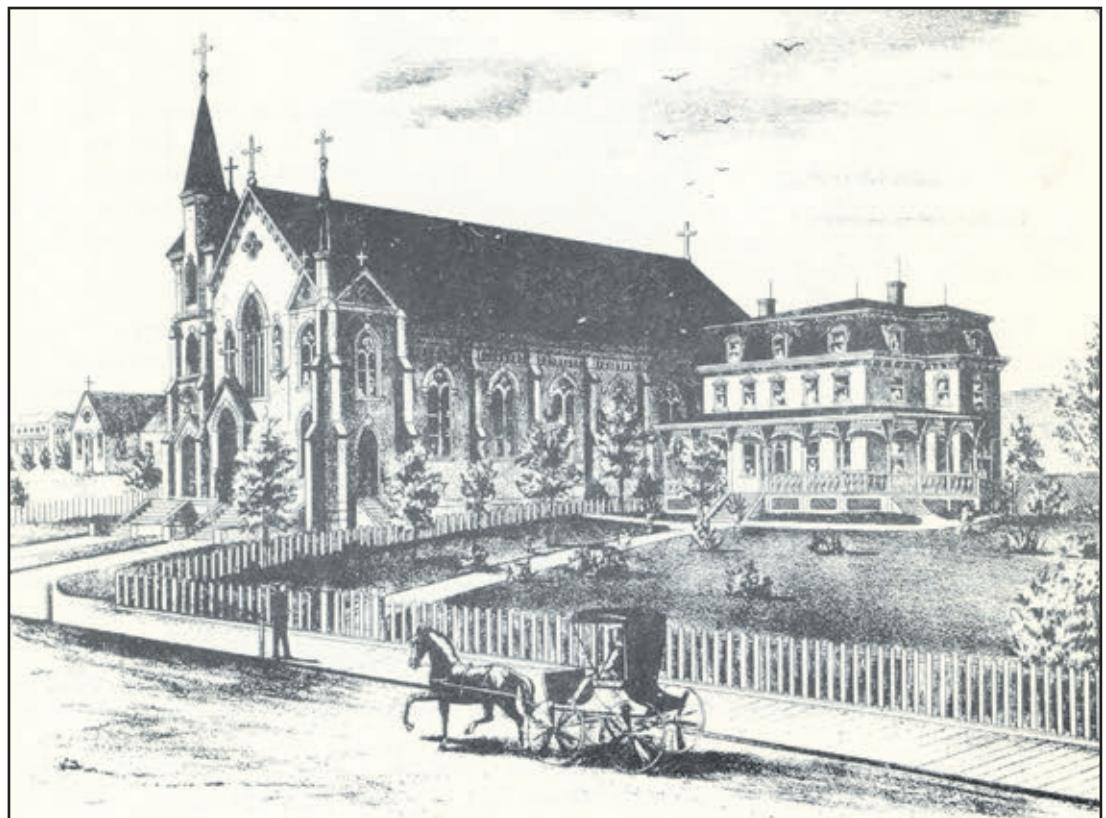
He said there is "a politics, a sociology" and a mindset of people being "disposable; you throw away what isn't needed, because man isn't at the center."

Low birthrates show that children are considered disposable, as are the elderly, and also an "entire generation of young people, and this is very serious."

High unemployment for young adults has created a "neither-nor" generation of young people who "neither study nor work," he said, because -- for so many -- getting a higher education isn't possible and there are no jobs.

People need to be made the focus again and become "the center of society, of thinking, of reflection," he said, urging the group to study and reflect "so that man is not disposed of."

That the human person should be at the center of all things, "isn't theology, it's not philosophy, it's human reality," the pope said.



ONE MORE TIME: Dated simply "Late 19th Century," this engraving shows Saint Patrick Church and rectory in Gallitzin.

What should our national leaders focus on most in order to be more inspiring and effective?

In St. Mathew's Gospel (11:25), Christ gives us the answer: "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike."

Christ says this because while the wise and learned may possess great knowledge, they sometimes act as uneducated persons, lacking character, honesty and authenticity.

Being schooled and learned, and being educated, are not the same thing. A person may be brilliant. He or she may be capable of sending rockets to the moon but can still be uneducated. To be educated is to be cultured, which doesn't solely mean being capable of storing knowledge. It means to also know about virtue and ethical principles.

To be educated is to have read a person like Roman orator Cicero or Blessed John Henry Newman on topics that speak of fulfilling our most important duties, such as generating kindness. It is to have internalized virtues lauded by Christ.



The Human Side

By Father Eugene Hemrick
A Biblical Model Of Inspiration

Recently, I asked parishioners, "What inspiring quotes have you heard recently coming from Capitol Hill, or, for that matter, in the news?"

I'm sad to say I heard no answers.

Our nation's leaders may be well-versed in world events, but they could be much more in touch with the ethical and moral principles praised throughout the ages. These principles are the ones on which inspiring and effective statesmen rest.

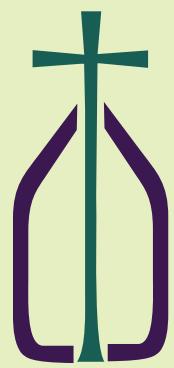
At the end of St. Mathew's Gospel (11:29), Christ goes to the very heart of what education means when he says: "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart."

Unlike some of the "learned" people Christ berates, a truly educated person exudes a sense of docility, avoids a know-

it-all attitude and, most of all, is humble. It is this virtue, humility, that St. Gregory the Great praises as the mother and mistress of all virtues. To be truly educated is to meekly know one's place in God's plan and to bow before it.

We must wonder how much more inspiring our leaders would be if they were better educated. Would we experience more authenticity, better reasoning and cooperative agreement from them? Would they place greater attention to the needs of the common good? Would they do less foolish finger-pointing and incite less gridlock while moving toward more unified action?

Would they inspire us to appreciate our blessings better and to work together better, following their example?



Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

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

VOLUME ONE • NUMBER TWO

SUMMER 2014

TO LOVE AND SERVE OUR NEIGHBORS AS OURSELVES

Shelter Opening Fall 2014

Temporary shelter today offers hope for a better tomorrow

In 2013 the Cambria County Shelter Committee, led by the United Way of the Laurel Highlands, chose Catholic Charities to take over the responsibility of running a homeless shelter in the area. This fall, the shelter will become a reality.

Running a homeless shelter is not a money-making venture by any means. It takes a special organization with the mission, passion, leadership, and staff, to make it happen.

Jean Johnstone, Executive Director of Catholic Charities, says that the organization had been looking to expand when the opportunity to run the shelter came along.

It is a big job, but one that she feels fits in perfectly with Catholic Charities' mission to help those most in need in our community.

"The shelter meets a critical need in the community," says Johnstone.

Staffing costs, monthly utility bills and food are just a few of the new ongoing costs they will take on with the opening of the shelter.

In March of this year Catholic Charities hired Missy Kreutzberger to be the Director/Lead Case Manager for the shelter. Missy will be at the shelter on a daily basis and is currently sourcing furnishings that will resist wear and tear and are easy to care for.

While funding was in place to purchase the shelter and perform major renovations, Catholic Charities needs help to outfit and run the shelter. Contributions of funds

are now being accepted and once construction is complete, they will be able to accept donated items. Individuals or organizations interested in helping can contact Catholic Charities about the "Adopt A Room" program.

How can you help?

You can have a direct impact on the homeless shelter. Donations, financial gifts and volunteers will help us acquire much-needed items and fulfill ongoing needs like:

- Linens
- Plates, cups, bowls
- Flatware
- Appliances
- Upkeep



The new homeless shelter at 899 Bedford St., Johnstown

Thank You to Our Funders!

- CDBG, City of Johnstown
- CDBG, Cambria County
- Homeless Assistance Program
- Emergency Solutions Grant
- United Way of the Laurel Highlands
- Community Foundation for the Alleghenies
- Generous donors from our Diocesan community and the community at-large

Golf Outing To Support Catholic Charities

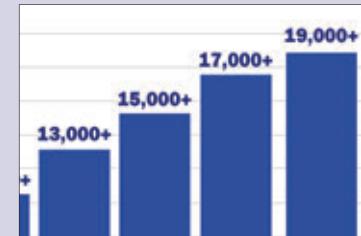


Thank You to H.F. Lenz Company who has graciously chosen Catholic Charities of the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese to be the recipient of proceeds from their golf outing on August 25, 2014.

Chronicle

In this issue...

Catholic Charities at work in your community



Need Doubles

Helping more of your neighbors afford basic necessities.



Breaking the cycle of poverty

What obstacles stand in the way of those trying to break the cycle of poverty? Find out inside.



School kids helping Catholic Charities

Local high school and grade school children get involved to help Catholic Charities.



2014 Award Winners

Honoring those who help others.

A Growing Need: Clients Served Doubles in Five Years

In just five short years, the number of clients seeking help from Catholic Charities has doubled. As the graph shows, in 2007-2008 Catholic Charities served approximately 9,000 clients. By 2012-2013 that number had more than doubled to over 19,000 clients served.

Requests for Emergency Financial Assistance (EFA) totaled more than \$1,000,000 in 2011-12—only \$149,778 in funding was available, fulfilling only one in four requests.

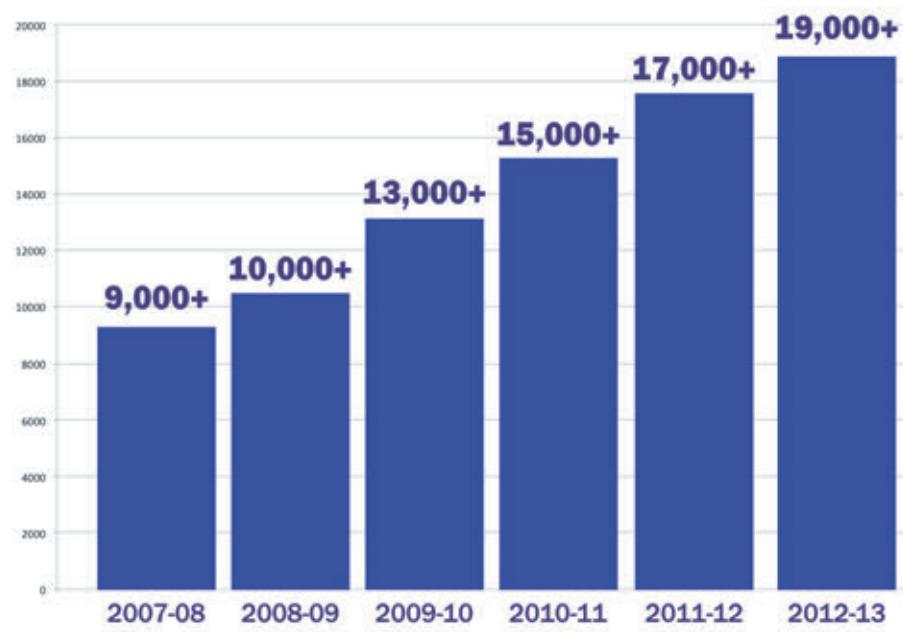
Offering A Hand Up...With Your help

Catholic Charities provides help and creates hope for all. It is our privilege to journey with the poor of spirit, mind and body. We treat all who seek our support with dignity and respect.

We strive to provide safety and security and to lift the burden of suffering from those most in need. We rely on the generous support of funders and individual donors to fulfill this mission.

Thank You to Our EFA Funders!

Blair County United Way, Centre County United Way, Clinton County United Way, Community Foundation for the Alleghenies, Lee Initiatives, Nazareth Family Foundation, and United Way of the Laurel Highlands.



The Reality Of Homelessness Within Our Diocesan Area

High Housing Costs Combined with Low Incomes Increases Risk of Homelessness

It's estimated that for an individual or family to afford monthly housing costs, no more than 30% of their income should be spent on rent or mortgage.

People who pay higher percentages than this are at risk of not being able to afford their payments, and potentially becoming homeless.

In the eight-county region serviced by Catholic Charities the statistics tell the story that many of our neighbors and friends are in this precarious position.

Misconceptions about the poor

It's a misconception that people in this situation are living beyond their means, or that they are being careless with their money. The truth is, they often either don't have the knowledge to better manage their finances, or there just aren't viable options available.

As an example, the average cost of rent in Cambria County is \$551 per month. Someone with an income of less than \$20,000 might bring home \$15,000 after taxes. At \$551 per month they would be paying \$6,612 a year on rent, or 44% of their income.*

A staggering 23% of the people living in Cambria County have an income of less than \$20,000 a year. If there were affordable housing options available, they would have a better chance of becoming financially stable. Unfortunately, this just isn't the case.

Homeless are often employed

Surprisingly, many people who find themselves homeless are actually employed. After a job loss they may find themselves underemployed, meaning they can't find a work at the same

Your neighbors at risk

Renters paying over 50% of their income on rent:

Bedford	21.7%
Blair	22.5%
Cambria	19.3%
Centre	38.9%
Clinton	27.4%
Fulton	16.2%
Huntingdon	20.9%
Somerset	19.7%

salary level they were used to. Underemployment can also mean they can only find part-time work.

Mortgage and rent payments don't wait a few months, or even a few weeks, for people to find a better job and get back on their feet.

How We Help

Research shows that the most effective programs to help people in poverty are not those that serve the most people, and not those that just put a band-aid on the problem. The most effective programs are the ones that help people take care of basic necessities first, and then educate them about how to better their situation.**

This is, and always has been, the goal of Catholic Charities.

Catholic Charities is here to support and educate people who find themselves in this situation. Sometimes with a little help to pay a bill, people's basic needs can be taken care of. Our supportive and compassionate staff provides a safe place to turn and lifts their spirits. On this foundation, countless people can improve their situation.

How You Can Help

If you are interested in helping your neighbors in the community who are struggling to afford life's necessities such as housing, please join us by making a donation to Catholic Charities today. You can mail your gift using the form on the opposite page, or donate securely online at www.catholiccharitiesaj.org.

*Center for Rural PA

**Pennsylvania House of Representatives Majority Policy Committee "Empowering Opportunities: Gateways Out of Poverty Initiative"

Breaking the Cycle of Poverty



Overcoming poverty is an uphill battle for many. If a person is born into poverty, or falls into it at some point in their life, climbing back out can be more difficult than you might think.

A report published in April 2014 by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives Majority Policy Committee attempts to study why this is the case, and what people can do to overcome obstacles.

The report, "Empowering Opportunities: Gateways Out of Poverty Initiative," highlights several obstacles that people encounter when faced with improving their situation.

Looking for employment can be a daunting task to begin with, but think about trying to do it on an empty stomach, with no home address and without a safe place to leave your child when you have a job interview.

Something as small as completing a job application can suddenly become a nearly impossible task.

Catholic Charities believes that with the right help and support, the cycle of poverty can be broken.

Barriers to breaking the cycle of poverty:

- No family support
- Lack of affordable child care
- The high cost of health care
- Current economic conditions
- Criminal record
- Basic knowledge of how to manage finances
- Education
- Homelessness
- Addiction

Emergency Financial Assistance— Short term relief, long term solutions

96% of clients helped by Catholic Charities between 2010 and 2014 required only one-time or episodic (two-time) assistance to get through a short-term financial crisis or personal economic transition. We are very proud of these numbers! They are a great reminder that the vast majority of the people we help learn to better manage their finances and only need one-time or episodic assistance.

82% of the people served only came to us once

14% of the people served came to us twice within this period

From the Executive Director: Johnstown Shelter: A Stepping Stone To A Better Home



The face of poverty has really changed over the last decade. Hard-working and normally financially stable people are finding themselves struggling. After the economic crisis of 2008, there is the feeling of a new normal, one where some people can no longer make ends meet.

Things that might come to mind when we think about the stereotypes of a homeless person are no longer necessarily true. Many of today's homeless had been living modestly when unforeseen circumstances – a job loss, a serious illness, having to care for an elderly parent – suddenly changed their situation beyond their control.

As you may be aware, the Salvation Army closed its homeless shelter last year. That was the only shelter in the area. Catholic Charities has been filling in the gap with our emergency housing program, providing shelter and hotel rooms for homeless individuals and families.

Later this year we will be opening a new permanent shelter at 899 Bedford Street in Johnstown. We plan to run the shelter as an emergency shelter program, with the goal of getting those who stay there back up on their feet. People accepted into the shelter will be Cambria County residents. We will add this service while continuing to provide our other much-needed services, such as Emergency Funding Services (EFA).

What this means for the community

For the community, the shelter will mean fewer people living on the streets. It will mean that those who do need a place to regroup will now have somewhere to go. In a caring and non-judgmental environment, we are confident that people who stay in the shelter will leave with the tools they need to get to a better place.

It is only with the help of our faithful supporters that we have been able to make the shelter a reality. Thank you for your continued support in helping us fulfill our mission to provide service to those in need and to advocate for justice. We encourage all Catholics and all people to live justly and care for the poor in our local communities.

In Sincere Gratitude,

Jean D. Johnstone, Executive Director

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

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

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

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

Check enclosed, made payable to:
Catholic Charities

- or -

Donate online: www.catholiccharitiesaj.org

Please add me to upcoming
email communications:

Name: _____ Email: _____

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

1300 12th Avenue
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Altoona, PA 16603

Local Catholic Schools Support Catholic Charities

One of the unique aspects of Catholic education is the commitment to serving others and the community. Catholic Charities benefits every year from service projects at Catholic schools within the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese.

"We are so blessed by the extraordinary efforts of the young people at our local Catholic schools," said Executive Director Jean Johnstone. "We count on these students every year and they come through to support Catholic Charities with food and donation drives and other projects."

All four of the Catholic high schools—Bishop McCort in Johnstown, Bishop Carroll in Ebensburg, Bishop Guilfoyle in Altoona and St. Joseph's Catholic Academy in State College—undertake projects annually at key times of the year to support the mission of Catholic Charities.

Grade schools also offer their support through fundraisers, such as paid dress down days at St. John the Evangelist Catholic School in Bellefonte.

"Every Friday during the month of May our students each donated 50 cents to be able to dress down for the day," said Principal Kristina Tice. "At the end of the month, donations were given to our local office of Catholic Charities."

"Having an opportunity to directly support our community gives our students a chance to practice the Gospel values they are learning in class and at mass," said Mrs. Tice. "They are learning their responsibility to care for others according to Christ's teachings."



Students at St. John the Evangelist Catholic School in Bellefonte participated in \$0.50 dress down days on Fridays during the month of May to support their local office of Catholic Charities.

Celebrating Commitment to Helping Others

Each year, the Catholic Charities Recognition Dinner honors those who have shown exceptional commitment to serving the poor and most vulnerable people in our diocesan community.

We are blessed to award adults and youth who have demonstrated outstanding caring, generosity and humbleness in giving to others in need.

This year's Catholic Charities Recognition Dinner was held on June 4 at the Blairmont Club in Hollidaysburg.

There are two awards that are given to celebrate and honor the recipients. First is the Msgr. William M. Griffin Humanitarian Award, which is given to adults. Second is the Matthew 25

Youth Humanitarian Award that is awarded to school-aged children.

Clergy and community members nominate potential honorees based on specific criteria, such as the type of work they do and how long they have been doing it. The Catholic Charities Advisory Board then chooses who will be honored based on the nominees.

"We are really honoring people who inspire us in the work they do," says Jean Johnstone, Executive Director of Catholic Charities. "Our honorees have been helping those in need for many years, and in many capacities. Through their work they fulfill the call of the Gospel."



Pictured: Matthew 25 Youth Humanitarian Award Winners—Paul Enderle, Aubrey Vena, Teresa Smith, Bishop Mark Bartchak, Rachel Kwisnek, and Matthew Poorman, with Jean Johnstone

Need Help?
Call or visit a Catholic Charities location near you

Main Office Locations

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

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

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

Satellite Locations

Fulton Cty Catholic Mission
110 South Third Street
McConnellsburg, PA 17233
Phone: (717) 485-5917

Holy Spirit Parish
3 East Walnut Street
Lock Haven, PA 17745
Phone: (814) 472-3359

Dorothy Day Ctr
Saint Francis University
117 Evergreen Drive, P.O. Box 600
Loretto, PA 15940
Phone: (570) 748-4594

Family Life Office
5379 Portage Street
Lilly, PA 15938
Phone: (814) 886-5551

Visit us online
www.catholiccharitiesaj.org

Catholic Charities recently launched our new website to better reach those in need in our eight-county service area.

The website includes detailed information regarding Catholic Charities services:

- Emergency financial assistance (heat, housing, food)
- Foster care
- Adoption services
- Assistance to women in crisis pregnancies
- Individual, family, marital, and group counseling



Question Corner

**By Father Kenneth Doyle
Mary's Privilege**

Q. In a recent article on Our Lady in a well-known Catholic magazine, I was disturbed to read that the Blessed Mother was "saved retroactively from original sin" in view of the merits of Jesus Christ. I had always learned that, from the time of her conception, Mary was born without sin and already saved.

My knowledge of theology is admittedly limited so I could be wrong, but I find no reference to "retroactivity" in the church's official teaching. Was the author of the article taking liberties in defining dogma? (Prospect, Kentucky)

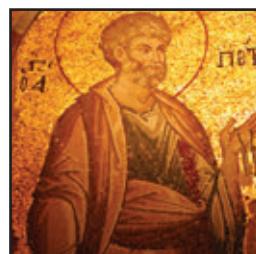
A. I agree with you, and you are correct. The Catholic Church does believe that Mary was free from all sin from the time she was conceived in the womb of her mother, St. Anne. The problem, in the magazine article you reference, would seem to come from the author's misuse of the word "retroactively."

The correct word might

have been "prospectively." As Pope Pius IX said, when proclaiming the dogma of the Immaculate Conception in 1854, "the most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin."

There was nothing "retroactive" about it: Mary's privilege happened first, before the death and resurrection of her son Jesus -- but it was an anticipatory privilege, granted in view of the (foreseen) merits of Christ's redemptive action.

I think you can feel assured that the author of the article does understand the teaching properly since, in the paragraph previous to the one you quote, he wrote: "This dogma of the Immaculate Conception teaches that from the moment of Mary's conception, which took place in the natural way between her parents Anne and Joachim, she



**Peter Chrysologus
Circa 380 - 450
Feast - July 30**

Born in northeastern Italy, Peter was a deacon before Emperor Valentinian III named him archbishop of Ravenna, capital of the Western empire, about 425. The empress heard his first sermon as bishop and became a patron regarding building projects and church reforms. Many of his sermons survive; they reveal good preparation, pastoral warmth and many details of Christian life in fifth-century Ravenna. Peter supported Pope Leo the Great's teaching on the Incarnation and counseled Eutyches of Constantinople to accept Rome's authority. He may later have been dubbed "chrysologus" (Greek for golden-worded) to give the Western church a preacher equal to John Chrysostom (golden-tongued) in the East. Peter was declared a doctor of the church in 1729.

© 2014 Catholic News Service

was uniquely preserved from the stain of original sin."

Q. Where we live in Virginia, we don't have many Catholic churches. For the four churches in our area, we have five priests and only one speaks understandable English. The other four are from Africa and speak with thick accents. We may catch one or two words in the homily, but that's all. Basically, we just sit there and get no teaching or inspiration. Is it possible for us to attend the Presbyterian church service instead? (Virginia)

A. No. Your obligation as a Catholic is to participate in the Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation, as you'll find in the Code of Canon Law, No. 1247. You would not fulfill that requirement by attendance at a Presbyterian service -- nor would you receive the immeasurable benefit of weekly Communion with Jesus through the Eucharist.

I do, however, sympathize with your plight. Hearing the word of God broken open in a homily is a vital part of the eucharistic experience -- and if you are regularly missing that, you are missing a lot.

So here are my suggestions. I think you should talk with your pastor and voice your concern -- ideally, along with a small group of like-minded parishioners.

Perhaps some accommodation could be made, such as having the homily written by the priest-celebrant read to the congregation by a lector, or, coupled with an oral delivery, having the homily text printed on the parish's website so that parishioners could read it later on.

My hope is that, eventually, there will be larger numbers of American young men entering the seminary. In the meantime, I am very grateful to priests from Africa and elsewhere who are coming to the U.S. to fill the gap. Without them, there would be far more U.S. Catholics without a weekly Sunday Mass.

Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at ask-fatherdoyle@gmail.com and 40 Hopewell St., Albany, N.Y. 12208.



For The Journey

**By Stephen Kent
Defining Our Relationship With God**

In Margaret Silf's book **Inner Compass, An Invitation To Ignatian Spirituality**, she asks a question at the heart of our relationship with God.

Her query: "Is your God a policeman or a midwife?"
I've had experiences with both.

Before I had children, a good friend asked me to be her birth coach for her second child. Her husband dutifully attended their first child's birth, passed out in the delivery room at the sight of blood and asked to be excused from attendance for the birth of son No. 2.

When the big day came, he and my husband stuck together while my friend and I headed to the "birthing room" in the hospital -- a quilt-filled, homey alternative to the more sterile delivery rooms. The midwife, a lovely woman who had helped countless women through the process, greeted us warmly.

Having never given birth, I dutifully used my textbook training to help my friend relax and "breathe." I offered ice, remained encouraging and took my responsibility seriously. I was fascinated by the process, knowing I'd probably experience it myself someday.

Labor was rapid and the baby came fast.

I will never forget how, when it appeared the baby was imminent, the midwife took charge. She got me out of her way. She was gentle but firm, assured but completely in control. She and my friend, who yielded to the midwife's direction, developed a rhythm and cadence that quickly guided the baby into the world.

I became a spectator at the beautiful dance of creation. The midwife was terrific, but without my friend's surrender and cooperation, things would not have moved so quickly and smoothly.

I can easily envision that midwife as a loving God yearning for my surrender, guiding my creativity.

Then I think of policemen. I have terrific respect for our first responders, but having been picked up a time or two for speeding, I can't say I love those close encounters with them. My last experience was several years ago when a policeman stopped me with just a warning for a minor infraction. I remember that my hands trembled as I handed him my insurance information.

Why? I recoil from reprimands from authority figures. I'm the oldest child, who always wanted to please the grown-ups. I don't like getting caught breaking a rule, and I certainly don't like paying a fine.

So, which one is my God? That's the important question. Is God keeping score, waiting to flag me down with lights flashing? Or is God the midwife waiting to gently guide me to give birth to whatever God has in store for me in the plan of creation?

Pope Francis has reminded us repeatedly that we have a merciful God who calls us to extend that mercy to others. Today I think Catholics would be more apt to say, God is the midwife.

But a deeper question for me is: Do I really live as if God is the midwife of my life? If I did, I'd live in joyful expectation, surrendering to God. I wouldn't spend my time beating up on myself for my failings but focusing instead on the creative things to which God continually invites me.

I would avoid the "me-centered" place where I am always finding fault with myself and instead reach out to God and others.

I would live in the happy anticipation of that birthing room, not in the fear and recrimination of the driver's seat, ready to be punished.

Is my God a policeman or a midwife? How I behave reflects what I really believe.



SEMINARIANS: Seminarians Peter Crowe (left) and Jonathan Dickson (right) assisted Deacon Michael Condor at the Mass for Vocations celebrated Sunday, July 13 at the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel in Loretto. Crowe and Dickson are serving in Summer parish assignments, before beginning their second year of theology studies in the Fall. Crowe is at Saint Peter Parish in Somerset, and Dickson at Our Lady of Victory Parish in State College.



Day Of Discernment A Positive Experience

(Continued From Page 1.)

Father Reese said some of the men he is talking to have simply called his office and asked for an appointment. "A few of the men at the Day of Discernment were there after a call like that," he said.

But, he said, a very important avenue of communication has been through the priests in the parishes throughout the Diocese's eight counties who will call him and say "There's a fellow in my parish who I think

might have a vocation. Why don't you tap him on the shoulder and give him a call."

When contact is made, Father Reese said he has a number of one - on - one conversations with the man, and will also advise him to seek out a spiritual director. Participation in events like the Day of Discernment give the young men the chance to interact with other men who are seeking to answer God's call.

Of the three men currently enrolled as seminarians for the Diocese, Father Reese said Dickson and Peter Crowe, both preparing to enter their second year of theology studies "are happy, spiritually healthy, and in a very good place." Dickson is studying at Saint Mary

DISCERNING: Bishop Mark L. Bartchak chats with two of the young men discerning a call to diocesan priesthood who attended the Sunday, July 13 Day of Discernment in Loretto. Following Mass, the discerners assisted the Bishop in passing out vocation prayer cards to the worshippers. Eight men took part in the event, said Father Matthew Reese, diocesan director of vocations.

Seminary and University in Baltimore, and Crowe at Saint Vincent Seminary in Latrobe.

The third seminarian, Michael Pleva, will begin his second year of collegiate studies at Saint Mark Seminary College and Pre - Theology Formation in Erie, this Fall. "He seems very positive," said Father Reese.

Crowe and Dickson have been assigned to parish placements this Summer. Crowe is ministering at Saint Peter Parish in Somerset, under the direction of Father Daniel O'Neill, and Dickson at Our Lady of Victory Parish in State College, under the supervision of Father Neil Daday.

Father Reese said the two men are involved in such typical pastoral work as visiting home-bound parishioners as ministers of Holy Communion, accompanying the pastor on hospital visitation, and attending meetings of such groups as the parish council and the finance council. "They are getting to explore the workings of a parish," Father Reese stated.

At the July 13 Mass, Bishop Mark spoke in his homily of the men now discerning their vocation.

"When I am in their presence I am encouraged by their faith and their love for God and His Church." He told the congregation "We need young men with their energy, their enthusiasm, their courage and their faith."

The Bishop spoke of his certainty that "The Holy Spirit is whispering to young people 'God needs and wants you in His service.'" He said that he is certain, too, that young men considering the priesthood, and young women who are interested in consecrated religious life "are aware of the challenges facing the Church today, and are still willing to consider giving their lives to God, so that the seeds of faith will not blow away in the wind, but will bloom to the good of God's people."

Bishop Mark said that since the day he learned he had been named Bishop of Altoona - Johnstown, he has been praying to the Servant of God Demetrios Gallitzin for an increase of vocations in the local Church, and attributes the number of young people expressing an interest in a vocation to Father Gallitzin's intercession."

He noted as evidence that the three seminarians studying for the Diocese today "are three times as many seminarians as we had when I came here!"

Although not the sort of miracle usually thought of as proof of sanctity in a Canonization process, Bishop Mark said the increased interest in religious vocations among area youth is miraculous in the sense that "a miracle is a sign of God's saving presence in our midst."

"I am very encouraged," he said.

Bishop Mark asked everyone at Mass to work for an increase of vocations by prayer and good example, and by offering words of encouragement and support to young people who show signs of a vocation. He asked them to stop at Father Gallitzin's tomb as they left the Basilica and to offer a prayer for vocations, "and make that prayer a part of your daily prayer."

And as the wind and rain came to an end as Mass progressed, and a feeble sunlight broke through the crowds, who could doubt that those prayers would be answered?



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Study Says College Choices Can Steer Men Toward Thinking About Vocation To Priesthood

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS)

-- The college experience -- and the Catholic college experience, especially -- can influence a young man's decision toward considering a priestly vocation, according to a study issued in early July by Boston College.

Among the factors that have helped sway a man's decision to enter priestly life are access to clergy at the college as well as access to the Mass and other elements of Catholic life.

"College Experience and Priesthood" distills a Boston college-hosted summit last year on priestly vocations, as well as research conducted in 2012 by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University in Washington. Both Boston College and Georgetown are Jesuit-run institutions.

In January 2012, Boston College and the Jesuit Conference USA commissioned CARA to assess the impact of Catholic higher education on the vocational discernment of men entering the seminary and religious life in the United States in an effort to identify what led them to the seminary and/or eventual ordination.

At the summit, attended by about 90 people, including bishops and university leaders from around the country, participants were urged to develop a consistent framework for inviting young men to consider the priesthood.

"It really starts with us who are clergy and vowed religious," said Jesuit Father William Leahy, Boston College's president, in an address during the summit. "There is nothing as powerful as happy, fulfilled priests and religious. That is contagious. That attracts. If we are not happy, fulfilled, ready to recruit others, they will not follow us. We know that as a group, priests are happy in their ministry."

Father Leahy urged the establishment of priesthood support groups on Catholic college campuses.

"These are often led by the president, lending certain seriousness to the effort, but they could also be led by a campus minister or a faculty member," he said. "Students who are thinking about priesthood often feel isolated. If they can be part of a group that meets once a month, have time for prayer and conversation, and hear the vocation stories of others, they will feel encouraged, and can confirm a sense of direction."

Like baseball scouts, Father Leahy said, "we need people who will identify individuals who have talent, inclination, and desire, who can be pointed in the direction of priesthood and religious life."

Seminary enrollment peaked 50 years ago at about 47,000, took a steep dive in the decade that followed, and continued a steady decline until the mid-1990s and appears to have leveled off since then to just over 5,000 students.

Not all who are enrolled at seminaries, though, are ordained to the priesthood. "We need about 200 more ordinations per year to return to stability," said Mark Gray of CARA at the summit.

While about 7 percent of the U.S. Catholic population attended a Catholic college, 44 percent of ordinands did, according to research by CARA.

Gray profiled those who pursue a priestly vocation as having been active in a parish youth group, attended a Catholic high school, encouraged to consider vocation by one or more people, personally knew clergy and religious, and attended a World Youth Day or a National Catholic Youth Conference. He added high school is the period when many young men report thinking seriously about priesthood, and that college seems to be an "amplifier" to these earlier experiences.



Photo By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein

SEMINARIANS AT PRAYER: Diocesan seminarians Peter Crowe (left) and Jonathan Dickson bow their heads in prayer during a Sunday, July 13 Mass for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood at the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel in Loretto.

Priests who went to Catholic colleges engaged in more of every kind of spiritual practice than those who went to non-Catholic colleges except for Bible study. Majorities of those attending Catholic colleges reported participating in the rosary, eucharistic adoration, other individual prayer, the Liturgy of the Hours, Bible study and Holy Hours.

According to CARA, 91 percent of ordinands who went to Catholic colleges had daily Mass easily available to them, compared to 49 percent of those who had attended non-Catholic colleges. "Many at non-Catholic campuses had to go off campus to attend Mass," Gray said.

"Those who attended Catholic colleges were much more likely to encounter priests, brothers and sisters. Of particular note is that 88 percent of them had a priest as a professor, in contrast to only 18 percent of those at non-Catholic colleges," he added.

"Friends and roommates are also reported to be influential in vocational discernment,"

in their vocation discernment and choice."

For bishops and religious superiors, diocesan and religious order vocation directors, college presidents, mission officers, leaders in student affairs, and directors of campus ministry, "a strategy for encouraging vocations to the priesthood must be a collaborative endeavor among these leaders in the church today," the report said.

One bishop at the summit "described how his diocese took on a seminarian's (student) debt with the understanding that the young man would pay it off if he chose not to continue to ordination," the report said. "This and other strategies may assuage the concerns of those who delay ordination due to student debt."

Letrent's
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Educator

(Continued From Page 16.)

Jo - Ann will miss her colleagues and the day - to - day interaction with the children. "I'll miss Central Cambria in a lot of ways. My life was there. I'll miss the kids because they've been the driving force for all of these years," she said.

Semko is a person who likes to get involved and by her own admission is a "hands - on" administrator. "I'll be active in the schools - - you'll see me. I've always loved what I've done as a career, my vocation," she reiterated. "I look forward to many more years serving the Diocese."

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BASILICA: The Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel Parish, Loretto, celebrated Confirmation on Saturday, April 26 and First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 3. Pictured above are (left to right) First row: Amelia Stevens, Marie Wyland, Miranda Reed, Abby Kelly, Jeane McMullen, Madison Krug, Abby Link, Amanda Chumrik, Lindsay Miller, Allison Farabaugh. Second row: Michael Eckenrode, Austin Bex, Shane Adams, Isaac Will, Matthew Harrington, Will Guzic, Zachary Mock, Zane Itle, Vincent Byrne, Jacob Letizia, Garrett Sutton and Monsignor Timothy Swope (pastor). Not pictured are Kaitlyn Meck and Will Seymour. Pictured at left are (left to right) First row: James Beiswenger, Leah Shoemaker, Abby Lee, Alyssa Ropp, Colleen Barnett, Kayden McMullen, Madison Farabaugh. Second row: Mark Mento, Billy Krug, Ariane Ackenrode, Braden Wherry, Travis Adams, Olivia Dzaibo, Alaina Toth. Third row: Trevor Fahr, Josh Corcoran, Carter McDermott, Alec Kubat, Joshua Stolarski, Sienna Bianconi, Sam Wirlf, Tara Buck. Third row: Julie Little, Monsignor Swope and Sarah Steinbugl.

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Fr. Jonathan St. André, TOR

Monday, July 28—"Evangelization"

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SAINT JOSEPH, PORTAGE: Saint Joseph Parish, Portage, celebrated Confirmation on Friday, April 25 and First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 10. Pictured at left are (left to right) First row: Katie Seder, Paisley Zetak, Kara Pyo, Hannah Ernest. Second row: Third Order Regular Franciscan Father Andrew Draper (pastor), Francis Fordick, Ashely McGough, Elizabeth Cronauer, Carmelite of the Word Sister Nancy Spence (Confirmation director and director of religious education). Third row: Nicodemus Usry, Lance Skutch, Hunter Wright and Richard Wolford. Pictured at right are (left to right) First row: Charlotte Meloti, Ashlyn Hudak, Louis Kordish, Kaitlyn Noble, Robert Litzinger, Lucy Herald, Cody Secriskey. Second row: Kristyn Smith (server), Emma Gressick, Tyler Vinglas, Trissa Smith, Annelise Davis, Brennan Heidler, Sister Nancy, Lauren Hudak (server). Third row: Father Draper, Jada Willinsky, Eric Stauski, Skylar Scarton and Paige Phillips.



SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST: Saint John the Baptist Parish, Summerhill, celebrated Confirmation on Thursday, April 24 and First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 3. Pictured at left are (left to right) First row: Rebecca Muchuk, Kayla Gabany, Renee Wurfel, Makenna Baumgardner, Amanda Kulback. Second row: Benedictine Father Leon Hont (pastor), Abigail Long, Alyssa Gall, Luke McCormick, Derek Makin, Dominic Eppley, Jonathan Knobloch (Confirmation director). Third row: Joseph Long, Logan Madison, Joseph Donoughe and Derek Thomas. Pictured at right are (left to right) First row: Maria Felix, Jacob Poldiak, Benjamin Harteis, Jayden Partsch, Anna Burkey. Second row: Shawn Ray (catechist), Father Hont. Not pictured: Samuel Beyer.



SAINT JOHN GUALBERT: Celebrating First Holy Communion (photo at left) at Saint John Gualbert Cathedral Parish, Johnstown, were (left to right) First row: Father James F. Crookston (rector), Mia Scaletta, Alexandria Otero, Samantha Slippy, Cheyenne Doell. Second row: Jenna Paratore (assistant catechist), Joseph Gustkey, Brody Doell, Ben McCombie, and Nancy Sottile (catechist). Celebrating Confirmation (photo at right) were (left to right) First row: Kathleen Schutte, Kara Gvozden, Anastazia Hall, Britani Hauger. Second row: Father Crookston, Adrienne Kuhar, Anthony Kamler and Kaitlyn Leech.

Now Showing

With Friends' Help, Singer With Parkinson's Still Able To Make Music

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS)

-- Grace Griffith, a vocalist who has had Parkinson's disease since 1996, announced in 2003 that she was making her swan song from the stage.

But life goes on, however bumpy the ride for the Catholic singer.

Since 2003, she has released three other albums, including her latest, "Passing Through." Now diagnosed with "Parkinson's Plus" -- Parkinson's disease and dementia -- the

58-year-old Griffith would go to a friend's recording studio on Saturdays to complete the vocal tracks, even if it resulted in only two usable lines for one song during the session.

"It's kind of a miracle that it was even able to happen," said Marcy Marxer, a friend and fellow musician who produced Griffith's earlier albums. "It sounds beautiful. She's proud of it."

Over her career, Griffith has received multiple Wammies from the Washington Area Music Association for her folk and Celtic music and has performed on the global stage.

But her condition has deteriorated. She's moved into an assisted living center and her speech is not always intelligible, according to Marxer. "But she sings out strong."

A new speech therapy regimen designed for those with Parkinson's has shown fine results, but Griffith's health coverage pays for only 30 therapy sessions during a calendar year, "and those were used up by the end of February," Marxer told Catholic News Service from her Maryland home, which is across the street from Griffith's assisted living center. "Anyone in the Medicare system will experience the same thing."

To help pay for Griffith's physical, occupational and speech therapy sessions, a benefit concert will take place July 20 in the Washington suburb of Alexandria, Virginia. Combined with a tribute to Griffith and a CD release party, it will feature 20 of the area's finest musicians, including Tom Paxton. Griffith will sing, but others will step to the microphone and take over when she needs to rest.

Contributions to help defray the cost of Griffith's care also can be made by sending a check made out to Grace Griffith and mailed to her c/o Community Music, P.O. Box 461, Kensington, MD 20895. Marxer said efforts are underway to allow for online giving to help pay Griffith's bills. The singer has a Facebook page that includes information on the concert.

In a 2010 interview with CNS, Griffith described how she admired the way Pope John Paul II dealt with his Parkinson's. "The first thing I felt was pity and sympathy" and "the second, honestly, was admiration," she said. "It's not an easy thing to deal with and I wouldn't wish it on anyone."

"In a way, I was grateful that he was in a position -- a public position, very public -- and he chose to continue that as long as he could," the singer added. "A lot of times when you have Parkinson's, it's easy to drop out. Him having the spiritual strength and resources and people to help him around helps, but he also had to be a fairly

The concert hall can seat 500. Already, 20 are reserved for other residents of the assisted living center. Marxer described the upcoming concert as "a love fest. She deserves it, and she's given a lot to the Washington community. This is a chance for the community to give back."

One beneficiary of her help was Eva Cassidy, another Washington-area chanteuse who died of cancer in 1996. Griffith sent some Cassidy tapes to her label, Blix Street Records. The label loved the music, but Cassidy died before Blix Street could release any of the recordings. Still, seven CDs have charted in England, and Cassidy posthumously garnered No. 1 on both the U.K. and U.S. charts with 1998's "Songbird."

Blix Street is a small label with a small artist roster. Griffith "didn't know that if she sent Eva's stuff, that her own stuff would sit on the shelf for a few years -- but I did," Marxer said.

Marxer said Griffith "had a look of sophistication much like Eva Cassidy" when the two first met some 30 years ago as they were recording background vocals at a late-night recording session.

"I pulled a piece of chocolate out of my pack. It was 2 o'clock in the morning and I was dragging," Marxer recalled. "And Grace said, 'That's mine!' and I said, 'No, it's not,' and she wrestled me down to the ground and took it, and we've been friends ever since."



CNS Photo/Courtesy Sharon Weisz,
W3 Public Relations

GRACE GRIFFITH

Over her career, Griffith has received multiple Wammies from the Washington Area Music Association for her folk and Celtic music and has performed on the global stage.

courageous person to soldier on as he did."

Griffith checked in at a hospital recently, reluctantly taking the advice of nurse that doing so would allow her medications to be adjusted so as to improve her health. "After a month I've seen improvement every few days," Marxer said. "She's doing better now than she has in years."

Coming Up On 'Proclaim!'

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

August 3 - - Monsignor Michael Becker, Pastor of Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Altoona and Diocesan coordinator of campus ministry, will preview the Bishop's upcoming Mass for students entering or returning to college.

August 10 - - Jacob Steinbugl, a member of Saint Mary (Immaculate Conception) Parish in Altoona, will discuss his "20 Under 40" honor from a local newspaper.

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**Father Christian R. Oravec
T.O.R.**

Father Christian R. Oravec, 77, of the Third Order Regular Franciscan Friars of the Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Loretto, died suddenly Saturday, July 19, at Conemaugh Hospital, Johnstown.

He was born July 13, 1937 in Johnstown son of the late Andrew G. and Gabriella T. (Kavacic) Oravec and given the name Robert. He was a graduate of Morell and Bheam Elementary Schools, Johnstown, Garfield Junior High School, Johnstown and Johnstown Central High School, 1955.

After high school graduation he entered the Third Order Regular on September 8, 1955 in Loretto. He entered the novitiate at Portiuncula Friary, Washington, DC on June 30, 1956, and made his first profession of vows on July 1, 1957. He pronounced his solemn vows on July 1, 1960 at Mt. Assisi Friary, Loretto.

Father Christian was ordained to the priesthood by the late Bishop J. Carroll McCormick, D.D. of the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown, at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona, on May 23, 1964.

Father Christian received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy from Saint Francis University, Loretto, 1960; Theological studies, Saint Francis Seminary, Loretto, 1964; graduate studies, the Catholic Univer-

sity of America, Washington, D.C. He did graduate studies at the University of Paris, France. He received a Baccalaureate, Universite de Louvain, Belgium, 1965; Licentiate Universite de Louvain, Belgium, 1967; Doctorate, Universite de Louvain, Belgium, with the doctoral dissertation The Ecclesiology of Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Exposition, Evolution, Analysis, 1969.

For over half a century Father Christian was a faithful son of Saint Francis; a renowned educator and a respected business and civic leader. He was professor of Dogmatic and Systematic Theology, Saint Francis Seminary, Loretto, 1969 - 1976; Director of Postulants of the Third Order Regular, 1970 - 1976; Executive Vice - President, Saint Francis University 1976 - 1977; President of Saint Francis University, 1977 - 2004.

He was elected to the Provincial Council four times and served sixteen years. He was Minister Provincial for two terms, and served eight years. He was Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Saint Francis University, Loretto, 2004 - 2012; Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, 2004 - 2012. At the present time, he was Director of Provincial Archives and served on the faculty of Saint Francis University.

With his very busy schedule, Father Christian made time to minister to the people of God. After ordination, while studying in Europe, he ministered at St. Josef Church, Vienna, Austria; Bon Pasteur Hospital, Paris, France; Joannes Hover Haus, Aachen, Germany; U.S. Army and Air Force bases in Germany and at Louvain and Brussels, Belgium. After returning to this country, he gave pastoral assistance at St. John Vianney Parish, Mundys Corner; Good Shepherd Parish, State College; as well as ministering in several local convents. He gave retreats and days of recollection in Franciscan communities, in Dioceses, at parishes and military bases.

He was involved in ecumenical ministry and was guest preacher for Baptist, Presbyterian, Meth-

odist and Lutheran congregations.

Father Christian served on several boards and councils for the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown, including the commission for the Beatification of Servant of God Father Demetrios Gallitzin. He served on numerous boards including the Board of Trustees, Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art, Loretto; Board of Directors AmeriServ Financial Bank, Johnstown; Community Relations Board, Vice Chairman, Federal Correctional Institution, Loretto; Steering Committee, Celebrate One (annual Ecumenical Christian Service.) He was chairman of accreditation teams, Commission of Higher Education, Middle States Association of Colleges and Universities and Chairman of Division I Certification Teams, National Collegiate Athletic Association.

Father Christian received many awards during his life, including Doctor of Pedagogy Degree, honoris causa, Franciscan University of Steubenville, 1983; Master of the Order, Third Order Regular, 1997; Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Cross, Pope John Paul II, 2001; Prince Gallitzin Cross, Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown, 2002; and President Emeritus, Saint Francis University, Board of Trustees, 2006.

Father Christian is survived by his sister, Theresa Rose Grandinetti; and his brother and sister-in-law Anthony Andrew and Marion Domenick Oravec, Johnstown; nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews, and great-great nieces and great-great nephews, great-great-great nieces and great-great-great nephews; and his Franciscan brothers. He was preceded in death by four sisters: Sue Hammer, Kathryn Krumenacker, Mary Gordian and Elizabeth Kuchenbrod.

Father Richard L. Davis, minister provincial, was principal celebrant of the funeral Mass for Father Christian R. Oravec T.O.R., celebrated Wednesday, July 23 at the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception on the campus of Saint Francis University. Committal was in the Friars' Cemetery on campus.

Memorial contributions may be made to support retired T.O.R. Friars in care of T.O.R. 15940 Retirement Fund, Saint Francis Friary, P.O. Box 137, Loretto PA

In The Alleghenies

(Continued From Page 6.)

Higher Education

New Adult Learner Degrees

Loretto: Saint Francis University's Adult Degree & Continuing Studies (ADCS) program is offering two new degrees that will begin with the fall 2014 semester. The bachelor of science in health studies and the bachelor of science in behavioral science degrees will be offered online, with on-site classroom learning available.

The bachelor of science in health studies degree will prepare students for employment and training in the health care industry. Students will gain essential knowledge in biology, chemistry, and medical terminology to build a strong founda-

tion for healthcare careers.

Those who choose to pursue the bachelor of science in behavioral science degree will learn about taking a human approach to solving social and mental health issues that exist in our communities. Graduates of this program will work to improve their clients' mental and emotional well-being, help manage cases, and provide rehabilitative services.

Both programs offer generous transfer of credits, customized curriculum, and accelerated degree options. Discounted courses, financial aid, and tuition deferment is available.

For more information, application materials, and advising visit francis.edu/adcs or contact Adult Degree & Continuing Studies at 814-472-3012 or oce@francis.edu.



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12:00 – 2:30 Music by Bill Venet's Cash Review, Silver Anniv Show
3:00 – 9:00 Wine Tasting with B&L Wine Cellars
3:00 – 4:00 Music by Jerry Intihar
4:45 – 5:30 Jerry Intihar
5:30 – 6:00 Chainsaw Carving Demo with Mark Keyser
6:00 – 9:00 Music by Clay Bowser

Sunday, August 10

Booths Open 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm

11:30 – 1:30 Chicken BBQ Dinner Advance tickets are recommended and available at Rectory (814) 288-4324
12:00 Car Cruise; weather pending, first 50 show cars receive plaque
12:00 – 6:00 Wine Tasting with B&L Wine Cellars
11:30 – 2:30 Music by Rosie & The Jammers
3:00 – 6:00 Music by The Runaways Band
5:00 Basket Raffle Drawings Begin
6:00 Cash & Gas Raffle Drawing

Veteran Educator Assumes Leadership Position In Diocese's Catholic Schools

Jo - Ann Semko New Assistant Director Of Education

By Bruce A. Tomaselli

After spending a little time with Jo - Ann Semko the notion suddenly washes over you that, "Geez, I'm glad she's on our team."

Semko began her new ministry as assistant director of education for the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese on Monday, July 7.

Make no mistake, education is her ministry. "I've always looked at my career in education as my vocation," the Colver native explained of her dedication to young people.

A resident of Ebensburg, Semko has taught the third grade class at Central Cambria Elementary School for the past 20 years. Her vocation at Central Cambria officially came to an end on July 28.

She is a member of Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Lakemont, Altoona; where she is past president of parish council; works with the Social Committee; is a lector and extraordinary minister of the Eucharist.

Semko has also been co - director of the Cursillo Movement for the past eight years; and was the director of the Teens Encounter Christ program.

Her educational experience is diverse. She was chief negotiator for the Central Cambria Education Association, and president of the Teacher's Union for the past seven years. That's just two of a long list of academic experiences.

For the past 20 years she has participated in the Pennsylvania Leadership Workshop in Gettysburg, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Education Association. There she studied grievance procedures, contract negotiation, leadership, and communication. That opportunity enabled to her to network across the state.

"I've dealt with everything in education from the nitty - gritty to the good, the bad, and the ugly," smiled Semko. "I've sat on both side of the educational table."

Her father is deceased and her mom, Genie, who remains in Colver, recently had open heart surgery and is doing very well. Semko said her mom who is very excited about her new posi-



JO - ANN SEMKO

tion with the Diocese.

Her sisters, Janet Hoover of Colver, and Karen Mazzarella of Ebensburg, are also teachers. A brother, George is an accountant

in Connecticut. Another brother is deceased. Semko said her parents were very proud that they were able to provide an opportunity for all of their children

to obtain a college degree. That was one of their priorities.

Jo - Ann is also vice - president of the Ebensburg Bishop Carroll Catholic High School board of trustees; and chair - person of the Academic Program for the school and the International Exchange Student Program.

She is president of the board of directors for the Appalachian Youth Service, which mentors court appointed male students, as well as an alternative education program that serves various school districts, which includes both boys and girls.

Semko has completed all of her course work for her doctorate in Education Administration and Leadership at Pennsylvania State University. She received her master's degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania; and a bachelor of Elementary Education at Saint Francis University.

In addition, Semko has both her Elementary and Secondary Principal Education Papers; and her Letter of Eligibility to work as a superintendent. The list of her educational achievements is lengthy, and she says, with a smile, that she's been taking classes since she was five years old.

(Continued On Page 11.)

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