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Saint Francis President Happy With, Challenged By New Position At University

By Bruce A. Tomaselli

Like a coming - of - age story, Fred and Barbara Van Tassell's oldest son wandered from his Poughkeepsie, New York home, to find an equally warm and welcoming small town in Pennsylvania.

"I feel like this is my home. I'm very happy to live in Loretto, and I consider myself an adopted son of Cambria County," said Third Order Regular Franciscan Father Malachi Van Tassell, the newest president of Saint Francis University (S.F.U.).

He is definitely woven into the fabric of his Loretto community. He served as Chaplain and Deputy Chief of the Loretto Volunteer Fire Company for 10 years, as well as a captain in the Emergency Medical Service (E.M.S.). "This is a bitter sweet time for me," reflected Father Malachi. "I'm so honored to be president of the college, but it will not allow me the time to continue with the fire company and other community activities."

Father Malachi assumed the office of president of S.F.U. on May 12. His official inauguration took place on October 4, the feast of Saint Francis.

Saint Francis University has

always had a strong bond with the Loretto community, and he feels his work with the fire company and Saint Francis creates a dovetail between the two. "I'm excited with our relationship," he said. "We have already accomplished a lot together as evidenced by the Streetscape Project."

The \$2.3 million revitalization project in the Borough of Loretto was completed in 2008. The final phase was the \$600,000 Streetscape Project, of which \$200,000 provided for trees and new decorative street lamps. The lamps are modeled after the originals on the Charles Schwab estate.

He's undaunted in his new role. "I have no reservations about assuming the presidency," he said in a telephone interview. "I believe this is the right thing at the right time in my life." He feels his previous business experience has him prepared for the task.

Along the way to Loretto, Father Malachi worked as a certified public accountant in Phoenix, Arizona, and as a tax accountant in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

He was ordained to the priesthood in 2004, after professed his vows as a Franciscan in 1999. Father Malachi has a Ph.D. in Higher Education and

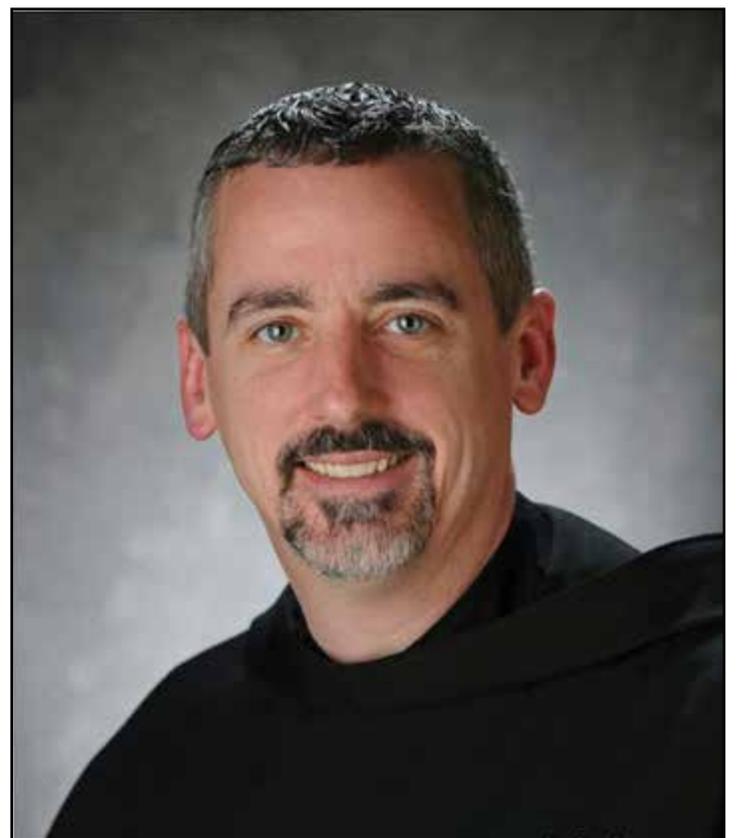
Leadership from Capella University, and a master's degree in Taxation from Arizona State University. He attained an undergraduate degree in Accounting and Spanish from Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio.

Prior to accepting the S.F.U. presidency, Father Malachi worked 12 years as an adjunct assistant professor of accounting at Saint Francis and served as the treasurer and vicar provincial of the Franciscan Friars Sacred Heart Province. In addition, he has served as N.C.A. A. Faculty Athletics Representative and Campus Minister.

Also, he serves Franciscan University of Steubenville as a member of the Board of Trustees, as vice president of the Foundation Maria Thron Study Abroad program, and was recently appointed to the Board of Directors of the Association of Franciscan Colleges & Universities.

Being homegrown and a faculty member Father Malachi says "the transition has been smooth, and the faculty is excited about the new administration.

"Each administration has done a lot for the university. We will stay true to who we are as an institution, and follow the mission of the Franciscans. There are tough acts to follow,



FATHER MALACHI VAN TASSELL T.O.R.

but I inherited a great university. It's exciting."

Right now the university is in the middle of its capital campaign. Father Malachi said there are two major projects on the horizon. One, is to transform Schwab Hall into a state - of - the - art business college. The other is to convert Sullivan

Hall to house the entire school of Health and Science, and to equip it with state - of - the - art equipment.

"I'm very humbled and happy to be called to lead the university," Father Malachi said. "This is a great place to be and I look for a lot of good things to happen in the years to come."

Community

Pro - Life Conference

Loretto: “Do Not Delete: Defending Life At Risk In A Throwaway Culture” is a pro - life conference being held from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday November 15, at the John F. Kennedy Student Center at Saint Francis University.

This conference is sponsored by the Pro - Life Healthcare Alliance (PHA), a program of Human Life Alliance. The PHA is dedicated to promoting and developing concrete “pro-life healthcare” alternatives and advocating for those facing the grave consequences of healthcare rationing and unethical practices, especially those at risk of euthanasia and assisted suicide.

The conference is free of charge and an opportunity for care givers, medical personnel,

patient advocates and the pro - life community at large to get up to speed on the problems and grave risks facing not only the sick, vulnerable and the elderly, but also healthcare consumers in general in a rapidly changing healthcare system.

Admission is free. Register online at <http://www.pro-lifehealthcare.org> or by calling (651) 484 - 1040.

Panel On Pope Francis

Altoona: “Pope Francis: His Witness And The World’s Response,” will be the theme of a panel discussion to be held Tuesday, November 18 at Saint John the Evangelist Church in Lakemont, from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Bishop Mark L. Bartchak will be the keynote speaker, and Monsignor Michael A. Becker, pastor, will be the panel’s moderator.

The panel will include: Fa-



PRESIDENTS INSTALLED: (Top photo) Saint Vincent DePaul Society Diocesan Council Spiritual Advisor, Deacon Gary Gill (left) installs new Conference presidents, Mary Lou Peduzzi of Saint Catherine, Mount Union and Vinny Johnson, Saint Mary, Altoona at the Society’s Fall Presidents Meeting held at Bishop Carroll Catholic High School, Ebensburg. (Bottom photo) Richard Slavik (left) Prince of Peace Conference, Northern Cambria, was installed by Deacon Gill as new Diocesan Council president. Outgoing president, Vinny Johnson (right) assisted in the installation.

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ther Anthony G. Roeber, Saint Mary Orthodox Church, Johnstown; Bishop Michael Rhyne of the Allegheny Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Altoona; William Wallen, Altoona Jewish Federation; Rev. Kathy Kind, superintendent of the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church; and Rev. Cory Hartman, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Hollidaysburg.

Sponsored by the Ecumenical Conference of Greater Al-

toona, the panel is being held in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the publication of the Second Vatican Council’s “Decree On Ecumenism.”

The torch of promoting Christian unity and interfaith dialogue has been taken up anew by Pope Francis, whose witness to the call for unity among Christians and among world religious has not gone unnoticed. A commanding presence on the world stage, Pope Francis has captured the imagination and stirred the hearts of Christians

and non - Christians alike.

The evening’s presentations will open into a lively discussion of the impact which Pope Francis has made upon the local communities of faith.

(Continued On Page 3.)

**Saint Mary’s
 Christian Mothers -
 LCBA Branch 1290**

**27th Annual
 Fall Craft
 Fair**

November 8 - 9
Saturday 9 - 2
Sunday 9 - 1

**Saint Mary Memorial Hall
 1420 4th Avenue, Altoona**

***Fine Crafts* Bake Sale*
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In The Alleghenies



WALK FOR THE POOR: Pictured (left to right) are the organizers of the Saint Vincent DePaul Society Most Holy Trinity Conference, Huntingdon Walk for the Poor fundraiser, Michael Sulesky and Nicholas McKim, Most Holy Trinity parish and Sandy Bellucci and Dorothy Baron, Conference members. Michael and Nicholas, students at Huntingdon Area High School organized the fundraiser as their Senior Service Project. The Walk raised \$3,400.00 for the SVDP Conference.



FATIMA ANNIVERSARY ROSARY RALLY: A Rosary Rally was held in front of Saint Benedict Church, Johnstown on Saturday, October 11, commemorating the 97th anniversary of the last apparition of Our Lady of Fatima. The rally was one of approximately 12,000 gatherings held throughout the United States to mark the date.



Photo By Tony DeGol

PRO-LIFE BREAKFAST: Citizens Concerned for Human Life of Cambria and Somerset Counties sponsored its annual Pro - Life Breakfast on Saturday, October 18 at Holy Name Parish in Ebensburg. About 350 guests attended. The guest speaker was Dr. Alveda King, a pastoral associate and director of African - American Outreach for Priests for Life and Gospel of Life Ministries. She is the niece of the late civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King is pictured at left talking with Amy Kanich, Director of the Diocesan Family Life Office, before her presentation.

Saint Faustina's very personal encounters with Jesus have inspired a world - wide devotion to Christ's Divine Mercy.

A parallel modern story with the play offers audiences compelling connections to current moral issues. Audiences are calling the production a "wake - up call."

On Tuesday, November 18, two performances will be staged in Bishop McCort Catholic High School's Guzzi Performing Arts Center. A 12:05 p.m. performance will be a private matinee for Johnstown Catholic school

and religious education program students in grades 7 - 12. A performance for the public will be staged at 7:00 p.m.

Two performances will be staged Thursday, November 20 in the John F. Kennedy Student Center auditorium at Saint Francis University.

(Continued On Page 6.)

(Continued From Page 2.)

'Faustina' Drama Slated

Johnstown: "Faustina: Messenger Of Divine Mercy," a live theatrical performance, is scheduled for presentation at Bishop McCort Catholic High School on Tuesday, November 18, and at Saint Francis Univer-

sity in Loretto on Thursday, November 20.

"Faustina: Messenger Of Divine Mercy" is a live, one - woman drama performed by actress Maria Vargo and directed by Leonardo Defilippis of Saint Luke Productions. The show runs 90 minutes and is suitable for persons aged 13 and older. It will be a source of inspiration for young people.

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Point Of View

I could not believe it! As a friend read this email to me, I could feel cold chills run through my spine! "That's not true!" I said, "Why would someone write this about me when they hardly even know me?" "How can someone take something innocent and twist it into something so unkind?" Anger and deep hurt crossed my heart. I wanted to write back. I wanted to fire off a text. I wanted nothing more than to give her a piece of my mind.

Although, the content of her message was unkind, completely inappropriate and definitely not very Christian, I chose not to respond. To say I completely let it roll off my shoulders would be untruthful but I knew deep in my heart, if I played into this drama with my response, I would be opening another door for the devil to play his games. So I simply didn't respond. I held my tongue. I erased the message and with white knuckles, wanting to hold on to the hurt, I reluctantly released it to God. I thought to myself, "He needs to deal with her, not me!" The real truth to this story is this person's hurtful message had nothing to do with me but something in her life she needed to work on with God. I was a scape-goat. I guess due to the fact I am in ministry an easy target.

But instead of settling down with a mug of bitterness or drinking an ounce of un-forgiveness, I decided to purposely fill my cup with faith, encouragement and prayer. So where do I get my inspiration, to settle my restless soul? I go to my box,



Family Matters

By Amy Kanich
 Anyway!



as mentioned in my previous articles, the one with the pretty bow and pull out my "faith fillers." These faith fillers are those special verses, poems, stories or reflections I gathered over the years and have ready to access anytime I need a booster shot of faith.

In this box, I have numerous stories on faith, a prayers answered journal, my grandmother's prayer book, hand written notes from my family and friends and even dried flower petals preserved.

This box always holds something that nourishes me and for this particular hurtful situation, it provided exactly what I needed. Although, I read this reflection many times, this time the words on the page seem to come alive.

This reflection is called

"Anyway" written by one of our most beloved Catholic Saints, Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta. I share it now with you!

- People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.
- If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.
- If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies. Succeed anyway.
- If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you. Be honest and sincere anyway.
- What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight. Create anyway.
- If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous. Be happy anyway.
- The good you do today, will often be forgotten. Do good anyway.
- Give the best you have, and it will never be enough. Give your best anyway.

In the final analysis, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway. Thank you Lord, for giving me timely wisdom to realize this situation was not about me anyway! Help me Lord, to choose to Love anyway, even when it really hurts. Blessings!



Another Perspective

By Monsignor Timothy P. Stein
 Practical Mystics

My most recent pilgrimage to Italy came to an end Wednesday, October 15, when I celebrated Mass in the beautiful Romanesque Church of San Fedele in the lakeside city of Como. The present church dates to 1121, but sits on the site of an even earlier church. San Fedele is a jewel – like structure - - an inspiring place to celebrate the Eucharist.

San Fedele was but one stop on a twelve day tour of beautiful and inspiring sites up and down the Italian peninsula; the basilicas, shrines and holy places that are found on every corner of Rome and Vatican City; the vertigo – inducing heights of the Amalfi Coast highway; the charm of Sorrento; the splendor of the Island of Capri and the mountain – top town of Anacapri; the sacred and secular art of Florence; the quaint streets of Assisi where the spirit of Saint Francis and Saint Clare is still a living thing; the romance of Venice; the Alps towering above Como and Lugano. So much beauty, and so little time to appreciate it all! Each splendid view, each magnificent church, each breathtaking work of art invited me to lift my heart in praise to the Creator of all beauty.

Standing at the altar of San Fedele, I reminded the 20 pilgrims in our group that we were celebrating that day the memorial of Saint Teresa of Jesus, the great Spanish Saint of Avila, honored as a doctor of the Church and the reformer of the Carmelites. Saint Teresa of Jesus is remembered above all for being one of the greatest mystics in the history of the Church.

Saint Teresa, in her mystical experiences, saw much that was beautiful with the eyes of her soul and the eyes of her heart, just as we who had been on pilgrim had been privileged to see so much beauty with the eyes of the body. But, I told my fellow pilgrims, Teresa also recognized what was beautiful, noble and good in all that she saw with the eyes of her body. She was as much a mystic when traveling the highways and byways of Spain, establishing one convent after another, as when she was caught up in prayer in some quiet convent chapel. Teresa, I told them, was a most practical mystic.

Teresa had a great appreciation for all of God's gifts. It is recorded that she once scandalized some of her nuns by tucking in - - with great gusto - - to a dish of fowl. "When it's time to fast, I fast," she retorted, "and when it's time to partridge, I partridge." Like King David before the Ark, Teresa danced with joy before the Lord, keeping time with the castanets - - a veiled and habited flamenco dancer! And when her nuns tried to scale too quickly the heights of mystical contemplation, running off to the chapel at the very first chance, Madre Teresa brought them back down to earth with the reminder that "The Lord walks among the pots and pans," as she sent them back to finish their work in the kitchen.

Pilgrims, I told my traveling companions, also have to come back down to earth in a hurry when their trip to a far country comes to a close. All too soon we have to go back to the pots and pans, the computers and calculators, the desks and the counter tops that circumscribe the boundaries of our daily lives. If we can find in all that is ordinary, down – to – earth and mundane the same beauty that we found in great cathedrals and scenic wonders, if we can find the Lord walking among the pots and pans, then we can be very practical mystics, too.

For after all, the Lord's wonders are not found just in those places and things that lift us out of ourselves and draw our hearts, minds and souls so very easily to Him. He can be found in every circumstance, in every person, in every place of our daily lives. If we bring the eyes of our souls to the eyes of our bodies and let them look at life as a harmonious whole, we will be true sons and daughters of Saint Teresa of Jesus, practical mystics, thanking God for the beauty to be found in all things.

Ottawa Archbishop Reacts To Shooting

By Deborah Gyapong
Catholic News Service

OTTAWA, Ontario (CNS) -- Recalling the words of St. John Paul II, Ottawa Archbishop Terrence Prendergast called upon Canadians not to be afraid in the wake of the Oct. 22 shooting that left a Canadian soldier dead and forced lawmakers to barricade themselves inside their parliament offices.

In an email interview a day after the incident, Archbishop Prendergast noted that the violence occurred on the feast of St. John Paul and recalled the saint's first words when he was elected pope in 1978 were, "Don't be afraid! Open your hearts wide to Christ."

"These words apply most appropriately to this present moment in our life in the nation's capital, but they speak also to all Canadians," the archbishop wrote.

Authorities said a gunman killed Cpl. Nathan Cirillo, a member of the army reserves from Hamilton, Ontario, who was guarding the tomb of the unknown soldier at the National War Memorial blocks from parliament. The assailant, whom police identified as Michael Zehaf-Bibeau, made his way to the parliament where he fired multiple times before he was shot and killed.

"God is still the Lord of our lives and is at work in the hearts of the bystanders who attempted CPR, called the police and other first responders who showed themselves courageous in putting their lives at risk in a moment of crisis," Archbishop Prendergast said. "We have much to be grateful for. To live with moral certitude is to presume people mean me/us well and we should live out of that conviction."



CNS Photo/Cole Burston, EPA

EMBRACE AT WAR MEMORIAL: A couple embraces at the foot of the National War Memorial in Ottawa, Ontario, Thursday, October 23. Cpl. Nathan Cirillo, a Canadian soldier, was shot and killed the previous day while on duty at the memorial.

Settlement Reached With Brother Baker Abuse Victims

The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown announced Tuesday, October 21, that parties have reached a settlement with the victims of the late Brother Stephen Baker, a Third Order Regular Franciscan Friar from the Province of the Immaculate Conception, Hollidaysburg.

"The Diocese hopes that this outcome will allow the victims to seek counseling and find the healing and comfort they deserve," said Bishop Mark L. Bartchak.

"We continue to pray for them and all victims of sexual abuse."

In addition to the victims, parties to the settlement, but independent of the Diocese, are the Province of the Immaculate Conception of the Third Order Regular Franciscans and Bishop McCort Catholic High School, Johnstown.

The Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown takes this opportunity to remind everyone that child abuse and abuse of vulnerable adults should be reported to the appropriate civil authorities. Information and assistance is available from Carmelite of the Word Sister Marilyn Welch, Victims' Advocate, at (814) 886 - 4098.

Additional information concerning the Diocesan Youth Protection Policy and response can be found on the Diocesan website at www.dioceseaj.org.

Letters To The Editor

Appreciated Kent's Column

Dear Monsignor Stein

Thank you for the column "Consider This" by Stephen Kent in the **Register**. Please keep providing information along these lines.

I find too many people in this area who complain about taxes and see everyone on welfare as some sort of cheat. Certain widely - watched media outlets promote these attitudes. Thanks for a blow against this!

Sincerely,
Carolyn Brenner
Hollidaysburg

Waiting In Joyful Hope

Dear Monsignor. Stein,

I usually do not comment on articles in the newspaper but I just had to tell you how much I loved and appreciated your last column. You really hit the nail on the head with the "already but not yet" but even more so with you comments about "waiting in joyful hope".

I can so related to your thoughts here and how especially during the Mass we have moments when "we can touch heaven while standing here on earth: those moments when God seems so very very close". Those words that you wrote were truly inspired by the Holy Spirit.

I am going to share these thoughts with my grown children. I pray they can experience this when they are at Mass.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts in this column with us. I love reading them.

God bless.

Waiting in joyful hope,
Elaine Pellas

Religious Education

Dear Monsignor Stein,

I'll start this email by doing what I should have done earlier, and thank you for the "Perspective" you offer in the **Catholic Register**. Your column is one of my favorites! My (current) favorite favorite is "Welcome Back to Religious Education." (9/8/14) As an experienced Catechist and a new DRE, I greatly appreciate your sharing your thoughts and experience!

We will be celebrating National Parish Religious Education Week from Nov. 2-9. Along with encouraging excitement for religious education in our students and parishioners during this celebration, I hope to show our Catechists how much they are appreciated! May I please have your permission to reprint "Welcome Back to Religious Education," in our Sunday bulletin?

I thank you for your time, consideration and of course, your perspective.

May God Bless and Keep You,
Mandy Vigna, DRE
Saint Clement Parish, Johnstown

In The Alleghenies

(Continued From Page 3.)

University students, and students from Bishop Carroll Catholic High School in Ebensburg and Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School in Altoona, and students from grades 7 - 12 in parish religious education programs will attend the 10:00 a.m. performance, which

is also open to the general public. Another performance for the general public will take place at 7:00 p.m.

The play is coming to the Blair/Cambria Counties area through the efforts of Beth Britz of Hollidaysburg and Joan Helsel Stofko of Johnstown.

Tickets are needed for attendance, and a free - will of-



TEAM DONATES TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES: The Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School of Altoona's girls' volleyball team has donated \$1,000.00 to Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown. Accepting the donation was Jean Johnstone, executive director of Catholic Charities.

fering will be accepted at each performance.

Tickets for the Johnstown presentations are available at Johnstown parish offices, or by calling Joan Helsel Stofko at (814) 255 - 7356.

Tickets for the Loretto stagings may be obtained by calling the Saint Francis University Campus Ministry Office at (814) 472 - 3329, or the Hollidaysbug office of Britz & Associates at (814) 696 - 1100.

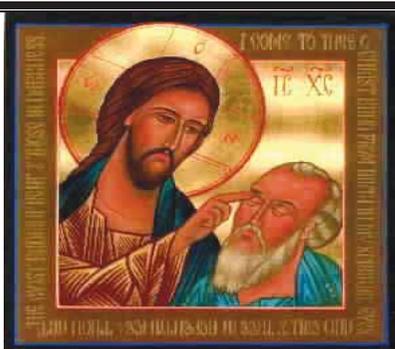
of tea (or coffee if you prefer). Sponsored by the Family Life Office, this "Morning Tea" will be held on the second Wednesday of every month starting November 12 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Family Life Office, 5379 Portage Street.

Reservations are required one week prior. Contact the Family Life Office at (814) 886 - 5551 or familylife@dioceseaj.org.

lic Charities of the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown.

Four BG seniors - - Natasha Rasmussen, Brynee Baughman, Nicole Kiser and Taylor Johnsonbaugh - - came up with the suggestion of donating the proceeds from the team's gift card raffle to Catholic Charities, following the suggestion of Pope Francis to help the less fortunate in our community.

"It was a special way for me to remember my senior year and to help those in need in our community with the help of our volleyball family, friends and fans," Baughman said.



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7:00 pm
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Altoona: The Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School girls' volleyball team presented a check for \$1,000.00 to Catho-

(Continued On Page 15.)



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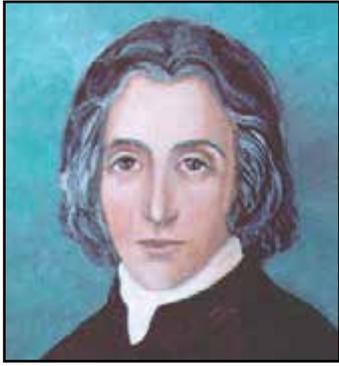
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November 9, 2014

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1770 - 1840

Pope Beatifies Blessed Paul VI, The 'Great Helmsman' Of Vatican II

By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Beatifying Blessed Paul VI at the concluding Mass of the Synod of Bishops on the fam-

ily, Pope Francis praised the late pope as the "great helmsman" of the Second Vatican Council and founder of the synod, as well as a "humble and prophetic witness of love for Christ and his church."

The pope spoke during a

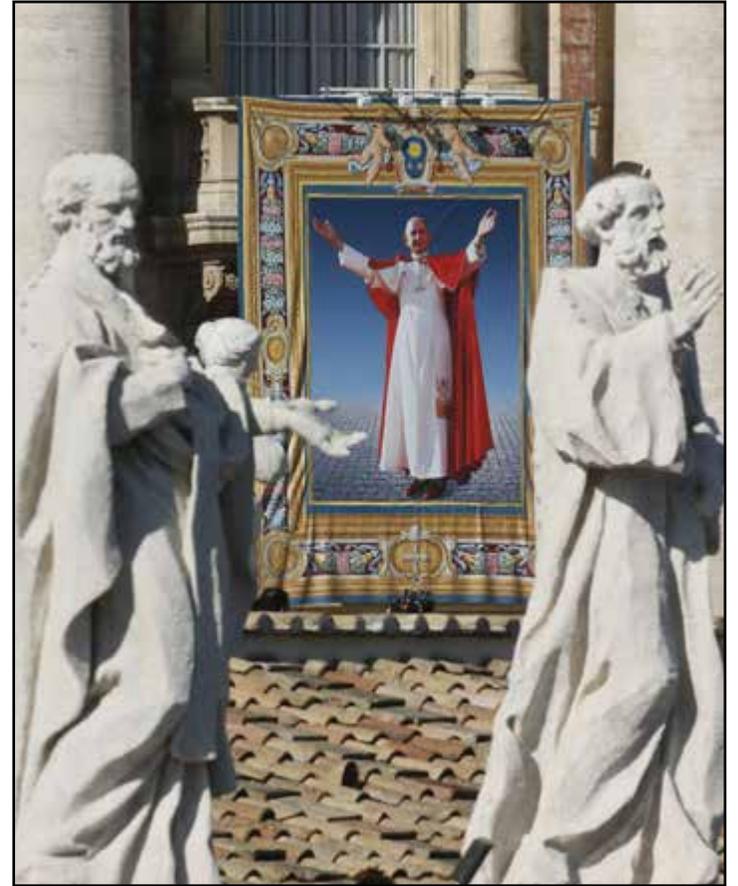
homily in St. Peter's Square at a Mass for more than 30,000 people, under a sunny sky on an unseasonably warm Oct. 19.

"When we look to this great pope, this courageous Christian, this tireless apostle, we cannot but say in the sight of God a word as simple as it is heartfelt and important: thanks," the pope said, drawing applause from the congregation, which included retired Pope Benedict, whom Blessed Paul made a cardinal in 1977.

"Facing the advent of a secularized and hostile society, (Blessed Paul) could hold fast, with farsightedness and wisdom -- and at times alone -- to the helm of the barque of Peter," Pope Francis said, in a possible allusion to "Humanae Vitae," the late pope's 1968 encyclical, which affirmed Catholic teaching against contraception amid widespread dissent.

The pope pronounced the rite of beatification at the start of the Mass. Then Sister Giacomina Pedrini, a member of the Sisters of Holy Child Mary, carried up a relic: a bloodstained vest Blessed Paul was wearing during a 1970 assassination attempt in the Philippines. Sister Pedrini is the last surviving nun who attended to Blessed Paul.

In his homily, Pope Francis did not explicitly mention "Humanae Vitae," the single achievement for which Blessed Paul is best known today. Instead, the pope highlighted his predecessor's work presiding



CNS Photo/Paul Haring

TAPESTRY: A tapestry of Blessed Paul VI hangs from the facade of Saint Peter's Basilica during his beatification Mass celebrated by Pope Francis in Saint Peter's Square at the Vatican Sunday, October 19. The Mass also concluded the extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the family.

Prayer For Father Gallitzin's Intercession

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

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

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

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

+ + +

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

over most of Vatican II and establishing the synod.

The pope quoted Blessed Paul's statement that he intended the synod to survey the "signs of the times" in order to adapt to the "growing needs of our time and the changing conditions of society."

Looking back on the two-week family synod, Pope Francis called it a "great experience," whose members had "felt the power of the Holy Spirit who constantly guides and renews the church."

The pope said the family synod demonstrated that "Christians look to the future, God's future ... and respond courageously to whatever new challenges come our way."

The synod, dedicated to "pastoral challenges of the family," touched on sensitive questions of sexual and medical ethics and how to reach out to people with ways of life contrary to Catholic teaching, including divorced and civilly remarried Catholics, cohabitating couples and those in same-sex unions.

"God is not afraid of new things," Pope Francis said. "That is why he is continually surprising us, opening our hearts and guiding us in unexpected ways. He renews us; he constantly makes us new."

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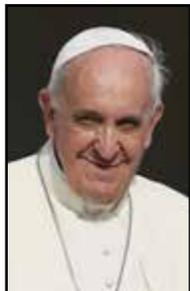
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Word of Life



The Pope Teaches

By Pope Francis

All Wars Begin In A Jealous Heart

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- All wars begin in the human heart -- a heart that is jealous and bitter and tears apart communities through misunderstandings and marginalization, Pope Francis said.

"How wonderful if we would remember more often who we are, what Jesus Christ did with us: We are his body," members of the church filled with the Holy Spirit's gift of new life in Christ and united in fellowship and love, he said at his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square Oct. 22.

The day also marked the feast day of St. John Paul II, who "invited everyone to open the doors to Christ," said Pope Francis, who had canonized the Polish pope in April.

As the church celebrated for the first time the memorial of St. John Paul, Pope Francis recalled how he "reminded the whole world of the mystery of divine mercy.

"May his spiritual legacy not be forgotten, but drive us to reflect and act concretely for the good of the church, the family and society," he said in a greeting to pilgrims from Poland.

In his main audience talk, the pope continued his catechesis on the nature of the Catholic Church, focusing on the church as body of Christ.

The pope told everyone that their homework for the day was to read Chapter 37 of the Book of Ezekiel and the "Vision of the Dry Bones," which, he said, offers a "striking" yet hope-filled image of God's power to join together and breathe new life into a dead and divided people.

Through baptism, Christians are made to be one with Christ creating "a masterpiece of the Spirit who instills in everyone a new life in the risen Christ and puts us next to each other, each one to serve and support the other, making all of us be one body edified in communion and love," he said.

This is "the great gift we receive on the day of our baptism," he said, to be joined together, conforming ourselves to Christ and sharing his love with each other "as living members of the same body."

However, it is not always easy for individual Christians and their communities to live in loving, respectful unity, he said.

Parishes, groups, even neighborhoods can be marked by "divisions, jealousies, misunderstandings and marginalization. All these things are not good because instead of edifying and making the church grow as the body of Christ, they shatter it into many pieces, they dismember it," he said.

Jealousy of other people's gifts and good fortune -- "that one bought a new car ... that one won the lottery" -- tears the community apart and damages the one who is filled with envy, he said.

"The jealousy builds up, builds and fills the heart, a jealous heart is acid," as if it were filled not with blood, but vinegar, making the person always be unhappy, he said.

"It is the beginning of war. War does not begin in the battlefield. Wars begin in the heart," he said.



ONE MORE TIME: While attending the September 14, 1975 canonization of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton at the Vatican, Bishop James J. Hogan was received in audience by Pope Paul VI, who had named him Bishop of Altoona - Johnstown in 1966. Pope Paul VI, who served as pontiff from 1963 - 1978, was beatified by Pope Francis on Sunday, October 19.

Family caregivers don't solely need hands-on training. They need "hearts-on" training, too.

It becomes clearer and clearer that love demands action and that it calls for repeated effort and self-sacrifice. At times, it seems that caring for another person is akin to going to boot camp.

With that in mind, there is a lot to consider if you're caring for a loved one. Sometimes you may find yourself asking, "Why is this so hard for me to do?" Though each family's circumstance and situation are unique, caregiving is hard for every caregiver, perhaps not all the time, but everyone experiences difficulties.

That's true whether your duties have increased over time or whether they suddenly landed on top of you in a heap.

No caregiver feels like an expert. None is free from caregiver guilt. Every caregiver wants to be better at it. Every caregiver feels as if they're not doing enough, or they're not doing it right, or feels as if they don't know what they're doing at all. Caregiving often means learning about things you never wanted to know about, such as a disease, an injury, about declin-



Your Family

By Bill Dodds
Learning To Be A Caregiver

ing health, dementia, hospice, death.

Others may see you as an "expert" on dialysis or Parkinson's disease or heart surgery or whatever disease your loved one is dealing with. You wish you were blissfully ignorant.

It can take practice to balance getting information about your loved one's health issues without becoming almost obsessed with worst-case scenarios. It can take patience when others who know nothing about the situation you are dealing with strongly offer their opinions or snake-oil remedies.

A caregiver's life can seem filled with highs and lows. You'll experience the joy of your loved one's good test report, new skill or return home after a hospital stay. But you'll also experience the fear and sadness when test reports bring bad news, when a lifelong ability is lost, when

there's a need to take the person you care for back to the hospital or move him or her to a nursing home.

There's a difference between selfishness and self-care. Taking care of yourself isn't selfish. Taking a break on a regular basis makes you a better caregiver. Taking care of yourself helps you to be the caregiver you really want to be.

Caregiving can mean focusing on the present, concentrating on what needs to be done today, not thinking about tomorrow. You have to pause and appreciate small things, such as the fact that your loved one still recognizes you, knows your name, that you can hold hands or that the new medicine seems to be working.

During all of it, hang on to your faith. It is a gift from God that you can choose to use even when God seems distant.



Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle
Who Can Give A Blessing?

Q. At a family discussion, the following question came up: Can anyone other than a priest or deacon do a Catholic blessing? (Baltimore)

A. As your question would suggest, aside from certain blessings reserved to a bishop (e.g., the consecration of the sacramental oils at the chrism Mass during Holy Week), it is a priest who normally imparts a Catholic blessing.

Certain blessings also are entrusted to deacons -- at rites where a deacon is presiding, such as a baptism, a wedding ceremony or the distribution of holy Communion outside of Mass. But many blessings are done properly -- and perhaps more appropriately -- by laypeople.

The most common example is the blessing of food before a meal, which many families do each evening around the dinner table.

The church's Book of Blessings lists several other blessings

that are normally done by laypeople, including the blessing of sons and daughters by their parents. (In Irish families particularly, parents often gather their children for a blessing when they are leaving home for a new venture or embarking on a trip.)

Another example recommended by the Book of Blessings is the blessing of a newly engaged couple by both sets of parents. Laypeople may also use a suggested prayer of blessing when moving into a new home, although more commonly the parish priest is invited to mark that joyful event.

In one particularly touching prayer, the Book of Blessings envisions a catechist gathering his or her class and asking God's blessing over them in these words:

"With your unfailing protection, watch over these children. ... Grant that they will confess your name in willing faith, be fervent in charity and persevere courageously in the hope of reaching your kingdom."

Q. I am interested in Catholic liturgies and rites outside the Roman/Latin rite. I know that Latin-rite Catholics are allowed to attend Catholic Eastern-rite liturgies on the same basis as a Latin-rite Mass and also to receive Communion at them. I have been to a number (Maronite, Ukrainian, Ruthenian).

But my question regards the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter, which was set up to allow Anglicans to join the Catholic Church without abandoning all of their liturgical traditions.

Are these Masses just for former Anglicans, or can all Catholics attend them, as they can with more long-standing Catholic rites? (City of origin withheld)

A. First, let's review the history. In 2012, the Vatican created the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter you mention. It is similar to a diocese, in response to repeated inquiries from Anglican groups who were seeking to become Catholic.

This ordinariate includes communities in the United States and Canada, while similar ones were created in Australia and for England and Wales. The ordinariate enables former Anglicans, once they have become Catholic, to retain many aspects of Anglican heritage and traditions.

The liturgy that is celebrated looks very similar to an Anglican service, using texts that incorporate Anglican prayers. In answer to your question, yes, any Catholic is welcome to attend and to participate in liturgies of the ordinariate, just as members of the ordinariate are welcome at liturgies in other Catholic churches.

However, the ordinariate is really intended for those coming from an Anglican tradition.

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



For The Journey

By Effie Caldarola
Helping The World,
One Family At A Time

I belong to a Catholic group that gathers for prayer and good works. At a recent meeting, we discussed a project to help a refugee family resettle in our city.

The discussion was practical until the leader asked everyone to explain what motivated them to consider the project.

That's when my friend began to cry.

She couldn't watch the news, she said, with its frequent reporting of misery and tragedy around the world without becoming overwhelmed and wondering, "How can I help?"

I'll admit that my friend cries easily, but there are few of us who can handle the daily onslaught of horrific news without feeling deep emotions. We seem to move from one humanitarian crisis to another.

Whether it's the enormous suffering of those affected by Ebola in African cities on the verge of internal collapse, or the horrors of war and beheadings in the Middle East or the sight of young children trying to find refuge from violence by making the long journey across Central America, it has been a gruesome year. The suffering of refugees is one of the most painful to behold.

Our group will be assigned a family by a local agency that handles placement of refugees through the U.S. Department of State. We have been given a list of items the family needs to begin their new life, from a refugee camp on one continent to the dizzying environment of a busy American city.

They'll need everything, from toothbrushes to cleaning supplies, to a table and beds. They need bus tokens, towels and garbage cans. The list is long and specific. We realized that by taking on the material needs of one family, we're making a dent, scratching the barest surface, of human troubles in this weary world.

There is a saying, "He who saves a life saves the world entire." Sometimes the news obscures individual suffering. People are lost in a blur of huge numbers. That's when assisting one family brings home reality.

I recently saw a news photo of a baby, a few months old, in the arms of a Turkish soldier in full battle regalia. The soldier was looking for the Syrian child's parents in the wake of thousands fleeing a city besieged by Islamic State fighters. The baby was cradled against a gun slung across the soldier's chest.

I wondered: Did that baby ever find his mom? That picture brought the war to my kitchen table in a way that statistics can't.

Millions of Syrians have fled their homes, some have left for neighboring countries such as Turkey or Lebanon.

Additionally, millions more have fled wars in countries throughout the world. Millions live, sometimes for decades, in refugee camps established by the United Nations, and many will never have a chance to go home.

A few "lucky" ones will be sent by the U.N. to countries like ours, and to cities like mine. They come from Bhutan, Iraq, the Congo, South Sudan. They come to a strange place, to live among strangers in a culture, customs and language foreign to them.

For many, the apartments they will be able to afford will be in tough neighborhoods. The adjustment will be hard, the loneliness deep.

There are few fairy-tale endings here. But there is a chance, one family at a time, to tell them that we care about a suffering world.

Martin de Porres
1579 - 1639
Feast - November 3



This illegitimate son of a freed Panamanian slave and a Spanish knight became a hero to the people of Lima, Peru, his birthplace, for his compassionate care of the sick and poor. Apprenticed at age 12 to a barber-surgeon, Martin also learned herbal medicine from his mother. After working for several years at a Dominican monastery as a Third Order member, he made his profession as a lay brother in 1603. He founded an orphanage and founding hospital, ministered to African slaves, practiced great penances and experienced mystical gifts. Martin was carried to his grave by prelates and noblemen and all Peruvians acclaimed him their beloved saint. He is the patron of hairdressers and interracial justice.

Teens Challenged To Make A Difference, And To Do Something 'Now' At SHYCON 2014

Photos And Text
By Tony DeGol

A near-record crowd of about 1,100 high school students from around the Diocese attended this year's Senior High Youth Conference, and if any of those teens left unaware of the mandate given to them, someone should have checked them for a pulse.

Held on Sunday, October 26 at Saint Francis University in Loretto, the theme for SHYCON 2014 was "What Are You Doing? Do Something!"

Francine Swope, diocesan coordinator for Youth Ministry, Religious Education, and Sacramental Preparation, organizes



SHYCON 2014: Bishop Mark L. Bartchak and keynote speaker Steve Angrisano join a group of 31 students and seven adult chaperones from Saint Michael Parish in Saint Michael at the Diocese's annual Senior High Youth Conference (SHYCON). Held on Sunday, October 26 at Saint Francis University in Loretto, the individuals from Saint Michael were among 1,100 people who participated in the event. This year's theme was "What Are You Doing? Do Something!"

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SHYCON with assistance from a committee.

She said when choosing a theme this year, she thought a lot about the things young people are experiencing in the world today.

"I wanted our theme to challenge and encourage them to not just sit back and watch, but to get out there and do something to make a difference in the world," she said. "Even a teenager can make a big difference by doing small things."

Swope's vision was reinforced throughout the day by keynote speaker Steve Angrisano and Bishop Mark L. Bartchak.

(Continued On Page 11.)

(Continued From Page 10.)

“It is absolutely important for you as teenagers to do something,” the Bishop pointed out in a remarkable homily layered with poignant stories. “And there is so much you can do now. You should not wait until you are adults. And it is absolutely important for you as teenagers to know what to do and how to do something. It’s important so that you can overcome being afraid, worried, or confused”

Bishop Mark noted that teens often comment to him that they do not like it when adults say to them “you are the future.”

Rather, teens want adults to recognize them in the present, he said.

“You can do something about your life, and you can make a difference in your world—not just in the future—if you live your life according to two sentences from today’s Gospel reading: love God and love other people,” Bishop Mark told them. “You really can do something. And the Lord Jesus can do so much through you if you only give it a try.”

Before Mass, Angrisano, a nationally recognized speaker who has been featured at SHYCON in the past, delivered two keynote addresses.

“For sure, my message today for the young people is you have within you the capacity to be a reflection of God’s love in everything that you do,” Angrisano said. “It’s not about when you grow up, if you do this for a living or that for a living. It’s so much about how every day we have an opportunity to be a reflection of God’s love in the things we do for the least among us, for our parents, for everyone around us.”

In an effort to allow the teens to “do something,” Swope collected canned goods for Catholic Charities and took a monetary collection for the Diocese’s Fulton County Mission.

Students who attended SHYCON raved about the experience.

“Coming from a smaller area, it was good to go to a big conference like this, and it’s nice to have others my age inspire me,” said Kassie Stermer,



FUN AT SHYCON: Keynote speaker and musician Steve Angrisano performs on stage with a little help from the audience, including Carmelite of the Word Sister Cindy Burns (left) of Saint Benedict Parish in Johnstown and Austin Keith (second from left), a Diocesan seminarian studying at Saint Vincent Seminary in Latrobe.

a member of Saint Stephen Parish in McConnellsburg.

“It was really neat to interact with other kids from the diocese,” said Karingtin Sklodows-

ki, a member of Our Lady of the Alleghenies Parish in Lilly. “Today showed me that the littlest things can make a difference and bring you closer to God.”

Pope Francis Calls Benedict ‘Great Pope’

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Retired Pope Benedict XVI is a perfect example of how intellectual knowledge and scientific curiosity do not lead a person further from God, but can strengthen their love for God and for his human creatures, Pope Francis said.

“Benedict XVI was a great pope,” he said: “Great for the power and penetration of his intellect, great for his considerable contribution to theology, great for his love for the church and for human beings, great for his virtues and his religiosity.”

Pope Francis praised his predecessor Oct. 27 at a meeting of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences. The academicians invited Pope Francis to unveil a bronze bust of Pope Benedict at the academy’s headquarters in the Vatican Gardens.

Happy Birthday Mary Scarton!

From Your Family And Friends!



When asked what he liked best about SHYCON, Maxwell Varvien from Saint Michael Parish in St. Michael did not hesitate with his answer.

“Pretty much everything,” he concluded.

And Angrisano received great reviews.

“I thought he was wonderful, and he really took everyday situations and made them understandable,” noted Victoria Boland of Saint Monica Parish in Chest Springs.

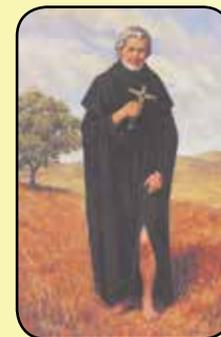
Courtney Moyer, also a Saint Monica parishioner, added, “I really enjoy Steve and his talks about faith. I was here the last time he was here, and I really enjoyed him, and something he says always rings with me and stays with me.”

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CNS Photo/Paul Haring

POPE ATTENDS SYNOD SESSION: Pope Francis attends the morning session of the extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the family at the Vatican Saturday, October 18.

Synod Affirms Tradition, Leaves Controversial Questions Open

By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- After several days of animated debate over its official midterm report, the Synod of Bishops on

the family agreed on a final document more clearly grounded in traditional Catholic teaching. Yet the assembly failed to reach consensus on especially controversial questions of Communion for the divorced and civilly remarried and the pastoral care of homosexuals.

The synod's last working session, Oct. 18, also featured a speech by Pope Francis, in which he celebrated the members' frank exchanges while warning against extremism in the defense of tradition or the pursuit of progress.

Discussions in the synod hall had grown heated after the Oct. 13 delivery of a midterm report that used strikingly conciliatory language toward people with ways of life contrary to church teaching, including

divorced and civilly remarried Catholics, cohabitating couples and those in same-sex unions.

The summaries of working-group discussions, published Oct. 16, showed a majority of synod fathers wanted the final document to be clearer about relevant church doctrine and give more attention to families whose lives exemplify that teaching.

The final report, which the pope ordered published almost at once after the synod's conclusion, featured many more citations of Scripture, as well as new references to the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the teachings of Pope Paul VI, St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI.

Synod fathers voted on each of the document's 62 paragraphs. All received a simple majority, but three failed to gain the two-thirds supermajority ordinarily required for approval of synodal documents.

Two of those paragraphs dealt with a controversial proposal by German Cardinal Walter Kasper that would make it easier for divorced and civilly remarried Catholics to receive Communion. The document noted disagreements on the subject and recommended further study.

The document's section on homosexuality, which also fell short of supermajority approval, was significantly changed from its counterpart in the midterm report.

The original section heading -- "welcoming homosexuals" -- was changed to "pastoral attention to persons with homosexual orientation."

A statement that same-sex unions can be a "precious support in the life of the partners" was removed.

The final report quoted a 2003 document from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith: "There are absolutely no grounds for considering homosexual unions to be in any way similar or even remotely analogous to God's plan for marriage and family."

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman, told reporters that the absence of a supermajority indicated a lack of consensus and a need

for more discussion, but stressed that none of the document carried doctrinal weight. The synod's final report will serve as an agenda for the October 2015 world synod on the family, which will make recommendations to the pope.

Pope Francis said he welcomed the assembly's expressions of disagreement.

"Personally, I would have been very worried and saddened if there hadn't been these temptations and these animated discussions," the pope said, "if everybody had agreed or remained silent in a false and quietistic peace."

"So many commentators, or people who talk, imagined they saw the church quarreling, one part against the other, even doubting the Holy Spirit, the true promoter and guarantor of unity and harmony in the church," he said.

While reassuring the assembly that the church's unity was not in danger, Pope Francis warned against several temptations that he said had been present during the two-week synod.

One of the temptations he cited was that of "hostile rigidity" that seeks refuge in the letter of the law, "in the certainty of what we know and not of what we must still learn and achieve." This temptation, he said, is characteristic of the "zealous, the scrupulous, the attentive and -- today -- of the so-called traditionalists and also of intellectuals."

Another temptation for the synod fathers, the pope said, was that of "destructive do-goodism, which in the name of a misguided mercy binds up wounds without first treating and medicating them; that treats symptoms and not causes and roots. It is the temptation of do-gooders, of the timorous and also of the so-called progressives and liberals."

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said in a statement that he was "grateful that the clarifications and deepening of scriptural and theological reflection shine consistently" through the final report. "Now the real work begins!"

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Family Synod's Dynamics Recalled Vatican Council II

By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Even before the start of the Oct. 5-19 Synod of Bishops on the family, observers were likening it to the Second Vatican Council of 1962-65.

In both cases, an innovative and charismatic pope called an assembly in the first months of his pontificate, seeking to preach the Gospel in terms of contemporary culture and apply Catholic teaching with what St. John XXIII called the "medicine of mercy."

As it turned out, history also repeated itself in the institutional dynamics of this year's event, as bishops from around the world asserted their collective authority, leading the assembly's organizers in Rome to revise some of their best-laid plans.

A classic history, **The Rhine Flows Into The Tiber**, recounts the first tumultuous week of Vatican II, when bishops rejected the Vatican's hand-picked candidates for the commissions that would write the council documents.

"It was not a revolutionary act, but an act of conscience, an act of responsibility on the part of the council fathers," recalled Pope Benedict XVI in 2013. Then-Father Joseph Ratzinger attended Vatican II as a theological adviser to Cardinal Josef Frings of Cologne, Germany, one of the leaders of the bishops' resistance.

More than 50 years later, bishops at the synod on the family reacted strongly after the Oct. 13 presentation of an official midterm report by Hungarian Cardinal Peter Erdo of Esztergom-Budapest.

Cardinal Erdo's report, which was supposed to summarize the assembly's first week of discussions, made headlines with its strikingly conciliatory language toward people with ways of life contrary to Catholic teaching, including divorced and remarried Catholics, cohabit-



CNS Photo/Paul Haring

SYNOD'S FINAL DAY: Pope Francis talks with Italian Cardinal Lorenzo Baldisseri, general secretary of the Synod of Bishops, during the morning session on the final day of the extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the family at the Vatican Saturday, October 18.

On October 16, the Bishops insisted that the working-groups' reports be made public. "We wanted the Catholic people around the world to know actually what was going on in talking about marriage and the family," Cardinal Pell said.

ing couples and people in same-sex unions.

Immediately after the cardinal spoke, 41 of the 184 synod fathers present took the floor to comment. A number objected that the text lacked certain necessary references to Catholic moral teaching, particularly regarding homosexuality and cohabitation. Bishops also remarked on the midterm report's scarce references to the concept of sin.

"Three-quarters of those who spoke had some problems

with the document," Cardinal George Pell, prefect of the Secretariat for the Economy, told Catholic News Service. He called the report tendentious, skewed and without sufficient grounding in Scripture and traditional doctrine.

At a news conference Oct. 13, Cardinal Erdo distanced himself from the midterm report, identifying Italian Archbishop Bruno Forte of Chieti-Vasto, the synod's special secretary, as responsible for a particularly controversial passage on same-sex

unions.

Later that afternoon, the synod fathers divided into 10 working groups to discuss the midterm report and suggest amendments for the synod's final document.

The midterm report was "seen by many as not being as balanced as it should have been," Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl of Washington told CNS.

Cardinal Wuerl, one of 11 members of a team that drafted the synod's final report, said one common objection was to the theological concept of "graduality," which the midterm report used, among other ways, to suggest the positive value of "irregular" relationships such as cohabitation.

"You don't see that in the final document because the small language groups said, 'Yes, it was said, but it didn't garner support,'" the cardinal said.

The synod's leadership, under Cardinal Lorenzo Baldisseri, who served as general secretary, planned not to publish the working groups' individual reports but provide them only to the drafters of the final report, along with their approximately 450 suggested amendments.

But on Oct. 16, the bishops insisted that the working-groups' reports be made public.

"We wanted the Catholic people around the world to know actually what was going on in talking about marriage and the family," Cardinal Pell said.

On the same day, the drafting committee was expanded to increase its geographic diversity, with the addition of Cardinal Wilfrid F. Napier of Durban, South Africa, and Archbishop Denis Hart of Melbourne, Australia. Just as bishops from a cluster of northern European countries had been leaders of change at Vatican II, some of the more outspoken synod fathers this year were from the English-speaking countries and Africa.

The synod's final report, which the pope ordered published almost immediately after the assembly finished its work Oct. 18, featured many more citations of Scripture, as well as

new references to the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the teachings of Blessed Paul VI, St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI.

Synod fathers voted on each of the document's 62 paragraphs. All received a simple majority, but three -- on especially controversial questions of homosexuality and Communion for the divorced and civilly remarried -- failed to gain the two-thirds supermajority ordinarily required for approval of synodal documents.

"What I think Pope Francis succeeded in doing was letting the synod fathers, letting the synod participants, actually come to a real consensus, even though it's a weak consensus in some areas," Cardinal Wuerl said. "The process worked, even though there were bumps along the way."



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By Joseph McAleer
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) -- Who knew the Day of the Dead could be so much fun? The Mexican method of observing All Souls' Day, Nov. 2, is the backdrop for "The Book of Life" (Fox), an entertaining and visually stunning 3-D animated film.

Traditionally on this feast day, families visit cemeteries to place gifts by the gravesides of their departed loved ones in a spirit of remembrance. Although the practice is Aztec in origin, its intentions correspond with Catholic teaching, which encourages prayer for the souls of the deceased.

In popular culture, the Day of the Dead has often morphed into a Halloween-like party with multicolored skulls and imagery bordering on the diabolical. For-

tunately, this is not the case in "The Book of Life." Instead, director and co-writer (with Douglas Langdale) Jorge R. Gutierrez uses the observance to highlight the enduring bonds of family.

Yes, dancing skeletons abound, and there are mythological aspects to the plot that might call for discussion with impressionable youngsters. But this is, in essence, a harmless fairy tale.

At its core, "The Book of Life" is a love story, told to schoolchildren on a museum visit by one of the institution's guides, Mary Beth (voice of Christina Applegate). She uses wooden dolls that spring to life to enact her yarn.

In the Mexican village of San Angel, best friends Manolo (voice of Diego Luna) and Joaquin (voice of Channing Tatum) have been in love with the same woman, Maria (voice of Zoe Saldana), since childhood.

Manolo is a reluctant bullfighter, forced into the ring to



CNS Photo/Fox

THE BOOK OF LIFE: This is a scene from the animated movie "The Book of Life." The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

uphold his family's proud tradition. A gentle, sensitive soul, Manolo would rather make beautiful music with his guitar -- and with Maria. (He woos her with a surprising playlist that includes covers of Elvis Presley and Rod Stewart.)

Joaquin, on the other hand, is a puffed-up macho soldier, struggling to live up to his own family line of fierce warriors.

Unbeknownst to Manolo, Joaquin has a secret weapon: a medal which makes him invincible. This charm was given to him by the god Xibalba (voice of Ron Perlman), the ruler of the desolate Land of the Forgotten, a purgatory-like underworld populated by the spirits of those who have no one to pray for them.

Xibalba longs to escape his realm. So he makes a wager with his estranged wife, the goddess La Muerte (voice of Kate del Castillo), overseer of the heaven-like Land of the Remembered. The bet centers on Maria. If she chooses Joaquin as her mate, La Muerte will, reluctantly, swap positions with Xibalba.

Since Xibalba has stacked the deck in favor of Joaquin, things look bad for La Muerte and Manolo. But several twists and turns are in store as the action shifts back and forth among the three worlds.

Although "The Book of Life" is a fantasy and does not espouse a particular religion, it does include among hundreds of background characters a (presumably Catholic) priest and a trio of nuns. Their depiction is, however, perfectly respectful.

Parents should be advised that, while the tone is light and the action slapstick, there are several dark moments which

may frighten younger viewers.

In the end, Catholic moviegoers will concur with the script's lesson about honoring the dearly departed: "As long as we remember, they are always with us."

The film contains nonscriptural religious themes, some mildly scary sequences, occasional bathroom humor and a few very mild oaths in Spanish. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

Sunday Mass
Broadcast Live from
the Cathedral of
the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona
10:00 a.m. WFBG Radio, 1290 AM

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

Proclaim!
10:30 a.m.

A half - hour of local Church news and features

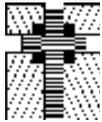
Coming Up On 'Proclaim!'

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

November 9 -- Melissa Kreutzberger from Catholic Charities updates the Bishop on the status of the agency's new shelter in Johnstown.

November 16 -- Jean Johnstone, executive director of Catholic Charities, talks about the importance of an upcoming Diocesan collection to support the work of the agency.

May They Rest In Peace



Center, 2300 Adams Avenue,
Scranton, PA 18509.

Sister M. Elissa Meehan
I.H.M.

Sister Ann Lucille Bohn
I.H.M.

Sister Ann Lucille Bohn, formerly Sister M. Petra, of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary died Sunday, October 12, at Our Lady of Peace Residence in Scranton. She was 87.

She was born on June 18, 1927, in Scranton, the daughter of the late Peter J. and Catherine (Crane) Bohn. She entered the IHM Congregation on September 8, 1946, made her temporary profession of vows on May 9, 1949, and her final profession on August 2, 1952.

Sister Ann Lucille served locally as a teacher at Saint Bernard School in Hastings from 1953 to 1956.

From 2004 until the time of her death, Sister Ann Lucille served as a prayer minister at the Marian Convent and Our Lady of Peace Residence in Scranton.

She received a bachelor of science degree in education and master of science degree in guidance both from Marywood College, Scranton.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Peter; and two sisters, Mary E. Dougherty and Catherine Lewis. Surviving are nieces and nephews.

The funeral Mass for Sister Ann Lucille Bohn was celebrated Wednesday, October 15 at Our Lady of Peace Residence, Scranton. Committal was at Saint Catherine Cemetery, Moscow.

Memorial contributions may be made to support the retired IHM Sisters c/o the IHM Sisters Retirement Fund, IHM

Sister Mary Elissa Meehan, of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary died Friday, October 24, at Our Lady of Peace Residence in Scranton. She was 92.

She was born May 20, 1912, in Carbondale, and given the name Mary Winifred, the daughter of the late Patrick and Sarah (Giblin) Meehan. She entered the IHM Congregation on September 8, 1932, and made her temporary profession of vows on April 30, 1935, and her final profession vows on August 1, 1938.

Sister Elissa served locally at Immaculate Conception High School in Lock Haven from 1957 to 1963.

From 2002 until the time of her death, Sister Elissa served as a prayer minister at the Marian Convent and Our Lady of Peace Residence in Scranton.

She received a Bachelor of Science degree in education from Marywood College and a Master of Arts degree in education from Villanova University.

She was preceded in death by four brothers, Robert, John, Paul, and Eugene; and a sister, Rose Smith. Surviving are nieces and nephews.

The funeral Mass for Sister Mary Elissa Meehan was celebrated Tuesday, October 28 at Our Lady of Peace Residence, Scranton. Committal was at Saint Catherine Cemetery, Moscow.

Memorial contributions may be made to support the retired IHM Sisters c/o the IHM Sisters Retirement Fund, IHM Center, 2300 Adams Avenue, Scranton, PA 18509.

In The Alleghenies

The BG volleyball family responded with gift card donations and participation in the raffle to help the girls' volleyball team reach its goal of \$1,000.00.

"It was special to decide as a team that we wanted to donate to Catholic Charities instead of using that money for our team," Johnsonbaugh said.

Bishop Guilfoyle volleyball coach Bob Kasun said this donation was a proud moment for their team. "Our seniors, our team and our families were sincere in their efforts to help others in our community," he said. "We pray daily at practice for those in need. Christian discipleship is one of the tenets of our school and our Catholic faith."

Catholic Charities executive director Jean Johnstone said the need for help in our community continues to grow.

"As the weather turns colder, more people are coming to Catholic Charities to ensure they have access to electricity, natural gas and heat during the winter ahead," Johnstone said. "This gift will be used to directly help these families stay in their homes, keep their utilities on and stay warm this winter. We are so appreciative of all the support from the students and teachers at Bishop Guilfoyle. They are true partners in our common mission of loving and serving our neighbors in need."

Kiser and Rasmussen said the volleyball team took Pope Francis' message to help the less fortunate to heart.

"Our volleyball team this year has embraced our faith more deeply. Giving to Catholic Charities strengthens the bond between God, the community and our team," Rasmussen said.

"Catholic Charities is a great program because it helps so many people in need and gives them hope. I'm so happy that together the senior volleyball players chose to donate to this cause. Giving this donation to Catholic Charities is just something else that will make

my senior year even more memorable," Kiser said.

Higher Education

Honorary Alumni

Altoona: Somerset Attorney, Daniel W. Rullo, was honored by the Mount Aloysius College Alumni Association. Attorney Dan Rullo was named an Honorary Alumni of Mount Aloysius College in recognition of his decade of service to the College's Board of Trustees. A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, Attorney Rullo is a member of the UPitt Athletic Hall of Fame. His three year term as Mount Aloysius Board Chairman ended this past June.

Attorney Rullo was presented with the award by Mount Aloysius College Alumni Board President, Jacob Claar together with Mount Aloysius College President Tom Foley at the Annual Alumni Recognition Dinner. The event was held in the college's historic Alumni Hall during their combined Homecoming/Alumni Weekend.

Mount Aloysius President Foley voiced his appreciation of the Association's choice of Attorney Rullo as an Honorary Mount Aloysius Alumni. "Dan Rullo loves the Mount Aloysius way," explained President Foley, adding, "Because that was, and is, the Dan Rullo way also. Dan isn't just in the sports Hall of Fame down at Pitt, he was an academic all-star too, graduating from Duquesne with his law degree and practicing as one of the top lawyers not just in Somerset or the region but in the entire state." Foley described Attorney Rullo as a true friend of the College. "We mark the extraordinary commitment of the Rullo Family to the Mount Aloysius Scholarship Fund," he said. Foley noted too that the distinguished Somerset attorney is a three sport star student-athlete who today, "maintains the modest reserve common among

the very best of retired athletes," he said.

President Foley noted that during Attorney Rullo's tenure as Mount Aloysius College Board of Trustees Chairman, the College completed: the Ray and Louise Walker Outdoor Athletic Complex which includes soccer, softball and baseball fields completed two years ago with the addition of the Mountie Stables; renovations to the historic Alumni Hall; and the completion of the 87,000 square foot Athletic Convocation and Wellness Center. The ACWC was formally dedicated on Friday, October 3rd.

Last April, Mount Aloysius honored Attorney Rullo with the 2014 Walker Award. The Walker Award is named in honor of Ray and Louise Walker whose generosity along with others made possible the Mount Aloysius College athletic field complex.

Submit news for publication to tstein@dioceseaj.org, or to btomaselli@dioceseaj.org. Photos should be submitted in the jpeg format for best reproduction.

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*Entrusting all our trips to the
Maternal Care of the
Blessed Virgin Mary*

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace, Amen.

Personable Priest Is Public Face Of Bishop Guilfoyle High

By Msgr. Timothy P. Sstein

If, as he contends, the role of a high school president is to be “the public face” of the institution, then Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School in Altoona has a most personable face in the person of Father John “Jack” McDowell.

Appointed in August to succeed Thomas J. Kristofco, who had been Guilfoyle president since 2012, Father Jack, a Franciscan of the Order of Friars Minor, Holy Name Province, New York City, says that his job allows him to be “the good guy,” presenting “a good image of the school to the public.”

“The Guilfoyle board’s idea in having me come here,” Father Jack stated, “is to do the ‘outside work,’ to be the face of Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School to the community.

“The principal and the vice-principal are the ones who do the ‘inside work’ in the school. They are responsible for education and for discipline. As president, I work as a team with them. I can be a listening ear to the members of the school community.”

His position will require Father Jack to raise money for Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School, and to recruit students.

He will also be a contact person with the local Chamber of Commerce, “advancing the school brand and making it known. Sometimes when people think of Guilfoyle they think ‘It’s all sports,’ and with our football team doing so well, it’s very easy to think that! But Guilfoyle is so much more than that. I have to get that message out there.”

Interacting with the students allows Father Jack, who had previously served in Catholic high schools as principal and dean of students, to shed the “bad guy” role, and to adopt a more companionable approach.

“I get to be the good guy with the kids,” he said, “joking with them, encouraging them, drawing out their gifts and talents.

“I’ve always liked kids and I’ve always enjoyed education,” he reflected. “I like bringing out what’s best in kids. The kids make me laugh. They keep me going. I’m soon going to be 70, but most days I feel like I’m 30!”

In his brief tenure in the top position at Guilfoyle, Father Jack says he has been impressed by the faculty and staff “who are passionate about education. Everyone who works here really seems to like it here,” he said, and in conversations with them he has seen “a dream, a desire” to build on the school’s strengths, and to rediscover programs such as performing arts,

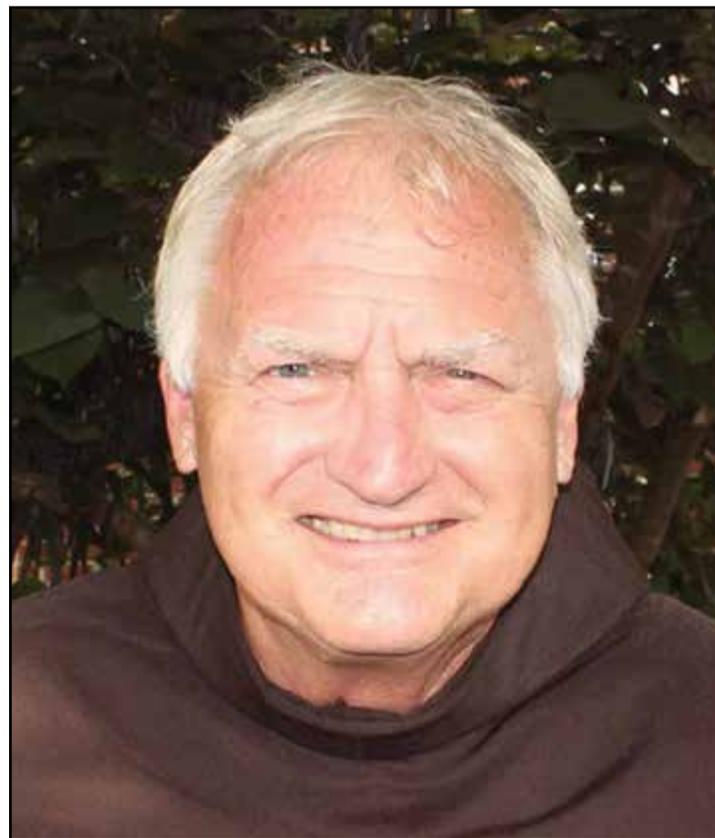
that may have taken a back seat in recent years.

Parents, too, have made a good impression on Father Jack, who characterized them as “co-operative and grateful. They want what’s best for their kids.”

“We’re not perfect here,” Father Jack said, “but so much that is good has happened and is happening here.” To draw on the strengths of the past and to build an even stronger future, part of Father Jack’s outreach will be to the school’s over 10,000 alumni living throughout the United States. “I’m sending a personal letter to each of them, he said, “inviting them to keep in touch and to at least look us up on the web.”

This is not the first time Father Jack has served locally. From 2007 to 2009 he was director of campus ministry at Saint Francis University, Loretto, and it was a friend from the university who encouraged him to apply for the position at Guilfoyle. Nor was that time in Loretto his first exposure to the local community.

“I began my religious life with the Third Order Regular in Loretto,” he explained, “but I left them before Solemn Vows. I am so grateful to God for calling me to the Franciscans in the Order of Friars Minor,” he said, “but my heart will always be in Loretto. That’s where I received my education and my initial re-



FATHER JOHN ‘JACK’ McDOWELL O.F.M.

ligious formation. I learned a sense of discipline there.”

The rather cloistered existence of a young friar in formation did not allow Father Jack to see much of the area, but his move back to the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese has provided him with the opportunity to see sights he had not seen before.

“It’s gorgeous here! I drove to State College recently,” he said, “and could not get over the views of the mountains and the valleys.”

The people of the area have also touched the veteran educator.

“There’s a certain simplicity about the people here,” Father Jack said. “People genuinely want to help each other and to be good neighbors to one another. All of the priests I have met have been very welcoming, and the Bishop is a very kind young man.”

Father Jack hopes to encourage that spirit of simplicity, kindness and neighborliness in the Guilfoyle students.

“When I walk through the cafeteria,” he laughed, “I tell the kids ‘don’t let someone sit alone at lunch time! Welcome them to sit with you! Unless they’re studying for a test!’”

PERIODICAL RATE MAIL

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